



E&S Eligibility Criteria for On-Shore Wind Power Projects

Issue	Eligibility Criteria	Evidence
<p>General:</p> <p>Wind farm developments need to be approved in the local development plan, and local zoning needs to allow for wind farm development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local development plan allows for wind farm development and a strategic study has been undertaken of the area to allow wind farm development. Public consultation will be / has been conducted in accordance with national requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The developer has undertaken a planning assessment and the local development plan has been changed (if necessary) to allow for the construction of wind farms. Evidence of public consultations of the change to the local development plan allowing for wind farm development
<p>Many wind farms are developed without due consideration of cumulative impacts resulting from existing developments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each new wind farm has to take into account the local conditions and baseline data, including already constructed, under construction and permitted wind farms developed by other developers. An assessment has to be made of the cumulative impact of the existing and planned wind farms in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The developer can demonstrate the overall cumulative impact of wind farms in the region and what is the carrying capacity of wind turbines in terms of environmental, social and infrastructure impacts.
<p>Regulatory Compliance:</p> <p>Turbines construction may be (or may have been) permitted to proceed without the required studies and permits. <i>EBRD Performance Requirements 1-8 and 10</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facility will comply / complies with the requirements of national/EU environment, health and safety and labour laws and applicable EBRD Performance Requirements 1-8 and 10. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The developer has undertaken a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) where required by national authorities, EBRD Category A project requirements or under EU EIA Directive (Directive 2014/52/EU), and that EIA has been disclosed to the public in accordance with national and relevant EU requirements. The developer has undertaken any other studies as required by national or local authorities. The developer has obtained the required licences/consents and permits to build and operate the facility.

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<p><i>Landscape and Visual Impacts:</i></p> <p>Landscape and visual impacts are among the most far-reaching effects of wind farms and are generally of greatest concern to the public.</p> <p><i>EBRD Performance Requirement 4 & 6</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines will / do not create significant changes in the landscape fabric, character and quality as a result of development. • Turbines and any ancillary structures are / will be constructed so as to minimise visual impacts. • The Turbines do not significantly alter the appearance of the landscapes (where the turbine can be seen) and negatively affect people, or people’s use of that landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The landscape itself will not be / has not been significantly altered or damaged through clearance, excavation or construction. • Features of the landscape such as trees or hedgerows will not be / have not been removed in such numbers as to significantly change the nature of the landscape. • Public access to surrounding areas is not hindered by the turbines. • The visual impact of turbines has been considered from all relevant viewing angles when considering location. • The number of ancillary structures which (will) have a visual impact will be / has been minimised. • Public consultations have been designed to take into account the people affected by the landscape impacts of the wind farm.
<p><i>Designated Areas:</i></p> <p>Designated areas (e.g. a national park, a NATURA 2000 site – both official and shadow lists) are typically listed as such because they contain threatened, rare, or sensitive fauna and flora and the construction and operation of turbines in such areas may be detrimental to those species.</p> <p>NATURA 2000 represents European Union (EU) policy on the conservation of Biodiversity.</p> <p><i>EBRD Performance Requirement 6</i></p>	<p>Turbines will / do not have a negative impact on designated or potentially designed sensitive areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The developer has undertaken research on the proposed location of the turbine(s) and either avoided siting within a designated location or received the appropriate permissions from the authorities to do so. Turbines will be / have been sited without causing unacceptable disturbance or damage. • If the site is located in a sensitive area such as a Natura 2000 or near a Natura 2000 area, the developer needs to have or will undertake an additional ecological survey and assessment in line with <i>The Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)</i>, <i>The Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EC)</i> and <i>The Bern Convention (June 1979)</i>.

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<p><i>Impacts on Fauna and Flora:</i></p> <p>Operating wind turbines may result in collisions of birds and bats with rotor blades and / or with towers. Turbines may also alter the habitat around the project site so changing the type and number of perching sites or the type and quantity of prey available to certain species. Likewise, the siting of turbines may have an impact on other species particular when considering those species of conservation value, located outside of designated areas.</p> <p><i>The Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), The Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EC) The Bern Convention (June 1979). EBRD Performance Requirement 6</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines will be / are sited, designed and configured to minimise impacts on migrating and / or nesting and feeding birds and bats. • Turbines will be / are sited, designed and configured to minimise impacts on other fauna and flora, notably any species of conservation value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A baseline study, of appropriate nature, has been undertaken with sufficient ornithological data to cover both migratory seasons. • Site selection will take / has taken account of known migration pathways or areas where birds and bats are highly concentrated. • Site selection will take / has taken account of any other fauna and flora located on site particularly any species of conservation value. • Turbines will be / have been configured to avoid potential avian mortality. • Site will be / has been designed to avoid creating attractions for feeding or nesting birds e.g. integration of storm water management measures to avoid creation of small ponds which might attract birds. • The developer to implement a monitoring program for bird and bats (loss of habitat, mortality, migration and behaviour) for at least 3 years.
<p><i>Community Health and Safety:</i></p> <p>Where turbines are sited in close proximity to people there maybe a number of nuisance and public safety issues associated with, for example, shadow flicker and blade glint, noise and ice thrown from blades.</p> <p><i>EBRD Performance Requirement 4</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbines will be / have been designed and sited to avoid impacts on local residences, schools, hospitals, businesses and taking into account the safety of those in proximity to turbines. • Generally wind turbines should be over 700 m from the nearest residential area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any affected local communities have been consulted on the location of turbines. • Develop and implement plans and procedures to protect public health, safety and security eg. traffic management plan, noise, emergency plans and measures to prevent unauthorised access during construction (gates, fencing and signage). • Turbines are sited at sufficient distance from sensitive receptors to avoid any noise or visual impacts. • If turbines must be located close to sensitive receptors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Turbines meet national requirements and international good practice for acoustic design. – Turbines have been designed and are orientated to avoid shadow flicker. – Turbines have been painted with a non-reflective coating.

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<p><i>Auxiliary Facilities:</i></p> <p>Auxiliary facilities such as roadways to access turbines, and equipment for the transmission of electricity can, both during the construction and operational phases, create impacts on fauna and flora and people.</p> <p><i>EBRD Performance Requirement 4 & 6</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access roads, the site(s) and facilities for distribution of electricity are designed, constructed and operated so as to avoid, and where this is not possible mitigate, adverse environmental impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auxiliary facilities have undergone appropriate impact assessment and any significant environmental or community impacts have been identified. • Any such impacts have been taken into account during siting decisions to preferably avoid, or where this is not possible, mitigate those impacts. • Evidence of public consultations for the associated infrastructure.
<p><i>Public Consultation/Stakeholder Engagement:</i></p> <p><i>EBRD Performance Requirement 10</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community acceptance of a project will greatly assist in the implementation of that project. To achieve community acceptance, it is necessary to identify stakeholders and impacted communities and provide them an opportunity to have input into the decision making process. • Affected stakeholders should participate in the development and implementation of any required mitigation measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The locally affected community has been notified and consulted prior to the development of the facility. • Implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A formal grievance mechanism has been developed and implemented by the developer to cover both the construction and operational phases of the project. The mechanism has been publicised on bulletin boards in public venues in local communities and via local media (newspapers/radio). ○ A communication records procedure has been developed which will log the key information provided to stakeholders.