



Luxembourg, 20 September 2023

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	TECHNOPOLES MAROC II
Project Number:	2022-0395
Country:	Morocco
Project Description:	Financing of expansion and sustainable development of Technopolis across Morocco
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme Framework Loan Operation. If located in the EU, some of the schemes might have fallen under Annex II of the EIA Directive and would need to be screened by the Competent Authority.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	NO

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The project consists of the design, preparation, and development of ten industrial sites (industrial clusters and science parks), developed by MEDZ as part of the national economic development strategy. The strategy aims to generate skilled jobs and support Morocco's sustainable growth by diversifying the economy and increasing its competitiveness. To that aim, focus is on sectors where Morocco has a competitive advantage: offshoring, automotive, electronics, aeronautics and space and agri-food. The creation of integrated industrial platforms (clusters) science parks (technopoles) is at the core of this strategy.

The project might trigger the national EIA Directive as it involves urban development activities. If the Moroccan competent authority require an EIA for the construction works, the Promoter shall provide the Bank a copy of the related environmental documents prior the allocation for review and publication where appropriate. This is identified as a disbursement condition for each relevant allocation.

The project's impacts at the construction stage are expected to be short-lived and reversible, at a level which is deemed acceptable. When needed, special mitigation measures will be considered in the designs in order to minimize impacts. Whilst there may be some minor negative impact during the construction/implementation phase of the sub-projects, substantial positive net environmental impacts of the investment programme are expected once the works are completed.

With the project being designed in compliance with best local construction standard for energy performance and assessed as not to be exposed to material physical climate hazards, it is considered to be aligned with both low carbon and resilience goals and the policies set out in the EIB Climate Bank Roadmap.

#### Social Assessment, where applicable

<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.



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Within the framework of the EU's New Agenda for the Mediterranean, this project will aid to create skilled employment and support Morocco's sustainable development and growth. Henceforth, it is compatible with several objectives, more specifically: i) Resilience, prosperity and digital transition, and ii) Ecological transition: climate resilience, energy and environment, iii) Human development and iv) Migration and mobility. The Project falls under "Green Partnership" (energy efficiency and climate adaptation components) as well as "Post COVID Recovery" (economic development, job creation) Team Europe Initiatives.

The Project is part of the new generation of the Industrial Acceleration Plan (IAP) and is based on integrated industrial platforms (P2I) and science parks and is in line with Morocco's New Development Model places sustainability and inclusiveness at the core of the territorial development.

The Promoter will take into consideration the current use of the land, aiming at avoiding both physical and economic displacement. When displacement cannot be avoided, the Promoter have to comply with the requirements of the EIB Standard of Involuntary Resettlement. To this end, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and, when required, individual Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) will be developed and implemented in compliance with EIB standards. For sites requiring displacement, due implementation of each RAP will be required before disbursement for the affected site can be approved. Attention should be paid to ensuring that the relevant resettlement documents adequately bridge gaps between national legislation and EIB standards.

Moroccan law is broadly consistent with ILO Labour Conventions, with some key exceptions. In addition, compliance with minimum wages and provisions on hours remains an issue. In order to ensure that the core principles and labour standards are followed, the relevant provisions will be included in the Project Procedures Manual to be approved by the EIB and be required in the tender documents for any contract. EIB health, safety and security standards will apply to the promoter and contractors throughout the project. Relevant guidelines will be included in the Project Procedures Manual, which will be approved ex-ante by the EIB. When relevant, road and traffic safety management plans will be required given the nature of some of the investments.

### **EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework**

The counterparty MEDZ is in scope but screened out the PATH framework because it is not considered a high emitting and/or high vulnerable counterpart.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

The project is at an early stage of design development with no public consultation being required to take place at the time of the Bank's appraisal. However, the promoter will be required to ensure appropriate stakeholder engagement satisfactory to the Bank, especially in relation to the selection of the sites, involuntary resettlement activities (if any) and occupational and public health and safety aspects during both construction and operation of the individual schemes.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

In line with the framework of the EU's New Agenda for the Mediterranean, this project will aid to create skilled employment and support Morocco's sustainable development and growth. The project entails education and training as well as research, innovation and digital components. It is further in line with integrated territorial development. It contributes to Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability goals.

The Project which encompasses the development and strengthening of industrial and innovative business infrastructure across Morocco will support economic growth and lead to



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significant job creation in Morocco. In addition, the financing of this project addresses coordination and/or network failures of RDI activities by facilitating the creation of synergy effects arising from knowledge sharing and collaboration, e.g. through cluster creation, bringing innovation to a level that is closer to the socially optimal. Such clusters will further support inter- and intra-industry linkages and benefit SMEs and would in turn increase both producer and consumer surplus in Morocco and beyond.

The Bank has previous experience with the Promoter, who proved capable to execute similar projects. At appraisal, the Project teams demonstrated experience and skills to necessary for the implementation and operation of the project under conditions satisfactory to the Bank.

In order to comply with the Bank's requirements, the following conditions and undertakings relating to environmental and social matters will be inserted in the Finance Contract and applied to the Project:

- In case a sub-Project would require an environmental impact assessment, the Promoter shall, before a disbursement request for that particular site, provide an electronic copy of the full assessment to the EIB, publish it in the Promoter's website. The EIA shall be fully compliant with EIB Environmental and Social Standards.
- As part of the criteria to select the location of the sites, the Promoter shall take into consideration the current use of the land, aiming at avoiding both physical and economic displacement. When displacement cannot be avoided, the Promoter shall comply with the requirements of the EIB Standard of Involuntary Resettlement. To this end, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and, when required, individual Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) shall be developed and implemented in compliance with EIB standards. For sites requiring displacement, due implementation of each RAP shall be required before disbursement for the affected sites can be approved.
- The Promoter shall provide to EIB copies of energy performance certificates or equivalent documents on completion of all investment schemes.
- The Promoter shall ensure accessibility to people with disabilities in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- The Promoter shall ensure that international labour standards are respected in all phases of the project, from concept to construction to operation. Appropriate conditions shall be included in bidding document and contracts, including reporting and monitoring requirements.
- The Promoter shall report to the Bank within 2 working days any accident with fatalities or severe environmental damage, or one that may generate widespread media interest.

Therefore, given the nature of the operation and subject to the conditions mentioned above, which are included in the Finance Contract, the Framework Loan is acceptable to the Bank in environmental and social terms