

**Greening Clean Energy Sources**

**Managing the Social and Biodiversity Trade-Offs for Wind Energy**

**June 24, 2011; 3:00-6:00pm**

**A G E N D A**

**3:00-3:15pm: Introduction**

The moderator, ***Khalid Irani****, Former Minister of Environment and Energy, Jordan,* will introduce participants to the session and the key elements to be discussed.

**3:15-3:45pm: Wind Power and Its Environmental and Social Impacts**

***George Ledec****, Lead Ecologist, World Bank*

The presenter will introduce the participants to the issue of wind power technology and its diverse environmental and social impacts. Often overlooked, even “green” energy is not always a win-win situation. The session will also present best practice examples for planning, building, and operating wind farms, taking into account the management of assessed trade-offs with regards to biodiversity, local nuisance impacts, and socio-economic and cultural considerations.

**3:45-4:15pm: Dialogue with the audience**

After the introduction, the moderator will engage the audience in discussing the trade-offs of wind power technology and its potential environmental and socio-cultural trade-offs.

**4:15-5:30pm: Panel discussion**

A panel comprised of representatives from the private sector, local communities, development partners, and an NGO will debate environmental and social impacts of wind energy production and how to turn this into a “win-win” technology, including sstrategic planning for wind energy development. The moderator will seek feedback and additional input from the audience to feed the panel discussion.

***Panelists:***

* ***Mohamad Yasser Sherif****, Managing Partner, Environics, Egypt*
* ***Wesly Ureña Vargas****, Climate Change Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank*
* ***Edward Arnett****, Bat Conservation International*
* ***Ana Maria Sandoval****, EPM, Colombia*
* ***Aline Kühl****, Associate Scientific & Technical Officer, UNEP/CMS*

**5:30-6:00pm: Wrap-up and key messages**

The moderator and presenter will summarize the session and identify key issues to be presented to the participants of the 2011 CIF Partnership Forum.

**S E S S I O N B A C K G R O U N D**

**Objectives**

Stakeholders need to have a common understanding of the potential trade-offs between promoting wind energy and protecting biodiversity and social values. This session will provide a forum for stakeholders to discuss best practices for wind farm development taking into consideration the findings of impact assessments on biodiversity (migratory flyways, habitat degradation, etc) and peoples’ well-being. They will also discuss minimum social and environmental standards for designing and building wind power technology.

**Background**

Wind power seems like a win-win for any country, providing low-carbon energy with relatively low overall environmental impacts. But what happens to habitats, wildlife and people when wind turbines go up?

Wind turbines produce enough low-carbon energy to power hundreds of thousands of homes across many countries. Research has shown that wind energy sources could also pose a threat to the environment and affect the people living close to wind turbines. For instance, birds and bats can collide with wind turbines, or are displaced from their preferred habitats. Communities have complained about the noise from wind turbines and the impact on the beauty of open landscapes.

Good planning based on environmental and social safeguards can minimize negative trade-offs between promoting renewable energy production and protecting ecosystem and social values.

New approaches that make wind power technology even greener are available: careful site selection serves to avoid the more environmentally and socially sensitive areas, increased cut-in speeds can dramatically reduce bat mortality, and short-term shutdowns can protect flocks of migrating birds.

Countries can approach the issue of renewable energy in a more integrated way considering options to minimize potential trade-offs for ecosystems and people.