

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	Mauritius Ethanol Project
Project Number:	2013-0105
Country:	Mauritius
Project Description:	Development of an ethanol plant for biofuel purposes with CO ₂ capture. The key objective of this operation is to add value through the further processing of molasses, itself a by-product of the processing of sugar cane.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.

Overall, the proposed project is having a positive environmental impact through:

1. The conversion of a by-product of the sugar-making process: molasses, into industrial quality ethanol for use as either an input for manufacturing industry or as a substitute for fossil fuels.
2. The process' by-product: Condensed Molasses Solubles, are being converted into an organic fertiliser, substituting for fertilisers shipped to the island from overseas.
3. The CO₂ released as part of the production process is being captured for use on the island, again substituting for liquefied CO₂ imports shipped in from overseas.
4. If the Mauritian government introduces a requirement for ethanol/petrol blended fuels, the plant has sufficient capacity to meet an E5 programme.
5. The main components of the project were previously located in the centre of the town of Rose Belle, where the original owners operated it without the benefits of CO₂ recovery or CMS conversion. The town centre location was also inappropriate for this type of industrial activity. The new location is within a bio-processing complex, remote from any centres of population.

The production process has been integrated with an existing biomass-based power plant for the supply of thermal and electrical power, minimising the plant's own carbon footprint, and the treatment of final waste water is in accordance with Mauritian legislation and good international practice.

The project is located on an industrial zone which was the object of an Environmental Impact Assessment when it was created. The project was specifically identified as part of the scheme and all required mitigation measures have been put in place.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter, and site visits by the EIB team that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards applicable at appraisal.