

18/11/2025

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: ACOSOL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
 Project Number: 2024-0663
 Country: SPAIN
 Project Description: The project concerns the financing of water supply and wastewater schemes from the Promoter's investment programme over the period 2025-2029 ("the Project").

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

ACOSOL, the Project promoter, is a public company in charge of providing water and sanitation services to several municipalities of the western Costa del Sol ("Mancomunidad de Municipios de la Costa del Sol Occidental"), located in the Spanish province of Málaga.

Investments are aligned with the *Cuencas Mediterráneas* River Basin Management Plan (third cycle 2022-2027), which is part of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC), hence subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The Project will promote the sustainable use of water resources and reinforcement of adaptation to extreme drought events, thereby increasing the resilience to potential effects of climate change.

Water supply investments will focus on the upgrade of interconnections within ACOSOL's water sources of supply (*Ramal Este* and *Ramal Oeste*). It will also improve the operation of the system through the construction of new regulatory storage reservoirs (*Cabecera* and *Ramal Oeste* reservoirs), together with the water production capacity increase of Rio Verde Water Treatment Plant. Part of the loan will be also allocated to improve the energy efficiency of Marbella desalination plant, including photovoltaic panels and the preliminary study for a new desalination plant.

Investments in sanitation will focus on the upgrading of aged trunk sewers, currently facing sea water intrusion and preventing the potential use of reclaimed water for the irrigation of golf courses due to high levels of salinity. ACOSOL's investment plan will also upgrade its WWTPs to align with the requirements of the recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 2024/3019/EU, including energy cogeneration and deodorisation in wastewater and sludge treatment infrastructure. Both components will contribute to alleviate the overexploitation of the aquifers in the Costa del Sol area of Malaga.

The operation will contribute to the continuous alignment with the requirements of the applicable EU Directives in the water sector, notably, the recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (2024/3019/EU) and the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). The Spanish legislation has fully transposed the relevant EU Directives, including the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending

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.



Directive 2011/92/EC. Royal Decree 445/2023, of 13 June, amending Annexes I, II and III of Law 21/2013, of 9 December, on environmental assessment partially transposes 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 *Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico* is the competent authority. It may delegate responsibility for EIA regulation and implementation to regional governments (*Comunidades Autónomas*). It is the case for the proposed operation, whose competent authority will be the *Consejería de Sostenibilidad y Medio Ambiente* of Junta de Andalucía.

Large parts of the underlying investment programme consist of the upgrade and expansion of networks and facilities in urban and residential areas, with the main environmental impacts being those during construction (noise, dust, traffic, etc) and not normally requiring a full EIA, which is the case of the components to be financed by the Project. The resolution of the competent authority on the need for a simplified environmental impact assessment for the upgrade of wastewater treatment plants and the extension of tertiary treatment is still pending.

Some water conveyors will cross riverbeds protected by the Natura 2000 network, which will be considered when designing the component. It must receive the confirmation from the competent authority that there are no significant effects.

The Project will contribute substantially to the Bank's objectives of Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability by supporting investments that increase resilience to climate related risks (especially extreme drought events) and enhance the sustainable use and protection of water resources.

The Project has been assessed for Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned with both low carbon and resilience goals set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The Project is expected to bring important lasting benefits to the population, by increasing the quality and reliability of water and wastewater services. Potential social impacts include the possible disruption of services and traffic, noise and temporary occupation of public and private space, and safety hazards during construction only, common for this type of projects in urban environments, and will be addressed as part of the planning for each sub-operation.

Some components might require the acquisition of private property for public purpose. Once identified, ACOSOL will launch the expropriation procedure according to the national legal framework.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Promoter will have to ensure compliance with national and European environmental regulations and facilitate the access by the public to environmentally relevant information in accordance with the Bank's Transparency Policy.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

ACOSOL has an ISO 14001 certified Environment Management System and an ISO 9001 certified Quality Management System for its customer and human resources services.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Project is expected to have predominantly net positive environmental and social effects and contribute towards climate change adaptation.

All components covered by the Project will be subject to the Promoter complying with the following requirements:



- The promoter undertakes not to allocate Bank funds to programme components that require a full EIA until the EIA and/or the necessary nature assessment have been finalised and approved by the relevant competent authority. Once any EIA is available, the promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of the EIA, for publication on the EIB website.
- The promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against any scheme that impacts nature conservation sites, without receiving from the relevant competent authorities the declaration under Art. 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that there are no significant effects and informing the Bank of such declaration having been obtained.
- The promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decision and subsequent justification that screens out Project components from the requirement of a full EIA as well as the decisions issued by the competent authorities regarding the Habitats and Birds Directives.

Under these conditions the Project is acceptable for EIB financing in Environmental and Social terms.