

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: Viveracqua Hydrobond
 Project Number: 2013 0515
 Country: Italy
 Project Description: Innovative structured financing of local water utilities in the Italian Region of Veneto.

EIA required: YES

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

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

The planned investments include water treatment plant upgrades, works on water distribution, wastewater collection and drainage networks, wastewater treatment plant upgrades, and directly related items such as SCADA systems. Considering their contributions to resource efficiency from reduction of energy consumption, water resource savings, and an improved reliability and quality of drinking water and recipient water bodies, the investments are expected to have positive net environmental and social impacts. Furthermore, the investments contribute towards compliance with amongst others the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EC and the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.

The promoters all have a long track record in their respective fields with dedicated systems in place to meet the regulatory requirements, such as environmental management systems for operation, planning and implementation.

Large parts of the works are to take place in urban areas, with the main impacts being those during construction (noise, dust, traffic), normally not requiring an EIA. Some projects do however need an EIA and for others this is to be confirmed by the competent authority on the basis of the criteria defined in Annex III of the Directive of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EC).

The investments are expected to have predominantly net positive environmental and social effects and are acceptable for Bank financing, subject to the promoters complying with the following requirements:

1. The promoters undertake not to allocate the Bank's funds to programme components that require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) until the EIA and/or the necessary nature assessment has been finalized and approved by the competent authority. Once any EIA report is available, the promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of its Non-Technical Summary (NTS) for publication on the EIB website.
2. The promoters shall not commit any EIB funds against any scheme that impacts nature conservation sites, without receiving the consent from the competent Authority regarding the Habitats and Birds Directives and informing the Bank of such consent having been obtained.
3. The promoters undertake to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decision that screens out project components from undertaking full Environmental Impact Assessments as well as the decisions issued by the competent Authority regarding the Habitats and Birds Directives.
4. Promoters will carry out Strategic Environmental Assessments for investment programmes as and when required under Italian Law and obtain the competent

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Authority's approval prior to committing any EIB funds to individual investments within such programme.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Even where no EIA is required, there will still be some environmental impacts. Most of these activities occur during construction and are temporary. The promoters already implement appropriate mitigating measures to minimise impacts and have a long experience of care for the environment since the Region has had higher environmental standards than elsewhere in Italy due to the sensitive nature of the Venice Lagoon. No major environmental issues are foreseen.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Some components in the investment programmes will contribute toward increased resilience of the water and wastewater management services to climate related risks such as increased droughts and floods. In addition, activities concerning network rehabilitation and reduction of water losses and efficiency improvement and recycling efforts on the solid waste sector may contribute to reduce carbon emissions, which however will be below thresholds for inclusion in the Carbon Footprint Exercise.

Only one site could be visited in the context of this operation, namely the Arzignano wastewater treatment facility operated by Acque Del Chiampo. The plant, of 1.5 million p.e. capacity predominantly serves a large industrial customer base. The health, safety, security and environmental standards appeared to be good.