

Luxembourg, 30th April 2025

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: ONEE AMELIORATION ET ASSAINISSEMENT III (AEP3)
 Project Number: 2022 0208
 Country: Morocco
 Project Description: The Project will support drinking water production in Morocco, through reinforcement and higher efficiency of production infrastructure

EIA required: no

Given the nature of the works, none of the components financed by the project should be subject to a full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). Nevertheless, where applicable, ESIA requirements will be maintained.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental impact assessment

The operation will support ONEE-Branche Eau's small-scale investments throughout Morocco in the water production and transport sectors. It aims to modernise, strengthen and optimise drinking water production and supply infrastructure for the country's small and medium-sized urban and rural centres. ONEE-Branche Eau remains the country's main producer and supplier of drinking water. This investment plan is an integral part of ONEE Water Division's National Drinking Water Supply and Irrigation Plan (PNAEPI) for 2020-2027.

The Moroccan legislative and regulatory framework applicable to the environmental aspects of the Project includes all the laws and regulations applicable to the water and sanitation sector, land use planning, town planning and local authorities, as well as environmental quality standards relating to emissions into air, water and soil. Morocco has a comprehensive and coherent legal framework for environmental impact assessment.

Law No. 11-03 on the protection and enhancement of the environment, promulgated by Dahir No. 1-03-59 of 12 May 2003, defines the principles and guidelines of an environmental legal strategy for Morocco.

Law 12-03 on environmental impact assessments, promulgated by Dahir no. 1-03-06 of 12 May 2003, establishes the list of projects subject to an ESIA, the procedure for carrying out the ESIA and the content of the ESIA submitted to the competent authorities. The latter comprise a national committee and regional committees, each responsible for ruling on the environmental acceptability of projects subject to an ESIA, depending on the amount of the investment in question. The national ESIA committee is chaired by the Department of the Environment. The

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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implementing decree for law 12-03, no. 2-04-563 of 4 November 2008, sets out the powers, operating procedures and membership of the national and regional committees responsible for ruling on ESIA's.

The water law (law 10-95), promulgated on 16 August 1995, aims to define a national water policy based on a forward-looking vision taking into account, on the one hand, the evolution of resources and, on the other hand, national water needs. It also addresses the legal provisions aimed at widespread access and rationalisation of water use, inter-regional solidarity, and the reduction of disparities between urban and rural areas in order to guarantee water security throughout the country. This law also provides a framework for contributing to improving the environmental situation of water resources (Decree No. 2-04-553 of 24/01/2005).

ONEE-Branche Eau has solid experience in the environmental and social management of projects and a long history of collaboration with funding agencies. It has set up an environmental monitoring and follow-up system for each project. This programme covers: (1) site monitoring and control: compliance with measures to mitigate the impact of the works phase; (2) operation monitoring and control: compliance with measures to mitigate the impact of the operation phase; (3) environmental monitoring of the receiving environment.

However, the eligibility criteria for this operation guarantee a typology of the investments to be made. On the basis of the typology described in the first paragraph, no investment should require an ESIA in accordance with the Moroccan legislative framework and European Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. This operation will not affect any protected areas.

Similarly, each investment is in line with the Paris Agreements and the operation is therefore aligned.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

- The counterparty ONEE is in scope and screened into the PATH framework, because it is considered high emitting and high vulnerability.
- The counterparty has agreed to develop its decarbonisation and resilience plans and publicly disclose a new or updated alignment plan.

Social Impact Assessment

No people are expected to be relocated as part of this operation. The social impacts are minor and concern the possible disruption of services, noise and the temporary occupation of public or private spaces, as well as traffic disruption. All these impacts will be taken into account by the environmental monitoring and follow-up system set up by ONEE-Branche Eau.

Public consultation and dialogue with stakeholders

Public consultation is a fundamental legal aspect of the Department of the Environment. It stipulates that environmental standards and procedures cannot be drawn up without taking into account the comments and suggestions of public and private partners. Decree no. 2-04-564 of 4 November 2008 lays down the procedures for organising and conducting public enquiries into projects subject to ESIA's. The promoter must ensure compliance with national regulations and EIB directives, and facilitate public access to the Project's environmental and social information, in accordance with the Bank's transparency policy.



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Conclusions and Recommendations

The project will support small-scale investments across Morocco within a comprehensive environmental and social legislative framework and by a promoter familiar with the Bank's requirements.

The investments will contribute to a significant improvement in the living conditions of the Moroccan population through improved quality of drinking water services and increased resilience to climate change impacts. The promoter must undertake to comply with the following conditions:

- The Promoter undertakes not to allocate any funds from the Bank to eligible components subject to an environmental and social impact assessment before the competent authority has given its final decision approving the project in question; the Promoter undertakes to provide the Bank, as soon as it is available, with an electronic version of the environmental and social impact assessment so that it can be published on the Bank's website;
- The Promoter undertakes not to allocate any funds from the Bank to eligible components likely to have an impact on protected natural sites without first receiving authorisation from the competent environmental authority and sending the aforementioned authorisations to the Bank.

In the light of the activities and conditions foreseen in the project, the operation is acceptable from an environmental and social point of view for the Bank, and therefore in favour of its financing.