Luxembourg, 04.11.2020

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	KOELN ABWASSER UND UMWELT II
Project Number:	20200090
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	Investments regarding the wastewater disposal and treatment facilities of the city of Cologne (2021-2025)
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]:	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project concerns the investment programme of "Stadtentwässerungsbetriebe Köln" (STEB), this project's promoter, for the period of 2021-2025. It will improve the efficiency and sustainability of storm water and wastewater collection and treatment in Cologne (1.1m inhabitants), the largest city of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). The project also aims at strengthening flood protection, especially against urban flooding.

The project is based on STEB's "Perspektivkonzept 2025", the wastewater disposal plan ("Abwasserbeseitigungskonzept", ABK) and the storm water disposal plan ("Niederschlagswasserbeseitigungskonzept", NBK). The latter two are mandatory planning documents for all wastewater and storm water infrastructure further to the water law of the federal state of NRW[2]. STEB updates these plans every six years and submits them for approval to the competent authority on district level ("Bezirksregierung Köln"), which is also the competent authority for all environmental matters.

The proposed operation will ensure continued compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EC and help reaching compliance with the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD), thereby contributing to protection of the environment and water security.

[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.

[2] §47 and §53 of the Landeswassergesetz NRW

The project's components will result in the reduction of overflow and leakage of the combined sewerage system and will have positive impact on the quality of water bodies. Various components that reduce energy demand will further enhance energy efficiency of the promoter, which targets energy self-sufficiency by 2025.

STEB's programme was included in Rhine River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), which was elaborated by the five district authorities in NRW according to the WFD requirements. The RBMP was approved on the 18 November 2015[3]. Consequently, under the RBMP, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) further to Directive 2001/42/EC has been conducted and approved for the programme.

According the promoter none of the project's components will require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or have an impact on nature conservation sites.

The main positive long-term environmental impacts can be summarised as follows:

- The continued reduction of combined wastewater pollution discharged to surface water and ground water will be beneficial for these water bodies and enhance biodiversity.
- The increased production of renewable energy and the global reduction of energy consumption will reduce emissions, especially from fossil fuels.
- Storm water retention structures will help reduce the threat of flooding caused by heavy storms, river floods and high ground water levels.

The project might have some negative environmental impacts during the construction phase (e.g. dust, noise). Such impacts are common for this type of project, but they are temporary and localised. The mitigation of expected adverse environmental impacts will be addressed as part of the planning and construction site management for each scheme.

The project contributes to the Bank's transversal objective Climate Action (Adaptation) by increasing substantially the resilience of Cologne river basin against floods. The region of North Rhine-Westphalia has assessed the vulnerability against floods and droughts, which led to the adoption of the regional adaptation strategy (Anpassung an den Klimawandel. Eine Strategie für NRW, 2009).

The project also contributes to climate change mitigation through the reduction of greenhouse gas emission, notably thanks to energy efficiency measures and the increased production of renewable energy.

Social Assessment

The project's appraisal has identified a number of positive long-term social impacts. The most important one is the improved quality of life thanks to cleaner surface waters, and the reduced risk of urban flooding. Another positive impact is the continued provision of wastewater services of highest standard at affordable prices. Besides, the works, supplies and services required to implement the project will temporarily create employment in the area and beyond.

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

[3] Bewirtschaftungsplan 2016-2021 für die nordrhein-westfälischen Anteile von Rhein, Weser, Ems und Maas (See: *www.flussgebiete.nrw.de/der-zweite-bewirtschaftungsplan-209*)

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 public access to environmentally relevant information in accordance with the Aarhus Convention.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Promoter has implemented an environmental management system in line with the standard Environmental Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), is certified EN ISO 9001 (quality management) and EN ISO 14001 (environmental management), as well as further to the German Sustainability Codex ("Deutscher Nachhaltigkeitskodex"). External auditors periodically control all schemes.

In December 2019, DWA[4] audited and approved Cologne's flood prevention system both for river floods and for torrential rains.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project will have long-term positive impacts on the environment, as it will result in the reduction of wastewater discharges into the Rhine River and the ground water. The project will assist in maintaining compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EC. The project will also contribute to achieving compliance with the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.

The project will also have positive temporary and long-term social impacts.

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.
- The Promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decisions issued by the competent authority that screen out project component 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.

[4] Deutsche Vereinigung für Wasserwirtschaft, Abwasser und Abfall (German association for water supply, sanitation and solid waste management). Professional body of he German water industry.