

**Public**

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: MAURITANIA COVID-19 RESILIENCE SUBMARINE CABLE  
Project Number: 20190365  
Country: MAURITANIA  
Project Description: The project concerns the deployment of a second international connection for Mauritania, which will consist of a new submarine cable, including the wet plant, terrestrial segment and cable landing station. This new connection will provide a backup solution to the current single submarine cable connecting the country, as well as additional data transmission capacity to address rapidly growing traffic volume due to the expected increase in internet access demand in the country.

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The project concerns the provision of a submarine cable for Mauritania, including the wet plant, the terrestrial segment and a cable landing station. Such telecommunication projects are not included in Annex I or II of the European EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU. The relevant Mauritanian environmental law (Décret n° 2007-105 modifiant et complétant le décret n° 2004-94 relatif à l'étude d'impact environnemental) is consistent with the corresponding EU directives in this respect, and does not require an EIA for such telecommunication projects either. However, it is still possible that the authorities require an environmental and social assessment for this project specifically, after confirmation of the final location of the project components. In case an environmental and social assessment is not requested by the authorities, the Bank would require the promoter to provide an environmental and social assessment for the project before disbursements related to the cable deployment activities.

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 13 October 2020

At the time of appraisal, the procurement for the submarine cable is still ongoing but the tender documentation will incorporate environmental and social standards acceptable to the EIB.

### **Social Assessment, where applicable**

No issues of Resettlement, Rights and Interests of Vulnerable Groups are expected with the implementation of the project. It is expected that Labour Standards and Occupational and Community Health and Safety will be adopted by the contractors and the project promoter. On the other hand, the project will generate significant positive socio-economic impacts, as it will ensure the reliability of the Mauritanian international connectivity providing the necessary stability for companies to invest in the country.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The project is expected to have wide-ranging positive socio-economic impacts leading to business, tourism, education and employment opportunities thanks to the increased reliability of the country's international connectivity. The construction of the cable may produce minor negative impacts that in any case would be limited to the few days of duration of the cable deployment works and only in the surroundings of those works, which will be mitigated by applying industry-standard practices. The cable is expected to be designed, built and deployed by reputable and experienced companies, which have implemented many similar projects worldwide. If required, the promoter will provide an environmental and social assessment approved by the authorities and satisfactory to the EIB prior to any disbursement related to the cable deployment activities.

Therefore, the project has been classified as acceptable in environmental and social terms for the Bank's financing.