Sustainability Proofing Summary[1]

Counterparty: BioCirc Group

NIB's financing supports infrastructure at five of BioCirc Group's eight biogas plants in Denmark to clean and liquefy biogenic CO_2 separated during biomethane production. The liquefied CO_2 is transported through Esbjerg for permanent geological storage in the Nini West reservoir in the Danish North Sea.

EIA Directive

☐ Yes
☒ No
The financed capture and liquefaction installations fall within Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. Based on the applicable screening, no separate EIA was required for those investments. The existing host plants remain subject to site-specific environmental permits and assessments. The downstream Nini West storage facility is outside the financed project scope and is separately permitted under the applicable Danish and EU CCS framework.

Climate Assessment

The assessment of climate adaptation and mitigation aspects was carried out according to the "Technical guidance on sustainability proofing for the InvestEU Fund", using due diligence materials, environmental documentation and NIB's in-house expertise. The adaptation screening considered sensitivity, exposure and vulnerability to physical climate hazards, including extreme weather and potential effects on agricultural feedstock availability and biogas production. The identified risks were assessed as low, and no further adaptation proofing was required. The mitigation assessment concluded that capturing and permanently storing biogenic CO_2 that would otherwise be released will generate substantial net greenhouse gas reductions. A project carbon-footprint assessment was completed in accordance with the Guidance.

Environmental Assessment

The main potential environmental impacts relate to the operation of equipment at the existing host sites, including transport of liquefied CO_2. Relevant risks include energy use, traffic, air emissions, noise and odour, accidental releases and possible effects on soil and water. Following screening, the residual impacts of the financed investments were assessed as minor, subject to compliance with applicable permits, monitoring arrangements and emergency procedures. The Nini West storage site is separately regulated and permitted under Danish law and the EU CCS framework.

Social Assessment

NIB's social screening considered labour and working conditions, occupational and public health and safety, vulnerable groups, gender equality, land acquisition, cultural heritage and stakeholder engagement. The main project-related risks concern worker and public safety during installation, operation, handling and transport of liquefied CO_2. These risks are mitigated through applicable workplace, transport, environmental and emergency-response requirements. Stakeholder engagement is undertaken through relevant site-level permitting processes. Following screening, the residual social risks of the financed investments were assessed as low.

[1] Prepared in accordance with Article 8(5) of the InvestEU Regulation and the Technical guidance on sustainability proofing for the InvestEU Fund (C(2021) 2632 final). Under section 3.2 of the Investment Guidelines, the summary is published following Investment Committee approval of the EU Guarantee, with due regard to confidential and commercially sensitive information.