

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: EVIDES WATER SUPPLY II
Project Number: 2019-0672
Country: Netherlands
Project Description: Support for Evides 2020-2024 capital investment programme aimed at maintaining the quality and functionality of its water and distribution pipelines, basins and production installations among others.

EIA required: yes

This is an investment programme made up of multiple schemes. Some of them may require an EIA under Annex II of the EIA directive 2011/92/EC as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project will finance part of Evides's 2020-2024 investment programme, mostly consisting of upgrade of production sites, capacity expansion of reservoirs and pumping stations to increase climate resilience in the supply of drinking and industrial water, and construction of facilities for treatment and reuse of wastewater for industrial use. The proposed operation will help ensure continued compliance with Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and the Directive 91/271/EC for wastewater treatment, thereby contributing to protection of the environment and water security. It will also ensure continued compliance with Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC, by providing an even more reliable and affordable drinking water supply in the service area of Evides.

The promoter is a competent operator that has a sound investment policy. Most of the key investments such as new surface intakes or water treatment facilities fall within higher level strategic frameworks, specifically being mainly the National Water Plan, Provincial Water Plans and local Spatial Plans. These plans have all undergone Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) as per the Directive 2001/42/EC.

The investments under the programme will generally have neutral or net positive effects for the environment. Nevertheless, some works may require a full EIA according to Directive 2011/92/EC as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU or affect protected areas. Under the programme, the Bergsche Maas intake at the Brabantse Biesbosch surface water reservoirs

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 23 April 2020

have been assessed to require a full EIA. The scheme concerns a new intake pumping station on the Bergsche Maas, which will be more energy efficient than the existing situation and it will adapt to greater flow fluctuations in the Meuse (climate scenarios), resulting in more frequent and longer intake stoppages in the future. In addition, the scheme involves the refurbishment of a retention area and a polder that will have positive impacts in flora and fauna.

Temporary negative environmental impacts where applicable, will occur during construction phase such as traffic noise and dust, are temporary in nature, and can be avoided or reduced by applying established best practices in the sector.

The investment programme for 2020-2024 will also contribute significantly to the Bank's climate change transversal objective, notably to mitigation through investments that result in GHG emissions reduction and to adaptation through the protection of the water resources and the reuse of treated wastewater for industrial purposes.

Social Assessment

The appraisal of the proposed investment programme has identified a number of potential positive social impacts, the most important of which are: (i) improved quality of life, (ii) social benefits from enabling socio-economic developments in the service area of Evides (including but not limited to job creation), and (iii) continued delivery of high-quality water at affordable prices.

Temporary adverse social impacts may include the following: disruption of services and traffic, noise, temporary occupation of public and private space, and health and safety hazards during construction. Such impacts are common for this type of project, and the mitigation of expected adverse social impacts will be addressed as part of the planning for each scheme.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Promoter must ensure compliance with national and European environmental legislation and facilitate access by the public to environmentally relevant information in accordance with the Aarhus Convention. The Environmental Impact Assessments (if required) as well as the screening according to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III of the EIA directive 2011/92/EC as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU will be made available to the Public. The EIAs (if required) will be published on the EIB website. Consultations are an integral part of the EIA process and certain planning procedures and were/are carried out as and where necessary.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Overall the investments have a positive net social and environment impact. This operation is fully driven by compliance with the EU relevant environmental and water directives. All schemes covered by the programme will be subject to the Promoter complying with the following requirements:

- The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including the EIA (2014/52/EC) amending the EIA Directive (2011/92/EC), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC). The promoter undertakes not to allocate Bank funds to project components that require a full EIA until the EIA and the necessary appropriate assessment, if required, have been finalised and approved by the relevant competent authority. Once any EIA is finalised, the promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of the EIA, for publication on the EIB website.



Luxembourg, 23 April 2020

- The Promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decisions issued by the competent authority that screen out project components and the main reasons for not requiring EIA with the reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Under these conditions, the operation is acceptable to the Bank's financing in Environmental and Social terms.