

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	WINDFLOAT INNOVFIN FDP
Project Number:	2015-0240
Country:	PORTUGAL
Project Description:	<i>The project covers the design and installation of a 25 MW floating offshore wind farm about 20 km off the coast of Portugal, in 85-100 m water depth. The project will comprise 3 floating substructures with recently developed wind turbines of the 8 MW class from a reputable supplier. The project would also include export cable sections to a fixed sub-sea cable connection that is to be installed and operated by the transmission system operator.</i>
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	yes

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project falls under Annex II of the EIA Directive, leaving it to the Competent Authorities to screen the project in or out based on adequate criteria. The Competent Authorities have screened out the project and the electric connection to the mainland due to its relative small size (3-4 turbines and less than 30 MW) and its location outside protected areas.

Although no full EIA is required, regional administration has requested an Environmental Incidences Study, which includes public consultation. The study has been conducted and presented to the regional administration. The project was approved by the competent authority in November 2015. As is normative in Portugal, a complementary study post-construction is required. The 17 km cable connection to the mainland and the onshore connection to the nearest substation that are to be implemented by the Portuguese transmission system operator are covered by the study.

The Environmental Incidences Study is a comprehensive environmental risk assessment covering inter alia the impact of the project on birds, marine ecology, marine mammals, fishes and benthos. It concludes that the risks of the project are low and largely mitigated by site selection, the small size of the project and the reduced impact on the seabed due to the floating foundation solution.

The area chosen for the project is neither protected nor a Natura 2000 area. The closest Natura 2000 areas are habitat protection areas on the shoreline 20 km from the site. These sites are not affected by the wind farm and also avoided by the cable connection to the

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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mainland. The closest bird protection area is more than 30 km away and not impacted by the project. The region is not particularly important for migratory birds.

The seabed has been screened for risk of damaging marine archaeology and the current site is selected to minimise the risk. This will be followed up during construction. In addition, a 50 m wide zone is available for the network connection cable to enable flexibility in case archaeologically valuable locations are discovered.

Compared to a bottom-mounted offshore wind installation the projects' environmental impact is significantly reduced, especially during the installation phase. With the floating concept, there is no monopile driven into or a gravity foundation lying on the seabed. Each floating foundation will have three mooring cables that are anchored to the seabed with little impact. Additionally the floating structures, including the wind turbines, will be constructed in existing port facilities and towed to the site.

The environmental monitoring programme as requested by the permit will focus on bird monitoring using both visual and radar observations, marine mammals and reef effects.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The direct CO₂ emission of an offshore wind farm is deemed negligible.

In accordance with the Bank's current Carbon Footprint methodology it is calculated that based on the avoidance of electricity generation from a combination of existing and new power plants in Portugal (75% operating margin and 25% build margin) the total relative effect of the project is a net reduction in CO₂ equivalent emissions by 38 kt CO₂e/yr.

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.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The project is a relatively small investment in a harsh offshore environment with at times difficult access. Occupational safety of operational staff is at certain weather conditions difficult and risky. However, the project benefits from experiences in a pilot installation and conditions for safe access have been improved and a clear procedure necessary and safe access has been determined. A low risk of necessary access during difficult conditions remains.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Although no full EIA was required, an Environmental Incidences Study including public consultation was required and performed conducted in May 2014. The study has been conducted and presented to the regional administration.

Conclusions and Recommendations

An undertaking to share the post-construction supplementary environmental analysis with the Bank should be included in the finance contract.

The project is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.