

Luxembourg, 18/09/2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>BNI AGRICULTURE & COCOA & YOUTH EMPLOYMENT MBIL</i>
Project Number:	<i>2023-0702</i>
Country:	<i>Côte d'Ivoire</i>
Project Description:	<i>Credit line to Banque Nationale d'Investissement (BNI) for on-lending to eligible SMEs and MidCaps active in agriculture value chains and impacting positively on youth employment, with a specific sustainable cocoa target.</i>
EIA required:	EIA may be required for selected investments
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Through this operation, the EIB will establish a credit line to the Banque Nationale d'Investissement (BNI, hereafter the Financial Intermediary FI) for on-lending to eligible SMEs and mid-cap companies (hereafter the Final Beneficiaries, FBs), with a focus on agricultural value chains. The facility will be dedicated to support eligible projects in sustainable cocoa value chains and agricultural value chains. It is expected that about 50% of the loan amount to be for supporting businesses led and/or founded by a young entrepreneur or employing at least 40% young people.

Environmental Assessment

Some sub-projects to be financed by the FI may require an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). For any investment subject to an ESIA, the FI shall carry out the ESIA process and provide to the EIB the outcome of the process.

The FI has sound governance standards and an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) in place to address environmental and social risks that are typical for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Mid-Cap investments in the sector.

Sub-projects entailing activities presenting environmental or social risks and/or likely to result in significant, varied, irreversible or unprecedented negative environmental or social impacts are excluded from EIB financing. Sub-projects within or impacting areas of high biodiversity and nature conservation value, including bird migration routes, are also excluded from EIB financing.

Social Assessment, where applicable

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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As part of the ESMS, BNI has put in place a grievance and redress mechanism to address potential grievances and complaints. The FI has also an external communication process in place. The FI will be required to maintain the grievance/redress mechanisms and communication process in place.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Undertakings:

- The Financial Intermediary will communicate to the Bank within 6 months of the date of signature of the financial contract a version of its ESMS including environmental and social considerations in line with (i) national legislation and EIB environmental and sustainable development standards; (ii) ILO core labour standards; (iii) EIB lists of excluded and restricted activities and sectoral requirements.
- The Financial Intermediary shall maintain an adequate ESMS and shall ensure that the necessary financial and human resources are made available to implement the ESMS.
- Sub-projects entailing activities presenting environmental or social risks and/or likely to result in significant, varied, irreversible or unprecedented negative environmental or social impacts are excluded from EIB financing. The Financial Intermediary shall ensure that activities triggering economic or physical displacement are excluded from EIB financing.
- The FI shall maintain the grievance and redress mechanisms, as well as external communication process in place.
- Certification or roadmap to certification by internationally recognized certification standard (such as Rainforest Alliance and Fairtrade) for final beneficiaries active in the cocoa and cashew nut value chains.
- Sub-projects within or impacting on areas of high biodiversity and nature conservation value, including bird migration routes, are excluded from EIB financing.

With the above-mentioned conditions to be included in the financial contract, the operation is acceptable to the EIB in environmental and social terms.