



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 29 November 2021

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	Water Supply Vitens III
Project Number:	2014-0620
Country:	The Netherlands
Project Description:	The project concerns the 2015-2019 investment programme into the production and distribution facilities of Vitens, Netherlands' largest water supply company. The programme consists mainly of renewal and upgrading of water treatment plants, reservoirs and pumping stations, distribution networks, water meters, and operational support infrastructure such as SCADA systems, security and offices.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The main objective of the programme was the renewal and upgrade of the drinking water supply infrastructure of Vitens for the period 2015-2019. Vitens is the largest water company in the Netherlands that serves today about 5.8 million inhabitants. The main components concerned the upgrading, renewal and extension of groundwater abstraction and treatment facilities, storage reservoirs, pumping stations, conveyor and distribution pipelines, household connections and water meters, information and communications technologies (ICT) items and other minor related items. The investments targeted compliance with EU Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and relevant national legislation.

The project generated positive environmental impacts through the sustainable management of environmentally sensitive groundwater abstraction zones and the usage of different raw water sources in areas where existing abstractions impact on drought sensitive areas. The protection of increasingly strained water resources contributed to climate change adaptation and thus contributed to a more climate resilient water supply. Other project components, namely those generating energy efficiency gains at new treatment plants, contributed to climate change mitigation. The interventions were generally small and geographically dispersed with only some minor negative impacts during construction works (dust, noise, traffic) to occur according to the Promoter's monitoring reports.

The Promoter confirmed in its Project Completion Report (PCR) that it has complied with the requirements of EU EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. More specifically, the Promoter carried out an Environmental Impact Assessment procedure (Milieu Effect Rapportage – MER - according to the national legislation) for a groundwater abstraction scheme at the Vechterweerd site and obtained the necessary environmental permit. The approved EIA was submitted to the Bank and published to the Bank's website. The scheme resulted in an overall positive impact on the environment as the purpose was precisely to remove the abstraction away from drought sensitive areas.



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With regards to the EIA required for the abstraction scheme at the Twente-Achterhoek site, the Promoter confirmed that the EIA study is still on going due to required research into geohydrology and therefore no EIB funds were allocated to finance this component.

The Promoter confirmed also in its Project Completion Report that under the 2015-2019 programme, all components are in compliance with the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and that there are no project components that have impacted any Natura 2000 areas.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

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