

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	WATER SUPPLY VITENS III	
Project Number:	20140620	
Country:	The Netherlands	
Project Description:	The project concerns the 2015-2019 investment programme into the production and distribution facilities of Vitens, Netherlands' largest water supply company. The programme consists mainly of renewal and upgrading of water treatment plants, reservoirs and pumping stations, distribution networks, water meters, and operational support infrastructure such as SCADA systems, security and offices.	
EIA required:		yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :		no

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

Certain projects in the programme are specifically geared toward compliance with EU directives such as the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC as well as national legislation. The investments will generally have neutral or net positive effects for the environment and will improve the resilience of the systems and the quality of the supply to be provided to the customers. The main negative environmental and social impacts where applicable, occur during construction such as traffic noise and dust, are temporary in nature, and can be avoided or reduced by applying established practices in the sector. Most of the key investments such as new well fields or water treatment facilities fall within higher level strategic frameworks, specifically being mainly the National Water Plan, the Provincial Water Plans and of course the local Spatial Plans. These plans have all undergone strategic environmental assessments according to the Strategic Environment Directive 2001/42/EC. Individual projects in the investment programme are screened according to the requirements of the EU EIA (2011/92/EU) and Habitats (92/43/EEC) Directives. Two well-field relocation schemes require a full EIA, with one in Vechterweerd successfully completed and having obtained the necessary permits and the other in Twente still underway. Both schemes will result in an overall positive impact as the purpose is precisely to remove the abstraction away from sensitive areas. While this schemes and the general resilience improvement contribute to climate change adaptation, efficiency improvements at installations also make a modest contribution to climate change mitigation.

Given that some components in the programme may still need to be screened an undertaking has been included in the EIB Finance Contract that the promoter shall not allocate any EIB funds to a project component that requires an EIA or biodiversity assessment according to the provisions of the EU EIA (2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives respectively, without, prior to commitment, receiving the consents from the competent authorities. Copies of the relevant documents, including the consents and approvals will be submitted on request, to the EIB. The non-technical summaries of the full EIAs will be published on the Bank's website

Overall the investments have a positive net social and environment impact. The project is considered acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.

<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.

## **Environmental and Social Assessment**

### **Environmental Assessment**

Relevant EU Directives have all been transposed into national legislation (SEA, EIA, Birds and Habitats Directives). The competent authority is usually but not necessarily the Province within which projects take place.

This investment programme includes two projects for the relocation of well-fields currently affecting sensitive areas in a context of increasingly lengthy dry spells and both require an EIA. The first, in Vechterweerd, has successfully completed the EIA whereas the second, near Twente is still underway. The overall impact of both relocations is positive as it allows the protection of sensitive areas by moving abstraction elsewhere.

The promoter is a competent operator that has a sound investment policy. The many, mainly small investments of Vitens' rolling "Asset Management Plan" for the period 2015-2019 are aimed at securing a sound and sustainable provision of the water supply service for existing and new customers.

The investment programme includes certain asset replacements (pumps, old pipes) that will allow a lower energy consumption and hence a small contribution toward mitigation of climate change through reduced emissions. Such investments can be driven either by end of useful life of old assets or by financial considerations.

The promoter is ambitious in terms of its level of service and resource efficiency and environmental sustainability are core focus areas. The promoter is ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OSHAS 18001 accredited and its laboratory is also ISO/IEC 17025 accredited.

Site visits demonstrated high standards of health, safety, security, and environmental standards.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required**

Consultations are an integral part of the EIA process and certain planning procedures and were/are carried out as and where necessary.