

Executive Summary – Environmental and Social Impact Assessment – redevelopment of KEK overburden and infilled mine galleries

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment intends to support the '**Greening Land for the Future (Greenland) project**', for technical assistance activities for Policy, Institution and Capacity Development for Contaminated Land Management, as well as investments in demonstrations of contaminated land clean-up and redevelopment with the financial support of the World Bank.

This project particularly aims to support Kosovo authorities, municipalities of Fushe Kosova, Obiliq and Prishtina, and Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK) in addressing environmental key issues related to managing contaminated land through:

a) enabling activities at both the national and local levels for developing the necessary policy/regulatory and institutional framework, building capacity, addressing data/information gaps, and developing a long-term action plan for contaminated land remediation and redevelopment in the country, and b) investments in select sites to demonstrate international good practices for contaminated land remediation and redevelopment, which will also serve to set up a system that can be replicated for other sites.

A 104 hectare brownfield site largely owned by the GoK/KEK has been selected as a showcase to demonstrate international good practices for contaminated land remediation and redevelopment. The KEK brownfield site is mostly barren land and consists of overburden site (approximately 80 hectares), infilled mining area (approximately 24 hectares) and other minor features along the foot slope of the overburden. The KEK wishes to redevelop the brownfield into a public open space linking the municipalities of Obiliq, Fushe Kosova and Pristina. The envisaged remediation strategy of the site has been developed following the Sustainable Risk-Based Land Management (SRBLM)¹ and consists of Phyto-containment (installation of a plant cover) with targeted actions for both the infilled mine galleries, ground and surface water. The remediation will follow a phased approach, starting with phase 1; the infilled mine galleries and only after final agreement with all landowners, move to phase 2 the overburden area.

This document details the possible Environmental and Social Impacts and Risks from the Project implementation and their effects on the main receptors. The impacts are aligned according to the projects construction, operation and post-operational phases.

From an environmental perspective only moderate negative risks have been identified. These environmental impacts are mostly concentrated during the construction phase, where the use of heavy machinery for soil movement will have a moderate impact on energy use, noise, vibrations and risks from incidents and hazards. Additional moderate impact during the construction phase is due to the use of raw materials (sand, gravel).

During the operational phase the actual park will even exhibit moderate positive effects, especially on biodiversity, groundwater and ambient air quality. Water use for irrigation and facilities on site will have a moderate negative impact, same applies to raw materials use as the roads and pathways will need to be maintained by adding sand and gravel. Management of wastes can further have a moderate negative impact, this would involve, in addition to wastes generated from facilities on site, plant wastes and possibly periodical dredging of the pond. Risks from hazards and incidents will also have a moderate increase, mostly due to predicted increased visitors to the area and associated risk for incidents.

¹ (NICOLE/COMMON FORUM 2013) SRBLM is recognized as an optimal approach for contaminated land decision-making, combining a risk-based framework and sustainability in a balanced decision on how such unacceptable risks are to be managed, which optimizes overall benefits.

In the Post-operation phase moderate risks are mostly focussed on soil management, noise and vibrations, risks from incidents and hazards. These risks are associated with the removal of the facilities in the park, not with the removal of the vegetation.

Table 0.1 Environmental Impact Assessment

	Construction	Operation	Post-operation
Energy use	Moderate	Negligible	Negligible +
Water use	Moderate	Moderate	Negligible +
Raw materials use	Moderate	Moderate	N/A
Ambient Air Quality	Negligible	Moderate +	Negligible +
Surface and groundwater	Negligible	Moderate +	Negligible +
Management of hazardous and non hazardous wastes	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Soil management	Moderate	Moderate +	Moderate
Noise and vibrations	Moderate	Negligible +	Moderate
Risks from incidents and hazards	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Biodiversity	Negligible +	Moderate +	Negligible +
Landscape	Negligible +	Moderate +	Negligible +

The main socio cultural impact is the possible land acquisition, restriction on land use, and involuntary physical and/or economic displacement which even with mitigation measures will have a moderate impact. Other socio cultural impacts can be better mitigated and will have lesser impact. Moderate or worse socio economic and socio environmental impacts are, with the right mitigation measures, not expected.

Information disclosure and public consultation is still in progress. Due to Global Pandemic breakup of COVID-19 the Government of Kosovo has suspended all public and non-public gatherings. Due to time pressure and in coordination with MoIE and World Bank information gathering and public consultations will be done using virtual means of communication, in order to avoid as much as possible any direct face-to-face contact among and between stakeholders.

The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will be comprised of specific plans and programs that will address specific media, areas and environmental aspects of management. In the construction phase ESMP focusses mostly on the operational aspects of the works; noise, vibrations, air quality, waste management and risks from hazards. These actions will be implemented by the Contractor and controlled by the borrower. During the following operational phase main monitoring actions focus on wastes, soil, surface and groundwater to ensure any residual contamination does not pose risks and wastes within the area are properly managed. These actions will be the responsibility of the Borrower. Any actions in the post-operational phase will also remain the responsibility of the borrower.

Social management and mitigation is strongly focussed on the actions needed to prevent significant social impact due to land acquisition and involuntary displacement. Responsibility for these actions lie with a multitude of stakeholders including the borrower and local municipalities.