

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: CO-INVESTMENT WIND SWEDEN
Project Number: 2015-0567
Country: Sweden
Project Description: Co-investment of an onshore wind farm with a capacity of 23.1 MW.

EIA required: YES

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: YES

(Details are provided in section: "Carbon Footprint")

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

The project consists of the installation and operation of a 23.1 MW onshore wind farm using seven 3.3MW turbines in Kristinehamn (Sweden).

Wind farms fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. It is therefore up to the Member State's competent authority to judge whether an individual wind farm requires an EIA or not, based on criteria defined in Annex III of the EIA Directive. According to Swedish legislation the project underwent an EIA. The competent authority issued the environmental permit in October 2012, confirming that the project has no significant residual impacts. An appeal was filed after consenting concerning the location of one turbine. It was rejected by Court and since then no appeal is pending. .

The project is located in an area dominated by forest with some small streams and some wet woodlands. No Natura 2000 sites are affected by the project. Due to the presence of nesting birds in three small protected areas and bird migratory paths the project has been adapted to take into account these points, including a restriction of the construction period. Related conditions are included in the environmental permit and the construction planning takes these conditions into account. Other project impacts such as noise and visual impact are considered acceptable as the wind farm is at an appropriate distance from dwellings.

The project will generate positive environmental impacts, notably by reducing GHG emissions. The potential negative environmental impacts of the project are mainly limited to the construction phase and are appropriately mitigated. In summary, this operation is considered to be acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

According to Swedish legislation onshore wind farms require an environmental impact assessment (EIA) including consultation process if the wind farm meets either of the following two criteria:

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.

- Two or more wind turbines stand together and at least one of the turbines is more than 150 metres high.
- Seven or more wind turbines stand together and at least one wind turbine is higher than 120 metres.

Given the envisaged turbine tip height of up to 190 metres the promoter commissioned an EIA including consultation process. The project with seven turbines forms part of a total development of eight 3.3MW turbines, of which one turbine was recently sold by the promoter to a local authority. The authorisation process covered all eight turbines. The application for an environmental permit together with the EIS was submitted to the Regional County of Värmland in February 2011. Additional info requested by the Regional County was provided in August 2011.

Detailed bird and bat inventory and impact studies were carried out as part of the EIA. The bat inventory shows that no important bat habitats or endangered species occur in the project area and bats are therefore not expected to be significantly affected by the planned wind farm. No species found in the study area are listed in the EU Habitats Directive.

The bird survey concludes that the red-listed (near threatened) nightjar may possibly be affected if construction works are carried out during the period in which the species are in the area (courting and nesting). The environmental permit therefore stipulates that construction works are not allowed from 15 May until 15 September within a distance of 500 meters from the nightjar courtship locations as identified in the bird survey. After construction the nightjar is not expected to be significantly affected by the wind farm because it lives in forest areas at or below the treetop height and captures its prey on low branches, tree stumps, rocks or on the ground. In addition, the bird survey identifies two likely courting and nesting venues for the capercaillie (not red-listed). To avoid disturbing the capercaillie courtship, the environmental permit stipulates that construction works in the two areas identified are not allowed during the period from 1 April to 15 May.

After publication of the environmental permit an appeal by the county of Örebro was received on the grounds that the location of one turbine is too far from the designated areas for wind energy and would cause unnecessary nuisance. This appeal was rejected in a decision on 22nd May 2013 by the Nacka District Land and Environment Court as the grounds were considered insufficient to refuse permission for the plant, taking into account the distance to the nearest dwellings.

The promoter's environmental and social management capacity is acceptable

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The direct CO₂ equivalent emission of the project is negligible.

In accordance with the Bank's Carbon Footprint methodology it is calculated that the total relative effect of the project is a net reduction in CO₂ equivalent emissions by 33 kt CO₂e/yr. This calculation assumes that 75% of generated electricity substitute power generation in existing fossil fuel based power plants whilst 25% substitute power generation in new gas-fired combined cycle power plants.

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.