

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	<b>STEG V TRANSPORT ELECTRICITE</b>
Project Number:	2014-0184
Country:	Tunisia
Project Description:	The Project is a multi-component investment programme encompassing several electricity transmission schemes geographically distributed over the territory of Tunisia with circa 60% of the investments located in the area of Tunis. The main purpose of the Project is to integrate new conventional power generation facilities into the grid, to reinforce the interface to the distribution grid and ultimately to contribute to catering for the growth of electricity demand of the country. Overall the programme comprises the construction of 6 new substations, the extension of 4 existing substations, the installation of 1440 MVA of transformation capacity, the erection of 43 km of overhead lines and the installation of 53 km of underground cables.
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no

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

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

Under Tunisian legislation, preparation of environmental and social impact studies and information/consultation of the general public thereon are not required for the permitting of power lines and substations. However, some schemes of the Project, if implemented in the EU, would fall under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive. Therefore, upon request of the Bank and of the co-financier EBRD, detailed environmental and social impact studies and stakeholder engagement plans have been prepared for the following sub-projects: 1) new Chotrana 225/90/33 kV substation and associated 225 kV-90 kV cable connections, 2) new Nabeul II 225/90 kV substation and associated diversion of the 225 kV OHL Bouficha-Bouargoub, 3) new Laroussia 225 kV substation and associated 225 kV OHL Mornaguia-Laroussia.

The various analyses carried out indicate that, subject to the implementation of the mitigating and compensating measures detailed in the Environmental and Social Action Plan, no significant impacts are expected to result from the construction and the operation of the sub-projects.

Based on the information available, and with appropriate conditionalities (see below) and monitoring, the Project is expected to be acceptable in environmental and social terms for Bank financing.

*Disbursements will be subject to the completion, in form and substance satisfactory to the Bank, of the public consultation for the Project.*

*The promoter shall undertake to implement the Environmental and Social Action Plan prepared for the Project.*

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<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.

## Environmental and Social Assessment

### Environmental Assessment

In order to minimise nuisance for residents, including exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF), cables and OHL will be located as much as technically possible and economically reasonable away from dwellings, indicatively 100 m for OHL and 7/10 m for cables. At such distances exposure to EMF will be negligible and far below the EU exposure limits specified in Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC.

Residents may experience some nuisance during construction works, notably during installation of underground cables in the Tunis area, but this disturbance is expected to be limited in duration. The impacts of the construction works will be closely monitored and a grievance mechanism will be established.

None of the sub-projects is located in or near to an internationally protected area (such as Ramsar sites) or an Important Bird Area. Flight-diverters will be installed on the ground wires of the OHL Bouficha-Bouargoub and Mornaguia-Laroussia in few sensitive locations in order to minimise birds' collision and mortality.

### Social Assessment, where applicable

OHL will cross mainly agricultural land. Farmers whose land is located along the route of the future OHL will be potentially affected by economic displacement due to permanent loss of land where the pylons are built and damage to crops during construction and maintenance. The exact number of people affected is not yet known and will not be until the final routes of the OHL are defined. By policy STEG tends to minimise the need for land acquisition and damage to crops by building pylons whenever possible on state-owned land. Where necessary, the affected people will be compensated for the land expropriated or for crop damage. All efforts will be made to avoid felling of trees

Underground cables will be buried along public roads and no land acquisition will be required. The business of merchants located along some roads where the cables will be buried may be disturbed very temporarily by the construction works. This is not an economic displacement that needs to be compensated. Substations will be built on state-owned land and therefore no land acquisition from third parties will be required.

The benefits of the sub-projects in terms of local employment are expected to be relatively modest, indicatively 30 person-years over the entire construction period of circa 2 years.

### Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

Three scoping consultations were held in November 2015 for the three sub-projects. They have targeted national and regional authorities as well as associations for the protection of the environment, birds and archaeological heritage. These consultations are considered sufficient in terms of information from stakeholders on a national scale and also enabled people to express their concerns about the Project.

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been prepared to define the information and communication actions which will be implemented during the different project phases. The main objective of the SEP is to inform people about the project and the ways to submit questions, queries and complaints.

The environmental and social documents - in French and Arabic - have been published in February 2016 on the STEG's website, where they will remain published until the completion of the works. The same documents in paper format have been made available to the public in the offices of the involved governorates and districts as well as in the STEG's agencies. The disclosure period started in February 2016 and will last 4 months. Further to that, flyers with detailed information on the three sub-projects have been prepared and distributed to all residents and merchants along the route of OHLs and underground cables. Finally six public information meetings will take place during May 2016 in the involved governorates and districts.

Other planned actions under the SEP include a) the organization of consultation meetings with the affected land-owners (once identified), b) the dissemination of safety instructions to

be respected under the lines and c) the establishment of a grievance mechanism during the construction works.

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

In addition to the implementation of the above mentioned mitigations and compensations related to the Project, the Environmental and Social Action Plan requires STEG to implement general improvements that will be applied to future transmission projects. They include integration of environmental and social considerations in the planning process and improvement of land acquisition and compensation procedures.