

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	GOYA WIND PROJECT
Project Number:	2017-0097
Country:	SPAIN
Project Description:	Construction and operation of several onshore wind farms, for a total capacity of 306 MW, located in the Spanish region of Aragon.

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

Environmental Assessment

The present operation will contribute to the achievements of the Spanish 2020 targets for the reduction of the CO₂ emissions, which imperatively require additional renewable energy capacity to become operational in the upcoming years. The project was awarded a concession in January 2016, in the first tender for renewable energy carried out under the present legal framework.

The project consists of nine wind farms, with sizes ranging from 10 to 100 MW, for a total installed power of 306 MW (82 wind turbines), all located in the same area, in the province of Zaragoza, North Eastern Spain.

All wind plants are included in the Annex II of the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU). Eight of them have been screened in, requiring full EIA including public consultation; while the smallest one, with a capacity of 10 MW (3 wind turbines) has been screened out compatibly with the criteria defined in the Annex III of the abovementioned directive. Additionally, the presence of a 28 km 220 kV aerial power line, included in the Annex I of the EIA Directive, required for the interconnection to the grid of Las Majas II, III, IV, V and VI wind plants, requires a separate EIA process. At this time, only two of the nine plants have received the necessary environmental consents, and the rest of the processes, including for the transmission line, are still ongoing.

The authorization procedure and compliance with EU EIA, Birds and Habitats directives is deemed satisfactory following the Bank's review of individual EIA documentation and support biodiversity studies. The Bank will however request the promoter to provide final environmental permits, including evidence of no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites for all project components. The closest Natura 2000 sites is Río Huerva y Las Planas (SiteCode: ES0000300), located at a distance of less than 10 km from the closest turbines.

For the individual wind farms, the EIA reports included the appropriate identification of the impacts (such as visual and noise impacts, impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems – mainly collisions and disturbance of avifauna, and impact on cultural and archaeological patrimony), the determination of their significance, as well as the measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate and compensate the impacts. The EIA was complemented by a detailed Archaeological Survey Report (Prospección Arqueológica) approved by the relevant competent authority together with the environmental consent; birds and bats impacts study, including the results of a survey (all year round) in selected vantage points and

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, 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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transects relevant to the project sites; and perceptive EMP ("Plan de vigilancia ambiental") for the construction and operational phases.

The promoter has limited E&S capacity as it is a relatively new company with ambitious investment programme. It is still building up its organizational structure, with dedicated expertise, including environment, for all project activities and it is supported by dedicated team of reputed E&S consultants. The Bank will require the promoter to strengthen its E&S capacity during project implementation and operation.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The wind farms are expected to have an aggregate electricity production of ca. 927 GWh/year, and will not generate any absolute CO₂ emissions. In accordance with the Bank's current Carbon Footprint methodology it is calculated that based on the avoidance of electricity generation from a combination of existing and new power plants in Spain (75% operating margin and 25% build margin), the total relative effect of the project is a net reduction in CO₂ equivalent emissions by 380 kt CO₂-e/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'.

Social Assessment, where applicable

It is expected that the implementation of none the project's components will lead to involuntary physical or economic displacement or resettlement. The current use of the lands is for agriculture and recreation, mainly hunting, and those activities will continue to be practised in the area, as with the normal safeguards, they will not be affected by the project.

The promoter is engaging with the land owners in order to reach voluntary agreements for all project infrastructures, in the form of leases, with annual payments; and surface rights or rights of way, with single payments. For the pieces of land where a voluntary agreement cannot be reached, the promoter intends to require expropriation, in line with Spanish legislation. In Spain all projects required for the implementation of the different activities within the electricity sector, including generation, promoted by public or private companies, are considered public utility, and subject to urgent forced expropriation, to be carried out by the authority, in the interest of the promoters.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

For all project components, the public consultation was carried out under the EIA process, as required by the EU, and as transposed by the national law. The declaration of public utility process has its own public information phase. The promoter has not developed further stakeholder engagement activities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

For all project components, the main negative residual impacts have been evaluated to be minimal and will mainly be concentrated during construction. They will be mitigated with detailed project control mechanisms, as defined in the environmental documents.

All environmental licences have to be provided as a condition for financial close, and the relevant environmental and social mitigation and compensation programmes, as part of the EMP developed and included in the individual EIA reports, including measures to avoid, reduce and mitigate the impact, as well as monitoring indicators, have to be put in place.

With the mentioned conditions in place, the EIA processes and their results are acceptable to the Bank.

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