

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	AFFORESTATION AND EROSION CONTROL II
Project Number:	2012-0532
Country:	Turkey
Project Description:	Supporting afforestation, forest rehabilitation, erosion control activities and measures to prevent forest fires in Turkey during the period 2014-2016 through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF) and the General Directorate of Forestry (GDF).

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The Project contributed to the protection and improvement of forests and biodiversity, and the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through afforestation, forest rehabilitation and implementation of sustainable forest management. The investments made by the GDF did not negatively impact the environment, but to the contrary, through the afforestation and soil conservation activities in particular, positive and long term contributions were made to the environment that cannot be measured in pecuniary terms (e.g. forest ecosystem health, carbon sequestration, soil protection measures). More than 123 000 hectares have been afforested; over 32 500 hectares of forests and 49 500 hectares of rangelands were rehabilitated; erosion control and soil protection measures have been realized on over 224 000 hectares during the implementation period 2014-2016.

The project contributed to both EU and Turkish environmental policy objectives in the fields of climate change, biodiversity and soil management. The programme contributed to both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Growing forests sequester carbon and standing forest ecosystems are important carbon stocks, so the project's measures to promote new afforestation and improve the management of existing forests make an important contribution to climate mitigation.

Public sector forestry and erosion control activities are exempt from an EIA in Turkey. All activities are subject to detailed decrees which conform to the requirements of the Ministry of Environment and the General Directorate of Environmental Impact Assessment. New afforestation activities required detailed Implementation Plans, for which the agreement of the local community was compulsory. The procedures are considered to be consistent with EU practices.

Disputes over ownership, boundaries and rights of use have characterized the recent history of Turkish forests. Completion of forest cadastral surveys and settlement of ownership disputes are priority objectives for the authorities. The project supported feasibility studies and surveys for over 865 000 hectares of forest land.

There was no information provided by the promoter on how the project impacted the population living in the vicinity of forest areas i.e. the main direct beneficiaries of these

measures. Training for forest villagers related to diversified employment opportunities and income sources was not part of the EIB's operation, but supported by the AFD<sup>1</sup> project components. Approximately 25 % of the Turkish population either lives within or on the margins of the forest, or within a 10 km radius of a forest area. These people tend to be of a lower income level than the remaining 75 % of the population. Many depend on the forest for fuelwood, grazing and other traditional uses. In conducting new afforestation, rehabilitation and erosion control works, the interests of local people and forest villagers were taken into account. In addition, the project supported the employment of 9 146 FTE (full time equivalent; or 27 439 man-years) in rural areas during the implementation period 2014-2016.

### **EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

The overall annual sequestration of the project at completion in a standard year is estimated to be approximately 250 kT CO<sub>2</sub>-e. This breaks down as 24 kT CO<sub>2</sub>-e on the 32 669 hectares rehabilitated forest; and about 226 kT CO<sub>2</sub>-e on the 123 569 hectares of newly planted forest. 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.

### **Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

The EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the promoter, site visits by the EIB team and inputs provided by Lenders' Supervisors and others, that the Project has been implemented in line with the EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.

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<sup>1</sup> Agence Française de Développement