

Luxembourg, 17.10.2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

| | |
|--|---|
| Project Name: | <i>EAFRD CO-FINANCING CASTILLA Y LEON 2023-27</i> |
| Project Number: | 2023-0731 |
| Country: | <i>Spain</i> |
| Project Description: | <i>Co-financing investment schemes supported by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) in Castilla y Leon (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 Castilla y León (Comunidad Autónoma de Castilla y León – CACL) in the implementation of selected 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 CACL's contribution to the above-mentioned EAFRD interventions, which include the modernisation of 1 736 farm holdings, climate-related investments in 1 078 agricultural holdings, as well as investments related to natural resources in another 235 holdings. It also targets 12 619 hectares of forestry area to be planted, reclaimed, or consociated in agro-forestry ecosystems. A total of 1 337 operations will contribute to environmental sustainability objectives and the achievement of climate change mitigation and adaptation in rural areas, 70% of which in the forestry sector. 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 Nutrition². The main findings, which were addressed in the CAP SP, were published in the Strategic Environmental Declaration³.

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.



Luxembourg, 17.10.2024

Specifically, the interventions of the EIB Project that will contribute to Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability include:

- 6841.1 Productive investments in agricultural holdings contributing to the mitigation/adaptation to climate change, efficient use of natural resources and animal welfare;
- 6842.1 Investments with environmental objectives in the transformation, marketing and/or development of agri-food products;
- 6843.1 Investments in irrigation infrastructure with environmental objectives;
- 6844 Aid for non-productive investments in agricultural holdings linked to mitigation-adaptation to climate change, efficient use of natural resources and biodiversity
- 6871 Non-productive investments in basic services in the natural environment;
- 6881 Non-productive forestry investments;
- 6883 Productive forestry investments.

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 is required to act according to the Directive, with specific requirements towards the EIB as 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 expected to be positive, due to improved environmental and social conditions for the rural population and farmers of Castilla y León.

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 inter alia approves 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 two representatives from regional women's associations, as well as one from the regional Consumers' Association. The above framework mitigates the risk of exclusion or 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.



Luxembourg, 17.10.2024

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.

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 is carried out, are assessed in view of site-specific conservation objectives (SSCOs).

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.