

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	AMBER GRID GAS TRANSMISSION PIPELINE
Project Number:	20150117
Country:	Lithuania
Project Description:	Construction of a gas pipeline between Klaipėda and Kuršėnai

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The Project consisted of the construction of a DN800 gas pipeline ca. 110 kilometres long with a maximum operating pressure of 54 bar between Klaipėda and Kuršėnai, enhancing the capacity of the pipeline route Klaipėda - Kiemenai.

The Project was required to undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in accordance with the applicable Directives. In May 2014, the Project's EIA was approved by the competent authorities and a declaration was issued that the Project was not likely to have significant effects on sites of nature conservation importance.

The construction impacts were deemed to be temporary and limited, resulting mainly from line preparation and laying activities and were to be mitigated by appropriate planning and construction practices. The main social impacts concerned the compensations for losses incurred by the set easements and protection area of the pipeline, including losses for destroyed crops and cut forest.

An undertaking was deemed as necessary by the Bank, i.e. the promoter to confirm through the monitoring reports that the mitigations measures as indicated in the SEA, EIA, appropriate assessment and environmental permit would be fulfilled as per conditions during the Project implementation. At completion, EIB considers that this undertaking has been fulfilled.

Environmental outcomes

A summary report of the environmental impact mitigation measures during the construction activities was produced and updated on a monthly basis upon the assessment of the works performance. Particularly regarding:

- The crossing of the Minija River: Prior to the preparatory works, an environmental monitoring plan was drawn up, which provided for surveys of the fauna, the flora, the ichthyologic exploration and the river shore exploration. In addition, soil tests were carried out by independent consultants before and after the construction of the pipeline. All of the construction works (excavation of the river slopes and installation of a temporary bridge, excavation of a trench and in-placement of a welded-in-advance curved pipe section with makeweights, burying of the pipeline) took place during the second-half of summer in 2015, as recommended in the EIA mitigation measures to cater for the protection of the spawning grounds of salmonids from getting covered in sediments. After the construction, an environmental monitoring report was produced summarising the conclusions.
- The protection of the large blue butterfly in in Viržintų meadows: The felling of the trees and bushes and the removal of the biomass from the meadow was implemented according to the mitigation measures indicated in the EIA.

Social outcomes

During the Project implementation, a number of agreements on establishment of easements and special conditions of use of land were signed, some of them being subject to administrative case. At the time of completion, there were no ongoing administrative cases.

Overall, no significant environment or social issues were noted.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter, during construction that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.