

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	ROMANIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT EU CO-FINANCING
Project Number:	2013-0389
Country:	Romania
Project Description:	Co-financing of the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme (RDP) managed by the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The operation supported activities under the Romanian 2007-2013 RDP including small-scale agricultural infrastructure to reduce pollution, improve energy efficiency and increase use of renewable energy; afforestation and improved forest management and protection; erosion and flood control measures; and development of rural tourism.

The project was therefore expected to deliver a range of positive environmental impacts across the country. Although investments in the forestry sector were less than initially anticipated, related activities, such as afforestation, forest rehabilitation and protection activities, as well as development of the forest road network will contribute to sustainable forest management and protection, and will deliver multiple environmental benefits contributing to EU environmental policy objectives in the fields of climate change, soil and water management.

Further, investments in the agriculture sector contributing to pollution prevention and nutrient management will directly assist Romania in achieving compliance with the Water Framework Directive and the Nitrates Directive. On the other hand, project contributions to rural infrastructure and services will support the strengthening of the country's rural economy, thus improving social and economic prospects for rural communities. As the project was implemented largely in line with expectations (noting that there were a number of modifications, which were agreed with the European Commission), it is the Bank's judgement that these benefits have been realised.

The operation's small amount of afforestation (345 ha) and its more substantial support to improved forest management and forest rehabilitation (30,400 ha) are calculated to produce a sequestration benefit of approximately 309 kt CO₂/y. Assuming that without the project the rehabilitation and management improvement works would not be implemented successfully but that the areas affected would continue to grow, albeit with a higher rate of degradation and land use change, the relative project sequestration benefit can be estimated to be of the order of 157 kt CO₂/y.

European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 20 December 2016

During project implementation, the promoter confirmed that all schemes financed by the EIB operation were below EUR 25m in size and provided a declaration that all schemes financed under the project were in compliance with the EIA, Habitats and Birds directives, as transposed into Romanian legislation and had received the necessary approvals of the competent authority (i.e. the National Environmental Protection Agency through its 41 county agencies for environmental projects and central agency; and the National Environmental Guard through its 41 county commissariats, central commissariat and Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Commissariat, as applicable), in accordance with the relevant provisions of the EU and Romanian legislation applicable to the Romanian RDP.

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 Romania's rural environment, in line with expectations.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

The EIB is of the opinion, based on information received during the implementation period and reports from the promoter 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.