

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	UNICER EFFICIENCY
Project Number:	2011-0426
Country:	Portugal
Project Description:	Project comprises investments mainly aiming at upgrades in the area of operational, energy and environmental efficiency, comprising the years 2011-2014.

EIA required: NO

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: NO

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

The proposed project is the restructuring, modernisation and expansion of Unicer's beverage manufacturing and logistics facilities in Portugal to: improve energy efficiency, increase the output of some product ranges, improve product quality, and reduce operating costs. The main investment sites are: Leça do Balio (Oporto), to focus on beer and logistics; and Pedras Salgadas which is already focused on mineral water production.

Energy savings will be achieved in two ways. Firstly, through the installation of more efficient plant and equipment; particularly for process heating, cooling and refrigeration, including CHP plants in two locations. Secondly, all of the company's sites have been the subject of an energy review by a company specialising in energy and process control systems. They have made a range of recommendations to the company, involving hardware, software, other equipment and training for personnel. Cost savings are expected to be in the range of 10-20% for existing plant and equipment.

The project comprises a large number of relatively small investments, almost all of which will take place within the existing built environment. The principal exception will be on the Leça do Balio site, Oporto, where existing buildings will be demolished to make way for new buildings to house new, high-speed bottling lines, an automated warehouse, (constructed taking into account the best practices of sustainability).

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

- None of the sub-projects would individually require an EIA and an EIA would normally not be required for the largest programme of works: Leça do Balio. However, all sub-projects will be the object of scrutiny by the Competent Authority as part of the normal permitting process.

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.

- The objective of the investments is to improve operational and energy efficiencies, with no increase in the production of beers: which represent two thirds of the company's production by volume and are the most energy intensive of the company's products. The main environmental impact will be a reduction in CO₂ emissions through energy efficiency measures and the installation of two Combined Heat and Power plants. A mid-range estimate of the energy savings of 15% would result in a saving of over 9 000 tpa.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The proposed investments form part of a significant restructuring plan, with all Unicer brewing sites being concentrated on a single one rather than the existing two-site working. The reduction in jobs at the closure site will not be fully offset by the increase in numbers at the remaining site. However, the market for beer has been in a period of slow decline for any years both in Portugal and in many other areas of the EU. In the case of Portugal, this has been exacerbated by a weakened national economy, rendering current employment levels unsustainable. The measures to be taken should secure the employment of the remaining brewing workforce.