

## **Environmental and Social aspect in Wind and Solar Projects Site Selection**

In addition to utilizing wind and solar resources, KVGGN Synergy takes a meticulous approach to selecting project sites and locations for its wind and solar projects, along with the associated infrastructure, such as transmission lines. The company ensures that project sites are located at least 10 kilometers away from protected areas, regions of high biodiversity value (e.g., Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), Alliance of Zero Extinction (AZE) sites), forested land, areas inhabited by Indigenous communities, and World Heritage Sites. Furthermore, great care is taken to avoid any direct or indirect impacts on cultural heritage sites or identified avifauna flight paths, ensuring that sites are positioned at appropriate distances to mitigate potential risks.

KVGGN Synergy ensures that access to places of worship, common resources, and other relevant areas is not impacted by its construction or operational activities.

For site selection, KVGGN Synergy conducts an internal Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD) process using credible and reliable information from publicly available sources. These include government websites (such as the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC), Meteorological Department, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), state government websites, and Forest Department websites), media reports, and other relevant online platforms and applications.

KVGGN Synergy utilizes the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (I Bat) and the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration Matrix (STAR) tool, both with professional licenses, for comprehensive site assessments. These tools are employed to evaluate the potential impacts on terrestrial, freshwater, and marine biomes during the site selection process.

KVGGN Synergy does not intend to develop any projects in the identified Greater Indian Bustard (GIB) priority areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat. However, the company considers the potential for solar projects in GIB potential areas within Rajasthan, provided that appropriate mitigation measures, management plans, and necessary approvals are in place to minimize any impact on the species.

As solar sites require freshwater for operation and maintenance, KVGGN Synergy develops appropriate action plans based on the availability of water in the area. For instance, dry cleaning technology may be implemented as a water-efficient solution. The potential risk to natural resources, particularly water, is assessed in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), with a project-specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (3ESMP) outlining mitigation strategies.

The internal Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD) process conducted by KVGGN Synergy helps identify and eliminate unmanageable or high environmental and social risks during the site selection phase, contributing to the timely commissioning of projects. Once a

site passes the internal assessment, a third-party Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is carried out for all greenfield projects, while an ESDD is conducted for brownfield projects. KVGGN Synergy prioritizes B or C category projects, as per the IFC Performance Standards project categorization, with a focus on minimizing environmental and social risks, including those related to avifauna. Comprehensive management plans are developed, implemented, and monitored to mitigate associated risks, ensuring continuous improvement of the Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS).

KVGGN Synergy also considers risks associated with climate change, such as flooding, lightning, cyclones, and water availability, to ensure the development of climate-resilient projects. These factors are carefully evaluated during the site selection and planning phases to mitigate potential impacts and enhance the long-term sustainability and resilience of the projects.

*1Marine if applicable*

*2ESDD – Environmental and Social due-diligence, 3ESMP- Environmental and Social management plan. 4Avifauna – Bird and Bat*

*5ESMS -Environmental and Social Management System*

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