

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: Vitens Affordable Drinking Water Supply
Project Number: 2019-0582
Country: Netherlands
Project Description: The project concerns the 2020-2024 investment programme into the production and distribution facilities of Vitens, Netherlands' largest water supply company. The programme consists mainly of renewal and upgrading of water treatment plants, reservoirs and pumping stations, distribution networks and water meters aimed at providing an even more reliable and affordable drinking water supply.

EIA required: yes

This is an investment programme made up of multiple schemes. Some of them may require an EIA under Annex II of the EIA directive 2011/92/EC as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise: no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project will finance part of Vitens's 2020-2024 investment programme, mostly consisting of the renewal and upgrading of water treatment plants, reservoirs and pumping stations, distribution networks and water meters. The proposed operation will help ensure continued compliance with Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, thereby contributing to protection of the environment and water security. It will also ensure continued compliance with Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC and Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC, by providing an even more reliable and affordable drinking water supply in the service area of Vitens.

Vitens aims to maintain its network efficiency at its current high level (non-revenue water is currently about 6.5% of water production), which has a positive impact on the usage of underground water resources. The company also seeks to minimize nuisances caused by water leaks and gears its maintenance program toward a (close to) zero tolerance to such disruptions.

Although net long term environmental and social impacts will be positive, some works may require a full EIA according to Directive 2011/92/EC as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU or affect protected areas. However, due to the nature of the works to be implemented it is anticipated that the negative environmental impacts will be associated with the period of construction and will be mainly localized and temporary.

Luxembourg, 18 March 2020

The investment programme for 2020-2024 will also contribute significantly to the Bank's climate change transversal objective, notably by contributing to adaptation through investments in water reservoirs needed to cope with increased variability in rainfall.

Social Assessment

The appraisal of the proposed investment programme has identified a number of potential positive social impacts, the most important of which are: (i) improved quality of life, (ii) social benefits from enabling socio-economic developments in the service area of Vitens (including but not limited to job creation), and (iii) continued delivery of high-quality water at affordable prices.

Temporary adverse social impacts may include the following: disruption of services and traffic, noise, temporary occupation of public and private space, and health and safety hazards during construction. Such impacts are common for this type of project, and the mitigation of expected adverse social impacts will be addressed as part of the planning for each scheme.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Promoter must ensure compliance with national and European environmental legislation and facilitate access by the public to environmentally relevant information in accordance with the Aarhus Convention. The Environmental Impact Assessments (if required) as well as the screening according to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III of the EIA directive 2011/92/EC as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU will be made available to the Public. The EIAs (if required) will be published on the EIB website. Consultations with affected communities and interested parties will take place in line with the requirements of the Directives.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

None.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This operation is fully driven by compliance with the EU relevant environmental and water directives. All schemes covered by the programme will be subject to the Promoter complying with the following requirements:

- The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including the EIA (2014/52/EC) amending the EIA Directive (2011/92/EC), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC). The promoter undertakes not to allocate Bank funds to project components that require a full EIA until the EIA and the necessary appropriate assessment, if required, have been finalised and approved by the relevant competent authority. Once any EIA is finalised, the promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of the EIA, for publication on the EIB website.
- The Promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decisions issued by the competent authority that screen out project component and the main reasons for not requiring EIA with the reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Under these conditions, the operation is acceptable to the Bank's financing in Environmental and Social terms.

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