

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

(bis-version, updated after re-calculation of Carbon Footprint)

Overview

Project Name:	TAJIK - KYRGYZ POWER INTERCONNECTION
Project Number:	2014-0106
Country:	Regional (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan)
Project Description:	Construction of power-transmission infrastructure in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The proposed schemes form part of a larger regional project led by the World Bank and involving four Asian countries (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan).
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	yes

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

The project, if implemented inside the EU, would fall under Annex 1 of EIA directive, requiring an EIA. The promoter, with the assistance of World Bank has conducted environmental studies with an international consultant. The ESIA has identified environmental and social risks based on sound baseline information. The process has included public consultation.

The environmental and social studies have so far included Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA)s and Environmental and Social Management Plans (at feasibility study stage), Regional Environmental Assessment (REA), Social Impact Assessment report (SIA), avian risk assessment and country-specific Resettlement Policy Frameworks (RPFs). The detailed ESIA documents of each line component and the detail Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) are not yet done.

The identified environmental risks are typical for high voltage transmission projects, including vegetation and forest cleaning, visual impact, avifauna collisions and resettlement of people from transmission corridor. The study includes appropriate mitigating measures like re-routing the line at the areas of environmental protection, visual impact minimisation and resettlement action framework. The presented ESIA and related ESMP are still not considered final, as the exact line routing and tower siting are not defined yet. The line routing has been provided as 2 km wide corridor, and the line contractor who will do the detail planning of the line will propose the exact centreline of the transmission line and exact siting of towers. These will thereafter be subject to country-specific detailed ESIA and supplementary public consultation. (The public consultation has been conducted, but it needs to be supplemented as the population cannot yet now assess how significantly they are directly affected by the project.) The detailed

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.

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resettlement action plans will as well be done after detail routing is available. Overall, the environmental and social impacts of the project are acceptable and can be largely mitigated.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The currently available preliminary environmental impact assessments and other environmental documentation have been reviewed during project planning by the donors environmental teams. The national Environmental Authorities who are reviewing EIAs will submit their opinions as Environmental Permits only for the final detailed ESIA. These final ESIA and the environmental permits from the competent authorities shall be submitted to EIB for verification prior to first disbursement. The line Sangtuda-Regar has been added to the project after the feasibility study ESIA and ESMP were done, and is not examined in these documents.

Both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are considered as parts of migratory avian routes, Central Asian Flyway and East Asian-East African Flyway. The effect of the projects to these flyways have been analysed as Avian assessment of the project, and mitigating measures have been established into ESMPs. Such mitigating measures consist of line routing, bird diverter and monitoring/reporting measures.

The EIB project routes do not cross protected and environmentally sensitive sites. (There are some environmentally sensitive sites along the other lines of regional World Bank program, but not along these two lines that form the EIB project). The routes traverse mountainous terrain with mostly grass and bush vegetation, steep sided barren land, rivers and cultivated land. The line routes in Tajikistan are mainly on flatter lands (cultivated lands or steppes), while line route in Kyrgyzstan is largely on barren mountainous areas.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The social impacts of the project are arising mostly from the interconnection line. The line routing in Kyrgyzstan (450 km) is based on preliminary field survey, and the details how to circumvent towns along the route are not yet detailed enough. The largest towns along the route are Osh, the second largest city of Kyrgyzstan, and town of Jalal-abad. The social assessment has concluded that line routing can be done such way that settlements near the corridor of impact are not affected and physical resettlements are avoided. Along the routing there are as well two small enclaves belonging to Uzbekistan. The Tajikistan part of interconnection is short (25 km) and does not affect towns or communities.

The line Sangtuda-Regar in Tajikistan is situated in agricultural and pasture lands, avoiding towns and settlements.

The social management plan includes plans for community support programs for benefit sharing and improvement of the acceptability of the project for affected communities. These plans include potable and irrigation water plans and community health and education improvements. These plans are still at this stage indicative only as the exact routing has not been defined. The highest priorities for community support expressed by the local population in consultations were reliable winter electricity, water systems and access roads.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

Consultation has been carried out under the EIA process. The line detail routing is not available, and the affected persons were not able to define how the line will actually affect them. The consultation is therefore continued and repeated when detail ESIA is done with full line routing.



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Carbon Footprint

The project carbon footprint is calculated according to EIB methodology at 25 ktonCO₂/a absolute, and 339 ktonCO₂/a (relative)

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The final ESIA, ESMPs, environmental permits and resettlement action plans are all required to be completed to the Bank's satisfaction prior to the first disbursement. No civil works should start on such sections of the line where final resettlement action plan, including all appropriate compensation measures, and ESMP, including all appropriate mitigating measures, are fully completed.