

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

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| Project Name:  | PROJET ENERGIE GUINEE  |
| Project Number:  | 2014-0040  |
| Country:   | GUINEA   |
| Project Description:   | <i>The project scope subject to the Bank's financing is a programme of investments comprising rehabilitation of four hydropower plants Grand Chutes, Donkea, Baneah and Garafiri (in total 122 MW currently operating at maximum of 75 MW), building of the substation Sonfonia 2 (Casse), rehabilitating the substations Sonfonia and Kipé and rehabilitation and extension of the distribution network in three districts of Conakry (Dixinn, Raoma and Matoto).</i> |
| EIA required:  | yes  |
| Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :                             | yes  |
| (details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise") |  |

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

All schemes but one in the scope relate to the rehabilitation of existing assets or extensions within existing boundaries. One high-voltage substation in Conakry would, if implemented in Europe fall under Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU and require a screening for a full EIA by the competent authority. In this case the competent authority has required an ESIA to be conducted, following national law<sup>2</sup> and guidelines<sup>3</sup>. This has not yet been implemented but its completion and approval by the competent authority and the Bank is a condition to disbursement of Bank funds to this particular programme component. A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) has been prepared as the exact locations for the rehabilitation of distribution infrastructure have yet to be identified. The RPF contains guidance for preparing specific resettlement action plans (RAPs) for impacts related to land acquisition and loss of economic activities and assets. These will be presented to the Bank before disbursement to related elements.

The hydropower-plants will be repaired with main equipment replaced but without extension or changes to the dam structure. Therefore these works do not require a full ESIA nor do the other network investments given their size and technical characteristics. Environmental and social impacts are in general limited to work on-site and transports to the sites.

The programme is expected, in general, to positively impact the beneficiary communities by improving the quality and reliability of electricity services that are provided to them. The net social and environmental effect of the project is expected to be highly positive as renewable energy production facilities are restored to replace fossil emergency generation and better access to reliable energy will improve living conditions for the beneficiaries in Conakry. Households, which currently depend on illegal connections for electricity, will not be left without electricity but will be connected by legal connections through extension of the network; and businesses and institutional users (local government, schools, places of worship, etc.) would also benefit from more reliable service provision. The potential negative

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

<sup>2</sup> Code de la protection et de la mise en valeur de l'environnement. Ordonnances n°045/PRG/87

<sup>3</sup> Guide général de réalisation des études d'impact environnemental et social. Bureau Guinéen d'Études et d'Évaluation Environnementale, Février 2013.

environmental and social impacts of the proposed project activities are expected to be small-scale and site-specific.

There are no significant and/or irreversible adverse environmental and social issues expected from any of the programme activities. Infrastructure investments largely include the existing distribution network of Conakry. Impacts are anticipated as a result of the activities to rehabilitate existing hydropower plants and to reinforce, and expand the primary and secondary distribution grid on middle- and low-voltage level.

Some transformers that are replaced in the context of this project are expected to contain PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyl). The civil works and insulations of old equipment may contain asbestos. In order to mitigate any associated leakage risks it is proposed that the promoter be requested to provide a mapping study of PCB-contaminated transformers and asbestos contamination related to the project and a disposal plan (approved by competent environmental authority).

Given the conditions in place and the fact that the potential negative environmental and social impacts of the proposed activities are expected to be small-scale and site-specific, the programme is considered to be acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.

## **Environmental and Social Assessment**

### **Environmental Assessment**

An environmental and social audit of the promoter was carried out by an independent consultant in order to take stock of the current situation in terms of managing the environmental and social aspects and to identify any possible gaps between national legislation, safeguards policies and international standards and good practice. The audit covers all elements of a comprehensive Power Sector Diagnostic and Recovery Plan, which includes the elements subject to EIB funding. The audit report specifies requirements for mitigation and monitoring measures, which are to be implemented by the promoter through an internationally tendered management and services contract. The main focus of the audit was on identifying any risks that the promoter would need to manage and mitigate going forward. The recommendations of the audit, including its environmental and social management plan and monitoring framework, will feed into the environmental and social obligations required by the World Bank.

Existing challenges were found, among others, in the areas of managing solid and liquid waste and air emissions; health and safety at the work place; populations living and practicing livelihood activities in close proximity to energy system facilities despite the potentially dangerous conditions; dissatisfaction of the population who have been previously displaced by the dam construction; and lack of an internal environmental policy and qualified environmental and social staff to implement it.

Given that the programme is mainly to rehabilitate existing assets within existing boundaries, there are no induced impacts on biodiversity or protected habitats.

The main recommendations for improvement, in order to ensure compliance and alignment with Bank standards and international best practice, can be divided into three broad groups: capacity building; managing the environmental and social impacts; and environmental and social monitoring. Capacity building activities will entail creating a designated environmental unit within the promoter's organisation with appropriate staffing and resources. The staff, including a focal point on social aspects, will require training on the environmental and social policies and required instruments as well as health and safety guidelines. This will be provided by the World Bank.

Environmental and social management framework (ESMF) included within the audit contains detailed guidance on necessary actions to mitigate the potential impacts and risks identified in

the current practices. The first step is to develop an internal environmental policy. Other measures include for instance providing employees with protective equipment, instructing them on the proper maintenance of equipment, managing and disposing of solid and liquid waste according to environmental guidelines, paying attention to restoring degraded habitats, etc.

### **EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

The estimated emissions savings are 122 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year given the replacement of fossil generation in temporary emergency power plants with renewable generation. For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

### **Social Assessment**

A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) has been prepared as the exact locations for the rehabilitation of distribution infrastructure have yet to be identified. The RPF contains: (i) an assessment of the country regulatory and institutional framework for land acquisition and compensation; (ii) likely categories of affected assets and parties, as well as the scope of impacts; (iii) a gap analysis and a compensation framework; (iv) measures to assist vulnerable groups; (v) a consultation framework to enable the participation of affected populations in the preparation of specific resettlement plans; (vi) an institutional framework to implement the resettlement policy framework; (vii) a grievance redress mechanism; and (viii) a monitoring and evaluation framework and budget.

The RPF also contains guidance for preparing specific resettlement action plans (RAPs) for issues related to land acquisition and loss of economic activities and assets to minimize negative impacts. The promoter will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the RPF and/or subsequent RAPs to ensure compliance with national and Bank policies and procedures. Training in safeguards will be provided by Bank safeguards staff to facilitate these activities. Regular monitoring reports (two per year) on the implementation of environmental and social safeguards provisions will be provided to the Bank for approval. These reports will be verified during project implementation support missions, which will include environmental and social safeguard experts.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

Consultations with stakeholders were carried out during RPF preparation and the final document has been disclosed.

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The RPF will feed into the promoter's social obligations in the bidding documents. The promoter, through the management and services contract, will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the RPF and/or subsequent RAPs to ensure compliance with national and Bank policies and procedures. Training in safeguards will be provided by World Bank safeguards staff to facilitate these activities. Regular monitoring reports on the implementation of environmental and social implementation will be provided to the Bank for approval.