

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ITALIAN FLOOD PREVENTION FRAMEWORK LOAN
Project Number:	2016-0036
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	Framework Loan co-financing the Italian national programme of protecting and mitigating risk of landslides, river floods and coastal erosion
EIA required:	yes

This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA. The Promoter shall provide the link to a website where Non-Technical Summaries (NTSs) are published or send their copies to the Bank before projects are allocated.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The operation will support the implementation of the priority programme of the National Hydrogeological Risk Prevention and Mitigation Plan that consists of approximately 300 flood risk management schemes located mainly in the metropolitan areas in the Central and Northern regions of Italy. Schemes addressing landslide risk and coastal erosion will also be eligible. The programme is managed by the Italian government and the schemes will be implemented by the local authorities. The first phase of the implementation of the National Hydrogeological Risk Prevention and Mitigation Plan focuses on mature flood prevention projects in metropolitan cities and urban areas with the greatest risk to the exposed population.

Environmental and social due diligence has followed the programme approach according to EIB's procedures and standards i.e. due diligence was focussed on the Promoter's capacity and capability to implement the programme in line with EIB environmental and social standards and requirements.

Environmental compliance with the relevant EU Directives transposed into the Italian legislation is required both at programme level (SEA Directive 2001/42/EC) and project level (EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, Birds and Habitats Directive 92/43/EC), and is reflected into the applicable approval procedures. The Programme Management Unit is well aware of the requirements of the Italian and European legislation and will act according to the relevant EU Directives' provisions.

The investment programme is consistent with the relevant River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) and the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP), which are subject to a Strategic

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.

Luxembourg, 04 October 2016

Environmental Assessment (e.g. for the Po river basin SEAs were approved as follows in February 2013 for the RBMP and in May 2016 for the FRMP). The competent authorities have taken appropriate actions to coordinate the preparation of the two plans and the relative public consultation procedures, in line with the requirements of the EU Flood Directive (2007/60/EC). The existence of such planning framework will help the competent basin authorities and the Regions to take informed decisions on how to prioritise actions and investments.

The flood, landslide and coastal protection schemes, and effectively the flood risk management plans, are defined according to the plans for hydrogeological-risk reduction - "Piano Stralcio per la difesa dal rischio Idrogeologico (PAI)" - and the regional plans for coastal management, which need to be approved by the Civil Protection and relevant River Basin authorities. They are prepared based on the level of vulnerability and exposure of assets and population, as identified by the preliminary flood risk assessment and the flood hazard and risk maps prepared by the River Basin Authorities as prescribed by the Floods Directive.

The schemes encompass major positive impacts in terms of human health and safety, property protection. Potential minor negative impacts of the schemes during construction are expected to be restricted to increased traffic, noise, minor vibration and dust generation, which could be to some extent mitigated by adhering to good construction practices and proper work organisation.

The Programme demonstrates appropriate context, intent and response through adaptation to climate change. The National Adaptation Strategy identified vulnerability to increased flood hazard (among other hydrological risks) and called for structural and non-structural measures to be undertaken. The National Hydrogeological Risk Prevention and Mitigation Plan identifies climate change impact among its main drivers and provides response in terms of priority infrastructure schemes in urban areas. Therefore the project contributes to the Bank's objective of Climate Action (adaptation).

Social Assessment, where applicable

The project is expected to bring considerable social benefits by reducing the risk or impact of floods, landslides in the priority metropolitan areas with significant flood risk. At least 1.6M inhabitants will benefit from reduced flood risk. By alleviating the flood risk, the project will enable further balanced development of the local communities in the project areas. The construction works will also contribute to employment creation.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The public consultation on the draft River Basin Management Plans and the Flood Risk Management Plans and relative environmental reports is carried out as prescribed by the SEA Directive and national procedures.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The National Hydrogeological Risk Prevention and Mitigation Plan bears the characteristics of financial programmes. Therefore it was not subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The schemes will have a number of impacts on the environment, both positive and negative. Impacts during the construction and operation phase are expected to be mitigated by good practice and work organisation following the competent authorities' requirements.

Some of the schemes are likely to fall under Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU. Should an EIA be required, the Promoter will be obliged to make the Non-Technical Summary of the EIAs publicly available. Further, some of the schemes in the Programme are likely to have impacts on protected sites and therefore will



Luxembourg, 04 October 2016

be subject to a nature assessment according to Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EC.

The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU directives, including the EIA, Habitats and Birds Directives. The Promoter shall verify the compliance of the final beneficiaries with the relevant and applicable rules of the European Union legislation, in particular in the fields of environment. Under these conditions the project is acceptable for the Bank's financing.

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