

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: E22 Ludza to Terehova
 Project Number: 20090590
 Country: Latvia
 Sector: Transport

Project Description: The project will consist of 32 km of road upgrading scheme on the E22 in Latvia namely the improvement and reconstruction of E22 Ludza – Terehoza (single carriageway), in the eastern part of Latvia (Latgale region) and is the last section of main road before the Russian Border. It is planned to improve the existing section of A12 (section Ploski- Terehova) and upgrade sections of local roads V544 and V512 between Ludka and Ploski.

EIA required: Yes, Screened in.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise No

Key Environmental and Social Issues

The scheme falls under Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2011/92/EC. On the basis of Annex III of the Directive, the section Ludza to Terehova has been screened in by the Competent Authorities and has been the subject of a full EIAs including public consultation in 2002/3. A copy of the EIA was submitted to the Bank. Positive environmental decisions have been obtained for all of the sections (2/2006). In addition a Strategic Environmental Assessment (Directive 2001/42/EC) has been undertaken and a copy submitted to the Bank. Negative impacts are varied but include agriculture and forest land conversion, noise and vibration, visual intrusion, and severance of communities and habitats. The environmental decisions specify a range of mitigating measures including installation of acoustic screens (and or sound proofing), fencing along the roads to prevent animals straying onto the road, further inventory gathering, animal crossings near Pildas and Sporna lakes (primarily for amphibians), restriction of working practices, usage of approved quarries, drainage works, archaeological works and regular monitoring.

With regards to the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) the Competent Authorities have stated that, in their opinion, the schemes will not have a significant impact on any Natura 2000 sites. Demonstrating compliance is a condition for disbursement against these schemes. The Bank will be requiring that the Competent Authority provide signed declarations (Forms A/B) as a condition for disbursement against these schemes.

The scheme is expected to have positive impacts for the environment along the existing route and along the roads from which traffic will divert. Communities adjacent to the old route will benefit by way of improved safety, reduced noise, vibration, local pollution. Although the schemes will have some negative impact, these have been assessed and adequate mitigating and management measures have been identified in consultation with relevant stakeholders and included in the final designs.

Disbursement Conditions

- Prior to Disbursement against the sub projects, the Promoter is to provide to the Bank outstanding (Habitats Directive) Declarations signed by the Competent Authority (Forms A/B or equivalent).

Prior to last disbursement

- On the schemes not yet started, and funded in part by the disbursement request, the borrower shall confirm that a road safety audit in accordance with the guidelines and principles set out in Directive 2008/96/EC has been duly completed, with the resulting recommendations implemented for the relevant sections of the Programme.

Environmental and Social Assessment (additional information)

EIA Directive

The State Bureau for Environmental Assessment evaluated two variants for the road upgrading project – the first: to form a new route, using the state 2nd class roads , V544 Ludza – Nirza – Vecsloboda and V512 Nirza – Ploski, or the second variant : to reconstruct the existing road A12 in the section Ludza – Terehova and concluded that both were similar as far as environmental protection was concerned. The first variant would not pass through heavily populated areas. However, with the second variant less biodiversity and specially protected nature territories would be affected. If the first were selected then the development of territories close to the road in several parishes would be realised, as well as a higher level of road safety. The first variant was agreed with a list of mandatory conditions including regulations on building works in the vicinity of Pildas lakes (especially avoiding the nesting of birds), treatment of amphibians in vicinity of Pildas Lakes, and monitoring of ground water levels. 35Ha of land will be expropriated, and one family dwelling demolished. 157 plots of land are being acquired.

Habitats Directive

The chosen alternative is located along the outer boundary of the Natura 2000 site nature reserve “Pildas Lake” along a 3km section. The route was relocated some 200m away from the outer boundary of the nature reserve. Mandatory conditions mentioned earlier would ensure that the project will not have a significant negative effect on the Natura 2000 site. .