

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Ports Normands Associes
Project Number:	20140076
Country:	France
Project Description:	Extension, development and renovation of port facilities at Cherbourg primarily to support the development of marine renewable energy projects (offshore wind farms and hydro turbines) and renovation of lock walls and gates at Caen-Ouistreham.
EIA required:	Yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

The project consists of extension, redevelopment and renovation works at the existing ports of Cherbourg and Caen-Ouistreham. The major works are the 220 m extension of an existing quay and 39 ha reclamation to extend the Port of Cherbourg to support the construction and subsequent maintenance of planned offshore wind and tidal-energy farms. Other components are also included in the project, not only at Cherbourg but also at Caen-Ouistreham sites. The works at Caen-Ouistreham are the renovation of the walls and gates to the lock at Ouistreham.

The majority of the works in the project fall under Annex I of Directive 2011/92/EU and a full EIA is mandatory these components. All the major components have been subject of an EIA procedure and the corresponding environmental permits have been issued by the competent authorities, Prefecture de la Manche. Mitigation measures have been defined and will be incorporated in the relevant ESMPs. A number of smaller components of the project are still to undertake EIAs and will be the subject of an environmental disbursement condition.

The port of Cherbourg is a large multipurpose port providing facilities for a broad range of vessels including RORO ferries, cruise liners, cargo ships and yachts. The port is located in a bay with a substantially urbanised coastline. In general the influence of the project will be restricted to the port zone and its surrounding area. Consequently, according to the Promoter EIAs, impacts during construction or operation of the new facilities following mitigation actions are considered to be generally negligible or zero.

The works at Ouistreham are for the rehabilitation of the walls and gates of the lock providing access to the canal to the port of Caen. The works are contained within the immediate vicinity of the lock and will have negligible impact on the environment of the surrounding areas.

For the major works at the Ports of Cherbourg a full public consultation was undertaken in the second quarter of 2012 for the extension to the existing quay and in the third quarter of 2013 for the reclamation works.

Declaration of no significant impacts in Natura 2000 sites is still to be provided but the Bank will impose contractual disbursement conditions to guarantee that all environmental procedures are met.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100 000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Environmental disbursement conditions

- The first disbursement for the project will be conditional on the satisfactory receipt of the Annex II-A declaration of non-significant effects on a Natura 2000 site by the Responsible Authority
- Disbursement of the amounts corresponding to the components requiring environmental clearance will be conditional on the satisfactory receipt of an approval certificate (Arrêté Préfectoral) from the Competent Authority.

Subject to the above conditions being met, the project is acceptable for EIB financing. The overall residual impacts are considered to be manageable and acceptable for the Bank.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project is subjected the following French national legislation, which is in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU of 13th December:

- R.122-1 du code des ports maritimes
- L.214-3 du code de l'environnement

Natura 2000 sites have been identified to the east and west of the Port of Cherbourg, both of which are more than 1 km away from the project area. A Natura 2000 site has been identified immediately adjacent to project site at the port of Caen-Ouistreham. The works are unlikely to impact on these sites in any significant way.

The Promoter's environmental and social studies for the major project components have identified that there will be negligible negative residual impacts of the project during operation after appropriate mitigation. However a number of impacts during construction were identified as minimal to significant. These impacts will be substantially mitigated through adequate works methodology, including adequate equipment and machinery, proper planning, appropriate waste management, accidents action plan and other various measures indicated in the EIAs. However, remaining minimal impacts were identified for the effect of noise and explosives on marine mammals in the port and particular care will need to be taken to minimise use of explosives and limit noise and keep marine mammals away from construction areas during work periods.

The project works will contribute to the efficient development of offshore marine energy production resulting in a reduced reliance on fossil fuels for power generation and reduction in carbon emissions. The main impacts from the works offshore are considered to be the noise generated during construction of the wind turbine foundations and the effect of this on marine mammals and the danger to birdlife during operation of the wind turbines.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

For the development works in the Port of Cherbourg extensive publicity took place at an early stage of the project through press articles, public exhibition, meetings or consultation. The outcomes of this process fed into the design process to reduce the project impacts. Formal public consultation took place in the second quarter of 2012 for the extension to the existing quay and in the third quarter of 2013 for the reclamation works.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Promoter will develop and implement an Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan to ensure that the requirements of the environment approvals are met.