

## **Initial Project Summary**

Project Location: Gadag, Karnataka, India

Name of Applicant: National Investment Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

Name of Project: Ayana Renewable Power 300 MW Wind Power Project in Gadag, Karnataka

Project Description: The proposed Project involves the construction and operation of a 300 MW wind power project located in Gadag, Karnataka, India. The Project comprises 114 wind turbine generators (WTGs), each with 3.3 MW capacity, as well as an electrical substation and a 25 km transmission line. The Project is located primarily on flat to undulating land across 16 villages: Kanaginahal, Harlapur, Adavisomapur, Sambhapur, Balajinagar, Papanashi, Lakkundi, Gadag-Betigeri (CMC), Kadampur, Churchihal, Jantli Shirur, Shingatarayanakeri, Doni, Dambal, Narasapura.

The Project site is located near the Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary (1.1 km from nearest WTG) and two Important Bird Areas, Tungabhadrs Reservoir and Magadi and Shettikere Wetlands (12 km from proposed transmission line route and 25 km from nearest WTG). Desktop studies indicate potential presence of high priority species including *Neophron percnopterus* (Egyptian Vulture), *Sterna acuticauda* (Black-bellied Tern), *Aythya farina* (Common Pochard), and *Clanga clanga* (Greater Spotted Eagle). In addition, a rapid field observation study reported 25 migratory species including migratory waterbirds.

Approximately 560 acres of land will be required for the Project, 112 acres would be purchased and the remaining land would be leased for a period of 29 years and 11 months. This leased land will include land required for access road and transmission line construction. All land acquisition terms established by Ayana require a willing-buyer/willing-seller basis, and a lack of temporary or permanent structures. The ESIA indicates that there is no anticipated physical or economic displacement associated with this Project.

The project is anticipated to have approximately 550 workers during peak construction, primarily hired from the local area, and is expected to have approximately 100 skilled workers during operation.

Environmental and Social Categorization and Rationale: The Project has been reviewed against DFC's categorical prohibitions and determined to be categorically eligible. The Project is screened as Category A because the Project represents a greenfield wind project which could have significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are diverse and irreversible. The major environmental and social concerns related to the Project include the potential for impacts on avifauna, cumulative impacts, impacts to community health and safety resulting from increased traffic and worker influx during construction and noise and shadow flicker during operations. The Project is also located in proximity to cultural heritage sites, and potential impacts have been identified which must be addressed appropriately.

Environmental and Social Standards: The Project will comply with local environmental, social, labor, health, and safety regulations.

Location of Local Access to Project Information: N/A