

SURVEY

on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits Projects

REPORTING COUNTRY INFORMATION

SVK-EXIMBANKA SR-SURVEY-AUG-10

Reporting Country

Reporting Institution

Submission Date

Version number

I GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Objectives

- 1 In general, please describe the policies and practices that you have established to support the objectives of the Recommendation.

The Export - Import Bank of the Slovak Republic (EXIMBANKA SR) implemented revised Recommendation:
- internal procedures were updated, the last update Jan/2010
- updated questionnaire is to be answered by exporters requesting insurance cover and/or financing
- our website contains full information procedures in this respect.

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II SCREENING AND CLASSIFICATION OF PROJECTS

Exemptions

- 2 Are all applications screened?

Information requirements

- 3 What information is required for the screening process?
Please provide details of information required.

basic information, availability of an EIA, project location, cumulation with other projects etc.

Responsibilities

- 4 Who is responsible for providing the information required to screen applications?

Any other comments.

- 5 Who within your Export Credit Agency (ECA) is responsible for screening applications?

Timing

- 6 At what stage does screening occur in the risk assessment process?

Scope and criteria of screening

- 7 Please provide details of how the screening process considers, where appropriate, operational links with associated operations.

- 8 Please specify any particular practices followed in screening applications in cases of:
a) Co-insurance/co-finance with other ECAs or International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

Any other comments.

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b) Re-insurance as lead ECA.

Would always conduct own screening

Any other comments.

or rely on screening by insuring ECA, if ECA is involved in insurance of the project.

c) Re-insurance as re-insurer.

Would rely on screening by lead ECA

Any other comments.

Scope and criteria of screening

9 What procedures and practices do you have in place to help identify exports of capital goods and services to existing operations[1]?

Questions from the environmental questionnaire and additional questions.

New projects

10 What procedures and practices do you have in place to help identify exports of capital goods and services to projects[2]?

Questions from the environmental questionnaire and additional questions.

Other exports

11 How do you screen exports of capital goods and services that are neither to existing operations nor to projects?

Such exports are screened based on the nature and quality of the goods and services.

Classification system

12 Does your classification system vary from that of the Recommendation?

No

Scope of classification

13 Do you classify exports of capital goods and services

a) that are to existing operations?

Yes

Please provide details.

In most cases these exports are classified as category C projects.

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b) that are neither to existing operations nor to projects?

Yes

Please provide details.

In most cases these exports are classified as category C projects.

14 In what circumstances do you classify projects in respect of which your share is below SDR 10 million?

All applications are classified regardless of our share.

Responsibilities for classification

15 Who is responsible for the classification of projects?

ECA Consultant

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III ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Information requirements

- 16 Do your procedures prescribe the type of information necessary for the review process, or are projects reviewed on a case-by-case basis? Please provide details.

Prescribed procedures

Please provide details.

Responsibilities

- 17 Who is responsible for providing the information required to review projects?

Applicant (in most cases)

- 18 Who within your ECA is responsible for reviewing projects?

ECA Consultant

Scope and criteria

- 19 Please provide details of how your review process considers, where appropriate, operational links with associated operations.

Based on information from environmental questionnaire and additional sources.

- 20 Please specify any particular practices followed in reviewing projects in cases of:

- a) Co-insurance/co-finance with other ECAs, IFIs or your Development Agency.

Would rely on review carried out by other ECAs, IFIs or Development

Any other comments.

- b) Re-insurance as lead ECA.

Would always conduct own screening

Any other comments.

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- c) Re-insurance as re-insurer.

Would rely on review carried out by lead ECA

Any other comments.

Category A projects

- 21 Under paragraph 9 of the Recommendation, Members should require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be undertaken for Category A projects. Are there any circumstances in which you might accept to review a Category A project for which an EIA has not been undertaken or for which either an EIA report is not available for review or does not adequately address all the issues set out in Annex II of the Recommendation?

No

- 22 a) Who is responsible for

- i) Commissioning an EIA?

Applicant (in most cases)

Any other comments.

- ii) Carrying out an EIA?

Independent Consultant (in most cases)

Any other comments.

- b) Who is responsible for providing you with a copy of an EIA report?

Applicant (in most cases)

Any other comments.

- c) Who is responsible for reviewing an EIA report?

ECA Consultant

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Category B projects

- 23 Under paragraph 10 of the Recommendation, the review of Category B projects should examine a project's potential negative and positive environmental impacts. Please provide details of your general approach to reviewing Category B projects.

Depending on the nature of the project. We consider all environmental factors relevant to the project.

Which, if any, of the items listed in Annex II of the Recommendation and which key environmental factors, such as those listed in paragraph 8 (tired 1) of the Recommendation, are taken into consideration?

Annex II:

Executive Summary

Policy, legal and administrative framework

Project description

Baseline data

Environmental impacts

Analysis of alternatives

Environmental Management Plan

Consultation

Paragraph 8 (tired 1):

significant air emissions, effluents, waste or noise

significant use of natural resources

involuntary resettlement

impacts on indigenous peoples

cultural property

Existing operations

- 24 What procedures and practices do you have in place to review the environmental risks associated with existing operations?

Based on information from environmental questionnaire and additional sources.

Other exports

- 25 Do you review the environmental risks associated with Exports of capital goods and services that are neither to existing operations nor to projects?

Please provide details.

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Standards

- 26 How do you ensure that a project is compliant with host country standards?

Based on outputs from questionnaire for categories A and B, copies of local environmental standards, or relevant approvals of local entrusted environmental authorities, legal opinions etc.

- 27 Paragraph 12 of the Recommendation sets out the general circumstances in which various international standards should be used for the purposes of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of projects. Please provide details of when, in practice, you would use the following international standards for Category A projects:

- a) World Bank Safeguard Policies.

- b) International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards.

Please provide details.

- c) Regional Development Bank standards.

Please provide details.

- d) Other relevant internationally recognised standards, such as European Community standards.

- 28 Please provide details of the circumstances, if any, in which you use the following technical international standards for the purposes of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of Category A projects (i.e. for sovereign, public / non-sovereign, corporate, limited or non-recourse project finance transactions).

- a) The Pollution Prevention and Abatement Handbook.

Any other comments.

Sovereign

Public/non-sovereign

Corporate

Limited or non-recourse project finance transaction

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b) IFC Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines.

Any other comments.

Sovereign In most cases

Public/non-sovereign In most cases

Corporate In most cases

Limited or non-recourse
project finance transaction Case-by-case

29 Paragraph 12 of the Recommendation sets out the general circumstances in which various international standards should be used for the purposes of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of projects. Please provide details of when, in practice, you would use the following international standards for Category B projects:

a) World Bank Safeguard Policies. Always

b) International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards.

For private sector limited or non-recourse project finance cases (case-by-case basis)

Please provide details.

c) Regional Development Bank standards.

Where such institutions are supporting the project (case-by-case basis)

Please provide details.

d) Other relevant internationally recognised standards, such as European Community standards.

case-by-case

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30 Please provide details of the circumstances, if any, in which you use the following technical international standards for the purposes of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of Category B projects (i.e. for sovereign, public / non-sovereign, corporate, limited or non-recourse project finance transactions):

a) The Pollution Prevention and Abatement Handbook.

Any other comments.

Sovereign In most cases

Public/non-sovereign In most cases

Corporate In most cases

Limited or non-recourse
project finance transaction Case-by-case

b) IFC Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines.

Any other comments.

Sovereign In most cases

Public/non-sovereign In most cases

Corporate In most cases

Limited or non-recourse
project finance transaction Case-by-case

31 Please provide details of any circumstances in which you might apply more than one set of international standards or guidelines.

no experience

32 Please provide details on the circumstances in which you would use other internationally recognised sector specific or issue specific standards that are not addressed by the World Bank Group.

no experience

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- 33 Please provide details of your procedures and practices in cases where projects do not meet the international standards or guidelines against which they have been benchmarked.

no experience

Site visits

- 34 Please specify in what circumstances you might carry out a site visit as part of the review process.

Site visits are very likely for Category A projects. For Category B projects are site visits less frequently.

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IV EVALUATION, DECISION AND MONITORING

Conditions to official support

- 35 How are conditions related to the environment incorporated into documentation prior to or after the decision on official support? Please provide details.

Environmental covenants are used in the Insurance Policies and General Terms and Conditions and in case of financing form an irrevocable part of the Loan Agreement.

Please provide examples of any environmental covenants used.

"In case of negative result of the environmental impact assessment, ECA has the right to refuse the coverage of the risk of non-payment (or financing) of the export buyer's credit in such projects."

Denying official support

- 36 Under what circumstances would you consider denying support on account of the environmental impacts of a project? Please provide details.

Negative result of the environmental impact assessment and/or incomplete EIA.

Please provide any examples of experience.

no experience

Monitoring

- 37 Please provide details of your procedures for monitoring, as appropriate, the implementation of a project, regardless of its classification, to ensure compliance with the conditions of your official support, including monitoring frequency/period, content and reporting method.

Following to conditions set in the EIA, international standards, our internal review or local authority.

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Monitoring frequency/period:

Semi-annual or annual monitoring.

Content:

Following to agreed conditions. (case-by-case).

Reporting method:

Written report.

- 38 i) Who is responsible for undertaking monitoring of projects, including, if appropriate, site visits and preparing monitoring reports?

Other

Please provide details.

Depending on the project location, project type etc.

- ii) Who is responsible for reviewing monitoring information and deciding on compliance?

Other

Please provide details.

Depending on the project - ECA Consultant, independent consultant etc.

Non-compliance measures

- 39 What actions are available to you in cases where monitoring reveals that conditions are not being complied with?

Possible recourse on exporter and/or guarantor in accordance with the wording of the Insurance Policy and/or Loan Agreement wording. Temporary blockage of cover/financing until the parametres of the project are in compliance with EIA.

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Who is responsible for deciding what actions are appropriate in order to restore compliance?

Other

Please provide details.

Respective competent body (ECA Consultant, Bank Board etc.).

Please provide any examples of experience.

no experience

Disclosure of monitoring reports

- 40 i) In what circumstances do you encourage project sponsors to make *ex post* monitoring reports and related information publicly available?

no experience

- ii) In what circumstances, if any, does your ECA require project sponsors to make such information publicly available or itself seek to make such information publicly available?

no experience

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V EXCHANGE AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

Environmental procedural guidance

41 Have you published national ECA environmental policy statements and procedural guidance?

Yes

Where can they be found?

website

Please provide web address if relevant.

http://www.eximbanka.sk

Exchanging information

42 Please provide details of your procedures and practices in exchanging information with other ECAs and IFIs in situations of

a) co-insuring/co-financing.

no experience

b) competition.

no experience

Disclosure of project information

43 Please provide details of your procedures and practices for disclosing publicly information on Category A projects before a final commitment to grant official support, including:

a) The scope and content of information released.

Basic information concerning the project (e.g. name of the project, export contract amount, exporter, country of export) + exporter's website where EIA is disclosed.

b) The form and language of the information released.

On EXIMBANKA SR's website in Slovak and English.

including website address, if relevant. http://www.eximbanka.sk

c) The required number of days the information should be made available prior to commitment.

According to the Recommendation.

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d) Any legal constraints to *ex ante* disclosure of such project information (*i.e.* is your ECA legally precluded from making such information publicly available).

no

e) Any circumstances in which project information relating to Category A projects is not disclosed prior to commitment.

no

f) Any comments not covered by sub-sections (a)-(e) above.

Disclosure of environmental impact information

44 Please provide details of your procedures and practices for requiring that environmental impact information on Category A projects be made publicly available before a final commitment to grant official support, including:

a) Responsibility for making such information publicly available.

Other

Please provide details.

exporter/ client

b) If the ECA or Guardian Authority is not responsible for such disclosure, please provide details of
i) how third parties are required to make such information publicly available;

Exporter is bounded to disclose the information.

ii) how this is monitored;

Monitoring of the exporter's website.

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iii) what measures are available in cases of non-compliance:

Refusal of the cover and/or financing.

iv) please provide any examples of experience.

no experience

c) The scope and content of information that should be released.

Basic information concerning the project (e.g. name of the project, export contract amount, exporter, country of export).

d) The form and language of the information that should be released (including website address, if released by ECA or Guardian Authority).

On exporter's website in Slovak.

website address, if relevant.

e) The required number of days the information should be made available prior to commitment.

At least 30 days prior to commitment.

f) Any legal constraints in *ex ante* disclosure of environmental impact information (*i.e.* is your ECA legally precluded from requiring the project sponsor to provide the disclosure as a condition of receiving ECA support).

no

g) Any circumstances in which environmental impact information relating to Category A projects is not disclosed prior to commitment.

none

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h) Any comments not covered by sub-sections (a)-(g) above.

Ex post disclosure

45 Please provide details of your procedures and practices for making available to the public information on projects classified in Category A and Category B for which you have made a final commitment to provide official support, including:

a) How often you make publicly available *ex post* information on projects classified in Category A and Category B.

After the insurance policy is signed and/or after executing of loan agreement.

b) What is the scope and content of such information, including environmental information.

Basic information concerning the project - name, exporter, export contract amount, classification, reason for classification, date of conclusion of the insurance policy.

c) Who is responsible for disclosing such information.

ECA

d) The form and language of the information released

On EXIMBANKA SR's website in Slovak and English.

including website address, if relevant.

e) How long the information remains publicly available.

No specific rules.

f) Any comments not covered by sub-sections (a)-(e) above.

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VI REPORTING AND MONITORING OF THE RECOMMENDATION

Accountability of your guidelines

- 46 Please provide details of any appropriate measures and mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with your policies and procedures.

Insurance policy is signed only after all conditions are met. Covenants and possible recourse against exporter or guarantor.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- 47 a) Please provide details of any procedures and practices in place to monitor and evaluate your experience of the Common Approaches at a national level.

No specific procedures.

- b) Please provide details of any procedures and practices in place to share experiences with other Members.

Environmental practitioners meetings, ECG meetings regular and technical

Revising procedures:

- 48 i) When was the last review or update of your environmental procedures conducted? (mm/yy)

- ii) What was the motivation for the last review or update of your environmental procedures?

i) The last review of Environmental Guidelines of EXIMBANKA SR was conducted in 01/10. ii) The enhanced transparency and streamlining of the procedure.

- 49 Are any modifications foreseen in the near future?

Yes

For what reason?

Following to the possible new Recommendation revision, global market development or shared experience/information.

When ? (mm/yy)

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Resources

- 50 i) What resources have been required as a result of the implementation of your environmental procedures?

OECD Recommendation.

- ii) if appropriate, please provide the number of dedicated Environmental Practitioners

- iii) if appropriate, please provide the number of external consultants employed by your ECA.

Cost-sharing

- 51 What costs are shared both during the risk assessment process and after the financing agreement has been concluded?

Costs of EIA or other environmental evaluations are borne by the exporter (applicant). ECA bears the costs associated with the classification of the project into the specific category (A,B,C).

Reporting

- 52 How frequently do you report *ex post* to the ECG, in accordance with paragraph 22 (tired 1) of the Recommendation, all Category A and Category B projects for which a final commitment has been issued?

Semi-annually

Body of experience

- 53 Do you have any practices and procedures in place to collate experience and/or knowledge from individual cases? If so, please provide details.

Only limited experience.

- 54 How do you store and transfer knowledge on environmental issues between Environmental Practitioners and between Environmental Practitioners and Underwriters?

Meetings, e-mails, trainings etc.

- 55 Do you produce any reports on environmental issues in addition to those required by the Recommendation?

No

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VII OTHER COMMENTS**Scope**

- 56 How are environmental issues relating to exports of capital goods and services and the locations to which these are destined addressed for officially supported export credits with a repayment term of less than two years?

02-08-2010

Any Additional Comments

- 57 Please provide any additional comments.