



Luxembourg, 3 November 2022

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Argentina Integrated Waste Management Programme
Project Number:	2022-0263
Country:	Argentina
Project Description:	The operation, structured as a Framework Loan (FL), will finance an integrated waste management programme including the collection, treatment and disposal of municipal waste generated and the rehabilitation of dumpsites in several provinces and municipalities respectively throughout the Republic of Argentina.
EIA required:	Some of the sub schemes may require an EIA
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	yes
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project concerns the financing of an integrated waste management programme, called GIRSU (*Gestión Integral de Residuos Sólidos Urbanos*), including the rehabilitation of dumpsites and the collection, treatment and disposal of municipal waste generated in the targeted provinces, including Santiago del Estero, Buenos Aires, Rio Negro, Salta and Santa Cruz. The operation consists of three main components, namely: I) The design and construction of waste treatment facilities and the acquisition of collection equipment (containers, bins, trucks etc.); II) support to environmental and social management activities including, but not limited to, the social integration of informal waste pickers and recyclers and public awareness activities; and III) the provision of Technical Assistance (TA) to project beneficiaries. The Project will be implemented in compliance with the National and Provincial Environmental legislations.

Some relevant national Legislations include:

- Law 25.675 - General Law of Environment
- Law 24.051 - Law of Dangerous Waste
- Law 25.831 - Law of Environmental Information
- Decree PEN 674/89 - Protection of Surface and Ground Water Resources
- Law 20.284 - Plan of Prevention of critical situations in Atmospheric contamination

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 CO_{2e}/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO_{2e}/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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- Law 25743 - Protection of the Archaeological and Paleontological Heritage

Provincial legislations may include (using Santiago del Estero - one of the provinces targeted by this Project - as an example):

- Law No 4802 on the Protection of renewable resources
- Law No. 5.787 - Protection of Natural Areas
- Law No 6.321 - Environmental Impact Assessment

In general, the current waste management situation in many provinces of Argentina is characterised by low collection and treatment rates and by the inadequacy or absence of environmental management facilities and pollution control measures at dumpsites. This leads to substantial environmental pollution including air and water contamination, odours and emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) and methane. These sources of pollution may negatively impact the health and overall quality of life of the local population. The Programme aims at phasing out the dumping of untreated waste, improving the current solid waste disposal practices and gradually bringing the provinces into compliance with international environmental standards. By tackling climate change and environmental risks through the reduction of GHG and sound waste management, the positive environmental impact of this project is considered as Excellent. Nonetheless, existing environmental risks during the construction and operation of the waste treatment facilities could include dust, noise, fires, odours, traffic congestion, biogas leaks, etc. These risks will be minimized and addressed during the design, construction and operation phases of the facilities through the development and implementation of site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP).

Every scheme will be screened in line with the national and/or provincial legislation and the MGAS to determine the need of an EIA.

An environmental and social management framework (ESMF or MGAS - Marco de Gestion Ambiental y Social) has already been prepared by the promoter. This document is aligned with good practices and EIB's key expectations for ESMF documents. It includes the eligibility and screening criteria to be applied to sub-projects, as well as the identification of key environmental risks and impacts associated to the different programme components. The MGAS establishes that Category A projects (high negative impacts), as defined by the IDB, will not be eligible for financing under this programme. The MGAS also provide relevant guidance for the development of key environmental and social planning documents, such as the site-specific ESMPs, PISOs, environmental communication plans and chance-find procedures. The MGAS (dated October 2020) will be updated to incorporate EIB's environmental and social standards.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

This is a Framework Loan where precise allocation and type of waste treatment facilities are not known yet. A Carbon Footprint calculation will be conducted for sub-projects, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO_{2e}/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO_{2e}/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Social Assessment

By improving the environmental conditions of waste disposal and treatment facilities, the Project will significantly benefit the living conditions, health and security of the surrounding population. The investments will also support social inclusion activities for informal waste pickers and recyclers, thus diminishing the socio-economic and environmental vulnerability of this group of marginalized workers, while formalizing and dignifying their labour situation. Informal waste



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workers will be supported in their transition to formal employment, and local associations will benefit from entrepreneurial opportunities. It is estimated that around 177 informal waster recyclers currently active on the targeted dumpsites will face involuntary economic displacement with the closure of these sites. Livelihood restoration measures and programmes will be established in Project-Specific Social Inclusion Plans (PISO), implemented by the promoter. PISO should include a final PAP census and be subject to Non-Objection from the EIB prior to disbursement. No involuntary physical displacement (primary dwellings) is anticipated for this project, and any scheme involving physical displacement will be considered not eligible for financing.

Vision of a gender perspective

A gender guidance will be developed together with different stakeholders. Women's involvement in the solid waste recycling industry - many of them single mothers with the presence of children - is shared with the burden of domestic work and care responsibilities for their dependent relatives, in particular boys and girls.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The promoter prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Framework (*plan de participacion de las partes interesadas - PPPI*). This document, still in a draft version (*borrador*), will have to be updated and enhanced in order to better align with international good practices and incorporate EIB's requirements.

For schemes requiring an ESIA, the Bank will require the promoter to undertake public consultation. In addition, a separate Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will be drafted for all large schemes prior to their allocation, for approval by the EIB and implementation by the promoter, including a grievance mechanism aligned with EIB requirements.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Work contracts will comply with the national legislation on labour and the ILO Fundamental Conventions, which have been ratified by Argentina. Argentina prohibits the work of children under 16 years of age. There is a risk of child labour at the dumpsites. Promoter will apply ILO and international Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) standards, integrating relevant provisions into the contractual arrangements with contractors for all schemes to be allocated under this loan. The MGAS includes requirements for contractors related to their DD in their supply chains in order to avoid forced labour. In addition, the promoter will ensure that human resources policies of all parties involved in the Project's implementation are aligned with the Bank's requirements of non-discrimination and equal opportunity.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against schemes that require an EIA or biodiversity assessment according to national and provincial environmental legislation without:

- receiving approval and consent from the competent authority; and
- having publicly disclosed the Non-Technical Summary of the EIA or the full EIA report.

For schemes subject to a screening decision and screened out from the EIA process, the promoter should deliver such decision from the competent authority together with the related documents and studies, prior to the Bank's approval of the allocation.



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For schemes that may have an impact on a protected area or conservation site, the promoter shall obtain confirmation from the competent nature conservation authority, or an equivalent confirmation satisfactory to the Bank, that the scheme does not have a significant negative impact on any such site. Such confirmation should be delivered to the Bank before the funds are allocated. Schemes with significant negative impacts on a nature conservation site shall not be eligible.

Category A projects (high negative impacts), as defined by the IDB, as well as any scheme with impact on Indigenous People, critical habitats, cultural heritage sites of high importance or triggering involuntary physical displacement will not be eligible for financing. For projects inducing the economic displacement of informal waste pickers or any other affected group, the promoter will prepare a Social inclusion plan (PISO) or a Livelihood restoration plan, as appropriate, either of which will need to meet EIB's requirements for economic displacements.

The promoter will update the MGAS and PPPI to align them with EIB standards

The promoter will implement the Project in full compliance of the environmental and social requirements contained in the MGAS and other environmental and social plans (ESMP, PISOS / LRP, PPPI, etc.), as well as EIB environmental and social standards. The promoter will provide periodic reporting on the implementation of these plans.

The promoter will include provisions against forced labour, child labour, gender-based violence and discrimination in all contracts financed under the EIB loan.

Under these conditions, the operation is acceptable in E&S terms.