

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *MEDIPOLE HOSPITAL*
 Project Number: *20140001*
 Country: New Caledonia

Project Description: The project consists in the construction of a new hospital located in Koutio, city of Dumbea sur Mer (on the outskirts of Nouméa, capital city of New Caledonia). The new hospital will be the leading hospital for the whole territory and will replace 4 existing hospitals operating currently on sites to be decommissioned. The project is undertaken in close cooperation with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

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

An EIA is required according to the national legislation and has been carried out for the promoter. The Bank has been provided with a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), including a non-technical summary (NTS, published on the Bank website), demonstrating full compliance with EIB Statement on Environmental and Social Principles and Standards.

The project is not expected to have significant negative environmental impact according to the EIA and to the various other certificates issued by the central and local authorities in New Caledonia for the construction of Medipole (green building certificate, construction permit, etc). Mitigation measures have been proposed and implemented for the minor impacts identified and they will continue to be monitored by the Bank during the entire project implementation period.

Apart from a minor resettlement issue (that had been solved by the time of the starting of the construction works in 2010), the project is not expected to provoke any significant negative social impacts. On the contrary, it will have a significant positive impact by providing access to a larger package and much improved quality of hospital services, without the need for evacuation to other countries for the appropriate level of care.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project is not expected to have significant negative environmental impact according to the EIA carried out by the promoter. The minor impacts are related mostly to the preservation of the maritime landscape (especially mangroves) and have been already addressed during the design and construction phase (works started 2010) by an approved deforestation and reforestation plan. The EIA also mentions that the project is not expected to have any significant impact on any zone of nature conservation.

The new hospital building has been audited by the in New Caledonia and certified as a high quality environment protection building « NF Bâtiments tertiaires – Démarche Haute Qualité

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.

Environnementale HQE ® », the first to be certified in New Caledonia. The construction permit has been issued and no contestation has been recorded during the 3 months period of public debate.

Environmental benefit are envisaged as the new construction is designed to be 40% more efficient in terms of energy savings when compared with a standard building design and norms in New Caledonia, with 70% of the energy being solar generated.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The project has significant positive impact on the entire population of New Caledonia, by providing access to a larger package and much improved quality of hospital services, without the need for evacuation to other countries for the appropriate level of care.

The sole adverse social impact already dealt with by the Government during the preparation of the project in 2005-2006 concerned the involuntary resettlement of approximately 65 families of squatters from the project's footprint and their relocation into social housing units in Dumbea in the southern region of the island. In undertaking the relocation, the Government signed a collective agreement with affected households that ensured both attention to their needs for shelter and safe tenure, as well as social accompaniment in securing viable livelihoods. A follow up survey conducted by the Government in September 2010 showed that out of the 65 families, 10 had left the site by their own well before the relocation started, 13 had come up with a personal solution, one family could not be found (but left the site) and the Government relocated 41 families. It is requested that the authorities in New Caledonia responsible for the relocation of the squatters will report in detail to the Bank on the process and any corrective measures deemed necessary will be addressed by the Promoter in accordance with EIB's standards, as relevant. The EIA mentioned the potentially positive impact arising out of the appropriate relocation of the squatters, given they would be removed from their unsanitary living conditions and related potential public health issues will be duly prevented.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

As a Government owned and implemented project, all public stakeholders had been consulted in the preparation phase, as well as during implementation. Relevant authorities issued necessary permits and certifications and local authorities support the project through all its needed actions: provision of relocation opportunities for squatters, utilities and roads access etc. The public has been consulted on the nature and solution of the project as part of the EIA process and no particular claims or suggestions were registered for any environmental or social aspect. Information related to the project is disclosed and will be regularly updated on the Government's website, whilst access to grievance and recourse is ensured via the relevant channels available to all citizens.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Government of New Caledonia actively supported the participation of the local companies into the structure of different consortia participating in tenders for the new hospital construction.