

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	WATER SUPPLY OASEN
Project Number:	2017 - 0475
Country:	The Netherlands
Project Description:	The project concerns the 2017-2022 investment programme into the production and distribution facilities of OASEN, one of Netherlands' smaller water supply companies. The programme consists mainly of renewal and upgrading of water treatment plants, reservoirs and pumping stations and distribution networks.
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:	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

This is the first operation with Oasen Water Company (Oasen), operating in the “green heart” region, an area located between Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht. The programme is developed by an experienced water operator (Oasen) 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 2014/52/EU, Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC). The Netherlands has 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 a positive climate adaptation strategy through investments in new water treatment processes that will be resilient to future changes of water quality (higher salinity content and increased micro pollutants content). Although net long term environmental and social impacts will be positive, some works might require a full EIA according to Directive 2014/52/EU.

The programme also includes further treatment of water (softening of water after aeration) which 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 household level by improving the energy efficiency of water heaters (due again to less scaling);
- It produces sand and calcium pellets which are used in the cement and/or iron industry and thus promoting circular economy.

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The investment programme aims as well at increasing the water supply network resilience towards lands subsidence which is an acute issue in the operator area. The program consists in replacing leaking PVC pipes by steel pipe and this will have a positive impact on the water losses and thus on the usage of raw water resources. Oasen is also very cautious to minimize to the lowest possible level any nuisances caused by water leakage and related repair works by a meticulous maintenance program with very low leakage levels under a “water with no surprise” objective.

Climate change is deemed to pose the following two main threats to the raw water resources of Oasen (surface water that is naturally filtered through the banks of the river):

- Due to their proximity to the sea, sea level rise will have an impact on the salinity content which is will definitely increase with time;
- Due to longer dry period in summer (PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency), concentration of pollutants in the river Lek will increase and in particular the micro pollutants of the surface water for which new treatment processes are required.

The main climate change adaptation strategy is to gradually retrofit existing production capacity with new treatment processes adapted to higher salinity content and micro pollutants.

The project also contributes to Climate Change Mitigation.

The company is putting constant efforts in reducing its carbon footprint, with the objective of reducing the energy consumption by 8% in the next five years.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The negative social impact of the project is only temporary as it includes the possible disruption of water services and traffic, noise and temporary occupation of public and private space, safety hazards, common for this type of projects in urban environments, and will be addressed as part of the planning permission for the relevant schemes.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Oasen 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, increased resilience of the network to land subsidence and overall lasting positive environmental benefits through sustainable management of water resources. 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 (2014/52/EC), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives.

The promoter undertakes not to allocate Bank funds to project components that require a full EIA until the EIA and/or the necessary nature assessment have been finalised and approved by the relevant competent authority. Once any EIA is available, the promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of its Non- Technical Summary (NTS) and full copy of the EIA, for publication on the EIB website.

The promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against any project component that impacts nature conservation sites, without receiving from the relevant competent authorities the



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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

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