

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Medium Sized Utility Programme – Veritas Acqua e Rifiuti
Project Number:	2014 0234
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	Investments in water distribution services and in wastewater and solid waste collection and treatment services
EIA required:	Some components to undergo screening
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

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

The planned investments include upgrades to water treatment plant, works on water distribution, wastewater collection and drainage networks, upgrades to wastewater treatment plant, directly related items such as SCADA systems, new solid waste collection equipment, and new and upgraded material recovery facilities. These investments are expected to have positive net environmental and social impacts, considering their contributions to resource efficiency from recycling, reduction of energy consumption, savings in water resource, and an improved reliability and quality of drinking water and improved quality of recipient water bodies. Furthermore, the investments contribute towards compliance with, amongst others, the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC, the Landfill Directive 99/31/EC, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EC and the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.

It is not expected that the components will require an EIA, however (i) the Campalto extension with a sand and grit treatment facility and (ii) the planned plastic sorting and refinement facility will both be subjected to a screening by the Competent Authority. Some water and wastewater investments are near or in Natura 2000 areas and an assessment in line with the Habitats Directive will be carried out. .

The water and wastewater investments are part of a “Piano d’Ambito” originally prepared in 2003 when it was not subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Although at the time it underwent a similar review, given recent updates to the plan, the current version will undergo an SEA. The solid waste components respond to a provincial waste management plan that has been subject to an SEA.

The investment programme is expected to have net positive environmental and social effects and is acceptable for Bank financing. The promoter will be required to comply with the following requirements:

The promoter undertakes not to allocate the Bank’s funds to programme components that require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) until the EIA and/or the necessary nature assessment has been finalised and approved by the competent authority. Once any EIA report is available, the promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of its Non-Technical Summary (NTS) for publication on the EIB website. In lieu of the document itself, the promoters can also provide a link to its own or a competent Authority’s website where such document can be found.

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.

The promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against any scheme that impacts nature conservation sites, without receiving the consent from the competent Authority regarding the Habitats and Birds Directives and informing the Bank of such consent having been obtained.

The promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decisions that screen out project components from undertaking a full Environmental Impact Assessment as well as the decisions issued by the competent Authority regarding the Habitats and Birds Directives.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Italian legislation delegates the environmental and related screening decisions and approvals to the Regions.

Whilst none of the planned components of the project are expected to require an EIA, for the time being two components will be screened nonetheless: (i) the Campalto extension with a sand and grit treatment facility and (ii) the planned plastic sorting and refinement facility.

Even where no EIA is required, there will still be some environmental impacts. Most of these activities occur during construction and are temporary. The promoter already implements appropriate mitigating measures to minimise impacts and has a long experience of care for the environment since the Region has had higher environmental standards than elsewhere in Italy due to the sensitive nature of the Venice Lagoon. No significant environmental issues are foreseen.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Some components in the investment programme will contribute towards increased resilience of the water and wastewater management services to climate related risks such as increased droughts and floods. In addition, activities concerning network rehabilitation and reduction of water losses and efficiency improvement and recycling efforts on the solid waste sector may contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions.