

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	VASILIKOS-WESTERN NICOSIA CONVEYOR WATER SUPPLY
Project Number:	2015-0216
Country:	CYPRUS
Project Description:	Improve the security of water supply for the domestic needs of Nicosia and 28 Western Nicosia communities
EIA required:	yes

The project requires a full EIA according to national legislation. The Promoter shall provide the link to the website where the NTS is published or send a copy to the Bank to be published on the Bank's website.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: no

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

This is the second operation with the Water Development Department (WDD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Republic of Cyprus. During the appraisal mission the promoter's capacity from an environmental perspective was assessed as sufficient.

The proposed Project meets all requirements of the EU acquis with respect to water supply, health, occupational safety and other relevant issues with the two main Directives being the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC and the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC. The overall objective of the Project is to contribute to the compliance of the Republic of Cyprus Uniformed Water Management Law N79/(I)2010 (transposition of the Water Framework Directive) by providing a long term solution to the shortage of water for the city of Nicosia and 28 Communities in the Western Province. SEA of this Project is carried out at River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) level. The RBMP contains a Water Policy Strategy that outlines a Programme of Measures to be implemented. The Vasilikos to Nicosia Conveyor Water Supply Project is included in this Programme of Measures. Thus the Project complies with the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC.

The Project takes into consideration environmental and social aspects as required by European and National environmental regulations. The National Environmental Law N14/(I)2005 requires it compulsory to assess the environmental effects of implementation and operation of a Project. For water supply pipelines with diameters in excess of 600mm, an Environmental Impact Assessment study is required. The study is ongoing with an expected completion in September 2016.

A preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment has already been completed. For Phase A which is transferring water from the Vasilikos desalination plant to Nicosia, consultations with the Environment, Forestry and Public Works Departments in particular, has determined the

<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.

Luxembourg, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016

most agreeable route of the water supply conveyor pipeline. For Phase B which is transferring water from Nicosia to the western communities, the routes will primarily follow the existing road networks which should avoid any major environmental impact i.e. crossing inside Natura 2000 areas to the extent possible. For this Phase, environmental concerns during construction will be the primary impacts to be mitigated.

The main positive environmental and social impacts can be summarised as follows:

- the Project will have lasting positive environmental benefits by resulting to abandon the overexploitation of the groundwater resources for drinking water purposes in the Western Measoria region and thus allowing the aquifers in the region to gradually recover from depletion;
- the Project is beneficial to public health by improving water quality and will have a positive impact on the population by securing a more resilient water supply system;
- the works will also contribute to employment creation during construction.

Negative environmental and social impacts are:

- although the routes of the water supply pipelines to the western communities will primarily follow the existing road networks, it is possible that they may cross inside Natura 2000 areas. The crossing shall be avoided to the extent possible and it will be the primary environmental impact to be mitigated during works construction;
- minor disturbance is possible during construction for residents adjacent to work sites;
- temporary increase of traffic around the construction sites. Appropriate stakeholder information, public consultation and participation and mitigation procedures are in place.

The Project contributes to the Bank's transversal objective of Climate Action Adaptation. In Cyprus, despite the considerable introduction of surface water dams, the increasing demand for water associated with a declining trend in rainfall, global climate changes and the greenhouse phenomenon, the available quantities of water for water supply and irrigation are not adequate (Climate Change Risk Assessment for the Water Sector, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, March 2016). The aim of this Project is to improve the security of supply of potable drinking water to the city of Nicosia and the 28 Communities in the Western Province of Nicosia. The latter ones are currently experiencing insecure water supplies and deterioration in water quality due to the reducing aquifer recharge that correspondingly reduces water availability from the boreholes in the Western Communities. In this perspective, the Project components related with supplying drinking water in the Western Province of Nicosia contribute to climate change adaptation given that they will replace the overexploitation of groundwater resources in the region with drinking water transferred from the Vasilikos desalination plant.

The Project contribution to Climate Change Mitigation is insignificant. Energy savings in 2021 is estimated to be slightly more than 5 % of the total energy consumption.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

WDD has engaged into a close dialogue with civil society and the main stakeholders of the Project through the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure. Also WDD's internet portal presents a collection of publications related to environmental and social aspects.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

In line with the EU Directives, implementation of the Project will provide a long term solution to the shortage of water for the city of Nicosia and 28 Communities in the Western Province.



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The capacity of the promoter is assessed sufficient, having a good track-record in environmental and social management.

Although net long term environmental and social impacts will be positive, the Project will require a full EIA according to Directive 2011/92/EC and National Environmental Law N14/(I)2005. The promoter shall not allocate any EIB funds to a Project component without receiving the consent of the competent environmental authorities according to the provisions of the EU EIA (2011/92/EU), the Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives. Copies of the relevant documents, including the consents and approvals will be submitted on request, to the EIB. The non-technical summary of the full EIA will be published on the Bank's website.

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