

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	FIJI WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECT
Project Number:	20150127
Country:	Fiji
Project Description:	The project will upgrade and develop water supply and wastewater infrastructure in the greater urban area of Fiji's capital Suva to increase climate change resilience of the water supply system. The project includes construction of a new water treatment facility, upgrading of an existing wastewater treatment plant, improvement of water distribution and wastewater collection networks.
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

According to Fiji environmental legislation and ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS) of 2009, the proposed programme is categorized as environmental Category 'B' and an initial environmental examination is therefore required.

The Environment Assessment Review Framework and two draft initial environmental examinations (IEEs) with environmental management plans (EMPs) for the water supply and wastewater components were prepared in May 2015 as part of the project preparation phase. They are in line with ADB's SPS and Fiji's environmental legislation -Environmental Management (EMA) Act 2005 and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines 2008-. The drafts documents will be finalised during detailed design to reflect any changes and latest project designs. According to the IEE's findings, potential adverse impacts that are associated with design, construction, and operation have been assessed and all appropriate mitigation measures and procedures have been defined to be included in all bidding documents. The IEEs concluded that due to the limited and manageable nature of impacts, further environmental analysis of the Programme is not required to comply with the EMA Act of Fiji and ADB's SPS.

If located within the EU the expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) at Kinoya would fall under Annex I of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, therefore requiring a comprehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). The Bank will require the Promoter of the project, the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF), to carry out the study that shall be approved by the competent authority, satisfactory to the Bank and to be published on its website. Thus no funds concerning the expansion of the WWTP at Kinoya other than for consultancy services will be disbursed prior to the start of the works. The other water supply and wastewater components would be included in Annex II of the Directive. The programme is not subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

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.

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WAF will have to ensure that the programme is implemented and operated in compliance with the EIB's environmental and social standards as defined in its Environmental and Social Handbook (version 2013). The Environmental Unit of WAF is deemed to have adequate capacity to implement and monitor the programme as detailed in the EMPs and will be supported by international consultants during the implementation of the programme.

The programme has been designed with appropriate adaptation measures to mitigate the increased incidence of floods, droughts and sea level rise, with consequent increase in salinity concentrations in the Rewa River. It will also contribute to energy savings and emissions reduction through Non-Revenue Water reduction, the upgrade of the WWTP at Kinoya, and the wastewater system extension. The programme therefore contributes to the Bank's objectives of Climate Action (Adaptation and Mitigation)

Social Assessment, where applicable

The Government of Fiji and WAF will have to acquire the land where the new water intake on the Rewa River, the water treatment plant, pumping station and reservoir will be constructed, as well as for two new wastewater pumping stations. A draft Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan was prepared to address the permanent and temporary impacts and needs to be updated during detailed design and approved by the competent authorities and to the satisfaction of the Bank, prior to commencement of works. The WAF will be supported by international consultants to review, update and implement the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan, if necessary, and to carry out the consultations with the relevant stakeholders. An independent audit will also verify the satisfactory implementation of the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan.

Overall the programme will have significant social benefits including the reduction of the negative impacts of diseases, health care costs, productivity loss, and school absenteeism. It will also improve WFA capacity to deliver pro-poor and gender inclusive water supply and sanitation services in accordance with the objectives of the gender action plan (GAP) that has been developed for the investment programme.

WFA will have to ensure that the programme complies with ILO labour standards ratified by the Republic of the Fiji or otherwise legally applicable and binding in the Country. To this end, the tender documents will have to make specific reference to labour standards, so that bidders can integrate these requirements into their ESMPs.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

WFA will have to ensure that the relevant stakeholders, including potentially affected persons, will be consulted with regard to the potential impacts of the proposed construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure facilities and related project activities in line with EIB standards and applicable national legislation and Fiji's regulations. The IEEs will be made available for consultation at public locations and will be disclosed to a wider audience via the ADB website.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

N.A.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The programme is fully driven by environmental and health considerations and will assist the WAF to achieve a number of important health and environment improvements, particularly for the growing population in the peri-urban that are as yet unserved. A large portion of the current and future Suva and Nausori metropolitan population will be served with safe and



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reliable water supplies, and will benefit from extended or improved wastewater collection and treatment services. .Therefore, the programme is expected to have a major impact on Fiji's prospects for environment, human, social and economic development as well as to support the attainment of SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) by improving the quality and security of water provision as well as SDG 13 (Climate Action, Adaptation and Mitigation).

The Promoter will be subject to complying with the EIB's E&S standards and applicable national legislation and Fiji's regulations. As such, the operation is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.

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