

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	<i>PARC PHOTOVOLTAIQUE CESTAS</i>
Project Number:	<i>2014-0502</i>
Country:	<i>France</i>
Project Description:	<i>Construction and operation of 25 solar photovoltaic power plants totalling 300MWp. The plants are located on adjacent parcels, 20km South-West of Bordeaux (France) close to the village of Cestas.</i>

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The Project consists of a 300 MW_p photovoltaic plant and a 280 MVA/225 kV substation, located in South-West of Bordeaux and connected to the 225 kV network through a 2 km underground cable. The project site is on the border with the natural regional park of the Landes de Gascogne but far from any Natura 2000 site. The Project falls under Annex II of the EIA directive. It has been screened in under national legislation and hence a full EIA was required. The environmental impact study was approved by the French authorities who confirmed that the Project will not have any significant negative impacts if all mitigation measures are fully implemented.

The project construction entailed limited local impacts on the fauna and flora, the landscape, the soil and groundwater and has no substantial cumulative impact in the region. According to information provided by the promoter, the EIA requirements and mitigants have been successfully implemented. Deforested land has been compensated for by the reforestation of an equivalent surface area nearby. The wet heath present on the site has been preserved. The promoter monitors the colonization of the flora and fauna on site during the first five years and reports annually to the authorities. The environmental management plan for the operation phase adequately addresses the impacts identified in the environmental impact study and endorses mitigation actions.

No significant environmental or social issues were noted during the implementation of the Project.

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.