Sustainability Proofing Summary[1]

Counterparty: MFW Baltyk II sp. z o.o. and MFW Baltyk III sp. z o.o.

The investment includes the offshore wind farms Baltyk II and Baltyk III. The planned energy production capacity is 1,440 MW for the two projects. Each project is composed of 50 wind turbines and related infrastructure such as offshore substations.

EIA Directive
☒ Yes
☐ No

The project falls under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU and requires an EIA. The operation was subject to an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in accordance with the EIA Directive.

Climate Assessment
The assessment of climate adaptation aspects was carried out according to the 'Technical guidance on sustainability proofing for the InvestEU Fund', using due diligence materials, EIA documentation, and NIB in-house expertise. NIB has conducted a climate assessment for the project as part of its internal mandate process.

Considering the type of infrastructure, geographic area of the project, climate sensitivity, exposure, and vulnerability aspects, there are no potentially significant (medium or high) climate risks, as per the `Technical guidance on sustainability proofing for the InvestEU fund´, warranting detailed analysis. In-built mechanisms (for instance, defined wind cut out speeds) and planned operational practices mitigate climate related risks.

A carbon footprint assessment has been performed according to the 'International Financial Institution Framework for a Harmonised Approach to Greenhouse Gas Accounting GHG emission calculation' and takes into account the project's third-party wind yield analysis (P90). The Baltyk II and III projects are expected to lead to significant CO2 reductions.

Poland has one of the most carbon intensive electricity grids in Europe, and it is assumed that the project will support the energy transition/ decarbonisation in Poland by crowding out electricity produced from coal. The projects would contribute to the Polish government's 2030 installed offshore wind capacity target.

Environmental Assessment
The operation has potential minor and low risk environmental impacts, as assessed per the 'Technical guidance on sustainability proofing for the InvestEU Fund', related to biodiversity, noise

[1] In line with Article 8 (5) of the InvestEU Regulation and the sustainability proofing guidance (C(201)2632 final). In line with section 3.2 of the Investment Guidelines, the sustainability proofing summary shall be made public after the Investment Committee has approved the use of the EU Guarantee for a specific operation (with due regard to rules and practices regarding confidential and commercially sensitive information).

and waste. The operation is expected to contribute to improved air quality through the crowding out of energy produced from fossil fuels.

The planned projects are partly located within two marine Natura 2000 sites and a full assessment of the impact on the sites has been carried out in accordance with the European Commission's guidance. Mitigation measures have been established to significantly reduce negative impacts on habitats and species of conservation concern in these areas, such as noise reduction systems and seasonal bans on piling work.

Potential impacts on wildlife have been identified during the construction phase to concern biotic components of the marine environment. Minor impacts on seabirds may be expected during the construction and operation phases due to an increased level of noise, light and vessel activity. Potential collisions and displacement effects on seabirds have also been assessed. Given the proximity to nature conservation sites such as overwintering, resting and breeding ground for birds, and considering the cumulative impact with other wind farms, a migration corridor will be created along the predominant flight path of most species of seabirds (northeast - southwest). Each of the two projects has committed to implement a state-of-the-art radar system for monitoring birds.

The most onerous impact during the construction phase of the planned project is expected to relate to noise and vibration, as well as an increase in the concentration of suspended sediment. The main impact will be increased noise emissions from equipment and vessels used during construction, and when the wind turbine foundations are driven into the seabed (piling). Work will be temporary/short-term and where needed mitigative measures are introduced, e.g. there are noise mitigation during piling. Model calculations show indicative noise levels within the permissible levels.

During the operation phase, the projects' impact on biodiversity and wildlife is considered minor. The projects will establish a biodiversity management plan to mitigate any residual risks, but the possible impacts are considered to be of a temporary nature, local and reproducible.

Social Assessment

The operation has a low risk of negative impacts across social criteria. The relevant social issues in relation to wind power construction and installation relate in general to workplace health and safety. Public consultations have been carried out as a part of the EIA process.

These findings imply that the identified social risks are considered minor in accordance with the 'Technical guidance on sustainability proofing for the InvestEU Fund'.