

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	GWP TBILISI WASTE WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Project Number:	2016-0585
Country:	Georgia
Project Description:	<i>The project will modernise the water supply and sanitation of Georgia's capital Tbilisi and consists of (1) upgrade of the Soviet-era Gardabani waste water treatment plant's mechanical stage to bring it in line with the current Georgian and EU requirements, and (2) upgrade of the outdated water distribution and sewage collection networks to improve access, minimise leaks, and infiltration and save energy.</i>
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The water and sanitation project in Tbilisi consists of rehabilitation and extension of the existing water supply system and sewerage system, and partial rehabilitation of the Gardabani Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) serving the Tbilisi agglomeration.

The Gardabani WWTP requires a full EIA according to the Georgian legislation. The EIA procedure is still ongoing and final approval from the competent authorities is pending. Given the size and nature of other components (i.e. water supply network, sewerage network, pumping stations, and house connections) a full EIA is not required.

The Promoter, privately owned company Georgian Water and Power LLC operating within the framework of a concession contract, is committed to supply potable water and collect and treat wastewater in compliance with Georgian Regulations. The condition of the existing infrastructure is poor, resulting in high non-revenue water, infiltration and polluting underground and surface waters. The ultimate target effluent values proposed for Tbilisi project are fully comparable with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EC) as amended. The current WWTP project component is a first phase of the WWTP rehabilitation and concerns the primary stage of the wastewater treatment process.

The project represents a significant improvement towards long-term technical and environmental sustainability of the water and wastewater services, and will have a positive impact on the environment of the whole region and the Caspian Sea ecosystem. The next phase(s) will continue with further improvements of networks and upgrade of the WWTP's biological stage and sludge facilities on the basis of a comprehensive feasibility study, yet to be completed including detailed surveys of networks and biological load projections.

The sewage sludge is expected to be of good quality within the limits for agriculture use.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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The three project components contribute to climate change mitigation through energy efficiency and emissions savings: (i) reduction of NRW, (ii) rehabilitation of sewerage network, and (iii) sewage sludge stabilisation.

The main environmental impacts of the project include temporary disruption to services, noise, and occupation of public or private space, traffic disruptions, and safety hazards. Effective project management and works supervision will be required to minimise the negative disturbances, inconveniences and impacts. The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the WWTP and networks together with anticipated selection of experienced contractors should ensure that adequate mitigation measures will be put in place.

The Promoter will need to submit all designs, tenders dossiers, Project Implementation Plans, Land Acquisition Plans, and the ESMP for the Bank's comments / approvals / non-objections, as appropriate according to the EIB Guide to Procurement and Finance Contract.

### **Social Assessment, where applicable**

The project will benefit public health by increasing and/or improving access to water and sanitation services, and by improved treatment of wastewater before discharge into the river Mtkvari. The area served has approximately 1,200,000 inhabitants.

Construction of networks and the WWTP does not require acquisition of new land as all structures will be located within the fenced area of the existing WWTP, and existing water pipes and sewers will be reconstructed or rehabilitated in the existing lines. Design documentation for new assets will include Land Acquisition Plans.

#### Labour, occupational, health and safety standards

The Promoter will ensure that the project is implemented in compliance with the EIB's environmental and social standards, ILO and Georgian labour standards, and with the ESMP.

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

Public consultation will follow national regulations, as described in the *Law of Georgia on Environmental Impact Permit (2007)*. The Law defines legal aspects of issuing environmental permits, expert assessments, and public consultation procedures. The environmental permits are issued by the *Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia*.

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

n/a

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

To ensure compliance with the EIB standards it is required that the Promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against components that require an EIA or biodiversity assessment according to national law without, prior to commitment, receiving the consent from the competent authority, and the Non-Technical Summary of the EIA having been made available to the public. Non-Technical Summary and EIAs shall be sent to the Bank for publication on the website.

With the above environmental and social conditions in place, the project is considered to be acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.



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