

**Public**

## **Environmental and Social Data Sheet**

### **Overview**

Project Name:	CABLE RACCORDEMENT GUYANE
Project Number:	2017-0964
Country:	FRANCE
Project Description:	The project concerns the construction, installation, commissioning and operation of a transmission system based on several submarine fibre optic cable segments for linking French Guiana with Brazil and Europe.
EIA required:	to be confirmed
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

### **Environmental and Social Assessment**

#### **Environmental Assessment**

The promoter will implement the project under a concession that will be awarded to a company with proven experience in management of submarine cables. The Concessionaire will outsource the construction works to ASN, a reputable company and one of the world leaders in these activities.

At the time of appraisal, the concession contract has not yet been signed and the project design is preliminary, subject to the desktop studies and the maritime survey. Once the contract is signed, the supplier of the cable will perform the cable route study, to select the best route for the cable taking into account the conditions of the marine environment in the area, as well as human activities such as fishing, navigation and the location of other cables. After the route has been defined, the supplier will perform the maritime survey, which includes the whole route of the cable, from the deep waters to the shore. Then, the location of the exact landing point in Kourou will be analysed and confirmed, following the survey. Finally, there will be a review of the terrestrial route and the landing station location. The reports resulting from these activities will be used to adapt if needed and close the final design of the project and launch the construction of the cable. One of the criteria for the final design and planning of the works will be to minimise potential environmental impacts during construction,

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<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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which will be done based on best practices and adequate mitigation measures, such as avoiding breeding periods of turtles and impacts on marine mammals. From the environmental point of view, the most vulnerable part of the cable route will be the segment between the shallow waters and the landing point, although potential impacts in this area would only be temporary as works will just take a few days.

Telecommunications projects are not included in Annex I or II of the European EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU, and therefore are not subject to Environmental Impact Assessments as per that Directive. However, the French environmental legislation (in particular art. R. 122-2 of the “Code de l’environnement”) defines submarine cable projects as subject to a screening by the local environmental authorities (Direction de l’Environnement, de l’Aménagement et du Logement) to determine whether a full EIA is needed.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

The authorisation required for occupying the maritime public domain (French Guiana’s territorial waters and beach) for performing the construction works will include a public consultation. This will allow the affected stakeholders to express their opinion and concerns about the project for the authorities to take them into consideration before deciding on the approval.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The potential environmental impacts of submarine cables are minor, short term, typically localized at the landing points and become negligible with the application of mitigation measures and industry best practices. Telecommunication networks and specifically submarine cable projects do not fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU, and therefore are not subject to Environmental Impact Assessments. However, the local environmental authorities may require an EIA for the approval of the authorisations and permits to deploy the cable and to build the associated infrastructures. There will be a public consultation before approval of the authorisations. The approval of all required authorisations and permits will be a condition for the disbursement of the EIB loan.