

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *WATERSCHAP HOLLANDSE DELTA*
Project Number: *2015-0698*
Country: *The Netherlands*
Project Description: The project concerns the 2016-2021 investment programme of Waterschap Hollandse Delta. The investment programme will focus on flood protection, waste water treatment and other water management infrastructure.

EIA required: *yes*

This is a programme made up of multiple schemes. Many 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.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: *no*

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The investment programme will include flood protection, wastewater treatment and water management infrastructure in its area of responsibility between the river Haringvliet and the river Meuse. Increased flood protection for an area of 1,000 km² will benefit some 870,000 inhabitants.

The Dutch legislation complies with the relevant EU environmental Directives (SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, Floods Directive 2007/60/EC, Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EC, Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 98/15/EC). The Promoter of the project (the Water Authority of Hollandse Delta) is well aware of these requirements and acts accordingly.

Regarding the improvement of the flood protection levels, the National Water Plan (or else called National Delta Programme) is in line with the approach recommended by the Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) and the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). Under the National Water Plan, two flood protection programmes are on-going: the second Flood Protection Programme (2007-2017), known as HWBP-2, and the new, continuing Flood Protection Programme (HWBP). Both programmes are subject to SEA's at each significant update.

Indeed both Flood Protection Programmes drive a large part of the investments of the EIB operation of Waterschap Hollandse Delta. Many of the schemes of the EIB operation will also require EIA's and some will also require the appropriate assessment for potential impacts on the Natura 2000 areas, nine (9) of which are located within the area of responsibility of the Water Authority of Hollandse Delta.

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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The main impacts of the dike related earthworks affect species such as migrating birds, amphibians including some that hibernate in the dike “body”, mammals and fish that can be found in the drain ditches at the foot of the dykes. Negative effects on species, fauna and landscape during construction and thereafter will be alleviated by implementing effective mitigation measures as required by the EIA. These measures include for example working only in designated months, lowering water levels in the ditches that are to be backfilled and catching the fish with nets for relocation before the backfilling, etc. The EIB operation will furthermore favour ecologically based restoration activities in order to improve degraded waterways over hard engineering solutions.

The project is therefore expected to have net positive environmental impacts in the long term.

The dikes are designed in accordance with the National Delta Programme which takes into account advice from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the effects of climate change, namely sea levels rising between 0.65 to 1.3 m by 2100 and increasing winter discharges in the Rhine (from 16,000 m³/s today to 18,000 m³/s by 2100) and the Meuse (from 3,800 today to 4,600 m³/s by 2100) rivers. Additionally, large part of the investments of the Waterschap Hollandse Delta project is also in line with the National Administrative Agreement on Water which is focused on the impacts of climate change on the Dutch flood protection system.

The project meets the three requirements for labelling as “Adaptation to Climate Change”, namely: (i) the context of vulnerability is clearly spelled out; (ii) the statement of intent is explicitly stated upfront on all documentation and (iii) there is a clear and direct link between the climate vulnerability context and the specific project activities. In addition to the contribution to the Bank’s Climate Action objective of the flood protection investments, the wastewater treatment rehabilitation components meet the criteria for labelling as ‘Mitigation to Climate Change’. The replacement of the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) installation and the renovated sludge digesters at Sluisjesdijk sludge treatment facility will result in estimated emissions savings of 2,300 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Minor nuisances are possible during construction for residents adjacent to work sites. Appropriate stakeholder information, public consultation and participation, mitigation and compensation procedures are in place.

The works will also contribute to employment creation during construction. Overall the works will have net positive social outcomes.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

All projects and related reports and progress details can be followed on the Waterschap Hollandse Delta website. Consultations with affected communities and interested parties take place in line with the requirements of the Directives.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Flood protection and protection of the quality and availability of the water resources are considered as two of the promoter’s core mandates. Its capacity is deemed high, having a good track-record on environmental and social management.



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Although net long term environmental and social impacts will be positive, some works will require a full EIA according to Directive 2011/92/EC or affect protected areas. The promoter shall not allocate any EIB funds to a project component that requires an EIA or biodiversity assessment according to the provisions of the EU EIA (2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives respectively, without, prior to commitment, receiving the consents from the competent authorities. The project complies with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. The EIB might require copies of the relevant documents. The non-technical summaries of the full EIAs will be published on the Bank's website.

The project is acceptable for EIB financing in Environmental and Social terms.