

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	GREATER COLOMBO WASTEWATER PROJECT	
Project Number:	20140457	
Country:	SRI LANKA	
Project Description:	As part of the Greater Colombo Water and Wastewater Management Improvement Investment Programme initiated by the Asian Development Bank, this project will support the improvement of wastewater collection and treatment facilities. The project will improve resilience to severe storms and also result in emissions reductions through increased pumping efficiency, making it eligible under Climate Action.	
EIA required:	no	
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no	
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")		

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The proposed project concerns high-priority investments in wastewater collection and treatment in the south catchment area of Colombo City. The project will include sewer rehabilitation and expansion, construction of sewerage networks in three unserved areas (Kirulapona, Narahenpita and Kirula-Narahenpita), and construction of a wastewater treatment plant at Wellawatta. More specifically the EIB will be financing (i) rehabilitation, replacement and repair of the sewer reticulation system in the South catchment area of Colombo to address sewer damages, blockages, siltation problems, under-capacity issues and realignment and (ii) sewer network extensions and related pump stations to cover two unserved areas in the South catchment area (Narahenpita and Kirula-Narahenpita). The project Promoter is the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC).

The environmental benefits of sewerage system improvement are many and significant. Rehabilitation and upgrading of the sewer network will address problems associated with leakages, cross connections and overflows thereby minimising the spillage of untreated sewage into the environment. Provision of sewerage connections to unserved areas will prevent health and environmental hazards, while provision of wastewater treatment would avoid the transfer of untreated pollution load to the ocean from the terrestrial environment.

An Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), including an Environmental Management Plan (EMP), has been prepared in line with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS), (2009), and the National Environmental Act (NEA). According to the IEE's findings, potential adverse impacts that are associated with design, construction, and operation have been assessed and all appropriate mitigation measures and procedures have been defined. This draft IEE will be finalised during detailed design to reflect any changes and latest project designs. The final IEE report has to be submitted to the Central Environmental Authority to comply with the necessary permits and clearances of the project prior to award of civil works contracts. No further detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) needs to be undertaken to comply with ADB's SPS. Following a thorough analysis of the IEE and considering the location, the type of works and proposed mitigation measures as well as the capacity of the Promoter supported by Technical Assistance the EIB does not require any further assessments. There are no important biodiversity areas or nature conservation sites identified within the project location.

<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.

The Promoter is committed to respect the WWTP discharge in full compliance with the existing national standards. Although these values are generally less stringent than in the Urban Waste Water Treatment (UWWT) Directive (91/271/EC) as amended, the project represents a significant improvement compared to current values and therefore acceptable to the Bank.

As a coastal town in a tropical cyclone area, Colombo is particularly exposed to climate risks. An initial climate risk screening exercise suggested that the project is highly vulnerable to precipitation increase, flood events, sea level rise and temperature increases. Critical design, operational and maintenance standards may need to be adjusted to take into consideration future climate conditions. A more localised and in-depth climate risk and vulnerability assessment is being carried out to ensure that appropriate adaptation measures are included in the project.

## **Social Assessment**

The project will require limited physical and economic resettlement leading to temporary or permanent loss of livelihood, which will be compensated according to the National Involuntary Resettlement Policy (NIRP) framework of the Government of Sri Lanka which the ADB assisted in developing and ADB's SPS 2009 standards. Eleven affected households (38 affected persons) that reside on government lands will lose their houses and shelter from rented houses.

A Resettlement Plan (RP) was prepared to address the permanent and temporary impacts due to the construction of new pumping stations and sewerage networks in the unserved areas, and has been disclosed by the ADB. The RP was based on the feasibility study, and needs to be updated during detailed design and approved by the competent authorities prior to commencement of works.

A Gender Action Plan (GAP) has been prepared to ensure that gender equality measures are carried out while implementing project activities. The gender and social dimensions of the project will be overseen by the project Promoter and implemented with the support of a non government organization (NGO) to be recruited under the project. The selected NGO is expected to closely work with CMC and the Project Management Unit (PMU) to carry out activities including (i) socio-economic analysis, social inclusion, gender mainstreaming and assessment of wastewater service delivery; (ii) resettlement assistance; (iii) community awareness and people's participation; (iv) citizens' education for wastewater service management, health and hygiene education, etc. The key gender inclusive actions proposed in the GAP are available for consultation on the ADB website.

Overall the Project will have significant social benefits including the reduction of the negative impacts of diseases, health care costs, productivity loss, and school absenteeism. It will also improve CMC capacity to deliver pro-poor and gender inclusive sanitation services in accordance with the objectives of the Gender Action Plan (GAP).

## **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

The IEE has been prepared in consultation with stakeholders and the final report will be disclosed in a language and form understandable by stakeholders and affected people. The relevant Government Departments (i.e. project implementing and executing agencies) were consulted to discuss the impacts of the project during the implementation. Public consultations have also been carried out through meetings, interviews, focus group discussions with project beneficiaries, and site visits and assessments in Kirulapone and Wellawatta (project area) in January and March 2015. The final IEE report will also be published on the ADB's and EIB's websites, respectively. The IEE report (English and local language) and other relevant documents will also be made available at the offices of implementing and executing agencies and contractor's office.

Detailed consultations with the project's Vulnerable Affected Persons (APs) have been conducted for the preparation of the RP. The RP provides a strategy for continued consultation at different stages of the project implementation. The draft RP (in local language) is currently available on the ADB website and will be finalised after the consultation period.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The operation will be subject to the Promoter complying with the following requirements:

- For project components financed by the Bank, Notice to Commence Works shall not be issued until: i) the final Initial Environmental Examination, Environmental Management Plan and Resettlement Plan, prepared to the satisfaction of the Bank, have been approved by relevant authorities and the co-financiers, and approvals communicated to the Bank, and ii) relevant provisions of the Environmental Management Plan have been incorporated into the Works Contract.
- The promoter undertakes to implement directly, or through the contractors as the case may be, the relevant mitigation measures defined in the IEE.
- The Promoter undertakes to provide a climate risk and vulnerability analysis and demonstrate that appropriate adaptation measures have been included in the design.

This operation is fully driven by environmental and health considerations, and with the above-mentioned conditions, the operation is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.

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