

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: Provincia di Trento-Trattamento Acque
 Project Number: 20100529
 Country: Italy
 Project Description: Wastewater treatment plant in the Province of Trento

EIA required: YES

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 main objective of the new wastewater treatment plant is compliance with the EC Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EC as amended by Directive 98/15/EC. The project will result in an improvement of the environment, health and livelihood in the province of Trento and downstream, by providing:

- i. Better wastewater collection & treatment services, with benefits to the receiving Adige river and ultimately the Adriatic Sea;
- ii. Reduced CO₂ emissions through improved energy efficiency and biogas recovery from the sludge digesters to be used for electricity generation;
- iii. Closure of existing plants located in an increasingly urban context, improving the quality of life for the residents directly adjacent to the existing plants;
- iv. Decreased visual, odour and sound impact thanks to the full coverage of the plant by the rock-fall protection dam.

An EIA, as required under Annex I of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 97/11/EC, as amended by Directive 2003/35/EC, has been carried out and authorisation (including the requirement for mitigating measures) has been given in December 2011. The new plant is included in the latest "Piano per il Risanamento delle Acque", or the Provincial Water Quality Improvement programme which has undergone a Strategic Environmental Assessment as required by Directive 2001/42/EC. The project is acceptable for Bank financing.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The operation is fully consistent with EU objectives as well as EU Directives: Treatment will be to the stricter norms for sensitive areas (stringent Nitrogen and Phosphorous limits) of the Urban Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EC as amended by 98/15/EC. Since a number of neighbouring municipalities do not fall within these obligations due to their smaller population, by connecting to the new treatment plant, their wastewater will also be treated to these stricter norms. The river Adige and the Adriatic Sea will see an improvement in the "ecological and

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.

chemical status”, as required also by the river basin management plan implementing the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60EC).

The EIA, first started in 2005, has undergone a number of iterations, each time with location and design reviews, in order to accommodate observations received during the consultations. The current design is perceived to be the best compromise between the observations of stakeholders and the constraints of the promoter. The EIA permit was issued on 7 December 2011 with a number of conditions to be followed mainly during the detailed design (eg to mitigate the remaining visual impact of the tall sludge digesters) and the implementation phases (traffic, rights of way etc).

The new 2011 waste water treatment plant is included also in the latest “Piano per il Risanamento delle Acque”, or the Provincial Water Quality Improvement plan. A Strategic Environmental Assessment as required for such programmes has been carried out and been through consultation (in 2011). Due to the rationalisation of the number of plants, including the dismissal of lower technology plants in the surrounding villages, the overall effect of this part of the programme will be positive.

The nearest nature reserve (Riserva Naturale di Scanuppia) is at 2.5 km, but on top of the mountain. Other sites are at 6, respectively 8 km from the site. None of these Natura 2000 sites will be affected by the project, as detailed in the EIA, hence fulfilling also the requirements of the Habitats 92/43/CEE and Birds Directives (79/409/EC). With the site currently being an open air stone quarry, the main impact in terms of flora and fauna will be a positive one for the fish of the river Adige due to the reduced pollution from the wastewater.

In terms of vulnerability to the effects of climate change, the main risk is deemed to be the flooding of the Adige River. The banks of the river are designed for a 1 in 100 year flood, designed and built before the effects of climate change were considered. This means that there is a chance that the river could overtop the banks of the river more frequently than once every 100 years. The lowest point of the treatment plant is at the same level as the river bank, but it would take a flood with a much higher return period to fill the one to two km wide Adige flood plain to the same level as the top of the river bank i.e. the lowest point of the treatment plant. The plant can thus be considered safe from the effects of climate change.

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.

Sludge digestion already takes place partially at the existing sites and though it will increase in efficiency at the new site, it will not do so sufficiently to exceed the relevance threshold of 20,000 tons of emissions savings per year for inclusion in the carbon footprint.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The project will have positive net social impacts after completion as it will move the treatment plants currently located in increasingly urban contexts to a remote area between the foot of the mountain and the national road, with no inhabitants in the immediate vicinity – just agricultural land. The design includes features to minimise the visual impact – notably full enclosure under the rock-fall protection dam. It also includes feature to minimise odour and noise pollution.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

Both the EIA and the SEA have undergone the required consultation processes – in the case of the EIA a number of times between 2005 and 2011 in order to satisfy observations.