

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: WATER SUPPLY PROVINCE NORTH BRABANT II  
Project Number: 2016 - 0644  
Country: The Netherlands  
Project Description: The project concerns the 2016-2021 investment programme into the production and distribution facilities of BW, Netherlands' 2<sup>nd</sup> largest water supply company operating in the province of Brabant.

EIA required: yes

This is a programme made up of multiple schemes. Some of the schemes will require an EIA. The Promoter shall provide the link to the website where the NTSS are published or send copies to the Bank, to be published on the EIB's website.

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

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

This is the second operation with BW (Brabant Water – Brabant Province Water Company). The programme is developed by an experienced promoter and takes into consideration environmental and social aspects as required by European and national environmental requirements. The Dutch legislation complies with the relevant EU environmental Directives (Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC, SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC). The Netherlands have approved a new River Basin Management Plan on 22 December 2015 for the 2016 – 2021 period.

The Promoter is well aware of these requirements and acts accordingly.

The programme is mainly geared toward improving security and quality of drinking water supply and has positive environmental components through protection of underground water resource in eleven areas done by promoting reduction of pesticide usage by farmers in collaboration with the Province and the Municipalities. Although net long term environmental and social impacts will be positive, some works might require a full EIA according to Directive 2011/92/EC or affect protected areas.

BW has engaged in further treatment of the water (softening of the water after aeration) and this strategy has several environmental benefits:

- It increases the lifespan of the pipes through the reduction of scaling (accumulation of calcium and magnesium) that clogs the water pipes;
- It reduces the energy consumption at the household level by improving the efficiency of water heater (due again to less scaling);

<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.

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- It produces pellets of magnesium and calcium which are sold to the farmers thus promoting circular economy.

The investment program aims at constantly maintaining the network efficiency of the operator (top performer in Western Europe with 2.5% of losses) which has as well a positive impact on the usage of underground water resources. BW is also very cautious to minimize to the lowest possible the nuisances caused by water leakage and intervention on the network and gears its maintenance program toward a close to zero tolerance to such disruptions. Although it could appear from an external point of view exaggerated, it is understandable in the Netherland context due to high population density and high level of network integration within the urban network.

Climate change is not deemed to pose threats to the ground water resource, although longer dry periods with higher temperature will result in higher peak factor for demand which has to be factored in when renewing the distribution system. Climate change impacts are monitored closely and also feed the company strategic planning.

The company is continuously carrying out research and development mainly on water distribution technologies (ranging from pipe material, sensoring, pipe technologies and use of big data for predicting future consumption). The company is constantly reducing its carbon footprint, reducing it by 66% between 2007 and 2012 and is now at 53,056 tons of CO2 equivalent in 2014 (BW and its subsidiaries), which are fully compensated through credits purchases from two Chinese hydropower projects. BW has now embarked on an additional challenge with ambitious target to be reached by end of 2020:

- Improving energy efficiency by 20 % compared to 1990;
- 20 % of green electricity generation;
- 20 % reduction in emissions of CO2 equivalents compared to 1990.

The project also contributes to Climate Change Mitigation. The rehabilitation of several production plants, the improvement of the water quality (water softening) will result in consequent energy savings as well as the investment in solar panels and windfarm for renewable energy production. The expected offset of energy consumption through the implemented investment is approximately 8 GWh up to 2020.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Social impact include the possible disruption of services and traffic, noise and temporary occupation of public and private space, safety hazards, common for this type of projects in urban environment, and will be addressed as part of the planning permission for the relevant scheme.

## **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

BW will facilitate access by the public to all environmental relevant information in accordance with Aarhus Convention.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

In line with the EU Directives, the project will result in the upgrading and renewal of the production plants and the sustainable management of the ground water resources which have lasting positive environmental benefits. The capacity of the promoter is deemed high, having a good track-record in environmental and social management.

The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including the EIA (2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives.



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The promoter shall not allocate any EIB funds to a project component that requires an EIA or biodiversity assessment according to the provisions of respectively, without, prior to commitment, receiving the consents from the competent authorities, and the NTS of the EIA has been made available to the public. The non-technical summaries of the full EIAs will be published on the Bank's website.

The Promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against any scheme that impact nature conservation sites, without receiving from the relevant competent authorities declaration under Art. 6.3 of the Habitats Directive that there are no significant effects and informing the Bank of such declaration having been obtained.

Copies of the relevant documents, including the consents and approvals will be submitted on request, to the EIB.

Under these conditions the project is acceptable for EIB financing in Environmental and Social terms.