

**Public**

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	ENERGY EFFICIENCY TELECOM GUINEA
Project Number:	2018-0703
Country:	GUINEA
Project Description:	The project consists of financing a new energy efficient infrastructure (electrical supply, PV, batteries) for the existing and new cellular towers across Guinea, in order to improve the energy efficiency and reliability of power supply, as well as increasing renewable energy consumption.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	yes
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The Promoter, a service company, will roll out a new energy efficient infrastructure to supply the existing and new mobile towers of a large international Mobile Network Operator (MNO) of the country. Approximately 1.500 existing towers will be upgraded and 250 new sites developed with the technical solution.

The project will decrease the total energy needs of the mobile towers, switch the power supply of off-grid site from diesel generators to solar PV and significantly reduce the diesel consumption occurring during outages for on-grid sites and sites where PV cannot be deployed. Therefore, this project will bring global and local environmental benefits through energy savings and the reduction of pollutant emissions from diesel-powered generators.

It has been assessed that there may be some Environmental and Social (E&S) impacts related to the development of new telecom tower sites, which could occur in an environmentally sensitive area or/and may affect the local population. Other potential impacts are related to waste management. To mitigate such risks that may occur to any of the sites, a strong Environmental and Social Management System is key.

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment according to Guinea law is very unlikely, but authorities may still require an ESIA study.

The project will generate some waste during its operation; in particular, some batteries will be replaced. The disposal of waste in the country with poor existing waste treatment is difficult. Furthermore, the new sites to be developed by the MNO will require land acquisition of small parcels all over the country to construct the towers and the associated infrastructure and might impact biodiversity.

<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.

In order to mitigate this, the financing contract will include a condition prior to first disbursement for the Bank to receive a satisfactory E&S report regarding the land acquisition process of the sites from an independent consultant. Any individual site for which the land acquisition process did not follow the Bank E&S standards will be excluded from the project. An undertaking is also proposed to implement and monitor an environmental and social management system in the Guinean subsidiary.

### **EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

The Carbon Footprint is calculated considering the grid and diesel consumption of the sites. In the baseline, existing consumption remains at current levels, with new towers assumed to consume the same amounts of diesel and power as current towers. Estimated emissions savings are 28.5 kilotons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year. For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project costs.

### **Social Assessment**

To prevent theft and fulfil its contractual commitment with the MNO, the Promoter contracted a company to provide security for the sites.

The working conditions differ from site to site, and some of them do not fulfil the EIB's Labour, Health and Safety Standards, such as available sanitation facilities.

The MNO is responsible for non-energy related infrastructure land site acquisition processes. During such acquisitions, EIB E&S standard may not be fully respected by the MNO. These processes are outside of the control of the Promoter. This is addressed by the above requirement of a satisfactory E&S report on land acquisition.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Overall, the project will contribute to climate change mitigation (i.e. energy efficiency) by decreasing the energy consumption of mobile towers in Guinea.

All E&S related issues, risks and remedial actions have been described above. Additionally, the Bank will require the following undertakings, in line with E&S best practice:

- The Promoter shall confirm that the telecom company has put in place environmental and social measures acceptable to the Bank, to ensure the cell towers and associated facilities do not represent a risk to local communities or the environment.
- If an underlying investment is subject to an ESIA, the Promoter will be required to provide a website link to the location where it is published in compliance with the EIB's group Transparency Policy. The Promoter will confirm that the project incorporates all mitigating measures recommended as a result of the ESIA.

Based on the above considerations and conditions, the Project is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.