

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	SEVILLA WATER INFRASTRUCTURE (2020-0023)
Project Number:	2020-0023
Country:	SPAIN
Project Description:	The project concerns the financing of water schemes forming part of EMASESA's investment programme over the period 2020-2024.

EIA required: yes

None of the components will require a full ESIA.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The proposed operation will support EMASESA's water and wastewater investment programme. EMASESA, the promoter, is a water utility providing water supply, sanitation and rainwater collection services in Seville and its surrounding areas (the project area). It comprises over one million people living in 12 municipalities. The EIB project will consist on numerous small interventions in urban environment spread across EMASESA's service area. They concern urgent i) investments in water and wastewater infrastructure to secure the quality of the service, ii) the rehabilitation of aged pipes or in poor condition to reduce water losses in the network, iii) flood protection investments and, iv) investments to improve the energy efficiency of the system e.g. installation of PV panels, hydropower generation and improved biogas production in the existing sludge digesters.

In general, investments will contribute to ensuring compliance with key EU directives in the water sector, notably the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC, and the Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000/60/EC and, to a minor extent, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC. More specifically, investments are expected to generate positive externalities by generating environmental benefits (improved water network efficiency), public health benefits (quality of water and treated wastewater), increased resilience to climate change (reduced risk of flooding) and by mitigating greenhouse emissions (thanks to the installation of photovoltaic panels and to more efficient energy biogas cogeneration in wastewater treatment processes).

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.

Luxembourg, 27th May 2021

The Spanish legislation has fully transposed the relevant EU Directives mentioned above. The latest amendment of the national act on EIA procedures (Law 21/2013) entered into force on 9th December 2013. Under this law, the *Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica* is the competent authority for EIA approvals. It may delegate responsibility for EIA regulation and implementation to regional governments (*Autonomías*), Andalusia, in the case of this project. Spain has adopted all River Basin Management Plans for the period 2016–2021 implementing the requirements of the WFD. They have all been subject to a strategic environmental assessment according to the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC.

The project will consist of the upgrade of networks and facilities in urban areas, with the main impacts being those during construction and not normally requiring a full EIA. Overall, none of the sub-operations is expected to have any significant negative environmental impact or will be implemented inside or near Natura 2000 or other protected sites. As of now, there is no scheme that falls under Annex I of the Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. If a future scheme was to fall under Annex II, the decision whether an EIA is required is left to the Competent Authority, on the basis of the criteria defined in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Finally, the project will contribute to Climate Adaptation and Mitigation by supporting investments that increase resilience to climate related risks and reduced GHG emissions.

Social Assessment, where applicable

By increasing the quality and reliability of water and wastewater collection and treatment services, the project is expected to bring substantial health advantages and environmental quality improvements to the affected population, thereby increasing the quality of life in the project area. Negative social impacts are only temporary (.e.g. occupation of public and private space, safety hazards during construction, traffic, noise) and will be addressed as part of the planning for the implementation of each scheme.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Promoter will be requested to ensure compliance with national and European environmental legislation, notably to facilitate public access to environmental information and guarantee public consultation during the environmental decision-making process, where relevant, in accordance with the Aarhus Convention.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

EMASESA is an experienced promoter and has the required experience for the implementation of the schemes according to the environmental and social requirements. During the project’s due diligence, it has demonstrated sound practice with respect to environmental, health and safety management. In addition to procedures to meet regulatory requirements, the Promoter has a comprehensive environmental management system which is applied to new projects and monitors ongoing operations. It has the following certifications: ISO 9001 (Quality Certification), ISO 17025 (Conformity Assessment for performing inspections on Water Quality and Water Meters tests) and ISO 17020 (Conformity Assessment for performing inspections on wastewater discharges)

Luxembourg, 27th May 2021

ISO 14001 (Environmental Certification), and OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is driven by the requirement to ensure compliance with relevant EU environmental directives and it will also contribute towards improved climate resilience and emissions reductions. All schemes under the project will be subject to the Promoter's compliance with the following requirements:

- The promoter undertakes not to allocate Bank funds to programme components that require a full EIA until the EIA and/or the necessary nature assessment have been finalised and approved by the relevant competent authority. Once any EIA is available, the promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of the EIA, for publication on the EIB website.
- The promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against any scheme that impacts nature conservation sites, without receiving from the relevant competent authorities the declaration under Art. 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that there are no significant effects and informing the Bank of such declaration having been obtained.
- The promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decision and subsequent justification that screens out project components from the requirement of a full EIA as well as the decisions issued by the competent authorities regarding the Habitats and Birds Directives.

Under these conditions, the operation is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms