

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	<i>PUESPOEK WIND POWER</i>
Project Number:	<i>2010-0481</i>
Country:	<i>Austria</i>
Project Description:	<i>Construction of wind parks for a total capacity of 165 MW at two locations in the region of Burgenland (Mönchhof and Halbturm)</i>

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.

The project concerns the construction and operation of five wind farms located at two sites (Mönchhof and Halbturm) in the Austrian Burgenland region (convergence region / phasing-out). The wind farms have a total capacity of 162 MW.

The wind farms' authorisations concluded that there are potential risks to imperial eagles, great bustards (Großtrappe) and falcons and dedicated mitigation measures have been put in place. Furthermore, the risk of exceeding noise levels on individual farms and villages close to the wind farms were identified and reflected in the permit conditions.

No significant environmental or social issues were reported during the implementation of the project.

With regard to the wind farms at the Mönchhof site, a confirmation from the competent authority has been received on the satisfactory implementation of the "Aktionsplan Parndorfer Platte" (for the protection of the imperial eagle). The competent authority, in cooperation with external advisors and an NGO continue to monitor the corresponding activities, which are intended to last through the wind farm's operating life time,.

An additional wind turbine "Halbturm Kläranlage" has been included into the project scope during implementation as additional budget was available. This single 3 MW wind turbine replaces an older one belonging to another wind farm owned by the same promoter at the same site (re-powering). The turbine's location is compliant with the relevant spatial development plan and just next to the Andau Halbturm wind farm. The latter comprises 93 turbines (of which 31 are attributed to this project) and its underlying EIA process was deemed satisfactory during this operation's appraisal. The single turbine went through an environmental authorisation process that was based on specific impact studies and consultation. The corresponding permit for the single turbine was issued by the competent authority (Bezirkshauptmannschaft Neudiesdl am See) in August 2013. It confirms that no significant negative impacts are expected. Adding this wind turbine to the project scope is therefore considered acceptable for Bank financing in environmental and social terms.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the promoter, that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social requirements applicable at appraisal. However, continued environmental and social post-construction monitoring is required during operations.

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social aspects to be monitored during operations:

There are undertakings in place related to the environmental and social monitoring of the five wind farms which have not yet been fulfilled.

- 1.) All wind farms: Noise measurement reports as requested in the permits and a subsequent noise mitigation plan (if applicable), satisfactory to the Competent authority, had to be provided to the EIB as soon as available.

Status of fulfilment at PCR: The noise measurements have not been completed as yet. The promoter, after consultation with the competent authorities, expects the final measurements to take place around Q2/2016. Noise measurement reports will then be provided to the EIB.

- 2.) Wind farms at the Halbturm site: Evidence of the implementation of measures including compensation measures for the protection of the great bustard and falcons to the satisfaction of the Competent Authority, to be provided as soon as available.

Status of fulfilment at PCR: As defined in the permit, the mitigation measures comprise the conversion of 10.5 km overhead lines into buried cables in an existing bird habitat and the implementation of 7.5 ha of additional bird habitat. Both measures were expected to take place in Hungary. The implementation of this condition, as originally foreseen, has however turned out not to be feasible. Amongst others, land owners were not willing to provide the required land and authorisation processes for the cable installation turned out to be uncertain and lengthy. Equivalent measures in Austria with similar benefits for the protected bird species have therefore been identified by the promoter and bird experts. The promoter has submitted an application to the competent authority in order to amend the consent requirements accordingly. The corresponding authorisation process is ongoing and the promoter will keep the Bank up to date on the developments. Once this is approved the promoter will be able to implement the new measures, evidence of which will be provided to EIB.

The Bank's services will continue to monitor the above two aspects.