

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	Enel Green Power Romania
Project Number:	2011 0247
Country:	Romania
Project Description:	Financing of the investment programme of Enel Green Power Romania for the development, construction and operation of three on-shore wind farms located in the regions of Dobrogea (Salbatica and Corugea) and Banat (Moldova Noua) for a total installed capacity of some 260 MW.
EIA:	Required

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

The projects fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 85/337/EC (as amended) and have been screened in by the national competent authorities which have required a full EIA including public consultation. The EIA process in Romania foresees two procedures both requiring the realization of an environmental impact study and public consultations. The first procedure is carried out at regional level within the request to modify the local town planning ("PUZ") and ends with the obtainment of a preliminary environmental approval ("Aviz de mediu"). The second more detailed procedure is carried out at provincial level, involves the approval of the final design documentation and leads to the issuance of the final environmental approval ("Acord de Mediu").

All wind farm projects, including their connection to the national grid system, have successfully gone through both procedures and the relevant public hearings. The turbine locations of the Salbatica and Corugea sites are both located near the Danube River Delta in the Dobrogea region and find themselves very close or inside Natura 2000 sites. Moldova Noua is also located close to the Danube river in the Banat region in south west Romania and is overlapping other Natura 2000 sites. Generally speaking the impacts of the wind farms on the protected species and habitats have been carefully assessed in the course of these procedures, biodiversity monitoring studies were carried out and a number of mitigation measures, such as the repositioning of some of the turbines and the implementation of further flora and fauna monitoring, have been identified. However, cumulative impacts do not appear to have been fully addressed in the EIA procedure for all wind farms and particularly for Salbatica and Corugea which are located in a region where several other wind farms are being developed.

Following the Bank's request the competent authority for Salbatica and Corugea has provided written confirmation that, following an appropriate assessment, the projects will not have any significant impact on the identified Natura 2000 sites. However in order to ensure full compliance with the Bank's environmental policy the promoter should provide for all three wind farms a complete assessment of the cumulative impacts on the environment (including those related to biodiversity, noise, shadow flicker, visual and landscape) demonstrating that such impacts are limited and acceptable. Cumulative impacts on biodiversity should be based on the most recent flora and fauna monitoring surveys performed by the promoter on each relevant site. Biodiversity monitoring studies during construction and at least 3 years of operation for all wind farms will also be required.

## Environmental and Social Assessment

### Salbatica

The Salbatica project is a 140 MW wind farm located inside the Danube Delta valley in the municipality of Valea Nucarilor, in the province of Tulcea which is part of the Dobrogea Region. The project obtained preliminary environmental approval for the whole project from the Galati Regional Environmental Protection Agency on 17/08/2009 and two separate final environmental approvals from the Tulcea Environmental Protection Agency on 11/02/2010 for the two different phases of the project (Salbatica 1 and Salbatica 2) respectively. In June 2009 the project also received an approval from the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (DDBR) Authority which is the entity empowered by the Ministry of Environment to administer, protect and conserve the natural heritage of the DDBR territory. The location of the wind farm overlaps partially in the northern area the Special Protection Area "Bestcpe Mahmudia" (ROSPA0009), borders the Special Protection Area "Danube Delta" (ROSPA0031), the Site of Community Importance "Danube Delta" (ROSCI0065) and the Site of Community Interest "Agighiol Hills" (ROSCI0060). The Environmental Impact Study (EIS) of the project addressed the impacts of the project on the above mentioned Natura 2000 sites and specifically on the protected bird species belonging to the two SPAs and on migrating species. The EIS included a report on bird monitoring that took place between March 2008 and October 2009, following which, in order to minimize the creation of migration barriers and disturbance to nesting sites, location of the wind turbines was optimized and power cable route was chosen to be underground. Also other mitigating measures such as the creation of feeding places for wintering geese and the utilization of ultrasound installations were proposed. Further bird monitoring carried out between October 2009 and March 2010 showed that the project area does not represent a preferred wintering location for the more sensitive bird species. The EIA process also included public consultation with a public debate taking place in December 2009. Several stakeholders, including the Romanian Ornithological Society (partner of Bird Life), were actively involved throughout the consultation. The Tulcea Environmental Agency has provided written confirmation that, following an appropriate assessment, the projects will not have any significant impact on the identified Natura 2000 sites. Cumulative impacts will be assessed in a separate report that will be submitted to the Bank.

### Corugea

The Corugea project is a 70 MW wind farm located inside the Danube Delta valley in the municipality of Casimcea, in the province of Tulcea which is part of the Dobrogea region. The project obtained preliminary environmental approval from the Galati Regional Environmental Protection Agency on 06/10/2009 and final environmental approval from the Tulcea Environmental Protection Agency on 28/05/2010. The location of the wind farm overlaps the Special Protection Area "Casimcea Steppe" (ROSPA0100) and borders the Site of Community Interest "Northern Dobrogea Plateau" (ROSCI0201) however it is located 25 km away from the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve.

The Environmental Impact Studies of the project addressed the impacts of the project on the above mentioned Natura 2000 sites and specifically on the protected bird species belonging to the "Casimcea Steppe" SPA or defined by the Bonn or Bern convention. A flora and fauna monitoring study was performed between March 2010 and March 2011 showing a limited presence of the protected species in the project area due to the type of land that characterizes the site and the distance from the main migration routes. The Tulcea Environmental Agency has provided written confirmation that, following an appropriate assessment, the projects will not have any significant impact on the identified Natura 2000 sites, and the environmental decision states that the integrity of the two Natura 2000 sites will not be affected by the implementation of the plan. Cumulative impacts will be assessed in a separate report that will be submitted to the Bank.

## **Moldova Noua**

The Moldova Noua project is a 48 MW wind farm located in south-west Romania close to the Danube near the border with Serbia in the municipality of Sfanta Elena, in the province of Caras Severin which is part of the Banat region. The project obtained preliminary environmental approval from the Timisoara Regional Environmental Protection Agency on 16/09/2009 and final environmental approval from the Caras Severin Environmental Protection Agency on 10/06/2010.

The location of the wind farm overlaps the Special Protection Area "Almajului Mountains-Locvei" (ROSPA0080) and the Site of Community Interest "Portile de Fier" (ROSCI0206) and is included within the area of long-lasting development (but outside the protection areas and the areas of integral preservation) of the Portile de Fier National Park, managed by a National authority responsible for the protection of the biodiversity of this area. The project is also located close to another SPA called "Danube course – Bazias- Portile de Fier" (ROSPA0026). The site consists mainly of arable or grazing land and lies outside the beech and oak forests that characterize part of the region and which will therefore not be affected. The Environmental Impact Studies of the project addressed the impacts of the project on the biodiversity; a bat monitoring program was performed between May and December 2009 following which the precise location of the wind turbines was determined. The environmental approvals included a number of conditions with respect to the limits of the area affected, removal of the land from the agricultural circuit, the rehabilitation of existing roads and the construction of new ones. The environmental decision issued in September 2009 explicitly states that the project will not have any impact on the special protection and preservation areas encompassed by the Portile de Fier National Park. The authority in charge of the Portile de Fier Natural Park also provided its favourable opinion to the project in February 2011. Even if not explicitly required by the environmental permits the promoter has agreed to carry out a monitoring program of the protected bird species included in the lists of the above mentioned Natura 2000 sites during construction and at least three years during operation. Cumulative impacts will be assessed in a separate report that will be submitted to the Bank