

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>WIND FARMS PT I</i>
Project Number:	<i>2018-0290</i>
Country:	<i>Portugal</i>
Project Description:	The project concerns the construction and operation of 3 wind farms located in Portugal with a total capacity of 96 MW.
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

The project comprises the design, construction and operation of three small-scale wind farms in Portugal, with a total nominal capacity of ~96 MW. In total, the project consists of 31 turbines of two different unit size (2 MW and 3.6 MW). Each wind farm is connected to the medium voltage (MV) network. Electrical equipment such as internal array cabling and transformers (LV/MV) and civil works (foundations, access and internal roads) are part of the project scope. The three wind farms were all in operation in January 2019.

The wind farms are geographically dispersed throughout the west and north of the country. The Maunca wind farm (20.5 MW) is located in Batalha/Leiria, the Vigia wind farm (28.8 MW) in Tarouca and the Penacova wind farm (46.8 MW) in Penacova. The promoter is a global player in the renewable energy sector with considerable wind power experience worldwide and has good E&S capacity.

Environmental Assessment

Windfarms fall under Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) according to which the Member States shall determine whether the project shall be made subject to an assessment based on defined criteria. According to national legislation wind farms with more than 20 turbines, or more than 10 if located inside sensitive areas, or wind farms situated in a distance of less than 2 km from other wind farms are subject to a mandatory EIA, including public consultation. As such, one of the three windfarms of the project, the Vigia wind farm, was exempted by the EIA process. The Maunca wind farm was subject to an EIA, given that its location is less than 2 km from an existing wind farm. An EIA had been undertaken and the competent authorities have granted approval, subject to conditions, such as environmental monitoring, and mitigation measures related to potential impacts from noise and birds collision. Residual impacts on biotopes, avifauna and loss of habitats were classified of small magnitude and low significance.

Further, even if exempted from a mandatory EIA according to the Annex II criteria, national legislation requires for windfarms to undertake environmental incident studies as part of their application for a production licence, if the infrastructure of the windfarm interferes with or is

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 16/05/2019

situated within sites of nature conservation, including national ecological sites. This was the case for the Penacova wind farm, which was subject to the aforementioned clause due to the site been part of a National Ecological and a National Agricultural Reserve. The environmental incident studies were assessed by the territorially competent regional coordination and development commission, which has subsequently granted a production licence also subject to conditions as the Maunca wind farm.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The direct CO₂ emissions from a wind farm are deemed negligible. 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 Portugal (75% operating margin and 25% build margin), the total relative effect of the project is a net reduction in CO₂ equivalent emissions by approximately 90 kt/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.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the information made available by the promoter it is concluded that this project has been found environmentally acceptable and compliant with the relevant EU and national environmental legislative framework by the national competent authorities.