

Luxembourg, 7th April 2022

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>MAZEIKIAI ONSHORE WIND PROJECT</i>
Project Number:	<i>2021-0173</i>
Country:	<i>Lithuania</i>
Project Description:	<i>Construction of a 63 MW onshore wind farm and its associated infrastructure.</i>
EIA required:	no
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 project is an onshore wind farm in the north-northwest of Lithuania with a nominal installed capacity of 63 MW. The project is located nearby the town of Pikeliai and the Latvian border. The site area is split into two parts on either side of Pikeliai. The terrain at the site is mostly flat farmland with some patches of forest in the vicinity. The wind farm comprises 14 turbines with a hub height of 145 or 155m as well as access roads and intra-array cabling. It is connected to the national grid through a 10 km long underground cable at 110 kV.

Wind farms fall under Annex II of the EIA-Directive (2011/92/EU), requiring the competent authorities to determine whether an EIA is required. The project was originally developed as two separate small wind farms. Given the sizes, the competent authority issued two decisions, in May 2015 and in May 2018 respectively, screening out the project and its associated electrical connections from undergoing full EIA process. The decisions are based on environmental impact studies provided by the promoter. High voltage underground cables do not fall neither under Annex I or Annex II of said directive.

From the later screening decision on May 2018, it appears that the project would have been screened out also if presented as a single wind farm. Following the screening decisions, the project has received planning permits by the local council. The promoter has further informed that a further extension of the wind farm, would likely be screened in according to the competent authority.

The screening decisions were based on broad environmental impact studies, covering inter alia impacts on biodiversity, birds and bats, as well as visual, noise and cumulative impacts. Given the relative small size of the project, impacts are small. The building permit requires a two

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB 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.



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weeks curtailment in the spring migration period for the protection of birds. The permit also require the turbines to be decommissioned after operation.

Appropriate assessments with respect to the Birds (2009/147/EC) and Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) were undertaken as part of the EIA screening process. The project does not impact on Natura 2000 as the closest protected areas Ventos vidurupis (LTMAZ0010) and Ventos upės slėnis (LTAKMB002) are more than 10 km away and considered not affected by the project, given the size and nature of the project.

The project has also undergone consultation with Latvia in accordance with the Espoo Convention (1991), concluding that a Transboundary EIA is not required.

The promoter commits to reduce emissions from electricity and heat generation 94% per MWh by 2030 from a 2020 base year. The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) has validated the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of the promoter, as the first Lithuanian company.

The project has been assessed and is considered to be aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap and in particular the Bank's Energy Lending Policy.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

There are no direct or absolute emissions from renewable wind energy generation. The estimated emissions savings are 60 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year as compared to the current generation mix in Lithuania.

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.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter's parent group has been follows the environmental standard ISO 14001:2015 in identification, monitoring, management and improvement of environmental aspects. 81% (based on 2020 revenue) of the Group's operations are ISO 14001 certified.

Conclusions and Recommendations

It is concluded that the project has been assessed to have low environmental impact, that residual risks are well managed and that the promoter is competent and capable to manage the project according to environmental and social practices. The project is acceptable for EIB financing on environmental and social terms.