

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Port de Brest
Project Number:	2014-0207
Country:	France
Project Description:	Development of a new terminal dedicated to the support of off-shore renewable energy operations at the Port of Brest, including: land reclamation, a new quay, maritime protection works, dredging works, pavements and access roads. In addition and as part of the project, the nautical access to the existing port terminals will be improved through the deepening of the navigation channel. After completion, the project will enhance the efficiency of the supply chain associated to the off-shore renewable energy industry in the region and it will increase the efficiency of the port operations at the existing terminal which are currently limited by naturally occurring tide limitations.
EIA required:	Yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

In compliance with Directive 2011/92/EU of 13 December 2011, amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of 15 May 2014, as well as the provisions of the national *Code de l'Environnement*, the Promoter conducted an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) as the project falls under the type of projects listed under Annex I (vessels of over 1,350 t are expected to make use of the facilities). SAFEGE Ingénieurs Conseils undertook the ESIA and it was made public in July 2014 (*Projet de développement du port de Brest, Dossier d'enquête publique au titre du Code de l'Environnement, Pièces 1 à 10*).

Furthermore, in accordance with Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992, the Promoter assessed that the project is situated in the vicinity of several Natura 2000 sites 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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as such, it requires a specific assessment of its impact in those areas. Such assessment constitutes a part of the aforementioned ESIA.

The Environmental Authority (*Direction régionale de l'environnement, de l'aménagement et du logement de Bretagne*) issued an opinion on the ESIA on 3 September 2014 providing a number of suggestions and recommendations to the documents provided by the Promoter.

A derogation request process for the destruction of reproduction sites or rest areas of protected species was also initiated by the Promoter and the *Préfet de Finistère*, having reviewed, among others, the conclusions of the *Conseil National de la Protection de la Nature* dated 29 June 2015. The requested derogation was granted with a number of conditions and undertakings on 1 September 2015.

The *Préfet de Finistère*, having reviewed, among others, the opinion on the ESIA of the Environmental Authority, the Public Consultation process as well as other relevant sources of information, granted a project authorisation with nr. 201522-0008 dated 31 July 2015 which was later modified and updated on 21 March 2017 with a number of additional specific conditions and undertakings for the works.

The main project induced environmental impacts can be grouped into two: impacts during the works and permanent project impacts.

For the construction phase, the main impacts identified for the maritime ecosystem are: dispersion of more or less polluted suspended solids during dredging, disposal of land-based materials during the execution of the quay wall and breakwater, suspension of the cyst of the microalga *Alexandrium Minutum*, sound pollution.

In addition, other project effects prior to the adoption of mitigation measures are: siltation and deposition of fines on the seabed, nurseries and fish spawning areas, fish and benthic organisms' asphyxiation due to excess of suspended solids and chemical contamination; reduction of the filtration, chemical contamination and contamination through *Alexandrium Minutum* toxins for the bivalves. In addition, a decrease/loss of catch for the local fishermen and shell farmers is expected as well as effects on the water intake of a nearby aquarium, Océanopolis.

The Promoter has implemented a standard mitigation strategy for the project biodiversity offset/compensation scheme based on the hierarchical principles of avoidance, minimisation, rehabilitation/restoration and offset.

Some of the adopted measures to prevent effects on the quality of the water include: cancellation of dredging operations in some of the most polluted areas, adaptation of the dredging methodology for different project areas, adaptation of the reclamation technique in order to reduce the amount of suspended solids discharged into the sea, adaptation of the project schedule to better adjust it to the natural cycles of the ecosystem of the area (no dredging activities during the summer periods and limited activities following a set of established parameters during the rest of the year), monitoring compliance with certain imposed turbidity thresholds which will trigger a

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need for an adaptation or a full stop of the works. Following this mitigation strategy, the residual effects are considered to be within acceptable limits.

Concerning the sound impact of the works, temporary and permanent physiologic damage and disturbance to the fish, marine mammals and diving bird population are foreseen. An adaptation of the construction methodology, particularly for the piling works, has been established.

The only project permanent impact identified on the marine ecosystem refers to the destruction of benthic organisms as a consequence of the dredging and reclamation works. The accompanying measures proposed to provide compensation are done by means of an eco-design on the quay wall and the breakwater with the use of patented technology to create a reef effect in the area. In addition, the Promoter has implemented a follow-up programme to analyse the evolution of the eelgrass beds in the area.

Two major permanent terrestrial impacts were identified: the destruction of an area of wetland and an area of dry heath. In both cases, the proposed compensatory measures consist on the creation of two separate areas of the same natural characteristics at Plogastel Daoulas (8,600 m² of areas created for a destroyed area of 3,100 m²).

Social Assessment, where applicable

The project is being built within the existing port limits. As such, no significant social impacts are expected from the project.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Promoter, with the support of the *Commission nationale du débat public*, conducted an initial Public Consultation process during a four month period in 2012. Specific areas of concern such as the socio-economic impact of the project, the city-port relationship and the impact of the construction works were addressed during four public meetings and a dedicated website. This consultation led to modify and adapt the original dredging program in order to accommodate the characteristics of the local ecosystems.

A formal Public Consultation process related to the ESIA was held between 3 November 2014 and 31 December 2014. The *Président de la commission d'enquête* in charge of the Public Consultation process concluded his report on 20 February 2015 with a favourable opinion.

In addition, the Promoter established a *Comité de suivi des dragages* that has held biyearly meetings in the period 2013 – 2017 where the project progress is discussed with different stakeholders such as fishermen and shell farmers, environmental and local citizen groups and associations, the *Direction départementale des territoires et de la mer*, project area neighbours, *Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer* (IFREMER), *Institut Universitaire Européen de la Mer* (IUEM), as well as

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the Promoter's team. Furthermore, the Promoter set up a parallel technical committee to provide advice as required, constituted by IFREMER, IUEM and other technical experts appointed on an *ad hoc* basis.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Not used.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Promoter has implemented a solid project management team. Therefore, no particular problems are envisaged during the execution and operation of the project.

In addition, the Promoter has submitted a signed declaration confirming the degree of impact on Natura 2000 sites from the Competent Authority for Nature Conservation confirming the compliance with the EU Habitats Directive (Form A) and confirming this impact to be non-significant provided that all proposed mitigation and monitoring measures are implemented.

As such, subject to the following undertaking being met, the project is considered acceptable for EIB financing from an environmental and social point of view:

Undertaking:

- The Promoter shall ensure that adequate environmental, social and health and safety management plans, defined according to the legal requirements and related documents, are implemented and monitored during the construction of the project.

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