

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	PROGRAMME NATIONAL ASSAINISSEMENT 2 (PNA 2)
Project Number:	20150699
Country:	Morocco
Project Description:	The project concerns the installation, rehabilitation and extension of wastewater collection networks and the construction of wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) by <i>Office National de l'Eau et de l'Electricité</i> (ONEE) in a number of small and medium-sized towns throughout the Kingdom of Morocco. The project is a successor operation to the PNA 1 operation signed in 2012.

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

All wastewater treatment plants require an EIA according to Moroccan legislation. ONEE will provide the Bank with a copy of the EIAs approved by the competent authority for publication on the EIB website.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The operation will support the implementation of the *Programme National d'Assainissement* (PNA), approved by the Moroccan Government in 2005. It aims at the construction, rehabilitation and extension of sanitation collection and wastewater treatment infrastructure in small and medium-sized agglomerations across the country.

The Water Law -*Law 10-95*-, promulgated on the 16th August of 1995 sets the goal of establishing a national water policy based on a forward-looking vision that takes into account on the one hand the evolution of resources, and on the other hand the national water needs. Among the benefits of this law, there is also the contribution to improve the environmental situation of water resources (decree N°2-04-553 du 24/01/2005).

In addition, since the creation of Department of the Environment -attached to the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment (MEMEE) - the legal framework for the protection of the environment has developed and strengthened in response to the continued degradation of the quality of natural resources and their scarcity. Responsibilities and principles are defined by the decree of 13 January 2000. The Law 12-03 on EIA (12 May 2003), lists the projects subject to an environmental impact assessment and the procedure of implementation. It also establishes the creation of a national committee of EIA, chaired by the Minister of the Environment. The committee's role is to decide, on the basis of the results of the EIA, about the environmental acceptability and which conditions should apply to the implementation of the projects. The concept of the strategic environmental assessment for programmes (SEA) has not been incorporated yet into the legislative environmental framework of Morocco. Nonetheless a SEA financed by the EIB was carried out for the *Programme National d'Assainissement* in 2011 within the context of the previous phase PNA

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.

1. Morocco contributes internationally to almost all UN organizations related to the environment.

The projects under the scope of this operation would fall under Annex II of the European Directive 2011/92/EU. Wastewater treatment plants are subject to an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) according to national legislation, which must be submitted for approval to the Regional Committees. This approval is a requirement for each agglomeration before becoming eligible for this operation. The ESIA procedure is well managed in Morocco and well followed by ONEE. It has been agreed to reinforce the content of the ESIA and the Environmental and Social Management Plan ESMP for each project with a sludge management and valorisation assessment. The project will be implemented under the Mutual Reliance Initiative (MRI) with AFD as the leading institution, which will review environmental documentation and will closely monitor the implementation. There is already positive experience with the previous EIB sanitation operations -Assainissement du Bassin de Sebou and PNA 1-, both of them involving European financing.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The programme envisages specific visibility and sensitization activities for the beneficiary population prior to the construction phase. No resettlement of people is foreseen at this stage. Land acquisition procedures in place are acceptable.

Social impacts include the possible disruption of services, noise and temporary occupation of public or private space, traffic disruptions, and safety hazards. All these impacts will require strict management to minimize the negative disturbances, inconveniences and impacts common for this type of project and will be addressed in the planning permission. Due to the size and location of the components, local population will benefit from employment project needs during the construction phase.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Public consultation is a fundamental legal aspect of the Department of the Environment, stating that standards and environmental procedures cannot be developed without consideration of the comments and suggestions of partners, both public and private.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

This operation will also support sanitation services in rural areas through the promotion of small pilot projects and strengthening the capacity of the Ministère de l'Intérieur to implement the *Programme National d'assainissement en milieu rural* (PNAR).

Conclusions and Recommendations

This programme will keep on supporting environmental and social infrastructure in a priority region through the rehabilitation and extension of existing sanitation services in urban and rural areas thus improving health conditions of the population and preserving surface and underground water resources in a water scarcity region. It will also support the economic growth and social development of the benefitting municipalities with a potentially high impact on SMEs and local employment creation. The environmental and social framework in place is acceptable and in conformity with national legislation and EU EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, which is well followed by the promoter. The promoter will provide the Bank with a copy of the EIAs approved by the competent authority for publication on the EIB website.

The project is acceptable for EIB financing in Environmental and Social terms.

PJ/SQM/ECSO 15.10.15