

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	IPTO CYCLADES INTERCONNECTION	
Project Number:	2010-0171	
Country:	Greece	
Project Description:	The Project concerns the implementation of a subsea cable grid operated at 150 kV that will connect the main Cycladic islands Syros, Tinos, Mykonos and Paros with the mainland interconnected system of Greece.	
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 involves the construction of a 108 km-long subsea link interconnecting Syros to Lavrion on the mainland, and three further subsea links connecting Syros respectively to Paros (46 km), Mykonos (35 km), and Tinos (33 km). The Project also includes the construction of four new GIS (Gas Insulated) indoor substations and the corresponding land cable connections in Lavrion, Syros, Paros and Mykonos.

The characteristics of the Project are such that it is listed neither under Annex I nor Annex II of the EIA Directive. Pursuant to Greek law, EIAs were carried out for all the GIS substations. Environmental permit for the entire Project has been granted by the competent Authorities in September 2009, following consultation with the relevant stakeholders and local communities.

The EIA studies and the conditions under the permit indicate that, subject to the implementation of the specified mitigating measures, the Project would neither have significant adverse effects on the environment nor adversely affect the integrity of any European site on view of the site's conservation objectives.

The Project will enable to replace the local generation in the islands with the energy generated by more efficient and less polluting plants operating in the mainland system and will support the development on the islands of additional wind and solar generation capacity that, in the current isolated configuration, is restricted for technical reasons. In this way the Project will contribute to reducing CO₂ emissions.

The Project is therefore acceptable to the Bank in environmental terms.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Environmental considerations and measures to improve social acceptance have been incorporated in the design of the Project from the earliest stages. On the islands the connections between cable landfalls and substations will be entirely underground. Locations of cables' landfalls and substations have been selected so to avoid sensitive areas, proximity of human settlements and the need to build new access roads. In particular there is no report of Posidonia or other protected sea grass species along the cable route and at landfalls. The Project has been designed to strictly comply with the national regulations concerning electromagnetic fields and noise emissions.

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.

Further to that, appropriate mitigating measures have been planned and will be implemented to minimise the impacts of the Project during construction and operation:

- Good work practices will be used during construction works to prevent any pollution at land and sea and to protect vegetation from fire.
- All excavation works will be carried out under the supervision of representatives of the relevant Ephorates of Antiquities. If antiquities are found, works shall be suspended immediately and a rescue excavation and survey carried out.
- If during investigation of the sea-bed morphology and cable-laying, filming is carried out or photographs are taken, the promoter must submit the copies to the Ephorate of Marine Antiquities, so that the possible presence of ancient shipwrecks along the proposed undersea cable route can be investigated.
- Barriers of vegetation along the fencing of substations will be created in order to reduce visual impact.