

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	TERNA CAPRI-CONTINENTE
Project Number:	2016-0788
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	The investment programme is part of the Promoter's investment plan to expand and reinforce the electricity transmission network in Italy and concerns the expansion of the 150 kV network to the island of Capri which is at present an isolated system and the Sorrento peninsula to replace the existing 60 kV network.

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: yes

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

The investment programme comprises the following main sub-projects:

1. The construction of a 150 kV cable link of 31 km (30 km subsea and 1 km onshore cable) between the Torre Centrale substation and the island of Capri and the associated 150 kV substation in Capri.
2. The construction a 150 kV cable link of 18.7 km (16 km subsea and 2.7 km onshore cable) between the substation Capri and the Sorrento peninsula and the associated 150 kV substation in Sorrento.
3. The construction a 150 kV link of 30.2 km (20.2 km overhead lines and 10 km underground cables) to connect the following substations on the Sorrento peninsula: Sorrento, Vico Equense, Agerola and Lettere.

Environmental Assessment

The 150 kV link Sorrento-Vico Equense-Agerola-Lettere is currently undergoing EIA while the other two sub-projects are not listed under Annex II of the EIA and did not undergo an EIA. They have however been subjected, as relevant, to environmental analyses (e.g. landscape, archaeological assessments, Appropriate Assessment, etc.) in the process for the authorisation to build and operate.

Cable Torre Centrale-Capri and associated Capri substation

The project was granted construction permit in November 2012. A further construction permit was granted in April 2015 following the slight relocation of Capri substation due to the discovery of archaeological findings of the Roman era. Project works are nearly completed with operation expected in the first half of 2017.

The cable route starts from Torre Annunziata. After a short land section (700 m), it reaches the shore of the southern Gulf of Naples, then continuing subsea in south-west direction for

¹ Only projects that meet the scope, 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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circa 29 km up to the landfall in Capri (Marina Grande) and reaching, after a further short land section (300 m), Capri substation.

The first part of the cable route crosses the reclamation site of national interest "Litorale Vesuviano" and the associated marine areas. As per requirements under the permit, appropriate cable installation techniques have been used so to minimize dispersion of pollutants. At sea this resulted in the use of trenchless protection techniques (rock dumping) for circa 4 km.

The rest of the subsea route runs nearly entirely along/across the Natura 2000 site IT8030011 "Fondali Marini di Punta Campanella e Capri", which includes the priority habitat "posidonia beds", and the land section in Capri crosses the Natura 2000 site "Settore e rupi costiere orientali dell'isola di Capri". A screening for the requirements of an Appropriate Assessment was carried out and the project was subjected to Appropriate Assessment in line with Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive. Based on the Appropriate Assessment report, the project does not adversely affect the integrity of these Natura 2000 sites on view of their conservation objectives. The competent authority requested the implementation of specific measures for mitigating the impacts of cable installation works on the Posidonia meadows crossed by the terminal portion of the cable (circa 200 m) off the coast of Capri. In this area the cable was laid in an under seabed duct, installed with the Directional Drilling technology, in order to effectively avoid any interferences with the Posidonia population of the site.

Cable Sorrento-Capri and associated Sorrento substation

The project was granted construction permit in June 2015. Works have not started yet. The cable route starts from Sorrento. After a land section of circa 2.4 km it reaches the sea shore then continuing subsea in south-west direction for circa 16 km up to the landfall in Capri (Marina Grande) and reaching, after a further short land section (300 m), Capri substation.

The subsea route runs entirely along/across the Natura 2000 site IT8030011 "Fondali Marini di Punta Campanella e Capri" and the land section in Capri crosses the Natura 2000 site "Settore e rupi costiere orientali dell'isola di Capri". A screening for the requirements of an Appropriate Assessment was carried out and the project was subjected to Appropriate Assessment in line with Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive. Based on the Appropriate Assessment report, the project does not adversely affect the integrity of these Natura 2000 sites on view of their conservation objectives. The competent authority requested the implementation of specific measures for mitigating the impacts of cable installation works on the Posidonia meadows crossed by the terminal portion of the cable (circa 200 m) off the coast of Capri. The promoter confirmed that, as already done for the cable Torre-Capri, in this area the cable will be laid in an under seabed duct, installed with the Directional Drilling technology, so avoid any interferences with the Posidonia meadows. Posidonia is not present along the cable route off the coast of Sorrento

Mixed cable/aerial link Sorrento-Vico Equense-Agerola-Lettere

The link will be constructed on the Sorrento peninsula; it will connect the Sorrento substation with the Vico Equense substation and the Agerola substation in the south part of the Sorrento peninsula and from there it will continue to the Lettere substation which is in the south part of the Sorrento peninsula. The parts of the link Vico Equense - Agerola and Agerola - Lettere cross the Natura 2000 site IT8030008 "Dorsale dei Monti Lattari" (total length of this link within the Natura 2000 site is 18 km). This link will replace existing 60 kV overhead lines; 26 km of 60 kV overhead lines will be decommissioned).

The project falls under Annex II of the EIA and was screened-in for EIA. The full EIA process is currently in progress. An Environmental Impact Study and an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6.3 of the Habitats have been carried out but neither EIA decree nor construction permit has been granted as yet.

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Based on the available studies, the main environmental impacts of the project are felling and trimming of trees during the construction phase, including possible localised impacts on some priority habitats², as well as birds' collision and mortality during the operation phase. At this stage final opinion by the competent authorities, including compensating/mitigating measures, is not issued yet, at which point an environmental assessment will be undertaken by the Bank.

The promoter is experienced as developer of electricity transmission infrastructures. For all sub-projects good work practices will be implemented so to minimise disturbance during construction (noise, dust and pollution). Further to that, all sub-projects have been designed to comply with EMF exposure limits as well a noise limits.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The savings in CO2 equivalent (CO2 e) emissions for the Project are mainly due to reductions in carbon intensity of electricity supplied to customers in Capri by switching from diesel-fired generation to the less polluting generation from mainland Italy. Over the economic life of the Project the corresponding savings in relative emissions are estimated at 21.7 kt CO2 e per year.

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.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The environmental management system of the promoter is compliant with ISO 14001 and is integrated with the quality, safety and energy management systems.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the results of the Bank's assessment, no significant long term impacts are expected to result from the construction and the operation of the two sub-projects Torre Centrale-Capri and Sorrento-Capri. For the link Sorrento-Vico Equense-Agerola-Lettere, the final opinion by the competent authorities, including compensating/mitigating measures, is not issued yet, at which point an environmental assessment will be undertaken by the Bank.

Based on the information available, and with appropriate environmental conditionality (see below), the programme is expected to be acceptable to the Bank in environmental terms.

Disbursement against the sub-project Sorrento-Vico Equense-Agerola-Lettere will be subject to the receipt by the Bank of a copy of the authorization to build and operate and a written confirmation by the competent authority that the sub-project would not adversely affect the integrity of any European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

² 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia) (* important orchid site) and 9210 Apennine beech forests with Taxus and Ilex (Faggeti).