

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	BERLIN WATER AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME
Project Number:	2023-0079
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	The project is part of the 2023 to 2027 investment programme of the Berliner Wasserbetriebe, the public water company for Berlin City and surrounding communities. The investments mainly consist of the extension, upgrading and rehabilitation of water supply and wastewater collection and treatment facilities.
EIA required:	No. This is an investment programme made up of multiple schemes. All the schemes under the investment programme, have been screened out, meaning they do not require a full EIA study under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EC amending Directive 2011/92/EC.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	Yes
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

Environmental and Social Assessment

The Promoter of the project is the Berliner Wasserbetriebe (BWB), the largest water utility in Germany. BWB provides drinking water to and collects and treats wastewater from around 4.4 million customers in Berlin City and surrounding communities.

The proposed operation concerns the following investments in water supply and wastewater collection and treatment in its service area:

- Construction and rehabilitation of water supply networks.
- Rehabilitation of sewer networks.
- Extension, upgrading and rehabilitation of drinking water treatment facilities.
- Rehabilitation and upgrading of wastewater treatment plants.

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.

- Investments in water and energy efficiency and renewable energy generation.

Environmental Assessment

The project supports compliance with the requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EC), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Drinking Water Directive (EU) 2020/2184.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure

Depending on the project component, the competent authority is the Environmental Agency for Berlin State² and/or for Brandenburg State³. It is expected that none of the investments in the project will require an EIA. The Promoter has sent and committed to send to the Bank all the screening out decisions related to the different components.

The project is in line with the Elbe River Basin Management Plan, which has been subject to a strategic environmental assessment in compliance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC.

The “Masterplan Wasser Berlin” from 2022 also defines measures for the Berlin water supply system to adapt to the impact of climate change as well as other challenges predicted for the future. The need for an SEA of this Masterplan is being studied.

Appropriate Assessment (AA)

The project components do not affect any Natura 2000 areas, neither national nor local protected areas.

Environmental impacts

The project will have significant long-term positive environmental impact on ground and surface water, by rehabilitating sewers, reducing untreated stormwater overflows and increasing the removal of nutrients and micro-pollutants from the treated effluent. In addition, the project contributes to continued compliance with the Drinking Water Directive EU 2020/2184 by extending and rehabilitating the existing water supply network as well as rehabilitating, upgrading and extending the drinking water treatment plants .

Due to the nature of the works to be implemented, it is anticipated that the negative impacts to the environment will only be temporary, during the construction period. In that period, temporary impacts to the environment such as noise and dust may occur. In view of preventing and mitigating any impacts associated with the construction phase, mitigation measures will be included in the Environmental Management Plans of the work contracts and implemented by the Contractors during construction.

Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

The project is expected to positively contribute towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation will be achieved by a number of performance improvement measures, including but not limited to renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures, keeping water losses at the current low level or better, reducing sewer infiltration and improved sludge digestion. These will contribute towards the overall reduction of energy requirements and methane emissions and thus will result in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The upgrading, extension and rehabilitation of drinking water treatment and wastewater treatment facilities and the rehabilitation of the sewer network will allow Berlin City to better adapt to the identified climate change risk of increased frequency and magnitude of droughts and extreme rainfall events.

² Senatsverwaltung für Mobilität, Verkehr, Klimaschutz und Umwelt, Berlin

³ Landesamt für Umwelt, Brandenburg

The project has been assessed for Paris Alignment and is considered to be aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap (CBR).

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The estimated emissions of the project are about 208 kilotons of CO₂ equivalent per year. The project results in savings of about 7.5 kilotons of CO₂ 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 cost'.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty is in scope and screened out of the PATH framework, because it is not considered high emitting nor high vulnerability.

Social Assessment

The project will generally benefit public health, by ensuring the continued access to safe and reliable drinking water and sanitation services at affordable tariffs, by reducing combined stormwater overflows and by increasing the removal of nutrients and micro-pollutants from wastewater before discharging into receiving waters bodies. The project will increase the employment opportunities during the construction as well as during the implementation.

Every two years, the Promoter prepares a Sustainability Report which reflects the Promoter's activities and strategies in being a socially and environmentally sustainable organisation. The report also describes its human resources strategy, which includes an equal opportunities policy. It is published on the Promoter's website and therefore available to all interested parties. The latest one was prepared in 2022.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Public consultation takes place at all levels of the definition of investments and their detailed roll-out, starting with consultation for the key planning documents such as the Masterplan Wasser and proceeding with the definition of the major schemes during the scoping and implementation phase, which also includes definition of compensatory measures in local communities for disruption caused, where applicable.

Where relevant, the Promoter will be required 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 process.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Promoter actively contributes to nature-friendly initiatives and social projects in Berlin.

BWB is in the process of registering with EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme). This environmental management instrument enables organisations to assess, manage and continuously improve their environmental performance. EMAS requires registered organisations to report on key performance indicators in six key environmental areas: energy efficiency, material efficiency, water, waste, biodiversity and emissions.

Environmental criteria, also non-quantifiable ones, have been included in the decision-making process of the investments.

Conclusions and Recommendations

By extending, rehabilitating and upgrading the water supply and wastewater collection and treatment facilities and their performance, the project is expected to have a positive impact on the environment and will contribute to the improvement of living conditions of the inhabitants of the broader area of Berlin City. The temporary negative impacts to the environment that may occur during the construction period, such as noise and dust, will be mitigated as much as possible.

All components covered by the project 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, EIA Directive 2011/92/EC amended by the EIA Directive (2014/52/EC), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives.
- The Promoter will be required not to allocate Bank funds to project components that require a full EIA study until the EIA study and/or the necessary nature assessment have been finalised and approved by the relevant competent authority. Once any EIA study is available, 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, any decisions issued by the competent authority that screen out project components and the main reasons for not requiring EIA with the reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III of the EIA Directive (if relevant).

Considering the above, the Project is acceptable for EIB financing from an environmental and social point of view.