

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	KUTAISI WASTE WATER PROJECT
Project Number:	2014-0323
Country:	Georgia
Project Description:	Investments to build, rehabilitate and modernise municipal water sector infrastructure.
EIA required:	yes

(The EIA procedure is still ongoing and final approval from the competent authorities is pending. Approval of the final version of EIA including Non-Technical Summary for Kutaisi Wastewater Project to the satisfaction of the Bank is condition for the 1st disbursement.)

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

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

The sanitation project in Kutaisi consists of rehabilitation and extension of the existing sewerage system and construction of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The project will benefit public health by increasing or improving access to sanitation services, and by collecting and treating wastewater before discharging it into the river Rioni. The project will contribute to the improvement of environment and environmental services in the city, which has approximately 200,000 inhabitants, and will have positive impact on environment of the whole region and the Black Sea ecosystem.

The Kutaisi WWTP requires a full EIA according to the EU legislation and the Georgian legislation as well. The designs and EIA procedure are still ongoing, and final approval from the competent authorities is still pending. The final EIA report, including the results of the public consultation will need to be provided to the Bank for approval. Given the size and nature of the other components (i.e. sewerage network, pumping stations and house connections) a full EIA is not required according to national law as well as according to the criteria defined under EU law.

Construction of the WWTP does not require acquisition of new land as all structures will be located within the fenced area of the existing WWTP which will be demolished within the project scope. Existing sewers will be reconstructed or rehabilitated in the existing lines; design documentation for new sewers, pumping stations and house connections will include Land Acquisition Plans.

The Promoter will ensure that the project is implemented in compliance with the EIB's environmental and social standards, ILO and Georgian labour standards, and with the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).

With the above environmental and social conditions in place the project is considered to be acceptable for the Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.

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.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Promoter is committed to respect the WWTP effluent standards in full compliance with Georgian Regulations (see table below). The values proposed for Kutaisi project are fully comparable with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EC) as amended. The project represents a significant improvement compared with the current situation, where the current service coverage is around 75% and all collected wastewater from Kutaisi is discharged untreated in the recipient river Rioni. The condition of the existing network is very poor resulting in polluting and/or draining underground waters.

The new WWTP is designed to meet the following effluent quality:

Parameter	Proposed project	Georgian standard*	EU Directive*
BOD5	25 mg/l	25 mg/l	25 mg/l
COD	90 mg/l	125 mg/l	125 mg/l
SS	30 mg/l	30 mg/l	35 mg/l
N tot	10 mg/l	10 mg/l	10 mg/l
P tot	1 mg/l	1 mg/l	1 mg/l

*... for WWTPs above 100,000 PE discharging into sensitive water bodies

The sewage sludge will be digested and dewatered. It will not be accepted by the new Kutaisi landfill which is co-financed by the EU Delegation. Therefore it was recommended to apply the sludge in agriculture either directly or after composting. The sludge is expected to be of good quality within the limits for agriculture use. The biogas produced during digestion process will be utilised to produce heat and electricity. It is foreseen that over 50% of the WWTP's energy consumption will be covered by electricity generated from the biogas.

There may be some negative impacts during the construction process, but most of these will remain temporary, and with careful management will be reduced or resolved.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Construction of the WWTP does not require acquisition of new land as all structures will be located within the fenced area of the existing WWTP. The existing structures will be demolished within the project scope. Existing sewers will be reconstructed or rehabilitated in the existing lines. Design documentation for new sewers, pumping stations and house connections will include Land Acquisition Plans.

Social impacts of the project include disruption to services, noise, and temporary occupation of public or private space, traffic disruptions, and safety hazards. Effective project management and works supervision will be required to minimise the negative disturbances, inconveniences and impacts. The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the WWTP and network together with anticipated selection of experienced contractors suggest that adequate mitigation measures will be put in place.

The Promoter will need to submit all designs, tenders dossiers, Project Implementation Plans, Land Acquisition Plans, ESMP for the Bank's comments / approvals / non-objections, as appropriate according to the EIB Guide to Procurement and Finance Contract.

Labour and health and safety standards

The Promoter will ensure that the project is implemented in compliance with the EIB's environmental and social standards, ILO and Georgian labour standards, and with the ESMP.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

Public consultation will follow national regulations, as described in the *Law of Georgia on Environmental Impact Permit (2007)*. The Law defines legal aspects of issuing environmental permits, undertaking expertise, informing public and its participation in the procedures. The environmental permits are issued by the *Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia*.

Currently so called Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) for Kutaisi Wastewater Project is under preparation which includes the respective public hearing. The EIA is also under preparation. The public is given 90 days after publication to comment on the project and its environmental impacts.

Environmental and Social Aspects

n/a