

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: Czech Agriculture – Water Management  
Project Number: 2018-0769  
Country: Czech Republic  
Project Description: Water management investments in the Czech Republic promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture

EIA required: yes

This is a multi-scheme Framework Loan operation. Some of the schemes may require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under Annex I or Annex II (“screened in”) of the EIA Directive.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: no

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

##### Project scope

The Project is a multi-scheme Framework Loan supporting three programmes within the national water management sector in the Czech Republic:

- Programme 129 290 – Small municipal reservoirs: the Project will support the rehabilitation of several hundred of existing reservoirs as well as the construction of new reservoirs in order to increase available storage volume to better deal with localized storm events and also to provide additional water resources at times of drought;
- Programme 129 300 - Water supply and sanitation to municipalities below 1000 PE: the Project will support the construction of new water and wastewater networks and treatment plants. The water related investments will provide sustainable water supply to a target population of 24,000 living in drought prone areas. The wastewater related investments will provide sanitation to a target population of 39,000 and will contribute to the eradication of untreated wastewater discharges into water courses. The Programme will also ensure compliance of the concerned municipalities with both the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) and Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC).

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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 20,000 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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- Programme 129 360 - Floods Prevention Programme Stage IV: The Project will support the continuation of the previous national flood prevention programmes (Stages I, II and III). It will support schemes which are aimed at eliminating or reducing flood risks in line with the approved national Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP).

The Framework Loan will be managed by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). For each Programme there is a dedicated Project Implementation Unit within the MoA. The individual schemes will be implemented by the final beneficiaries: (i) the regional authorities (e.g. regional river management boards, state forestry departments and (ii) local municipalities.

The Environmental Protection Authority for the individual schemes within the scope of the Project are the Regional Departments of the Ministry of Environment (MoE).

### **Strategic planning**

The Government of the Czech Republic approved the National River Basin Plans (NRBPs) by its resolution No 1083 of 21 December 2015. Under the NRBPs there are number of regional River Basin Plans, Flood Risk Management Plans and Regional Water and Sewage Mains Development Plans, which have all been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) according to the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. All the three Programmes in the project scope are included in the NRBPs.

The competent authorities (MoA and MoE) have taken appropriate actions to coordinate the preparation of these plans and the relative public consultation procedures, in line with the requirements of the EU Flood (2007/60/EC) and Water Framework (2000/60/EC) Directives.

### **Environmental compliance**

Environmental compliance with the relevant EU Directives transposed into the Czech national Legislation (Act No. 100/2001 Coll., as amended by Act No. 93/2004 Coll., Act No. 163/2006 Coll., Act No. 186/2006 Coll., Act No. 216/2007 Coll.) is required both at programme level (SEA Directive 2001/42/EC) and individual scheme level (EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU, Birds 2009/147/EC and Habitats Directive 92/43/EC), and is reflected in the applicable approval procedures of the MoA. For each Programme included in the Framework Loan, the MoA has created a Programme Management Unit, supported by independent consultants, which are well aware of the requirements of the Czech and European legislation and will act according to the relevant EU Directives' provisions. Therefore, the Promoter has the capacity and capability to monitor that the final beneficiaries implement the Project in line with EIB environmental and social standards and requirements.

Given the scope of this operation and sectors included, it is likely that some of the infrastructure schemes will fall under the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU, either under Annex I or Annex II. Should any scheme under this Framework Loan fall under Annex II and be "screened in" by the Competent Authority or fall under Annex I, the Promoter shall deliver the Non Technical Summary (NTS) and EIAs (if applicable) to the Bank, before the Bank funds are allocated.

### **Programme impact**

The positive Environmental impacts of the Programmes are related to the protection of water resources, protection of habitats and pollution prevention due to the avoidance of untreated wastewater discharge into water bodies.

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Potential negative impacts of the schemes will be assessed in the preparation of the EIAs (if required). However, these impacts are expected to be restricted to the construction phase (e.g. increased traffic, noise, minor vibration and dust generation) which will be mitigated by following the Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) and adhering to good construction practices and proper work organisation.

### **Climate Action**

The components of the proposed operation (flood prevention, increased storm water retention volume and provision of water supply to drought risk regions) demonstrates appropriate context, intent and response to climate change adaptation. Collection and treatment of currently untreated wastewater will also contribute to climate change mitigation.

### **Social Assessment**

The schemes are expected to have significant positive social impact increasing flood protection to at least 47,000 inhabitants. By alleviating the flood risk, the project will enable further sustainable development of the local communities in the project areas.

Improvements to storm water retention will also help the concerned municipalities to minimise damages due to floods and provide additional water resources at times of droughts.

The water supply and sanitation investments will generally benefit public health, by increasing or improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, or by collecting and treating wastewater before discharging into receiving waters bodies.

Construction works will contribute to temporary employment creation, whilst the new water supply and sanitation infrastructure will also create permanent employment.

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

Public consultations on the River Basin Management Plans, Flood Risk Management Plans, Regional Water and Sewage Mains Development Plans and associated environmental reports have been carried out as prescribed by the SEA Directive and national procedures.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including EIA (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) as transposed into national law.

For each individual scheme, where applicable, the Promoter will be requested to deliver the full EIA study and the NTS of the EIA to the Bank before Bank funds are allocated. Furthermore, the Promoter has to provide evidence of the compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives (where applicable) before the Bank funds are allocated and, if requested, the Promoter will provide any decision and subsequent justification that screens out project



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components from the requirement of a full EIA as well as the decisions issued by the competent authorities regarding the Habitats and Birds Directives.

Overall, the net environmental and social impact of this operation is expected to be positive, given the range of investments in flood prevention, water supply, sanitation, storm water management, etc. Potential negative effects will be alleviated by implementing effective mitigation measures.

The institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed adequate and therefore, subject to conditions mentioned above, the project is acceptable to the Bank in environmental and social terms.