

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ADMINISTRATIVE & URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE (ECUADOR)
Project Number:	20130528
Country:	ECUADOR
Project Description:	Construction/adaptation of public administrative buildings and associated government infrastructure for social and economic activities
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 project located in Quito, capital of Ecuador, comprises the rationalisation of public administration into two so-called thematic platforms, the Social Services and the Strategic and the Public Enterprises platforms, and the construction of the associated buildings and infrastructure. The objective of the project is twofold. In the first instance, the provision of well-equipped and smart infrastructure will improve the provision of public services. This is one of the goals put forward in the Strategic Development Plan, (Plan del Buen Vivir - the Good Living Plan, a governmental rolling plan updated every 4 years), whose ultimate objective is to change the economic and production matrix, having the society currently too dependent on raw materials. The second is to fighting against extreme poverty by improving the territorial balance of the country regarding economic and social opportunities.

Furthermore, the construction of these buildings in Quito, together with the metro also co-financed by the Bank, will transform the city. The Social Services platform will be located in the low socio-economic district of Quitumbe, south of Quito. It will contribute to the regeneration of the area. The Strategic Sectors and Public Enterprises platform is situated close to the business area. It will reinforce Quito economic attraction creating new opportunity areas. The implementation of both platforms is consistent with the Quito urban development strategy that envisages a polycentric city with a balanced provision of public services in all areas.

The construction of the so-called platforms will under the Ecuadorian legislation, require Environmental Permits of Category II. To comply with this, an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) has been carried out during the project preparation. The ESIA addresses the EIB's environmental and social requirements and standards and the legal framework at both the national and local level.

Following the completion of the two financed platforms final construction designs in June 2014, the promoter will present the Environmental Application and Management Plan to the Competent Authority², which are necessary conditions to obtain the aforementioned Environmental Permit II and thus, the construction permits. The plan takes into consideration all potential impacts and mitigation measures during the construction and operational phase of the project.

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.

² The Ministry of Environment is the Ecuadorian environmental competent authority.

It is considered that project will have a positive social impact given its urban regeneration component, especially in the southern suburb of Quitumbe. Given the urban nature of the project, there are no areas with high biodiversity values that will be affected by the projects.

Given the nature of the operation and the monitoring requirements in the project, the EIA and nature protection measures put in place by the Competent Authorities in Ecuador, the project is acceptable in environmental terms. The overall net environmental and social impact of the projects is positive, with improved environment and in particular social conditions for the inhabitants of the concerned areas in Ecuador.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Legal Framework

Ecuador's Constitution in force since 2008, includes several articles for the protection, control and care of the environment and the rights of Mother Earth. The country is also a signatory of international conventions regarding biodiversity, cultural heritage, climate change and the Kyoto Protocol. Furthermore under the Ecuadorian institutional and regulatory framework for the management of environmental assessments, the construction of commercial and administrative buildings belongs to the category II, category IV being the category with the highest environmental impact. Although this activity is considered to have a low impact on the environment, the promoter has to present to the Environmental Authority, the Ministry of the Environment, different certificates, descriptions of the main objectives of the project and its location.

Environmental Assessment

In order to fulfil the environmental conditions to obtain the environmental permits, the so-called Environmental Application and the Environmental Management Plan have to be submitted to the Environmental Authority. This is a precondition for obtaining the construction permits from the municipality of Quito. All information concerning the environmental authorisation is transparent and disclosed to the public.

Regarding the impacts on the environment, it is expected that some negative impacts will occur during construction phase. Additionally, during operation, the concentration of activities in two locations is accompanied by a detailed mobility plan where soft and public transport modes are promoted, while minimising the use of private vehicles.

Nature and Biodiversity

The plots where the platforms are to be built in urban consolidated areas, therefore no significant negative impacts on the nature or the biodiversity are expected.

Risk of Natural Hazards

The City of Quito is located in a region of high seismic activity and therefore the buildings will be built according to national and international construction standards.³

Occupational Health and Safety

During the construction phase, the contractors will be required to follow the Occupational Health and Safety Management procedure as set up by the Promoter, which addresses the continuous identification of dangerous conditions, evaluation of associated risks and implementation of control measures. Activities will be routinely monitored.

Community Health and Safety

³ Norma Ecuatoriana de Construcción 2011- 2011 Ecuadorian Construction Rules

No significant risks or impacts on community health and safety are expected as a result of the project activities, and those minor risks that were identified are being mitigated through the different management plans in place. The primary risk to community health and safety could be associated to traffic safety by an increased volume of truck traffic during the construction phase and increased traffic during operation. This would be more noticeable for the Strategic Sectors platform situated in the city business area. The Promoter has included measures to discourage the private vehicles use in its mobility plan. These measures will be more effective when the metro is completely in operation. The Promoter will have a traffic management plan that requires close coordination with local traffic authorities and traffic signs around the construction site.

Land Acquisition and Livelihood Compensation

All plots to be developed are State property with no current inhabitants. No resettlement plan has been required.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The platforms construction has been included in the 2012-2022 Metropolitan Spatial Planning. The municipal plans are subject to public information and consultation. In addition, during construction the works committee formed by INMBILIAR and SERCOB, will monitor the works execution and will continuously publish the progress.

Institutional Capacity of the Promoter

The Promoter's in-house capacity in social and environmental risk management is considered somewhat limited but improving. Although the requirements of the project concerning the EIA, nature protection measures and environmental permitting are put in place by the Competent Authorities in Ecuador, the additional monitoring requirements made by both EIB and IADB towards an enhanced environmental and social monitoring of the implementation of the concerned schemes, will in summary and combined, create the necessary conditions to assure a project execution in an institutional framework acceptable to EIB.