International ESIA for an Integrated Renewable Energy Project

180MW Wind Power and Battery Energy Storage System, Tsogttsetsii soum, Mongolia

Chapter 5 ESIA Screen and Scoping

PREPARED FOR

Net Zero Energy LLC
(MCS and URECA)

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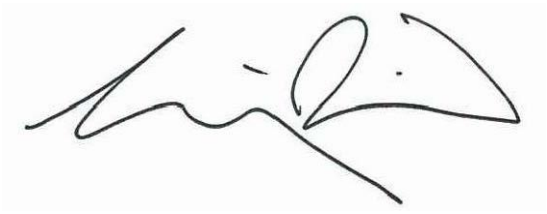
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronyms	Description
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
[redacted]	[redacted]
AIS	Air Insulated Switchgear
ALARP	As Low As Reasonably Practicable
AoI	Area of Influence
APLIC	Avian Powerline Interaction Committee
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BMP	Biodiversity Management Plan
BOD	biochemical oxygen demand
CAF	Central Asian Flyway
CAQMP	Construction Air Quality Management Plan
CCRA	Climate Change Risk Assessment
CD	Community Development
CH	Critical Habitat

Acronyms	Description
CHA	Critical Habitat Assessment
CIA	Cumulative Impact Assessment
CIP	Climate Impact Platform
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
CMIP6	Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6
CMS	Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CO	Carbon monoxide
COD	chemical oxygen demand
CR	critically endangered
CRM	Citizen's Representative Meeting
CRM	Collision Risk Model
CSMP	Cold Stress Management Plan
DEIA	Detailed Environmental Impact Assessment
DFID	International Development
DSF	Development Support Fund
E&S	Environmental and Social
EAAA	Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis
EAAF	East Asian-Australasian Flyway
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	Electrical Conductivity
EEO	Extent of Occurrence
EHS	Environment, Health and Safety
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EN	Endangered
EPC	Engineering Procurement and Construction
EPRP	Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan
ERM	ERM-Hong Kong, Limited
ESA	European Space Agency
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESMS	Environment and Social Management System
ETI	Ethical Trading Initiative

Acronyms	Description
FERP	Flood Emergency Response Plan
FFDI	Arthur Forest Fire Danger Index
FGD	focus group discussion
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GBV	Gender-based violence
GCD	Global Climate Database
GHG	Green House Gas
GIIP	good international industry practice
GIS	Geographic Information System
GM	grievance mechanism
GPN	Good Practice Note
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HCO	Bicarbonate
HSEQ	Health, Safety, Environment, and Quality
HSMP	Heat Stress Management Plan
HSS	Health, Safety and Security
HSSE	Health, Safety, Security and Environment
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
IA	Impact Assessment
IAQM	Institute of Air Quality Management
IBA	Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas
IBAT	Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMAR	Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region
IPA	Important Plant Areas
ISMP	Invasive Species Management Plan
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KBA	Key Biodiversity Areas
KII	Key Informant Interview
LC	Least Concern
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LLC	Limited Liability Company

Acronyms	Description
LO	Land Officer
LRP	Livelihood Restoration Plan
LRP	Livelihood Restoration Plan
LVIA	Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment
MCS	Mongolian Consulting Service
MECC	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
MNS	Mongolian National Standard
MRIA	Mongolian Renewables Industries Association
MRL	Mongolian Red List
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
MW	Mega Watt
MWEA	Mongolian Wind Energy Association
NASA	National Aeronautic Space Administration
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDC	National Dispatching Centre
NE	not evaluated
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NH4+	Ammonium
NO2	Nitrogen dioxide
NO2-	Nitrite
NO3-	Nitrate
NOAA	Atmospheric Association
NPTG	National Power Transmission Grid Company
NPTG	National Power Transmission Grid Company
NREC	The National Renewable Energy Centre
NSR	Noise sensitive receiver
NT	Near threatened
NZE	Net Zero Energy LLC
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OHL	Overhead Transmission Line
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
OT	Oyu Tolgoi
PA	protected area

Acronyms	Description
PAD	project affected districts
PAPs	Project Affected Persons
PI, mg/L	Phosphate
PM	Particulate matter
POP	persistent organic pollutants
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PPE	Personal protective equipment
PS	Performance Standards
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RCIA	Rapid Cumulative Impact Assessment
RCS	Real Case Scenario
RILI	rainfall-induced landslide index
RoW	Right of Way
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SO	Social Officer
SO2	Sulphur dioxide
SO4	Sulphate
SPA	Strictly Protected Area
SRTM	Shuttle Radar Topography Mission
STE	Serrated Trailed Edge
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
TL	Transmission Line
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United States dollars
UV	Ultra-violet
VEC	Valued Environmental and Social Components
VP	Vantage Point
VU	Vulnerable

Acronyms	Description
WBG	World Bank Group
WBGT	Wet Bulb Globe Temperature
WCS	Worst Case Scenario
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WHO	World Health Organisation
WPF	Wind Power Farm
WPFW	West Pacific Flyway
WRI	World Resource Institute
WSDI	Warm spell duration index
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

5. ESIA SCREENING AND SCOPING

5.1 SCREENING RESULT

At the initial stage of the ESIA process, preliminary information was provided to aid in the determination of what legal and other requirements apply to the Project. This step was conducted utilising a high-level description of the Project and their associated facilities. The screening process involved the following:

- Reviewing of applicable regulatory framework for the Project;
- Reviewing of available project related activities and their impacts on various components of environment;
- Collection and compilation of available secondary baseline data from different sources; and
- Categorisation of the Project as per IFC guidelines.

5.1.1 PROJECT CATEGORISATION

IFC's Environmental and Social Review Procedure Manual[1] has provided a provisional categorization tool for projects. The tool assigns an environmental and social category based on risk inherent to the particular sector, as well as on the likelihood of a development taking place and on what can be reasonably ascertained about the environmental and social characterization of the Project's likely geographical setting. The categories are defined as follows:

- **Category A**: Business activities with potentially significant adverse environmental or social risks and/or impacts that are diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented.
- **Category B**: Business activities with potential limited adverse environmental or social risks and/or impacts that are few in number, generally site-specific, largely reversible, and readily addressed through mitigation measures.
- **Category C**: Business activities with minimal or no adverse environmental or social risks and/or impacts.

The proposed Project has been categorized as falling under **Category B** as per the guidelines.

5.1.2 CATEGORY JUSTIFICATION

The selection of Category B is based on:

- **Potential limited adverse impact on environment**: The presence of the WTG and OHL could pose a risk to avifauna and bats, however the Project is distant from the nearest Strictly Protected Area and Important Bird & Biodiversity Area and only small portions of the Project overlap with Locally Protected Areas which already have existing infrastructure within them and within which construction of certain infrastructure (e.g. roads and OHL) is permissible; and
- **Potential limited social risks**: The presence of the WTG and OHL could result in generally site-specific, largely reversible impacts to social receptors and their activities

[1] Environmental and Social Review Procedures Manual: Environment, Social and Governance Department (2012): https://www.ifc.org/content/dam/ifc/doc/2010/2016-esrp-manual.pdf [Accessed September 2024]

mainly related to potential loss of grazing area which are considered readily addressed through mitigation measures.

For these reasons it was recommended to prepare a full ESIA to further assess the Project impacts.

5.2 SCOPING

Scoping has been undertaken to identify the potential Area of Influence (AoI), potential interactions between the Project activities and environmental and social resources/receptors in the Area of Influence. This was based on (i) the Project information currently available at the time of the ESIA preparation process and it should be noted that the Project description in **Chapter 3** remains the most up to date outline of the Project activities; (ii) the baseline information collected at the scoping time; and (iii) the experience gained from similar projects constructed in similar environmental and socio-economic contexts.

The ESIA covers the following Project elements which have been described in detail in **Chapter 3**, including:

Development

- Land possession, Design; and Permitting process.

Construction

- Workforce mobilisation and presence;
- Land preparation (site clearance, excavation, and levelling), fencing, and civil works.
- Construction of Access Road, internal roads, WTGs foundations, Substation, BESS and Control Building, and OHL;
- Wastes, emissions and discharges generation, handling and disposal during construction;
- Equipment and material transportation and supply;
- Operation of associated facilities such as the concrete batching plant, workers' accommodation facility;
- Water resources use; and
- Installation of the WTGs, OHL, internal cabling, Substation, BESS and Control Building.

Operation

- Operation of WTGs and OHL;
- Inspection, Maintenance of WTGs and ancillary facilities such as storage area and associated infrastructure (Substation, BESS and Control Building);
- Waste, emissions and discharge generation, handling and disposal;
- Water resources use;
- Vehicle movement; and
- Presence of workforce (maintenance and security).

Decommissioning

- Workforce mobilisation and presence;
- Dismantling of WTGs, WTGs foundations, Galba Substation and internal cabling; and
- Wastes, emissions and discharges generation, handling, storage and disposal.

Furthermore, the ESIA also covers potential risks due to unplanned events that represent exceptional incidents that are not expected during normal activities and normal operations as follows:

Accidental events

- Leakage and spill incident;
- Fire and explosion;
- Blade throw / ice throw;
- Equipment failure;
- Transmission line snapping and Transmission Line Pylon Collapse; and
- Vehicle collision.

5.3 SCOPING RESULTS

The scoping exercise is intended to ensure that the IA focuses on those issues that are most important for design, decision-making, and stakeholder interests. ***Table 5.1*** presents the resources/receptors considered during scoping.

TABLE 5-1: RESOURCES/RECEPTORS CONSIDERED DURING SCOPING

Resources	Impacts
Environment	
Ambient Air Quality	Emissions of NOx, SOx, PM, CO
Climate Change	Impacts from climate change to the Project.
Noise / Vibration	Changes in noise level and vibration effect.
Soil Quality	Changes to physical and chemical properties and soil ecology.
Surface Water Quality	Changes to physical, chemical, or biological quality of surface water bodies. Introduction of exotic species, changes in habitat quality, abundance, diversity. Effluent discharge.
Groundwater Quality	Changes to physical, chemical, or biological quality of groundwater. Contamination of shallow or deep groundwater resources. Change in water resources availability, impacts on demands of surface and groundwater uses.
Biodiversity	
Terrestrial Flora and Fauna	Changes to flora and fauna population, health, species abundance and diversity and impact on endangered and economic species, food chain effects.
Avifauna and Bats	Impacts on endangered and endemic species, food chain effects.
Social Economics and Public Health	
Land Use	Change in land use
Local Economy and employment	Change in national/local economy, employment, standard of living, occupations.
Visual Impact	Potential impacts of the Project on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.

Resources	Impacts
Traffic and Transportation	Change in traffic.
Infrastructure and public services	Improvement or pressure on existing urban/rural infrastructure or services e.g., transportation, power, water, sanitation, waste handling facilities.
Occupational Health and Safety	There is the potential for occupational health and safety incidents/accidents throughout the life cycle of the Project; the risk is particularly high during the construction phase (use of heavy equipment and cranes, fall, exposure to dust, noise, hazardous materials, electrical hazards from the use of tools and machinery, working at height, overwater, electromagnetic field (EMF)) and during the operation phase (blade throw, electrical hazards, etc.) and emergencies.
Community Health and Safety	Potential degradation in air quality (e.g., NOx, Sox, VOC, CO, PM), contamination of surface water and potable groundwater, increased vibration and noise, increased night-time light beyond acceptable limits, increased traffic. Potential negative impact on ecosystem services, incidents/accidents and emergencies.
Cultural Heritage	Potential damage to existing sites of cultural heritage value.

5.3.1 PROJECT AREA OF INFLUENCE

Under IFC PS1's definition, the AoI encompasses, as appropriate:

"*The area likely to be affected by: (i) the Project and the client's activities and facilities that are directly owned, operated or managed (including by contractors) and that are a component of the Project; (ii) impacts from unplanned but predictable developments caused by the Project that may occur later or at a different location; or (iii) indirect project impacts on biodiversity or on ecosystem services upon which Affected Communities' livelihoods are dependent.*

Associated facilities, which are facilities that are not funded as part of the Project and that would not have been constructed or expanded if the Project did not exist and without which the Project would not be viable.

Cumulative impacts that result from the incremental impact, on areas or resources used or directly impacted by the Project, from other existing, planned or reasonably defined developments at the time the risks and impacts identification process is conducted."

Based on available information of the Project provided by NZE and information from the site visit and GIIP on potential Environmental and Social (E&S) impacts of a wind power project, the Project's AoI is defined as per below.

2) **General AoI** of Project activities determined within 500 m buffer distance from WTG Area boundary, OHL route and Access Road route;
3) **Project AoI of noise impact** tentative determined as within 500 m buffer distance from WTG but shall be determined based on the closest representative NSR that may be potentially affected by the Project taking account of both construction and operation activities;
4) **Project AoI of shadow flicker impact** should be determined as ten (10) times the rotor diameter from each WTG centroid (i.e., 1,820 m);

5) **Project AoI of blade throw impact** should be determined as 1.5 times of turbine height (tower and rotor radius, i.e., 302 m);
6) **Project AoI of biodiversity impact** has been classified as 5,000 m from each WTG and a two (2) km buffer from the central line of the OHL and Access Road;
7) **Project Direct AoI of socio-economic impact** is considered as the areas within 500 meters of the WTG (Bilgeh Bagh) and OHL (Jargalant bagh, Gavilud bagh and Javhlant bagh), which will be the same as General AoI; and
8) **Project Indirect AoI of socio-economic impact** is considered as administrative boundary of Tsogsttsetsii Soum, Manlai Soum and Khanbogd Soum.

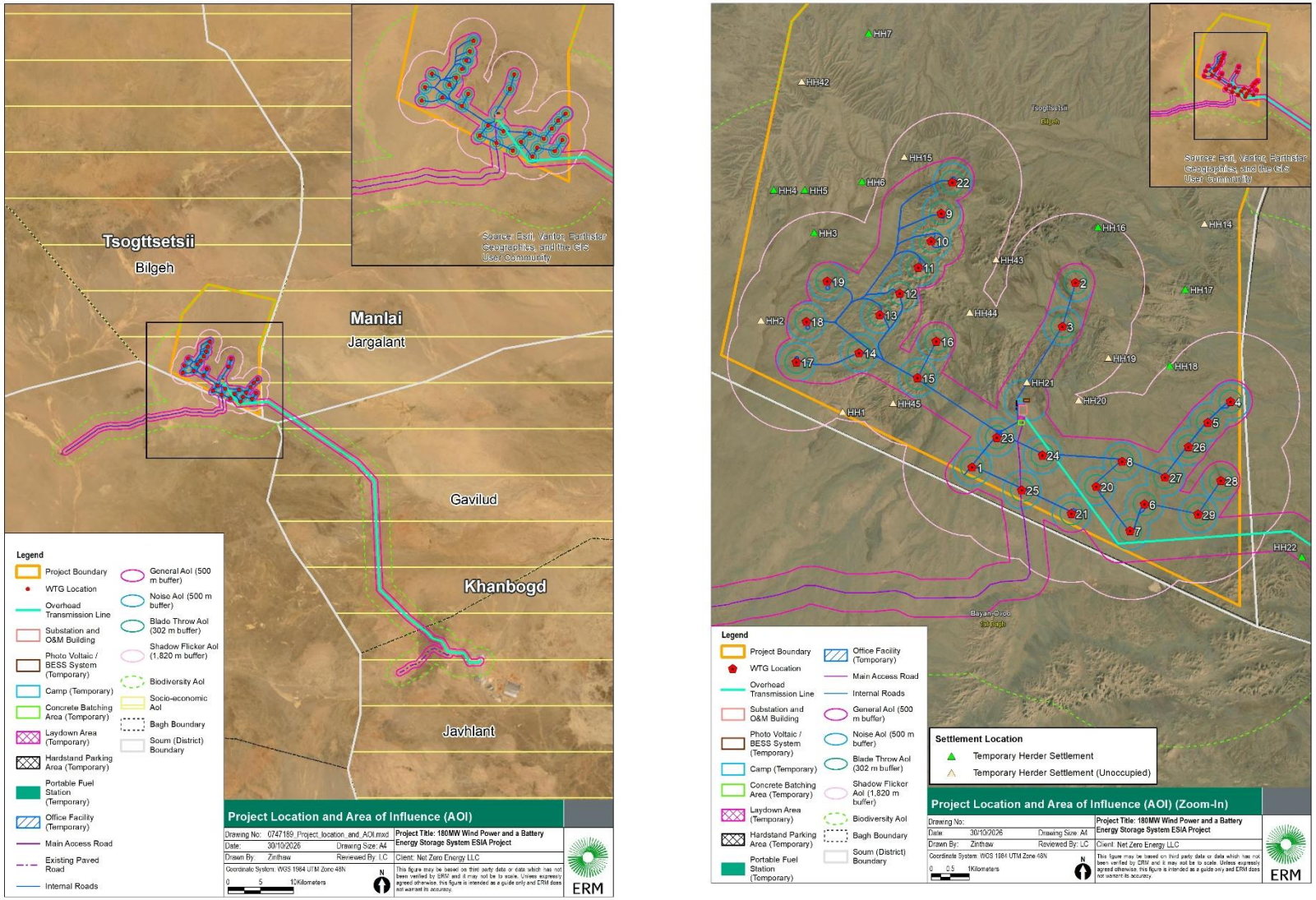


FIGURE 5-1: GENERAL, BIODIVERSITY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC, NOISE, BLADE THROW AND SHADOW FLICKER AREAS OF INFLUENCE

5.3.2 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Following the determination of the AoI, the scoping matrix is used as a tool to support a methodological identification of potential interactions each project activity may have on the range of resources/receptors within the AoI. It consists, on one side of the matrix, a list of project activities during the construction and operation phases which may give rise to significant impacts. These are set against a list of environmental and social resources/receptors within the AoI with potential to interact. Entries in the matrix cells are coloured to indicate the following potential impacts:

TABLE 5-2: SCOPED IN/OUT RATIONALE

Scope In/Out	Description
Scoped Out	An interaction is not reasonably expected
Scoped Out or integrated with other major interactions	An interaction is reasonably possible but none of the resulting impacts are likely to lead to significant effects
Further Consideration in Impact Assessment	The interaction is reasonably possible and at least one of the resulting impacts is likely to lead to an effect that is significant
Interaction likely to lead to Potential Positive Impacts	An interaction with positive impact expected

All potential interactions, regardless of probability of occurrence, were considered at this stage. Those cells that are coloured white are 'scoped out' of further consideration in the impact assessment (IA). Those interactions that are grey are also 'scoped out' with supporting reasons to justify the decision. Those interactions that are shaded black are retained for further consideration in the IA process and these interactions are elaborated in ***Table 5-3***.

TABLE 5-3: SCOPING MATRIX

	Ambient Air Quality	Climate Change	Noise and Vibration	Soil Quality	Surface Water Quality	Groundwater Quality	Terrestrial Flora and Fauna	Avifauna and Bats	Land Use	Local Economy, Livelihood and Employment	Visual Impact	Traffic and Transportation	Infrastructure and Public Service	Occupational Health and Safety	Community Health, Safety and Security	Cultural Heritage
	Environment						Biodiversity		Social							
Development																
Land possession, design and permitting process																
Construction																
Workforce mobilisation and presence																
Land preparation (site clearance, excavation and levelling), fencing, and civil works																
Construction of Access Road, internal roads, WTGs foundations, Substation, BESS and Control Building, and OHL																
Wastes generation, discharge, handling and disposal during construction																
Equipment and material transportation and supply																
Operation of associated facilities such as the concrete batching plant, workers' accommodation facility																
Water resources use																
Installation of the WTGs, OHL, internal cabling, Substation, BESS and Control Building																

	Ambient Air Quality	Climate Change	Noise and Vibration	Soil Quality	Surface Water Quality	Groundwater Quality	Terrestrial Flora and Fauna	Avifauna and Bats	Land Use	Local Economy, Livelihood and Employment	Visual Impact	Traffic and Transportation	Infrastructure and Public Service	Occupational Health and Safety	Community Health, Safety and Security	Cultural Heritage
	Environment						Biodiversity		Social							
Operation																
Operation of WTGs and OHL																
Inspection, maintenance of WTGs and ancillary facilities such as storage area and associated infrastructure (Substation, BESS and Control Building)																
Wastes generation, discharge, handling and disposal during operation																
Water resources use																
Vehicle movement																
Presence of workforce (maintenance and security)																
Decommissioning																
Workforce mobilisation and presence																
Dismantling of WTGs, WTGs foundations, Substation and internal cabling																
Wastes, emissions and discharges generation, handling, storage and disposal																
Accidental Events																
Leakage and spill incident																
Equipment failure																
Fire and explosion																
Blade throw																
Transmission line snapping																
Vehicle collision																

5.3.3 IMPACTS SCOPED OUT FROM THE ESIA

As a result of the preparation of the scoping matrix (***Table 5-4***), some potential interactions were deemed not to result in a potentially significant impacts (white and grey in the matrix) and therefore have been scoped out with a justification and will not be considered in more detail in the ESIA report. The rationale for scoping out impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Project is provided below.

TABLE 5-4: IMPACTS SCOPED OUT FROM THE ESIA

Impact	Rationale for Scoping Out of Assessment
Land possession, design and permitting process during development	The activities conducted during the development phase are mostly desktop-based and involve some level of stakeholder engagement activities. The impacts on the environment and on social, economic and public health are deemed to be negligible.
Ambient air quality exhaust emissions from non-road mobile equipment/heavy machinery during construction	Exhaust emissions from non-road mobile equipment/heavy machinery are constrained in the construction site. The equipment/heavy machinery is less likely to involve vehicle movements that cause emissions on road. Impact will be local, and its frequency will be limited.
Ambient air quality during operation	The impact on local air quality will be limited to emissions from vehicle movements and other gases that are contained in the equipment and machineries during maintenance activities. Impact will be local, and its frequency will be limited. Thus, impact is scoped out because it is not expected to be significant.
Ambient air quality, noise and vibration during accidental events (fire and explosion)	Fire/Explosion may lead to deterioration of ambient air quality and loud explosion noise. However, it is an unplanned event that is unlikely to happen. The emissions to air and noise generation due to fire/explosion are expected to last for a short period of time. Hazards of the fire/explosion incident will be further discussed in Occupational Health and Safety section to ensure the fire/explosion event is under control. In view of the above, this has been scoped out from the air and noise impact assessment.
Soil quality during operation	Impact on soil quality will be limited to vehicle movement and other potential environmental incidents during operation and maintenance activities. With proper handling of chemicals and hazardous substances, contamination of soil is not expected. The impact is scoped out because it is not significant.
Surface water quality during operation	The activities conducted during the operation phased will be limited to immediate surroundings of the Project. Due to scarcity of surface water resources in the desert area, emission and discharges from the Project are unlikely to result in impacts assuming good practices and clean up for accidental releases are in place. Thus, impact is scoped out.
Visual impact	The project areas are sparsely populated and have low visual sensitivity. Stakeholder consultations indicated that visual impact is not a significant concern. Nomadic herders are present on a temporary basis. This decision is supported by evidence from site assessment. In addition, visual impact to temporary users of the hill top ovoo are not expected to be significant with the nearest WTGs located more than 0.7 km away.
Terrestrial flora during operation and accidental events	The key impacts to flora will be during construction stage and it is considered that there will be no additional alteration of the terrestrial flora during operation. Thus, the impact of the Project at

Impact	Rationale for Scoping Out of Assessment
	operation on terrestrial flora is scoped out from further assessment.
Traffic and transportation during operation	Impact on traffic during operation will be limited to vehicle movement during operation and maintenance activities. Impact will be local, and its frequency will be limited.
Cultural heritage during operation	Based on the archaeological survey conducted by Mongolian Academy of Sciences in August 2024, no relics were discovered above the surface of the earth in Bilgeh bagh. The identified Ovoo by ERM is located outside of the general AoI and the cultural significance of the old tomb will be confirmed during ESIA stage. No major activities that could cause an impact or damage existing cultural heritage are expected to occur during the operation phase. Therefore, this assessment is scoped out.
Decommissioning	There are typically two options for the decommissioning phase of a wind farm: 1) the wind farm operation time is extended upon the refurbishment with modern WTGs; 2) the WTGs, Substation and internal cabling are dismantled, and the site abandoned. Both options may have significant impacts for Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and infrastructure/public service. However, at the time of writing this scoping report, detailed information of the decommissioning phase is unavailable and no plan for the decommissioning phase has been prepared. For that reason, this phase will be scoped out in ESIA Report and a detailed assessment will be performed prior to termination of the Project.

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