

Luxembourg, 26th September 2023

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: Water Supply Province North Brabant II
 Project Number: 2016-0144
 Country: The Netherlands
 Project Description: The project was part of a 2016-2021 investment programme into the production and distribution facilities of BW, Netherlands' second largest water supply company operating in the province of North Brabant.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The programme was mainly geared towards improving security and quality of drinking water supply including continued compliance with national and EU legislation. The main components concerned the upgrading and renewal of ground water treatment facilities (mainly production plants and water softening plants), the rehabilitation and renewal of distribution pipes, water meters, information and communication technology (ICT) items, and renewable throughout the service area of Brabant Water.

This was the second operation with BW (Brabant Water – Brabant Province Water Company), serving 2.46 million inhabitants in the southeastern region of the Netherlands called North Brabant. The programme was developed by an experienced promoter and took into consideration environmental and social aspects as required by national and European environmental requirements and in particular the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC, SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

The project generated long term positive environmental impacts through the protection of groundwater resources including active participation in the reduction of pesticide usage by farmers in collaboration with the Province and the Municipalities. Moreover, the rehabilitation of the distribution network resulted in reduction of water leakages along the network and thus improving the sustainable use of the groundwater resources.

In addition, the investments on further treatment of the drinking water via softening at 10 out of the 30 production locations had a significant positive impact to environment as it reduced the energy consumption at the household and also resulted in less use of detergents by consumers. Finally softening produces pellets of magnesium and calcium which are sold to the farmers thus promoting circular economy.

Other project components contributed to climate change mitigation, namely those generating energy efficiency gains at rehabilitated conveyance and distribution pipelines and at rehabilitated pumping stations and production sites as well as the installation of solar panels at two large fields as well as at several rooftops of production sites. For the renewable energy generation, the expected offset of energy consumption was estimated at 2% of total use (lower than foreseen due to the termination of the windmill sub-component).

Re the improved results on energy efficiency of the BW, the BW's CO₂ emissions have been reduced by 69% compared to 1990 levels and the overall energy consumption of the company has been further reduced by 1% after the completion of the works in 2021.



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Finally, the protection of increasingly strained ground water due to longer and more frequent dry periods with higher temperatures, contributed to climate change adaptation and thus contributed to a more climate resilient water supply.

The interventions of the programme's components were generally small and geographically dispersed with only some minor temporary negative impacts during construction works (dust, noise, traffic) occurring according to the Promoter's monitoring reports. None of the drinking water production sites were located within nature conservation areas.

The Promoter confirmed that none of the schemes under the 2016-2021 programme required a full EIA report.

The Promoter also confirmed that there were no project components that have negatively impacted any Natura 2000 areas due to the nature and location of the schemes.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

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