

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	EDPR POLAND GREEN ENERGY LOAN
Project Number:	20200453
Country:	POLAND
Project Description:	Construction and operation of a portfolio of 11 small to medium-scale wind farms (total nominal capacity of 380 MW) geographically dispersed throughout the west and the north of Poland
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	yes

Environmental and Social Assessment

The project comprises the design, construction and operation of 11 small to medium sized wind farms across Poland, with a total nominal capacity of ~380 MW. Unit size, hub heights and rotor diameter of the turbine types are selected and adapted to the conditions of each wind farm site. 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 wind farms will be connected to the high voltage network through various substations. These wind farms (average nominal capacity ~35 MW) are geographically dispersed throughout the west (wider region of Poznan) and north (region around Gdansk) of the country, with one windfarm located in the south (between Lodz and Krakow).

Environmental Assessment

Windfarms fall under Annex II of Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU according to which the Member States shall determine whether the project shall be made subject to a mandatory EIA assessment based on defined criteria. According to national legislation wind farms with a capacity of less than 100 MW but located inside areas of nature conservation are subject to a mandatory EIA. Wind farms below the same capacity threshold but at sites outside of nature conservation and exceeding a hub height of 30 m are similarly subject to a mandatory EIA, including public consultation. For all wind farms and associated network infrastructure the competent authorities have requested to undertake an EIA, including public consultation.

Depending on the status and development progress of each wind farm the competent authorities have granted approvals throughout the period from 2014 to 2018. The approvals are subject to conditions, such as environmental monitoring, and mitigation measures related to potential impacts from noise, bird migration and bat collisions. The assessment of cumulative impacts formed part of the EIAs.

Further, the wind farms are located at average distances of 3 - 8 km to sites of nature conservation. The EIAs included the assessment on whether the wind farms would have significant impacts on sites of nature conservation, concluding that such impacts on biotopes, avifauna and loss of habitats will be of small magnitude and low significance.

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 Poland (75% operating margin and 25% build margin), the total relative effect of the project is a net

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reduction in CO₂ equivalent emissions by approximately 750 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.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

On the basis of the permits for the various wind farms, provided by the promoter to the Bank, the permit decisions were taken based on the information presented by the promoter to the competent authorities as part of the permit application. The information was presented by the applicants on the basis of national regulations, having transposed the relevant EU Directives into national law. Besides some standard additional requests by the authorities and public consultees to that information, the promoter reported to the Bank that there were no major requests nor complaints to these decisions.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the reporting 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.