

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>NORVENTO WIND PROJECT</i>
Project Number:	<i>2018-0799</i>
Country:	<i>Spain</i>
Project Description:	<i>The project concerns the construction and operation of four onshore wind farms located in Spain, for a total capacity of 100.35 MW.</i>
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	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 achievement of the Spanish 2020 targets for the reduction of CO₂ emissions, which imperatively require additional renewable energy capacity to become operational in the coming years. The project was awarded in the second tender for renewable energy, carried out in May 2017 under the current legal framework.

The project consists of four wind farms, with sizes ranging from 9 to 37 MW, for a total installed capacity of 100.35 MW (29 wind turbines) and their grid connection infrastructure to be installed in the province of Lugo, in the region of Galicia, within continental Spain.

Cluster	Project Name	WTGs	Installed Capacity (MW)
Neda	Neda	10	34.65
Carracedo	Carracedo	3	9.9
	Pastoriza	10	36
	Cadeira	6	19.8

The promoter has sufficient E&S capacity to implement the project as it has a dedicated business unit, which provides environmental and planning development services for projects developed in-house and for third parties.

All wind farms are included in Annex II of the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU or EIA directive 2014/52/EU depending on their screening date). Based on the transposition into the national and regional environmental regulation, all wind farms and some of the applicable transmission lines have been screened in, requiring

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.

Luxembourg, MC decision 7.12.2018

a full EIA, including public consultation. They have received the necessary environmental consents with no reported complaints.

The authorisation procedure and compliance with EU EIA, Birds and Habitats directives is deemed satisfactory following the Bank's review of individual EIA documentation and environmental permits. The Bank will however request the promoter to provide the results of the birds and bats studies undertaken as a baseline for the monitoring plans. The closest Natura 2000 sites are located at a distance of approximately 10 km from the envisaged wind farms and the environmental permits include the confirmation from the competent authorities that no negative impacts are expected on those sites.

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 qualitative significance, as well as the measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate and compensate the impacts. The EIA was complemented by the preliminary EMPs ("Plan de vigilancia ambiental") for the construction and operational phases. For the individual wind farms, the EMP ("Plan de vigilancia ambiental") was reviewed and validated for the local authority.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The wind farms are expected to have an aggregate electricity production of ca. 384 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 200 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

The project's implementation is not expected to lead to involuntary physical or economic displacement or resettlement. The current use of the lands is for agriculture, livestock and recreation, 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 landowners in order to reach voluntary agreements for the project infrastructures, in the form of leases and / or surface rights or rights of way. 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 different activities within the electric sector, including generation, promoted by public or private companies, are considered public utility, and are subject to urgent forced expropriation to be carried out by the authority in the interest of the promoters.

The Bank will request the promoter to provide confirmation that all land rights have been successfully secured together with all legal rights for the installation of all project components.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

For all wind farms, public consultation was carried out under the EIA process, as required by the EU, and as transposed into national and regional 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

Based on the information provided for all wind farms in this project, no significant environmental or social impacts are expected. They will be mitigated with detailed project control mechanisms, as defined in the environmental permits.

The results of the pending environmental site-specific surveys, including birds and bats impact studies, have to be provided to the Bank to complement the site-specific monitoring plans for all wind farms.

The corresponding undertaking is requested from the promoter, i.e. to receive the results of the above-mentioned birds and bats surveys to complement the site-specific monitoring plans already submitted and validated by the competent authority for each wind farm, within 4 months after allocation of EIB funds to the Project. An additional undertaking for the promoter is to provide confirmation that all land rights have been successfully secured together with all legal rights for the installation of all project components.

With the satisfactory implementation of the conditions set in the Environmental Permits and the specific conditions mentioned above, the EIA processes and their results are acceptable to the Bank.