

Addendum to the Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) Reports for Arasinagundi and Anaburu wind farms

This addendum to the Environmental and Social Assessment Report has been prepared based on the updated information and further stakeholders consultation.

SOCIAL MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Tribal Development Strategy:

As indicated in the IEE, the Project villages (Arasinagundi and Anaburu) have a fairly good proportion of scheduled population including scheduled castes (SC) and scheduled tribes (ST); majority of them are landless and poor. Around 45% of the population in these two villages belongs to these two (ST and SC) poor and vulnerable groups. The project villages have a fair access to various civic amenities including drinking water, health care, educational institutions, communication and transport. Both the villages are electrified. With project undertaking various soil and water conservation measures (including check dams, gully control, etc.), the villages would get benefitted through ground water recharge.

Based on the results of the initial environmental examination of the project and the stakeholders consultations carried out, the project has been following a strategy to help the local tribal and other vulnerable sections of the local population. The important features of this strategy include the following.

No adverse impacts: The project did not involve acquisition of any private land for its development and as such there are no land losers in the project area. The forest land allotted to the project for its development was used mainly for animal grazing by locals. Since the project has not restricted the movement of animals in the project area, the cattle of the local population continue to graze in the area. Thus the project does not adversely impact the local population including ST and SC people of the area.

Wage employment: As part of the strategy to help weaker sections of the community including tribals in the vicinity to access project benefits, the project informs the nearby villagers about the employment opportunity that exists in the wind farms and the skill sets required. Based on the applications, the eligible employment seekers with requisite skills and fund suitable are shortlisted. Presently, about 50% of the indirect employment (through contractors) under the project is local labour. List of people employed is provided (*Annexure 1*).

Socio-cultural activities: The project has been supporting a number of socio-cultural activities in the area. Some of these include the following:

1. Contributed to rebuild/renovate local temple in the village(s);
2. Provided clear access to a temple situated at one of the locations at the project site that was previously designated for a turbine.
3. The location of the turbine was changed to accommodate the requirement of the local people at Anaburu to access temple;
4. The project ensures that there is no restriction to grazing of animals belonging to the local people, or their access through the site for other purposes.

Complying with statutory requirements: Project contractors have been instructed to comply with all the statutory requirements that have already been included in the contract. These include minimum wages as per norms of the Minimum Wages Act, make no discrimination between employing men and women, and not to employ child labour. They have been asked to prefer employment for local labour, as far as possible, and the results are seen in the people employed (nearly 50% of labour force is from local areas). For future, this will be made part of the contract agreement to give preference (as far as possible) to local labour to the extent the requisite skills are available.

Grievance handling: The project has so far not received a grievance of any serious nature from the local people. However, a contact person will be designated to receive and address any grievances in future. In order to handle any grievances/problems of the local people with regard to the project, the Project will provide the name of the contact person for each site and their contact numbers with whom local people could get in touch for any information or registering complaints. And if any local person approaches the project with a written complaint, it would be received by site people so it will help in tracking the resolution of any grievance.

Stakeholders' Consultations

The project had undertaken a number of stakeholders' consultations as part of the CDM registration process, more than is normally done for this purpose. These consultations were through meetings with individuals, local groups, elected representatives and the staff of the KSPCB, KPTCL and relevant government departments, particularly belonging to the Departments of Revenue and Forest. An all stakeholders' consultation was organized on August 3, 2007. The following Communication methods were used to inform the stakeholder about the meeting date, venue and purpose of the stakeholders' meeting (much of this is not reflected in the CDM PDD),

Personal meetings: On individual basis, With stakeholders on 30-July-2007 with Winrock International held meetings were with local villagers and Gram Panchayat members at Anahuru and Thoranaghatte villages, BESCO, and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to brief them on the projects and invite them to the Stakeholder's Meeting on 3-August 2007 (previously scheduled for a day earlier). *Annexure 2* evidences some persons met with their signatures.

Communication through individual letters: Winrock International sent individual letter (on 20-August-2007) to BESCO, KERC, KSPCB requesting them to attend the proposed stakeholders meeting.

Newspaper advertisement: As it appears in the PDD, this was given in the local newspaper for information of general public.

Stakeholders meeting on 3-August-2007: As evidenced in the PDD, this has been well documented along with the signatures of the participants and photographs of the meeting. In this meeting the representatives of all major villages in the vicinity, and also BESCO, Vestas, Acciona and some contractors working with the project had actively participated in the discussion.

Independent stakeholders' meeting by DNV:

Structured interviews were held with some of the stakeholders which were conducted by DNV during validation to confirm the facts stated by the company and/or mentioned in the PDD with the stakeholders. This is detailed in their Validation Report submitted to the UNFCCC – attached as *Annexure 3*. A briefing note on the project and its likely impact was distributed and comments invited in this meeting on various aspects of the project. No comments were received in writing.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Compliance with conditions for use of forest land:

Afforestation has been completed by the forest department on compensatory land handed over by the project in lieu of the use of forest land for the project. Necessary report confirming the same has been obtained from the forest ranger with photographs;

Necessary medicinal plantations, boundary markings, painting of red bands on blades and other conditions have been complied. Land to be transferred to the Forest Department in lieu of additional forest land (4.94ha) that had to be used during implementation (for realignment of lines/road due to difficult site conditions at Anaburu) has already been identified and the entire transfer process is expected to be completed by June 2010.

Waste management plan: This is in place (*see Annexure 4*) and is being adhered to by Vestas, the O&M contractors.

Non-usage of harmful chemicals: The project does not use any harmful chemicals for de-weeding or cleaning of project site premises. This is done manually.

Water-harvesting at project sites: The project will examine the feasibility of undertaking water harvesting measures at the project sites from all aspects, including discussion with the local offices of the forest department.

HIV/AIDS: Since the project attracts outside labour force, the Project will undertake measures to prevent incidence of HIV/AIDS in the form of approaching the Karnataka AIDS Control Society for information that can be made available for HIV/AIDS control, assess the input and make this information available