



Luxembourg, 10/03/2021

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	IMPAX NEW ENERGY INVESTORS IV
Project Number:	2020-0544
Country:	EU and EFTA countries
Project Description:	Equity fund targeting renewable energy projects in Europe
EIA required:	Multi-scheme project. Depending on the technical characteristics of the investments financed under the loan, sub-projects may be subject to an EIA.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The proposed operation concerns an investment up to EUR 50m in Impax New Energy Investors IV, (NEF IV, or the “Fund”), an equity fund with a target size of EUR 500 million.

The fund will invest in the development and construction of new Renewable Energy assets (namely onshore wind, solar PV and potentially hydropower), and supporting infrastructure (including batteries and EV charging) located in the EU with a new focus on cohesion countries and EFTA countries on an opportunistic basis.

Some of the Fund’s underlying investments may fall under Annex II of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. In these cases, the Bank requires the Fund manager to ensure that investee companies act according to the provisions of the aforementioned directive as transposed into national law. Should the relevant competent authority screen in an investment project, the Fund manager shall deliver to the Bank a copy of the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and EIA documents. If a project is screened out, then, according to the EIA Directive, this should also be made public, stating the reasons for not requiring such an assessment.

The Fund Manager will be required to ensure compliance of the investments with the EIB Group Excluded and Restricted Lists of activities, the EIB Group core Environmental and Social (E&S) requirements as well as the E&S national laws and regulations. In line with this, the legal documentation to be concluded between the Fund and the EIB Group shall include an obligation on the Fund to ensure that all projects are in compliance with national and European legislation.

Due to its sensitivity, the Fund Manager will include a specific hydropower policy section as part of the Fund’s Environmental & Social Management System (ESMS), which shall be

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 CO_{2e}/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO_{2e}/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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based on best practice and take into account the relevant requirements and recommendations of the environmental, climate and social guidelines on hydropower development of the EIB Group. As quickly as possible after the Manager has identified an investment opportunity relating to hydropower projects (and in any event prior to taking the final decision to invest in the relevant project), the Manager will provide the EIB Group with an environmental and social summary.

The Fund will contribute to the development of renewable energy projects, reducing CO₂ emissions and increasing the share of RE in the energy mix. The Fund will support an estimated 1,241 MWp of new renewable energy capacity with an annual production of around 2,601 GWh and avoided CO₂ emissions of 547 tCO₂-eq.

Conclusions and Recommendations

During appraisal it has been verified that the Fund Manager has fully understood the EIB Group's E&S requirements and it is willing and capable to fully implement them. In order to strengthen the coordination and accountability aspects the Fund has established an ESMS and designated a responsible environmental expert, who will oversee all the environmental and social aspects of the investments.

The following loan disbursement conditions and undertakings will be included in the legal documentation:

- The Fund Manager will develop and maintain organisational capacity and competency for implementing the ESMS with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
- The Fund will enhance its ESMS, which will incorporate EIB Group's environmental and social requirements to the satisfaction of the EIB Group, including the development of a communication mechanism for external stakeholders as part of its Grievance Redress Mechanism
- The Fund will, on an annual basis, prepare and submit to the EIB Group an aggregated E&S performance report.
- Where relevant, the Fund Manager shall obtain written confirmation from the competent authority that the investment will not have any significant negative impact on sites of nature conservation importance, including sites protected under the "Habitats" and "Birds" Directives (92/43/EEC and 79/409/EEC as amended by the 2009/147/EC respectively) and the associated Natura 2000 network.

In view of the above findings and conditions, the operation is deemed satisfactory from an environmental and social compliance perspective.