

## EIB ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The EIB's environmental and social safeguard policies are based on the EU approach to environmental sustainability. The principles, practices and standards are highlighted in the Declaration on the [European Principles for the Environment \(EPE\)](#). The Bank operates within the framework of the EPE, which conforms to the environmental principles and the practices of the EC Treaty and all standards of EU environmental legislation.

The EPE cover projects located in the EU Member States, the European Economic Area countries, the EU Accession, Candidate and potential Candidate Countries.

In the Neighbourhood and Partner Countries, projects should comply with the appropriate EU environmental principles, practices and standards, subject to local conditions. For projects in these regions, the EPE will be applied with reference to local circumstances.

The EIB carries out an independent environmental assessment for every project and environmental considerations are taken into account at all stages of the [project cycle](#). When co-financing with other institutions, the Bank may agree to apply the environmental standards of the co-financing institution if they are comparable to EU standards. However, the EIB will always carry out its own independent assessment.

**EIB environmental safeguard measures** include that:

- ❖ the Bank's approach to financing projects is based on the "[precautionary principle](#)", preventative action rather than curative treatment should be taken, environmental damage should be rectified at source and the polluter should pay, according to the "Treaty Establishing the European Community". All projects financed by the Bank are the subject of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess the requirements for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) according to the [EU EIA Directive](#) and - by extension the [Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) Directive](#). Projects are screened into four categories based on these directives:
  - ⇒ Cat. A – those for which an EIA is mandatory (Annex 1 of the Directive);
  - ⇒ Cat. B – those for which the competent authority determines the need for an EIA according to specified criteria (Annex II of the Directive, with ref. to Annex III);
  - ⇒ Cat. C – for which a limited environmental assessment is required according to any likely adverse environmental impacts of the project (projects outside the scope of the Directive);
  - ⇒ Cat. D – no environmental assessment required.

An EIA process requires appropriate public consultation and information disclosure. Verification that this has been/will be undertaken forms an integral part of the Bank's due diligence process. The EIA should be completed and its main findings and recommendations must satisfy the requirements of the Bank prior to disbursement.

- For projects in the EU the Non Technical Summary (NTS) of the EIA is made available on or via the EIB website.
- Outside the EU, the equivalent of the NTS along with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are made available to the public on or via the EIB website.

- ❖ all projects financed by the Bank are also screened according to their potential impacts on sites of nature conservation. Where the impacts are expected to be significant, a special biodiversity assessment is carried out, according to the principles and practices of the [EU Habitats Directive](#) (ref. Art. 6 of the Directive).
- ❖ Bank projects are assessed for their expected impacts in terms of greenhouse gas emissions; the scope for improvements in energy efficiency and the need for measures to adapt to climate change are also reviewed.
- ❖ the principles, recommended practices and standards of the [EU Water Framework Directive](#) and [EU Waste Framework Directive](#) are applied for projects financed by the Bank in the sectors of water and waste, respectively.
- ❖ according to the sector, projects should comply with the relevant standards laid down in EU law, for instance those of the [Large Combustion Plant Directive](#) in the power generation sector and the [Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive](#) in the industry sector
- ❖ the Bank is also guided by recognised good international practices, such as those laid down
  - by the [World Commission on Dams](#) (WCD). The Bank applies stringent requirements with regard to dam projects' justification and design, the EIA process, the social and environmental safeguards, the preparation of mitigating measures, and the management capacities of the project promoter. It recommends that promoters of large dam projects are guided by:
    - ⇒ the recommendations of the [2000 WCD Report](#) "Dams and Development – A New Framework for Decision-Making" and
    - ⇒ the findings of the [2003 Camdessus Report on "Financing Water for All"](#) on the financing of large dams;
  - by the [Extractive Industries Review](#) (EIR). In November 2004, [the Bank's position on the EIR](#) was posted on the website.
- ❖ all projects financed by the Bank should comply with the requirements of relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEA) to which the host country – and/or the EU in the case of a EU Member State – is a party, including the [Montreal Protocol](#) (on ozone depleting substances), the [UN Convention on Climate Change](#) and the [Kyoto Protocol](#) (on greenhouse gas emissions) and the [Aarhus Convention](#) (on environmental information).

#### **Related Documents**

- [Declaration on the European Principles for the Environment](#) (June 2006)
- [Development Impact Assessment Framework](#) for the [Investment Facility](#) projects in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries
- [Environmental Statement 2004](#) to be revised in 2007 for publication in 2008
- [The EIB and its Contribution to Sustainable Development \(2002\)](#) to be revised in the light of the current review of EU "Sustainable Development Strategy"
- [2006 Corporate Responsibility Report](#)