

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *Africa Renewable Energy Fund*
 Project Number: *2013-0673*
 Country: *sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa)*
 Project Description: *Equity fund focussing on renewable energy projects*

EIA required: Multi-investment scheme

Project included
 in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

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

With this operation, the EIB intends to make use of this existing Fund to invest in renewable energy projects in sub-Saharan Africa. This operation intends to bring about environmental benefits by supporting sound renewable energy projects with minimal negative social or environmental impact.

The Fund has a social and environmental management system (SEMS) in place acceptable to the Bank. The team members are well aware of typical environmental and social issues related to renewable energy projects in Africa and include E&S considerations throughout investment appraisal. One of the two key partners is responsible for overall compliance with regards to E&S matters, and a further E&S expert is expected to be hired as of first closing. As part of the SEMS, the Fund performs environmental and social due diligence to ensure that potential impacts and risks and appropriate prevention, mitigation and compensation measures are identified through an environmental and social impact screening/assessment, when relevant, including satisfactory and meaningful public consultation and participation.

Projects with significant negative impact on areas with high biodiversity value, nature conservation, bird or fish migration routes will not be eligible. If a project is likely to affect a nature conservation zone or other sensitive area as defined in national or international environmental legislation, the Fund shall obtain confirmation from the competent nature conservation authority - following a biodiversity assessment satisfactory to the Bank - that the scheme does not have significant negative impacts on any site of nature conservation importance.

For each investment, the Fund will ensure that compliance with GEEREF/EIB environmental and social performance standards and legal obligations is enforced and monitoring is in place.

If an underlying investment is subject to an E(S)IA or biodiversity assessment, the Fund Manager is required to publish the Environmental and Social Impact Study on its website for access to stakeholders. The capacity of the Fund manager to manage E&S impacts and risks and to ensure compliance to the Bank's E&S requirements is considered to be good.

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.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The operation is not included in the EIB carbon footprint exercise. Carbon Footprints are currently calculated for emissions above the methodology thresholds for investment loans and large allocations under Framework Loans.

Social Assessment

The Fund's social performance requirements include social assessment and development of a management plan for mitigation of social impacts (as applicable), compliance with national law and the principles and standards of ILO conventions, in particular prohibition of child or bonded labour, non-discrimination and equal opportunity of employment, occupational health and safety as well as the GEEREF/EIB E&S performance standards.