

Luxembourg, 28.03.2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>EAFRD CO-FINANCING ANDALUCIA 2023-27</i>
Project Number:	<i>2022-0994</i>
Country:	<i>Spain</i>
Project Description:	<i>Co-financing investment schemes supported by European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) in Andalusia within the Spanish Partnership Agreement 2023-2027 ("the Project")</i>
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

The proposed operation will support the Spanish Autonomous Community of Andalusia (*Comunidad autónoma de Andalucía – CAA*) in the implementation of selected and mainly small investment schemes co-financed with the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) under the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan (CAP SP) for Spain 2023-2027, approved by the European Commission on 31st August 2022. The selected rural development interventions fall under Articles 73 (Investments), 77 (Co-operation) and 78 (Knowledge) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 determining rules for CAP SPs.

The Project will finance CAA's contribution to the above-mentioned EAFRD interventions, which include the modernisation of 1 405 farm holdings, climate-related investments in 961 agricultural holdings, as well as investments related to natural resources in another 708 holdings. It also targets 3 000 hectares of forestry area benefitting from better protection against weather and fire risks and enhanced ecosystems. The Project also includes capacity building activities intended to reach a total of 34 990 persons. Finally, the rural population is expected to benefit from enhanced local development thanks to local action groups (LEADER projects).

Environmental Assessment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) referred to in Directive 2001/42/EC was conducted in the frame of the CAP SP, before presenting the CAP SP to the EC. The SEA has been published on the website of the national Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Nutrition.² The main findings, which were addressed in the CAP SP, were published in the Strategic Environmental Declaration.³

Specifically, the EIB Project will contribute to Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability through the following interventions:

- 6841.1 Productive investments in agricultural holdings contributing to the mitigation-adaptation to climate change, efficient use of natural resources and animal welfare;

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.

² https://www.mapa.gob.es/images/es/211130-esae-pepac-informacion-publica_tcm30-582415.pdf

³ See BOE, Number 311 of 28 December 2022, Section III, pp. 188121-188211.



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- 6841.2 Investments with environmental objectives in the transformation, marketing and/or development of agri-food products;
- 6843.1 Investments in irrigation infrastructure with environmental objectives;
- 6871 Non-productive investments in basic services in the natural environment;
- 6881 Non-productive forestry investments; and
- 6883 Productive forestry investments;
- 7201 Knowledge transfer and training and information activities; and
- 7202 Advisory services.

All schemes must be implemented in compliance with the EU and national environmental legislation. For schemes that would fall under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU the Promoter would be required to act according to the Directive, with specific requirements towards the EIB noted below.

The Project has been assessed for Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned with both low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap (Bioeconomy subsectors in sustainable forestry, resilient agricultural land management, sustainable biomaterials, rural infrastructure including irrigation and machinery and reduction of GHG footprint and pollution).

Finally, the schemes co-financed by the Project are consistent with the national and regional adaptation strategies and other climate policy documents related to the sector.

The overall net environmental and social impact of the project is positive, with improved environmental and social conditions for the rural population and farmers of Andalusia.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the United Nations Convention on Persons with Disabilities have been applied over all successive phases of CAP SP programming in line with Regulation EU 2021/2115. They shall also be applied during implementation – project selection, award, and in the monitoring and control functions. In addition, the investment schemes supported by the Project shall comply with the principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination. The Spanish CAP SP Monitoring Committee (MC), who will i.a. approve project selection criteria, has permanent members with voting rights delegated from organisations representing young farmers and small farmers, respectively, as well as from civil organisations, including from one of the Andalusian Women's associations, as well as from the regional Consumers' Association. The above framework mitigates the risk of exclusion/discrimination of certain groups.

The Spanish CAP SP is consistent with the Cork 2.0 Declaration 'A Better Life in Rural Areas', targeting job creation and generational renewal in rural areas and promoting social inclusion. The Plan addresses the specific objective under Article 6 (h) to promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The SEAs as well EIAs of the relevant underlying schemes are subject to the public consultations in line with the SEA Directive and the EIA Directive, as transposed into national law.

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Conclusions and Recommendations

The following undertakings will be required for this Project:

- The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including EIA Directive (2011/92/EU amended by 2014/52/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), and with the national legislation.
- The Promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against schemes that require an EIA and/or appropriate assessment according to EU and national law without, prior to commitment, receiving consent from the competent authority, and the EIA report having been made available to the public.
- Schemes in relation to which a screening or appropriate assessment of impacts on Natura 2000 sites was carried out, the Promoter will inform the Bank about any changes/updates to the conclusions of the screening/ appropriate assessment, in view of the site-specific conservation objectives, as defined by the competent authority and reflected in their decision.

Taking into account the contractual undertakings associated with the Project, as well as the capacity of the Promoter and the systems in place to manage environmental and social impacts and risks, the Project is acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental and social terms.