

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

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| Project Name:                                  | ARGENTINA WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT  |
| Project Number:                                | 20160659  |
| Country:                                       | ARGENTINA   |
| Project Description:                           | <i>The project will support water and sanitation investments in the City of Buenos Aires.</i> |
| EIA required:                                  | yes (sewage network and waste water components)   |
| Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise: | no  |

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The Project will be implemented in compliance with the Environmental National and Local legislation:

#### National Legislation

- Law 25.675-General Law of Environment.
- Law 24.051-Law of Dangerous Waste.
- Law 25.688-Environmental Management of Water.
- Law 25.831 Law of Environmental Information.
- Decree PEN 674/89-Protection of Surface and Ground Water Resources.
- Law 20.284 Plan of Prevention of critical situations in Atmospheric contamination.
- Law 25743-Protection of the Archaeological and Paleontological Heritage

#### Local Legislation

- Constitution of the Province of Buenos Aires (art 28 and 38)
- Ley 12.257- Code of Water. Province of Buenos Aires
- Law 12.653- COMIREC (Rio Reconquista Watershed committee)
- Law 12.276- Legal Regime of Public Trees
- Ordinance n. 27. Regime of Eradication of Annoying noises for all the Partidos of the Province

The component "Rehabilitation and Optimization of the Water Plant of San Martín", will be executed on the existing plot. Since the works will consist only in improving the efficiency with no significant civil works, according to the National Legislation an EIA will not be necessary, but an Environmental Management Plan will be developed and adhered to for the works.

The sewage component "New sewage in the Partido of Escobar" and the "Extension of the Waste Water Treatment Plant of Las Catonas" will require an EIA. The draft of the EIA related to the New Sewage in the Partido of Escobar, has already been developed and has been submitted to the Municipality of Escobar for its approval. The EIA of the Extension of the Waste Water Treatment Plant of las Catonas is under preparation by AySA (Agua y

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saneamientos argentinos), as one of the activities related to the Design preparation. Since the extension will be executed on the existing plot, no significant negative impacts are foreseen, however, the EIA and its approval shall be received to the satisfaction of the Bank.

None of the works are in or near nature protection sites.

The Project is strongly environmentally motivated. The implementation of this project will lead to reduced pollution from wastewater to the receiving water bodies

The project has two components that contribute to climate change mitigation:

#### **a) Sewage of Partido Escobar**

In the Partido Escobar, only 15% of the houses are currently connected to the sewage network. 85% discharge their waste water to septic tanks or similar. The septic tanks are a legal technology for treating the waste water. However, the production of methane (greenhouse gas) is more than 4 times higher using the uncontrolled anaerobic septic tanks, than the treatment in a controlled waste water treatment plant (the waste water collected by the new sewers, will be treated in the Waste Water Treatment Plant Norte). Emissions will therefore be reduced.

#### **b) Waste Water Treatment Plant of Las Catonas**

The sludge is treated in anaerobic digesters with reuse of the produced gas (methane) in the energy generation, avoiding emissions to the atmosphere.

### **Social Assessment**

The social impact is very positive, since the project will give access to sanitation to more than 24,000 inhabitants, it will increase the waste water treatment capacity by 210,000 people equivalents and assure the production of water of the Plant of San Martín. It will also have a positive impact related to job opportunities.

The lack of sanitation increases the possibility of having waterborne illnesses by between 11% and 24%, depending on the kind of illness. For children, the probability of having diarrhoea is reduced from 0.32 to 0.21, when the households have access to sewage. In addition, the probability of having parasites is reduced from 0.38 to 0.14 when the population have access to sanitation.

No resettlement is foreseen, since the Extension of the Waste Water Treatment Plant of Las Catonas and the Rehabilitation and Optimization of the Waste Water Treatment Plant of San Martín, will take place within the perimeter of the current plots. The New Sewage of Partido Escobar will be laid under the public roads.

The main social impacts will happen during construction phase, mainly related to the access and traffic disturbances. These impacts will be mitigated through the requirements included in the Environmental and Social Management Plans to be adhered to by the Contractors and will be monitored by the Environmental Management Department of AySA.

The Extension of the Waste Water Treatment Plant of Las Catonas and the Rehabilitation and Optimization of the Waste Water Treatment Plant of San Martín, will be developed with the plants still in operation, (with phased construction), minimising any impact on the production / treatment capacity.

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## **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

The EIA to be prepared for the works in the New Sewage of Partido Escobar and for the Extension of the Waste Water Treatment Plant of Las Catonas, will have the necessary consultations and workshops with stakeholders. The record of these consultations shall be received by the Bank from the Promoter.

## **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The Environmental and Social Management Plan to initially be drafted by the contractors will include the measures to be taken in order to prevent any impact to the Environment by the works, as well as a Monitoring Plan, that will endow an information system with the proper indicators, and will guarantee the fulfilment of the measures included in the EIAs.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The Argentina Water and Sanitation Project has minimal negative environmental and social impacts that can be well managed. The balance of the impacts is very positive from the social and environmental points of view because it will provide access to sanitation services, will guarantee the water supply service and will increase the treatment capacity of the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The project is acceptable for EIB financing in E&S terms.

From the Environmental and Social point of view there will be a disbursement condition:

-Full Environmental and Social Impact Assessments for the components for which it is required including public consultations, will be received to the satisfaction of the Bank with (i) an electronic copy of the non-technical summary of that assessment including the full environmental impact study or (ii) a link to the website of the promoter or the competent authority's website through which the Bank can retrieve the non-technical summary and the full environmental impact study of that assessment.

And the following Undertaking:

-The Promoter commits to implement and follow the recommendations of the Review and Update of the Environmental and Social Management Plans