

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	Slovakia Forestry and Environment
Project Number:	2012-0478
Country:	Slovakia
Project Description:	Co-financing of selected measures of the Slovakian Rural Development Programme.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The project was expected to make a positive contribution to environmental management in Slovakia's rural areas, principally by rehabilitating damaged forests, increasing resilience and strengthening forest protection; and also by improving the Slovak agricultural sector's environmental performance by reducing surface and groundwater pollution from animal husbandry and increasing renewable energy production.

Severe storms caused extensive damage to Slovakia's forests in 2005, leading to an increased vulnerability to bark beetle (*Scolytus*) outbreaks, and the need for sanitary harvesting of storm-damaged trees as well as rehabilitation actions. Further storm damage particularly in the Tatra mountains took place during the programming period itself. The RDP was designed to support these works, and it actively facilitated an appropriate response.

Vulnerability to water pollution is particularly acute in Slovakia due to its geology, and the importance of tackling diffuse ground- and surface-water pollution is especially important. Therefore, the support of the RDP to reducing the pollution impact of animal husbandry is delivering a significant contribution to protecting the country's water quality.

Prior to disbursement, the Promoter confirmed that all schemes financed by the EIB operation were below EUR 25m in size; provided a declaration from the respective Competent Authority to the Bank that the EU Habitats and Birds Directives were implemented satisfactorily in line with applicable legislation; and provided a list of the EIAs that had been carried out within the scope of the operation thus far. Upon completion of the operation the promoter confirmed that no major issues regarding to environmental and social impacts had arisen; and that conservation value and habitats were safeguarded according to relevant legislation.

The environmental and social disbursement conditions and undertakings were satisfactorily fulfilled. In conclusion, no significant negative environmental and social issues were noted. The operation is concluded to have delivered positive impacts to Slovakia's rural environment in line with expectations.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter and a monitoring mission by the EIB team at the end of the implementation period that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.