GP WIND – DELIVERABLES D2.1 and D2.3

COMMON METHODOLOGY FOR CASE STUDIES AND A “MODEL STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT” and STANDARD TEMPLATE FOR PARTNERS/SUBCONTRACTORS TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH

Project Name: GP WIND – Good Practice in reconciling onshore and offshore wind with environmental objectives

Project Duration: 24 months (August 2010 – July 2012)

Contract Number: IEE09/941/SI2.558383

Deliverable: D2.1 – Common Methodology for Case Studies and a “model statement of commitment”

D2.3 – Standard Template for partners/subcontractor to carry out research

Partners responsible for the deliverable: Scottish Government

Partners contributing to the deliverable: ALL

Date expected: M7 (February 2011)

Delivery date: M7 (February 2011) – updated version March 2011 (includes result of transnational meeting March 4th 2011)

Contact Details

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1. Introduction

Work Package 2 is tasked with developing a common methodology for the case studies to be delivered in Work Package 3. The agreed methodology should ensure that the case studies provide valuable information, which is meaningful and relevant to the stakeholder and provides a robust basis for the recommendations of the project, the Good Practice Guide and the Toolkit. This is vital if the latter are going to be adopted by the partner organisations and the targeted stakeholders. To achieve this we aim to develop a consistent yet flexible approach based upon key principles which can be understood and delivered by a range of people from across the regions, with different levels of experience and expertise.

2. Themed Approach

Attendees at our stakeholders meetings, and partner discussions have consistently expressed an interest in tackling case studies on a themed approach, whereby an issue is explored rather than a case study on a specific wind farm. Using a ‘themed’ approach an issue can be chosen for example the issue of community engagement, this topic then becomes the ‘theme’ for a case study which will explore the issue in detail and may make reference to a number of wind farms or development projects which have tackled the chosen issue successfully or indeed unsuccessfully. It is felt that this approach would be most useful for stakeholders and would be a powerful tool to assist the project to explore common issues to a depth that is sufficient to make the future recommendations meaningful to users of the GP WIND best practice guide. This approach may also be considered a novel way of tackling a best practice guide and may serve to differentiate our products from other guidance which is readily available on the subject.

This approach will not exclude inclusion of specific case studies of problematic or very successful wind farm applications, these will be used to illustrate specific examples and will compliment and add to the best practice guide.

3. Standardising the format

Designing a ‘one size fits all’ approach remains the aspiration but this will have challenges. The proposed methodology will require testing by the case study methodology group to identify potential issues before moving forward fully with Work Package 3. As set out in task 2.2.4 (annex 1) it may be necessary to revise the case study methodology as we progress into work package 3.

4. Objectives of the case study methodology

In summary the objectives of case study methodology are as follows:

- To provide a consistent approach
- To provide a framework for case study research
- To ensure the ‘right’ questions are asked
- To enable comparison between case studies
- To enable a common format for conclusions to inform the good practice guide
5. Approach and Methodology

The case study methodology will essentially provide a framework (list of tasks) for the case study research including:

1. Identifying research themes i.e. barriers to wind energy development
2. Literature and data review guidance – review of current practice and the key issues
3. Developing research questions – to explore issues of current practice
4. Interview guidance including ‘consultation topic guide’
5. Reporting evidence – write up of data, literature and interview research
6. Case study template – to illustrate the key issues highlighted within that case study

**Task 1: Identifying research themes i.e. barriers and opportunities for wind energy development**

The GP WIND team has already identified a wide range of barriers to wind energy development which would provide interesting research themes. However, conscious of the remit of the project the possible case studies subjects have been trimmed to focus on ‘Environment’ and ‘Community’ as the aim of GP WIND is to reconcile wind energy with wider environmental objectives and actively involving communities in planning and implementation.

Areas of contextual importance such as strategic planning, grid, infrastructure, government policy that we have identified will be sign posted in the Good Practice Guide as appropriate and will in turn be focussed on in the GP WIND toolkit.

*It has also been agreed that areas of expertise not within the GP WIND consortium skill set, like for instance the marine environment, may require assistance from external advisors.*

At present, after decision taken at the transnational partner meeting on March 4th 2011, the broad themes for case study research are set out below in table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Community</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Species impact offshore and onshore: Fish, Mammals, birds (including migratory routes)</td>
<td>9. Communication, awareness, information cascades</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Impact on habitats</td>
<td>10. Landscape &amp; Managing visual impact issues (Visualisation techniques/ Mitigation actions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Biodiversity - “The degree of variation in life forms within a given ecosystem” Needs coordination with “species” and “Habitats” issues but is meant to look across and strategically – the bigger picture</td>
<td>11. Dealing with Noise Issues – including underwater</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Tackling Cumulative Impact Issues</td>
<td>12. Conflicts with other economic interests including tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Systems and process for monitoring impacts; Examples of environmental mitigation techniques</td>
<td>13. Community concerns and acceptance – how to achieve ‘buy in’</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Construction and operation of facilities in the marine environment</td>
<td>15. Dealing with complex or entrenched public perception issues</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Should include CO2 reduction targets? health? tourism? fishing? shipping?*
**Task 2: Literature and data review guidance – review of current practice and the key issues**

For each thematic issue a literature and data review will be carried out to identify examples of good and bad practice and to develop understanding of the key issues. The team will draw up a list of the types of existing literature/studies and data sources to be included in the research and ascertain at the onset how these sources will be accessed. An initial list is proposed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Access procedures</th>
<th>Other comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic journal articles</td>
<td>Only academic literature which is publically available may be able to be included – to check whether any of the partners have access to other sources (e.g. SQW has access to IDOX, RSPB to a number of publications)</td>
<td>To identify relevant academic literature, state of art and key issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developer monitoring and follow-up studies</td>
<td>To be accessed through individual developers</td>
<td>To provide case study evidence e.g. of communication strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation evidence</td>
<td>Only evidence which is publicly available may be able to be included unless partners have access to unpublished reports of relevance</td>
<td>To provide findings from relevant evaluation studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy research</td>
<td>Publicly available – mainly web based</td>
<td>To identify the main sources of policy research for each geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry guidance</td>
<td>Only industry literature which is publicly available may be able to be included. However, some partners may be members of trade bodies of relevance</td>
<td>To provide examples of industry practice and guidance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steering Group Advisors (EWEA and EEA)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Examples of good practice and existing guidelines</td>
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Task 3: Developing research questions – to explore issues of concern, and current good practice

For each thematic issue, and using the findings from Task 2, research questions and methods will be developed with the aim of identifying how current practice might hinder or advance wind energy development.

Task 4: Interview guidance including 'consultation topic guide'

A list of consultees for each case study should be drawn up, along with a set of appropriate questions, taking into due account the fact that not all thematic barriers are of the same importance to stakeholders (especially investors) from the different countries. It will also be important to establish how researchers will gain access to each consultee. Whenever possible, a team member/contact will make an initial introduction.

It is likely that the consultation topic guides will consist of three sections:

- **Generic questions for all** consultees – e.g. job title, organisation, involvement with wind-farm projects, areas of expertise.

- **Thematic questions** – e.g. queries related to typical problems arising under the theme, evidence of impacts arising as a result of thematic barriers, potential solutions they would recommend, identification of examples of good and bad practice in relation to thematic barriers. Space should be given for the recoding of ideas or theories which have not been implemented but may have merit or be interesting for the GP WIND audience.

- **Specific questions** – it may be that individual consultees are identified as having specific expertise and are able to provide additional information over and above the standard thematic questions.

- **Other barriers** identification of key barriers to wind farm development that they can potentially address.

Task 5: Reporting evidence – collation and analysis of data, literature and interview research

The team should agree a format for recording and reporting data and research evidence. The evidence will provide the justification for the case studies that are chosen. It may also provide some of the background to the Good Practice Guide and Toolkit.

Task 6: Case study template – A suggested template is provided below – see annex (a)

The team will need to decide on how the case studies should be presented, to ensure that they are consistent in style and reader-friendly. The following guiding principles are set out below
Case studies should be short and succinct. References to websites or other contact details will be provided to accommodate readers who wish to learn more about the case studies featured.

Graphics are encouraged. The case studies should be visually interesting and easy to read.

Recommendations should be clear and brief.
WP 2: Common Methodology for case studies - Annex (a): Draft Case Study Template (updated version March 2011)

**Theme Study Template**

Please follow the structure below when writing your theme studies. Areas in yellow need to be filled in.

Please write in Tahoma 10. Delete instructions in red when done. Total length: max 4 pages (excluding bibliography). Please note the theme study should include graphics, images, schemes etc.

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**Case Study theme N. XY – BIODIVERSITY (example)**

**The main barrier** identification of the problem/barrier will be described in this section; the reader should understand why this issue is important and how it can become a barrier to deployment of wind energy projects.

**Case study purpose** – the purpose of the case study is to ensure learning takes place and in order to do so we start by identifying good and bad practice examples of the issue in question and we site attempts already made by others to overcome the barrier, from the evidence presented we make conclusion and recommend actions that can be taken to address the issue in future. (please feel free to comment on this description of our purpose).

We use this section to make clear to the reader what it is the case study is trying to do and set out why he/she should continue to read it. This section may also include notes on which audience may find this particular theme most useful i.e. Developers, Regulators, Planning Departments, Community Groups etc.

**Case study research methodology** – this section outlines the methodology used to develop the case study – a couple of lines describing what you did to research your theme and any deviation from original methodology.

**Key issues identified** – this section sets out:

- What key issues have been identified from the research?
- What factors influence the existenceSCALE of the barrier?
- In what way can this issue impact on the development of wind energy projects?
- SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) of the issues raised in the research.
Examples of good practice – In this section we:

- Describe examples of this problem being overcome successfully
- Explore what factors appear to have led to such successes
- Discuss how replicable such a solution be in other areas
- Set out any underlying / supporting factors than can assist in tackling this issue ie. Political Will, Policy support, Financial Incentives etc

Good practice examples should be selected keeping into consideration the following criteria: relevance, impact, novelty of approach, potential transferability of results

Examples of lessons learnt – In this section we:

Describe examples where approaches to this problem have not worked?

We also explore why have they been unsuccessful? What could have been done differently with hindsight?

If information is available we will set out the implications of the failed approach, what happened, did the project get developed after all, despite the issue?

Lessons learnt (bad practice) examples should be selected keeping into consideration the following criteria: relevance, impact, novelty of approach, potential transferability of results

Implications for policy and practice

Which parties have the ability to overcome this barrier?

What steps should be taken to address this barrier in the future?

Who can help?

What recommendations can be made? Please indicate to which development phase (i.e. Planning, construction, scoping, etc) the recommendation refers to
Bibliography and Web links

The bibliography will be used to make a single, comprehensive bibliography at the end of the whole document - there won't be an individual 'case study' bibliography. Please include all references you used in carrying out the research. Use referencing format as explained below.

Academic publication


Reports, etc.


Chapter in book


Book


EU directives (etc.)


The model statement of commitment below is a draft version that will be modified once the partners have agreed on specific recommendations.

**STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT**

Climate change and global warming are some of the most important challenges that Europeans are facing today; European countries set up ambitious targets for year 2020 and producing more clean energy is a common objective in most of European countries, but it is necessary to combine the production of clean energy, in particular onshore and offshore wind energy, with the conservation of the natural environment and landscape and with the welfare of local communities.

The European Project “Good practice in reconciling offshore and onshore wind energy with environmental objectives (GP WIND), funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Program, aims to bring together developers, local communities, NGOs, local authorities and all other relevant stakeholder to address environmental and community concerns in the development of wind farms. The successful implementation of the project GP WIND will result in the production of a “how to toolkit” and a good practice guide that will be a useful catalyst in consolidating examples of wind farms developments.

Therefore we - the signatories of the following statement - are committed to support the GP WIND partnership in achieving the following:

- Realise the recommendations highlighted by the GP WIND project
- Reinforce cooperation with other stakeholders in our region
- Engage with communities to achieve local sustainability
- Minimise conflicts arising from wind farm installations
- Disseminate GP WIND results and deliverables
### The Signatories

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<th>Organisation</th>
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