

How can Wind Energy become Environmentally Benign?

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Wind Energy projects do not require Environmental Clearance by Indian law.

International Financing Institutions investing in wind energy require Environmental Impact Assessment studies to be conducted.

Classical EIA in India carried out after finalizing locations or in final stages. Impacts are linked to location of turbine

ESIA for wind farms should be conducted at research stage.

- Location finalized after a year long study
- WTGs once installed cannot be moved

EMC developed a phased approach for E&S Impact Assessment of Wind Energy projects



EMC Three-stage Approach for E&S Impact Assessment of Wind Energy Projects

Early Research
Stage

Screening of location (presence of priority set of E&S sensitive receptors)

Finalization of Location by Research Team

Desk-based Rapid Impact

Assessment (mapping of E&S sensitive receptors; noise & shadow flicker effect modelling)



Bird and Bat Diversity Assessment

(field surveys in winter for migratory birds and pre/post monsoon for bat roosts)



1- Screening

Presence/ Absence of critical E&S sensitive Receptors

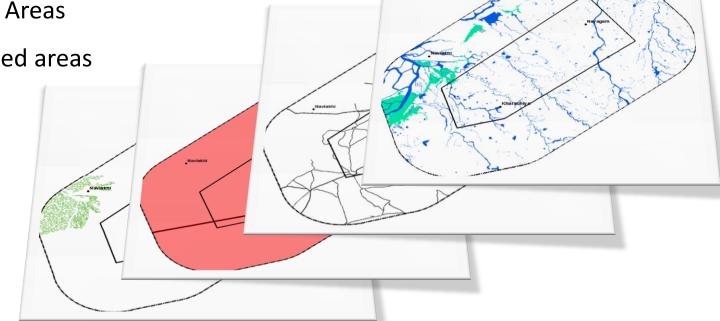
- Archeological sites
- National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries
- Eco-sensitive zone

Natural Hazards (earthquake, cyclone, floods)

Important Bird Areas

Tribal/ Scheduled areas

Airports





2- Rapid E&S Impact Assessment (desk-based)

10 km buffer around the boundary of wind farm area

Analysis of Baseline Status

- Secondary Data Collection
- Creation of data layers for sensitive receptors in GIS (Image processing, digitization, Validation)
- Socio-Economic Analysis
- Analysis of Cropping Pattern
- Meteorological Analysis



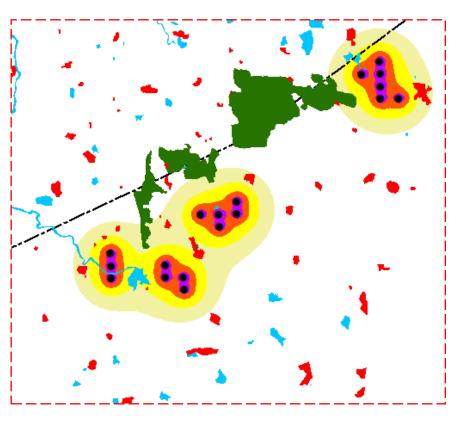
- Defining safety buffers from E&S sensitive receptors
- Scenario generation for locating WTGs within wind farm boundary
- Noise and Shadow Flicker Effect Modelling for above scenarios
- Identification of impacted receptors based on modelling results for the above scenarios

Management Plan

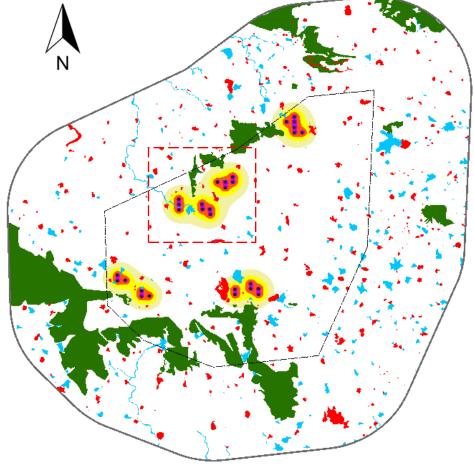
Recommendations for locating WTGs with least disturbance to E&S sensitive receptors

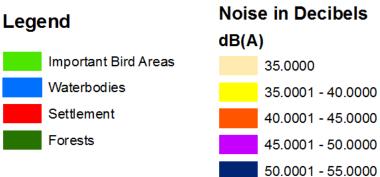


Impact Assessment- Noise

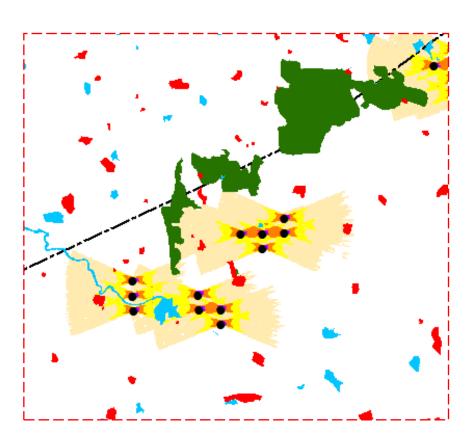


Using ISO 9613-2 General Model in WindPro 3.0 software

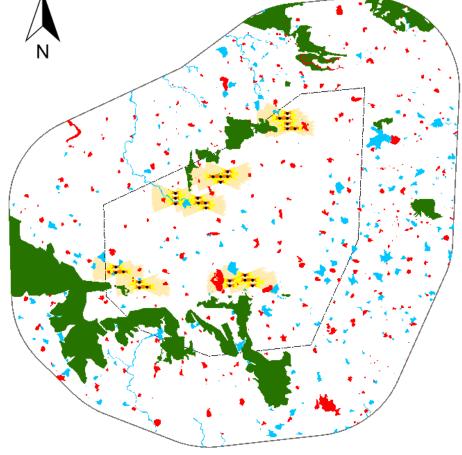


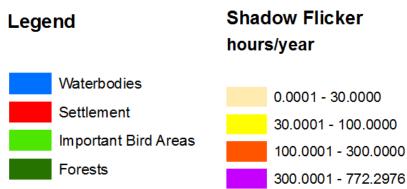


Impact Assessment- Shadow Flicker



Shadow Flicker module in WindPro 3.0 & SRTM data(30m resolution)





3- Bird & Bat Diversity Assessment (on-site)





Literature Review



Primary Survey

Winter Survey

Pre-Monsoon Survey

Bilateral Meetings & Bird Counts



Impact Assessment

Bird Sensitivity Map

(IUCN Status + Migratory Species + Shannon Diversity + Taxonomic Order)

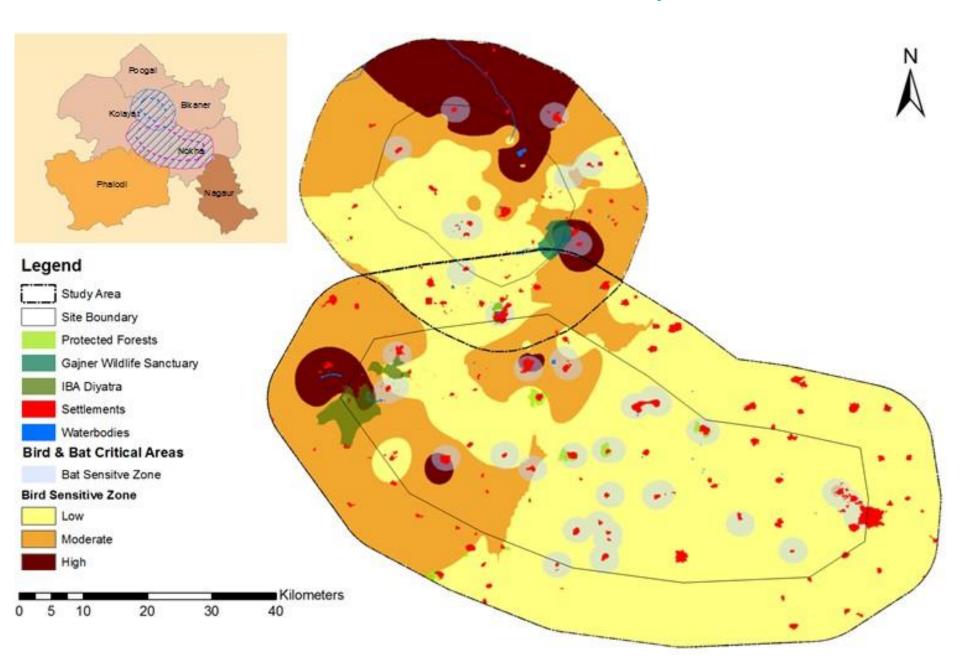
Critical Areas Map

(Bird Sensitivity Map + Bat roost buffer)



Recommendations on Siting WTGs

Bird & Bat Critical Areas Map



Conclusion

Conduct of Environmental and Social
Impact Assessment for wind farms at
research stage is important for tapping true
potential of wind energy in an
environmental friendly manner.



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