

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	ONEE – RESEAUX ELECTRIQUES III
Project Number:	20110071
Country:	Morocco
Project Description:	The project is a multi component investment programme covering the period 2012-2015 aimed at reinforcing and extending the electricity transmission infrastructure of Morocco. The programme consists of thirty-two electricity transmission schemes, from 400 kV to 60 kV, geographically dispersed throughout the country. It overall includes the erection and upgrade of circa 1,300 km of overhead lines, the installation of 6,400 MVA of transformation capacity and 150 substation bays.
EIA:	Required

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

Morocco has a relatively well developed environmental legislation<sup>1</sup>. Under the terms of this legislation, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) must be carried out for all project schemes, with the exclusion of seven schemes involving installations within the boundaries of existing substations and new 60/22 kV substations with short network connections.

To date, ESIA studies have been finalised only for a limited number of project schemes. Such studies are of good quality and indicate that, provided that the planned mitigations and compensations are put into effect, no significant environmental and social impacts are expected to result from construction and operation of the related schemes. Additionally, the environmental permitting process, which requires public enquiry and assessment of the environmental acceptability of projects by the relevant national or regional committee, has not started yet for any project scheme.

Given the outstanding ESIA studies and the early stage of the environmental permitting process, a final environmental and social assessment of the project by the Bank is not possible at this stage. The impacts of the project and the corresponding recommendations for mitigations and compensations will be assessed component by component during the follow up of the project in the light of the outcomes of the corresponding ESIA studies. The task of reviewing the outstanding ESIA studies will be shared with co-lenders.

*In the finance contract the promoter shall undertake to carry out Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the project in a way satisfactory to the Bank and in line with the Bank's environmental and social guidelines, which incorporate EU legislation as base. To this effect, the promoter shall submit the outstanding ESIA studies for review by the Bank before these are sent to the competent authority for Public Enquiry.*

*Additionally, first disbursement against any project component is conditional upon the decision of environmental acceptability by the competent national or regional committee including, where relevant, endorsement by the competent authority for protected sites. To this effect the promoter shall submit to the Bank the corresponding Public Enquiry Report and the Decision of Environmental Acceptability as soon as available.*

<sup>1</sup> The principal laws of Moroccan environmental legislation are the "Loi Cadre 11-03" on the protection and enhancement to the environment and the "Loi n° 12-03 du 12 mai 2003" on environmental impact assessment (EIA). Furthermore the "Décret n° 2-04-564 du 4 novembre 2008" lays down detailed rules for the organization and the conduct of the public inquiry of projects subject to EIA and the "Décret n° 2-04-563 du 4 novembre 2008" defines the responsibilities and functioning of the National Committee for EIA (CNEIE) and Regional Committees for EIA (CREIE). These committees give their opinion on the environmental acceptability of projects once the public inquiry has taken place.

## Environmental and Social Assessment

### Environmental Impact and Mitigation

On the basis of the two ESIA studies revised so far by the Bank<sup>2</sup>, environmental considerations are incorporated in the design of lines and substations from the earliest stages. The route of lines and the location of substation are selected so to minimise visual impact and to avoid areas of dense settlement. Further to that, appropriate mitigating measures are planned to minimise the impacts of the project during construction and operation. These include measures to minimise impacts to sensitive habitats, such as to avoid the cutting of any natural Argan tree<sup>3</sup> during construction works and to install flight diverters of ground wires in proximity of bird migration routes.

Overall, by connecting RE to the grid and reducing network losses, the project will contribute to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### Social Assessment, where applicable

No relocation/displacement of persons, dwellings, or production entities is expected to arise from the proposed project. As relevant, land owners and farmers concerned by the project will be compensated for sale of their land, easement as well as damage to crops arising from the construction activities. The project is expected to have some positive local socio-economic impacts such as providing short term, local employment opportunities during the construction phase.

### Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Public enquiry will take place for all project schemes requiring ESIA. This will enable the population to consult the Non Technical Summaries (in both French and Arabic) and to provide comments and proposals about the project by filling the registers established in all the municipalities in the project area. The duration of the public inquiry is twenty days. At the end of this period, a commission will prepare the report of the public inquiry summarising comments and proposals about the projects made by the population. This report will be transmitted to the relevant national or regional committee and will be taken into consideration for the assessment of the environmental acceptability of the project.

---

<sup>2</sup> ESIA for the overhead line 225 kV Igli-Glalcha and ESIA for the 225/60 kV substation Ouled Rahhou and associated connections.

<sup>3</sup> The Argan (*Argania spinosa*) is a species of tree endemic to the calcareous semi-desert Sous valley of south-western Morocco and to the Algerian region of Tindouf in the western Mediterranean region. In Morocco arganeraie forests are designated as a UNESCO Biosphere reserve.