

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	<i>WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROGRAMME</i>
Project Number:	<i>20120438</i>
Country:	<i>NICARAGUA</i>
Project Description:	The programme aims to address the deficit in access to drinking water and sanitation in urban areas of 19 medium-sized cities to benefit an estimated population of 520.000 inhabitants and to prepare investment conditions for a second phase in another 17 cities for 470.000 inhabitants.
EIA required:	yes (for wastewater treatment plants and some water supply interventions)
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	no

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

An EIA will be required for wastewater treatment plants with yield of 750 m<sup>3</sup>/day or more, being more restrictive than the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU). This will be the case of the wastewater treatment plants which will be part of the 5 cities funded by the EIB: Rivas, Nandaime, Condega, Rama-La Esperanza and Nueva Guinea. This requirement also applies to the 8 wastewater treatment plants to be financed by the other co-financiers parallel financing within the Programme. Aside one that has been obtained already, these shall be elaborated once the designs are ready.

EIA's are also required for 3 of the 15 water supply systems (Bilwi, Bluefields and Santo Tomás). These components fall under other co-financiers and will be implemented according to international standards, which are acceptable to the Bank.

Where required, the Promoter carries out Environmental Impact Assessment procedures and applies the prescribed mitigating measures. The Ministry of Environment (MARENA) independently monitors compliance with effluent discharge permits. The promoter shall submit the non-technical summary of the EIA and information on the EIA process and public consultations under this Programme to the Bank for review.

Environmental and social undertakings:

- The Promoter shall not commit any funds against any scheme that requires an EIA according to the national law without, prior to commitment, submitting the EIA and non-technical summary of the EIA to the Bank for review and publication on the Bank's website.
- The Promoter shall not commit any funds against any scheme located in a protected or sensitive area without receiving the consent from the competent environmental authority and submitting the relevant forms to the Bank.

This operation is acceptable to be financed by the Bank.

## Environmental and Social Assessment

### Environmental Assessment

The Promoter complies with the requirements of the national legislation, which are reflected in the Law 217/1996 of Environment and Natural Resources (Ley Medio Ambiente y de los Recursos Naturales) developed through a Decree (Decreto No. 76/2006 Sistema de Evaluacion Ambiental) which establishes in Articles 17 and 18 when EIAs should be carried out and when a simple assessment suffices followed by the issuance of declarations (“Avalos ambientales”). Further the SINAP -National System of Protected Areas- was created by the General Environmental Law (Law 217) by Article 17. At present there are 72 protected areas in the country. The RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands came into force for Nicaragua on 30 November 1997. Nicaragua presently has 9 sites designated as a Wetland of International Importance.

This Decree mandates in its Article 17 that an EIA is required for wastewater treatment plants with capacity of 750 m<sup>3</sup>/day or more, being more restrictive than the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU). Under a parallel co-financing structure of the Programme, this will be the case of the wastewater treatment plants which will be financed by EIB: Rivas, Nandaime, Condega, Rama-La Esperanza and Nueva Guinea.

Regarding the water supply systems, only environmental declarations are requested, except for the water systems in Bilwi, Bluefields and Santo Tomás (one component in a RAMSAR area and two falling under Article 17, Category II, High Impact).

For those systems that do not require an EIA, an environmental declaration by the competent authority has been issued or is in process.

The main negative environmental and social impacts of this program are typically the disturbances and nuisances of the works during construction phase and the impact of wastewater treatment plants during operation.

The mitigating measures during construction will include signalling construction sites, hiring local people for temporary works, restoring affected flora, monitoring noise produced by machinery and equipment.

Regarding mitigation measures during operation, this should focus on the adequate operation of wastewater treatment plants, preventing untreated effluent to be discharged in the rivers, lakes or the sea, as well as ensuring adequate monitoring by competent authorities.

Some of the receiving waters are classified as sensitive (ie. Lake of Nicaragua) and the project shall ensure that effluent discharged to them is treated according to legislation.

The promoter shall not commit any funds against schemes that require an EIA according to national law without, prior to commitment, submitting the EIA to the Bank for review and publication on the Bank's website. In case of a protected or sensitive, the promoter shall not commit any funds without receiving the consent from the competent environmental authority and submitting the relevant forms to the Bank.

### Social Assessment

Social impacts include the disruption to services, noise, and temporary occupation of public or private space, traffic disruptions, and safety hazards during construction. All these impacts will require strict management to minimise the negative disturbances, inconveniences and impacts.

The project will generally benefit public health, either by increasing or improving access to water and sanitation services, or by collecting and treating wastewater before discharging into receiving waters bodies.

The project should not lead to negative impacts on local employment, health or social equality. The project is not expected to affect vulnerable groups or sites of cultural heritage.

The promoter is a public enterprise that applies acceptable labour standards. No resettlements are foreseen.

**Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required**

Public consultation is foreseen as part of the national EIA process.

**Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

*None*