

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	WATERSCHAP FRIESLAND
Project Number:	2017 - 0536
Country:	The Netherlands
Project Description:	The Project is to finance the 2017-2021 investment programme of Waterschap Friesland (Wetterskip Fryslan), in the north of the Netherlands.
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 and the full copies of the EIAs 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 project with Waterschap Friesland (Wetterskip Fryslân), operating in the north-west of the Netherlands within the Province of Friesland and a small area of the Province of Groningen, including four out of five of the Wadden Sea Islands. The investment programme is developed by an experienced Promoter that takes into consideration environmental and social aspects as required by European and National Environmental Law. The Dutch legislation complies with the relevant EU environmental Directives (Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EC, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC). The Promoter is well aware of these requirements and acts accordingly.

The project concerns the improvement of water security and quality to guarantee continued compliance with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). In this respect the programme focus on improving water quality through the installation of new sludge processing technology (sludge hydrolysis) and the reduction of nitrogen in surface water and further aims at sustainable level management of the water systems including reservoir polders, sluices, weirs, pumping stations, water retention areas etc, so as to ensure that there is sufficient water for different water and land users. Although net long term environmental and social impacts will be positive, twenty-one (21) of the programme schemes will require a full EIA according to Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EC and eleven (11) of them an Appropriate Assessment for potential impacts on the Natura 2000 areas.

The Province's water management plan (WHP3) and the water management plan of Wetterskip Fryslân (WBP3) are being currently updated. The purpose of these plans is to describe measures (works) applied within the Frysian polders and polder reservoirs in a way that allows safe habitation in Friesland, with sufficient clean water, bearing in mind anticipated climate changes and subsidence. Some of these measures at water planning level may lead to an associated environmental impact which was investigated in the relevant Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the plans. The SEA also covers an Appropriate Assessment within the framework of the Nature Conservation Act which shows that the measures are not expected to have any significant adverse effects for which no mitigation

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measures have been taken yet or for which the preconditions included in the water plans guarantee that no significant adverse effects will occur.

Part of the 2017-2021 investment programme of Waterschap Friesland is also the reinforcement works of about 29 km of primary dykes which protect against sea-level rising from the Wadden sea, the IJsselmeer and the North sea, within the Province of Friesland and of about 66km of regional flood defences against inland regional flooding under extreme wet conditions such as heavy and more frequent rainfalls both based on the new flood safety standards. The dyke strengthening works meet the new flood safety requirements of the National Delta Plan.

Raising flood protection standards to new levels in the Netherlands forms part of the National Delta Plan with its rolling Flood Protection Programme known as HWBP ('Hoogwaterbeschermingsprogramma') currently focused on flood defences that failed to meet requirements in the 2011 flood assessment. The Flood Protection Programme drives a significant part of the investments for Waterschap Friesland and implements the National Water Plan II (2016-2021) policies and measures that follow the Delta Plan's recommendations and applies the climate scenarios of the Royal Dutch Meteorological Institute (KNMI). Besides the flood protection works, some of the water level management works such as the replacement of old pumping stations with new ones and the expansion of water retention areas (water buffering) are considered as well as adaptation measures.

The climate strategy of Wetterskip Fryslân is also driven by contributing significantly to climate mitigation. The water authority aims to self-generate 40% of its used energy by 2020, reach the 2020 goal of 30% less CO₂ emissions than 2005 with the intent to have a climate neutral organization by 2030. To achieve these targets, the 2017-2021 investment programme includes investments on renewable energy via the installation of solar panels at existing Wastewater Treatment Plants, on nitrogen reduction in the surface water from agricultural sources such as fertilizers and pesticides and finally the installation of an energy plant which introduces an innovative sludge process (sludge hydrolysis) with the aim to capture and reuse most of the biogas existing in the wastewater sludge. The GHG emissions reduction only due to this component can be quantified in 2,200 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year.

Taking into account the abovementioned linkages between climate vulnerability and project components the project contributes significantly to both Bank's transversal objectives of Climate Action Adaptation and Mitigation.

Social Assessment

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.

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 investments 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 Friesland website. Consultations with affected communities and interested parties take place in line with the requirements of the Directives.

Conclusions and Recommendations

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In line with the EU Directives, the project will result in upgrading flood protection works based on the new flood safety requirements and in improving water quality and security. The capacity of the promoter is deemed high, having strong in-house technical capabilities 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) amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/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 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.