

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Emergency Flood Relief and Prevention
Project Number:	2010-0479
Country:	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska entity
Project Description:	Emergency Flood Relief and Long Term Flood Management in Republika Srpska following the 2009 and 2010 floods.
EIA:	The vast majority of schemes under the programme concern reinstatement of damaged infrastructure, thus not requiring EIA's. Some schemes may however need modification (eg channels or dykes) and could be subject to EIA procedures or Birds/NATURA 2000 assessments.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

This investment programme concerns the emergency repair to key flood protection infrastructure along the Sava River flood plains and its tributaries, the Bosna, Drina, Vrbas, Velika Usora, Mala Ukrina and Vrbanja rivers in the Republika Srpska entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, following extensive damages at a large number of locations caused by the recent flood events of both 2009 and 2010. Such works include the repair of damaged dykes, channels, river beds, and pumping stations, but also flood risk management & prevention measures such as watershed management measures and early warning systems.

Being predominantly focused on the reinstatement of flood protection infrastructure, the project is expected on balance to have mainly positive environmental and social impacts. Positive environmental and social effects derive notably from reduced impact of floods and landslides over the environment and livelihoods, improved water supply/public health, and reduction of pollution from flooding.

The Water Agencies line ministry – the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, has a strong environmental capacity as the responsible ministry for water resource planning and management within the entity Republika Srpska. The promoter will be required to provide an Environmental Impact Screening Decision according to the requirements of Directive 97/11/ EC for each project before committing EIB funds. For projects that require an EIA according to the screening exercise the Promoter will be required to submit the non technical summary of the EIA to the Bank for review and publication on the EIB website prior to committing any EIB funds.

Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities and through standard and additional Bank financing conditions, the programme is acceptable in social and environmental terms.

Environmental and Social Assessment

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measures such as watershed management measures and early warning systems. This will help improve the resilience of the system to the effects of climate change.

Being predominantly focused on the reinstatement of flood protection infrastructure, the project is expected on balance to have mainly positive environmental and social impacts. Positive environmental and social effects derive notably from reduced impact of floods and landslides over the environment and livelihoods, improved water supply/public health, and reduction of pollution from flooding. A number of schemes may also have a negative impact on the environment, notably during the construction phase or where the course of a river or channel may need to be modified.

The main principles of the EC EIA Directive have been transposed into entity law (OJ of RS no. 109/2005), which is considered satisfactory to the Bank. As part of Bosnia and Herzegovina's status as a potential EU candidate country, a process is underway to achieve even closer approximation of its environmental laws and implementing regulations with the requirements of Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on "the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment" (EIA) as amended by Directive 97/11/EC and by Directive 2003/35/EC.

Regarding the protection of sensitive birds and habitats, entity law has not yet fully transposed the Habitat's Directive. The current structure of the protected areas is in transition from the old system used in Yugoslavian times and the real level of protection often falls short of the requirements of official provisions.

The Bank will require that principles and procedures similar to those used in the EU, i.e. those of the EU Habitat Directive, but also those of the EIA Directives not already covered by the national law be applied for schemes under this project. This is expected to be required for certain (i) new channels; (ii) new pumping stations; (iii) new flood protection schemes (iv) upper watershed management schemes. The promoter will be required to provide an Environmental Impact Screening Decision according to the requirements of Directive 97/11/EC for each project before committing EIB funds. For projects that require an EIA according to the screening exercise the Promoter will be required to submit the non technical summary of the EIA to the Bank for review and publication on the EIB website prior to committing any EIB funds. The Water Agencies line ministry – the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, has a strong environmental capacity as the responsible ministry for water resource planning and management within the entity Republika Srpska.

Along with the mentioned procedures and provisions concerning environmental protection aspects the programme is acceptable in terms of Environmental and Social Assessment.