

## SURVEY

### on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits Projects

#### REPORTING COUNTRY INFORMATION

NOR-GIEK-SURVEY-MAR-08

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.

GIEK's policies and practices are broadly in line with the Recommendation. The official policy will be subject to revision during this semester.

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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.

The applicant is asked to briefly account for the environmental risk related to the transaction/project, including specifically - emissions to air, soil or water, impacts on biological diversity, effects on the local population, the product's environmental quality seen relative to environmental impacts and market requirements, framework conditions, disputes, adverse attention from organizations or movements. Additional information is demanded when necessary. As to applications regarding different types of ships, questions are asked about the class of the ship, and the name of the classification company and of the ship yard where it is to be built (if relevant).

#### 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?

Please provide details.

The underwriter is generally responsible for the screening, but in most cases in close cooperation with the Environmental Practitioner.

#### 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.

The screening process identifies links with associated operations. How this information is integrated into the environmental screening and review process is decided on a case-by-case basis.

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.

b) Re-insurance as lead ECA.

Any other comments.

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- c) Re-insurance as re-insurer.

May take account of 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]?

The information is provided by the applicant on request.

### **New projects**

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

The information is provided in the application form or through other documentation.

### **Other exports**

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

These are screened based on the nature and quality of the products. They are also classified (see 13 b).

### **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.

GIEK classify all existing operations based on potential environmental impact. Whether we only take into consideration the norwegian deliveries or look at the project as a whole will vary from case to case.

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

Yes

Please provide details.

Exports that are neither to existing operations nor to projects are classified based on the nature and quality of the products being exported. They are normally classified in C.

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

All applications are classified.

### **Responsibilities for classification**

- 15 Who is responsible for the classification of projects?

Underwriter and Environmental Practitioner (case-by-case basis)

Please provide details.

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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.

Case-by-case approach

Please provide details.

For projects classified in A, an EIA is always required - as in line with the Recommendation. Where GIEK find it necessary, additional documentation may be demanded. For B-projects the approach is more on a case-by-case basis, depending on the nature of the project.

#### 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?

Underwriter and Environmental Practitioner (case-by-case basis)

Please provide details.

The Environmental Practitioner is in general responsible for carrying out the review, but in some cases this is done in cooperation between the Practitioner and Underwriter.

#### Scope and criteria

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

How this information is integrated into the environmental review process is decided on a case-by-case basis.

- 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.

May take account of review carried out by other ECAs, IFIs or Development Agency

Any other comments.

- b) Re-insurance as lead ECA.

Would always conduct own screening

Any other comments.

- c) Re-insurance as re-insurer.

May take account of review carried out by lead ECA

Any other comments.

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### **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?

Project Sponsor (in most cases)

Any other comments.

- ii) Carrying out an EIA?

Independent Consultant (in most cases)

Any other comments.

The project sponsor normally engage an independent consultant to carry out an EIA.

- 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?

Environmental Practitioner (always)

GIEK might also choose to engage an external consultant.

### **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.

The required review will depend on the nature of the project, but in general all relevant environmental factors is taken into consideration, and the information is checked for compliance with national and international guidelines.

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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?

This will depend on the nature of the project supported. In general GIEK would review all projects.

**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.

See 13 b)

**Standards**

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

As for A-projects, the EIAs are checked for compliance, and if found necessary, additional documentation is demanded. Regarding B-projects, an EIA may not be available, but other types of documentation from the host country is required. Compliance with host country standards is generally a precondition for our support.

- 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.

Where relevant...

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

- c) Regional Development Bank standards.

- 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 

- b) IFC Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines.

Any other comments.

Sovereign Public/non-sovereign Corporate Limited or non-recourse  
project finance transaction

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- 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

Where relevant

b) International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards.

For private sector limited or non-recourse project finance cases (always)

Where relevant

c) Regional Development Bank standards.

Where such institutions are supporting the project (always)

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

on a case-by case basis - where relevant

- 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 Rarely

Public/non-sovereign Rarely

Corporate Rarely

Limited or non-recourse  
project finance transaction Rarely

b) IFC Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines.

Any other comments.

Sovereign In most cases

Public/non-sovereign In most cases

These are always applied where relevant, for all -  
*i.e.* sovereign, public, corporate and project  
finance...

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Corporate

Limited or non-recourse  
project finance transaction

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

- 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.

If specific issues/sectors are not covered by the World Bank Group's standards GIEK would apply other relevant internationally recognised standards.

- 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.

GIEK will consult with the different parties involved and assess if the deviation is sufficiently justified, but in general it would be required that necessary measures are being taken to ensure compliance with international standards.

### Site visits

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

For high risk projects, i.e. category A, and/or if the written information received by the applicant or other sources are not for GIEK sufficient to carry through an environmental review, a site visit might be necessary.

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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.

Some "prior to conditions" are standard , others are applied on a case by case basis. Most conditions have to be met prior to final commitment, and most of them are included in the loan agreements guaranteed by GIEK.

Please provide examples of any environmental covenants used.

Compliance with relevant international standards and guidelines, and Enviromental Management Plans. That resettlement arrangements are complying with the initial requirements set out in the approved Resettlement Management Plan, and if not, disbursements from the bank may be stopped (in the disbursement period).

#### Denying official support

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

We will not support a project that does not comply with our environmental requirements.

Please provide any examples of 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.

Case by case. The specific details will be agreed upon with an external consultant engaged by us or our own Environmental Adviser, and the buying company/country.

Monitoring frequency/period:

Case by case.

Content:

Reporting method:

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

Other

Please provide details.

An independent consultant engaged by the buyer/project sponsor. In some cases GIEK might carry out site visits itself, or engage an external consultant to do the job.

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

Environmental Practitioner (always)

### **Non-compliance measures**

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

After a final commitment has been made there are few mechanisms, but in the cases where GIEK has covenants applied during the disbursement period, the disbursements may be stopped if the monitoring reveals non compliance (see question 35).

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

Underwriter and Environmental Practitioner (always jointly)

Please provide any examples of 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?

GIEK always encourage project sponsors to make such information publicly available.

- 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?

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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?

It can be found on GIEK's web page, but so far only in norwegian. It will be revised and translated into english during the first half of this year.

Please provide web address if relevant.

[www.giek.no/default.asp?menu=430&page=53&cells=0](http://www.giek.no/default.asp?menu=430&page=53&cells=0)

#### 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.

GIEK will in general be willing to share relevant information, and seek to reach a common understanding on the reviewing and classification of projects among the institutions involved in the project. The procedures differs from case to case.

- b) competition.

Same as 42 a.

#### 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.

GIEK discloses the name, location and type of project.

- b) The form and language of the information released.

It is to be found on GIEK's webpage, in norwegian. It will be released in english as well, starting from this year.

including website address, if relevant.

<http://www.giek.no/default.asp?page=431&cells=0>

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

Minimum 30 calendar days

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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).

Norwegian Public Administration Law has certain restrictions on business confidentiality. However, we have never experienced problems of disclosing information due to such restrictions. GIEK always asks the applicant for permission to disclose information prior to the final commitment.

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

No experience.

- 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.

ECA

- 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;

- ii) how this is monitored;

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

- iv) please provide any examples of experience.

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

There is a direct link to the EIA report.

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

The EIA should be available in english.

website address, if relevant.

<http://www.giek.no/default.asp?page=431&cells=0>

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

minimum 30 calendar days

- 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).

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

- 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.

Annually

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

Name, location and type of project, and links to relevant environmental reports (*i.e.* EIAs etc..)

- c) Who is responsible for disclosing such information.

ECA

- d) The form and language of the information released

Norwegian. It will be released in english as well starting from this year.

including website address, if relevant.

<http://www.giek.no/default.asp?page=431&cells=0>

- e) How long the information remains publicly available.

No specific requirement.

- 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.

No independent auditing, but internal.

#### 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.

The team responsible for environmental issues has gained experience over the years, and this will be taken into account when revising our procedures and practices this year.

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

Participation in the Environmental Practitioners work in OECD, and occasionally on different cases or topics.

#### Revising procedures :

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

July 2007

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

A need of an update due to gained experience, and the revised Common Approaches

- 49 Are any modifications foreseen in the near future?

Yes

For what reason?

Due to more resources being put into the field, and the employment of a specialist (started February 08).

When ? (mm/yy)

#### Resources

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

One full time environmental specialist, internal staff training, travel costs, use of external consultants.

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

1

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

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### **Cost-sharing**

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

Exporters would carry the cost of providing necessary environmental information, and possible use of external consultants. Other costs would be carried by GIEK. Cost-sharing with ECAs/IFIs is handled case by case.

### **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?

On-going basis

### **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.

No specific procedures.

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

Electronically stored - with access for all relevant parties. The Environmental Practitioner also arrange for internal seminars, and distribute reports on specific topics when relevant.

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

Yes

Please provide  
details.

Reporting to the Board and respective Ministry.

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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?

Same procedure as for MT/LT.

#### Any Additional Comments

- 57 Please provide any additional comments.