

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	Bouregreg 2 Urban Development
Project Number:	2014-0354
Country:	Morocco
Project Description:	The proposed project is a component of the Phase 2 of the national urban development project of the Bouregreg Valley, located between Rabat and Salé and served since 2011 by the new tramway of Rabat.
EIA required:	Yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	no

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The operation is structured as an Investment Loan, and will comprise site preparation, basic public infrastructure and culture infrastructure ( i.e. the construction of the 'Maison des Arts et de la Culture' and the 'Bibliothèque Nationale des Archives' ) for the Phase 2 of the national urban development project of the Bouregreg Valley, located between Rabat and Salé.

Morocco has a relatively developed and coherent environmental legislation<sup>1</sup>. Under the terms of this legislation National/Regional Committees for EIA give their opinion on the environmental acceptability of projects subject to EIA once the public inquiry has taken place.

Inside the EU, the environmental assessment approach for such urban development would comprise a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the relevant planning documents, and potentially separate Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for individual investments on a case by case basis, according to their screening under the EIA directive. The works funded under the EIB operation, comprising secondary and tertiary urban streets, utility networks, site preparation for future development and cultural infrastructure, would typically fall under Annex 2 of the EIA Directive if the project were located in an EU Member State.

Moroccan environmental legislation presently does not require that an SEA is conducted. Nevertheless, urban development of the scale envisaged at Bouregreg is subject to the requirement of an EIA, and individual future investments may be subject to investment-specific EIAs depending on their size and nature.

In this context, and also taking into account that there is limited experience within the country of EIAs for urban development, the Promoter, Wessal Bouregreg, engaged a team of local consultants to carry out an ESIA in four stages: (1) baseline assessment; (2) assessment of impacts; (3) preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP); and (4)

<sup>1</sup> The principal laws of Moroccan environmental legislation are the "Loi Cadre 11-03" on the protection and enhancement to the environment and the "Loi n° 12-03 du 12 mai 2003" on environmental impact assessment (EIA). Furthermore the "Décret n° 2-04-564 du 4 novembre 2008" lays down detailed rules for the organization and the conduct of the public inquiry of projects subject to EIA and the "Décret n° 2-04-563 du 4 novembre 2008" defines the responsibilities and functioning of the National Committee for EIA (CNEIE) and Regional Committees for EIA (CREIE).

Loi n° 22-07 relative aux aires protégées du 16 juillet 2010 defines the protected areas and their management.

consolidation and follow-up of the implementation of the ESMP. This EIA was reviewed by the national EIA Committee on the 4th January 2017, and approved by the Ministry of Environment on 23rd January 2017 by the decision number 02/2017. A copy of the ESIA has been delivered to the Bank by the Promoter.

No impact is expected on biodiversity and protected areas due to the urban location of the site. The area of wetland close to the Bouregreg river will be protected through acquisition and zoning.

Environmental impacts at the construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, at a level, which is deemed acceptable. At construction, the projects will result in increased noise levels, vibrations from heavy traffic to and from the sites, and impacts on water and air quality, but in a greenfield site not close to the city centre or urban areas. Special mitigation and compensation measures are being considered in the designs and also in ESMP in order to minimize these impacts and, in most cases, improve original conditions of existing sites.

### **Social Assessment**

The project will not entail involuntary resettlement of people.

The project will improve mobility and connectivity to the cities of Rabat and Salé and surrounding areas by means of public transport reorganisation and new road infrastructure, thus reducing congestion, noise and air pollution.

The project will generate temporary (around 9,500 FTE man-years) and permanent (around 1,200 FTE jobs) employment

Also, investments in new public cultural infrastructure will improve the quality of life of people living in the two agglomerations of Rabat and Salé.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

Public consultation with local government units, public institutions and professional bodies, as well as public participation, was carried out during the project preparation phase in connection with the implementation of the ESIA.

The request to open the public consultation to the regional departments of the environment of Rabat and Salé was carried out on August 25, 2016. The public consultation for Rabat was opened for Rabat on October 4, 2016 and closed on October 23, 2016 and for Salé was opened on October 17, 2016 and closed on November 05, 2016, as required by the regulation (20 days duration).

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

n/a

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The project is expected to have long-term positive environmental and social impacts in terms of employment and economic activity, social cohesion and inclusion, and to contribute to a higher standard of living in the considered areas and cities of Rabat and Salé.

The project must comply with the EIB Environmental and Social Principles and Standards, as contained in the Volume 1 of the EIB Environmental and Social Handbook.

The institutional capacity of Wessal Bouregreg to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed acceptable. Therefore, given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the promoter, subject to the conditions mentioned in this ESDS, which are included in the Finance Contract, the Investment Loan is acceptable in environmental and social terms.