

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Europac Industrial Packaging Plant in Tangier	
Project Number:	2013-0514	
Country:	Morocco	
Project Description:	The project consists in the development of a corrugated packaging plant in Tangier comprising a corrugator and three additional converting lines for the production of cardboard packaging.	
EIA required:	Yes	
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No	

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

The proposed project comprises the relocation of an existing packaging operation from a commercial and industrial estate on the outskirts of Tangier to a major new industrial zone, further from the city. The new zone, which is still under construction, will accommodate large manufacturing investments in general, typically with Free Trade Zone authorisation and investments by automotive component manufacturers in particular. The zone is located close to an existing Renault car manufacturing facility.

In addition to relocating, the new plant will have a substantially greater capacity, and increase the local value added by including a critical upstream manufacturing stage. At present, the operation comprises the folding, printing and cutting of corrugated board to create packaging (cardboard boxes), typically for automotive component manufacturers. The corrugated board is imported as large rolls from the parent company's corrugation facilities in Europe. The new plant will have its own corrugating machine which takes paper supplied on large bobbins and rolls it into a corrugated profile in a continuous rotary press. That corrugated paper is then lightly glued and sandwiched between two further sheets of paper to create the corrugated board structure. This process may be repeated to build up multiple laminations depending on the thickness and mechanical properties required.

The process is essentially clean: the papermaking taking place in Europe to European standards and all paper and board waste is readily recyclable locally. The only waste which needs to be controlled is a limited volume of ink residue from cleaning and product changeovers. The washing water will be collected and treated in an in-house waste water treatment plant, with the sludge being collected for disposal by an accredited waste management company.

The plant is located close to the new port of Tangier, for the import of bulk paper, and a large proportion of its output will be absorbed by major component manufacturers on or near the same industrial zone. The packaged goods will then, in turn, be exported from the new port. The remaining capacity will mainly target protective packaging for exported fruits and vegetables produced in the Northern part of Morocco. The proposed location will therefore avoid the unnecessary transportation by road over long distances of bulky packaging materials.

The net effect of the project should be positive as compared to either the status quo, or the alternative of companies in the North of Morocco sourcing their low value density packaging materials from existing manufacturers in the centre and south of the country.

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.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The proposed site has a total area of 3.3 ha and forms part of the first 50 ha phase of a large scale industrial zone near Tangiers: Tanger Automotive City (TAC). The fully serviced site is being acquired from a special purpose government agency which created the zone following an EIA in accordance with national law. The TAC is part of a wider regional development programme involving the establishment of a new town which has been the subject of some controversy. The TAC itself appears to have been acceptable with no significant voices against it. It should be noted that the TAC has its own internal management regulations which seek to maintain the quality and appearance of the development.

It is unlikely that the proposed plant would have required an EIA by the Competent Authority if it were to have been located on a similar site within the EU. However, an EIA to Moroccan standards was required and has been received by the Bank. Funds will not be disbursed until proofs have been supplied that all building and planning permits have been granted, including compliance with national environmental standards.

The principle environmental impact during the construction phase is likely to be from trucks bringing infill and construction materials. However, the site is distant from any local communities and access is via main highways. There are no habitations nearby.

In operation, with the exception of a small quantity of waste ink, and flue gas emissions from the in-house oil fired CHP facility, the waste from the production: paper and cardboard offcuts, is clean and may be readily recycled locally. The project includes a small waste-water treatment facility for washing water. The discharge will be monitored by the local authority, which will also manage the non-industrial effluents and the surface water drainage.

In use, the plant's output: cardboard boxes will mostly be exported to EU countries where they will enter the normal waste streams for recycling or use as biomass for energy production.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The numbers employed will increase, with all recruitment locally, and all existing employees will transfer to the new site. The Promoter is the subsidiary of a major EU paper producer and the common EU standards of health and safety will apply to the new plant. The procedures are already in place and being applied in the existing factory.

In conformity with Moroccan Law, transport by bus will be provided for all employees from local conurbations; principally Tangiers. The plant will operate on a single shift initially but is expected to eventually operate on a 24 hour basis with a four shift rotation for the staff.

The construction phase has a particular potential for negative environmental and social impacts. At appraisal, the construction contract had not been awarded so the specific rules and regulations to be followed were not defined. It is also possible that the TAC may have specific regulations covering behaviour on the site during construction in the same way as it has during the operational phase of companies occupying the site. It is believed that there are sufficient building workers available within a reasonable travel to work distance to avoid the need for on-site habitations which could be source of negative social impacts.

However, in the event of on-site habitations ("*camp du vie*") being proposed or required, they would need to be in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment. Such a camp would require prior authorisation, based on a plan to be prepared showing, the location and capacity of the camp, the sanitary facilities to be provided, the household waste management system, the waste water management system, based on a supply of 70 l/employee/day, and fire protection systems. The plan should also show how the site would be made good after completion of the construction.