



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 18 May 2020

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: AQUAFIN WASTE WATER TREATMENT IX
 Project Number: 2014-0167
 Country: Belgium
 Project Description: Construction of collector sewers, storm overflows and small and medium-size wastewater treatment plants, plus upgrading of existing wastewater treatment plants for tertiary treatment in the Flemish Region

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.

The main objective of the Programme was to increase the sewer connection rate in the service area of Aquafin, and to reduce the risks of sewer overflows and improve storm water management. The Programme also targeted compliance with environmental service standards set by EU and national legislation (EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EC).

The Programme was environmentally driven and therefore had predominantly positive effects on the environment. It contributed to reducing aquifer pollution by increasing the sewer connection rate in the Flemish Region, and by repairing broken sewers and to lower the probability of traffic disruptions and subsidence of buildings by avoiding the collapse of sewer segments.

The Promoter complied with the requirements of EU EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as well as Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

The Promoter carried out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures where required by the competent authorities. More specifically, an EIA was required and carried out in nine components. For each of these components, a brief description is given below, followed by an outline of the main environmental risks and the risk mitigation measures taken.

1. Renovation water treatment plant Genk, phase 2 (investment cost: EUR 11.3m).

Environmental Risk	Risk Mitigation Measure
Surface water risk	Rainwater will be removed in accordance with an approved drainage plan that was specially prepared for this component
Soil risk	Replace red gravel by grass troughs to speed up infiltration of rainwater and enable nature-friendly maintenance (no use of pesticides),
Biodiversity risk	Refrain from use of pesticides during maintenance Use low-noise machines during construction Monitor dewatering and mitigate by irrigation Minimize noisy construction activities during the breeding season
Noise pollution risk	Use low-noise machines during construction



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Odor nuisance risk	Cover machine parts, extract and treat air
Anthropogenic risk	Re-route traffic and provide warnings to minimize adverse impacts on nature

2. Expansion capacity pumping station Vogelzanglaan (investment cost: EUR 2.0 m)

Environmental Risk	Risk Mitigation Measure
Surface water risk	Limit the dewatering jet to prevent damage to peat soils Sent groundwater over an iron plate before being discharge into surface water
Soil risk	Avoid stacking of soils within flood-prone areas In case of excessive rainfall, provide constant monitoring of drainage to avoid flooding
Biodiversity risk	Avoid stacking of soils and materials on valuable areas Use sheet piles to protect biodiversity
Anthropogenic risk	Re-route traffic and provide warnings to minimize adverse impacts on nature

3. Expansion water treatment plant Diest, phase 2 (investment cost: EUR 3.2m)

Environmental Risk	Risk Mitigation Measure
Surface water risk	Avoid storage of excavated soil on bank of Demer River
Soil risk	Remove excess soil in accordance with earth-moving rules
Odor nuisance risk	Remove auger troughs and avoid sludge thickener

4. Remediation Winkelaar, Kesterbeekbos and Krabos (investment cost: EUR 1.7m)

Environmental Risk	Risk Mitigation Measure
Surface water risk	Sent groundwater over an iron plate before being discharge into surface water
Soil risk	At regular intervals, provide plugs of soil-specific material in slots Avoid stacking of soils in valley and in working areas
Biodiversity risk	Compensate area reduction in meadow Nature-based arrangement of buffer canal
Anthropogenic risk	Re-route traffic and provide warnings to minimize adverse impacts on nature

5. Collector Winge fase 3 (investment cost: EUR 2.9m)

Environmental Risk	Risk Mitigation Measure
Surface water risk	Downstream of Benedenstraat, install a collector to prevent interruption of the seepage flow Install improved landfill to avoid peak loads into the Droge Beek (a stream)
Soil risk	Avoid excavation works during wet periods and use road plates or



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	geo-textiles with gravel in order to prevent damage to vulnerable soils Use nearby fields (which will be ploughed afterwards) to store excess soil
Biodiversity risk	Adapt layout of work zone (asymmetrical / limited size), so that only edge of protected habitats are disturbed and not the core At height of vegetation sensitive to desiccation upstream, provide return drainage and clay plugs to prevent changes in groundwater flow pattern

6. Collector Messelbroek (investment cost: EUR 4.8m)

Environmental Risk	Risk Mitigation Measure
Surface water risk	Abolish overflow to spare De Baggelt nature reserve Provide storage settling basins dimensioned to limit overflow frequency to 7 times per year
Soil risk	At regular intervals, provide plugs of soil-specific material in slots Avoid stacking of soils in valley and in working areas
Biodiversity risk	Avoid storage of soils near valuable vegetation Adjust original design to reduce overflow frequency and overflow volume to Laarbeek (a stream), thereby limiting impact on sensitive vegetation
Landscape risk	Surround pumping station Puttestraat by low fence and vegetation, given its location in open agricultural land Preserve woody vegetation along Amerstraat as much as possible

7. Closure inlet Bovenkassei (investment cost: EUR 1.5m)

Environmental Risk	Risk Mitigation Measure
Surface water risk	Ensure correct separation between contaminated and non-contaminated water and its connection to (supra) municipal networks Reprofile existing canals to ensure sufficient buffer capacity Adapt weir on castle grounds to ensure nutrition of moat and ponds castle grounds
Soil risk	Reduce soil compaction in nature reserve and, if necessary, turn over soils after completion of works Select stacking zones based on subsurface characteristics Co-ordinate erosion control measures with planned pipelines
Anthropogenic risk	Re-route traffic and provide warnings to minimize adverse impacts on nature

8. Collector Wellingstraat (investment cost: EUR 4.5m)

Environmental Risk	Risk Mitigation Measure
Surface water risk	Ensure correct separation between contaminated and non-contaminated water and its connection to (supra) municipal networks
Soil risk	Avoid storage of soils in valleys and flood-prone areas



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Biodiversity risk	Preserve poplars along Kalvarieweg
Landscape risk	Avoid damage to chapels along the route of collector
Anthropogenic risk	Re-route traffic and provide warnings to minimize adverse impacts on nature

9. Collector Bekaflaan and connection Langdorp (investment cost: EUR 3.2m)

Environmental Risk	Risk Mitigation Measure
Surface water risk	Close monitoring of discharge of drainage water, especially to the east of the pumping station Avoid stacking soils in flood-prone areas Equip inspection wells with toggle covers at selected locations (Bekaflaan and east of the French Liniestraat)
Soil risk	In wet periods, use road plates to limit or avoid compaction of vulnerable soils Minimize overflow and work zone around pumping station to limit compaction of vulnerable soils When excavating open trenches and construction pits, separately stack different layers and replaced in correct order Avoid storage of any material on soils that are vulnerable to very vulnerable to compaction
Biodiversity risk	Limit work zone to a width of 15 meters Avoid storage of soils near valuable vegetation Restore canals to their original state after completion of works Avoid construction activities during the breeding season
Landscape risk	Preserve hay meadows and dike path east of Langdorp church (protected village view) Surround pump station with local trees and shrubs and fence that does not disturb the landscape Preserve current vegetation along route of collector
Anthropogenic risk	Re-route traffic and provide warnings to minimize adverse impacts on nature

According to the Promoter, there have been a small number of minor incidents related to compliance with EU regulations. These incidents had however no material impact on the environment and remediation actions were taken.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter during construction that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.