



Monitoring Programme

For the SEA of the ERDF, CF Programmes and the
JTF Plan 2021-2027


Report





MONITORING PROGRAMME
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DISCLAIMER

This report has been prepared by AIS Environment with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Monitoring Parameters & Data Sources.....	2
2.1	Air Quality	2
2.2	Biodiversity.....	3
2.3	Land Uses and Landscape	4
2.4	Cultural Heritage	5
2.5	Energy and Water	5
2.6	Climate Change.....	6
2.7	Transport and Related Infrastructure.....	6
2.8	Waste Management.....	6
3	Responsible Authorities/Organisations	8
3.1	Environmental Report Recommendations	8
3.2	Environmental Objectives, Policies and Proposals.....	8

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Air Quality Monitoring Parameters & Data Sources	3
Table 2: Biodiversity Monitoring Parameters & Data Sources.....	4
Table 3: Land Use & Landscape Monitoring Parameters & Data Sources.....	4
Table 4: Cultural Heritage Monitoring Parameters & Data Sources.....	5
Table 5: Energy and Water Monitoring Parameters & Data Sources.....	5
Table 6: Climate Change Monitoring Parameters & Data Sources.....	6
Table 7: Transport & Related Infrastructure Monitoring Parameters & Data Sources...	6
Table 8: Waste Management Monitoring Parameters & Data Sources.....	7

1 INTRODUCTION

The Strategy & Implementation Division (SID) within the Ministry for the Economy, European Funds and Lands has commissioned AIS Environment Ltd. through the public procurement system (CT3000/2020/2) to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the ESF+, ERDF, CF Operational Programmes and the JTF Plan 2021-2027.

The SEA will be carried out in accordance with local legislation S.L.549.61 (Environment Protection Act), and involves the following tasks as outlined in the TORs:

- Task 1: Kick-off meeting
- Task 2: Inception report
- Task 3: Screening and scoping report
- Task 4: Draft environmental report
- Task 5: Public and stakeholder consultations
- Task 6: Final environmental report
- Task 7: Draft adoption and monitoring report
- Task 8: Final adoption and monitoring report

This report partially achieves the requirements of Task 8 (monitoring report).

2 MONITORING PARAMETERS & DATA SOURCES

Periodic monitoring and review of the Programme is necessary to enable continued success of the strategy. The monitoring plan is set to reflect the changes in national patterns for all environmental themes, technology development and ongoing discussions at European level relating to the ERDF, CF Operational Programmes and the JTF Plan 2021-2027.

Measurable indicators are necessary to quantitatively assess the strategy's implementation success. In fact, such indicators have been used to predict how the five environmental themes will be affected by the realisation of the measures. Making use of the same indicators to monitor the effectiveness of the Programme would facilitate the interpretation of the results. Additional monitoring parameters have been proposed, particularly in order to monitor operations of the various facilities that may be funded by the programme.

In most cases, the monitoring parameters can be obtained from existing programmes/datasets gathered as a result of environmental permitting, environmental assessments and/or other national monitoring programmes which are associated with the implementation of environmental obligations. In this way, duplication of efforts is avoided. The aim of this monitoring programme is to have a consistent set of data upon which potential adverse environmental impacts can be identified, prevented and/or mitigated.

There are also project-level mechanisms that are in place to protect the environment, such as detailed EIAs in line with the EIA Regulations and environmental/industrial permitting. Such mechanisms should also be considered so as to ensure that the Programme measures are implemented without having, individually or cumulatively, significant adverse environmental impacts.

The following subsections outline the monitoring and measurements recommended for the implementation stage of the ERDF, CF Operational Programmes and the JTF Plan 2021-2027.

2.1 AIR QUALITY

Monitoring of air quality during construction works may help to assess the adverse impacts arising from the measures relating to port infrastructure upgrades. The Programme's measures do not include the construction of new facilities which release atmospheric pollutants. In case such facilities are included, these facilities should be monitored through their operational permit conditions.

The chemical parameters considered as part of this SEA are regularly being monitored by the ERA in relation to national monitoring programmes; such data can be made use of for air quality monitoring purposes. Operational monitoring data should be obtained from the annual reporting requirements of the facilities' operational permits, as required on a case-by-case basis, for example in relation to the Organic Processing Plant.

Monitoring parameters and data sources are outlined in Table 1.

TABLE 1: AIR QUALITY MONITORING PARAMETERS & DATA SOURCES

THEME	MONITORING PARAMETERS	DATA SOURCE
Air quality	National emissions (tonnage) of pollutants into the air, with regards to Malta's obligations under the NEC Directive 2016/2284	ERA
	Facility emissions (tonnage) of pollutants into the air, in line with the Environment Protection Act (CAP 549), Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations (S.L. 549.77), Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44), and/or Limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants regulations (S.L. 549.122) as applicable	Operational permit reporting

2.2 BIODIVERSITY

Criteria for biodiversity ensure that the ecological status of Maltese waters is maintained and safeguarded. This is measurable by observing trends of parameters which are already being monitored in line with the MSFD and WFD. In this case, relevant parameters include the good environmental status of Malta's water bodies in terms of biodiversity (Descriptor 1), non-indigenous species (Descriptor 2), commercial fish species (Descriptor 3), food webs (Descriptor 4), seafloor integrity (Descriptor 6), contaminants in seafood (Descriptor 9) and marine litter (Descriptor 10). Parameters include the contaminant levels in seafood and geographical distribution of indicator species such as *Posidonia oceanica*. Since these parameters are assessed through existing national monitoring programmes, such data is readily available from the ERA.

Any developments which are funded under the Programme that could have a significant adverse impact on Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and/or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) will also require an Appropriate Assessment in line with the FLORA, FAUNA AND NATURAL HABITATS PROTECTION REGULATIONS, TREES AND WOODLANDS PROTECTION REGULATIONS and CONSERVATION OF WILD BIRDS REGULATIONS. This exercise would help to more specifically identify biodiversity impacts and a monitoring programme at project-level. Such data can be obtained from the respective environmental impact assessments, appropriate assessments, as well as construction and operational monitoring.

Monitoring parameters and data sources are outlined in Table 2.

TABLE 2: BIODIVERSITY MONITORING PARAMETERS & DATA SOURCES

THEME	MONITORING PARAMETERS	DATA SOURCE
Biodiversity	Status of protected habitats and species of flora and fauna	ERA
		EIA/AA
		Construction/operational monitoring
	Status of other habitats, including valleys and watercourses	ERA
		EIA/AA
		Construction/operational monitoring
	Status of environmental factors, including coastal water, groundwater, geology and soil	ERA
		EIA/AA
		Construction/operational monitoring

2.3 LAND USES AND LANDSCAPE

The developments being proposed by the Programme (notably the port infrastructural upgrades) are likely to have an adverse effect on the Maltese land use and landscape. Such impacts would arise both due to the presence of machinery during the construction works, and due to permanent structures during the operational phase (particularly when the developments are on undeveloped/agricultural land). Although impacts on landscape are difficult to quantify, indicators such as the extent of Areas of Very High Landscape Sensitivity (AHLVs) can be indirectly used to monitor and measure these impacts; such data is readily available from the ERA. Reduced AHLVs indicate that the landscape has been negatively impacted.

Furthermore, sea uses can be monitored by reviewing complaints to the relevant transport authorities during construction works. All works that temporarily take up marine areas must be appropriately covered by a Notice to Mariners.

Monitoring parameters and data sources are outlined in Table 3.

TABLE 3: LAND USE & LANDSCAPE MONITORING PARAMETERS & DATA SOURCES

THEME	MONITORING PARAMETERS	DATA SOURCE
Landscape	Status of landform and topography, landscape, the natural beauty and scenic amenity of the landscape	ERA
	Complaints to relevant transport authorities	TM

2.4 CULTURAL HERITAGE

Maintaining the conservation status of cultural heritage can be achieved by protecting scheduled and designated areas from various threats such as take-up of virgin land and land reclamation which may damage archaeological features of national importance. Monitoring the success of this criterion involves the assessment of the number of complaints relating to features of cultural heritage affected by the measures, along with the archaeological monitoring of such developments to properly document any discoveries.

Monitoring parameters and data sources are outlined in Table 4.

TABLE 4: CULTURAL HERITAGE MONITORING PARAMETERS & DATA SOURCES

THEME	MONITORING PARAMETERS	DATA SOURCE
Cultural heritage	Number of scheduled sites	PA
	Status of scheduled sites	Archaeological monitoring during construction
	Number of complaints relating to cultural heritage damage	PA/SCH

2.5 ENERGY AND WATER

Energy generation, security of supply and water consumption merit protection from any measures whose construction phase may have temporary but adverse impacts on these utility services. Monitoring datasets that are regularly reported by the NSO is crucial to monitor the adverse and beneficial effects of the programme. Such datasets are readily available from the NSO.

Monitoring parameters and data sources are outlined in Table 5.

TABLE 5: ENERGY AND WATER MONITORING PARAMETERS & DATA SOURCES

THEME	MONITORING PARAMETERS	DATA SOURCE
Energy and Water	Energy generation by type	Eurostat/EWA/NSO
	Number of solar panel installations	
	Energy consumption levels by type	
	Security of supply	

2.6 CLIMATE CHANGE

The Programme measures aim to, amongst others, increase energy efficiency and facilitate the transition to a lower national carbon footprint. To monitor the success of the Programme, the net atmospheric emissions of greenhouse gases on a national scale should be measured and monitored over time. Such data sets are readily available from the NSO and MRA.

Monitoring parameters and data sources are outlined in Table 6.

TABLE 6: CLIMATE CHANGE MONITORING PARAMETERS & DATA SOURCES

THEME	MONITORING PARAMETERS	DATA SOURCE
Climate change	Concentrations of greenhouse gases	ERA/NSO

2.7 TRANSPORT AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

Transport and related infrastructure are generally expected to improve through the implementation of the Programme measures. Monitoring of the national traffic situation is required to assess the success of the policy; this can be achieved through measurable parameters such as vehicles by type, bicycle and e-bicycle usage and public transport usage. Such data is readily available from various entities such as the NSO and TM.

Monitoring parameters and data sources are outlined in Table 6.

TABLE 7: TRANSPORT & RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE MONITORING PARAMETERS & DATA SOURCES

THEME	MONITORING PARAMETERS	DATA SOURCE
Transport & Related Infrastructure	Number of vehicles by type	EWA/NSO/TM
	Number of bicycles and e-bicycles	
	Number of public transport commuters	
	Number of public transport commuters	

2.8 WASTE MANAGEMENT

Efficient resource management is achieved through the promotion of sustainable waste management by following the waste hierarchy. Measures which are expected to increase waste generation, such as construction works and measures which would generate WEEE, should be monitored. Monitoring parameters to assess the success of waste management include measurement of waste generation of different streams, evaluating the recycling rates for WEEE, the volume of Construction and Demolition

waste generated and disposed of (not reused). Such datasets are readily available from MEEE and Wasteserv.

Monitoring parameters and data sources are outlined in Table 8.

TABLE 8: WASTE MANAGEMENT MONITORING PARAMETERS & DATA SOURCES

THEME	MONITORING PARAMETERS	DATA SOURCE
Waste management	Waste generation (tonnage) by type	MEEE/Wasteserv/NSO/Eurostat
	Waste separation and recycling (tonnage)	

3 RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES/ORGANISATIONS

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations made in the Environmental Report include those which should be incorporated into an updated version of the ERDF, CF Operational Programmes and the JTF Plan 2021-2027 (plan-level) and those which should be taken into consideration during the screening of development permit applications funded by the programme (project-level).

As the authors of the ERDF, CF Operational Programmes and the JTF Plan 2021-2027 itself, the Strategy & Implementation Division (SID) within the Ministry for the Economy, European Funds and Lands is responsible to incorporate the plan-level recommendations which have been identified as part of the SEA process (including those from stakeholders and public).

Considering that the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division (PPCD), the Funds and Programmes Division (FPD) and/or the Measures and Support Division (MSD) are responsible for screening and approving the projects which are funded by the programme, these divisions are also in charge of ensuring that the project-level considerations are duly made. The Planning Authority and the Environment & Resources Authority are also responsible for ensuring that the construction phase funded by the programme are compliant with all existing legislation.

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND PROPOSALS

The PPCD, FPD and/or the MSD are responsible to ensure that the environmental objectives, policies and proposals of the Programme are appropriately implemented and monitored as described in the Environmental Report and this Monitoring Programme.