Summary of Comments Received During the First Consultation for the Wind Energy EHS Guideline

GENERAL
- Include more guidance on assessing the impacts of wind farms on birds and bats, and how to avoid or mitigate those impacts at each stage of project. These studies should include acoustic, radar, and thermal methods.
- Incorporate requirements for the preparation of high quality Strategic Environmental Assessments, including for investments made by Financial Intermediaries.
- Incorporate requirements for sensitivity mapping, baseline surveys, and cumulative impact assessment.
- Include guidance on how to manage the impacts of ancillary and associated facilities (e.g., access roads, energy transmission structures, power lines) of wind farms, during and after construction phases.
- Conduct pre and post construction monitoring of impacts on biodiversity.
- Include requirement for impact assessment and monitoring data to be made available publicly.

INTRODUCTION & APPLICABILITY
- Modify language so that companies are held to standards in the EHS Guidelines, or more stringent ones, not less.
- Provide guidance on the transportation of heavy equipment to construction sites.

ENVIRONMENT
- Include guidance on displacement and barrier effects on birds and other fauna.

VISUAL IMPACTS
- Include additional guidance on lighting, such as not using continuous red lights, and to comply with national aviation and marine legislation.

NOISE
- Provide guidance on noise management and set back distances (e.g., for marine mammals, human dwellings, businesses).
Species Mortality or Injury and Disturbance

- Include guidance regarding the increase of cut in speeds and feathering of wind turbines to reduce bird/bat mortality.
- Include consideration of barotrauma effects from wind turbines on bats.
- Include guidance on appropriate siting and layout of turbines to minimize impacts on birds and bats.
- Recommend sensitivity mapping during site selection.
- Recommend shut downs during seasons of peak bird/ bat activity, and maintaining turbines and landscaping around turbines so that they do not attract birds and other wildlife.
- Recommend inclusion of guidance on biodiversity offsets.

Shadow Flicker and Blade Glint

- Recommend that lighting should not pose a disturbance to local communities and to birds/bats.

Habitat Alteration

- Recommend including more guidance on decommissioning of wind turbines.
- Recommend habitat management at project site that will not attract birds and preventing increased access (of humans) to previously isolated areas.

Occupational Health and Safety

- Recommend restriction of hoisting activities during high wind speeds, and encourage use of turbines with internal elevators.