



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 23 December 2022

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)¹

Overview

Project Name:	EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA OPTICAL FIBER ROLL-OUT
Project Number:	2018-0392
Country:	REGIONAL- AFRICA
Project Description:	The project concerns the deployment of fibre optics networks in Uganda and Zambia where either this kind of networks are not available, or they are expensive and unreliable, which limits the development of digital services enabled by broadband access. The total length of the fibre network to be deployed will be around 4 350 km.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

Fibre to the towers has been deployed as a priority for both the Promoter and its customers, over cross border links. Subsequently, submarine cables have been deployed over 95 km only, compared to an initial plan of 1000 km. The project's technical description has been updated accordingly.

No significant environment or social issues were noted.

At the time of appraisal, the Promoter was in the process of developing the Environmental and Social capability for compliance with the Bank's requirements. Prior to disbursement, the Bank validated that the Promoter's Environmental Policy and Environmental Management Plan prepared with the support of an experienced consultant was aligned with the Bank's standards.

The presentation of the EIAs approved by the corresponding authority was set as a condition for the disbursements related to the concerned telecom network investments. The Promoter submitted the final project design as well as the required EIAs approved by all the relevant authorities prior to disbursement.

The promoter outsourced most of labour-intensive activities on the field to external contractors. In their contracts, there is a requirement for the contractors to be compliant with the national labour laws and applicable laws on occupational health and safety, as well as the promoter's policies on these matters. All contractors were required to take insurance for their employees/workers and provided proof of this.

The project generated positive impacts on the local communities through the hiring of local people for the civil works and opportunities for local businesses.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

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

¹ The template is for ILs and FLs