

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	KENYA TELECOM EXPANSION
Project Number:	2017-0635
Country:	KENYA
Project Description:	The project concerns the promoter's investment to expand the coverage and capacity of its mobile telecommunications network (3G and 4G) as well as its FTTB (Fibre To The Building) network to provide fixed broadband services to SMEs and corporate customers in Kenya. The project will include access, core and transmission components as well as improved IT systems. The project is planned to be implemented during calendar years 2018 to 2020 in Kenya.
EIA required:	no
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

The implementation of the part of the project related to the mobile communications network will not have relevant negative environmental effects, as the promoter will mostly install the equipment in existing towers or rooftop sites belonging to other mobile operators or tower companies. With respect to the FTTB (fibre to the building) part of the project, the main impacts would be disturbances during civil works. However, this particular project includes a limited number of buildings to be connected, so the impact is not expected to be relevant.

During the operational phase the main environmental impact will be the electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation from base stations and microwave radio equipment. The EMF radiation produced by mobile handsets is classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a WHO specialized agency, as possibly carcinogenic to humans. Studies are ongoing to further assess the potential long-term effects of use. So far mitigation measures adopted are limits to the radiation of the mobile base stations, restrictions to their locations, the control of the power of the handsets and guidelines for consumer usage. Kenya applies the exposure limits stipulated by the ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection). The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) monitors compliance.

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.

Luxembourg, 15 May 2018

The promoter has recently established a HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) policy, and is committed to complying with legal and regulatory requirements, to integrating HSE aspects in all business processes, and to making continuous improvements in HSE.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project would not fall, if located in the EU, under Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU, and therefore would not be subject to mandatory Environmental Impact Assessments. The same applies in Kenya, as the project does not fall under the Second Schedule of the Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act, 1999 amended in 2015. The promoter will comply with the EMF radiation exposure limits applied by national authorities, which are in line with the EU recommendation (1999/519/EC) and the ICNIRP guidelines. On the other hand, the fibre network deployments are expected to have very limited environmental effects.

Hence, the project is considered as acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental and social terms.

PJ/SQM/ECSO 15.10.15