

Initial Project Summary – Actis Project Blade

NAME OF PROJECT: Actis Project Blade

NAME OF APPLICANT: Actis Long Life Infrastructure Fund

PROJECT LOCATION: Gulf of Suez, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Project involves DFC financing and political risk insurance for the acquisition and operation of a 580 MW brownfield wind power plant. The plant includes 290 wind turbines each with a capacity of 2 MW and a height of 100 meters. Egypt’s New and Renewable Energy Authority (NREA) currently owns the plant, which was built in three phases, the first of which began commercial operations in 2018. Operations and maintenance will continue to be carried out by Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy. The plant provides power to the national grid via a substation and transmission lines, and the Project will sell power under the terms of a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement with the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company.

The Project site is approximately 46 km² on land owned by the Government of Egypt in an arid desert area with sparse vegetation. The site is located approximately 30 kilometers south of Ras Ghareb, and there are no residents within 10 km.

The Project is located within the Red Sea/Rift Valley flyway, a globally important migration corridor for Migratory Soaring Birds (“MSBs”) and overlaps with the Gebel El Zeit Key Biodiversity Area and Important Bird Area (“IBA”). The IBA is designated to protect a strategic location within the flyway where birds are funneled along the Gulf of Suez during their spring and autumn migrations, often landing in large numbers and flying at low altitudes.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CATEGORIZATION AND RATIONALE: The Project has been reviewed against DFC’s categorical prohibitions and determined to be eligible. The Project is screened as Category A because large-scale wind projects are considered to have significant adverse impacts that could be diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented. Primary environmental and social issues of concern include the potential for impacts on resident and migrating birds, cumulative biodiversity impacts, impacts to community health and safety, labor management, and the need for appropriate stakeholder engagement, particularly with the Bedouin community.

ANTICIPATED APPLICABLE STANDARDS: The Project is subject to DFC’s 2020 Environmental and Social Policy and Procedures (“ESPP”). Under DFC’s ESPP, the Project Sponsor is required to comply with applicable national laws and regulations related to environmental and social performance. In addition, DFC’s preliminary environmental and social due diligence indicates that the Project will have impacts that must be managed in a manner consistent with the following of the International Finance Corporation’s (IFC) 2012 Performance Standards:

- PS 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts;
- PS 2: Labor and Working Conditions;
- PS 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention;
- PS 4: Community Health, Safety, and Security; and
- PS 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

There are no known Indigenous Peoples, cultural heritage sites, or inhabitants within the Project site, and no resettlement or economic displacement is anticipated. Therefore, PS 5, 7, and 8 are not triggered at this time. Applicable provisions of the IFC General Environmental, Health and Safety (EH&S) Guidelines and the EH&S Guidelines for Wind Energy also apply to the Project.

LOCATION OF LOCAL ACCESS TO PROJECT INFORMATION:

Jabal Elzyt Wind Farm (NREA)” – 36QW+9RG, Wadi Dar Al Zaraey, Ras Gharib, Red Sea Governorate
1990120