

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: Berlin Abwasser und Umwelt

Project Number: 2012 0099

Country: Germany

Project Description: The project concerns the 2012 to 2015 investment programme to improve the efficiency of Berlin's Wastewater services, through reconstruction and upgrading of sewer systems and modernisation of the wastewater treatment plants.

EIA required: There are multiple schemes in this investment programme; some of them may require an EIA under Annex II of directive 2011/92/EU.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: NO

(Details are provided in section: "Carbon Footprint")

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

The Programme is strongly environmentally driven and therefore has predominantly positive effects on the environment. Most of the works to be carried out under the Programme are upgrades of existing sites, reducing the overall impact of construction. The Promoter complies with the requirements of EU EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as well as Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Promoter carries out Environmental Impact Assessment procedures where required by the competent authorities and mitigating measures are applied as appropriate. The environmental regulator independently monitors compliance with effluent discharge permits. The Programme is considered sound for EIB financing.

E&S Contractual Conditions

The promoter Berliner Wasserbetriebe Anstalt des Offenlitchen Rechts (BWB) shall not commit any EIB funds against schemes that require an EIA according to EU and national law without, prior to commitment, submitting the EIA and the non-technical summary of the EIA to the Bank for review and publication on the Bank's website.

The promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against any scheme without receiving consent from the competent authority regarding the Habitats directive and submitting the relevant forms to the Bank prior to the commitment of EIB funds

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The promoter is an appointed water and sewage company. Statutory duties with regard to the protection of the environment are embedded within key legislation for the German water industry, including duties in relation to conservation of biodiversity and natural habitats.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Compliance with applicable Environmental Legislation (national and EU), including EIA legislation is inherent to the definition of the investments programme. Specifically, the Promoter complies with the requirements of EU EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as well as Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Promoter carries out Environmental Impact Assessment procedures where required by the competent authorities and mitigating measures are applied as appropriate.

The investment programme is also strongly driven by environmental and water quality concerns, wastewater treatment efficiency and also energy efficiency. This includes additional capacity and processes at a number of wastewater treatment plants to reach higher standards under the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). The programme also includes a variety of renewable energy schemes, extracting energy from wastewater systems and sludge as well as improving energy efficiency of the existing systems.

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Relevance on Climate Action

BWB estimates that roughly 30% of the investment is driven by adaptation (and to a small extent by “mitigation”) to Climate Change. These are investments that deal with storm water management and in particular with temporary storage of large amounts of storm water in the drainage system. BWB sets good industry practices in this regard.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

Project is not included - the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies only include emissions from Investment Loans, and large allocations under Framework Loans, above the methodology thresholds.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

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 Water Resource Management Plan 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.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

BWB integrates both the definition of its capital programme and its operations into a single structure of environmental management and has adopted the international standard ISO 14001, which is externally audited. Critical to stable delivery of investments is the relationship with consenting authorities, in particular the Environment Agency (Umweltbehörde).