

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	<i>PUBLIC R&amp;D ORGANISATIONS SPAIN</i>
Project Number:	<i>2012-0255</i>
Country:	<i>Spain</i>
Project Description:	<i>Financing of R&amp;D activities and investments in public research Infrastructures and organisations across Spain.</i>
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no

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

The activities of several of the public research organisations and facilities relate to environmental issues (marine observation, geo-mineral resources and agricultural processes) as well as energy efficiency and renewable energies. The R&D outcome is therefore expected to provide positive results in environmental terms.

The majority of the R&D activities included in this project will not materially change current R&D practices and will be carried out to a large extent within existing facilities, making use of existing installations. No EIA according to the Directive 2011/92/EC is therefore required: only for one site included in the project an Environmental Impact Study has been requested by the competent authority and the promoter will be contractually requested to inform the Bank about its outcome. Some of the laboratories included in the project handle toxic materials and toxic waste as part of their activities. Being only small quantities, the promoter has indicated that none of the laboratories falls under the Seveso Directive, and all the laboratories activities are handled according to the operating permits.

Hence, the project is considered as acceptable for the Bank's financing, with minor negative residual impacts (B).

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The majority of the R&D activities included in this project will not materially change current R&D practices and will be carried out to a large extent within existing facilities, making use of existing installations. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) according to the Directive 2011/92/EC is therefore not required.

For the construction of an off-shore oceanic platform to install a group of experimentation facilities and laboratories to perform oceanic observation (representing 0.6% of the total project costs) an Environmental Impact Study has been requested by the competent authority. The promoter will be contractually requested to inform the Bank about the outcome of it.

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

The project consists of many facilities distributed around the country. According to the information received, two sites would be located within Natura 2000 areas. Although these sites are already operational and the project relates to their operation, Form A has been requested and the relevant undertaking will be included in the finance contract.

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

Some of the laboratories included in the project handle toxic materials and toxic waste as part of their activities. Being only small quantities, the promoter has indicated that none of the laboratories falls under the Seveso Directive, and all the laboratories activities are handled according to the operating permits, requiring e.g. the treatment of toxic waste by specialised external companies.

In addition, some of the centres included in the project operate small laboratories that fall under the periodical supervision of the national Nuclear Safety Council.

Several of the research organisations and facilities are active in the fields of renewable energies and the development of new technologies for energy efficiency. One research organisation and two research facilities are active in the fields of maritime observation, while one organisation is responsible for the national research on geomineral resources. The results of the research performed by these components of the project are expected to have a positive impact on the environment.