

Luxembourg, 01 August 2025

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: PORT VICTORIA REHABILITATION AND EXPANSION
 Project Number: 2008-0432
 Country: Republic of Seychelles
 Project Description: The project consists of the expansion of the commercial port within Port Victoria including the construction of a new 310 m quay south from the existing quay, the dredging works required for the berth pocket and the turning circle, as well as ancillary works and installations.

EIA required: Yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: No
 (details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and social assessment

The project consists of the rehabilitation and expansion of quay infrastructure as well as the deepening of certain areas within the basin of the commercial port of Port Victoria, and it comprises of the following works:

1. The extension of Mahe Quay from 370 m to 680 m by constructing a new deck-on-pile quay of 310 m at the same alignment as the existing quay;
2. Dredging the area in front of the existing and new quay and turning circle to -15.5 m chart datum, land reclamation and installation of a rock revetment under the new quay;
3. Backfilling of yard area behind the new quay;
4. The demolition of minor infrastructure and removal of wrecks within the project area;
5. All the necessary utilities and ancillary works to ensure a fully functional and state-of-the-art port terminal.

Environmental assessment

The project is not part of a plan or programme where a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) has been conducted.

If within the EU, the project would fall under Annex I of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. The project is classified as requiring a Class I EIA under the Environmental Protection Act (Act 9 of 1994) of the Republic of Seychelles.

An environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) report for the original project scope, which was wider, was completed in 2016 in accordance with the requirements of the regulations of the Government of the Republic of Seychelles and the EIB Environmental and Social standards applicable at that time. It was submitted to the competent authority and approval

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 CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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(Notice of Acceptance) was issued by Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and the Environment on 6 February 2017.

Since then, the project construction works have not started. This is primarily due to issues related to a non-workable detailed engineering design made available to the promoter in 2021. In 2023, the promoter decided to put in place an alternative project implementation strategy and opted for a design and build type of implementation. On that basis, the promoter conducted a front-end engineering design (FEED) which was completed in 2024 and which led to certain changes in the project scope and characteristics, including a significant reduction in the overall scope and changes to the preferred execution methodology.

As part of the FEED, it has become evident that the existing quay wall facilities, of the only international commercial port of the country, are in a status of serious disrepair. The infrastructure has exceeded its expected physical life. It is therefore of utmost importance that a facility that guarantees the safe operation of port activities is implemented.

Based on the proposed changes to the project as well as the time that has elapsed since initial environmental approvals were granted, the promoter decided to revise the ESIA in line with the characteristics of the updated project scope and re-submit it to the competent authority for their approval. For this purpose, the promoter is engaging the services of an experienced environmental consultant to do the required updates to the ESIA report, in line with national regulatory requirements and the current EIB's Environmental and Social Standards (2022). The updated ESIA report will be disclosed and consulted and submitted to the competent authority for their review and approval prior to awarding the contract for the design and build tender. The updated ESIA report will also be disclosed on the EIB's public register, prior to first disbursement.

The project is assessed as vulnerable to climate change risk. As part of the ESIA report a CRVA has been completed. The outcome of this assessment indicates and prescribes that all future design activities must consider the impact of climate change on the infrastructure and equipment to be financed under the project, which is the case under the FEED design and will be required as part of the design and build tender.

All physical infrastructure components to be financed under this project are considered activities that integrate measures to manage physical climate risks and ensure that the project's intended objectives are realised despite these risks. As such, the project is considered to contribute to the Bank's climate action – adaptation objectives.

Furthermore, all project components contribute to the climate action - mitigation objectives as they concern infrastructure and installations are dedicated to transshipping freight between the modes: terminal infrastructure and superstructures for loading, unloading and transshipment of goods and it is not dedicated to the transport or storage of fossil fuels.

The project is Paris aligned with the resilience goals as its residual climate risk is assessed as low.

Social assessment, where applicable

The project is located in an area already dedicated to port activities. No major social impacts are foreseen, no resettlement because of this project will take place, voluntary or involuntary, and no restriction of access to natural resources is expected in its vicinity.

Public consultation and stakeholder engagement

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Public consultations took place as part of the previous ESIA procedure in July 2015. Further consultation meetings took place with Civil Society and the Mount Fleuri Fishers Community in August and September 2016. Main issues raised in the consultations related to the preservation of a historic lighthouse in the main access channel to the port and access to the fisheries base to the north of the Commercial Port during construction. New consultations conducted for a wider scope than the proposed project works were done in 2022 and 2024 with Government port stakeholders and civil society. The preservation of the lighthouse is an important heritage issue, and the promoter has confirmed that it will be preserved. The promoter also committed to ensure that appropriate access is maintained to the fisheries base. The stakeholder consultation activities relevant to the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment will be implemented prior to finalization of the ESIA, as per national regulatory requirements and EIB E&S Standards.

Other environmental and social aspects

To reinforce the promoter's capacity, and to manage environmental and social risks as well as the implementation of the ESMP, the Promoter will engage the services of an experienced engineering consultant to conduct the design review and the supervision of the project works. The team will incorporate adequate expertise to manage the environmental and social aspects related to the project preparation and implementation. It will review the project's compliance with the measures indicated in the ESIA and performance indicators and it will provide regular reporting to the Bank on the matter.

Conclusions and recommendations

The project is considered high risk according to EIB Group's Environmental and Social Policy and requiring an ESIA according to national regulatory requirements. The measures for preventing the potential impacts are described in the ESIA report and will be updated as a part of the ongoing consultancy work. To ensure the project adheres to the Bank's Policy and the corresponding Environmental and Social Standards, the following is proposed:

Conditions

Prior to the award of the design and build contract

- The promoter shall put in place an engineering and supervision team, to the satisfaction of the Bank, to ensure that the contract can be adequately administered and managed in accordance with best international practice. Such team shall include expertise in the following fields: detail design review, public procurement, environmental and social management, contract management, project financial management. The team shall be in place until the design and build contract comes to an end and shall support the promoter in the submission to the EIB of the project completion report 15 months after the start of operation of the financed project;
- The promoter shall complete the update of the ESIA report, to the satisfaction of the Bank, and will obtain the required environmental approvals by the competent authority providing evidence of it to the Bank;
- The promoter shall integrate the measures proposed in the updated ESIA into the design and build contract for project implementation;
- The promoter shall ensure that the awarded contractor has sufficient staff for project implementation and with adequate competences on national and international environmental and social standards, as will be described in the updated ESMP;



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Prior to start of Works

- The promoter will provide evidence endorsed by the detailed design review consultant that neither further updates to the ESIA report nor the re-issuance of the environmental permit by the competent authority are required in line with national environmental regulations and the EIB Environmental and Social Standards;

Before all disbursements

- If required, the promoter shall implement any additional studies, analyses, surveys to complement the ESIA and the corresponding management plans, as required by the outcomes of the updated ESIA;
- The promoter shall submit evidence that project's ESMP and all respective management plans are being implemented to the satisfaction of the Bank and monitored throughout the project progress;
- The promoter shall ensure that the awarded contractor has sufficient staff for project implementation and with adequate competences on national and international E&S standards, as will be described in the updated ESMP;
- The promoter shall ensure that the engineering consultant has sufficient staff for ensuring project implementation with adequate competences in line with the ESIA commitments;

Undertakings

- The promoter shall ensure that all required permits, authorizations and approvals from the relevant authorities are obtained, and compliance is maintained throughout the project implementation;
- The promoter shall promptly inform the lenders on any significant environmental claims, proceedings or investigations commenced, pending, or risk of being initiated regarding environmental and social matters affecting the project;

On that basis, the project's is acceptable with minor negative impacts and is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.