

Luxembourg, 11th December 2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Clean Oceans initiative Grand Nokoué Benin
Project Number:	2024-0472
Country:	Benin
Project Description:	The operation aims to modernise the solid waste management system in Benin's Grand Nokoué. This targeted region comprises 5 municipalities with an estimated population of 2.5 million inhabitants.
EIA required:	Yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	Yes

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project is aligned with Benin's national development plan spanning 2018-2025 which targets to reduce significantly until 2030 the generation of waste through reduction and recycling. The EIB contributed to preparing the feasibility of the project through the « Clean Oceans Project Identification and Preparation » (COPIP) programme. This programme aims to contributing to the improvement of environmental infrastructure in targeted countries in sub-Saharan Africa, in support of cleaner and more sustainable oceans. The project's main objective is to reduce the amount of plastic entering the oceans. The project contributes to the objectives of the Global Gateway, notably through environmental protection of the coastline and resilience to pressures on natural resources. In particular, the project will increase the recycling rate in the Grand Nokoué region (Southern Benin). More specifically, it comprises several components such as collection points, sorting stations, composting units and a biogas plant. In addition, it includes an environmental component aiming at securing the landfill sites in Ouèssè and Takon through the acquisition of equipment for closed and future landfill cells, including a biogas collection and treatment system. Lastly, this component includes the installation of a leachate treatment system to prevent and control environmental pollution. The project is fully in line with the waste hierarchy principle as mentioned in the Circular Economy package.

The Law no. 98-030 of 12 February 1999 sets out the frame of the environmental legislation in the Republic of Benin. Article 67 states that "Waste must be properly treated in order to eliminate or reduce to a required level its harmful effects on human health, natural resources or the quality of the environment in general". In relation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), its regulatory content is set out in article 41 of Decree N° 2022-3090 of 13 July 2022.

The Promoter of the project is the (*Société de Gestion des Déchets et de la Salubrité*) SGDS, responsible for the collection and treatment of waste management in Nokoué region. It was

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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set-up on 28th November 2018 by Decree N°2018-542. The Promoter is under the control of the Ministry of Housing and Transport in charge of Sustainable Development², in its capacity as State's representative. The environmental Authority is the Ministry for the Living Environment and Sustainable Development³. The Agency for the Living Environment and Territorial Development⁴, within the Ministry, is responsible for issuing the environmental permits.

At present the project region -Grand Nokoué- generates around 671,000 tonnes of household waste per year. The collection rate amounts to 70%. The only treatment route is landfilling. The remaining waste ends up entering the sewage canalisation, being openly burned or entering the oceans. This leads to substantial environmental pollution including air and water contamination, biodiversity, odours and emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) including methane (CH₄). These types of pollution negatively impact the health and overall quality of life of the local population. The main objective of this project is to address those environmental issues and gradually bringing the provinces into compliance with the national and international environmental standards. By tackling climate change and environmental risks through the reduction of GHG and sound waste management, the positive environmental impact of this project is considered as Excellent. Nonetheless, as concluded in the ESIA, existing environmental risks during the construction and operation of the waste treatment facilities could include dust, noise, fires, odours, traffic congestion, biogas leaks, etc. These risks will be minimised and addressed during the design, construction, and operation phases of the facilities.

The ESIA report was submitted to the Environmental Competent Authorities for final approval. As reflected in the ESIA report, the public consultation was carried out satisfactorily.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The baseline for the Carbon Footprint calculation corresponds to the actual situation in Nokoué region, namely an existing landfill without collection and treatment. In addition, one of the project components will include gas collection and used for energy generation. The calculated absolute emissions are around 21 kt CO_{2-eq}/year. The relative emissions saving to the contribution of the projects are -42 kt CO_{2-eq}/year.

Social Assessment

The project is likely to have some negative impacts (dust and noise) especially during the construction phase. More precisely, dust can cause suffocation, eye strain and reduced visibility. This risk will be mitigated by reducing speed of trucks, and by spraying of runways and depots in dry weather. In addition, excessive noise emissions can cause problems for local residents. This will be addressed by imposing national regulations on noise emissions by vehicles and site machinery to the contractors.

By improving the environmental conditions of waste disposal and treatment facilities, the project will significantly benefit the living conditions, health and security of the surrounding population. The investments will also support local associations that will benefit from entrepreneurial opportunities. No involuntary physical displacement (primary dwellings) is anticipated for this project; in case of impacts related to economic displacement, the promoter will prepare resettlement documents in line with the EIB environmental and social standards requirements.

Benin is member of the International Labour Organization since 1960 and signatory of eight fundamental ILO conventions, the two Occupational Safety and Health related conventions not yet ratified. Compliance with both labour and occupational health standards during construction and operation will be included in the tender documentation, and thus will be part

² Ministère du Cadre de Vie et des Transports en charge du Développement Durable.

³ Ministère du Cadre de Vie et du Développement Durable (MCVDD)

⁴ Agence du Cadre de Vie pour le Développement du Territoire (ACV-DT)



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of their contractual obligations, under the supervision of the promoter and promoter's consultants.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement Public consultation is integrated in the environmental legal framework of Benin. Titre V of Decree N° 2017-332 defines the requirements and the process to follow. Planning activities within the SGDS project have included participation of the local population and local authorities for the identification of sites and the realization of ESIA, which includes the holding of public consultations. As result of this process, public consultation for this project was carried out in September 2024 for each site. Positive outcomes include jobs creation, improvement of the livelihood and the living environment, etc. Nevertheless, some concerns have been also expressed including odour, protection of the ground water, health and safety of the employees during construction and jobs security. Appropriate measures will be considered during the project's implementation phase and its operation to address those issues.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter has shown themselves to have good understanding and management capacity of Environmental and Social (E&S) aspects of the project.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project will contribute to the country's adaptation to climate change conditions. It will also improve public health. The project is not expected to have any significant negative impact on the environment nor any significant negative social impact with appropriate mitigation measures. Precisely, these risks will be minimised and addressed during the design, construction, and operation phases of the facilities through the development and implementation of sites specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP).

With the following conditions in place, the project is acceptable for financing in environmental and social terms.

First Disbursement

- Prior the first disbursement the promoter shall submit the ESIA, the Environmental and Social Management Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Grievance Mechanism, Labour Management Procedures of the project together with the favourable opinion of the competent authority in charge of the environmental permit in Benin for approval to the Bank.

Undertakings

- The promoter undertakes to implement the project in accordance with the EIB's Environmental and Social Standards
- The promoter commits to comply with the recommendations of the project's ESMPs during the implementation of the project.