

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: EXTREMADURA GROWTH & INNOVATION FL
 Project Number: 2013-0296
 Country: SPAIN
 Project Description: Framework Loan to support public sector investment in research and innovation, rural development and sustainable management of natural resources, education and vocational training, water, improvement of infrastructure, in line with the Extremadura regional strategy during period 2013-2016.

EIA required: This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive and be screened in. The Promoter shall deliver to the Bank the NTS of EIAs, where applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

The Extremadura regional strategy involves a number of schemes in different sectors and different locations. The framework loan consists of small projects in the fields of RDI, rural development and sustainable management of natural resources (including forest fires prevention), education and vocational training, improvement of infrastructure (WWTP for small settlements and road improvement), agro-industry, animal health, and communication. A number of projects are also co-financed by the ERDF, EARDF and ESF. The framework loan will provide significant value added to the region as it will contribute to the creation of the conditions for economic growth and sustainable development in Extremadura, will promote the development of human capital and regional infrastructure, enhance rural development and nature protection, it will improve social cohesion and support job creation enhancing territorial balance. Thus, the operations will have a positive effect on both the environment and the society of the region. Some of the schemes in the operation may fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. Furthermore, some of the schemes in the programme may have an impact on protected sites and the Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the Habitats and Birds Directives.

The promoter will take care of and mitigate the negative environmental effects caused during the implementation of some schemes, such as roads improvement, wastewater plants or other public infrastructures. These effects will be offset by the positive impacts, environmental and/or socioeconomic, when the schemes are in full operation.

Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in Extremadura, this framework loan is acceptable in environmental terms. The overall net environmental and social impact of the Project is positive, and it is expected that improves the environmental and social conditions for the inhabitants of Extremadura.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Extremadura region has put in place an integrated strategy (ONE; Organizing a New Extremadura) aiming also to sustainable development of natural resources, incentives for growth and employment, transparency and democratic regeneration, citizen welfare and red tape reduction. In the context of the ONE strategy, sector plans are put in place or being elaborated in view of the 2014-2020 period, including employment plan, Strategy for Smart Specialisation, rural development plan, health and education plan focusing on vocational training.

The Framework loan consists of projects in various sectors and also projects co-financed by structural funds (ERDF, EARDP and ESF), in the framework of the Extremadura 2007-2013 Regional Operational Program and Regional Development Program. Both programs were subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment, in accordance with the EU SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. The SEAs were drawn up in such a way that for each expenditure category the environmental impact was assessed. The SEAs were carried out and completed in 2007, including the compulsory public consultation for both programmes. The co-funded projects included in the present framework loan have only positive effects on both the environment and the social fabric of the region.

The Bank will require the promoter to inform on the results of the screening for plans falling within the scope of the present operation. Should an SEA be required, it would be subject to the standard review.

Should any scheme included under this Project require an EIA, it would be subject to the Bank's standard review and publication, if considered relevant, of the non-technical summary of the EIA. The Promoter will be required to act in accordance with the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including the SEA, EIA, Habitats and Birds Directives. The Promoter shall verify the compliance of the schemes with the relevant and applicable rules of the European Union legislation, in particular in the fields of environment. The Promoter shall deliver to the Bank a confirmation or equivalent that the schemes have no significant impact on nature sites of Community Importance or their equivalents, as well as the NTS of EIAs where applicable.

The Project aims to diversify the economy and to improve the labour force's employability. Thus no negative social impacts are envisaged, on the contrary it is expected that the overall social impacts of the Project will be positive.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

Project is not included - the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies only include emissions from Investment Loans, and large allocations under Framework Loans, above the methodology thresholds.