

# ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY

For 20 MW AC/22MW DC Solar Power Project at Village Tharkas Peth,  
Chittapur, Karnataka

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Clean Solar Power Tumkur private limited (CSPTPL)

Prepared by:

Arcadis India Private Limited

## CONTACTS

### Dr Bipal Jana

*Principal Consultant*

T: +91 (033) 23678070

F: +91 (033) 23678071

M: +91 98 31719417

E-mail: [bipal.jana@arcadis.com](mailto:bipal.jana@arcadis.com)

### ARCADIS India Pvt. Ltd.

3rd Floor, Tower B, Logix Techno Park,  
Sector – 127, Noida – 201301,  
Uttar Pradesh, India

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC	Alternating Current
ADB	Asian Development Bank
BEE	Bureau of Energy Efficiency
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CGWB	Central Ground Water Board
CHNC	Community Health & Nutrition Cluster
CPCB	Central Pollution Control Board
CPR	Common Property Resources
CSPTPL	Clean Solar Power Tumkur Private Limited
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CTE	Consent to Establish
CTO	Consent to Operate
DC	Direct Current
DISCOM	Distribution Company (India)
DMHO	District Medical & Health Officer
DWCRA	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas
EP	Equator Principle
E&S	Environmental and Social Risk
ECC	Emergency Control Centre
EHS	Environmental Health and Safety
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EPC	Engineering, Procurement & Construction
EPFI	Equator Principles Financial Institutions
ESDD	Environment & Social Due Diligence
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental Social Management Plan
ESMS	Environmental Social Management System
ESSG	Environmental Social Safety and Governance
FI	Financial Institutions
GHG	Green House Gases
GHI	Global Horizontal Irradiation
GRM	Grievance Redressal Mechanism
GSS	Grid Substation
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFC PS	International Finance Corporation Performance Standards
ILO	International Labour Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KLD	Kilo Litre per day
Lpcd	Litre per capita per day

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LRP	Livelihood Restoration Plan
MNRE	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
MoEF&CC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NABL	National Accreditation Board for Laboratory
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PAP	Project Affected People
PF	Protected Forest
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PPS	Pooling sub station
PS	Performance Standard
PUC	Pollution under control certificate
PV	Photo Voltaic
R & R	Rehabilitation & Resettlements
RF	Reserve Forest
SBM	Swachh Bharat Mission
SECI	Solar Energy Corporation of India
SGWD	State Ground Water Department
SH	State Highway
SHG	Self Help Groups
SOP	Standard Operation Procedures
SPCB	State Pollution Control Board
SPD	Solar Power Developer
SPHO	Senior Public Health Officers
SPPD	Solar Power Park Developer
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WPA	Wildlife Protection Act



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<p>Background</p>	<p><b>M/s. Clean Solar Power Tumkur Private Limited (CSPTPL)</b>, a 100% Subsidiary of <b>Hero Future Energies Private Limited (Here after known as HFE)</b>, have proposed to develop 20 MW solar Power Project at Tharkas Peth Village, Chittapur Taluk, Gulbarga District, Karnataka.</p> <p>Hero Future Energies (HFE), established in 2012, is one of the leading independent power producers in renewable energy sector in India. The company has been established with a vision and mission to generate 3.5 GW of Renewable clean energy by 2022. The present installed capacity of HFE is around 1.2 GW and projects are distributed in different states in India.</p> <p>Hero Solar Energy Pvt. Ltd has won a bid for the generation for the development of 122 MW (AC) solar power projects in the state of Karnataka. The letter of award and allotment award was issued on 23.03.2016 vide letter no KREDL/07/RPO/GC/1200MWs-269/2016/1215 by Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL). Subsequently, a Special Purpose vehicle (SPV) i.e. <b>M/s. Clean Solar Power Tumkur Private Limited (CSPTPL)</b> was incorporated under the companies act 1956/2013.</p> <p>The proposed project is Located at Tharkas Peth village, Taluk-Chittapur, District-Kalburgi in Karnataka District which is connected by SH-149 with district headquarters and other major towns.</p> <p>Hero Future Energies Private Limited has appointed “<b>Arcadis India Private Limited</b>”, as an independent consultant to carryout “Environmental &amp; Social Impact Assessment Study” for 20MW solar power project, following the performance standards of “International Financial Corporation (IFC)” The ESIA was conducted to assess any potential impacts (both negative and positive) that may arise from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the solar plant.</p> <p>The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study for the project has been undertaken in accordance with terms of reference as per International Finance Corporation’s (IFC) Performance Standards (PS) guidelines on Social and Environmental Sustainability, 2012; IFC’s general guidelines of Environment, Health and Safety, Equator principles, ADB’s Safe Guard Policies, Relevant ILO conventions covering labour standards. The study will also assess the sustainability of the project w.r.t the local and national regulations relevant to the project.</p>
<p>Project Overview</p>	<p>The 20 MW ac solar power plant at Tharkas Peth Village is being developed by M/s. Clean Solar Power Tumkur Private Limited (CSPTPL), a 100 % subsidiary of Hero Future Energies Private Limited (Here after known as HFE). CSPTPL will purchase 110 acres of Private land directly from the land owner on willing to Sell willing to Buy basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project is in Operational Phase and Scheduled to be Commissioned on October 2018.</li> <li>• There is a 33/220 kV pooling substation through 33 KV cables, which is located inside the project boundary.</li> <li>• The pooling substations to be connected through a 220 KV double circuit tower line to the main 400 kV substation through a dedicated corridor.</li> <li>• The grid sub-station is located at Village Nalwal, taluk Chittapur, District-Kalburgi. The distance between pooling Substation and Grid substation is 7.6 km.</li> <li>• The transmission line is passing through the agricultural Land. There are 30 Towers located on the Transmission Line.</li> </ul>



ESIA for 20 MW Solar Power Project at Village Tharkas Peth, Chittapur, Karnataka

<p>Applicable IFC's Performance Standards and ADB SPS</p>	<p>The Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the project has been designed considering the requirement and framework of Indian environmental legislation, IFC's Performance Standards, Asian Development Bank's safeguard policies and IFC's Industry Specific EHS guidelines.</p> <p>PS1: Social and Environmental Assessment and Management Systems, PS2: Labour and Working Conditions, PS3: Resource Efficiency &amp; Pollution Prevention, PS 4: Community Health, Safety and Security. Also, IFC's core labour standards are applicable to the project.</p> <p>The other performance standards PS5: Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement PS 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources. and PS7: Indigenous Peoples and PS:8 Cultural Heritage are not applicable for this project.</p>
<p>PS1: Social and Environmental Assessment and Management Systems</p>	<p>The project will have environmental and social impacts due to generation of onsite air emissions, noise generations, domestic wastes from site, office and rest rooms, and generation of <b>constructional debris particularly during the construction period</b>. CSPTPL should developed an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) at the corporate as well as and should be adhere to the environment and social management policy recommended for its solar project at the ground level. CSPTPL is required to fulfil the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental and social action plan;</li> <li>• Identification of risks and impacts;</li> <li>• Management program;</li> <li>• Organizational capacity and competency;</li> <li>• Training for security and safety workers;</li> <li>• Emergency preparedness and response;</li> <li>• Stakeholder engagement/ grievance redressal; and Monitoring, reporting and review.</li> </ul> <p>Hence PS1 is applicable.</p>
<p>PS2: Labour and Working Conditions</p>	<p><b>The PS 2 applies to workers directly engaged by the client (direct workers), workers engaged through third parties (contracted workers), as well as workers engaged by the client's primary suppliers (supply chain workers).</b></p> <p>The project has adhered to maximizing local involvement in the employment during the construction phase with back up of sourcing labor from outside the region, to accommodate for the labor requirements which are not met locally. To this effect, labor accommodation provided during the construction phase of the project should follow the Guidelines of IFC Worker's Accommodation: Process and Standards while providing labor accommodation.</p> <p>PS2 is therefore applicable for the project.</p>
<p>PS3: Resource Efficiency &amp; Pollution Prevention</p>	<p>The project involves use of resources like land and water. Improper handling of broken and damage solar panel may result in soil contamination. <b>Improper handling of transformer oil may lead to contamination of soil and ground water.</b> As a mitigation measure HFE has taken paramount care to store and dispose off all hazardous waste generated due to the project as per the requirements of the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Trans-Boundary Movement)</p> <p>During construction</p>

		<p>Proper Measures should be under taken by The CSPTPL during construction period for management of construction debris and minimization of fugitive dust emissions. Further, CSPTPL should ensure through its contractors that other wastes (packing material, metal, cement bags, drums/cardboards etc.) are collected, stored and disposed in a predefined area.</p> <p>During operation</p> <p>During operation Period, the water is required for cleaning of solar module &amp; domestic purpose. Improper handling of broken / damaged solar panels may result in contamination of soil and ground water.</p> <p>Hence PS3 is applicable</p>
PS4: Community Health, Safety and Security		<p>This Performance Standard is applicable to projects which entail potential risks and impacts to the health and safety of affected communities from project activities. Therefore, traffic must be managed for the project vehicles to cross the road and enter the project boundary. Further, at the project site, appropriate access control is required to put in place. This control will include barricading of project site; safety signage; illumination and other measures to mitigate the risk of accidents for public during the construction phase.</p> <p>While solar power projects have a limited and controlled footprint, major issue is related to glare or reflection. Considering scale of project, substantial movement of heavy vehicles are also envisaged.</p> <p>PS4 is therefore applicable for the project.</p>
PS 5: Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement		<p>As information provided by the representative that the land allocated for 20 MW Project (awarded to Hero Future Energies Pvt. Ltd.) are private lands. Private lands are being procured on willing to buy and sale basis and at mutually agreed price, which is higher to prevalent market rates.</p> <p>Under the proposed project 110 acre of private land has been procured and this has not resulted in any economic or physical displacement is also envisaged as the land purchased for the project is dry agricultural land (cultivation depends on rain-fall) and is without habitation.</p> <p>Hence, PS5 is not applicable.</p>
PS 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources		<p>The proposed project site is located in private agricultural Land and the habitat is artificial in Nature. No forest area is located within the 5 km study area around the project site. Vegetation in the project area is mainly observed along the road side and along the bund of the agricultural fields. The vegetation is also observed in patches in some locations. No Endangered Plant or animal species are observed during the field survey.</p> <p>No schedule -I species according to Wild Life Protection act,1972 is reported from the project site.</p> <p>Hence PS -6 is not applicable for the project</p>
PS 7: Indigenous Peoples		<p>The study area (located in kalburgi district) does not fall in any notified tribal area of Karnataka state. Also, as per Census, 2011, tribal</p>

	<p>population (Scheduled Tribe) present in the study area villages are very low. No land has been procured from Indigenous People.</p> <p>Hence, PS 7 is not applicable.</p>
PS 8: Cultural Heritage	<p>This PS is applicable when tangible forms of cultural heritage, unique natural features or tangible objects that embody cultural values and certain instances of intangible forms of culture are impacted or are proposed to be used for commercial purposes. No notified Cultural Heritage site is located near the project area.</p> <p>Hence, PS 8 is not applicable.</p>
Key Project Impacts – Construction Phase	<p><i>Impact on drainage:</i> one natural nallah is observed inside the project boundary which traverse the site from west to east. Nearest source of surface water is Bhima River which is around 5 km from the project site. So minimal effects on existing drainage is envisaged due to project activity.</p> <p><i>Access restriction:</i> No existing public road is observed which passing through the site area. The village road which is connecting nearby settlements area is located outside the boundary wall of the project site. So, the question of access restriction is not envisaged in this project.</p> <p><i>Impact on air quality:</i> Generation of fugitive dust due to earth work, movement of project vehicles, transportation of fine material (if not covered) and emission from diesel generators. Impact will be limited to the construction phase only and site specific in nature.</p> <p><i>Water resources:</i> Water will be sourced through vendor's water tankers extracted through bore wells during construction phase. As per CGWB categorisation w.r.t to the groundwater development, the Mandal in which project site falls are mentioned under "Safe" category. Hence, impact on the ground water is anticipated to be low, based on the water requirement and duration of construction phase.</p> <p><i>Traffic Load:</i> Project site connects to National Highway 150 connecting chittapur to yadgir through Major District Road, will be used for movement of trailer trucks carrying solar plant parts and other heavy vehicles for the project activity along with the movement of labours and other project materials.</p> <p><i>Impact on Flora and fauna:</i> No forest land is located at the project site or its surrounding. Proposed project site is surrounded by agricultural Fields. Vegetation is mainly Observed along the road side and on the bund of Agricultural land. No Schedule I animals observed during the field visit. therefore, no impacts on flora and fauna is envisaged except clearance of ground vegetation during the site preparation.</p>
Key Project Impacts – Operation Phase	<p><i>Soil contamination:</i> Storage / improper disposal of broken / damaged solar panel and used oil from transformer may result in soil / ground water contamination.</p> <p><i>Impact on water resources:</i> Water will be required mainly for washing of solar panels. During operation phase water will be supply through bore well which is located inside the site premises. Moreover, jet water spray method/dry cloth wiping method would be further adopted for minimizing the consumption of water.</p> <p><i>Occupational health and safety of workers:</i> Accidents like electrocution, short circuits may lead to occupational health and safety issues, for which proper training to workers need to be given to combat the same as well as it needs to be further ensured that the workers wear appropriate PPE's according to their nature of work involved.</p> <p><i>Social Welfare:</i> To reduce the dissatisfaction among the local people regarding the project activity, maximum job opportunity through direct &amp; indirect employment opportunity should be provided to the local people. In this regard CSPTPL will be responsible. Besides, a community development plan along with a grievance redressal</p>

	<p>mechanism should be followed. Complaints received by local people should be registered, investigated and timely resolved.</p> <p><i>Ecological Impact:</i> Enough height of the project boundary fencing will prohibit the entry of wildlife into the area. It would also be expected that glare effect from the solar plant will not be impacted to the avian species in the region as there is no known migratory path crosses the project site.</p>
<p>Key Mitigation Measures</p>	<p>Appropriate mitigation measures have been recommended in the ESIA report. It is recommended to implement the ESMP during the entire life cycle of project. These measures will minimise the impacts on air, water, soil, noise quality, solid and liquid effluent waste, ecology and socio-economic conditions. The activities of the project during both construction and operation phase will help in improving the socioeconomic condition of the surrounding area.</p> <p>Construction Phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drainage study and drainage management plan should be formulated prior to site levelling and modification of site topography.</li> <li>• Water sprinkling on road should be undertaken to reduce dust emissions during transportation.</li> <li>• Fine material (e.g. sand etc.) should be covered during transportation.</li> <li>• Proper PPE's viz. gloves, glasses, helmet and shoes and reflective jackets etc. should be worn by workers/labours while handling solar panels as well as during other activity during construction phase.</li> <li>• Silent DG set will be Used.</li> <li>• Hazardous materials such as transformer oil, Broken Solar Panels should be stored at designated locations in enclosed structures over impermeable surface.</li> <li>• Complaint register should be maintained onsite to receive complaints from local people and workers and needs to be timely address. Such complaints should be acted on and escalation matrix be provided.</li> <li>• Strict prohibition shall be implemented on trapping, hunting or injuring wildlife within subcontractors and shall bring a penalty clause under contractual agreements.</li> <li>• Camp and kitchen waste (if any) shall be collected in a manner that it does not attract wild animals.</li> <li>• Temporary barriers like wire fencing shall be installed on excavated areas.</li> </ul> <p>Operational Phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of authorised recycler/ vendor for broken / damaged solar module and transformer Oil.</li> <li>• Implement the recommended complaint resolution procedure (Grievance Redressal Mechanism) to assure that any complaints regarding any issue related to project activity is not left unnoticed. The complaints should be registered, investigated and timely resolved.</li> <li>• Moreover, to minimize the "Lake effect", visual frightening techniques like "Scare crow" may be considered to frighten any bird trying to land on panels.</li> </ul>
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>The solar power project at Tharkas Peth Village, Taluk- Chittapur is not likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts that are sensitive, diverse or unprecedented and irreplaceable. It is envisaged to have moderate impact due to issues related to community safety during the construction period, insignificant impact due to generation of dust and fugitive emissions during construction phase only (short duration) and minor</p>

impact on resource utilization like land and socio-economic conditions of project area villages. There is no impact on cultural resources in the study area. The impacts anticipated during the operation phase is fugitive emissions from movement of project vehicles within the site (air environment) which is minimal, surface run off and onsite drainage of storm water (water environment), impact on soil due to storage and spillage of transformer oil (land environment), disposal of broken / damaged solar panel during operation phase, which can be mitigated by adopting suggested mitigation measures.

Based on the conclusion drawn from the ESIA study with respect to the kind of impacts of the project on environment, resources, biodiversity, labours and community, the project is categorized as **Category B** from the perspective of environment safeguard.

From the perspective of IFC the project is categorised as **Category B**.

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This Executive Summary should be read in conjunction with the full report and reflects an assessment of the Site based on information received by Arcadis at the time of reporting.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

**M/s. Clean Solar Power (Tumkur) Private Limited (CSPTPL)**, a 100% Subsidiary of **Hero Future Energies Private Limited (Here after known as HFE)**, have proposed to develop 20 MW solar Power Project at Tharkas Peth Village, Chittapur Taluk, Gulbarga District, Karnataka.

Hero Future Energies (HFE), established in 2012, is one of the leading independent power producers in renewable energy sector in India. The company has been established with a vision and mission to generate 3.5 GW of Renewable clean energy by 2022. The present installed capacity of HFE is around 1.2 GW and projects are distributed in different states in India.

Hero Solar Energy Pvt. Ltd has won a bid for the generation for the development of 122 MW (AC) solar power projects in the state of Karnataka. The letter of award and allotment award was issued on 23.03.2016 vide letter no KREDL/07/RPO/GC/1200MWs-269/2016/1215 by Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL). Subsequently, a Special Purpose vehicle (SPV) i.e. **M/s. Clean Solar Power (Tumkur) Private Limited (CSPTPL)** was incorporated under the companies act 1956/2013.

The proposed project is Located at Tharkas Peth village, Taluk-Chittapur, District- Kalburgi in Karnataka District which is connected by SH-149 with district headquarters and other major towns.

Hero Future Energies Private Limited has appointed “**Arcadis India Private Limited**”, as an independent consultant to carryout “Environmental & Social Impact Assessment Study” for 20MW solar power project, following the performance standards of “International Financial Corporation (IFC)” The ESIA was conducted to assess any potential impacts (both negative and positive) that may arise from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the solar plant. This SPV entered into 25-year Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited (GESCL) on September 2016.

A solar power plant is a superior and a clean option for power generation in comparison to non-renewable fossil fuels. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in its Office Memorandum No. J-11013/41/2006-IA. II (I) dated 13<sup>th</sup> May 2011 stated that the solar photovoltaic power projects are not covered under the ambit of EIA Notification, 2006 and therefore does not require prior environmental clearance. Moreover, solar power plant has been categorized under green category and exempted to obtain consent to operate (CTO) from state pollution control board. CPCB in its order published on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 has directed to all the SPCB about the categorization of industries. This categorization has been done based on potential of industries to cause pollution. All the non-polluting industries has been categorized under white category and does not requires consent to operate (CTO). Only, intimation to SPCB while starting the industry will suffice.

Arcadis India Pvt. Ltd. (Arcadis) as an environment consultant has been appointed by Hero Future Energies Private Limited to undertake the ESIA study for 20 MW solar PV ground mount at Village Tharkas Peth, taluk- Chittapur, District kalburgi, Karnataka. The ESIA was conducted to assess any potential impacts (both negative and positive) that may arise from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the solar plant. Environmental sustainability in relation to the solar power generation project will be enhanced by designing the solar power plant that gives competitive advantage over existing energy sources. The overall benefits of the solar power system are expected to outweigh the potential negative impacts. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study for the project has been undertaken in accordance with terms of reference as per International Finance Corporation’s (IFC) Performance Standards (PS) guidelines on Social and Environmental Sustainability, 2012; IFC’s general guidelines of Environment, Health and Safety; Relevant ILO

conventions covering labor standards. The study will also assess the sustainability of the project w.r.t the local and national regulations relevant to the project.

## 1.2 Project Location

The 20 MW solar PV Ground Mount Power Plant at Village Tharkas Peth, taluk- Chittapur, District kalburgi, Karnataka. Power from the solar photovoltaic plant will be evacuated to 220/400 kv grid substation (GSS), located at Nalwar, which is 7.6 km from the Project sites. The total length of the transmission line is 7.6 km and there are 30 towers on the transmission Line.

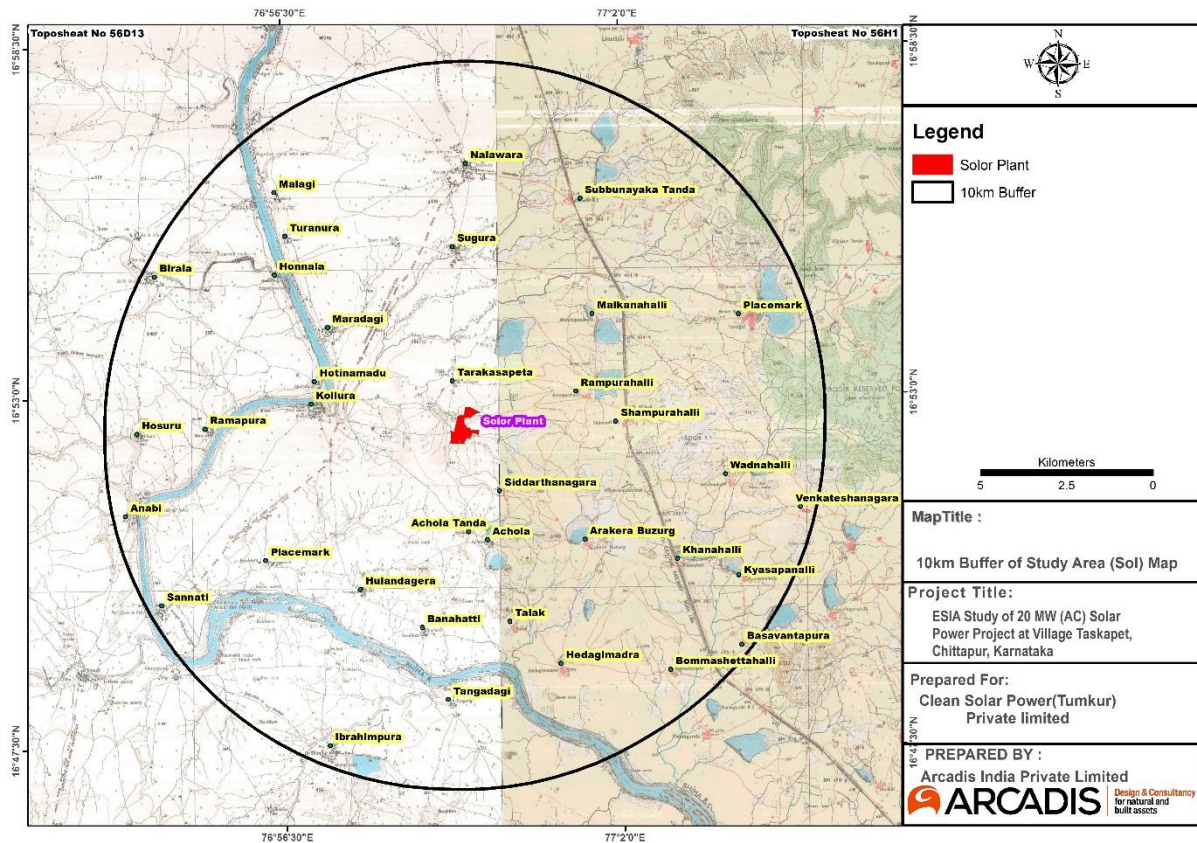
The location salient features of the project are given in Figure 1-1 and in Table 1-1 respectively.

**Table 1-1: Salient Features of Project**

S. N.	Salient Features	Details
1	Project Owner	Clean solar Power (Tumkur) Private Limited
2	Total Project Capacity	20 MW
3	Location of Site	Village- Tharkas Peth
4	Tehsil/Mandal	Chittapur
5	District	Kalburgi
6	State	Karnataka
7	Project Coordinates	Easting: 712160.74 m E, Northing: 1867215.52mN
8	Nearest Town	Chittapur
9	Nearest Village	Tharkas Peth
10	Nearest Rail Station	Shampurhalli
11	Total Land Area	110 Acre
12	Ownership of land	Private
13	Land holding type	Approximately 110 Acres of land at Tharkas peth village is on way of procurement exclusively for the purpose of the 20 MW solar power project. It was observed that the land procured for the 20 MW Solar Project is almost a contiguous stretch of land.
14	Present status of the project	The project is under construction. Mounting of Structures and panels have been completed. Presently construction and finishing work of SCADA and inverter rooms as well as substation is being carried out. The Schedule Commissioning Date Is October 2018.
15	Power evacuation	33/110 kV Pooling substation.
16	Solar PV Technology	Polycrystalline modules are proposed to be used.
17	Project Life	25 years



Figure 1-1: Project Location Map with 10 km Study Area



### 1.3 Project Phase and Status of Permits

The project is in construction stage. The land has been purchased directly from the land owner on the basis of willing to sell and willing to buy. The construction of solar plant is under progress during the time of this ESIA study. The required permits and approvals for the construction and operation of the project are summarized below:

Table 1-2: Required Permits & Approvals for the Project

S. N	Permits/Approvals	Status
1	Consent to Establish from Karnataka Pollution Control Board (KSPCB)	Not required. The Solar power energy is categorised under white Category industry as per KSPCB notification dated 14.07.2016.
2	Power Purchase Agreement	PPA signed between Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company limited (GESCL) and Clean Power Solar Energy Tumkur Private. Limited., SPV of HFE On September 2016 (Appendix E)
3	Approval for extraction of ground water	Required.
4	Land procurement	Around 110 Acres of private land procurement is on way of completion through willing buyer-seller basis and good faith negotiation.

Figure 1-2: Project Location Map





## 1.4 Purpose of ESIA Study

The main purpose of the ESIA study is to identify, evaluate and manage environmental and social impacts that may arise due to implementation and operation of the project. The document has been made to comply with the requirements of IFC's Performance Standards, IFC's general guidelines of Environment, Health and Safety; Relevant ILO conventions covering labor standards, as well as applicable local and national regulations. The objectives of ESIA study are:

- To identify and establish the baseline environmental and socioeconomic conditions, to analyse the environmental and social risk and impacts of the project and its associated components (facilities like transmission line, access road etc.)
- To prepare an inventory of biodiversity (flora and fauna) of project site prior to implementation of the project to evaluate the possible impacts on flora & fauna.
- Review of the land lease process to assess any legacy or current/existing issues (like informal settlers, livelihood dependence, other usage etc.) on the purchased/ leased land through suitable survey using acceptable socioeconomic tools. This will help in assessing the impact of the project on the community/ villagers.
- Socio-economic survey involving consultation with local community, stakeholders, household surveys to identify the needs and problems of community with respect to the project activities.
- To suggest appropriate safeguards for the associated environmental and social risk, which may not lead to project investment and activities at risk.

### 1.4.1 Approach and Methodology of the ESIA Study

Preliminary documentation review was undertaken prior to mobilization for site visit. During site visit, potential environmental and social risks associated with the project were assessed. Mitigation measures / further studies were proposed based on the assessment. Detailed approach and methodology adopted to conduct ESIA for the project is described below.

- **Preliminary Discussion with project proponent:** At this stage, size and location of the project, scheduled date of site visits, scope of work, timelines for report submissions, concerned point of contacts were understood from the project proponent. List of further information required such as status of applications made, clearances obtained, project schedule, proposed plant layout, toposheets, solar specifications, noise curves etc. was formally requested from project proponent.
- **Desktop Review of the project area:** After confirming the project area and site location, review of the site area was undertaken using readily available sources such as google earth, google maps, GIS, land use maps of the area. With the help of desktop review, assessment was made on how the site/project and its components such as proposed solar park locations, pooling substation, transmission line etc. are located regarding the nearby villages, forest areas, bird sanctuaries, or any other protected areas (if any), major water bodies, rivers, national and state highways, commercial and defence airports (if any).
- **Review of relevant secondary information:** Secondary information on geology, hydrology, prevailing natural hazards like floods, earthquakes etc. have been collected from literature reviews and authenticated information made available by government departments. Primary surveys were carried out to understand and record the biological environment prevailing in the area and the same was verified by the forest officials and against published information and literature. The socioeconomic environment has been studied through consultations with various stakeholders within the site. Additionally, socioeconomic data has been obtained from Census of India 2011.
- **Site Investigation through site visit:** After gaining a fair idea from the desktop review of the project area, a team of experienced professionals including an environmental expert, a social expert and a biodiversity expert visited the project area for site reconnaissance and consultations with relevant stakeholders such as project area related community, project developers, relevant government offices such as local forest department office, revenue department office etc. were held.

To understand and assess the environmental and social risks associated with the project, the study area was divided into core area (500 m around each of the solar park location) and buffer area (10 km around the site location).

- **Investigation of Project Components:** After getting the exact locations of different project components such as proposed Solar Plant, PSS, GSS, proposed transmission line, the environmental and biodiversity expert visited all the project component locations along with the Client representative. Further, observations were also made pertaining to what is the land use of the area i.e. agricultural or barren, private or government, whether assigned by local/state government to some vulnerable communities, whether a reserved forest land etc. All the afore mentioned observations are noted in a standard format for reference which is used during report preparation.
- **Community Consultations:** The social expert conducted village community consultations in presence of site representatives. During community consultations, baseline information of villages pertaining to population, different castes, presence of any vulnerable communities, availability of water and electricity, schools and primary health clinics, general occupation of local people, other income sources etc. has been sourced. During consultation, the social experts tried to understand the probable perspective of village communities towards the proposed project.
  - **Consultation with project developer:** Concerned persons from developer's team have been interviewed to understand the land procurement process, project construction schedule, estimated workers required during construction and

operations, plans for arrangement of water required during construction and operation, procedures to address occupational health and safety, waste management plan, emergency response plan etc.

- **Identification of Potential Environmental and Social Impacts:** The assessment process has taken into consideration the impacts due to project sitting, land preparation, and construction and operation of the project. The risks and impacts of the proposed Solar project have been assessed on the social and physical environment. To study the environmental and social impact, study area was divided into core area and buffer area based on the extent of influence of project activities. Primary impacts are assessed for a radius of 500m around the project site and secondary impacts are assessed beyond this radius for the proposed project. The Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been taken into consideration for the following:
  - Applicable National Regulations;
  - ADB Safeguards;
  - IFC's Performance Standards; Equator principle
  - Outcomes of the community consultation
  - Baseline environmental monitoring;
  - IFC General EHS Guidelines.
- **Development of Project Specific Environmental and Social Management Plan:** The project related activities are understood through desktop review of documents like permits/clearances (if any), maps, etc. and reconnaissance survey to the project location and surrounding area was conducted for familiarization with the project location. The site setting, and sensitivities was identified, and the environmental and social risks associated with the project with respect to applicable national regulations, ADB safeguards, IFC performance standards was understood. The identified gaps will thereby lead to derive an environmental and social management and action plan (with timelines & responsibilities) to address these gaps.

### 1.4.2 Limitations

The ESIA study has been carried out based on project planning information and documents provided by the project proponent, stakeholder consultation and observations during ESIA study. Any major changes in the proposed activities may result in significant deviations of outcomes or impacts.

### 1.4.3 ESIA Team

ARCADIS has mobilized a diverse team of multidisciplinary experts for conducting the ESIA study. A number of these experts are accredited professionals by Quality Council of India to conduct regulatory EIA. Combination of these experts have provided consultancy services to over 50 solar power projects across India with over 3000 MW installed capacity. The experts have been continuously working with funding agency and understand the modalities and procedures of evaluating and addressing environment and social risk associated with large scale investment.

## 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 20 MW AC solar power plant at village Tharkas Peth, Taluk- Chittapur, Dist.- Karnataka. Hero Future Energies Pvt Ltd has formed a Special purpose vehicle Clean Solar Power (Tumkur) Private limited for the generation of Solar power. The land has been purchased directly from the land owner on the basis of willing to sell and willing to buy. Clean Solar Power Tumkur Private limited entered into 25-year Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited (GESCL) on September 2016.

- The project is in Operational Phase and Scheduled to be Commissioned on October 2018.
- There is a 33/110 kV pooling substation through 33 KV cables, which is located inside the project boundary.
- The grid sub-station is located at Village Nalwal, taluk Chittapur, District- Kalburgi. The distance between pooling Sub-station and Grid substation is 7.6 km.

The transmission line is passing through the agricultural Land. There are 30 Towers located on the Transmission Line.

The technical features of project are provided in **Table 2-1** and lay out map of the project site is shown in **Figure 2-1**.

**Table 2-1: Technical Features of Project**

Site	Chittapur Solar Plant
Co-ordinates	Easting: 712160.74 m E, Northing: 1867215.52mN
PV Module	Multi Crystalline/ thin Film
Inverter	1000- 1250 kW
AC Capacity (MW)	20 MW AC
Tilt	15°
No. of Module	79336
Evacuation	33/110 kV pooling substation through 33 KV cables
Type of System	Fixed type
Module Efficiency	More than 17.05%
No. of inverters	2
Solar Data Source	Solar GIS
RADIATION (GHI) kWh/m <sup>2</sup>	1900 kWh/m <sup>2</sup> – 20150kWh/m <sup>2</sup>

### 2.1 Present Status of Project

The site visit was conducted in September 2018 and found that project is in construction phase. Land procurement is completed by CSPTPL. The proposed land is generally agricultural land with flat terrain. Site is accessible through 3 km approach road connecting Chittapur and Yadgir. The scheduled commissioning date of the proposed project is October 2018. Project site and immediate vicinity are presented in **Figure 2-2**.

Figure 2-1: Project lay out map Showing the Project Site

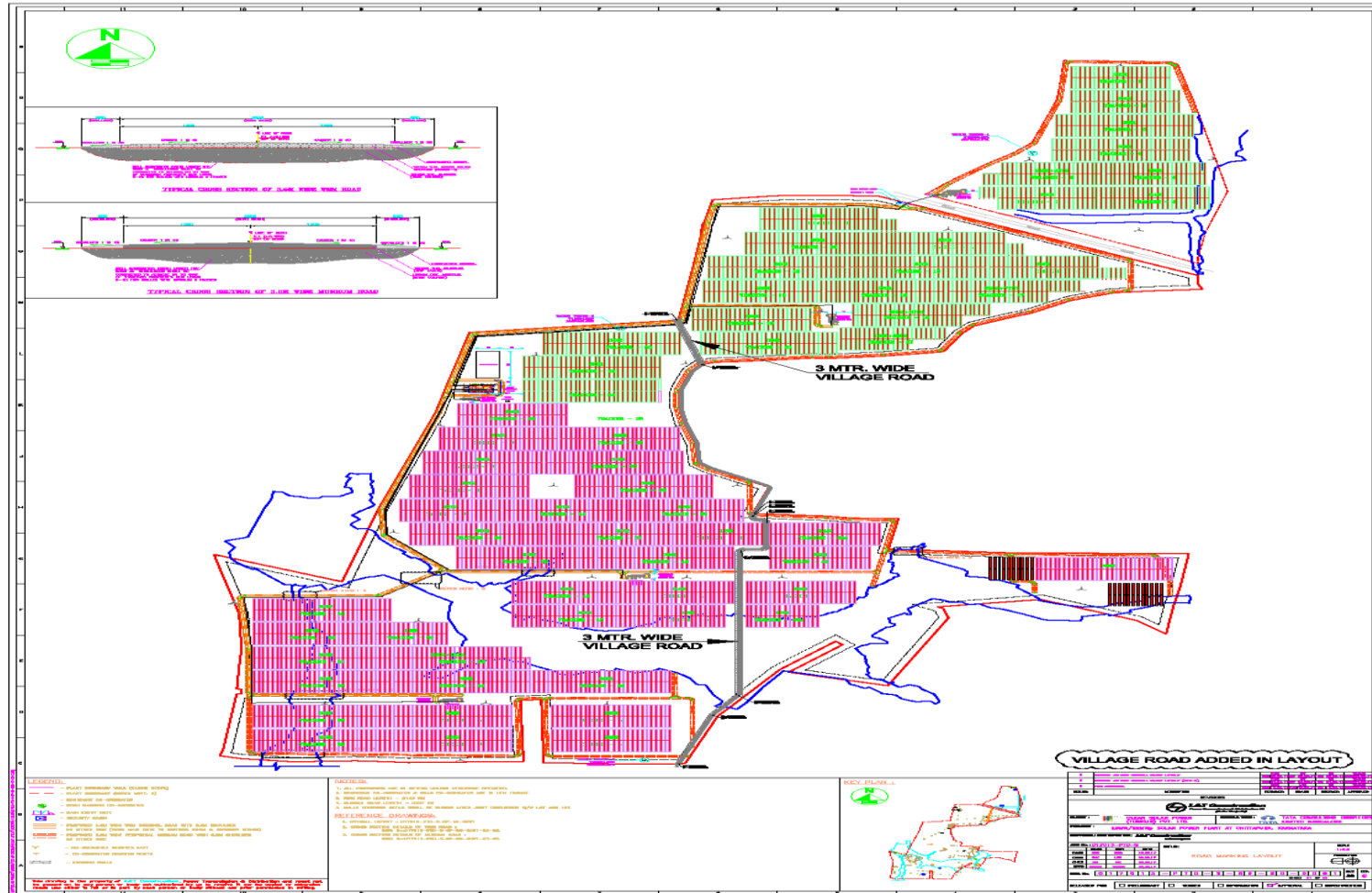
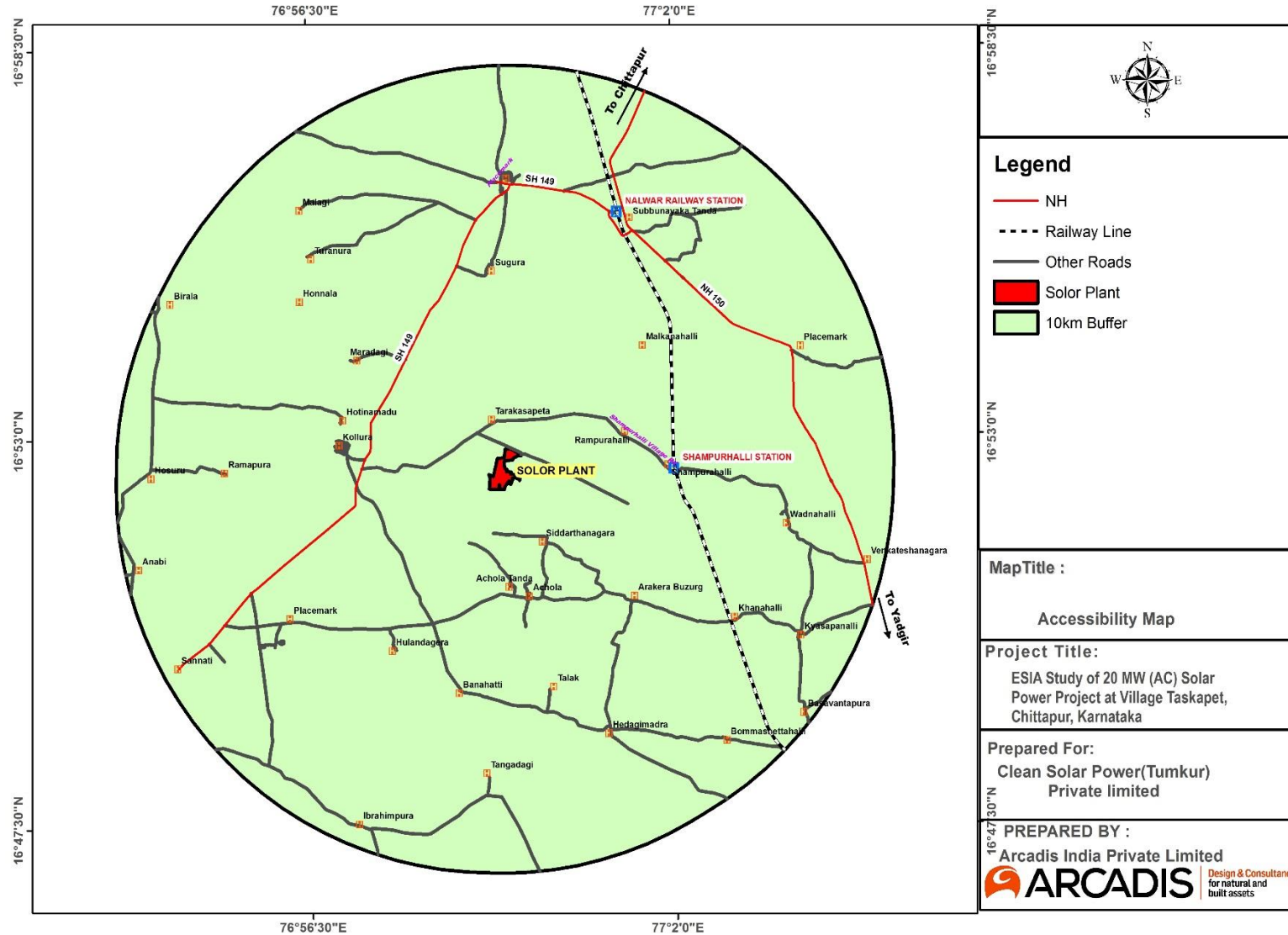




Figure 2-2: Accessibility of the Project Site



## 2.2 Site Suitability and Justification of Project

Following analysis describes the site suitability for a Solar PV power plant development, these analyses include:

- **Solar radiation at the site:** The state of Karnataka is blessed with abundant solar energy and receives maximum solar radiation intensity throughout the Year. According to Solar radiation map of India, Karnataka receives a global horizontal irradiation (GHI) in the range of 5.5 to 6.0 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>.
- **Topography:** The proposed area for the development of 20 MW AC solar plant is flat in nature and surrounded by agricultural land. Installation of solar panel will be easy and reduce the cost of technical modifications requirement of Levelling of Ground.
- **Substation proximity:** Power from the solar photovoltaic plant of 20 MW capacity will be evacuated to 33/220 kv substation. The Pooling substation will be connected to a 400 kv grid substation (GSS). The GSS is located at Nalwal village. The total length of the Transmission line would be 7.6 Km.
- **Accessibility:** The site is easily accessible through MDR connecting Chitapur – Yadgir Road. Existing major district roads are also utilized as access road to the site. Nearest Railway station is Shampurhalli which is located approximately 6 km away from the project site. Hyderabad International Airport is about 180 Km from Yadgir.
- It is also noted; the site was devoid of any habitation.

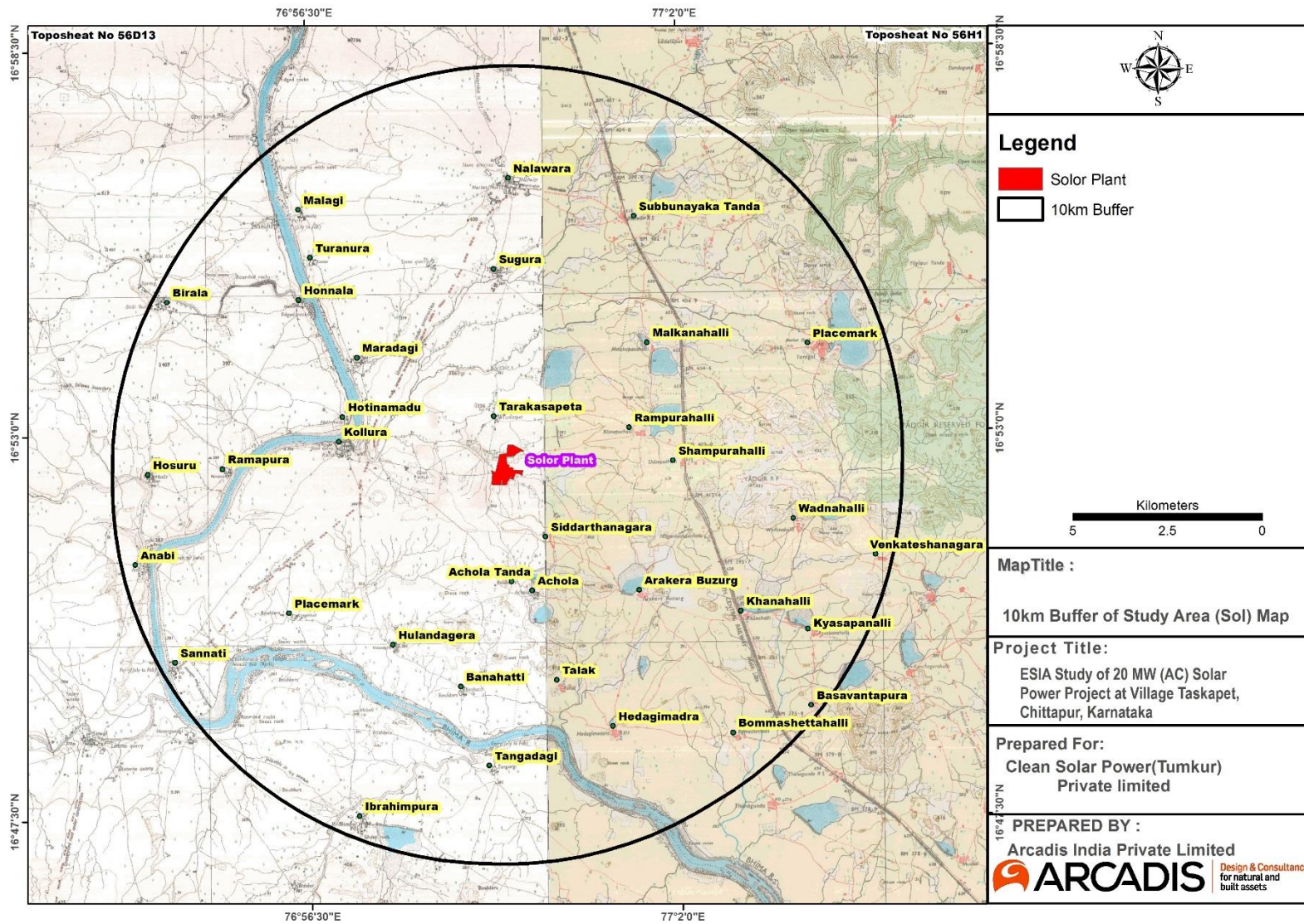
Considering above justification, the site has been found to be technically feasible for a solar power development.

## 2.3 Project Settings

The key physical features of the project site have been described below:

- The site has flat terrain consisting mostly of agricultural and Dry land. Project site is surrounded by agricultural fields. No forest land was observed within the 5 km radius of the project site.
- There are no shading elements such as mountains or tall trees available on the site.
- Bhima River, which flows from north to south direction is located around 5 km from the project site. This is the main source of surface water in this region. Beside this, few numbers of small pond also located around project site. Although, no water was observed in the pond during the site visit.
- No reserve forest / protected forest or ecological sensitive area is located within 5 km of the project site.
- The nearest village settlement from the site is Tharkas Peth which is located within 2 km (aerial distance) from the project site.

Figure 2-3: Project site on Survey of India Toposheet Map





## 2.4 Project Design, Technology and Component

The 20 MW solar power plant will be based on Multi-Crystalline solar PV technology. The main equipment of a PV Project are PV modules, inverters, mounting systems, PSS and GSS. The system consists mainly of the following components:

**PV Modules:** PV modules use light energy (photons) from the sun to generate electricity through the photovoltaic effect. PV modules technologies are divided in two main groups:

- *Crystalline Modules:* PV modules are composed by several cells (mainly 60 or 72) electrically connected. Cells are made by crystalline or polycrystalline silicon. This technology is predominant in large scale PV facilities to its high performance under different climatic conditions, maturity, low cost and huge number of providers.
- *Thin film:* Thin film PV modules are composed by a layer of PV material deposit over an isolating base. PV material could be made by different products (TeCd, s-Si.), but only TeCd has got a relevant market share and is suitable for large scale PV plants. This technology has a good production under low radiation and high temperature conditions, but on the other hand there are short number of manufacturers and short track record.
- *PV Module:* Polycrystalline Silicon Modules, 72 cells module, 16.5% efficiency, 310W expected unitary power
- Crystalline silicon PV modules (c-Si) solar cells are currently the most common solar cells which is widely acceptable and in use all over the world mainly because c-Si is stable than others. The efficiency range is 15% to 25% and it relies on established process technologies with an enormous database. Hence it is decided to select this technology with best enhancements as upgraded in this project.

**Inverters:** A solar inverter, or PV inverter is most complicated part of a PV system, converts the variable direct current (DC) output of a PV solar panel into a utility frequency alternating current (AC) that can be fed into a commercial electrical grid. Main types of inverters are:

- *String Inverters:* Small size inverters (1-10 kW) which are directly connected to the PV modules. This type of inverters has the advantage of an easy installation and maintenance tasks. But in large scale PV plants have several problems, such as the large amount of equipment required, lower performance and high price.
- *Central inverters:* Big inverters with a capacity up to 1MW. Skilled personnel are required to install and maintain this equipment, but the performance is very high and are cheaper than string inverters.

**Mounting System:** PV modules must be attached to a structure. This structure could be fix or may have a movement to follow the sun path.

- *Fix Structure:* No movement of the module. Structure has some inclination to improving the production.
- *One axis tracking system:* Structure has a movement from east to west, in order to follow sun path. Tilt of the module is fixed.
- *Two axis tracking system:* Structure could be moved in two axis then the module surface is able to be perpendicular to solar radiation every moment, and therefore get the maximum radiation.
- *Structure:* Fix Seasonal Mounting Structure from a reputable Indian manufacturer, Galvanized Steel, Tilt : 15°

**Evacuation Plan:** The SPV based power projects envisages a power export of 38 Mn units from the plant in the first year of operation. The grid connection will be at 110 kV level in Wadgera sub Station. The exportable power from the plant shall be evacuated by stepping up the power from 300 v to 110 kV through transformers. CTs, PTs isolators, lightning arrestors, circuit breakers and TVM for TRANSCO measurement will be arranged. Switchyard Arrangement and other requirements will be in line with TRANSCO specification and Grid Code.

**Metering:** Tarif main metering shall be accommodated in outdoor kiosk on Plant land. Trivector meter that shall be provided in the plants control building or as per TRANSCO's requirement will have main and checking arrangement, and these shall be arranged upon with the TRANSCO. The Tarif meter shall register import as well as export parameter.

**Control and SCADA system:**

The Centralized SCADA system will have a provision to incorporate all monitoring and control inputs from Module Monitoring systems, Inverter monitoring systems and Weather Station and Pyranometer monitoring stations. All the HV & MV breakers will be controlled through SCADA system. The HMI unit of SCADA will display all breakers and line parameters. The electrical system will be displayed in the mimic of SCADA. The SCADA will control all breakers with suitable interlocking. The line parameters like MW, MVR, Voltage, current, frequency will be part of SCADA display system. The SCADA will also capture ambient air temperature, wind speed and solar irradiance through suitable measuring devices. The SCADA will have a suitable gateway for data transfer to SLDC 60870-101/104 format. The suitable media and means will be designed by the vendor. SCADA will be provided with suitable UPS. SCADA should be able to take input from security CCTV system camera.

**Approach Route:** The approach route for the transmission line will be based on a criterion to reduce the environmental and socioeconomic footprint of the transmission line. The shortest feasible route after considering these factors will be selected for the transmission lines:

- Transmission line route does not fall under any habitations and thick vegetation.
- No households or community structures are in the route of the transmission line.
- All environmentally sensitive sites, archaeologically significant sites, areas of ecological and cultural significance were avoided while selecting the route.
- Right of way/ access roads will be shared with residents of the area wherever possible.

## 2.5 Climate Change Effect on Solar Power Plant

Energy from solar power plant is directly related to fluctuating weather conditions. The vulnerability of solar power components due to climate change has been studied in various researches and publication. In Solar power plant, photovoltaic panels with an operating life time of 25 years are vulnerable to hail, solar and extreme temperature (Patt et al. 2010). Solar cell output usually rated at 25°C and it decreases for each temperature rise of 1°C after that hence increase in temperature will decrease the performance of solar cell. As the solar radiation assessment, has been conducted for the project and module has been designed in line with the assessment finding therefore solar power performance is not anticipated to reduce unexpectedly over the period of 25 years (project life cycle).

Cloud cover is another factor which influence the performance of solar panel's output and this performance can decrease by 40%-80% within a few seconds. However, it increases dramatically as the sky clear (Kleissl 2010).

Higher solar radiation can also increase dust particles deposit over the panels which decrease solar photovoltaic cell output (Goosens and Van Kerschaever 1999), but higher solar radiation can also cool the modules, increasing efficiency and output.

Another component of solar power plant is inverter. Studies consistently show that the inverter, which converts direct current power output into alternating current (DC to AC), is the most unreliable component of a photovoltaic system, accounting for up to 69% of unscheduled maintenance costs (Patt et al. 2010). However, they are not usually directly exposed to the weather and are not especially vulnerable to climate change.

## 2.6 Resource Requirement

### 2.6.1 Land

The Chittapur 20 MW solar power project site is an open vast area with mild undulations. Land in the project influenced area was predominantly dry designated as agricultural land. Grazing activities are very limited to post-monsoon months, when meagre amount vegetation is present. Agriculture in the area is totally dependent on rainfall and large portion of the land remains dry most part of the year. Also, irrigation facilities are very poor in the area. Advent of the new solar projects in the region will open opportunities for utilization of barren/ dry waste land which is left unused otherwise.

**Type of Land:** Around 110-acre land for Hero Future Energies (HFE) 20 MW solar power project is contiguous. The topography of the project site is largely plain in a land with surrounded by agricultural land. As observed during ESIA study the land in the project influenced area is unused dry land with scanty vegetation observed in the plot. The large portion of the land remains dry for most part of the year.

**Land Scenario:** It has been informed by the Hero Future Energies (HFE) representative, that due procedures were followed for the land procurement process as per the government regulations (Land conversion, notification, consultations, local community consultations, Panchayat approval, etc.). Hero Future Energies (HFE) representative has also informed that the owners of private lands were offered a compensation amount which is higher than the circle rates.

**Land for Access Route:** The land for the 20 MW solar project is located at Tharkas Peth village. No human activities or structure was noticed in the project site. Hence it is assumed that no issue may rise for the access route in future.

The construction of access road normally involves removal of vegetation and modification of topography. As observed, the land area is dry undulated land with occasional and scanty shrubs, hence only scanty vegetation is seen in the form of shrubs around the project site. The existing village bituminous road connects to the nearest villages.

**Land for Transmission line:** Project layout would be done after completion of boundary marking.

The few pertinent factors for the route of the transmission line from PSS to GSS are as follows:

- One Pooling Substation (PSS) has been decided for the 20 MW Solar Power Project
- Identify route for movement of project vehicles which, should not include narrow village road and road passing through cluster of settlements.
- Transmission line should be planned without any habitation or cultivation field or without any hindrance along the route;
- House or community structures shouldn't be located under the transmission line;
- No vegetation area should fall under the transmission route.
- The transmission route should be devoid of any environmental sensitive area.

Right of Way (RoW) for the transmission route would be done after completion of boundary marking. No cultivation land nor any habitation should come on the way of transmission route.

**Land Procurement Procedure:** The 20 MW solar power project have been procured 110 acres private land. As observed during ESIA study, it is assumed that lands in the study area is private ownership.

A brief general procedure of land purchase is given below:

- Based on micro siting land must be identified by the project proponent/ developer.
- The title of the property, ownership of land and registration documents needs to be checked and verified in the office of the sub-registrar of the circle in the proposed project area.
- A search of the records and documents that may affect the registration, ownership and title of the land may be carried out at the sub-registrar's office.
- If land records are found in proper order, the developer/ land team can proceed for negotiation with owners of private lands. In case of Govt lands, process should be initiated as per the rules and norms with the concerned departments and authorities.
- Compensation/ selling rates must be mutually agreed by both seller and buyer parties on good faith negotiation.
- Based upon the fixed rate through agreement process for land transfer in favour of buyer should be initiated.
- Mutation and registration of the lands, through Agreement to Sale (ATS), must be made in buying company's name in the revenue records.
- A percentage on basic land value is charged (as per Sub Registrar Office of the circle) for transfer and conversion of the land.

**Table 2-2: Village wise Govt. circle rate of land in Study Area**

Taluk & District	Village Name	Land type and unit	
		Dry, No Source of Irrigation, Other (Per Acre)	Bagayat, Dry (Per Acre)
Taluk Chittapur, (District Gulbarga)	Tharkaspeth	INR 107000.00	INR 150000.00

## 2.6.2 Water Requirement

During the project construction phase, water is required for preparing RCC foundations for module mounting structures, building control room and security rooms, and domestic purposes such as drinking and washing by the construction workers and staff. During operations, water will be required for cleaning of solar panels and for domestic/municipal purposes for the operations staff. As reported by the project proponent, the estimated quantities of water required during the construction phase is 15 Kld which include civil work and domestic and in operation phases 7 kld water will be required. The water requirement is presented below in **Table 2-**

**Table 2-3: Water Requirement during Construction and Operation Phase**

Phase	Activity	Max. Consumption
Construction	Water is required for Civil work and domestic use of Construction workers	15 kld
Operation	Water requirement during the operation Phase for washing of Solar module and domestic Purpose	7 kld

## 2.6.3 Manpower Requirement

### **Construction Phase**

About 150 labors comprising of skilled and unskilled labors, is estimated to be employed in the peak construction phase which involves the foundation work, fencing, cleaning and erection of mounting structure. Some female workers are also expected to be engaged. The contractor workforce will comprise of both skilled and unskilled labors. Some workers may be sourced from the nearby villages depending on their skills and capabilities.

These (semi-skilled and unskilled) labors will be supervised and monitored by skilled personnel from EPC contractor in peak construction phase. HFE personnel will be deployed directly on-site during construction. HFE would deploy technical, skilled persons as per the requirement on site during operation. Additionally, labors, comprising of semi-skilled and unskilled, would be deployed for security, module cleaning, vegetation abatement, module tilting etc.

### **Operational Phase**

During operational phase, a few personnel is required onsite including security guards, operation and maintenance officer and site engineers etc.

HFE would deploy technical, skilled persons as per the requirement on site during operation. Additionally, labors, comprising of semi-skilled and unskilled, would be deployed for security, module cleaning, vegetation abatement, module tilting etc.

## 2.6.4 Raw Materials

The construction related materials viz. stone aggregates, sand and bricks etc. for the project are likely to be sourced from the vicinity area.

## 2.6.5 Waste Water Treatment and Disposal System

During the construction phase, the waste water or sewage from site office toilets will be disposed in a septic tank. Waste water will be generated during the operation phase due to solar module washing. Proper storm water channels would be constructed along the periphery of the project site for draining of site run off. The domestic waste water would be managed through septic tanks.

## 2.6.6 Logistic Arrangement

**Labor Camp:** The project is in the construction stage and land procurement is completed during the site visit. The project is in construction and in partially operation phase. The company through their EPC contractor and sub-contractor has started hiring unskilled labors locally for reducing the requirement of labor camp. Labor camp has been developed inside the Premises to accommodate Migrant labor. All the basic amenities such as drinking water, kitchen, toilet facilities, etc. are being provided in the labor camp following the ILO recommendations.

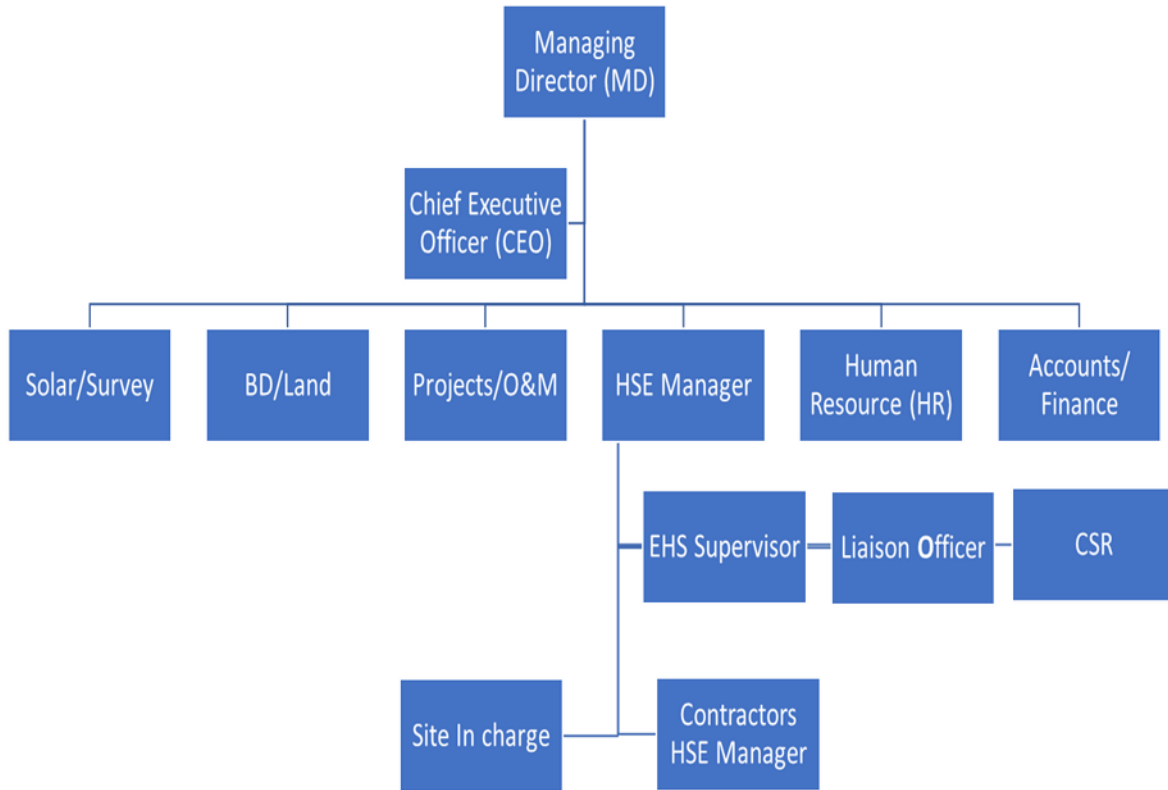
**Project Vehicles:** Project vehicles such as water tanker, tractors, JCB, and cars will be engaged to support various activities during construction phase and in Operation Phase. Further efforts will be made to hire vehicles from local community.

## 2.6.7 Organizational Structure

To ensure smooth completion of various operations or activities of project during construction and operational phase, HFE has its own Integrated Management System policy. During the project phase, project operations will be managed by Project Manager and environmental, health & safety issues will be monitored by HFE regional EHSS Officer.

Organizational Structure for the specific proposed 20MW Solar Power Plant, at Tharkas peth village is appended in **Figure 2-4**.

**Figure 2-4: Organizational Structure of 20 MW Solar Power Project at Tharkas Peth, Karnataka.**



The given Organization Structure for 20MW Solar Power Project is subject to change/ alter based on the altered situation and requirements.



### 3 APPLICABLE REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS

This section describes regulations, statutory guidelines and obligatory standards that are applicable to the social and environmental performance of the project.

#### 3.1 National Regulations

In India, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the apex administrative and regulatory body for (i) regulating and ensuring environmental protection; (ii) formulation of the environmental policy framework in the country; (iii) conservation of biological diversity and (iv) planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of environmental and forestry programmes. Several laws have been framed for protection of environment and for Occupational Health & Safety in India by the Central Government. The relevant regulation pertaining to the project activity has been discussed as under. The compliance to all environmental, health, safety and social regulation have been presented in **Table 3-1**



**Table 3-1: Applicable Environmental, Health, Safety and Social Regulation**

S.N.	National Environment, Health & Safety Regulation	Agency Responsible	Requirement	Applicability
1	Karnataka Solar Policy 2014-2021	Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC), Karnataka Power Corporation limited (KPCL), Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation limited (KPTCL), Karnataka Renewable Energy Development limited (KREDL),	As per the policy, KERC will decide the tariffs and to issue regulations regarding percentage of renewable purchase obligations and decide charges with respect to wheeling, bank subsidy, cross subsidy charges. Condition for getting accreditation to avail Renewable Energy Certification shall be governed by CERC and KERC regulations.	<i>HFE have followed the legal permissions and procedures and will comply with the obligations mentioned therein for the Solar Project site at Tharkas Peth village in Chittapur for the 20 MW Solar Power Plant.</i>
2	The Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981	Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)	Development of solar power plant falls under green category. As per Karnataka State Pollution Board Office notification Solar PV power projects is exempted from obtaining any NOC/Consent for establishment under pollution control laws from State Pollution Control Board.	Not applicable. Solar power plant is exempted to obtain CTO/CTE.
3	The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1974	Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)	category. As per Karnataka State Pollution Board Office notification Solar PV power projects is exempted from obtaining any NOC/Consent for establishment under pollution control laws from State Pollution Control Board.	Not Applicable. Solar power plant is exempted to obtain CTO/CTE.

S.N.	National Environment, Health & Safety Regulation	Agency Responsible	Requirement	Applicability
4	Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Rules 1981	Forest Department, State Government	The Forest Conservation Act and Rules mandate projects requiring diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes to seek Forest Clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests.	Not Applicable. As reported, no forest land is involved for the development of this project.
5	Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972	Forest Department, State Government	The objective is to provide protection to the listed endangered flora and fauna and ecologically important protected areas. Classification of species under various conservation schedules are carried out under this law.	Not Applicable.
6	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006 & subsequent amendments.	MoEF&CC	Based on The EIA Notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments, Office Memorandum dated, 13th May 2011 exempts solar power project from obtaining prior Environmental Clearance from the regulatory authorities.	Not Applicable.
7	Environment (Protection) Seventh Amendment Rules, 2009	CPCB	Ambient air quality monitoring has to be carried out and the concentration limits for the air quality parameters should be in compliance with NAAQS 2009. Activities in the project especially during construction should not result in exceeding National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ambient concentrations of air pollutants (such as particulate matter). If violation of the Rules takes place, then the penalty will be decided on the basis of the parent Air Act 1981.	Not applicable since no significant air emission is expected from the project operation
8	Noise (Regulation and Control) Rules 2000 amended in 2010	KSPCB	The Rules stipulate ambient noise limits during day time and night time for industrial, commercial, residential and ecologically sensitive areas. The rules apply both during the construction and operation of the	Not applicable since no significant noise emission is expected from project activity during operation phase

S.N.	National Environment, Health & Safety Regulation	Agency Responsible	Requirement	Applicability
			project. Violation of the standards for assessing the noise quality due to the project will lead to penalty as under the EP Act 1986.	
9	<p>Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules 2008</p> <p>Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Trans boundary Movement) Amendment Rules, 2016.</p>	KSPCB	<p>These Rules outline the responsibilities of the generator, transporter and recycler/re-processor of the hazardous wastes for handling and management in a manner that is safe and environmentally sound. Project proponent need to obtain consent from State Pollution Control Board for generation and storage of hazardous waste like transformer oil, etc. irrespective of quantity of waste.</p> <p>As per the law the occupier and the operator of the facility should be liable to pay financial penalties as levied for any violation of the provisions under these rules by the State Pollution Control Board with the prior approval of the Central Pollution Control Board.</p>	<p>Applicable during construction phase.</p> <p>Generation of transformer oil at site attracts the provision of the rules and hazardous wastes have to dispose as per Guidelines of State Pollution control Board and MoEF&amp;CC. Project developer needs to obtain consent from KPCB for storage of transformer oil, if required.</p> <p>Though not covered under the rule, the broken solar panels are recommended to be stored properly and return back to the manufacturer or an authorised recycler.</p>
10	Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016	KSPCB/ CPCB	The rules stipulate scientific management and disposal of solid waste generated from various sources and applicable to urban local body, census town, notified areas, notified industrial townships, special economic zones, industry, place of historical importance and other places as may be notified by respective State government from time to time	Solid waste generation from the project site attracts the provision of the rules. The solid waste generated from the project has to be collected in a segregated way and disposed of as per the provision in the rule.
11	Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules,	KSPCB/CPCB	It shall be the responsibility of the consumer to ensure that used batteries are not disposed of in any manner other than procedure mentioned in the Batteries	Used Lead acid batteries if generated should not be disposed of in any manner other than procedure mentioned in the Batteries (Management and Handling)

S.N.	National Environment, Health & Safety Regulation	Agency Responsible	Requirement	Applicability
	2001 and its amendments.		(Management and Handling) Rules, 2001 and its successive amendments.	Rules, 2001 and its successive amendments.
12	Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016	KSPCB/CPCB	<p>The objective is to address the scientific management of Plastic waste, the plastic waste management Rules, 2016 are notified with objectives such as -</p> <p>Increase minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 to 50 microns and stipulate minimum thickness of 50 micron for plastic sheets also to facilitate collection and recycle of plastic waste.</p> <p>Expand the jurisdiction of applicability from the municipal area to rural areas.</p> <p>To bring in the responsibilities of producers and generators, both in plastic waste management system and to introduce collect back system of plastic waste by the producers/brand owners, as per extended producers' responsibility.</p> <p>To introduce collection of plastic waste management fee through pre-registration of the producers, importers of plastic carry bags/multi-layered packaging and vendors selling the same for establishing the waste management system.</p>	Project proponent should take steps to minimize generation of plastic waste. The waste generator shall handover segregated waste to urban local body or gram panchayat or agencies appointed by them or registered waste picker's, registered recyclers or approved waste collection agencies.
13	Electricity Act, 2003	State Board Electricity	The sections of the Electricity Act, 2003 are relevant for laying (and repairs) out of transmission lines and	Project Proponent should obtain license under the electricity act and ensure

S.N.	National Environment, Health & Safety Regulation	Agency Responsible	Requirement	Applicability
			development of Pooling Substation and Grid Substation for the supply of Electricity energy.	compliance of Health and Safety requirements as per guidelines.
14	Environment (Protection) Second Amendment Rules 2002	MoEF&CC	The DG sets installed during construction should comply with maximum permissible noise levels and noise control measures for diesel generators up to 1000 KVA capacity as specified in the Act.	The power requirement during construction phase will be met through DG sets which will adhere to prescribed CPCB noise level limits and noise control measures.
15	The Building and Other Construction Workers' (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act 1996	Ministry of Labour and Employment	This Act provides for safety, health and welfare measures of buildings and construction workers in every establishment which employs or employed during the preceding year ten or more such workers. These measures include fixing hours for normal working day, weekly paid rest day, wages for overtime, provision of basic welfare amenities like drinking water, latrines, urinals, crèches, first aid, canteens and temporary living quarters within or near the work site. This Act also requires application of the following: Building or other construction workers' (regulation and Employment Conditions of Service) Central Rules 1998 & Workman's compensation Act, 1923 to buildings and other construction workers. These will be followed by contractor & developer during construction and operation phase.	<p><i>Applicable during construction phase.</i></p> <p><i>Project proponent will ensure through its contractors that basic amenities are provided to the labours. Project proponent through its contractors should also ensure all vendors employed should have valid labour license. Compensation to workers (own and vendors) should not be below daily wage rate as specified by Government. Master roll must be maintained. Employee ID card must be issued (own and vendors). Safety, health and welfare measures of building and construction workers as mentioned in the act needs to be complied with.</i></p> <p><i>Failure to comply results in financial penalty /imprisonment of the principal employer along with vendor and closure of project.</i></p>

S.N.	National Environment, Health & Safety Regulation	Agency Responsible	Requirement	Applicability
16	Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 & Rules 1924	Labour Welfare Board, Karnataka	The Act requires if personal injury is caused to a workman by accident arising out of and during his employment, his employer should be liable to pay compensation in accordance with the provisions of this Act.	<i>Applicable during construction phase.</i> Both EPC contractor and HFE have ensured that no child labour will be engaged at site for construction or operation works either directly or by the sub-contractors. HFE have included a clause in the subcontractor agreements prohibiting employment of child labour.
17	The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Rules, 1971 Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition), 1973	Labour Welfare Board, Karnataka	The Contract Labour (Regulations & Abolition) Act, 1970 requires every principal employer of an establishment to make an application to the registering officer in the prescribed manner for registering the establishment. The Act and its Rules apply to every establishment in which 20 or more workmen are employed on any day on the preceding 12 months as contract labour and to every contractor who employs or who employed on any day preceding 12 months, 20 or more workmen. It does not apply to establishments where the work performed is of intermittent or seasonal nature. An establishment wherein work is of intermittent nature will be covered by the Act and Rules if the work performed is more than 120 days in a year, and where work is of a seasonal nature if work is performed more than 60 days in a year.	<i>Applicable during construction phase.</i> It is the responsibility of EPC contractor to have valid license and ensure provision of appropriate welfare measures viz. arrangement for sanitation facilities, drinking water, first aid etc for the onsite contractual workers & labourers. In addition, Trunkey Developer as, principal employer needs to obtain registration certificate from EPC contractor for undertaking project work.
18	Minimum Wages Act, 1948	Labour Welfare Board, Karnataka	This Act provide for fixing minimum rates of wages in certain employments and requires the employer to provide to every worker engaged in a scheduled	Applicable

S.N.	National Environment, Health & Safety Regulation	Agency Responsible	Requirement	Applicability
			employment to be paid wages at a rate not less than the minimum rate of wages fixed by such notification for that class of employees in that employment without any deductions except as may be authorized within such time and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.	
19	The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986	Labour Welfare Board, Karnataka	The Act prohibits employment of children in certain occupation and processes. The Act also specifies conditions of work for children, if permitted to work.	CSPTPL should ensure that no child labour will be engaged at site for construction or operation works either directly or by the sub-contractors. CSPTPL should include a clause in the subcontractor agreements prohibiting employment of child labour.
20	The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976	Ministry of Labour & Employment	The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976: States that all forms of bonded labour stand abolished and every bonded labour stands freed and discharged from any obligations to render any bonded.	Project Proponent should ensure compliance of the act conditions.
21	Companies Act, 2013	Hero Future Energies Private Limited	According to Schedule 135 sub-section 1, the companies meeting the threshold criteria (Minimum net worth of rupees 500 Crore, Turnover up to "1000 Crore" and having a net profit of at least '5 crore') specified should spend in every financial year, at least 2% of the average net profits of the Company made during the three immediately preceding financial years in pursuance of CSR policy.	The project will need to comply with the requirement as stated in the law.

S.N.	National Environment, Health & Safety Regulation	Agency Responsible	Requirement	Applicability
22	ESI Act, 1948 (Employees State Insurance Act, 1948)	Ministry of Labour & Employment	The ESI Act provides for certain benefits to employees in case of sickness, maternity and employment injury.	Applicable to Proposed Solar PV Plant and Project Proponent should ensure compliance through O&M Contractors as per the applicability.
23	Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996	HFE	<p>Provisions of this rules are:</p> <p>A state legislation on panchayats in the scheduled area should take care of the customs, religious practices and traditional management practices of community resources.</p> <p>Every village shall contain a Gram Sabha whose members are included in the electoral list for the panchayats at village level.</p> <p>Planning and management of minor water bodies are entrusted to the panchayats.</p> <p>The Gram Sabhas have role and responsibilities in approving all development works in the village, identify beneficiaries, issue certificates of utilization of funds; powers to control institutions and functionaries in all social sectors and local plans.</p> <p>Every Gram Sabha to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of people, their cultural identity, community resources and the customary mode of dispute resolution</p>	The project will need to comply with the requirement as stated in the law.



### 3.2 Social and Environmental Performance Standards of the International Finance Corporation

The International Finance Corporation has laid down a set of eight Performance Standards (PS) and project developers need to comply with applicable PS while establishing the project. The provisions of the Performance Standards relevant to the solar power projects are summarized below:

**Table 3-2: IFC's Environmental and Social Performance Standards**

Title of Performance Standard	Performance Standard (PS) requirements in brief	Applicability to project (Compliance)	Actions Taken/Requirements
<b>Performance Standard (PS) - 1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts</b>	Conduct an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the project, appropriate to the nature of the project's environmental and social risks and potential impacts.	Arcadis has been appointed by HFEPL to undertake ESIA study to identify the environment and social risks that may arise due to the solar power project and recommend mitigation measures for the same as provided in <b>Chapter 6</b> The PS 1 is applicable to project with environment and/or social risks and/or impacts. The project is a solar power project and will have environmental and social impacts resulting generation of noise, construction activities etc. <u><b>PS 1 is therefore applicable for the project.</b></u>	HFE have developed an Environmental and Social Management System at the corporate level as well as adhered to the environment and social management plan recommended for its solar project at the ground level The Environment and Social policy is provided in Appendix R. the ESMS encompasses the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental and social action plan;</li> <li>• Identification of risks and impacts;</li> <li>• Management program;</li> <li>• Organizational capacity and competency;</li> <li>• Training for security and safety workers;</li> <li>• Emergency preparedness and response;</li> <li>• Stakeholder engagement/ grievance redressal; and</li> <li>• Monitoring, reporting and review.</li> </ul>
	Establish Environmental and Social Management Plans commensurate with the findings of the ESIA and consultation with affected communities	An Environmental and Social Management Plan has been prepared and incorporated in <b>Chapter 7</b> of the ESIA report taking into consideration the potential social and environmental impacts or risks already identified & assessed in ESIA.	
	Establish Action Plans where specific mitigation measures and actions are required for the project to comply with applicable laws, regulations and the requirements of these Performance Standards	An ESMP has been prepared and incorporated in <b>Chapter 7</b> of the ESIA report for implementation of mitigation measures in compliance with the statutory requirements and Performance Standards	

Title of Performance Standard	Performance Standard (PS) requirements in brief	Applicability to project (Compliance)	Actions Taken/Requirements
	<p>Provide organizational capacity and contractor / employee training to enable project to achieve continuous environmental and social performance</p>	<p>Organizational structure with roles and responsibilities of the team within the organization is defined in <b>Chapter 2</b>.</p>	
	<p>Establish and maintain a timely process of community engagement, including a grievance mechanism, focusing on disclosure of information and consultation with local communities affected by project risks or adverse impacts that is free from external manipulation, interference or coercion to ensure relevant and understandable access to project information.</p>	<p>A community engagement plan needs to be developed and implemented as well as adequate reporting needs to be done. This should aim to inform the community project related adverse impacts or risks. Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) will be implemented in this project</p>	
	<p>Establish procedures to monitor and measure the effectiveness of the environmental and social management program, including internal reporting of the program's effectiveness to the project's senior management, disclosure of Action Plans (including material changes to such Plans) to affected communities, and external reporting to affected communities on the results of Action Plans, commensurate with the concerns of the affected communities</p>	<p>System of monitoring with periodic audits will be established at the site.</p>	
<p><b>PS 2: Labour and Working Conditions</b></p>		<p>The PS 2 applies to workers directly engaged by the client (direct workers), workers engaged through third parties (contracted workers), as well as workers engaged by the client's primary suppliers (supply chain workers).</p> <p>The project will involve employment of direct and contracted workers during construction and operation phases.</p>	<p>HFEPL has ensure that adequate facilities and amenities will be provided in the labour accommodation for construction workers including: adequate living/sleeping facilities and space per person; potable water that meets national standards and standards as laid down by ILO; toilets, washing and cleaning facilities; canteen/mess or fuel for cooking; locker/storage facilities; and facilities for management and disposal of garbage, sewage and other waste at the</p>

Title of Performance Standard	Performance Standard (PS) requirements in brief	Applicability to project (Compliance)	Actions Taken/Requirements
		<b><u>PS 2 is therefore applicable for the project.</u></b>	labour camp. The company will periodically review and monitor the condition of the labour camps at all the mentioned project sites. The worker accommodation standards as laid down by ILO is presented in Appendix B of the document.  The company, as a part of oversight procedures are regular monitoring of compliance to the aforesaid guidelines/requirements and ensure that these are met at project sites. Internal audits and follow up on corrective actions need to be undertaken to assess efficacy of the oversight system at the project site.
	Establishment of a Human Resources Policy consistent with the requirements of this Standard that informs employees of their rights under national labour and employment laws.		HFEPL has develop site specific HR policy in line with the HR Policy at their corporate level. They or their appointed contractor, if any, should inform their employees about their rights under national labour and employment laws.
	Document and communicate to all employees' conditions and terms of employment.	Applicable during construction and operation phase at the project site	Equal opportunity to both men and women depending on their skills and capacity wages, work hours and other benefits have been practiced as per the national labour and employment Laws at the project sites.
	Practice non-discrimination and equal opportunity in making employment decisions	Applicable during construction phase	Grievance Redressal Mechanism are framed under the ESMS and the same will be implemented at project level. (Appendix L)  This is applicable both during construction and operation phase and should be supervised by HFE.
	Provide a mechanism for workers to raise workplace concerns.	Applicable during construction and operation phase	Grievance Redressal Mechanism have been framed under the ESMS and the same will be implemented at project level.

Title of Performance Standard	Performance Standard (PS) requirements in brief	Applicability to project (Compliance)	Actions Taken/Requirements
	Provide workers with a safe and healthy work environment, taking into account risks inherent to the particular project sector	Applicable during construction and operation phase	<p>This is applicable both during construction and operation phase and supervised by Hero Future Energies Pvt Ltd..</p> <p>Provide workers with a safe and healthy work environment, considering risks inherent to the particular project sector</p>
<b>PS 3: Resource Efficiency &amp; Pollution Prevention</b>		<p>In case the solar panel contain any hazardous material, chances of ground water and soil contamination cannot be ruled out. Site visits revealed that the proposed site is surrounded by Agricultural fields. CSPTPL will be accountable for collection and safe disposal of hazardous material (If Any). CSPTPL needs to safeguard it's liability by keeping record of mitigation measures to safeguard against any future liability. Waste oil and other hazardous chemicals released from construction activities may result in contamination of ground and nearby surface water.</p> <p><b><u>PS 3 is therefore applicable for the project.</u></b></p>	<p>During operational and constructional phases water will be provided by water tanker. Permission from the Village Panchayat/regulatory authority need not necessary. Safe drinking water will also be supplied to the workers.</p> <p>Long term Impact on ambient air quality is not envisaged for this project. However, temporary impacts on ambient air quality and noise levels may be expected during construction phase.</p> <p>CSPTPL should implement measures during construction for management of construction debris generated during construction period and minimization of fugitive dust emissions. Further, CSPTPL should ensure through its contractors that other wastes (packing material, metal, debris, cement bags, drums/cardboards etc.) are collected, stored and disposed off to re-users or in appropriate debris disposal areas.</p> <p>No impact on surface or groundwater resources is expected on account of the project. The sub-contractors should ensure that the water made available to workers and employees' meets national</p>

Title of Performance Standard	Performance Standard (PS) requirements in brief	Applicability to project (Compliance)	Actions Taken/Requirements
			potable water quality norms. The project site should be having appropriate facilities for collection, treatment and disposal of sewage (septic tank and soak pit) which is used during construction and operation phases.
	The project proponent should ensure that adequate control techniques are provided to minimize emissions or achieve a pre-established performance level and minimize pollution from project activities. The client will avoid the release of pollutants or, when avoidance is not feasible, minimize and/or control the intensity and mass flow of their release.	During the construction phase, earth work and movement of vehicles for hauling of equipment's and materials to the project site may increase the pollution level and dust in the air.	CSPTPL through its contractors will ensure sprinkling of water to reduce dust in the air. Besides, CSPTPL should also ensure use the vehicles having valid PUC certificates.
	The client will implement technically and financially feasible and cost-effective measures for improving efficiency in its consumption of energy, water, as well as other resources and material inputs, with a focus on areas that are considered core business activities.	During construction and operation phase.	CSPTPL should plan and implement pollution control measures. Practices like minimal release of waste, safe disposal of waste, wastewater management etc. should be considered in all phases of project life cycle.
<b>PS 4: Community Health, Safety and Security</b>	Performance Standard 4 recognizes that project activities, equipment, and infrastructure can increase community exposure to risks and impacts. In addition, communities that are already subjected to impacts from climate change may also experience an acceleration and/or intensification of impacts due to project activities. While acknowledging the public authorities' role in promoting the health, safety, and security of the public, this Performance Standard addresses the client's responsibility to avoid or minimize the risks and impacts to	This Performance Standard is applicable to projects which entail potential risks and impacts to the health and safety of affected communities from project activities. The project will involve transportation of components, which may pose safety risks to the affected communities. Impacts due Electrocutation and Firing due to short-circuit, Accidents during cutting, chipping and piling, Physical injuries, Trip and fall hazards or by Diseases due to unhygienic condition etc. <b><u>The PS 4 is therefore applicable for the project.</u></b>	The applicability will be both to the construction and operation phase at Tharkas Peth village and other nearby villages. In addition to the movement of heavy machinery / vehicles during the construction phase, effects due to glare effect generated due to solar panels will pose an impact on the community if properly not mitigated. The Action Plan and any other relevant project-related information is to enable the influenced communities and relevant government agencies to understand these risks and impacts, and will engage the influenced communities and agencies on an

Title of Performance Standard	Performance Standard (PS) requirements in brief	Applicability to project (Compliance)	Actions Taken/Requirements
	community health, safety, and security that may arise from project related-activities, with attention to vulnerable groups.		on-going basis consistent with the requirements of the PS.
	Evaluation of risks and impacts of the project on health & safety of the affected community during the project lifecycle and establish preventive/mitigation measures to reduce/minimize the impacts. Disclosure of action plans to affected community and the government agency.	During Construction Phase	The potential occupational hazards arising from the project activities and the impacts on health & safety of the affected community have been identified and assessed in this report
	Design, construct, operate and decommission of Structural elements or components in accordance with good industrial practice to reduce impact on community health & safety.	During Construction Phase	An occupation health safety plan has been formulated in this report. All steps to reduce the impact on the health and safety of the community to minimal will be taken.
	Minimization of impacts on the health and safety of the community caused by natural hazards that could arise from the land use changes due to project activities.	During Construction Phase and Operational phase	A management plan has been formulated as part of ESIA process to address the issue.
	Prevent or minimize the potentials for community exposure to communicable diseases during project activities	During Construction Phase	CSR Plan and activities has been provided as a part of ESIA.
<b>PS 5: Land and Involuntary Resettlement</b>	PS 5 is applicable when there is physical and/or economic displacement due to acquisition of land for the project. This PS does not apply to resettlement resulting from voluntary land transactions (i.e. market transactions in which the seller is not obliged to sell, and the buyer cannot resort to expropriation or other compulsory procedures if negotiation fails). The impacts arising from such transactions should be dealt with as under PS1, though sometimes, when risks are identified,	Private lands are being taken for the 20 MW Solar Power project. It was also told by the HFEPL representative that location falling on Private land for the 20 MW Solar Project are not resulting in any involuntary resettlement issue as the lands taken are being procured on good faith negotiations on willing to buy and sell basis and at mutually agreed price. It was further informed by HFEPL that there is no human habitation in the identified private land for the 20 MW solar project for HFE.	No actions required.

Title of Performance Standard	Performance Standard (PS) requirements in brief	Applicability to project (Compliance)	Actions Taken/Requirements
	the project proponent may decide to adhere to PS 5 requirement even in willing-buyer-seller cases	<u>Hence considering that livelihood is not impacted, PS 5 is not applicable.</u>	
	Avoidance or at least minimization of involuntary resettlement by exploring alternative project designs balancing environmental, social and economic costs and benefits; and by acquiring land through negotiated Settlements.	Not applicable	No resettlement of people is required.
	Compensation and benefits for displaced person as per Performance Standard	Not applicable	No locals will be displaced. However, proper compensation should be paid to the private land owner, whose land is Identified for project site, access road or transmission line tower construction.
	Disclosure of all relevant information and consultation with affected persons and communities in decision making process related to resettlement.	Not applicable	No resettlement was required place due to the project activity
	Establish a grievance mechanism to record and resolve communities' concerns and grievances about the relocation and compensation	During the construction and operation phase	<p>HFE have developed an Environmental and Social Management System at the corporate level</p> <p>A GRM Policy has also be framed under the system. It incorporates procedures for lodging of grievances, processing of grievances, resolving grievances and closing of grievances.</p> <p>Grievance redressal framework for onsite implementation is being formulated.</p> <p>The grievances would be addressed through Suggestion Box, Community Meetings and Meetings with Authorities responsible for welfare and development of the village.</p> <p>There is a Grievance Redressal Cell (GRC) on site.</p>



Title of Performance Standard	Performance Standard (PS) requirements in brief	Applicability to project (Compliance)	Actions Taken/Requirements
<p><b>PS 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</b></p>	<p>Impacts on biodiversity of the project area should be avoided. When avoidance of impacts is not possible, proper mitigation measures and its implementation to conserve the floral and faunal Diversity in and around project area should be taken.</p>	<p>No forest area is in the 5 km study area around the project site. The project site is surrounded by Agricultural Fields. Vegetation of the project area is mainly found on road side and on the bund of the agricultural Fields.</p> <p>Vegetation is very common and mostly deciduous in nature. No Endangered or critically endangered species are observed during the site visit. Further, project site does not fall within any ecological sensitive area.</p> <p>No schedule -I species according to Wild Life Protection act, 1972 is reported from the project site.</p> <p><b>Hence, PS -6 is not applicable for the project.</b></p>	<p>Following actions are required to be taken to minimise the effects on existing ecological condition around the Plant site-</p> <p><b>During Construction Phase</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities generating high noise shall be restricted to day time only.</li> <li>• Camp and kitchen waste shall be collected in a manner that it does not attract any animals.</li> <li>• The footprints of the construction activities shall be kept to minimum to reduce disturbance to flora and fauna.</li> </ul> <p><b>During Operation Phase</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solar panels shall have an anti-reflective coating to minimize the light reflecting off the panels so that there is very less impact due to glare from the panels.</li> <li>• Moreover, to minimize effect of “Lake effect”, visual frightening techniques like “Scare crow” may be considered to frighten any bird trying to land on panels and prevent birds from landing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PS 7: Indigenous People</b></p>	<p>Performance Standard 7 recognizes that Indigenous People, as social groups with identities that are distinct from mainstream groups in national societies, are often among the most marginalized and vulnerable segments of the population. Indigenous People</p>	<p>To ensure that the development process fosters full respect for the human rights, dignity, aspirations, culture, and natural resource-based livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples;</p> <p>To anticipate and avoid adverse impacts of projects on communities of Indigenous Peoples,</p>	<p>No actions required</p>



Title of Performance Standard	Performance Standard (PS) requirements in brief	Applicability to project (Compliance)	Actions Taken/Requirements
	<p>are particularly vulnerable if their lands and resources are transformed, encroached upon, or significantly degraded. Their languages, cultures, religions, spiritual beliefs, and institutions may also come under threat. Therefore, Indigenous People may be more vulnerable to the adverse impacts associated with project development than non-indigenous communities</p>	<p>or when avoidance is not possible, to minimize and/or compensate for such impacts;                      To promote sustainable development benefits and opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in culturally appropriate manner;                      To establish and maintain an ongoing relationship based on Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP) with the Indigenous Peoples affected by a project throughout the project's life- cycle;                      To ensure the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the Affected Communities of Indigenous Peoples when the circumstances described in this Performance Standard are present; and                      To respect and preserve the culture, knowledge, and practices of Indigenous Peoples.                      Project Proponent has ensured the ESIA team that no ST land will be taken, neither any of their assets are being affected for the 20 MW Solar Power Project in the proposed area.  <u><b>PS 7 is not applicable for this project.</b></u></p>	
<p><b>PS 8: Cultural Heritage</b></p>	<p>Performance Standard 8 recognizes the importance of cultural heritage for current and future generations. Consistent with the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, this Performance Standard aims to ensure that clients protect cultural heritage in the course of their project activities. In addition, the requirements of this Performance Standard on a project's use of cultural heritage are based in part on standards set by the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p>	<p>This PS is applicable when tangible forms of cultural heritage, unique natural features or tangible objects that embody cultural values and certain instances of intangible forms of culture are impacted or are to be used for commercial purposes.                      No notified cultural heritage site is located near the project areas.  <u><b>Hence, PS8 is not applicable.</b></u></p>	<p>The PS is not applicable as there is no impact anticipated on the cultural heritage of the proposed project site due to the project activities. No monument or structure of religious importance were observed within 5 KM. Chance find procedure should be applied during construction phase for the proposed project.                      Though, no such evidential proof was found in the study area village</p>



### 3.3 Categorization of Projects

#### 3.3.1 Categorization of Projects as per IFC guideline

As part of its review of a project's expected social and environmental impacts, IFC uses a system of social and environmental categorization. This categorization is used to reflect the size of impacts understood because of the client's social and environmental assessment and to specify IFC's institutional requirements. The categories used by the IFC are:

- **Category A Projects:** Projects with potential significant adverse social or environmental risks or/and impacts that are diverse, irreversible or unprecedented;
- **Category B Projects:** Projects with potential limited adverse social or environmental risks or/and impacts that are few in number, generally site-specific, largely reversible and readily addressed through mitigation measures;
- **Category C Projects:** Projects with minimal or no adverse social or environmental risks or/and impacts, including certain financial intermediary (FI) projects with minimal or no adverse risks;
- **Category FI Projects:** Business activities involving investments in financial institutions (FIs) or through delivery mechanisms involving financial intermediation.

IFC therefore categorizes the project primarily according to the significance and nature of its impacts. IFC defines the project's area of influence as the primary project site(s) and related facilities that the client (including its contractors) develops or controls associated facilities that are not funded as part of the project (funding may be provided separately by a client or a third party including the government), and whose viability and existence depend exclusively on the project and whose goods or services are essential for the successful operation of the project; areas potentially impacted by cumulative impacts from further planned development of the project; and areas potentially affected by impacts from unplanned but predictable developments caused by the project that may occur later or at a different location. The area of influence does not include potential impacts that would occur without the project or independently of the project.

The project can be categorized as **Category B projects** based on limited environmental and social impacts envisaged.

## 4 DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This chapter describes the existing environmental settings of the project site and its immediate surroundings. This includes physical environment comprising air, water and land components, biological environment and socio-economic environment. Attributes of the physical environment like air, water, soil and noise quality in and around the project area were assessed primarily through monitoring and analysis of samples collected from the area. Primary monitoring was conducted by a NABL certified laboratory.

Secondary information on geology, hydrology, prevailing natural hazards like floods, earthquakes etc. have been collected from literature reviews and authenticated information made available by government departments. Primary surveys were carried out to understand and record the biological environment prevailing in the area and the same was verified by the forest officials and against published information and literature. The socioeconomic environment has been studied through consultations with various stakeholders within the site. Additionally, socioeconomic data have been obtained from the Census of India, 2011 report.

### 4.1 Study Area

The project site for the 20 MW solar power plant is located at Tharkas Peth village in Chittapur Taluk of Kalburgi district, Karnataka. To understand and assess the environmental and social risks associated with the project the study area was divided into core area (i.e. Project area and its surrounding up to 500 m) and buffer area (10 km around the project site).

### 4.2 Baseline Conditions

#### 4.2.1 Climate and Meteorological Conditions

The Kalburgi district, located in the arid region of Karnataka, situated in Deccan plateau. The district experiences tropical environment with high temperature in summer, medium rainfall, low humidity during summer. In winters it experiences low rainfall than summer. It has recorded highest temperature in the month of May reaching more than 40.1°C and lowest temperature recorded in December around 15.3°C. Humidity in Kalburgi District varies throughout the year. Summer and winter months generally observe low humidity and dry weather whereas in Monsoon season humidity is generally high.

**Table 4-1: Climate Data of Kalburgi District**

Temperature Profile of Kalburgi district, Karnataka												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Avg. Temperature (°C)	23.2	26	29.3	32.1	33.2	29.4	27	26.7	26.5	26.5	23.9	22.4
Min. Temperature (°C)	16.1	18.6	21.8	25.1	26.3	23.8	22.6	22.2	21.9	21.1	17.6	15.3
Max. Temperature (°C)	30.4	33.4	36.8	39.1	40.1	35	31.4	31.2	31.1	31.9	30.3	29.5

## 4.2.2 Rainfall

The average annual rainfall of Kalburgi District is 827 mm, which ranges from 2 mm rainfall in January to 214 mm in September. Maximum rainfall receives during July and August. The rainfall is caused by the onset of South-west monsoon. The mean monthly rainfall distribution is as below.

**Table 4-2: Monthly Average Rainfall in Jodhpur**

Temperature Profile of kalburgi district, Karnataka

	Janua ry	Februa ry	Marc h	Apr il	Ma y	Jun e	Jul y	Augu st	Septemb er	Octob er	Novemb er	Decemb er
Precipitati on / Rainfall (mm)	2	5	6	19	45	109	157	157	214	89	19	5

Source: CGWB, Monthly rainfall distribution – Gulbarga district

## 4.2.3 Solar radiation

Solar radiation is radiant energy emitted by the sun from a nuclear fusion reaction that creates electromagnetic energy. The spectrum of solar radiation is close to that of a black body with a temperature of about 5800 K. About half of the radiation is in the visible short-wave part of the electromagnetic spectrum. The other half is mostly in the near-infrared part, with some in the ultraviolet part of the spectrum.

There are a variety of solar irradiation data sources that has been accessed. These datasets either make use of ground-based measurements at well controlled meteorological stations or use processed satellite imagery. With an extensive background in solar radiation analysis, Solar GIS datasets are being used worldwide for solar radiation prediction and energy prediction at site.

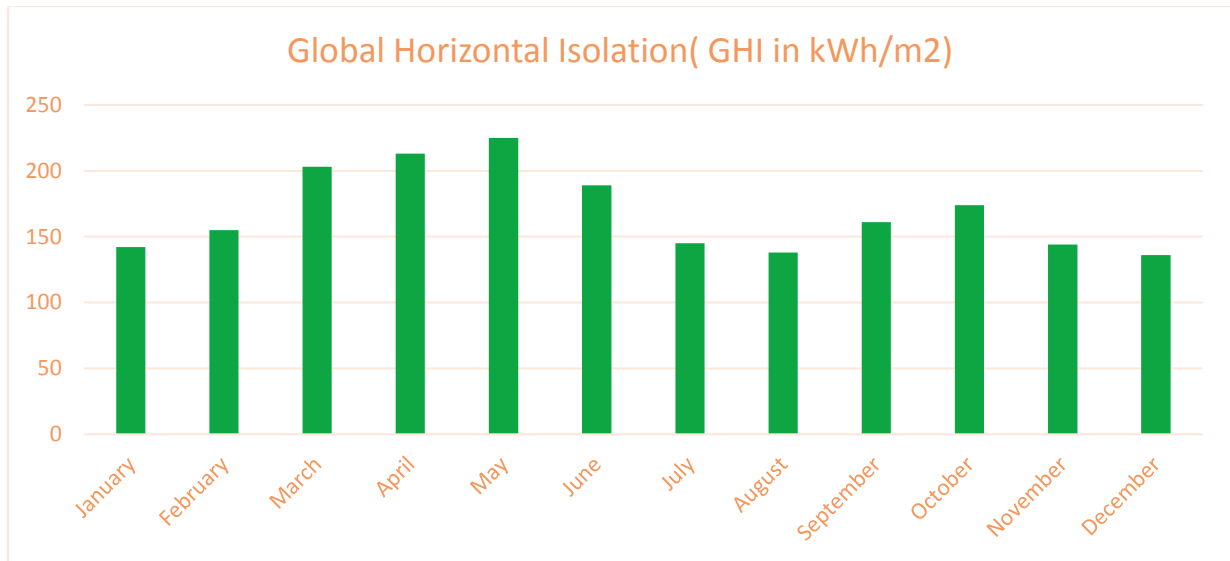
The project site located in proximity to the Thar Desert and receive immense sunlight throughout the year and has good potential for harnessing of solar energy. The daily average of Global Horizontal Insolation (GHI) at the project site is given in **Table 4-3** below. The ranges vary from 118 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> in December to 214 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> in May (Source: DPR).

**Table 4-3: Daily Average of Global Horizontal Radiation (GHI) in kWh/m<sup>2</sup>**

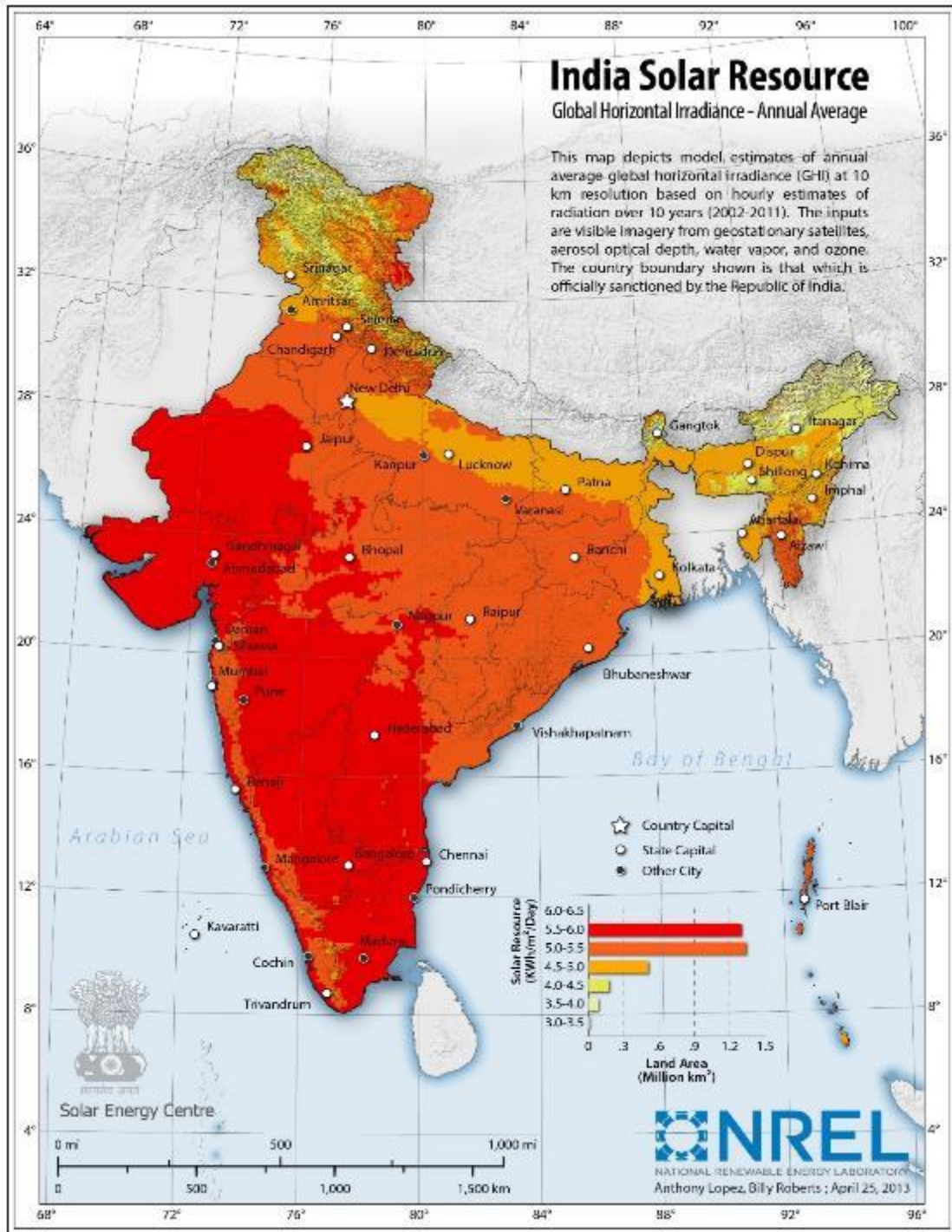
Month	Global Horizontal Insolation (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> )
January	142
February	155
March	203
April	213
May	225
June	189
July	145
August	138
September	161
October	174
November	144
December	136

The average GHI 2016 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> at site which is very good for setting up solar PV power plant. The data obtained from the Solar GIS is shown graphically in the figure below:

**Figure 4-1: Mean Global Daily Irradiation on a Horizontal Plane at Site**



**India's Solar Radiation Profile**



Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory

**4.2.4 Topography**

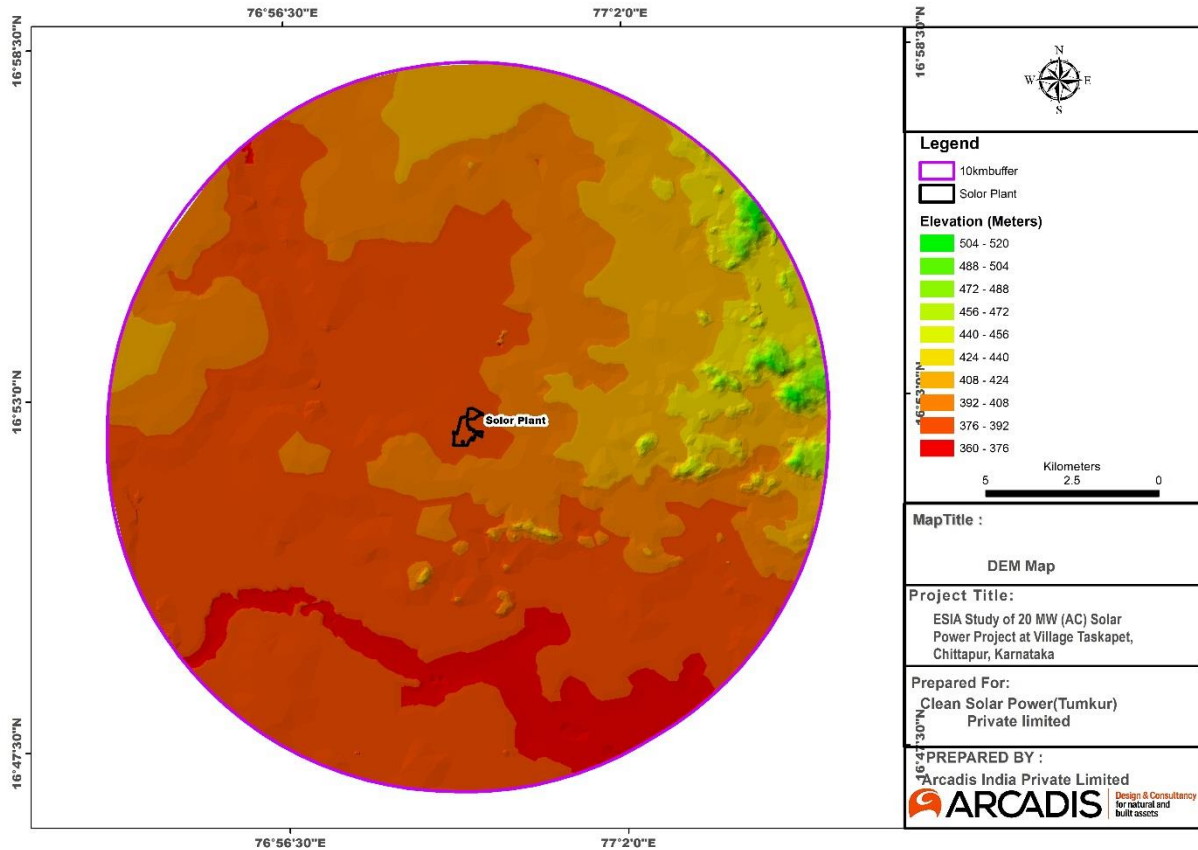
The Kalburgi District is located in the northern part of the Karnataka is bordering with Andhra Pradesh. The district is located between 76°.04' and 77°.42E longitude, and 17°.12' and 17°.46' N latitude, covering an area of 10,951 km<sup>2</sup>. the district forms a part of Deccan Plateau and elevation ranges from 300 to 750 mts above mean sea level. The main river system here is Krishna and Bhima river. Bhima rivers flows at a distance of 5 km from the project site at west direction. The prominent hill ranges in the



district are Shorapur and Sahapur have an altitude of 567 m and 604 m respectively. The regional slope is towards south and South-west.

The project site is spread across a dry barren area with very mild slope in multiple directions. Mainly black cotton soil is observed in the study area. Erection of solar panels will be undertaken through varying the height of the poles required for mounting solar panels. Hence, the installation will be easy and reduce the cost of technical modifications required to adjust for undulations at the ground. The highest and lowest elevation of the study area varies 360-520 m. Bhima river passes through the study area which is within 5km from the project site. Some of the site pictures are shown in **Figure 4-2**.

**Figure 4-2: Digital Elevation Map of Project Site**



**Photo 4-1: Topography of the Project Site**

## 4.2.5 Geology & Soil

Chittapur Taluk in Kalburgi district in Karnataka is a part of Deccan plateau which experiences high temperature during the summer and low rainfall particularly in the winter season. As part of The Deccan Plateau, the district is comprising of the peninsular gneiss and granites. Central, Northern and Southern part of the district comprises of sedimentary formations i.e. sandstone, Shale, slate, limestone and Dolomite. The project site area is characterized by presence of flat terrain with mild undulation.

The soil is predominantly black Soil with Presence of laterite soil is also observed. Black soil has been derived from the basaltic rock and varies in colour from medium to dark black. Infiltration rate of soil varies from medium to poor depends on formation process. Infiltration rate of medium black soil in the district recorded as 2.5cm /hr.

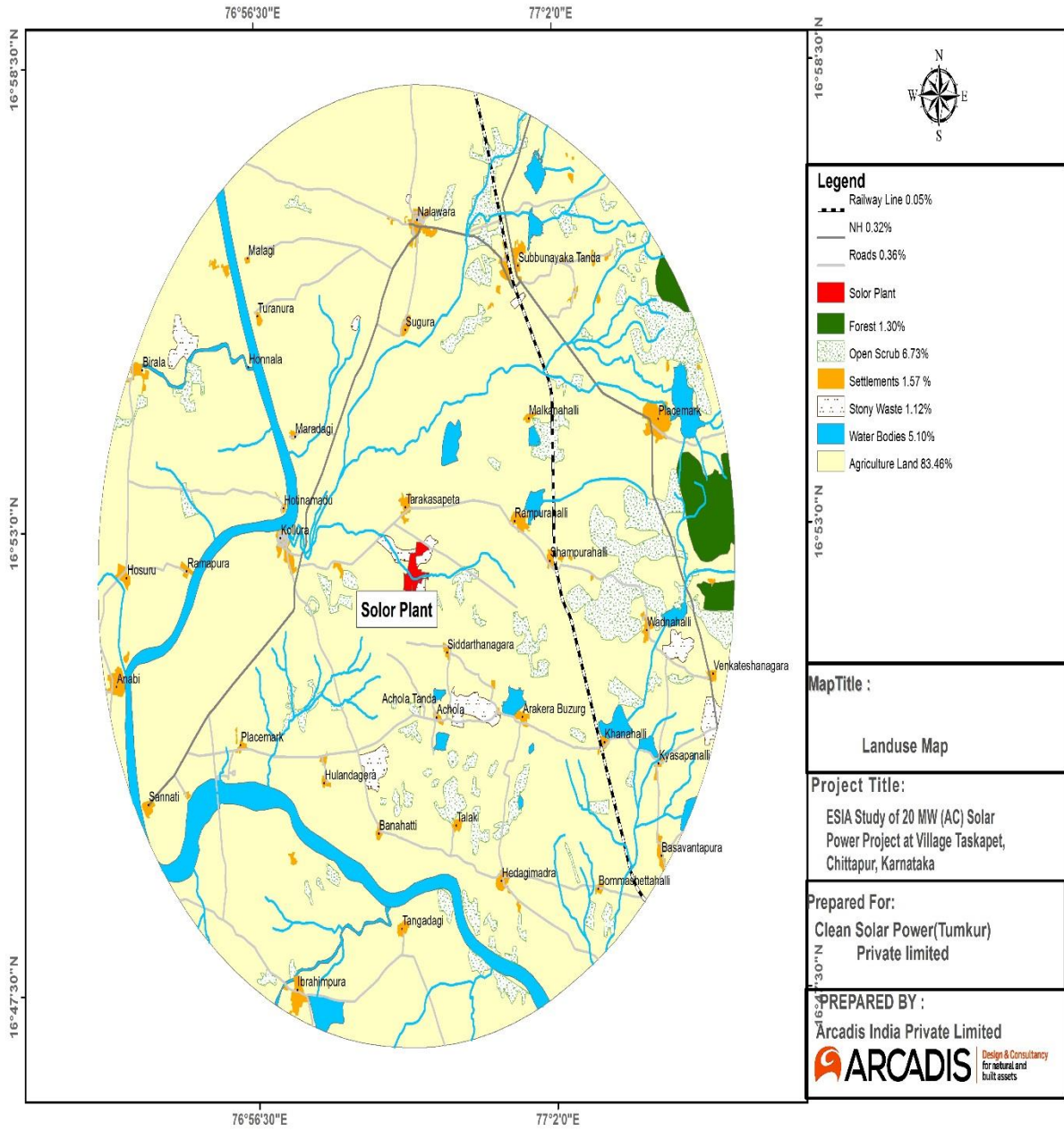


## 4.2.6 Landuse Analysis

The land-use and land-cover of the study area (10 kms) has been interpreted from visual interpretation, google earth satellite imagery of the area, and subsequently by ground truth verification during field surveys. The land use within study area represent agricultural land (83.46%) followed by, Open scrub (6.73 %), Settlement (1.57 %), Water Bodies (5.10%) and Forest (1.30%). Land use map showing a radius of 10 km of the project site is provided in **Figure 4-3**.

Category	Percentage
Agriculture Land	83.46
Water bodies	5.10
Open Scrub	6.73
Stony waste	1.12
Settlement	1.57
Forest	1.39
Total	100.00

Figure 4-3: Land Use Map

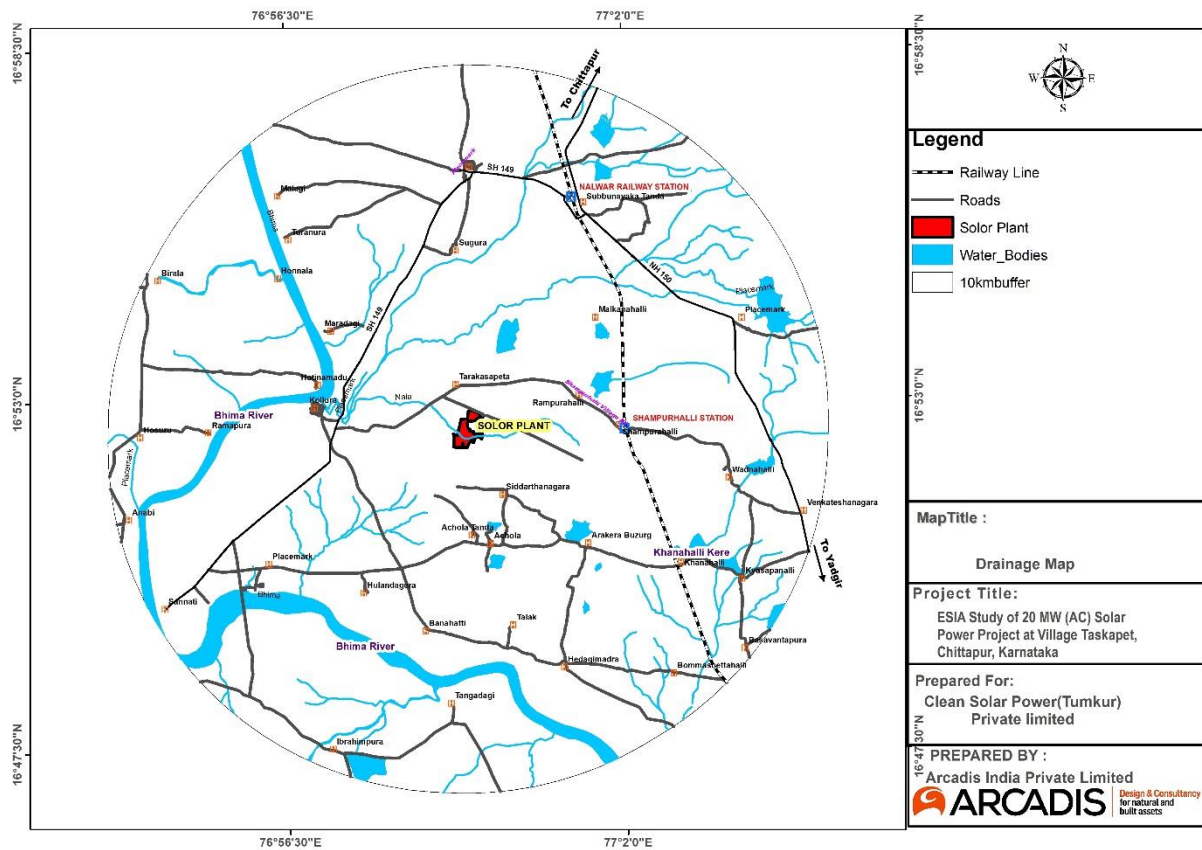


### 4.2.7 Drainage

Climate is tropical in nature in Kalburgi district in Karnataka. Mean annual rainfall (1971-2012) is 871 mm. 80 % of the annual rainfall is received during the south west monsoon which generally start from first week of July. District also witness mild to medium type of dry weather during winter season.

The two main river system present in this district are Krishna and Bhima. Bhima river is flowing at a distance of 5 km from the project site in western side. This is the only one source of surface water in the study area. No other source of surface water observed during the site visit. Past record does not show any evidence of flood in the study project site. The drainage map of project site presented in **Figure 4-4**.

**Figure 4-4: Drainage Map**



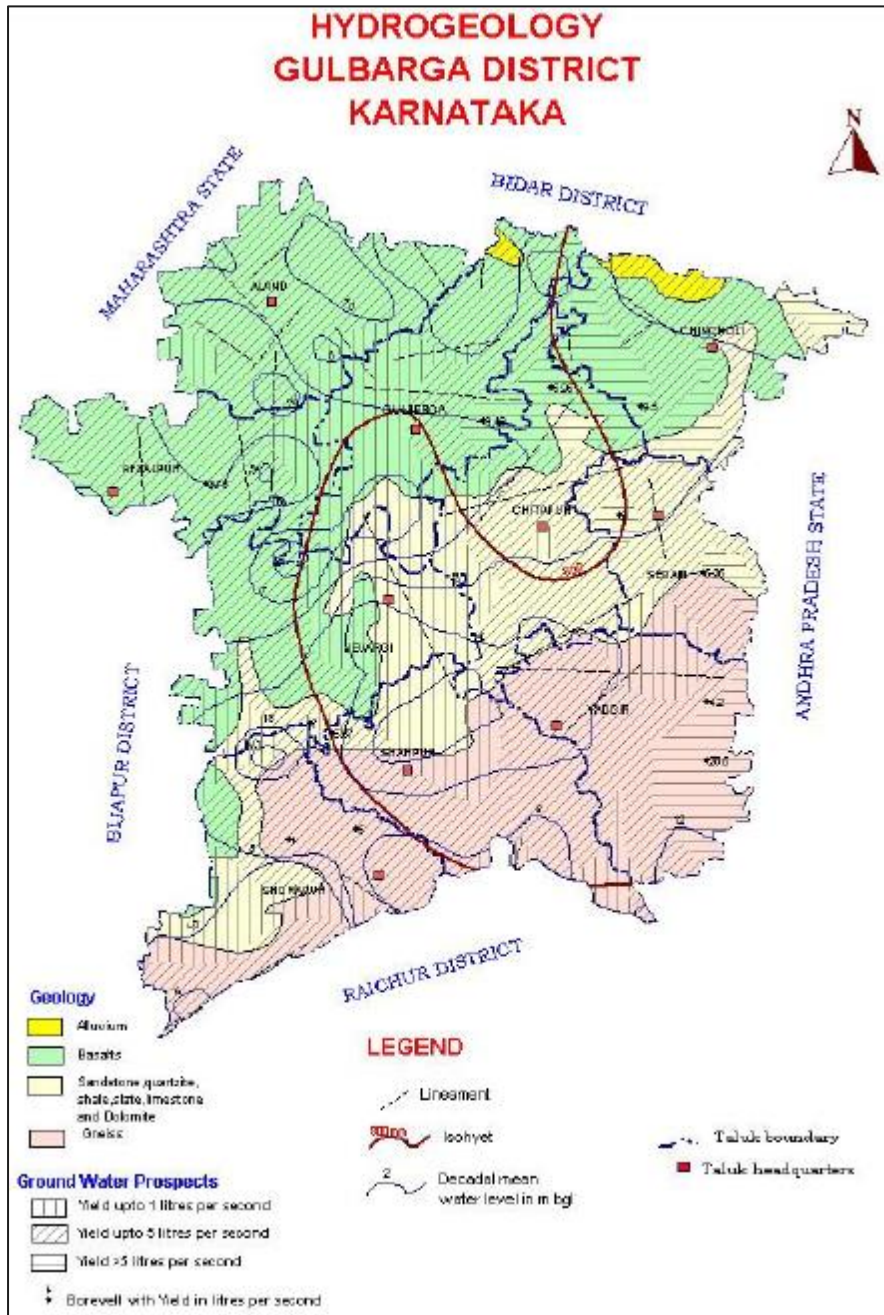
### 4.2.8 Hydrogeology

Geology of the Gulbarga district is represented by granite, Gneiss, limestone and Vascicular Basalt. The southern part of the district is comprising of the Peninsular Gneiss and granites whereas central, northern and south-western part comprises of sedimentary formation i.e. sandstone, Quartz, Shale, Slate, lime stone and Dolomite. Presence of Deccan step basalt is also observed in some part of the district specially in northern part.

Ground water occurs mainly in water heads and fractured zones of these formation. In fractured and jointed formation, it is occurred as semi confined to confide condition. Rainfall is the main source of recharging of ground water.

The depth of water table in the district varies from less than 0.76 to 17.10 mbgl in pre- monsoon season and to 0.60 to 14.88 mbgl during post monsoon season. (*Source: Central Ground Water Board Report, Gulbarga District, 2006*). The major part of the district experience ground water depth varies from 5-10mbgl during pre- monsoon season. The hydrogeological conditions in the district are presented in **Figure 4-**

Figure 4-6: Hydrogeology Map of Gulbarga District, Karnataka



Source: Groundwater information booklet, Gulbarga district, CGWB

#### 4.2.9 Ground Water Resources

Ground water resources have been estimated jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Department as per the norms recommended by GEC' 97 as on 2009. Out of 10 taluks in the district, 7 are 100 % safe in terms of ground water extraction scenario. Net ground water availability of the district is 88484 ham. Taluk wise estimate of dynamic groundwater resources is given in **Table 4-4**.

**Table 4-4: Block wise Ground Water Resources of Gulbarga district**

GROUND WATER RESOURCES OF GULBARGA DISTRICT AS ON 2004											
TALUK	Net Ground water Availability (HAM)	Irrigation draft (HAM)	Domestic and industrial draft (HAM)	Total annual ground water draft (HAM)	Projected domestic and industrial draft 2025 (HAM)	Ground water availability for future irrigation** (HAM)	Average Stage of development (%)	STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT AS ON MARCH 2004			
								SAFE AREA (%)	SEMI-CRITICAL AREA (%)	CRITICAL AREA (%)	OE AREA (%)
AFZALPUR	8439	3691	356	4052	495	4707	48	80			20
ALAND	10055	2571	614	3186	854	6843	32	SAFE			
CHINCHOLI	7601	1859	472	2332	656	5093	31	SAFE			
CHITAPUR	7985	1194	626	1818	871	5935	23	SAFE			
GULBARGA	10799	2013	537	2551	747	8055	24	SAFE			
JEVARGI	9600	2094	591	2685	821	6734	28	94			6
SEDAM	8153	891	178	1069	247	7031	13	SAFE			
SHAHPUR	7859	674	711	1381	992	6211	18	SAFE			
SHORAPUR	10744	1320	763	2081	1062	8446	19	86	2		12
YADGIR	7249	3140	768	3909	1068	3037	54	SAFE			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88484</b>	<b>19447</b>	<b>5618</b>	<b>25065</b>	<b>7813</b>	<b>62091</b>	<b>28</b>				

Source: Central Ground Water Board Report, Gulbarga District

Pre- and Post-monsoon water level:

Pre-monsoon ground water level data show that rise of the ground water level in pre-monsoon is in the range of 0.006 to 1.24 m/year. However, during, post-monsoon there is rise in the range of 0.002 to 0.69 m/year. Rising water level trend during pre – monsoon period may be attributed to less ground water draft and recharge through canal, tanks or reservoir whereas Falling water level trend during post – monsoon period may be attributed to poor recharge to ground water and excessive ground water draft. The depth to water levels observed during pre and post-monsoon period is given in **Figure 4-7** and **Figure 4-8**.



Figure 4-7: Depth to Water Level Map of Gulbarga District, Karnataka – Pre-monsoon

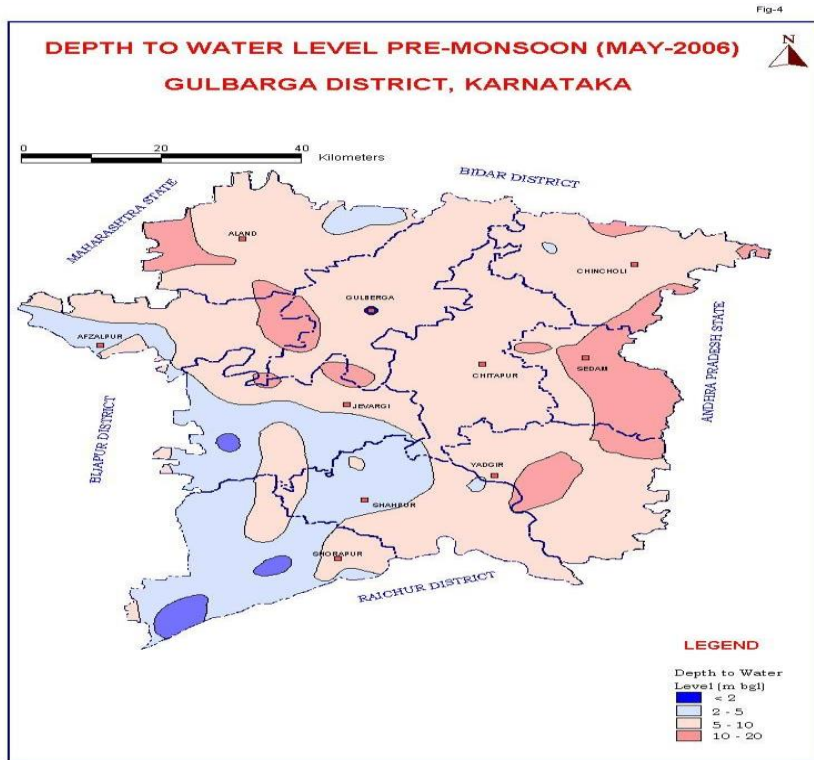
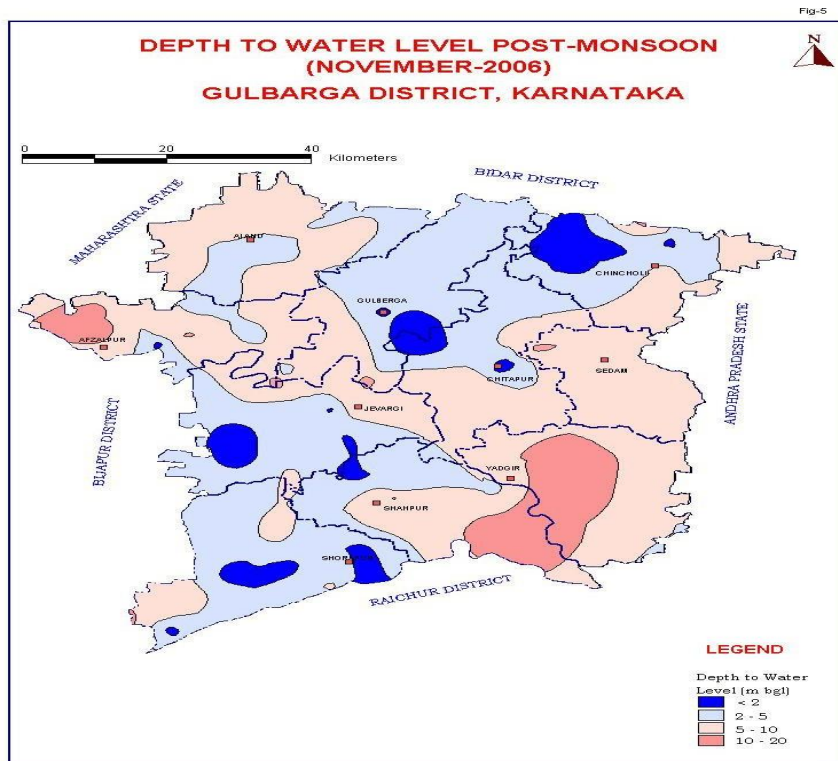


Figure 4-8: Depth to Water Level Map of Gulbarga District, Karnataka- Post Monsoon

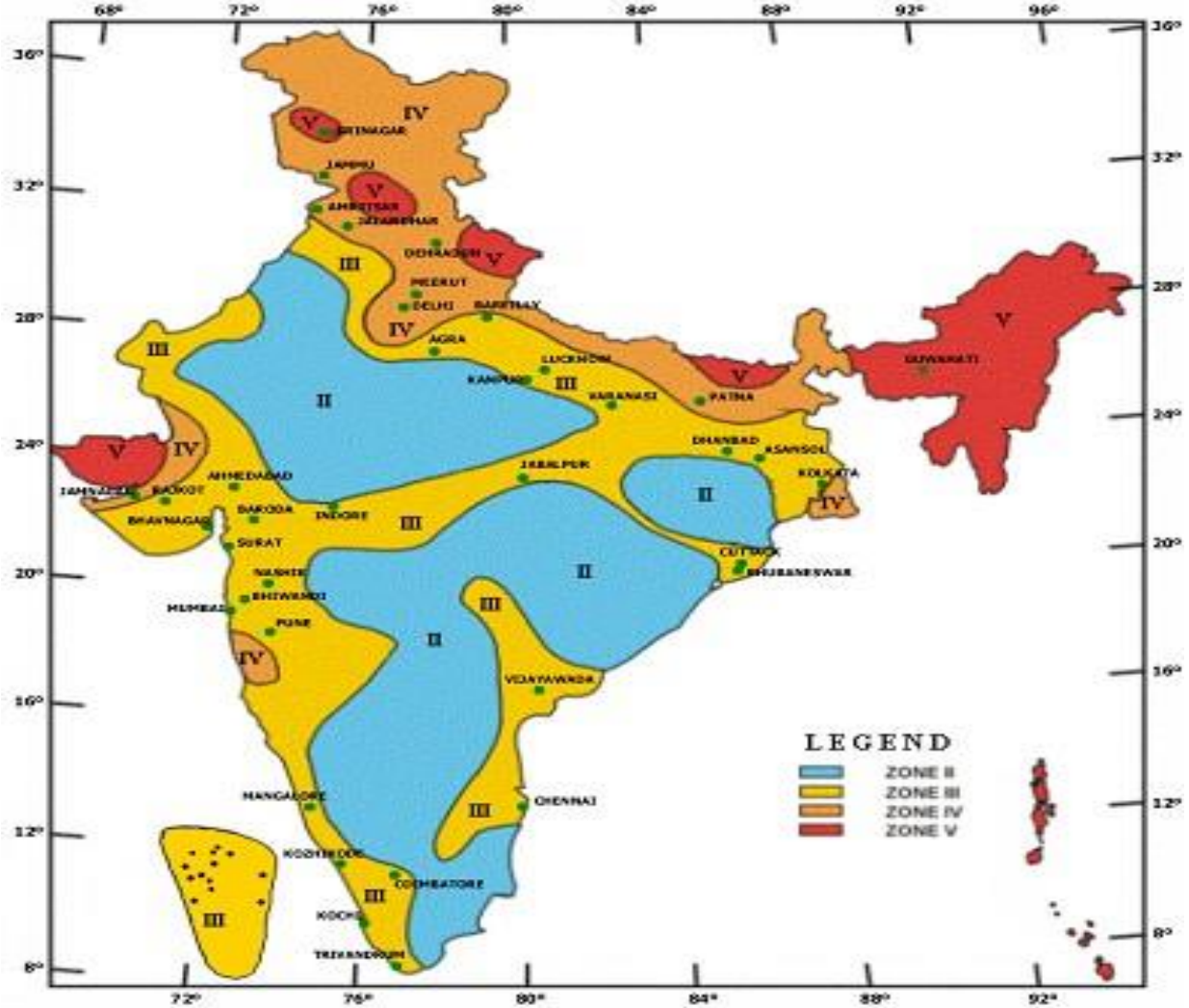




### 4.2.10 Seismic Hazard

The project site is located in **seismic zone II** as per the seismic zoning map of India (IS 1893–2002). Accordingly, implying that potential threats of damage due to earthquake are quite weak. The seismic zoning map of India has been shown in **Figure 4-**

**Figure 4-9: Seismic Map**

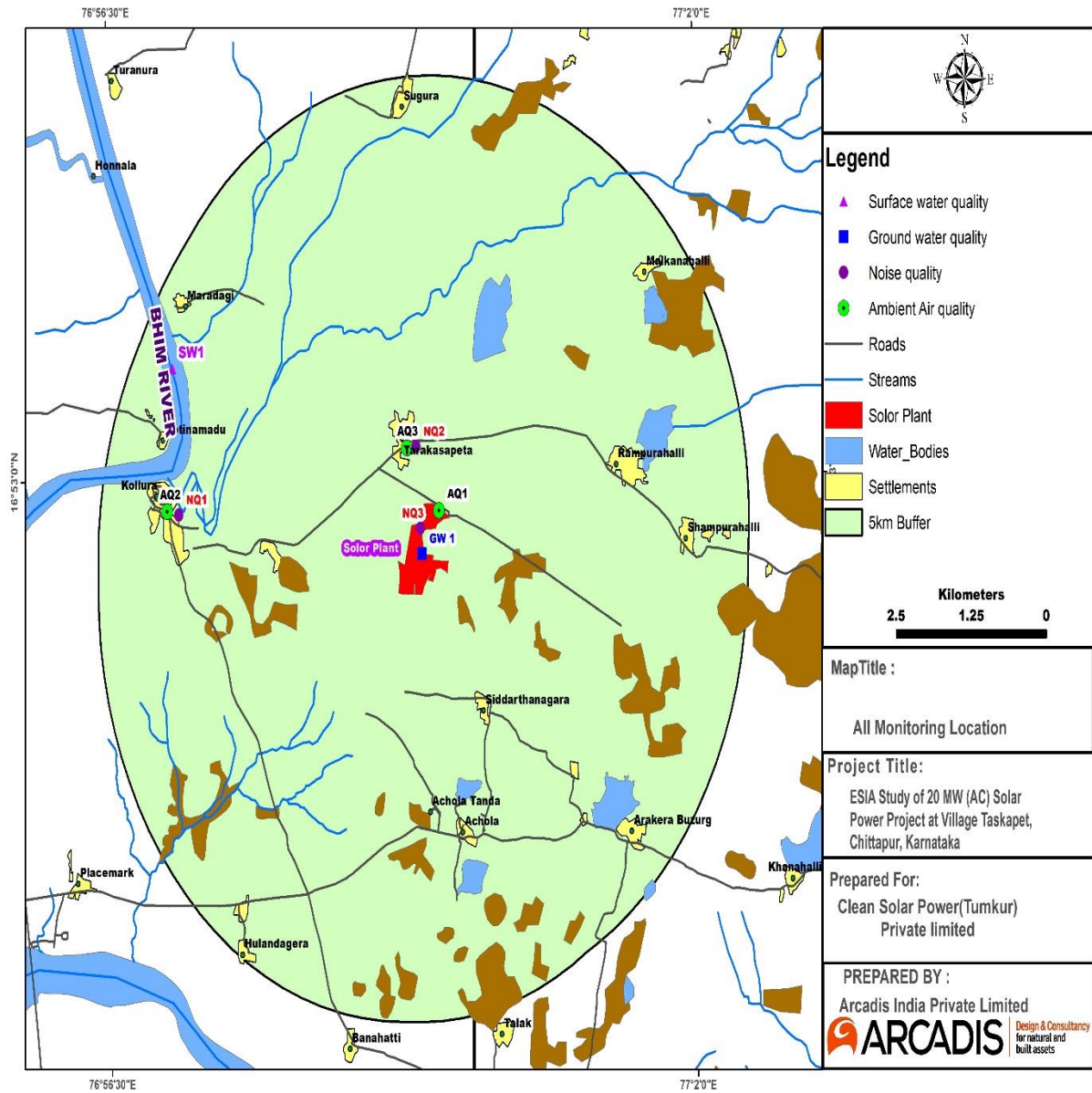


Source: [www.isr.gov.in](http://www.isr.gov.in)

### 4.3 Environmental Monitoring

The project is in the preconstruction stage during ESIA study. Baseline environmental monitoring has been carried out for ambient air quality, surface water & ground water quality, noise quality conducted by NABL/MOEF&CC Accredited Laboratory as per the applicable standard methods & analysis. The result of the environmental monitoring represents the baseline environmental condition in the region. Location of environmental monitoring stations are depicted in **Figure 4-0**.

Figure 4-10: Monitoring Location Map



### 4.3.1 Ambient Air Quality

The existing quality of the ambient air environment serves as an index for assessing the pollution load and the assimilative capacity of any region and forms an important tool for planning project activities in the area. A detailed assessment of the existing air environment was undertaken for the purpose mentioned above. The ambient air quality monitoring was conducted at 3 representative locations during September 2018. The baseline air quality status of the study area was primarily assessed by monitoring for particulates and gaseous pollutants at these stations. The monitoring locations was selected based on the prevailing wind direction. The monitoring network was established based on the following key criteria.

- Important receptor locations (e.g. prominent villages, ecological sensitive areas etc.);
- Prevailing Wind Direction.
- Site reconnaissance survey and professional judgment.

The ambient air quality monitoring was carried out in accordance with guidelines of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) June 1998 and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), November 2009. Air quality monitoring was carried out for 24 hours a day for Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>), Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and Oxides of Nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), 8 hours a day for Carbon Monoxide (CO).

**Table 4-5: Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Results**

Parameters	Units	AAQ1(Control room)	AAQ2 (Kollur Village)	AAQ3 (Tharkaspeth Village)	National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)	Analysis Method
Particulate Matter (PM <sub>10</sub> )	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	46	40	58	<100	Respirable Dust Sampler method (IS: 5182 P 23 - 2006)
Particulate Matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	22	18	27	<60	EPA - Quality Assurance Guidance Document 2.12
Sulphur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	5.6	5.1	6.2	<80	Improved West and Geake method (IS: 5182 P II - 2001)
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO <sub>2</sub> )	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	16.8	15.3	18.4	<80	Jacob and Hochheiser modified (Na-Arsenite) method (IS: 5182 P VI - 2001)
Carbon monoxide as CO	mg/m <sup>3</sup>	<1.00	<1.0	<1.0	<2.00	NDIR (CO Analyzer)

#### **Interpretation of Air Quality Results**

On comparison of obtained Ambient Air Quality Values with NAAQ Standards, the value of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM 2.5 is observed below the permissible limit in all three locations. The highest value of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> i.e. 58 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 27µg/m<sup>3</sup> is recorded at the Tharkas Peth Village location. The obtained values of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> and CO are well within the prescribed standards.

### 4.3.2 Ambient Noise Quality

The ambient noise monitoring was conducted during the month of September at three locations within the study area. The noise monitoring network was established based on the understanding of the project activities and professional judgment. The location of the ambient noise quality stations has been represented in the Figure 4.10 for reference.

Sound pressure level (SPL) measurements in dB(A) were recorded for every hour continuously for 24 hours for the aforesaid monitoring stations and equivalent noise levels in the form of Leq day and Leq night. The results so obtained were compared with the standard specified in Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000. The summary of noise quality results is presented in **Table 4-6** below.

**Table 4-6: Noise Level Monitoring Results**

	Main Control Room	Kollur Village	Tarkaspet Village
Leq day dB(A)	48.4	46.7	49
Leq Night dB(A)	41.5	38.6	40.5

#### *Interpretation of Noise Quality Results*

On comparison of obtained noise level results of all the three locations i.e. near main Control Room, at kollur Village and tharkspeth village, it is observed that all levels are within prescribed permissible limits. Further during day time, the noise level is slightly higher at Tharkas Peth Village among these three places where as during night time, main control room records higher sound level.

### 4.3.3 Transport & Communication

The project area has good road connectivity. Access roads within the study area villages are bituminous, concretized. The project site is well connected with nearest town Yadgir which is 40 km from the project site. Nearest Railway station is Shampur Halli which is nearly 5 km from the project sites. Nearest Domestic Airport is Hyderabad airport which is around 180km km from the project site.

### 4.3.4 Surface Water Quality

Surface water characteristics were assessed against water quality criteria as per CPCB guidelines for water resources. The surface water sample was collected from Indira Gandhi Canal. One sample was collected from bhima river which is around 5 km from the project site. The dissolved oxygen (DO) level was observed 4.2 mg/l at indicating favorable conditions for the growth and reproduction of normal population of fish and other aquatic organisms in the River. BOD level was below 4.0 mg/l. The surface water sample is analyzed to be neutral in nature having pH value of 8.2. Hence, the best use class of the surface water body according to the CPCB Water Use Classification conforms to Class B (Outdoor bathing (Organized) inland surface water quality).

**Table 4-7: Surface Water Monitoring Results**

ESIA for 20 MW Solar Power Project at Village Tharkas Peth, Chittapur, Karnataka

S. No	Parameters/Characteristic	Test Method	Units	Test Results	IS: 2296 Class C Specifications
1	pH at 25 deg C	IS:3025 part 11 1983 RA-2012	-	8.2	6.5 – 8.5
2	Colour	IS: 3025 Part 4 1983 RA-2006	Hazen	100	300
3	Conductivity at 25 deg C	IS: 3025 Part 14 1984 RA-2013	mS/cm	644	--
4	Temperature at Site	IS: 3025 Part 38 1989 RA-2003	° C	25.8	--
5	Turbidity	IS: 3025 Part 10 1984 RA-2002	NTU	60.3	--
6	Dissolved Oxygen	IS: 3025 Part 38 1989 RA-2003	mg/L	4.2	4 min
7	Chemical Oxygen Demand	IS: 3025 Part 58 2006	mg/L	80	--
8	Total Suspended Solids	IS: 3025 Part 17 1984 RA-2012	mg/L	120	--
9	Total Dissolved Solids	IS: 3025 Part 16 1984 RA-2006	mg/L	412	1500
10	BOD (3 days at 27°C)	IS: 3025 Part 44 1993 RA-2009	mg/L	4	< 3.0
11	Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	IS: 3025 Part 21 2009	mg/L	160	--
12	Chloride as Cl	IS: 3025 Part 32 1988, RA-2009	mg/L	70	600
13	Fluorides as F <sup>-</sup>	IS: 3025 Part 60 2008	mg/L	0.2	1.5
14	Sulphate as SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	IS: 3025 Part 24 1986, RA-2003	mg/L	34.9	400
15	Alkalinity	IS: 3025 Part 23 1986, RA-2003	mg/L	180	--
16	Total Nitrogen	IS: 3025 Part 34 1988, RA-2003	mg/L	<0.1	--
17	Cyanides as CN	IS: 3025 Part 27 1986, RA-2009	mg/L	<0.001	0.05
18	Calcium as Ca	IS: 3025 Part 40 1991, RA-2009	mg/L	40	--
19	Magnesium as Mg	IS: 3025 Part 46 1994, RA-2003	mg/L	14.4	--
20	Sodium as Na	IS: 3025 Part 45 1993, RA-2009	mg/L	70.8	--
21	Potassium as K	IS: 3025 Part 45 1993, RA-2009	mg/L	2	--
22	Iron as Fe	IS: 3025 Part 53 2003, RA-2003	mg/L	0.08	50
23	Lead as Pb	IS 3025 Part 47 1994	mg/L	<0.001	0.1
24	Copper as Cu	IS 3025 Part 42 1992	mg/L	<0.001	1.5
25	Arsenic as As	IS: 3025 Part 37 1988, RA-2003	mg/L	<0.02	0.2
26	Phenolics as C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> Oh	IS: 3025 Part 43 1992, RA-2003	mg/L	<0.001	0.005
27	Boron	IS 3025 Part 57 2005	mg/L	<0.001	--
28	Total Chromium as Cr	IS 3025 Part 52 2003	mg/L	<0.001	0.05
29	Zinc as Zn	IS 3025 Part 49 1994	mg/L	<0.001	15
30	Total Phosphorus	IS 3025 Part 31 1988, RA-2003	mg/L	<0.02	--
31	Mercury as Hg	IS 3025 Part 48 1994	mg/L	<0.001	--
32	Oil and grease	IS 3025 Part 39 1991	mg/L	<1.0	0.1
33	Coli form Organisms	IS: 1622:1981 RA 1996	MPN/100 ml	22*10 <sup>-3</sup>	Should not exceed 5000
34	Faecal Coliform	IS: 1622:1981 RA 1996	MPN/100 ml	16*10 <sup>-2</sup>	--
35	Pesticides	USEPA	µg/L	<0.001	<0.001

BDL= Below Detection Limit

### 4.3.5 Groundwater Quality

A total of one ground water sample was collected from study area. The samples were analyzed for physicochemical and bacteriological parameters and results compared with IS: 10500 (2012) drinking

water standards to identify and interpret any deviation in the statutory limits set for parameters under this standard. The results for relevant ground water quality parameters have been discussed below.

**Table 4-8: Groundwater Monitoring Results**

S. No	Parameters/Characteristic	Test Method	Units	Test Results	Drinking Water Limits As per IS: 10500:2012
1	pH at 25°C	IS:3025 part 11 1983 RA-2012	--	7.72	6.5 - 8.5
2	Turbidity	IS: 3025 Part 10 1984 RA-2002	NTU	<1.0	10-May
3	Conductivity at 25°C	IS: 3025 Part 14 1984 RA-2013	µMho/cm	964	--
4	Total Suspended Solids	IS: 3025 Part 17 1984 RA-2012	mg/L	<1.0	--
5	Total Dissolved Solids	IS: 3025 Part 16 1984 RA-2006	mg/L	620	--
6	Colour	IS: 3025 Part 4 1983 RA-2006	Hazen	<05	5
7	Taste	IS:3025 part 08 1984 RA-2002	-	Agreeable	Agreeable
8	Odour	IS:3025 part 05 1983	-	Unobjectionable	Unobjectionable
<b>CHEMICAL PARAMETERS</b>					
9	Total Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	IS: 3025 Part 23 1986, RA-2003	mg/L	300	--
10	Chlorides as Cl <sup>-</sup>	IS: 3025 Part 32 1988, RA-2009	mg/L	60	250 - 1000
11	Sulphates as SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-2</sup>	IS: 3025 Part 24 1986, RA-2003	mg/L	85.9	200 - 400
12	Nitrates as NO <sub>3</sub>	IS: 3025 Part 34 1988, RA-2003	mg/L	4.4	40 - 100
13	Phosphates as PO <sub>4</sub>	IS: 3025 Part 31 1988, RA-2003	mg/L	<0.02	--
14	Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	IS: 3025 Part 21 2009	mg/L	180	200 – 600
15	Calcium as Ca	IS: 3025 Part 40 1991, RA-2009	mg/L	44	75 – 200
16	Magnesium as Mg	IS: 3025 Part 46 1994, RA-2003	mg/L	16.8	30 – 100
17	Sodium as Na	IS: 3025 Part 45 1993, RA-2009	mg/L	134.7	--
18	Potassium as K	IS: 3025 Part 45 1993, RA-2009	mg/L	2.3	--
19	Fluorides as F <sup>-</sup>	IS: 3025 Part 60 2008	mg/L	0.8	1 - 1.5
20	Iron as Fe	IS: 3025 Part 53 2003, RA-2003	mg/L	0.16	0.3 - 1
21	Phenolic Compounds	APHA 23nd Edition 5330D	mg/L	<0.001	0.001 - 0.002
22	Cyanide as CN <sup>-</sup>	IS 3025 Part 27 1986	mg/L	<0.001	0.005
23	Residual Chlorine as Cl <sup>-</sup>	IS 3025 Part 26 1986	mg/L	<0.001	0.2



24	Cadmium as Cd	IS 3025 Part 41 1992	mg/L	<0.001	0.01
25	Total Chromium as Cr	IS 3025 Part 52 2003	mg/L	<0.001	0.05
26	Lead as Pb	IS 3025 Part 47 1994	mg/L	<0.02	0.05
27	Arsenic as As	IS: 3025 Part 37 1988, RA-2003	mg/L	<0.01	0.01
28	Zinc as Zn	IS 3025 Part 49 1994	mg/L	<0.001	15-May
29	Manganese as Mn	IS: 3025 Part 24 2006	mg/L	<0.001	30 - 100
30	Copper as Cu	IS 3025 Part 42 1992	mg/L	<0.001	0.05 - 1.5
31	Nickel as Ni	IS 3025 Part 54 2003	mg/L	<0.001	3.0 - 5.0
32	Boron	IS 3025 Part 57 2005	mg/L	<0.001	1
33	Anionic Detergents	IS 13428 Annex K	mg/L	<0.001	0.2
34	Mineral Oil	APHA 22 <sup>nd</sup> Edition 2012	mg/L	<0.001	0.01
35	Aluminium as Al	IS 3025 Part 55 2003	mg/L	<0.001	0.03
36	Mercury as Hg	IS 3025 Part 48 1994	mg/L	<0.0002	0
37	Pesticides	USEPA	µg/L	<0.001	<0.001

**Interpretation of Ground Water Quality Results:**

**pH and Turbidity**

The pH and turbidity values of water sample collected were within the desirable limit of IS: 10500 drinking water standards thereby establishing its potable use. The pH value is 7.72.

**Total Dissolved Solids**

The concentration of total dissolved solids (TDS) in ground water is a measure of its suitability for domestic use. In general, TDS values at 500 mg/l or below is considered be most desirable for such purpose being specified under IS: 10500 drinking water standards. The TDS value for the ground water sample analyzed was found to be 620 mg/l at the project site. Which exceed the permissible limit as per IS: 10500-2012.

**Chlorides**

Chloride concentration in ground water is 60 mg/l at the project site, the desirable limit of chloride is 250 mg/l while the permissible limit of the said parameter (in absence of an alternate source) is 1000 mg/l. At concentration above 250 mg/l chlorides renders a salty taste to water which may be objectionable in terms of human consumption.

**Total Hardness**

Hardness of water is an important parameter in determining the suitability of water for domestic uses particularly for washing activity. Hardness of water is correlated to the presence of bivalent metallic ions viz. calcium and magnesium. Total hardness values for the ground water sample was found to be 180mg/l at project site which is within the stipulated standard of 200 mg/l specified under IS: 10500-2012.

**Iron and Fluoride**

Iron is considered as an important ground water parameter since at higher concentration it interferes with laundering operations and imparts objectionable stains. The concentration of iron in ground water sample was observed 0.16 mg/l at the construction site. Fluoride content in the ground water also recorded within the permissible limit and observed as 0.8 mg/l at the construction site.



#### Heavy Metals

The presence of heavy metals in the ground water samples were below the threshold limits.

## 4.4 Ecological Environment

Ecology & biodiversity study was carried out during first week of September 2018 with the aim to assess the existing ecological resources of the project site and the study area. The study was aimed to conduct primary baseline survey to assess the nature of the existing habitat, local flora and fauna, ecological sensitivity, locations of wetlands/water bodies, land use pattern etc. Apart from that, published secondary information were also reviewed to collect the secondary information.

This information will further use to assess potential ecological impacts that can be generated from the project activities. Understanding of the significant risks and impacts is important to implement mitigation measures or suggest changes if the associated risks are huge. Such mitigation measures will help reduce the impacts and develop ecological monitoring parameters.

Main objectives for Ecological surveys:

Flora-

- Identification of floral species, endangered as well as endemic species (if any), important habitats, forests area within the study area;
- Surveys to identify local, widespread floral species, any endangered or endemic species and protected species in the study area;
- Identification of aquatic flora near the water bodies found in the study area;

- Identification of any notified area under international conventions, national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other related values within the study site.

Fauna-

- Identification of fauna (terrestrial, aerial and aquatic) by direct sighting and through secondary means like, nests, roosts, pug marks, droppings, etc.
- Identification and classification of species recognised as critically endangered, endangered, threatened etc. as per IUCN Red list and scheduled species as per WPA (1972).
- Identification of areas important for breeding, foraging, nesting, resting or over wintering areas include migratory corridors/ avian migratory routes.
- Identification and assessment of aquatic fauna near the study area.

### 4.4.1 Methodologies for Ecological Surveys

#### ***Desktop Review***

A desktop review available literature was conducted to determine the land use and land cover (Topo sheet, Satellite imagery and map of Study area), Classification of Vegetation (Champion and Seth, 1962), floral and faunal diversity in the study area.

To provide representative ecological status for the project a study area is defined for ecological study. As solar power plants have no moving part, or no emission is envisaged from the project activity. Most of the project related impact (if any) will be confined to the project site only and access roads. So, project development area and 100m around the project site was considered as the “high risk zone” or “core study area”, and 5-km radius surrounding the project site is considered as the “buffer zone” or the zone of influence of the project.

#### ***Baseline Survey***

Baseline survey was carried out to determine the existing ecological conditions and was designed to fill any data gaps, and to facilitate an adequate assessment of the project’s impacts upon ecology and the development of appropriate mitigation measures. Survey was conducted in 1<sup>st</sup> week of September 2018 for habitat survey, flora & faunal diversity in the study area. Baseline survey has two parts-

- (i) Secondary data collection and (ii) Primary data collection

#### Secondary Data Collection

Secondary baseline data regarding sensitive ecological habitat (National Park, Sanctuary, Ecological Sensitive Area, Migratory Corridor, habitat of endangered, vulnerable and range restricted species etc.), flora & fauna in the study area, forest cover was collected from Forest Divisional Office and other published documents. Stakeholder consultations (Forest Department, Local People etc.) were also carried out to understand the major flora & fauna in the study area, pressure on forest resources, and presence of any Schedule I species.

#### Primary Survey

#### Habitat Survey

Different habitats identified by desktop review and reconnaissance visit were visited. Data regarding the type and quality of habitat with reference to flora and fauna that it supports and might support is collected.

#### Flora Survey

The primary floral survey was conducted to record site specific floral species and its diversity. At the time of the survey, deciduous vegetation was recorded from the proposed project site. Further data

were gathered from secondary sources like governmental department records, forest officials and local residents. None of the species recorded falls in the IUCN red list category.

#### Faunal Survey

To assess the presence of fauna in the project site, a transect survey area was carried out. The project site and the nearby areas were visited to find out the presence of faunal species in the area either by direct sighting or through secondary identification procedure. The faunal survey focused mainly on two groups viz. mammals and avifauna of the study area. Data related to the other faunal species were also noted, based on the direct sightings and from authentic secondary sources like standard field guides.

### 4.4.2 Habitat Survey

According to the Biogeographic provinces of India published by Wildlife Institute of India (Rodgers, Panwar and Mathur, 2002), the project site falls under the Biogeographic Province – 6E- Deccan South.

The site survey also included understanding of important habitats in the area. A "Habitat" according to IFC is defined as a terrestrial, freshwater or marine geographical unit or airway that supports assemblage of living organisms and their interactions with the non-living environment. As per IFC, habitats are divided into - Natural, Modified or Critical for implementation of IFC Performance Standard-6 (Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources). Critical habitats are subsets of Natural habitats. Ecological sensitivity map of the project site is provided in **Figure 4-**

#### ***Types of Habitat in the Study area***

##### Agricultural field and dry land

During survey, it is observed that majority of the study area and particularly the project site is dry land due to inadequate rainfall. Lands are dry with minimum vegetation cover. Vegetation are mainly shrubs in nature with *Prosopis* sp. is dominated. Further, patches of agricultural lands also observed around the project site. Agriculture is largely depending on water from Bhima river system which is 5 km from the project site. Tree generally observed along the road site or along the bund on the agricultural field. No forest land is observed in the project site or within 5 km radius of the project site. Thus, habitat in the project area can be classified as 'Modified' as per IFC guidelines.

##### Aquatic Habitat

The project area lies in the basin area of Bhima River which flows in to the North- south direction. The water level in the Bhima River fluctuates with weather and heavily dependent on the monsoon rain fall. In the summer season it becomes dry in several patches. The only source of Surface water in the study area is Bhima river which is located around 5 km from the project site. Besides there is no river or stream is passing through the study area.

### 4.4.3 Flora and Faunal Profile of the Study Area

#### ***(A) Floral Profile***

The proposed project site is dry in nature comprising scattered patches of vegetation. The rainfall in the area is less during summer. The primary floral survey was limited to record site specific floral species (both woody trees/small tree species as well as ground vegetation). Assessing the existing floral profile was necessary to understand the baseline conditions of the area as the project activities might lead to loss of significant ecological resources, if present. The information will add on to the knowledge of ecological resources and help in further evaluating the possible risks due to project activities and feasibility of the proposed mitigation measures.

Floral Profile of project site and its surrounding area –

During field visit, it is observed that project site is devoid of any large tree species. Only small trees and grasses are observed in the project site. Large tree generally observed along the road side and along the bund on agricultural field. Although in habitation area some tree species are observed. Floral composition of study area given in the following table;

**Table 4-9: Floral composition of Study Area**

S. No	Scientific Name	Common Name	Family
1	<i>Accacia nilotica</i>	Babool	Mimosae
2	<i>Aegle marmelos (L.) Correa</i>	Bel	Rutaceae
3	<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i>	Mahaneem	Simaroubaceae
4	<i>Albizia lebbeck (L.) Willd.</i>	Sirish	Mimosaceae
5	<i>Anthocephalus kadamba</i>	Kadamb	Rubiaceae
6	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Neem	Meliaceae
7	<i>Bombax ceiba L.</i>	Simal	Bombacaceae
8	<i>Cassia fistula L.</i>	Amaltas	Caesalpinaceae
9	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Coconut	Arecaceae
10	<i>Cordia dichotoma</i>	Lasora	Cordiaceae
11	<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>	Indian Rosewood	Fabaceae
12	<i>Delonix regia</i>	Gulmahar	Caesalpinaceae
13	<i>Emblica officinalis</i>	Amla	Phyllanthaceae
14	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Eucalyptus	Myrtaceae
15	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	Bar	Moraceae
16	<i>Ficus elastica</i>	Indian Rubber	Moraceae
17	<i>Ficus religiosa L.</i>	Peepal	Moraceae
18	<i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i>	Karanja	Ulmaceae
19	<i>Mangifera india</i>	Mango	Anacardiaceae
20	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	Vilayeti babool	Fabaceae
21	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Imli	Fabaceae
22	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i>	Ber	Rhamnaceae

(B) Faunal Profile

During site visit no primary evidences of large or medium mammals were found in the project site and study area. But consultation with forest department and local villagers have reported the presence of mammals like Jackal, Jungle Cat, Common share reported from the study area. No forest land is observed in the vicinity of the project site. Therefore, the presence of Wild animals in the study area is very rare. The most common reptiles which are found in this area is common krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*). Although, during site visit, no reptiles are seen or found in the study site. No schedule -I species as per Wild Life (protection) Act 1972 also reported from the study area. Following faunal species were reported from the study area.

**Table 4-10: Faunal Species reported from the study area**

S No	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status	WPA, 1972 Status
------	-------------	-----------------	-------------	------------------

1	Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	LC	Schedule II
2	The Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>	LC	Schedule II
3	The Common Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>	LC	Schedule IV
4	The Common Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i>	LC	Schedule II
5	Common Krait	<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>	LC	Schedule IV
6	Indian rat snake	<i>Ptyus mucosa</i>	LC	Schedule II, Part II
7	Bull frog	<i>Rana tigrina</i>	LC	Shedule IV

### Avifauna

Total 26 species of birds were reported during field observation, consultation with local people and Forest department. Among Them bird species such as Asian Koel, Asian Palm Swift Cattle egret Common Myna Rose ringed parakeet, Rock Pigeon etc. were observed during field visit. It is also reported by forest department that no migratory bird species observed in this area. Also, there is no migratory route reported in the vicinity of the project site.

The species of birds recorded in the project area and surrounding area during site visit is listed in the **Table 4-11**.

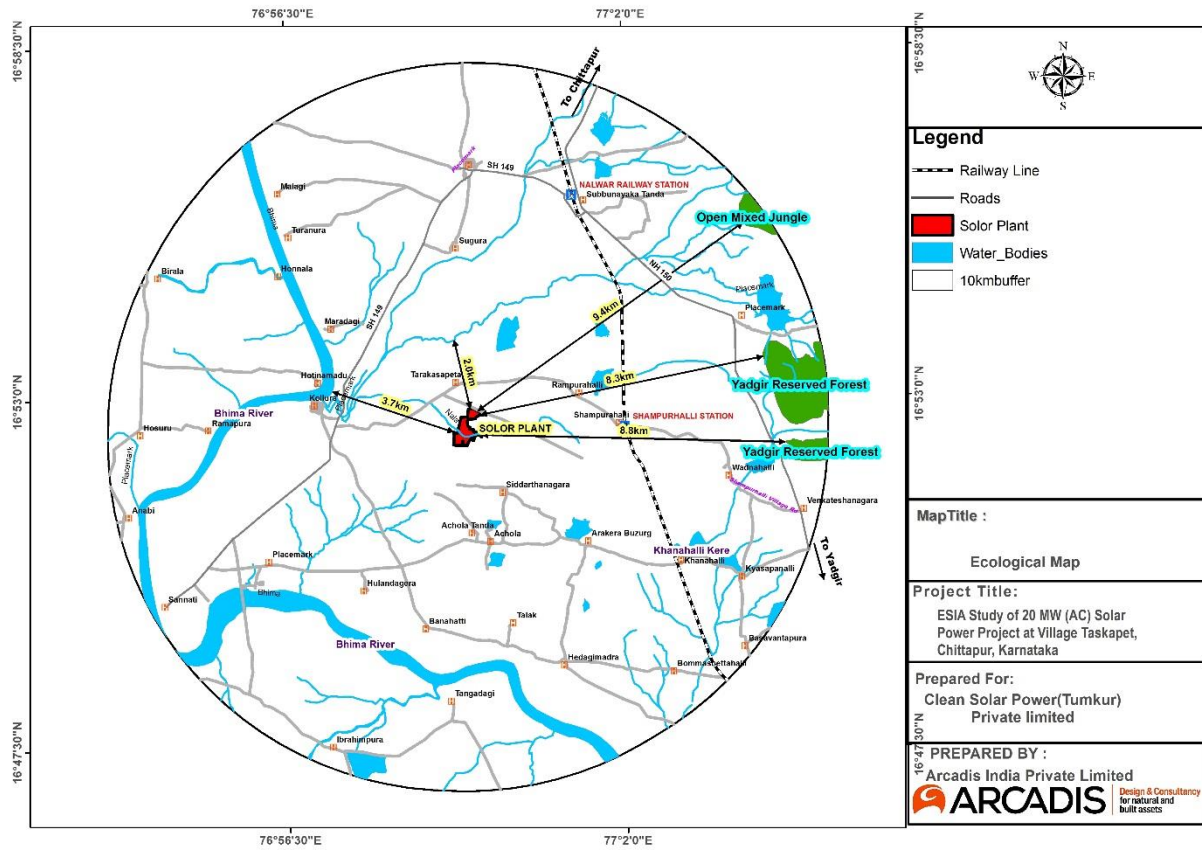
**Table 4-11: List of Avifauna Sighted in the Project Area**

SL No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Order	IUCN Status	WP. 1972 Status	Resident/ Migrant
1	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>	Cuculiformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
2	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	Apodiformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
3	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Passeriformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
4	Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Pelecaniformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
5	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	Passeriformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
6	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Coraciiformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
7	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Passeriformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
8	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Charadriiformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
9	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Pelecaniformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
10	House crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	Passeriformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
11	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Passeriformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
12	Indian Robin	<i>Sxicoloides fulicatus</i>	Passeriformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
13	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	Coraciiformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
14	Jungle babblar	<i>Turdoides striata</i>	Passeriformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
15	Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>	Passeriformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
16	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	Columbiformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
17	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Pelecaniformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
18	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Apodiformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
19	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	Passeriformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
20	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	Passeriformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
21	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	Passeriformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
22	Red vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Passeriformes	LC	Schedule IV	R

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23	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Columbiformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
24	Rose ringed parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Psittaciformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
25	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	Columbiformes	LC	Schedule IV	R
26	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	Charadriiformes	LC	Schedule IV	R

Figure 4-12: Ecology Map of the Project Surrounding





## **4.5 Socio Economic Profile of the Study Area**

This section describes the socioeconomic condition in the study area and relates the village level socioeconomic conditions with taluk and district level. The objective of analysis of information at village, taluk and district level is to identify the existing facilities and gaps at village level which can be considered as need of the study area.

The site for the present solar power project is located in Tharkas peth village of Chitapur taluk in Gulbarga district, Karnataka. Site visit was undertaken along with primary and secondary data collection from various sources. Interviews were also undertaken with representatives of project proponent (HFE), EPC contractor (Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Construction engineering company), land sellers, local villagers and government officials in different departments. Information and required documents related to project site, land details etc. were collected from the project proponent and personnel of EPC contractors present at site.

### **4.5.1 Objective**

The main objective of the consultations was to develop an understating of the community in general of the project affected area. Through the consultative process the areas which the project is impacting the individuals and the community, is also perceived. Along with that, the feasible mitigation measures of the impacts are also identified.

The observations made in this section are intended to capture the status of the project and, therefore, briefly mention the 'way ahead' to successfully complete the ESIA study. The understanding of the project profile was carried out with the project proponent and details of the same will be included in the ESIA report.

### **4.5.2 Methodology**

The social assessment is primarily based on the analysis of the secondary data obtained from the Census -2011, district portal website and primary consultation with community & different level stakeholder with the help of framed sample questionnaire for village profiling. Considering the nature of the project, operations and understanding of the demographic characteristics of the area from the secondary data it is designed to capture occupational patterns, societal set up, access to basic amenities along with socio - economic profiling of villages and communities.

The following methodology was adopted:

Consultation with local representatives of project proponent;

Field observation for profiling the study area villages;

Consultation with land aggregator;

Consultation with land owners;

Consultation with local sub-registrar office;

Consultation with all level stakeholders in the study area villages (e.g. Panchayat Members, Village Heads, Teachers, Youth Group, Farmers, Health Worker, ICDS Workers etc

### **4.5.3 Demographic Profile of District and Study Area Villages**

The proposed project is located at Tharkas peth village under Tharkas peth Gram Panchayat in Chitapur Taluk of Gulbarga district, Karnataka. Hence, Tharkas peth village has been considered as the study area for socio- economic profiling located within the project area. Till the time site visit in September

2018, there have one village Tharkas peth falling in the project area. The details of the study area for which socio-economic profiling has been carried is depicted in **Table 4-12**.

**Table 4-12: Project Location**

State	District	Mandal/ Taluk	Gram Panchayat	Village
Karnataka	Gulbarga	Chitapur	Tharkas peth	Tharkas peth

Source: Hero Future Energies Pvt. Ltd. (HFE)

#### Demographic Profile

The demographic profile in terms of total population, number of households, household size and sex-ratio of the selected villages surveyed in the study area are discussed in the section below. The details of the study area for which socio-economic profiling has been carried is depicted in Table.

**Table 4-13: List of Villages within the Project Area**

Particular	Total Population	Ave. HH Size	Male Pop.	% Male	Female Pop.	% Female	Sex Ratio
District level - Gulbarga	2566326	471601	1301755	50.72	1264571	49.28	971
Taluk level - Chitapur	404188	73171	202354	50.06	201834	49.94	997
Study area - Tharkas peth	2212	418	1080	48.82	1132	51.18	1048

Source: Census, 2011

#### 4.5.4 Schedule Caste (SC) & Scheduled Tribe (ST)

As per census 2011, in the study area there is no ST population. Details of the study area SC & ST population percentage with respect to the total population is appended herein **Table 4-14**

**Table 4-15: Study Area SC & ST Percentage**

Study Area	Scheduled Caste (%)	Scheduled Tribe (%)
District level -Gulbarga	25.28	2.54
Taluk level - Chitapur	31.73	1.83
Study area - Tharkas Peth	16.18	0.00

Source: Census, 2011

#### 4.5.5 Literacy in the Study Area

As per census 2011 in the study area, Vollur has the literacy percentage (around 75.99% of total population above the age of 6 years). Details of the study area literacy scenario is given in Table 4-16

**Table 4-17: Study Area Literacy Scenario**

Study Area	Literacy % - Total Potation (without below 6 years age)	Literacy % - Male (without below 6 years age male population)	Literacy % - Female (without below 6 years age female population)
District level -Gulbarga	85.76	50.60	49.40
Taluk level - Chitapur	85.23	49.84	50.16
Study area - Tharkas Peth	83.05	48.67	51.33

Source: Census, 2011

#### 4.5.6 Workers and Occupation

Study Area Tharkas peth : During consultation with different stake holder and observation made on the site the primary occupation on the study area is daily labour. According to Census 2011 the percentage of cultivators among the total working population of the village is about 49.82%. Around 32.85% of the total work force are cultivator. Around 30.76% of the total work force are agricultural labourer. Around 1% of the total work force are household industries. Around 20.78% of the total work force are other worker. Around 14.61% of the total work force are marginal worker scenario is given in Table 4 14

**Table 4-18: Study Area working Scenario**

Village	Total Worker	Total Cultivator	Total Agri Labour	Main Household Industries Population Person	Total Other Workers	Marginal Worker
District level - Gulbarga	42.36	19.07	26.21	1.50	30.88	22.34
Taluk level - Chitapur	41.75	18.12	22.66	1.68	33.43	24.11
Study area - Tharkas Peth	49.82	32.85	30.76	1.00	20.78	14.61

Source: Census, 2011

**Female Workforce participation: Female Workforce participation:** In study area Tharkas Peth, the average female works participation rate 40.83% only.

#### 4.5.7 Wages

According to Karnataka Minimum Wage Rule for 2016-17, the minimum wage for contract laborer's in agricultural sector is Rs. 303.98/ day for various relevant activities. It is inclusive of variable dearness allowance of Rs. 200.00/ day and variable dearness allowance (VDA) of 103.98/ day. <sup>1</sup>

The wages and VDA are of varied range depending on the level of skill (termed as unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled) in different other sectors.

#### 4.5.8 Livelihood Source

As per Census 2011, about 19.07% and 26.21% of the working population is directly dependent on agriculture, as cultivators and agriculture-based laborer's respectively in Gulbarga district. In Chitapur

taluk about 18.12% and 22.66% of the total population are cultivators and agricultural laborer's respectively. Thus, agriculture continued to play an important role in the economic growth of the region of the upcoming solar power project.

As mentioned in website portal<sup>2</sup> of Karnataka State Department of Agriculture (KSDA), Govt. of Karnataka, the state grows a range of crops including Rice, Jowar, Ragi, Maize, Bajra, Wheat, different kind of lentils, different kind of food grains including Soya Beans, Ground Nuts, Sunflower etc. As per the website portal around 102.26 L hectare land area are cultivated.

### Cropping Pattern

The principal crops grown in the state during Kharif and Rabi Season is depicted in the figure season are, Sunflower, Ground Nut, Red Gram, Cotton, Bajra and Tur etc. and in **Figure 4-5**.

**Figure 4-5: Principal Crops and Cropping Pattern in Karnataka**

Calendar of Agricultural operations indicating the period of sowing and harvesting in respect of				
Principal crops in Karnataka state.				
Sl. No.	Name of the crops	Period of		Other seasons in which grown
		Sowing	Harvesting	
<b>KHARIF</b>				
1	Rice-Autumn	May - September	October - January	Summer
2	Rice-Winter	August - November	January - April	]
3	Jowar	May - July	September - December	Rabi, Summer
4	Bajra	June - August	September - November	Summer
5	Maize	May - August	September - December	Rabi, Summer
6	Ragi	May - August	September - December	Summer
7	Small Millets	June - August	September - December	Summer
8	Tur	June - July	December - February	
9	Other Pulses (Kharif)	May - August	October - December	Rabi
10	Tobacco	April - September	September - January	
11	Groundnut	June - August	September - December	Summer
12	Castor Seed	April - August	September - February	Summer
13	Sesamum	April - June	August - September	
14	Cotton	May - July	December - April	Rabi
15	Niger seed	June - July	September - October	
16	Sunflower	June - August	September - December	
<b>RABI</b>				
1	Jowar	September - October	January - March	Kharif Summer
2	Maize	October - December	January - March	Kharif Summer
3	Wheat	October - December	January - March	
4	Gram	October - December	January - March	
5	Other Pulses (Rabi)	September - February	November - April	Kharif
6	Cotton	August - September	February - April	Kharif
7	Safflower	October - November	January - March	
8	Linseed	October - November	January - March	
9	Rape & Mustard	October - November	January - March	
10	Sunflower	October - November	January - March	

Source: <http://raitamitra.kar.nic.in/KAN/Document/agriprop.pdf>

Wheat, Maize, Tomato, Onion etc. food crops along with cotton is cultivated in the project area villages. Though not cultivated, scattered Neem trees surrounding the cropping fields at few places are seen. As informed by the farmers and the community members a crop wise productivity in the study area and market price is given in **Table 4-19**.

**Table 4-19: Production & Productivity and Price of Major Crops**

Sl. No.	Crop	Harvest Period	Productivity (q/acre)	Price/ Quintal (in INR)
1	Tur	June – December	3-5 quintal per acre	INR 3000 – 3500
2	Cotton	June to December	10 – 12 quintal per acre	INR. 3000 - 5000
3	Red Gram	July – December	3 - 5 quintal per acre	INR 5000 – 6000

Source: Primary Consultation in the Study Area Village

<sup>2</sup> Source: <http://raitamitra.kar.nic.in/KAN/Document/agriprop.pdf>

### 4.5.9 Livestock

Karnataka has rich livestock resources especially goat and sheep population. Rural population in the state is predominantly agricultural with majority of the workforce being engaged directly in the agriculture sector. Animal husbandry and dairy are important sources of supplementary income to farmers in the state.

As per 19<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census, Karnataka has a population of 27701896 livestock and 53442030 poultry. An account of the domesticated animal population of the state as given in 19<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census and in website portal<sup>3</sup> of Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Govt. of Karnataka is given in **Figure 4-6**.

**Figure 4-6: Principal Crops and Cropping Pattern in Karnataka**

Sl. No.	District	Cattle	Buffaloes	Sheep	Goats	Pigs	Horses & Ponies	Mules	Donkeys	Camels	Dogs	Rabbits	Elephants	Total Livestock	Stray Cattle	Stray Dogs	Total Poultry
1	Bagalkot	279415	234802	733600	324741	33467	428	1	1169	5	37774	908	0	1646310	2462	12766	1372196
2	Bangalore	136582	8453	77302	44725	18114	1262	8	65	1	127120	3506	0	417138	1326	103690	2421151
3	Bangalore Rural	158820	24381	124870	80740	6052	44	1	34	0	26177	3967	0	425086	760	34125	8165758
4	Belgaum	592833	829370	788929	491545	25676	4898	0	463	1	75232	161	1	2809109	4623	29920	2738292
5	Bellary	344077	142255	756270	187270	14971	99	15	231	0	26030	494	2	1471714	3691	40682	2723680
6	Bidar	234519	130781	88402	145942	18712	104	0	2621	97	9295	15	0	630488	1551	17638	402661
7	Bijapur	253025	156860	309278	367563	22672	1851	0	133	0	45305	24	0	1156711	2290	15607	300018
8	Chamarajanagar	262520	20887	128483	102854	1049	38	0	105	1	12321	254	8	528520	1201	16157	377463
9	Chikkaballapura	246339	47140	432691	137050	4738	23	0	117	3	26894	518	0	895513	758	53931	1660703
10	Chikmagalur	337576	70870	91312	46068	2158	73	0	226	0	42577	1059	0	591919	3332	25225	1178382
11	Chitradurga	275889	152852	940038	231279	3160	896	0	4212	21	37256	1491	2	1647096	1508	24832	2411780
12	Dakshina Kannada	253715	3700	265	24628	6463	9	0	2	0	146510	1166	9	436467	1172	10750	1721908
13	Davanagere	332075	175896	343178	103187	3828	31	2	134	2	23486	386	0	982205	2351	29771	3193472
14	Dharwad	193781	79513	73982	62140	3162	96	0	2	0	20378	351	0	433405	2504	12648	904421
15	Gadag	142655	60989	259047	106353	6569	216	11	95	0	16711	341	0	592987	2399	8594	156270
16	Gulbarga	473117	91254	100061	372951	23915	178	1	321	4	31792	35	0	1093629	3711	21634	362754
17	Hassan	606460	141264	160685	99405	2155	403	0	409	0	42657	924	0	1054362	1747	50691	2578599
18	Haveri	284609	98468	254708	127757	6453	834	0	97	0	26866	298	0	800090	2781	17748	885232
19	Kodagu	88428	14476	1401	7785	16948	25	3	2	4	47131	723	112	177038	456	3721	207886
20	Kolar	229036	45876	445100	86263	4257	11	0	113	1	36016	312	0	846985	1276	42989	4275529
21	Koppal	260408	77860	547061	156509	12657	100	0	12	1	24406	40	4	1079058	2056	13200	3534459
22	Mandya	366740	145516	341774	261300	6802	259	308	154	0	25961	341	0	1149155	892	44127	1293779
23	Mysore	549552	45419	218381	168299	5476	204	0	71	5	33191	1157	10	1021765	2870	68893	3065218
24	Raichur	359124	136854	647549	281710	14072	21	2	84	0	31458	45	0	1470919	5587	24411	372688
25	Ramanagara	259897	30619	152938	120238	2050	47	0	165	2	12694	1262	33	579945	749	19082	1284545
26	Shimoga	568476	149515	36791	58034	4007	27	2	144	0	70201	685	18	887900	2974	23587	1739272
27	Tumkur	527067	181118	1061330	326890	7122	436	326	5074	0	49673	1065	1	2160102	1890	71733	2107798
28	Udupi	252067	8846	70	6600	3098	3	0	0	0	92845	1396	8	364933	1255	8180	1193772
29	Uttara Kannada	336955	87816	4783	8961	1491	16	82	8	0	57544	508	0	498164	3589	19103	537037
30	Yadgir	310727	76855	463482	257360	23504	344	0	49	3	19621	126	0	1152071	997	10646	275307
	Total	9516484	3470505	9583761	4796147	304798	12976	762	16312	151	1275122	23558	208	29000784	64758	876081	53442030

Source: <http://www.ahvs.kar.nic.in/pdfs/stats/19LC-Nutshell.pdf>

The livestock population of the study area consists mainly of milch animals. Cows and goats are seen during field visit. During consultation, it was reported that the villages have notable number of livestock population and small ruminants (around 70-80% HH) i.e. buffaloes, cow and goats. Animals are grazed at open fields surrounding the cultivation fields. Open fields are often used as grazing lands. Farmers mostly use agricultural waste after harvest as fodder for livestock.

### 4.5.10 Local Employment and Migration

During consultation with the community in the study area it was observed that, cultivation, daily wage labor in agriculture and other sectors (as porter) are important sources for livelihood in the study area villages. Also, the same has been reported in Census 2011. People migrates to big

<sup>3</sup> Source: <http://www.ahvs.kar.nic.in/en-reportsstat.html>



cities like Mumbai or Bengaluru to work as daily wagers, labourers etc. Major livelihood in this area is agriculture.

#### 4.5.11 Gender Empowerment Status

The female work participation in Karnataka is notably lower than that of male. The women workers in the state are still not better placed, specifically by financial status because the workforce is concentrated in activities which are unorganized, informal, seasonal, insecure, menial and poorly paid, especially in the unorganized sectors like agriculture, masonry etc.

In Gulbarga district, female workforce participation rate is around 37.44%. On an average, in the study area villages the female work participation is around 40.83%. Female laborers are engaged in sowing, weeding, plant protection, grading, kitchen gardening, cleaning of grains, harvesting, feeding the cattle, irrigating fields, taking care of livestock, growing vegetables

There are 5 SHGs active in the study area. SHGs are involved in Saving and Involving in agriculture through contracts with SHGs.

As observed during field visit the social status of the women needs improvement. During consultation with the women participant it was observed that early marriage and child marriage, minimal participation of women in household or economic decision making and lesser economic freedom is common in the area. The women are entirely responsible for household chores and additionally engaged as agriculture labor, harvesting, feeding the cattle, and taking care of livestock.

#### 4.5.12 BPL Families and Vulnerability

As per consultation with the community members as well as Panchayat Members during visit of Arcadis ESIA Team a few BPL family reported to be present at the study area village- Tharkas Peth in Chittapur taluk.

Vulnerable group is “Groups that experience a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion than the general population. Ethnic minorities, migrants, disabled people, the homeless, those struggling with substance abuse, isolated elderly people and children all often face difficulties that can lead to further social exclusion, such as low levels of education and unemployment or under employment.”

During community consultation, it was observed that some vulnerable groups like landless family, and physically handicapped are present in the study area village- Tharkae Peth, given in **Table 4-20**.

**Table 4-20: Vulnerable Groups in Study Area - Marenadu**

Village Name	Vulnerable group			
	Physically Handicapped	BPL	Widow	Landless HH
Tharkas Peth	2	250	20	70

Source: Primary Consultation in Study Area Villages

The project proponent may be required to focus on providing employment opportunity to the vulnerable members and implementation of program under CSR activity for them. During dialogue with HFE representative, it was informed that land has not been procured from any vulnerable household or family.

### 4.5.13 Land Holding

Karnataka, with an area of 191,976 sq. km. is the seventh largest state by area in India. Average land holding size in Karnataka is shown in the following **Table 4-21**.

**Table 4-21: Distribution of Average Size per Holding - All Social Groups**

State	Average size per holding in Hectare					
	Marginal	Small	Semi Medium	Medium	Large	All size groups
Karnataka	0.45	1.43	2.71	5.78	14.90	1.63

*Source: Agricultural Census, 2011*

During discussions with the local community in the study area, it was understood that the average land holding size varies between 1-5 acre per household.

### 4.5.14 Irrigation

As information revealed during consultation with the community bore wells are the main sources for irrigation in the study area village (Tharkas peth), it is evident that the agriculture in this region is majorly dependent on rain.

### 4.5.15 Amenities and Infrastructure

Village and district level integrated education, health amenities data available as per census 2011, as well as from other resources and study area villages visit are described in the section below.

#### **Medical Facilities:**

**Project area villages:** In the study area village, the health amenities are inadequate. As informed during consultation people generally avail local unregistered medical practitioners or go to nearby health centers outside the village. Fluoride contamination in water is reported during consultation with community and Health staff. Fluoride related health problems, e.g. joint pains, teeth problems etc. were also reported. It was informed by local community members and health staff that joint pain and other general diseases are common ailment problems in the area.

As observed during consultation Tharkas peth village has no health sub center (HSC). Auxiliary Nurse & Midwife (ANM) and Doctor visit the center once in a month. For better treatment, they have to travel up to Dasudi PHC (Primary Health Centre) located around 5.5 Km from the village. Dasudi PHC is equipped with Medicine Store, Vaccines etc. For further treatment the local people of Tharkas peth visit Kollur PHC or to district hospital at Gulbarga both around 60 Km.

#### **Schemes Sponsored by Health Department**

Several schemes are adopted by both the central and state governments to reach out to the remote most rural population of the state. The same is followed by the medical administration of Tumkur district as well. A few of such programmes are, (1.) Universal Immunization Program: (Immunization/Vaccination/IPPI/Vit-A, Prophylaxis) (2.) Family Welfare program: (Eligible couple survey, Family Planning operations, temporary methods incentives to beneficiaries etc.) (3.) Madilu Programme & Prasooti Arike: Rs 1000/- is being paid as incentive to BPL pregnant women who deliver at Govt health facilities. (4.) District Mental Health programme- Mano Chaitanya. (5) National Blind



Control Programme ;( 6.) NVBDCP: Prevention and control of vector borne diseases like malaria, dengue, chicken guinea, filariasis, Japanese encephalitis etc.

**Anganwadi Centre:**

As observed during field visit there is one Anganwadi Centre (AWC) in Tarkespet village.

**Education:**

As observed during visit and consultation the study area village Tharkas peth has one govt. primary school. The middle school is located at the adjacent village Tharkas peth. As observed and learnt during consultation the Govt. Primary School has 25 students with 2 Teachers. The school has their own bore well and roof top tanks to meet the demand of water. But the school lack treated water facility. It was observed that the school is lacking proper sitting arrangements. Also, the two individual toilet blocks found in dilapidated state. The project proponent may consider these during their CSR planning in the project area.

The high school is located at a distance of 5 km at Kollur village. For further studies people go to Chitapur (around 16 Km) or Gulbarga, around 60 Km away from the village.

**Drinking Water Facility:**

It was informed by both Panchayat Samiti and community that bore well system exists in the village. Water is also supplied through taps at central locations of different localities

During consultation with the community, it was observed that there is no piped water system to individual households are present in the village. Hand pumps and bore wells are seen to be used in the village. Main source of drinking water is ground water, which is harvested mostly by bore well and stored in small capacity tanks with tap connections.

As told by the community members these are not adequate to cater the need in the area. As expressed during interaction with the villagers that the quality of water may impacting the health of the local people. The project proponent may consider this area of need in their CSR activity.

**Sanitation:**

Almost all of the households of the study area have their own sanitation facilities in form of sanitary latrines Sanitary grant is provided to the villager under the Central Government Scheme Swachh Bharat mission.

**Cooking Source:**

A major section of the population in the surveyed villages use fire wood, cow dung, and crop residue as fuel for cooking. A little section of the study area populace uses LPG as cooking medium.

**Communication and Transportation facilities:**

Private and Govt. Buses are the major mode of transportation in the study area. Self-owned motor cycles and bicycles are frequently used private transport for the villagers. During site visit, it was observed that there is good road connectivity. Access roads within the study area village- are bituminous, concretized as well as kuchcha. Telephone connectivity is also available.

Power supply:

Households of the study area village- Tarkespet observed to have electricity connections in the proposed project area. It was told by the local people that electricity is available almost 24 hours. Tariffs are being charged for these connections.

Common Property Resources (CPR)

During consultation with villagers, it was noted that the Tharkas Peth village have some Common Property Resources (CPR) like temples, cremation ground etc. as presented in **Table 4-22**. In terms of CPR, the likely impact from the project development was also observed and discussed with the villagers.

**Table 4-22: Common Property Resources**

Study Area Village	Common Property Resources (CPR)	
	Temple	Community Hall
Marenadu village	2	1

Source: Primary Consultation at Study Area Villages

#### 4.5.16 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Sites

As observed during field visit there is no structure of archaeological and cultural heritage on the proposed project site. No monument or structure of religious importance were observed within 5 Km radius of the study area village.

#### 4.5.17 Stakeholder Consultation

Consultation with land owners and community members were held separately at each study area villages. Consultation was carried out with representative of Project Proponent, Land Owners, Village community members from village. People consulted are appended here below in **Table 4-23**.

**Table 4-23: Consultation with Different Stakeholders**

Stakeholder type	Name & Designation	Department/Address	Date
Project Proponent	Charan, Asst. Site Manager	Hero Future Energies	04/09/18
EPC Contractor	L&T Surya Narayan, Sr. Engineer & Site-in-charge Hari Prasad EHS Officer	Larsen & Toubro (L&T)	04/09/18
School Staff	Chandra Kala, Head Mistress	GHPS Tarakastets	04/09/18
Land Owner	Ajij Mia	Tarakastets village	04/09/18
Anganwadi (ICDS Centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manjula, Anganwadi worker</li> <li>• Sabera Bibi, Anganwadi Helper</li> </ul>	Angamwadi Centre, Tharkas Peth	04/09/18
Labourers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rajan</li> <li>• Murna Singh</li> <li>• Ravi</li> <li>• Chandranayak</li> <li>• Md. Nasir</li> <li>• Parmesh Kandwal</li> </ul>	From L & T and Local Contractor	04/09/18

Consultation was held with the local people of the study area. Details given in **Appendix D**). Discussion was based on a set questionnaire including project specific negative and positive

impacts, socio-economic resource, and demographic profile of the villages. Expectations of local's w.r.t the project development was also discussed.

**a. Consultation with Project Proponent (Hero Future Energies Pvt. Ltd.)**

Representatives of the project proponent has informed the visiting ESIA team that the private land is being procured on willing-buyer- seller basis and good faith negotiation, in the project area exclusively for the purpose of 20 MW solar power project owned by HFE. The land that has been procured is clearly demarcated. The land parcel marked exclusively for the 20 MW solar project is approximately around 110 acres.

**b. Consultation with Land Owner**

Private land has been procured on willing-buyer- seller basis and good faith negotiation. Consultation was done with one land seller for understanding the likely livelihood impact. It was understood that major part of the procured land belongs to him. During consultation with the land sellers it was revealed, the sellers feel that land was taken from him for a greater cause and people's benefit. He have aspirations that the solar project will contribute to the development in the area.

**c. Consultation with Anganwadi Worker**

As observed during field visit there is one Anganwadi Centre (AWC) in Tarkespet village. As informed by the Anganwadi Worker, the Anganwadi Centre has enrolment of 14 children, 7 mothers of neo-natal child and 3 pregnant women, who visit the center regularly. The major problem that the Anganwadi Centre is facing that they don't have own drinking water facility. Water is carried from the nearby primary school tap.

**d. Consultation with School Staff, Govt. Primary School, Tharkas peth**

The govt. primary school at Tharkas peth has total enrollment of 85 children. The school is co-educational. Drinking water and sitting arrangements are main areas of concern that needs improvement in the govt. primary school of the study area.

The nearest middle school is located at Kollur adjacent to the village. The high school is located at a distance of 5 km at Kollur. The pre-degree and degree college is located at Chitapur (around 10 Km) and Gulbarga (around 60 Km) respectively.

**e. Consultation with Community Members**

As informed during consultation agriculture is the major livelihood resource the project area village- Tharkas Peth. Majority of the population is involved in agriculture, a major part of which are agriculture laborer's. Mostly rain-fed agriculture pattern is practiced in project area. There is no health facility in the study area villages, locals rely on quacks. Drinking water facility needs to be developed exclusively for the village. Majority of households of the study area have their own sanitation facilities in form of sanitary latrines in the study area villages. Health facility is not present in the project area village. The nearest primary health center is located at Kollur, around 5 Km from the village.

Details of Stakeholders consultation has been provided in **Appendix D**.

**Key Findings of Consultation**

Some notable key findings of different level stakeholder consultation are appended below:

- Agriculture is the major livelihood resource in the area. Quiet a notable amount of population is involved in agriculture, a major part of which are agriculture labourers.
- The main crops are Red Gram, Tur and cotton.
- Rain-fed agriculture pattern are practiced in project area.
- The main source for irrigation is bore wells.

- There is no health facility in the study area villages, locals rely on quacks.
- Common health problems like fever, joints pain is present in the village.
- Drinking water and sitting arrangements are main areas of concern that needs improvement in the govt. primary school of the study area`
- No monument or structure of religious importance were observed within 5 Km radius of the study area village.
- Majority of households of the study area have their own sanitation facilities.
- Localised borewell water tank system was observed to be present in the village area.



*Consultation with Land Owner*



*Consultation with School Teacher at Tharkas peth*



*Consultation with Guard, Chitapur site*



*Consultation with Anganwadi Worker, Tharkas peth*



*Consultation with Site-in Charge Project Developer (L&T)*



*Chitapur 20 MW Solar Power Project site*

## 5 ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

The section gives analysis of alternatives with respect to the project. The following scenarios have been considered:

- Current or No Project Scenario
- Alternate methods of power generation
- Alternate location for the project

### 5.1 Current or No Project Scenario

There is a need to bridge the gap between the demand and supply, renewable/non-conventional sources of power to supplement the conventional sources. The project intends to contribute towards bridging this demand supply gap being a non-conventional source of power generation.

Karnataka is rich in solar resources and solar energy will complement the conventional sources of energy in a large way. The State of Karnataka is blessed with about 240 to 300 sunny days with good solar radiation of 5.4 to 6.2 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/day. The solar energy potential in Karnataka is estimated in excess of 24,700 MW. However, the actual potential for solar energy is significantly higher than the estimated capacity, considering the recent technological advances and increasing efficiencies brought in solar energy segments.

The present project presents an opportunity to utilize the potential for solar power generation. A “No Project Scenario” will not address the issue of power shortage. An alternative without the project is undesirable, as it would worsen the power supply-demand scenario, which would be a constraint on economic growth of the surrounding region.

### 5.2 Energy Security

In 2007 the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Ministry of Power (MoP) and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) issued a paper entitled ‘India: Addressing Energy Security and Climate Change’. In India the need for expanding the role of domestic Renewable Energy (RE) sources is a logical next step. Wind power is already in a position to provide a significant portion of India’s planned capacity addition up to 2030, with simple regulatory and grid modernization initiatives. Unlike oil, coal or LNG, wind & solar power is not subject to fluctuating fuel prices which drain India’s limited foreign reserves, and in addition, wind & solar power helps in reducing the carbon footprint of the economy. In the **Figure 5-1**, India’s projected power requirement until 2030 has been indicated.

This project is a step towards achieving energy security in India.



**Figure 5-1: India's Projected Power Requirement**



### 5.3 Alternate Methods of Power Generation

There are various non-renewable and renewable energy sources which can be utilized for power generation. Each option has its own advantages and disadvantages. Based on the site conditions, availability of resources, environmental & social concerns and project cost suitable option for power generation need to be selected. Comparison of advantages and disadvantages of various non-renewable and renewable energy is represented in table given below.

Source of Energy	Advantages	Disadvantages
Coal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relatively cheap form of energy availability in large scale worldwide</li> <li>Easily transported to power stations</li> <li>Reliable for energy with steady output</li> <li>Coal is available in India</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-renewable energy source</li> <li>Large water requirement</li> <li>High emission of air pollutants and generation of fly ash</li> <li>Source of greenhouse gases</li> <li>Mining of coal causes impacts on land and surrounding environment.</li> </ul>
Oil & Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oil and gas can be easily transported by pipes or ships.</li> <li>Natural gas is the “cleanest” of the fossil fuels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-renewable energy source</li> <li>Working environment risks to staff and environment</li> <li>Burning of oil and gas can cause pollution &amp; health impacts</li> <li>Releases GHG and hence causes global warming and climate change</li> <li>India imports majority of Oil and Gas requirement and hence high dependency of raw material outside the country</li> </ul>
Nuclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nuclear fuel does not create greenhouse gases when making energy.</li> <li>Only a very small amount of nuclear fuel is needed to make a lot of energy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expensive, especially in capital costs, maintenance costs</li> <li>The waste produced from nuclear energy is radioactive and Safe long-term disposal of nuclear waste can be difficult.</li> </ul>

Source of Energy	Advantages	Disadvantages
Solar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not produce significant atmospheric pollutants.</li> <li>Energy from the sun is exhaustive &amp; free.</li> <li>Solar energy does not create greenhouse gases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only specified places are right for solar power.</li> <li>Solar energy cannot be produced at night</li> </ul>
Wind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wind power does not create greenhouse gases.</li> <li>The energy used to build one of the large turbines is repaid in 3-6 months. They last for 25 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need a lot of turbines to make electricity.</li> <li>Location specific resource</li> <li>Wind turbines can only be used where it is windy. On days where there is little wind, less energy will be generated.</li> </ul>
Hydroelectric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydroelectricity creates no greenhouse gases.</li> <li>Energy from water is free and will not run out.</li> <li>Hydroelectric energy is more reliable than wind or solar power.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydroelectric power needs enough water to turn the turbines.</li> <li>Dams are expensive to build.</li> <li>Building large dams can cause damage to water courses which affects people and wildlife and it can be difficult to find the right site.</li> <li>Small dams for local buildings on weirs do not have these problems.</li> </ul>
Biomass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biomass fuel is cheap and could use rubbish that we might otherwise throw away.</li> <li>Biomass fuels will not run out.</li> <li>Biomass crops that are grown absorb the same amount of pollution whilst they are growing as they release when they are burned, so do not create extra greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing biomass crops needs a lot of space and could replace growing valuable food crops.</li> <li>Biomass fuels that are not grown (such as waste products) create greenhouse gases when burned.</li> </ul>

The conventional sources of power generation have high environmental cost when compared to non-conventional sources like solar, wind, hydro, etc. its construction periods are longer with higher environmental risks from emissions. On the contrary power source from solar energy is most eco-friendly mode available. It does not have any kind of emissions during operation. While wind power requires high wind zones to be set up and micro siting along with detailed meteorological analysis is required, site selection for solar power is relatively easier. Solar Power Energy is a clean power project with no emissions and feasible for the project area keeping in mind the good solar potential of Karnataka throughout the year.

### 5.4 Alternate Location for the Project

Solar energy projects are site specific and its feasibility depends on a number of factors which can be broadly categorized as solar resource assessment, land availability, cost of land and impact on community.



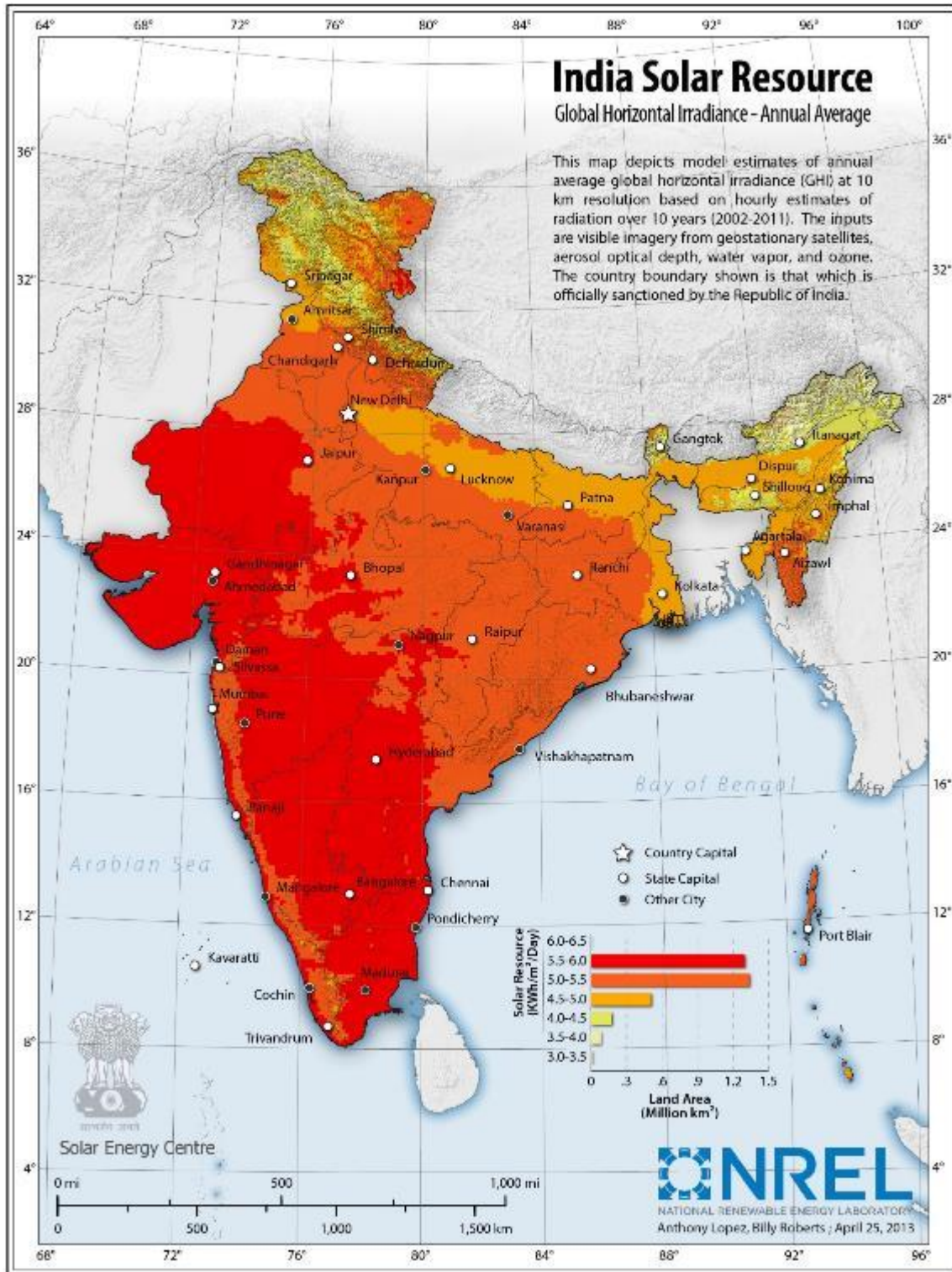
### 5.4.1 Identification of Sites for Solar Plant

Global horizontal irradiance map of India is shown in **Figure 5-2**. The western and southern region of India has good solar potential with solar resource within the range of 5.5-6.0 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>. The state of Karnataka falling in the southern region also have good solar resource potential and can be harnessed.

The key factors considered for the final selection of solar plant site included the following:

- **Land Availability:** Land has been procured directly on the basis of willing to sell and willing to buy. a Special Purpose vehicle (SPV) i.e. Clean Solar Power (Tumkur) Private Limited (CSPTPL) was incorporated under the companies act 1956/2013. for the development of solar Plant in Chittapur District in Karnataka expected to be followed existing pertinent guidelines for avoiding forest and other ecologically sensitive areas, natural drainage channels etc.
- **Solar radiation at the site:** Solar radiation map of India indicates that Karnataka receives a global horizontal irradiation (GHI) in the range of 5.5 to 6 kWh/ m<sup>2</sup>/ day.
- **Topography:** The project site is spread across an open area and surrounded by agricultural fields. The terrain is flat in nature with slight undulation. Hence, the installation will be easy and reduce the cost of technical modifications required to adjust for undulations at the ground.
- **Substation proximity:** Power from the solar photovoltaic plant of 20 MW capacity will be evacuated to a 110/33/11 KV grid substation (GSS). GSS at Nalwar which is already in operational stage.
- **Accessibility:** The site is easily accessible through NH -150 which connects Chittapur- Yadgir. Existing village roads are also utilized as access road to the site. Nearest Railway station is Shampurhalli which is located approximately 5 km away from the site. Hyderabad international Airport is about 180Km from Site.
- There are no shading elements such as mountains or dense trees available on the site.
- The site is devoid of any habitation.

Figure 5-2: Solar Resource Potential Map



Source: [http://www.nrel.gov/international/images/india\\_ghi\\_annual.jpg](http://www.nrel.gov/international/images/india_ghi_annual.jpg)

### 5.4.2 Alternate Routes for Transmission Lines

CSPTPL will be in charge of the Pooling Substations, Interconnection Substation and 110 KV line between them. Project Company will be in charge of lay the 33 kV cables from the project plot to the pooling Substation.

Reportedly, the route for the transmission line will be selected keeping in mind the following factors:

- Transmission line route will be planned to avoid any habitations along the route
- Areas requiring extensive clearing of vegetation will be avoided
- Selection of the transmission route avoids any environmental sensitive site like schools, health centres, etc.
- Right of way/access roads will be shared with the common user of the substation.

The shortest possible route after considering the above factors will be selected for the transmission lines. Consideration of all the above factors will reduce the environmental and social footprint of the transmission line.

## **5.5 Conclusion**

Various factors will be considered such as solar resource potential at the project site, favorable environmental and social settings, lowest GHG emissions in the project life cycle, availability of land and other resources. Considering these factors, it can be concluded that the site is the good location for development of solar power project. There are also other solar power projects that are located in the same solar park which are in operation, under construction or planning. This is due to availability and suitability of solar power potential, land and other allied infrastructure availability and various government supporting policies.

## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### 6.1 Approach & Methodology

There may be few potential environmental & social impacts due to the project activity during construction & operation phases. During the construction phase, the impacts may be regarded as temporary or short-term ranging from 6-12 months; while a few long-term impacts may also be visualized during the operation stage. Primary impacts are assessed for a radius of 5km around the project site and secondary impacts are assessed within the study area (10 km radius from project site). Further the impacts have been assessed over the study area of 10 km radius of the project site. The project has overall positive impacts by providing a competitive, cost-effective, pollution free reliable mode of solar power. It will certainly meet the ever-increasing demand of power that will bridge the gap between demand and supply of power.

The methodology adopted to assess the significance of impact associated with project activities during construction and operational has taken following criteria into consideration. Details of screening criteria are given in **Table 6-1**.

**Table 6-1: Screening Criteria for Environmental and Social Impact Assessment**

Impact	Distribution of impact	Duration of Impact	Intensity
Low/ Short	Influence of impact within the project site boundary and RoW of Transmission line (Site)	Limited for duration of less than 6 months (Short)	Limited local scale impact resulting in temporary disturbance/ loss of environment/ social components (low)
Moderate/ Medium	Spread of impact within 3 km from the of the project site boundary (Buffer)	Impact may extend up to 2 years (Medium)	Local scale impact resulting in short term change and/ or damage to the environment components. (Moderate)
High/ Long	Influence of impact beyond 3 km from the project site boundary (Widespread)	Impact extends beyond 2 years (Long)	Regional impact resulting in long term changes and/ or damage to the environment components. (High)

#### 6.1.1 Significance Evaluation Matrix

Significance evaluation matrix as shown in **Table 6-2** has been used to evaluate the significance of identified potential environmental impacts. This matrix includes criteria as discussed above to analyze the significance of impact. Color codes have been given to signify the impact intensity.

Significance of environmental impact has been analyzed and presented in further section of this chapter. The environmental impacts associated with the project activities have been identified and analyzed to evaluate their significance. Because of clean category projects, environmental impacts are very few with minor significance and can be controlled through mitigation measures.

**Table 6-2: Impact Significance Matrix**

Distribution	Duration	Intensity	Significance
Within Site	Short	Low	<b>LOW</b>
Within Site	Short	Moderate	
Within Site	Medium	Low	
Within Site	Medium	Moderate	
Within site	Long	Low	
Buffer area	Short	Low	
Widespread	Long	Low	

Distribution	Duration	Intensity	Significance
Within Site	Short	High	<b>MODERATE</b>
Within Site	Medium	High	
Within Site	Long	Moderate	
Within Site	Long	Low	
Buffer area	Short	Moderate	
Buffer area	Medium	Low	
Buffer area	Medium	Moderate	
Buffer area	Long	Low	
Buffer area	Long	Moderate	
Widespread	Short	Low	
Widespread	Short	Moderate	
Widespread	Medium	Low	
Widespread	Medium	Moderate	
Widespread	Long	Moderate	
Within Site	Long	High	
Buffer area	Short	High	
Buffer area	Long	High	
Widespread	Short	High	
Widespread	Medium	High	
Widespread	Long	Moderate	
Widespread	Short	Low	
Widespread	Short	High	
			<b>NO IMPACT</b>
			<b>POSITIVE IMPACT</b>

**Table 6-3: Impact Aspect Matrix for Construction and Operation Phase**

	PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT								BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT					SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT							
	Aesthetics and Visual Impacts	Air Quality	Noise Quality	Top soil removal / Soil Quality	Land Use	Local Drainage and Runoff	Surface water quality	Ground Water Resources	Ground water quality	Terrestrial habitat	Ecological Sensitive Areas	Aquatic Habitat and resources	Migratory Birds	Agriculture	Domesticated Animals	Loss of land and livelihood source	Common Property Issues/Conflict	Local Job and Economic	Cultural and Behavioural	Community Health and Safety	Occupational Health and Safety
<b>A. Construction Phase</b>																					
Land lease/purchase process																		P			
Sourcing and transportation of construction material etc.	L	M	L	L					L							L		L	L	M	
Storage and handling of raw material and debris	L	L		L	L			L											L	M	
Establishment of labour camp and labour working condition.	L	L	L	L	L		L	L							L	P	M			L	
Operation of DG sets		M	L	L																L	
Site Clearance	L	M	L	L	M	L			L						L		P		L	M	
Foundation excavation		M	L	L	L		L	L									P		L	M	
Transportation of solar plant		M	L				L										P	L	L	M	

	PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT									BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT					SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT						
	Aesthetics and Visual impacts	Air Quality	Noise Quality	Top soil removal / Soil Quality	Land Use	Local Drainage and Discharge	Surface water quality	Ground Water Resources	Ground water quality	Terrestrial habitat	Ecological Sensitive Areas	Aquatic Habitat and resources	Migratory Birds	Agriculture	Domesticated Animals	Loss of land and livelihood source	Common Property Uses/Conflict	Local Job and Economic	Cultural and Behavioural	Community Health and Safety	Occupational Health and Safety
components to site and storage																					
Transformer yard construction		M	L	L	M													P		L	M
Substation construction			L	L	M													P		L	M
Laying of transmission lines	L	L	L	L	L										L	L		P	L	L	M

**B. Operation Phase**

Vehicular movement carrying Officials on site during routine inspection, maintenance and operation of solar power plant		L	L																		
Periodic maintenance of all solar modules (washing modules)							L														L
Maintenance of ancillary facilities such as store, yard, site office		L																			
Inspection of transmission lines																					L



	PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT									BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT					SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT								
	Aesthetics and Visual impacts	Air Quality	Noise Quality	Top soil removal / Soil Quality	Land Use	Local Drainage and Discharge	Surface water quality	Ground Water Resources	Ground water quality	Terrestrial habitat	Ecological Sensitive Areas	Aquatic Habitat and resources	Migratory Birds	Agriculture	Domesticated Animals	Loss of land and livelihood source	Common Property Uses/Conflict	Local Job and Economic	Cultural and Behavioural	Community Health and Safety	Occupational Health and Safety		
Security of solar power plant in operation																						L	
Operation of solar power plant																						L	L

## 6.2 Impacts on Physical Environment

### 6.2.1 Air Quality

#### **Construction Phase:**

During construction phase, various project components such as site preparation, transmission cable laying, switchgear, approach roads, internal road network and porta cabin construction will require land clearing, levelling, excavation, grading activities, vehicle movement and DG set operation. More over 15-20 vehicles will be used during the construction period. This results in an increased level of dust and particulate matter emissions, which in turn will directly and temporarily impact ambient air quality. If improperly managed, there is a risk of health effects to construction workers onsite and to a lesser extent to nearby receptors from wind-blown dust (on the villages nearby to the project site) due to transportation of raw materials. However, most of these project activities are expected to be restricted within the project boundary. Further, the movement of vehicles carrying raw materials on unpaved area within the project site and on access road causes fugitive dust emission and may extend to surrounding of project site like nearest settlements. Hence, the distribution of impact can be considered medium, duration of impact is short and intensity of the impact as medium. Since the impact is widespread, but for short duration and of low intensity, the impact can be termed of a Moderate significance. But, the impact is reversible, and temporary in nature, if the following mitigation measures are adopted.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

- All the project vehicles should have valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate. Ensure regularly maintenance of project vehicles during construction and operational phase
- Vehicles speed to be restricted to 20-30 km/hr on unpaved road.
- Raw material should be covered with tarpaulin sheet during transportation and in storage area.
- Water sprinkling on transportation road/ haul road to minimize the dust generation.
- Emission from the DG set should be maintained, and standard should be monitored as per the MoEF &CC/ CPCB guidelines.
- Fine materials should be transported in covered vehicle.
- Turn off the machineries when not in use

#### **Operational Phase:**

During operational phase, there would be minimal vehicular movement about 2-4 nos. project vehicles for O&M purpose. Since major source of emission into the ambient air will be absent during the operational phase therefore impact can be termed as insignificant.

#### **Mitigation Measure:**

- Restrict movement of vehicles on unpaved surface within the site.
- All the project vehicles shall have valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate.
- Water sprinkling in and around project area to minimize the dust generation.

### 6.2.2 Soil Quality

These impacts are associated with the project activities such as piling of module mounting structure and storage of diesel or transformer oil.

### **Construction Phase:**

The project is under construction and semi operation phase. The impact anticipated here is loss of top soil due to excavation, site levelling for erection of module structures and construction of access roads. However, these activities and associated impacts are limited to be within the project boundary and during construction phase only. Considering the activities limited within the site, short duration of construction phase and low intensity, significance of impact is evaluated as low. Soil contamination may result due to accidental spillage and inappropriate storage of diesel during construction phase. Improper handling of broken solar modules may also lead to soil contamination. However, distribution of impact within the project boundary and short duration of construction phase with low intensity makes impact of low significance and can be controlled with the recommended mitigation measures:

### **Mitigation Measures:**

- Provide appropriate storage of top soil in a designated area and surface of the top soil should be covered to prevent its loss during high wind situation.
- Allow only covered transportation of top soil within the project site and surrounding area.
- Top soil may be used for plantation purpose during operational phase and it can be given to nearby agricultural field after taking consent with the landowners/farmers.
- Store hazardous material like diesel or transformer oil in isolated room and on impervious surface to prevent seepage into project site soil.
- Filling and transfer of oil to and from the container shall be on impervious surface.
- Broken solar panels should be stored on paved surface and be handed back to manufacturers / authorised recycler.

### **Operational Phase:**

During operational phase, project activities such as excavation and usage of chemicals such as diesel will be absent except chances of accidental release of used oil from transformer, therefore impact associated with these activities such as top soil loss and soil contamination are minimal. Impact can be considered as insignificant. Improper handling of broken / damaged solar modules may also lead to soil contamination.

### **Mitigation Measure:**

- Broken solar panels should be stored in paved surface and be handed back to manufacturers / authorised recycler.
- Plantation in and around project area should be developed which helps to binding the top soil and subsequently reduce the soil loss.

## **6.2.3 Noise Quality**

The environmental impacts on ambient noise level is envisaged due to several project activities especially during the construction phase. Impacts on ambient noise environment during operational phase is minimal or negligible.

### **Construction Phase**

The major noise generating sources in the project are operation of vehicular traffic, and construction equipment like dozer, scrapers, concrete mixers, generators, pumps, compressors, rock drills, pneumatic tools, and vibrators. The project site is surrounded by agricultural fields with no continuous noise generating sources in the vicinity of the project site. Assuming, the operation of these equipment's is expected to generate noise in a range of 75 – 90 dB (A).

**Mitigation measures**

- Silent DG set will be used at the project site.
- Restrict major noise generating activities during night time 10:00 pm to 6:00 am
- Provide personal protective equipment (e.g. Ear Muffs) to all workers wherever noise is generated due to machinery operation.
- Regular maintenance of project vehicles

**Operational Phase:**

Any significant noise generating activity during operation of solar power plant is absent therefore impact in terms of increment in ambient noise level is not anticipated during the operational phase of the project.

**6.2.4 Alteration of Natural Drainage Pattern**

It is observed from the topographic map of the project site, one natural nallah is present inside the project premises which runs in east to west direction. This nallah generally carries the surface run off during the time of rain fall and water flows in to the Bhima river which is located around ... km from the project site. Therefore, excavation, levelling or filling activities, particularly in the construction phase, is expected to impact the natural drainage system inside the project premises.

**Construction Phase:**

During construction phase, excavation and site levelling activities, will be carried out which in turn may result in change of contour level and natural drainage system. Therefore, change in contour level may affect the flow of surface runoff from project site. After the levelling and paving, increment in surface runoff is expected which should be diverted to the natural drainage/canal exists in nearby area.

Considering the extent of impact inside and outside of project boundary following mitigation measures are suggested to implement:

Mitigation Measures:

- Site levelling should be done with minimum alteration in contour level
- Design storm water drainage management system to discharge the surface runoff in the nearby natural drainage
- Natural drainage pattern of the site should be followed as much as possible. It would be beneficial not to disturb the existing drainage pattern.
- The exit of runoff from the project site in the adjacent surrounding land area should be restricted.

**Operational Phase**

In operational phase, project activities causing the alteration of natural drainage pattern will not exist, therefore associated impact is not anticipated.

**6.2.5 Water Resources**

Water is required for various project activities, fulfilment of this water requirement through ground water may have impact on water availability. But, as reported, water will be provided by private vendor through water tank during the construction phase. During operational Phase, water demand will be met through construction of Bore well.

Phase	Activity	Max. Consumption
-------	----------	------------------

Construction	Water is required for Civil work and domestic use of Construction workers	15 KLD
Operation	Water is required for Washing of solar panels and domestic use of worker	7 KLD

### **Construction Phase**

In the construction phase, water requirement for construction activities and domestic use of Construction workers is estimated about 15 KLD. Further, construction activities will be limited only to 4-6 months' duration therefore a long-term water requirement is not expected. Considering the limited distribution of impact (within the site), short duration of activities and low intensity, significance of impact is assessed as **Low**.

### **Operational Phase**

In operational phase, the water requirement would approximately be 7 KLD for 20 MW project including cleaning of PV cells, domestic/ municipal consumption of water for site personnel and security guards. Considering the distribution of impact in within the site, long duration with moderate intensity, significance of impact is assessed as **low**.

### **Mitigation Measures:**

- Ensure optimal usage of water viz., storage and reuse of wash water after module washing and plantation of low water requirement species.
- Construction of rain water harvesting pit to recharge the ground water table. Due to favourable site topography, the storm runoff may be harvested and recharged to groundwater within the project area of land allotted to the company. Water use and harvesting/recharging in the project will be a key performance indicator that will be monitored through the project O&M phase.

## **6.2.6 Solid Waste Disposal**

### **Construction Phase:**

Solid waste during the construction phase consists primarily of construction debris, excess concrete and cement, excavated material, rejected components and materials, packing materials (pallets, crates, plastics etc.) and human waste. The broken solar panels will be properly packed and stored inside the project site in a pre-designated area. However, taking in consideration the impact within site, short duration and moderate intensity, the impact is considered as **low**.

### **Mitigation Measures**

- The excavated material generated will be reused for site filling and levelling to the maximum extent possible.
- Broken solar plant should be handled properly. It would be beneficial if broken solar panels are segregated and stored in a designated area for further processing. Ensure contractual obligation that necessitates broken solar panels will be accepted by manufacturer.
- Use of proper segregation system so that food waste and recyclable waste viz. paper, plastic, glass, scrap metal waste etc. are segregated and stored in designated waste bins/ containers during the construction phase. The recyclables should be periodically sold to local recyclers while food waste will be disposed through waste handling agency.
- Waste oil from transformer will be collected and stored in paved and enclosed area and subsequently sold to SPCB authorised recyclers.

### ***Operation phase:***

There will not be any substantial generation of solid waste, other than insignificant domestic waste, and broken solar panels. The broken solar panels will be stored separately in a designated area. Considering the limited distribution of impact (within the site), long duration of activities and low intensity, significance of impact is assessed as **low**.

### ***Mitigation measures***

- Use of proper segregation system so that food waste and recyclables viz. paper, plastic, glass, scrap metal waste etc. are segregated and stored in designated waste bins/ containers. The recyclables should be periodically sold to local recyclers while food waste will be disposed through govt. approved waste handling agency.
- Ensure broken solar panels are properly packed and stored inside the project site.

## **6.2.7 Impact on Land and Landuse**

### ***Construction Phase***

During construction phase, impact on land use is anticipated due to various activities such as site levelling, filling and development of solar power plant. Land use classification will change into industrial land use after the development of solar power plant. Impact on natural drainage system may be anticipated. Further, impact will be of long term and permanent in nature, but impact will not be of adverse nature.

### ***Mitigation measures***

- changes in contour level should be avoided to the extent possible
- Maintain natural drainage system

### ***Operation Phase***

No impact on land use is envisaged during the operation phase.

## **6.2.8 Impact on Local Ecology**

### ***Impacts on Ecology during Construction Phase***

#### ***Destruction and Loss of Vegetation***

Project construction involves land clearance, leveling, etc. causing the loss of vegetation. The clearance of vegetation will be restricted to the project site. Clearing of vegetation is also required for the development of access route and transmission lines. The study area falls under dry zone and natural vegetation in the study area is under pressure from very low rainfall and high temperature. The study area is surrounded by agricultural fields and there is no forest land observed in the 5 km radius of the study area. As a result, vegetation is generally observed along the road sides. Vegetation is also observed along the bund of the agricultural fields. The level of impact generated from removal of this understory specially scrub and grasses (ground cover) can be termed as negligible as the species are very common and have least conservation value.

Disturbance to fauna

IFC Performance Standard 6 recognizes that protecting and conserving biodiversity - the variety of life in all its forms, including genetic, species and ecosystem diversity - and its ability to change and evolve. This Performance Standard reflects the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity to conserve

biological diversity and promote use of renewable natural resources in a sustainable manner. Performance Standard 6 is designed to protect and conserve biodiversity.

Construction and associated activity like movement of vehicle will be temporary in nature. No wild fauna, besides some domesticated animals, has been sighted during the Site visit. Temporarily, they may abandon the site during the construction period due to project activity and migrate to nearby areas. Thus, the impact on fauna of the area is minor.

More over project area is not a designated or qualifying site of national and international importance for biodiversity the impact on disturbance to fauna of the area is of minor significance.

#### Significance of impacts

Due to influx of labor and project personal during the construction phase, there is a probability of “man animal conflict”. But the impact would be temporary and expected to be limited to the construction phase only.

The impact on fauna and flora will have very low intensity with a local spread for a short duration which will result in an overall low impact without mitigation. However, with proper implementation of suggested mitigation the impact can be reduced to insignificant.

#### Mitigation Measures

The following measures should be considered in the project design to mitigate the impact during construction phase due to the project:

- All project activities shall be undertaken with appropriate noise mitigation measures to avoid disturbance to local faunal population in the region.
- Activities generating high noise shall be restricted to day time and will be mitigated to minimize the noise level outside the site boundary.
- Movement of construction and transport vehicles shall be restricted to dedicated paths to minimize any harm to small animals within the site.
- Transportation of construction material shall be restricted to day time hours in order to minimize noise and disturbance to fauna in the area.
- General awareness regarding wildlife shall be enhanced through trainings, posters, etc. among the staff and labourers.
- Strict prohibition shall be implemented on trapping, hunting or injuring wildlife within subcontractors and shall bring a penalty clause under contractual agreements.
- Camp and kitchen waste shall be collected in a manner that it does not attract wild animals.
- Temporary barriers shall be installed on excavated areas and around the project site to restrict the movement of wild animals inside the project area especially at night.

#### **Operation Phase**

Impacts during operation phase are likely to be restricted to the maintenance activities within the project site like ground cover clearing under PV arrays and from internal road network within site. Apart from a relatively small direct loss of habitat, the shading of the soil by the solar panels is likely to impact ground vegetation.

However, there is potential for avian distraction due to glare/reflection from solar panels. PV solar energy facilities appear to be an “evolutionary trap” for birds who perceive them to be bodies of water on which they attempt to land. Insects, the prey of insectivorous birds, are also apparently attracted by this so-called “Lake Effect.” It might cause fatality or injury as birds contact the hard-solar panels or surrounding ground as they attempt to land mistaking it for water (Upton, 2014). But the “lake effect”



phenomena and its impact on avian fauna is very poorly understood, and detailed study is required to establish threat from such phenomenon.

#### Significance of Impacts

Considering the impact to have a distribution within site and low intensity, the impact significance is considered as low.

#### Mitigation Measures

- Vegetation clearing through bush cutting for maintenance activities shall be done manually wherever possible.
- Any area which some vegetation cover does not have to protect the soil, shall be re-vegetated with locally occurring species/grasses and monitored to ensure recovery is taking place.
- General awareness regarding wildlife shall be enhanced through trainings, posters, etc. among the staff and labourers.
- Moreover, to minimize effect of “Lake effect”, visual frightening techniques like “Scare crow” may be considered to frighten any bird trying to land on panels and prevent birds from landing.

### 6.3 Socioeconomic Impact

Socio-economic impact assessment is designed to assist communities in making decisions that promote long-term sustainability, including economic prosperity, a healthy community, and social wellbeing. To assess and understand the social impacts associated with the project, social indicators have been identified and analyzed.

#### 6.3.1 Loss of Land/ Livelihood Conflict

##### ***Construction Phase***

As observed the project area is surrounded by agricultural fields. Agriculture in the area is majorly dependent on rain and large portion of the land remains dry most part of the year. Overall irrigation scenario is not in the optimal state in the area. There was no habitation or cultivation field present in the project site. All lands were procured from private land owners on willing-seller-buyer basis through good faith negotiation. The rates received by the land owner are higher than the prevalent market and circle rates.

Hence, taking the distribution of impact as within site for short duration and medium intensity, the impact significance can be termed as **‘Moderate’**.

##### ***Mitigation Measures:***

- Providing preference for livelihood opportunities to the families who lose their land due to the project activity.
- Stakeholder engagement plan and community development plan should be implemented for project if possible.
- It should be ensured that maximum employment is given to the locals w.r.t their capacity and skills.
- Grievance Redressal Mechanism is being followed onsite. Complaints from the locals is being registered, investigated and resolved.

**Operation Phase:**

- There would be no impact on land during operation phase. There would be requirements of security guards for plant site, hence local employment opportunity would be generated, and this would be a positive impact of the project as it would enhance the economic opportunities to the locals.

**Mitigation Measures:**

- Based on need assessment, CSR initiatives should be implemented in the project affected villages.
- Community development plan should be implemented.
- It should be ensured that employment is given to the locals w.r.t their capacity and skills, wherever possible.
- Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) should be followed onsite. Complaints from the locals should be timely registered, investigated and resolved.

### **6.3.2 Engagement of Local and Migrant Labour**

**Construction Phase:**

The social impact associated with the engagement of local and migrant labor in the project is conflict between labor and contractor or developer which in turn may result in suspension of project and reputational risk on project developer. Considering the project in construction phase indicators have been discussed to provide sense of what should not be done with respect to labor engagement. The issues discussed here in the form of indicators IFC PS 2 and Indian Labor Act. The distribution of impact is buffer area, duration is short, and intensity is moderate, the impact significance can be termed as "**Moderate**"

Considering the sensitiveness associated with the engagement of child, forced labor, HFEPL should laid down policies through which it should demonstrate compliance to all the above factors. Its contractors should be made aware of all its policies for labor requirements and incorporated in their contracts prior to the starting of the project.

**Mitigation Measures:**

- Employment will be provided to local people wherever possible, especially as unskilled construction workers and security guards
- The project proponent should include clause or provisions related with non-engagement of forced and child labour, gender equity, non-discrimination on employment and opportunity and freedom to express their view in contractor's agreement and HR policy
- Project proponent through its contractors should ensure that labour is being adequately paid by the contractors. Also ensure that wages are being paid as per the requirement of minimum wages act
- Project proponent will conduct internal audits as when required to monitor the performance of contractor.

- Project proponent through the contractor will inform the labour about emergency preparedness plan and communication system to be followed during emergency.
- Project proponent through contractor should ensure that labour receive training on health and safety issues involved in the project.

### ***Operation Phase***

Locals can be hired as security guards for the project site. This will enhance the local employment and would be a **Positive Impact**.

## **6.3.3 Labour Camp (Onsite)**

### ***Construction Phase:***

There may have some chances that conflict between the migrated labors and the local community arise. Considering the possibilities of such conflicts and the existing situation the distribution of impact is buffer area, duration is short, and intensity is moderate, the impact significance can be termed as “**Moderate**”

### ***Mitigation Measures:***

The project proponent will setup onsite labor camp for migrated labors employed through contractors to restrict the interaction between them with local community as to avoid any conflict.

## **6.3.4 Social Issues Regarding ROW**

### ***Construction Phase:***

It was observed during site visit that, the land for 20 MW solar power project is located in isolation and distant from any human habitation and/ or cultivation field. Hence, there is no chance regarding issues arise on Right of Way for transmission line etc. and thereby obstruction of places of importance at entre of the project site. Considering the existing present condition and the records, information that has been received during site visit from the Project Proponent the impact significance can be termed as “**Low**”.

### ***Mitigation Measures:***

- The layout for access roads and transmission lines should consider minimum land requirement and should minimise use of agricultural land and avoid human habitation;
- Site Management should ensure that all agreements will be executed properly and documented
- Any waste generated during the construction phase should not be accumulated near the religious structure as this might affect the sentiment of the locals

## **6.3.5 Community Engagement**

### ***Construction Phase:***

There are chances that the local community's interest may impact with any sort of undue activities. Considering the future possibilities of such impacts the impact significance can be termed as “**Moderate**”.

### ***Mitigation Measure:***

- The Projects construction phase efforts will be made to engage with the community through the Panchayati Raj Institution representatives and key identified leaders of the community at site area in Tharkas Peth village, Chittapur Taluk in Kalburgi district.

### 6.3.6 Occupational Health & Safety Impact

#### **Construction Phase:**

Occupational Health & Safety Hazards for workers

Occupational Health and safety hazard associated with project activities (during construction) in Solar Power Plants are identified as follows:

- **Electrocution and Firing due to short-circuit:** It should be ensured that proper training be given to workers before they initiation of any project activity as well as the workers wear their appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) viz. helmets, safety jackets, safety shoes, goggles, gloves etc. as per their nature of work involved.
- Possible injuries associated with working with transmission line laying
- Accidents during cutting, chipping and piling
- **Physical injuries:** These can occur when workers involved in loading/unloading activities don't adhere to proper ergonomics discipline. Injuries like muscle strain, ligament tear, slip disc can occur which may prove to be fatal.
- **Diseases due to unhygienic condition:** It should be ensured that proper and adequate number of toilets should be constructed for the labourers so that hygienic conditions prevail in the site area.
- **Violation of privacy and dignity of women involved:** There can be a violation of the privacy and dignity of the women involved in the work force as there is no enclosed or exclusive provision for women. Hero Future Energy, following their own Environment, Health and Safety ("EHS") Management Policy and abide by the IFC Standards, will ensure that the dignity and privacy of women is maintained through separate and protected provision for sanitation facilities during operation phase of these project as well as in other future projects.

Also, there can be dissatisfaction among the laborer's due to many conflicts/issues unresolved, hence there should be a complaint register onsite. HFE or their contractor have ensured to have regular medical check-up of their hired laborer's. HFE has a tie up Health care- Maternity and General Hospital, for any health care related concerned and emergencies. Hence, taking the distribution of impact as within site, duration as short and intensity as moderate, the impact significance can be taken as "Moderate".

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

- All material will be arranged in a systematic manner with proper labelling and without protrusion or extension onto the access corridor.
- Loading and unloading operation of equipment should be done under the supervision of a trained professional.
- Proper PPEs should be provided to workers handling welding, electricity and related components. Workers handling electricity and related components shall be provided with shock resistant gloves, shoes and other protective gears.
- There should periodical training to educate the workers for proper use of PPE's.
- There should be proper monitoring system to ensure that each individual labourer is using the PPEs properly.
- Fire extinguishing equipment should be provided in adequate number on site to handle any possible fire outbreaks
- An accident reporting, and monitoring record should be maintained

- Display of phone numbers of the city/local fire services, etc. at site should be done
- There should be arrangement for hygienic and scientific sanitation facilities for all the labourers working in the site.
- There need to have enclosed and exclusive provision for women to protect the privacy and dignity of the women involved in the work force.
- Provision of the Contract Labour Rules, 1971 require the operator of a construction site to provide adequate sanitation facilities to worker within the site premises (Latrine: One per 25 male/female; Urinal One per Male/female).
- Hero Future Energies (HFE) should ensure that labour receive training on health and safety issues involved in the project.
- Hero Future Energies (HFE) should inform the labour about Emergency Preparedness Plan (EMP) and communication system to be followed during emergency.
- Hero Future Energies (HFE) should involve their Welfare Coordinator.

### ***Operation Phase: Occupational Health & Safety Hazards for Workers***

Occupational Health and safety hazard associated with project activities (during operation) in Solar Power Plants are identified as follows:

- Electrocutation/ Electrical Shocks: These may occur when the skin meets live power lines etc. The severity of the burn depends on voltage, current, time of contact etc.
- Firing due to short-circuit
- Diseases due to unhygienic condition
- The impact significance can be taken as Moderate.

### ***Mitigation***

- Provide and ensure wearing of personal protective equipment's viz., gloves, helmets, ear plug, safety belt etc.
- Ensure effective work permit system for critical activities such as electrical work and working at height
- Prepare emergency communication system and emergency preparedness plan
- Ensure proper sanitation facilities.

## **6.3.7 Labour Accommodation (Onsite and offsite)**

### ***Construction Phase***

As per International Labor Organization (ILO) "Housing provided to workers as part of the employment contract should meet certain minimum specifications in respect of the nature and standard of the accommodation and facilities to be made available. The guidelines and recommendation facilities like drinking water, separate kitchen, fans, beds, toilets and power supply has been provided to the workers/ labors in the labor camp set up in the project site." <sup>4</sup>

Considering the future construction on anvil Hero Future Energies (HFE) should distinctly and exclusively consider and apply as far as possible the recommendations of ILO and other relevant Apex Bodies the following factors should be followed in the Solar Power Project site located at the designated project area.

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<sup>4</sup> Source: *Labour Accommodation Standards, ILO*

- Housing space: Adequate housing space for labours will be provided. As per International Labour Organisation (ILO) standards, the floor area of workers' sleeping rooms should not be less than 7.5 square metres in rooms accommodating two persons, if a room accommodates more than four persons, the floor area should be at least 3.6 square metres per person.
- Adequate supply of safe potable water;
- Sanitation facilities for contract labourers: Proper functional toilets will be provided in the labour camp. The disposal of waste water is managed by the septic tanks and soak pits constructed in the camp.
- Proper and adequate drainage system to drain out the waste water to avoid any kind of contamination or spread of disease thereby;
- Adequate arrangements for comfortable and secure living within the sleeping room
- Arrangements for secured locker etc. for safe keeping of the labours' individual and personal belongings. which can be locked by the occupant to ensure privacy;
- Common Hygienic dining rooms, canteens or mess rooms, located away from the sleeping areas;
- There must have arrangements for safeguard of health issues and immediate arrangements for addressing accidental incidents.

**Mitigation Measures:**

- Hero Future Energies (HFE) will formulate their own Environmental Social Management System (ESMS). Following that an Emergency Preparedness Plan to deal with health and safety issues during project life cycle of a Solar Power Plant will be built.
- Hero Future Energies (HFE) will ensure that they will abide by the policy of safe guarding all issues regarding the health and safety of the workers who will be working under the Projects.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Plan for On-Site Emergencies:** the plan will define nature of emergencies that can be encountered during operation of a solar plant. Requirements of an Emergency Control Centre (ECC), firefighting facilities and medical facilities will also be detailed out. Roles and Responsibilities of personnel at site, communication channel to be followed, and procedures for different emergencies will also be detailed. Hero Future Energies (HFE) should ensure that all its hired contractors should abide by the requirements of plan formulated like undertaking mock drills, identification of first aiders and fire fighters, display of emergency numbers onsite etc.

### **6.3.8 Impact on Cultural/ Archaeological Site**

The site does not contain any archaeological monuments or sites as per the Archaeological Survey of India. No historical and cultural monuments will be affected by the 20 MW Solar Project.

No such evidential proof was found even during field visit in the site area village of Tharkas peth of Kalburgi district. Though, to ensure whether alike remnants of old civilization are present and/ or in case of accidental discovery of artefacts during construction activities, chance find procedure is required to be planned and implemented.

**No impact** is envisaged both during construction and operation phase.

### **6.3.9 Access to Common Property Resources**

Another issue which may cause social impact on indigenous people in terms of conflict between project developer and local community is restriction on community to access the common property resources,

any physical structure with historical, religious and aesthetic significance was also not found close to the project area villages. Considering the absence of resources with cultural significance, disturbance to physical cultural resources and impact associated with it, is not anticipated for both the construction and operation phase.

As informed by the Hero Future Energies (HFE) representative, the access roads will be strengthened and further maintained till the project cycle within the villages.

**No impact is** envisaged both during construction and operation phase.

### **6.3.10 Corporate Social Responsibility**

#### ***Construction Phase***

To empower the local community through different development and support programmes the project proponent should take some initiatives for Community Development Plan under their CSR Policy in the project affected village- Tharkas Peth in of Kalburgi District.

The project proponent will develop their own CSR Policy in alignment with its CSR vision, principles and values, for delineating its responsibility as a socially and environmentally responsible corporate citizen. The Policy will lay down the areas of intervention, principles and mechanisms for undertaking various programs in accordance with Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013. As per CSR Policy, HFE is committed to inclusive growth and local stakeholder involvement as a fundamental value and strives to enhance:

- Social wellbeing
- Economic wellbeing
- Environmental wellbeing
- Local community initiatives

The CSR Activities may include:

- Creating provisions for Employment opportunities to the people who are skilled and semi-skilled in project area villages;
- Supporting the Anganwadi Centres by facilitating them with provisions of exclusive Drinking Water and Toilet facilities for them in project area villages;
- Facilitating the Anganwadi Centres/ Local Schools by providing them with amenities like Chairs, Benches etc.;
- Facilitating in development and creation of Health Infrastructure in the Project Area villages, where it is found to be inadequate;
- Promotion of education, including special education and employment enhancing vocation skills especially among children, women, elderly and the differently abled and livelihood enhancement projects;
- Promoting gender equality, empowering women, setting up homes and hostels for women and orphans, setting up old age homes, day care centres and such other facilities for senior citizens and measures for reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically backward groups etc.

#### ***Operation Phase***

The CSR activity must continue during Operation Phase to comply with the need and requirement of the areas development and to avoid any conflict during that phase.



### 6.3.11 Cumulative Impacts

Hero Future Energies (HFE) have purchased 110 acres of land. As land acquisition is involved in the solar power project, there are possibilities of impacts on the private land owners. All the settlements are located at a distance from the solar plant, hence no issues regarding the same is noticed there. Also, no obstruction to common property resources are anticipated. One of the cumulative effects is solar reflections known as Glint and Glare. But the new technology of solar panels is glare free with translucent panels. Solar panels are designed to absorb sunlight and produce electricity. With a continuous increase in both numbers and sizes of such PV developments cumulative concerns are likely to increase in near future.

For total 20 MW, solar power project 15 KLD water will be required for construction phase as well as water will be used for cleaning of PV cells and other regular activity. During operational phase total requirement of water would be around 7 KLD. Ground water Will be used during the Operational Phase, water will be provided during construction phase by local vendor. During operational phase, impact will be restricted mostly within the site, long duration with moderate intensity, significance of impact is assessed as **low**.

20 MW Chittapur Solar projects are going to occupy approximately 110 acres land. Project site is surrounded by agricultural fields. No forest land will be required for the project. Site development activity is expected to produce some temporary pressure on the local biodiversity, mostly due to cleaning of ground vegetation, development of access road. There is also some scope of “man animal” conflict, but with proper prevention and sensitization process this risk can be reduced significantly.

Glare impacts are minimized by the inherent design qualities of the PV panels, which reduces reflectivity and the potential for visual discomfort or impairment. Additional PV panels in the area would not result in a greater intensity of glare due to the panel design and the law of reflectivity, which would not direct any reflected light along the ground surface. The project represents conversion from a natural environment of agricultural fields to build environment with an industrial character, masked with tan colored fencing. At the end of the proposed project’s useful life of approximately 25 years, it would be decommissioned and dismantled. Cumulative impacts associated with decommissioning of the proposed project would include the removal of all project components, including Line structures and wiring, as well as all towers, wiring, PV panels, and inverter structures. After removal of project components, the project sites would return to agricultural uses, in accordance with the Agricultural Reclamation Plan. Therefore, decommissioning would temporarily impact the proposed project’s contribution to local and regional cumulative impacts on visual resources. Temporary direct and indirect cumulative visual impacts would occur until re-growth of vegetation in the area is established. However, as discussed above, the project sites are void of highly scenic views or aesthetically unique or distinctive landscape and impacts to aesthetics would remain be less than significant. When considered in combination with the impacts of other projects in the cumulative scenario, the Project’s incremental contribution to aesthetics would not be cumulatively considerable.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Environment and Social Management Plan specifies measures for addressing the limited negative risks and impacts and for enhancing the beneficial impacts. In addition, organizational capacity and training requirements, required to check and ensure effectiveness of the plan throughout the lifecycle of the project, have also been discussed.

HFE is committed to implement an effective Environmental and Social Management System (hereinafter referred as ESMS) to continuously manage and communicate the potential social and environmental impacts and risks imposed on the project employees (direct and indirect) and the local communities residing in the immediate vicinity of the project area. The outcomes of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of the project have been used to formulate an Environment and Social Management & Monitoring Plan for the project, presented in Appendix J. The Plan specifies measures for addressing the limited negative risks and impacts and for enhancing the beneficial impacts. In addition, organizational capacity and training requirements, required to check and ensure effectiveness of the plan throughout the lifecycle of the project, have also been discussed.

### 7.1 Training of Personnel & Contractors

Hero Future Energies (HFE) should ensure that the job specific training and EHS Induction training needs should be identified based on the specific requirements of ESMS and existing capacity of site and project personnel (including the contractors and sub-contractors). Special emphasis shall be placed on traffic management, stakeholder's engagement and grievance redressal. General environmental awareness shall be increased among the project's team to encourage the implementation of environmentally sound practices and compliance requirements of the project activities. This will help in minimizing adverse environmental impacts, ensuring compliance with the applicable regulations and standards, and achieving performance beyond compliance. The same level of awareness and commitment shall be imparted to the contractors and sub- contractors prior to the commencement of the project.

An environment and social management training programme shall be conducted to ensure effective implementation of the management and control measures during construction and operation of the project. The training programme shall ensure that all concerned members of the team understand the following aspects:

- Purpose of action plan for the project activities;
- Requirements of the specific Action Plans
- Understanding of the sensitive environmental and social features within and surrounding the project areas;
- Aware of the potential risks from the project activities.
- A basic occupational training program and speciality courses shall be provided, as needed, to ensure that workers are oriented to the specific hazards of individual work assignments.
- Training shall be provided to management, supervisors, workers, and occasional visitors to areas of risks and hazards.
- Workers with rescue and first-aid duties must receive dedicated training so as not to inadvertently aggravate exposures and health hazards to themselves or their co-workers.
- Through appropriate contract specifications and monitoring, the employer shall ensure that service providers, as well as contracted and subcontracted labour, are trained adequately before assignments begin.

## 7.2 Monitoring

In order to implement the ESMP, the on-site team should adhere to a time-bound and action-oriented Environmental and Social Action Plan to implement the mitigation measures provided for each of the identified environmental and social impacts. This ESMP should be monitored on a regular basis, quarterly or half-yearly and all outcomes would need to be audited in accordance with existing EHS commitments.

The monitoring process should cover all stakeholders including contractors, labors, suppliers and the local community impacted by the project activities and associated facilities thereby increasing the effectiveness of suggested mitigations measures. CSPTPL should ensure that all the contractors comply with the requirements of conditions for all applicable permits, suggested action plans and scheduled monitoring. The inspections and audits should be carried out by an internal trained team and external agencies/experts. The entire process of inspections and audits shall be documented and key findings of which should be implemented by the proponent and contractors in their respective areas.

## 7.3 Documentation & Record Keeping

Documentation and record keeping system have been established to ensure updating and recording of requirements specified in ESMP. Responsibilities are assigned to relevant personnel for ensuring that the ESMP documentation system is maintained and that document control is ensured. The following records should be maintained at site:

- Documented Environment Management System;
- Register;
- Operation control procedures;
- Work instructions;
- Incident reports;
- Emergency preparedness and response procedures;
- Training records;
- Monitoring reports;
- Auditing reports; and
- Complaints register, and issues attended/ closed

**Table 7-1: Environment Management Plan**

SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
<b>CONSTRUCTION PHASE</b>							
<b>A</b>	<b>Physical Environmental Management Plan</b>						
1	LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL	Visual and landscape impacts due to presence of elements typical of a construction site such as equipment and machinery.	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the construction site is left in an orderly state at the end of each work day</li> <li>Construction machinery, equipment, and vehicles not in use should be removed in a timely manner to the extent possible</li> <li>Proper handling of waste streams.</li> </ul>	<b>NO IMPACT</b>		Contractor under the supervision of HFE's Personnel
2	GROUND WATER ABSTRACTION	Construction activities will be limited only to 4-6 months' duration Therefore a long-term water requirement is not expected. The water will be supplied to the project site by water tanker vendor during the construction. Considering the limited distribution of impact (within the site), short duration of activities and low intensity, significance of impact is assessed as Low.	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During construction phase, water is being supplied by local vendor.</li> <li>Construction of rain water harvesting pit to recharge the ground water is envisaged.</li> <li>If possible, collect the water after module wash and reuse it for module washing</li> </ul>	<b>LOW</b>	Maximum efforts should be made to reuse and recycle of waste/ used water to reduce water demand of the proposed project.	Project Developer/ Contractor under the supervision of CSPTPL Personnel
3	GROUND WATER QUALITY	Waste water from toilets constructed for site office	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storage of oil shall be undertaken on paved impervious surface and secondary</li> </ul>	<b>LOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Machinery and vehicles shall be thoroughly checked</li> </ul>	

SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
		can contaminate groundwater.		containment shall be provided for fuel storage tanks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate drainage facility for easy escape of surface run-off from the project site.</li> <li>• Leak-proof holding tanks for sanitary waste water should be constructed to protect the seepage of waste water.</li> <li>• Waste water holding tanks / septic tank should be located at more than 500 m away from bore wells or any other underground water holding tanks.</li> <li>• It should be ensured that the waste water does not find its way into surface waters or water wells.</li> </ul>		for the presence of leaks if any; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storage of oil on site to be checked</li> <li>• Storage of sanitary waste water should be removed / cleaned periodically to avoid any leakage.</li> </ul>	
4	<b>AIR QUALITY</b>	Generation of fugitive Dust due to movement of vehicles inside the project area during construction period and Emission from Diesel Generators	<b>MODERATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicles speed to be restricted to 20-30 km/hr on unpaved road. This will reduce dust emission.</li> <li>• Raw material should be covered with tarpaulin sheet during transportation and in storage area.</li> <li>• Water sprinkling on the unpaved road/ haul road to minimize the dust generation wherever required.</li> <li>• All the project vehicles shall have valid PUC certificate.</li> <li>• Ensure regular maintenance of project vehicles during</li> </ul>	<b>LOW</b>		Project Developer/ Contractor under the supervision of CSPTPL Personnel

SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
				construction and operational phase. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emission standard of the DG sets operated in the project area should be maintained as per MoEF&amp;CC/ SPCB guidelines.</li> <li>DG sets preferably placed away from settlement area.</li> <li>It will be ensured that exhaust emissions of construction equipment adhere to emission norms as set out by MoEF&amp;CC/ CPCB/SPCB.</li> </ul>			
5	SOIL QUALITY	Top Soil Loss	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide appropriate storage of top soil in an already designated area and should be covered properly to prevent its loss in high wind and runoff. It is essential for top soil conservation</li> <li>Allow only covered transportation of top soil within project site.</li> <li>Use top soil at the time of plantation on the approach road.</li> <li>Construction debris shall be reused in paving on site approach road to prevent dust generation due to vehicular movement</li> </ul>	NO IMPACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The workforce shall be sensitized to handling and storage of hazardous substances viz. fuel oil, machine oil/fluid etc.</li> <li>The workers engaged in handling hazardous substances shall be briefed about the possible hazards and the need to prevent contamination.</li> </ul>	Project Developer/ Contractor under the supervision of CSPTPL Personnel
		Soil Contamination		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In case of any accidental oil spill, the soil will be cut and</li> </ul>			

SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
				<p>stored separately for disposal as hazardous waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Store hazardous material (like Transformer oil) in isolated room with impervious surface.</li> <li>• Filling and transfer of oil to and from the container shall be on impervious surface.</li> </ul>			
6	<b>NOISE LEVEL</b>	<p>Impacts on noise level at the project site and its surrounding area envisaged due to vehicular movement to deliver construction materials and solar plant parts.</p> <p>Construction noise generated from using of machinery, and concrete mixing.</p>	<b>LOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular maintenance of construction machinery and equipment shall be carried out to ensure noise emissions are maintained at design levels.</li> <li>• Keep stationary source of noise such as DG sets (during construction phase) at farthest point from the settlements.</li> <li>• Restrict major noise generating activities during night time 10:00 pm to 6:00 am</li> <li>• Provide personal protective equipment to workers working near DG sets and other high noise source.</li> <li>• Local communities need to be informed about the vehicular movement before start of heavy vehicle carrying materials and machines to site. Sensitive locations should be identified and avoided as far as possible from the route and if unavoidable, drivers should be</li> </ul>	<b>NO IMPACT</b>	<p>Be ensured that noise emissions of construction equipment adhere to emission norms as set out by MoEF&amp;CC/ CPCB</p>	<p>Project Developer/ Contractor under the supervision of CSPTPL Personnel</p>



SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
				<p>informed to restrict speed at those locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diesel generator sets, if used; will adhere to noise standards of MoEF&amp;CC.</li> </ul>			
7	<b>SOLID WASTE</b>	Contamination of land	<b>LOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated area within the project site should be allotted for the disposal of solid waste.</li> <li>• Distribute appropriate number of properly contained litter bins and containers properly marked as "Municipal Waste".</li> <li>• Solid waste should be collected and disposed of from the project site regularly to avoid any decomposition of solid waste. This will help to restrict the generation of foul smell from the designated site.</li> <li>• Domestic and construction waste like recyclables viz. paper, plastic, glass, scrap metal waste etc. will be properly segregated and stored in designated waste bins/containers and periodically sold to local recyclers.</li> <li>• Awareness among the project workers/contractors should be increased regarding management of solid waste.</li> </ul>	<b>NO IMPACT</b>	Periodic EHS audits should be conducted to monitor the same	Project Developer/ Contractor under the supervision of CSPTPL Personnel
8	<b>CHANGE IN LOCAL TOPOGRAPHY</b>	Alteration in natural drainage pattern	<b>MODERATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't allow the considerable alteration of contour level</li> </ul>	<b>LOW IMPACT</b>	The drainage patterns of the area will be maintained.	Project Developer/ Contractor

SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide alternatives to collect surface runoff from the project site during the monsoon period</li> <li>• Don't allow exit of runoff from the project site in the adjacent areas.</li> <li>• Design storm water drain considering the natural contour level</li> <li>• Site preparation activities should be designed to avoid any significant elevation of the land or blocking or altering natural drainage channels in the project site.</li> <li>• Site preparation and development shall be planned only after a detailed drainage plan has been prepared for site.</li> <li>• If channels/drains get blocked due to accumulation of soil / waste materials, it will be ensuring that they are cleaned especially during monsoon season.</li> </ul>			under the supervision of CSPTPL Personnel
<b>B Ecological Environmental Management Plan</b>							
9	<b>ECOLOGY</b>	The project is located on the dry land surrounded by Agricultural Fields. Vegetations are mainly observed along the road site and on the bund of Agricultural fields. No	<b>LOW IMPACT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All project activities shall be undertaken with appropriate noise mitigation measures to avoid disturbance faunal population in the region.</li> <li>• Movement of construction and transport vehicles shall be restricted to dedicated paths to</li> </ul>	<b>LOW IMPACT</b>	Periodic EHS audits should be conducted to monitor the same	Project Developer/ Contractor under the supervision of CSPTPL Personnel

SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
		<p>forest land is involved in this project.</p> <p>No schedule -I species as per the wild life protection act, 1972 has been observed in the study area during the site visit. Further no ecologically sensitive area is present within the 5 km buffer area of the project site.</p>		<p>minimize any harm to small animals within the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation of construction material shall be restricted to day time hours in order to minimize the man – animal conflict.</li> <li>• Speed of the vehicle should be controlled in and around the project area to minimize the accidental death of faunal population.</li> <li>• Electronic snake repellent should be installed at the project site during the construction as well as operation phase to avoid snake biting incidence.</li> <li>• General awareness regarding wildlife among the construction workers shall be enhanced through putting signage, posters, among the staff and labourers.</li> <li>• During construction phase camp and kitchen waste shall be collected in a manner that it does not attract wild animals.</li> <li>• Temporary barriers shall be installed on excavated areas.</li> <li>• Plantation of native, fast growing trees on access roads and/or in nearby barren areas/ schools/ Panchayat office which may also give an alternate habitat to the faunal species especially the</li> </ul>			

SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
				bird species and maintain the ecological balance			
<b>B Social Management Plan</b>							
1	<b>ENGAGEMENT OF LOCAL AND MIGRANT LABOUR</b>	Conflicts between labour and contractor	<b>MODERATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment will be provided to local people wherever possible, especially as unskilled construction workers and security guards</li> <li>• Hero Future Energies (HFE) will include clause or provisions related with non-engagement of forced and child labour, gender equity, non-discrimination on employment and opportunity and freedom to express their view in contractor's agreement and HR policy</li> <li>• Hero Future Energies (HFE) through its contractors shall ensure that labour is being adequately paid by contractors. Also ensure that wages are being paid as per the requirement of minimum wages act</li> <li>• Hero Future Energies (HFE) shall include clause to ensure access of necessary basic amenities and facilities such as drinking water, kitchen, toilet and crèches (for female workers children)</li> </ul>	<b>LOW IMPACT</b>	Periodic EHS audits should be conducted to monitor the same	Project Developer/ Contractor under the supervision of Hero Future Energies (HFE) Personnel

SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hero Future Energies (HFE) shall conduct internal audits as when required to monitor the performance of contractor.</li> <li>Hero Future Energies (HFE) through the contractor inform the labour about emergency preparedness plan and communication system to be followed during emergency</li> <li>Hero Future Energies (HFE) through contractor should ensure that labour receive training on health and safety issues involved in the project.</li> </ul>			
2	<b>LABOUR ACCOMMODATION (Onsite and offsite Labour camp)</b>	Conflicts between labour and local community	<b>MODERATE</b>	<p>Hero Future Energies (HFE) may setup onsite labour camp for labours employed through contractors to restrict the interaction of migrated labour with local community as to avoid any conflict.</p> <p>It is to note that the project developer Larsen &amp; Toubro has already developed a Labour Camp with all facilities is located within the project site. As the site for labour camps is located in isolation there is minimum chance for any conflict with the villagers.</p>	<b>LOW IMPACT</b>	Grievance mechanism is being followed and Redressal is being monitored	Project Developer/ Contractor under the supervision of Hero Future Energies (HFE) Personnel
3	<b>LAND PROCUREMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of Land</li> <li>Livelihood</li> <li>Obstruction to places of relevance</li> </ul>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It should be ensured that maximum employment will be given to the locals w.r.t their capacity and skills.</li> </ul>	<b>LOW IMPACT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hero Future Energies (HFE) Land and Project Team to understand</li> </ul>	Project Developer/ Contractor under the supervision of Hero Future

SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manhandling Natural Resources of Utility</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the recommended complaint resolution procedure (Grievance Redress Mechanism) to assure that any complaints regarding project related components are promptly and adequately investigated and resolved</li> <li>Provide some alternate way/road so that project should not obstruct the villagers access</li> <li>The layout for access roads and transmission lines should consider minimum land requirement and should avoid procurement of agricultural land;</li> <li>Any waste generated during the construction phase should not be accumulated near the religious structure as this might affect the sentiment of the locals.</li> </ul>		<p>mitigation measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction contractors should adhere to social obligations, labour laws and international commitments</li> <li>Hero Future Energies (HFE) through contract agreement, should ensure that the contractor should provide the migrant workers adequate information on expected social behaviour and hygiene practices to be followed at site</li> <li>Hero Future Energies (HFE) to ensure that all site personnel and migrant labourers avoid using any community infrastructure facilities like water bodies, electricity etc., without prior</li> </ul>	<p>Energies (HFE) Personnel Social Management team for grievance Handling</p>

SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
						permission from the Panchayats	
4	<b>IMPACT ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND ARCHEOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT SITES</b>	Unrest among the community due to dislocation of any structure or thing of cultural belief Impact on indigenous people due to land intake from ST people and use of village resources	<b>No Impact</b>	No Impact	<b>No Impact</b>	-	-
5	<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>	Community Empowerment	<b>MODERATE</b>	Given the short duration of the project construction phase efforts will be made to engage with the community through the Panchayati Raj Institution representatives and key identified leaders of the community.	<b>LOW</b>	Continuously throughout the project lifecycle. Grievance Redressal Mechanism should be followed, and grievance register should be maintained onsite.	Contractor under the supervision of Hero Future Energies (HFE) Personnel / PRI representatives
6	<b>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>	Material handling and storage Possible injuries associated with working with transmission line laying Other occupational hazards	<b>MODERATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All material will be arranged in a systematic manner with proper labelling and without protrusion or extension onto the access corridor.</li> <li>Loading and unloading operation of equipment should be done under the supervision of a trained professional</li> <li>Proper PPEs should be provided to workers handling welding, electricity and related components.</li> </ul>	<b>LOW IMPACT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>labour engaged for working at height should be trained for temporary fall</li> <li>All the workers should be made aware of the possible occupational risks/hazards by the way of an OHS training/awareness program</li> <li>Accident reporting, and monitoring</li> </ul>	Contractor under the supervision of Hero Future Energies (HFE) Personnel



SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire extinguishing equipment should be provided in adequate number on site to handle any possible fire outbreaks</li> <li>• An accident reporting, and monitoring record should be maintained</li> <li>• Display of phone numbers of the city/local fire services, etc. at site should be done</li> </ul> <p>The labour engaged for working at height should be trained for temporary fall protection devices</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• record is being maintained on site</li> <li>• The labour engaged for working at height are being trained for temporary fall a mishap is being recorded.</li> <li>• All the workers have been made aware of the possible occupational risks/hazards by the way of an OHS training/awareness program</li> <li>• An accident reporting, and monitoring record should be maintained</li> <li>• Proper hygienic and scientific sanitation facilities for all the labourer's working in the site with spate exclusive arrangements for men &amp; women to ensure the privacy and dignity of all individuals</li> </ul>	

SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GRM is properly maintained and followed on site.</li> <li>Contractor should inform the labour about Emergency Preparedness Plan (EMP) and communication system to be followed during emergency situation.</li> </ul>	
<b>OPERATION PHASE</b>							
<b>A. Physical Environment Management Plan</b>							
1	<b>HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>	Contamination of land and soil	<b>MODERATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broken solar panels, which will be collected in closed containers and will be disposed as per the standards.</li> </ul>	<b>LOW</b>	Periodic EHS audits should be conducted to monitor the same	Project Developer/ HFE Personnel
2	<b>SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>	Contamination of land	<b>MODERATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formulation of Proper Solid waste Management Policy.</li> <li>Periodic collection and disposal of Solid waste from the project site.</li> <li>Distribute appropriate number of properly contained litter bins and containers properly marked as "Municipal Waste". The waste generated should be disposed as per The Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000&amp; amended in 2016.</li> </ul>	<b>LOW</b>	Periodic EHS audits should be conducted to monitor the same	Project Developer / HFE Personnel

SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic waste will be composted and recyclables viz. paper, plastic, glass, scrap metal waste etc. will be properly segregated and stored in designated waste bins/containers and periodically sold to local recyclers.</li> <li>Awareness among the project personnel.</li> </ul>			
3	<b>WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	Degradation of ground and surface water quality	<b>MODERATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that constructed septic tanks during operation are well contained and impermeable to prevent leakage of wastewater into soil.</li> <li>Ensure that septic tanks are emptied and collected by contractor at appropriate intervals to avoid overflowing.</li> </ul>	<b>LOW</b>	Periodic EHS audits should be conducted to monitor the same	Project Developer / HFE's Personnel
<b>B Social Management Plan</b>							
1	<b>CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY</b>	Community Empowerment	<b>MODERATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment will be provided to local people wherever possible, especially as unskilled construction workers and security guards</li> </ul>	<b>NO IMPACT</b>	CSR Activities should be documented	Hero Future Energies (HFE) Personnel
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developmental needs and expectations (such as employment in the project or up-gradation of educational, health care facilities, cultural property and infrastructure) of local communities will be identified through the Gram Panchayat,</li> </ul>		Should be conducted continuously through the project cycle.	Hero Future Energies (HFE) Personnel

SN	Aspect	Impact	Impact Intensity without mitigation	Action	Impact Intensity with mitigation	Monitoring/training Requirement	Responsibility
				villagers and local administration.			
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities for contributing to the economic and developmental needs of villagers through skill training will be explored.</li> </ul>		Pertinent training and orientation should be conducted continuously throughout the project cycle.	Hero Future Energies (HFE) Personnel
2	<b>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OF WORKERS</b>	Electrocutation Firing due to short-circuit Possible injuries associated with working at height Diseases due to unhygienic condition	<b>MODERATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide and ensure wearing of personal protective equipment's viz., gloves, helmets, ear plug, safety belt etc.</li> <li>Ensure effective work permit system following the laws of the state and central level for critical activities such as electrical work and working at height</li> <li>Prepare emergency communication system and emergency preparedness plan</li> <li>Ensure proper sanitation facilities.</li> </ul>	<b>LOW</b>	Periodic EHS audits	Project Developer/ Hero Future Energies (HFE) Personnel

## 7.4 Environmental Monitoring Plan

The Environmental Monitoring Plan is formulated to ensure and demonstrate compliance with the regulatory and Institutional Agency’s EHS requirements. Monitoring of environmental and social parameters and comparing them with benchmarks set by regulatory and institutional authorities will help HFE’s assess in the environmental performance and identify gaps or non-conformance ensuring immediate actions. The following environmental parameters will be monitored as when required during project operational phase for compliance.

**Table 7-2: Environment Monitoring Program**

**A. Environmental Quality Monitoring Program**

EQI No	Environmental Quality Indicator (EQI)	Monitoring Parameter	Location	Period & Frequency
<b>A. CONSTRUCTION PHASE</b>				
A1	Ambient Air Quality	Measurement of PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>x</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> , CO	Village near the project location	Once during construction phase
A2	Ambient Noise quality	Measurement of Noise Pressure Level in dB(A)		Once during construction phase
A3	Ground Water quality	IS 10500 parameters		Once during construction phase
A4	Surface Water quality	IS 10500 parameters	Nearby surface water body /canal /reservoir	Once during construction phase
A5	Soil Quality	Soil parameters viz. pH, SAR, Water holding capacity, Conductivity, Organic Carbon, NPK	Abutting village land & project site	Once during construction phase

## 7.5 Environmental Management Plans

The ESMP is comprised of some site-specific management plans viz. Emergency Management Plan, Waste Management Plan, Storm Water Management Plan, Environmental Monitoring Plan, Traffic Management Plan and Social Development Plan for the HFE’s 20 MW Solar Power Plant at Tharkas Peth village in Kalburgi District of Karnataka. The management plans will be executed through Environmental Social Management System.

### 7.5.1 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan

**Purpose**

**Purpose**

Hero Future Energies (HFE), have developed a site-specific Emergency Management Plan for implementation at the entire project location, In the event of an emergency so that the loss of life and damage to the properties & natural resources are minimized. This plan outlines a series of emergency actions that will be executed by HFE & its Contractors to ensure preparedness and response to emergency situations throughout the life-cycle of the project.

**Definition(s)**

Emergency - Any unplanned situation, which presents a threat to the safety of workers and/or damage to the properties and other natural resources deemed valuable at the project site.

## ***Emergencies***

The emergency situations that are probable to occur at the site and the probable causes are listed below:

- Fire at site during temporary construction phase which cannot be doused by fire extinguishers; Also fire due to short circuit at the plant and equipment during both construction & operation phase.
- Collapse of any structure
- Outbreak of endemic disease among a large section of construction workers due to contaminated drinking water, unhygienic conditions that have developed at workplace.
- Protests by the local community or other stakeholders at any point of the project lifecycle due to grievances;
- Serious injury or death of employee or sub-contracted worker at work, due to non-work-related illness or work-related accident.
- Onset of any natural disaster like earthquake.

## ***Emergency Management***

The following steps should be taken to ensure proper management of emergency or crisis situations:

- The nearest civil hospitals, private health care centres or practitioner clinic should be identified, and an agreement should be made with the aforesaid medical centres/practitioners to provide prompt health care services (including ambulance services) in the event of an emergency situation at site.
- A list of important telephone numbers such as fire brigade, health care facility/practitioner, police station, EHS and Social Coordinator, project office, head offices should be displayed at all the prime locations at site & the worker's camp (during construction phase).
- Regular liaising with the police, Gram Panchayat, district administrations should be carried out to ensure that prompt assistance is readily available in the event of an emergency.
- An Emergency Management (including Disaster Management) team comprising of 4-6 professionals both from the developer and contractors' side, during construction phase and 2-3 professionals during operation of the project; should be formed to combat any emergency and ensure safety of the life and property at site. For this purpose, 2-3 personnel employed in the plant during operation phase should be trained on Emergency scenarios and their management measures including their roles and responsibilities in case of an emergency situation.
- The workers (staff & contractual workers from both HFE & their appointed contractor/s) should be trained on their duties and emergency preparedness during an emergency. In case of an emergency, all site personnel should be trained to follow the communication lines given below:
  - Personnel at site affected by the emergency situations immediately inform the project office and the external agencies (such as police, fire brigade, ambulance services); In case, project office cannot be reached, the coordinator will be informed directly;
  - The Social, Environment, Health & Safety Coordinator (SEHS) on being informed about the emergency by project offices or by the employee directly; reaches site if necessary, and also follows-up with the aforesaid external agencies for aid;

- The SEHS Coordinator takes charge of the emergency response and direct further action and co-ordination, including escalating the matter to the higher authority as required.

### **Responsibilities**

The SEHS Coordinator will be responsible for implementing this procedure, which includes

- Ensuring that the emergency preparedness measures are in place;
- Providing training to the personnel at site regarding reporting of the emergencies, and to site office personnel regarding response to emergency calls from the site personnel,
- Direct action-and co-ordination at the time of an emergency

Community health and safety hazards specific to solar energy facilities primarily include the following:

#### **Setback:**

The development of project site may alter the contour levels and natural drainage pattern which can cause local flooding in the area therefore adequate measures such as storm water drainage, rain water harvesting, etc. may result to local flooding.

#### **Transmission Line:**

Transmission Line should be routed in such a way that it causes least disruption to local communities.

#### **Public Access:**

Safety issues may arise with public access to Solar Plants (e.g., unauthorized entry to the Plants). Any public rights of way located within and close to the Solar Plants should be identified prior to construction to establish any measures that may be required to ensure the safety of their users. Prevention and control measures to manage public accesses include:

- Use gates on access roads.
- Where public access is not promoted to the site and/or there are no current rights of way across the site, consider fencing the solar energy facility site, to prohibit public access to the plant.
- Provide fencing of an appropriate standard around the sub-station with anti-climb paint and warning signs.
- Prevent access to solar panel areas
- Post information boards about public safety hazards and emergency contact information.

## **7.5.2 Community Liaison Plan**

The Community Liaison Plan is a critical element of the overall Social Management Plans. Regular transparent communication between both the project and the communities and vice versa is crucial in building positive relationships between the two parties. This relationship should be crucial for managing unexpected situations which might arise during the project. This plan should be read with other social management plan because the liaison which needs to be done for the individual plan is detailed within the plan. The communication plan mainly focuses on the communication issues during the construction stage however it also includes some community Liaison measures for the operation phase as well.

### **Objectives:**

The Performance Standards mandates continuous communication between project and the different stakeholders e.g. Workers, local community. The onus of initiating the process of communication rests on the project proponent. The project proponent should ensure that disclosure of relevant project



information that would help the affected communities understand the risks, impacts and opportunities of the project. The Community Liaison Plan is developed to ensure a clear communication channel between the project and the local community. Even though the focus of the plan is primarily on communication with the community areas where there are likely interactions between the community and the Contractors such areas have also been covered. The community liaison plan would concentrate on the following aspects:

**Communication with the Community:** As mandated in the Performance Standards of IFC, Hero Future Energies (HFE) should disclose the project details to make the community aware of the important features of the project. A Project Information Booklet would be prepared and distributed in the project affected villages. This booklet should preferably be presented in local language. The booklet in addition to containing the salient features of the project should have a map depicting the boundaries of the plant and its ancillary facilities. The important landmarks e.g. the settlement, schools and the roads, etc. should also be demarcated so that it becomes easy for the people in the villages to relate to the ground conditions. In addition to the project information the booklet should also highlight the impacts on the community as presented in the ESA document and the commitments for the safeguards including the entitlement matrix. To ensure wide circulation of the Project Information Booklet the booklet would be made available at all the schools, Anganwadi Centers, and other public facilities in the project affected village.

To ensure continuity of the flow of information to the community it is suggested that a quarterly Community Information Booklet should be published. During the construction phase the booklet would contain the information about the progress of the project and information which are pertinent to community e.g. disruption of the transportation links, outcome of consultation process on community development etc. It is that the community Information Booklet be continued even during the operations stage where this also acts as a transfer of information from the project to the community. In addition, it can also be used to share information between the communities e.g. achievement of a member of the community or any worker can be published in this booklet.

### 7.5.3 Waste Management Plan

The Waste Management Plan (WMP) will be applicable to the wastes arising during construction and operation of the solar power plant of CSPTPL. Major waste streams from the project include non-hazardous solid waste, wash water generated from panel washing and sewage. Waste Management Plan (WMP) is intended to serve as a guideline for CSPTPL and the contractor(s) to manage wastes effectively during the project life cycle. The WMP describes how wastes will be managed during the project life cycle and how the project will:

- To minimize the potential impact on human health and the environment.
- To Comply with Indian environmental regulation and IFC Performance Standards.
- To reduce operational costs and reduce any potential liabilities which may arise from waste handling operations.
- This plan also ensures that every waste stream and solid waste materials from the main plant site and bracketed facilities will be managed effectively.

The contractors will manage the waste generated during construction phase like construction debris, packing material, paint containers and filters. The management measures of the solid wastes and the hazardous wastes are discussed in detail below:

- The recyclable and non-recyclable non-hazardous solid waste generated onsite should be collected, segregated and stored in a temporary waste storage facility from where all wastes will be sent for recycling and disposal to appropriate facilities.

- The reusable wastes like wooden waste and cardboards from packing materials, empty cement bags, construction debris, etc. can also be given to locals for their use or give it back to original equipment manufacturer (OEM).

#### 7.5.4 Storm Water Management Plan

The purpose of Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) is to ensure prevention and control of any adverse impact caused by un-regulated storm water runoff from the project site to the nearby natural drainage channels, surface water bodies, public and private properties.

Following measures will be taken as part of the Storm Water Management Plan:

- The peripheral drains will be provided outside the plant boundary during construction phase, which will prevent the silt contaminated surface run-off from site to enter into the adjoining lands.
- No surface run-off from within the solar power plant site will be directly discharged into any nullah/water body.
- Rain water collected from the project site will be used to recharge the ground water through onsite rain water harvesting tank/pits.
- Avoidance of disturbance of flows into natural watercourses i.e. provision should be made for temporary or permanent measures that allow for attenuation, control of velocities and capturing of sediment upstream of natural watercourses.
- Do not divert flows out of their natural flow pathways, thus depriving downstream watercourses of water.

#### 7.5.5 Community Property Resource

During the project construction phase, there might be some sharing of resources by the villagers and the workers working in the 20 MW Solar Power project at study area village. To an extent feasible this should be avoided to prevent potential conflicts between the project and the community. The movement of heavy vehicles and machineries might lead to conditions like disruption of electric wires and telephone wires in the project area and along transportation routes. All these damage utilities should be repaired/replaced to normal conditions, at the earliest. An account of the damage to the community resource should be documented and the root cause analysis carried out. The findings of the root cause analysis should also be documented and discussed with the agency/agencies found responsible for the incident. No water should be extracted from surface water bodies which are used by the community for drinking or domestic purpose. Any vacant or barren land, not assigned for project, should not be used for storage of fill/construction material, wastes etc.

As part of the Environmental and Social Management System proposed, a system should also be developed for recording such incidents and tracking the incident till it is closed to the satisfaction of the community etc.

**Responsibility:** As per norms of solar power projects HFE would take responsibility in this regard. HFE would take responsibility for construction of any road, required to be constructed before the existing road is diverted / closed for use by villagers. HFE (through their EPC Contractor/ project developer and implementing agency) should consult with the community to decide on the alignment of the road and fix up the likely time line for the construction.

HFE and their contractors should ensure that the sharing of community resource is minimized by organizing necessary support infrastructure/facilities within premises. However, in case where sharing would be essential HFE and/ or their contractors should have an agreement with the project area Gram Panchayat for the sharing of the resource. In case of damage to community property HFE including its

contractors should ensure that it is repaired or replaced to the satisfaction of the community at the earliest. HFE should maintain documentation of all incidents of damages to the community property. All cost for repair/replacement should be borne by HFE / their Contractor(s).

As part of the Environmental and Social Management System proposed, a system would be developed for recording such incidents and tracking the incident till it is closed to the satisfaction of the community.

### **7.5.6 Occupational Health and Safety Management Plan**

The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) of the employee and contractual labors will be maintained at the work sites during both construction and operation phase. The OHS Management measures should comply with the Indian Regulatory requirements under OHSAS and the Factories Act 1948, amended 1954, 1970, 1976 and 1987.

Construction Phase: The following occupation health and safety measures will be adopted during the construction phase:

- Provide and ensure wearing of personal protective equipment's viz., gloves, helmets, ear plug, safety belt etc.
- Prepare emergency communication system and emergency preparedness plan
- Ensure provision and maintenance of drinking water and sanitation facilitation for construction workers in accordance with the provision of Contract Labour Act and Building and Other Construction Workers Act.
- Periodic cleaning of work areas will be undertaken and supervised by the contractors to ensure hygienic conditions on site.
- Workers will stop working in extreme natural climatic conditions i.e. heat wave, heavy rain etc.
- Ensure effective work permit system for critical activities such as electrical work and working at height
- All work places will have adequate fire alarms and firefighting equipment's to handle any outbreak of fire in O& M.
- Adequate drinking water will be supplied at workplace for workers onsite and water quality meets drinking water quality standards.
- Sufficient light and ventilation will be provided for workers working in confined space.
- Periodic health check-up camps for workers onsite will be organized to ensure prevention of occupational health hazards.
- All work areas should have First Aid Kits to manage injuries occurring in the area.
- The switchyard building will be provided with fire extinguishers and sand buckets at all strategic locations to deal with any incident of fire.

Operational Phase: Although no significant occupational health and safety risks are identified during operations, the following mitigation measures need to be adopted:

- Operators are provided with adequate PPEs depending upon nature of the operation and occupation health and safety risks associated with it viz. electrical maintenance activities, replacement of solar panels etc.
- Special emphasis on electrical safety will be laid and all employees will be trained in electrical safety and First Aid
- Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) will be developed for operational activities likely to have potential occupational health and safety risks

- Periodic medical examination will be undertaken for workers including contractor and subcontractor of the plant.
- Periodic inspections will be carried out to ensure all the above are implemented and any non-conformances will be recorded along with grievance related to OHS issues.
- An EHS coordinator will effectively implement and monitor the OHS Management System and ESMP.

### 7.5.7 Grievance Redressal Mechanism

HFE have developed a GRM Policy mentioning the procedures for lodging of grievances, processing of grievances, resolving grievances and closing of grievances. Issues raised through grievance redressal system are being addressed with remedial measures on site.

However, it must be ensured that:

- The grievance mechanism should be scaled to the risks and adverse impacts of the project.
- It should address affected people's concerns and complaints promptly, using an understandable and transparent process that is gender responsive, culturally appropriate, and readily accessible to all segments of the affected people at no costs and without retribution.
- The mechanism should not impede access to the country's judicial or administrative remedies.
- The affected people will be appropriately informed about the mechanism

HFE have established a grievance redressal mechanism to receive and address specific concerns on environmental & social issues. If the client anticipates on going risks to or adverse impacts on affected communities, the client will establish a grievance mechanism to receive and facilitate resolution of the affected communities' concerns and grievances about the client's environmental and social performance. The grievance mechanism should be scaled to the risks and adverse impacts of the project. It should address concerns promptly, using an understandable and transparent process that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all segments of the affected communities, and at no cost and without retribution. The mechanism should not impede access to judicial or administrative remedies. The project proponent will inform the affected communities about the mechanism in the course of its community engagement process.

- In efforts to develop an effective two-way communication a Grievance Redressal Mechanism should be developed by HFE. The broad outline of the mechanism is as follows:
- The decision on the grievance would be communicated to the aggrieved person within a timeframe to be stipulated during the preparation of the ESAP.
- There should be a single point of contact between the community and HFE/ project developer for the redressal of grievance.
- All grievances should be documented and indexed for future reference. The proceeding and actions against each of the grievance should be documented and should also carry this index number for easy traceability.
- If required, the aggrieved community member can also be made a part of the Redressal process so he is able to place his point of view.
- The Grievance Redressal committee should meet at regular interval and discuss on the grievance and take necessary action.

**Communication with Contractor Staff:** During the construction phase, there would be an influx of people into the project area. As these people could have cultural differences with the resident population there can be a potential of conflicts arising because of issues related to safety and privacy issues of the

women in the surrounding villages, spread of various communicable diseases, nuisance caused by workers due to improper sanitation facilities, etc. It is thus a Community Interaction Brochure would be prepared specifically stating the 'Dos' and 'Don'ts' and requesting proper behavioral actions and discipline amenable with the local customs and traditions during their association with the project. The brochure would also be highlighting the importance of any of nearby cultural place and need to maintain the sanctity and dignity of the place. This Community Interaction Brochure would be made available to all employees during their induction into the project and when they report back to the project after leave of absence. A record of the induction or refresher on the community interaction would be maintained.

**Responsibility:** HFE have prepared all the information disclosure booklets as discussed above. They would also ensure circulation of the booklet among the community in the project affected villages.

HFE would also ensure that the system is made community friendly so that the people who have grievance are encouraged to come forward and register their grievance. It would also ensure that the grievance of the community is discussed and recorded. It would ensure that the issues are closed to the satisfaction of the community members.

During construction HFE and its contractors would ensure that each of the people working on the project is aware of the Do's and Don'ts of community interaction. HFE and their contractors would ensure that the record of the induction and refresher is maintained. All the resources required for the implementation of the different subcomponents of the plan would be provided by HFE and its contractors.

## 7.5.8 Community Development Plan under CSR

As per the MNRE guidelines, a certain percentage of the total investment made on development of Solar Park (excluding investment on evacuation) and that for setting up of solar power projects in the solar park may be kept aside for the affected area development.

In line with the CSR Regulations, HFE have developed their own CSR Policy for delineating its responsibility as a socially and environmentally responsible corporate citizen. The Policy has laid down the areas of intervention, principles and mechanisms for undertaking various programs in accordance with Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013.

Companies Act, 2013 has introduced mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility Regulations which are effective from 1st April 2014. Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 ('the Act'), read with Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014 ('CSR Rules') requires every company having:

- net worth of Rs.500 crore or more; or
- turnover of Rs. 1,000 crores or more; or
- net profit of Rs.5 crore or more

### ***Corporate Social Responsibility***

#### **Construction Phase**

To empower the local community through different development and support programmes the project proponent should take some initiatives for Community Development Plan under their CSR Policy in the project affected village Tharkas Peth of Kalburgi District.

The project proponent will develop their own CSR Policy in alignment with its CSR vision, principles and values, for delineating its responsibility as a socially and environmentally responsible corporate citizen. As per CSR Act, HFE is committed to inclusive growth and local stakeholder involvement as a fundamental value and strives to enhance:

- Social wellbeing
- Economic wellbeing

- Environmental wellbeing
- Local community initiatives

The CSR Activities may include:

- Creating provisions for Employment opportunities to the people who are skilled and semi-skilled in project area villages;
- Supporting the Community/ Anganwadi Centres by facilitating them with provisions of exclusive Drinking Water and Toilet facilities for them in project area villages;
- Facilitating the Community Centre/ Anganwadi Centres/ Local Schools by providing them with amenities like Chairs, Benches etc.;
- Facilitating in development and creation of Health Infrastructure in the Project Area villages, where it is found to be inadequate;
- Promotion of education, including special education and employment enhancing vocation skills especially among children, women, elderly and the differently abled and livelihood enhancement projects;
- Promoting gender equality, empowering women, setting up homes and hostels for women and orphans, setting up old age homes, day care centres and such other facilities for senior citizens and measures for reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically backward groups etc.

Project proponent should create provisions for the above-mentioned matters and any other pertinent issues. Recommendation under CSR Policy are given in **Table 7-3**.

### Operation Phase

The CSR activity may continue during Operation Phase to comply with the need and requirement of the areas development and to avoid any conflict during that phase.

### Needs/ Gap Assessment for CSR Initiatives

Analysis of above socio economics description and community consultation in project area villages reveals that concern of villagers are linked with the fulfilment of basic needs and improvement of some infrastructural facilities at school/ Anganwadi/ health etc. levels. On the basis of discussion with villagers, land sellers and community members, following gaps have been identified which needs to be addressed:

**Table 7-3: Key Needs/Gaps Identified and Recommendation for CSR activity**

Key Areas	Gaps identified	Recommendation for CSR
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of higher education facilities</li> <li>• Low female literacy rate compared to male</li> <li>• Lack of vocational training in study area villages</li> <li>• Lack of computer literacy in the village.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness program regarding female education at village level. This can be linked with vocational training programme of study area villages</li> <li>• Providing computer literacy program at village level</li> </ul>
Drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited no. of dug wells, RO water purifying systems, a few hand pumps and one panchayat owned Tank in the adjacent villages/ hamlets are the main source of drinking water in the study area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing additional drinking water facilities with help of concerned government dept.</li> <li>• Clean or purified drinking water is expected to significantly affect the quality of life and health for the villagers.</li> </ul>



Key Areas	Gaps identified	Recommendation for CSR
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no health facility in the village.</li> <li>Alternate/ better health facilities are around 5 Km away from the village.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizing awareness camp on general health awareness.</li> <li>Health camps or mobile health clinics, with support of the govt. authorities, can be provided.</li> </ul>
Agriculture/ Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture is majorly dependent on rain with irrigation through bore wells. It was observed that the project affected village- Tharkas Peth lacks adequate irrigation system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proper link with irrigation programmes that can ease irrigation in the area</li> <li>Rain water harvesting should be planned wherever possible with the project site to improve groundwater recharge.</li> </ul>
Employment opportunities in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As found during consultation there are no SHGs active in the study area.</li> <li>Majority of the villagers are unskilled</li> <li>Labourers are mostly seasonal workers and migrate only for a short while in the nearby towns, either as Masons, or carpenter or as seasonal spin mill workers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobilising local women populace for being active in formation of SHGs for development.</li> <li>Organizing training/ capacity building program for entrepreneurship and linkages with bank.</li> <li>Introduction of processing of dairy and other produce related to livestock.</li> </ul>

### 7.5.9 Engagement of Labour

As the project is in construction stage, considering factors involved in construction stage the below matters are given.

#### **Indicators in Labor Engagement**

**Abolition of child and forced labor:** Engagement of child and forced labor by contractor or developer in any form for the project will be unfair with the children' right.

**Gender equity and non-discrimination:** Discrimination and imbalance in gender equity in employment and opportunity may lead to conflicts between contractor and labor.

**Freedom of association and right to collective bargaining:** Not giving freedom to labor to express their views and form association may cause conflicts between labor and contractor but this is not applicable for Solar Power plant as the labor requirement is of short duration restricted to construction phase only and number of labors employed is not very large for the same phase.

### 7.5.10 Road Safety and Traffic Management Plan

#### **Scope and Purpose**

The plan encompasses the addressal of community safety related impacts that may arise from the increased vehicular traffic due to movement of heavy equipment/machineries and vehicles along the site access and approach roads particularly during construction phase. The plan will be regularly updated by the contractor with the project progress and as vehicle movement requirements are identified in detail. Designated traffic coordinator will be responsible for overall coordination of traffic management. Logistic for the solar plant may be transported by road that yet to be confirmed.

#### **During Construction Phase**

The following mitigation measures will be implemented during this phase:

- Project vehicular movement will be restricted to defined access routes.



- Proper signage will be displayed at important traffic junctions along the vehicular access routes to be used by construction phase traffic. The signage will serve to prevent any diversion from designated routes and ensure proper speed limits are maintained near residential areas.
- Any road diversions and closures will be informed in advance to the project vehicles accessing the above route. Usage of horns by project vehicles will be restricted near sensitive receptors viz. schools, settlements etc.
- Traffic flows will be timed wherever practicable during period of increased commuter movement in the day.
- Temporary parking facilities should be provided within the work areas and the construction sites to avoid road congestion.
- Vehicular movement to be controlled near sensitive locations viz. schools, colleges, hospitals identified along designated vehicular transportation routes.
- Routine maintenance of project vehicles will be ensured to prevent any abnormal emissions and high noise generation.
- Adequate training on traffic and road safety operations will be imparted to the drivers of project vehicles. Road safety awareness programs will be organized in coordination with local authorities to sensitize target groups viz. school children, commuters on traffic safety rules and signage.
- HFE and their contractor(s) should frame and implement a “No Drug No Alcohol” Policy to prevent road accidents/incidents.

### ***During Operational Phase***

Since limited vehicular movement is anticipated during operational phase considering only the daily movement of project personnel any impacts arising from the same can be effectively addressed through implementation of mitigation measures as discussed during the construction phase. In addition, the following measures will be emphasized.

- Use of horns near the villages along the access road to villages, main plant and internal roads should be restricted.
- The vehicular movements along the access roads and highways should be restricted during the night time.
- All the vehicles entering the access roads and plant should have Pollution under Control (PUC) certificates.
- The speed limit in the internal roads should be restricted to 20 km/hr. Proper warning signs and road safety awareness posters should be displayed to create road safety awareness among the personnel accessing the site.
- Periodic Road Safety and Traffic Management campaigns and awareness sessions should be carried out among the villagers and the plant workers/personnel to develop road safety awareness among the people likely to be impacted by the project.
- An emergency road safety plan should be framed by the Proponent to combat any emergency conditions/accidents along the highways, access roads and within plant area.
- The Proponent should frame and implement a “No Drug No Alcohol” Policy to prevent road accidents/incidents.
- The drivers should be given an induction on road safety and traffic management policy.

- A permanent parking lot should be provided within the main plant site (in individual work areas) and the associated facilities.
- Use of seat belts for both drivers and passengers should be made compulsory to minimize death & injuries in the event of an accident.



## 8 CONCLUSION

The project is categorized as **Category B** as per IFC guidelines and based on this assessment is made which specifies that this project is expected to have very limited adverse environment and social impacts which, can be mitigated by adopting suitable mitigating measures.

An environment and social analysis have been carried out looking at various criteria such as topography, air, noise, water resources and water quality, ecology, demography of the area, climate, natural habitat, community and employee health and safety etc.

Brief Assessment of Project:

- **Location of project site w.r.t ecologically sensitive area:** The project area is not located within any ecologically sensitive area. No forest land whether Reserve Forest, Protected Forest or Unclassed Forest is observed in the project area or its 5 km periphery. The project will be developed on dry land which is surrounded by agricultural fields. Vegetation is generally observed along the road side and on the bund of agricultural Fields.  
As reported, there is no animal corridor or migratory route of the avifauna, it is expected that glare effect from the solar plant will have minimal impact on terrestrial as well as avian species in the region.
- **Source of Pollution:** The solar power project is based on clean technology and does not likely to cause any significant pollution. Further, the project will help to reduce GHG emissions.
- **Resettlement:** No resettlement and rehabilitation involved in the project.
- **Community Willingness:** Community is aware about the project and does not show any unwillingness for the project due to clean technology. Hence, considering the overall factors and also as information retrieved from the community consultation Community are welcoming the project along with the rest of the development of the entire Solar Park project.
- **Project Benefit:** The produced electricity will be evacuated to the state electricity grid (GSS) and will help to cater the energy requirement
- **CSR plan:** The CSR plan focused on community development will be implemented by the CSEPL.

There is no adverse impact on the nature of habitat, any natural existing land resources and effect in the regular life of people. Most impacts are expected to occur during the construction phase which are of temporary in nature. The main project impacts are associated with clearing of ground vegetation, waste management and excavation and movement of soils. From this perspective, the project is expected to have a small "environmental footprint". Adequate provisions have been made for the environmental mitigation and monitoring of predicted impacts.

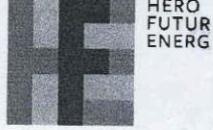
The project will have number of positive impacts which are:

- During the construction phase, local population often supply manpower for services such as those of drivers, vehicle vendors, contractors, watchmen etc.
- Natural drainage channels/ reservoirs in the study area should not be disturbed. To rule out future storm water problems, storm water channels are planned along the periphery of the project site.
- Water Resource will not be over exploited.
- Proper Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) will have to be implemented by CSPTPL to overcome public inconvenience during the project activities. Based on the environmental and social assessment and surveys conducted for the project, the potential adverse environmental

impacts can be mitigated to an acceptable level by adequate implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the ESMP.

Therefore, the solar power plant site will not degrade the quality of surrounding environment, while improving the socio-economic conditions of the surrounding area.

## Appendix A: Letter to KREDL for Land Conversion



Ref: KREDL/NA/180MW/43  
Date: 06/04/2017

To  
The Managing Director,  
Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd.,  
No.39, "Shanthi Gruha"  
Bharath Scouts & Guides Building,  
Opp.the Chief Post Master General Office,  
Palace Road, Bangaluru - 560 001.

**Sub: Permission to purchase agricultural lands under new deemed conversion solar policy.**  
Ref: 1. KREDL LOA No. KREDL/07/RPO/GC/1200MWs-269/2016/1237, dated 23-03-2016  
2. Govt. Order No. RD 69 LGP 2015 Dated: 01/12/2015

Dear Sir,

We have proposed to purchase agricultural lands in Marenadu village, HuliYaru Hobli, Chikkanayakanahalli Taluk, Tumkur District in various survey numbers as per the list appended to set up Solar power project and have enclosed necessary documents.


KARNATAKA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED has allotted 20MW to start solar Power Project at the above mentioned taluk vide orders referred at Ref.1.


Pursuant to the amendment of Section 109 of the Karnataka Land Reforms Act (Deemed conversion) vide orders referred at Ref.2 to promote solar power projects by GOK, the Revenue department has simplified 109 procedures in order to avoid inordinate delay in the implementation of the project which is eco-friendly.

Since we have obtained all the necessary documents required to file u/s.109 KLR 1961, we request you to write a letter to the **Tumkur Deputy Commissioner office** to process of our file U/S.109 KLR 1961 and grant permission to buy the required land (Extent list appended) as per the new deemed conversion solar policy to establish solar power plant.

Thanking you,  
Yours faithfully,

For M/s Clean Solar Power (Tumkur) Private Limited  
For Clean Solar Power (Tumkur) Private Limited

  
Authorized Signatory. Authorized Signatory



Enclosures:  
1. Filled in form 15A  
2. Copy of the Government Order regarding deemed Conversion for Solar Project;  
3. Copy of LOA awarded through KREDL  
4. Certificate of Incorporation;  
5. Memorandum of Articles of Association  
6. Detailed project report  
7. RTC of the land

planet positive power

**CLEAN SOLAR POWER (TUMKUR) PVT LTD.**  
CIN - U40101DL2016PTC298461  
**Regional office:** No-302, 3<sup>rd</sup> FLOOR, PRESTIGE INFANTRY COURT, INFANTRY ROAD, BANGALORE- 560001, INDIA  
**Registered office:** 212, GROUND FLOOR, OKHLA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PH-III, NEW DELHI 110020, INDIA  
**Corporate office:** 202, THIRD FLOOR, OKHLA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PH-III, NEW DELHI 110020, INDIA  
Landline No.:+91 11 49598000, Fax No. +91 11 49598022;  
Email:-info@herofutureenergies.com. Website: www.herofutureenergies.com



**"FORM 15A  
(see rule 38-D)**

Application for claiming/granting exemption under section 109 of the Karnataka Land Reforms 1961 (To be filled by the Applicant/Institution)

1)	Name of the Applicant/Institution with detailed address (in block letters)3	M/s. Clean Solar Power(Tumkur)Pvt Ltd, Plot No.212, Ground Floor, Okhla Industrial Phase-III, New Delhi-110020
2)	Purpose for which exemption is sought	For setting up 20 MW Solar PV Project awarded through KREDL
3)	Date of Registration of firm/Institutions under the Indian Companies Act, Societies Registration Act of any other Law (Copy of the Registration document to be enclosed along with the Memorandum of Article of Association). In case of Cooperative Housing Society, list of Members to be enclosed.	25/04/2016 MoA - AoA & Certificate of Incorporation Attached
4)	(a) Registration Certificate issued by the Department of Industries and Commerce for having registered as an Industry (Copy to be enclosed). (b) In case of Educational Institutions recognition letter/Order issued by State/Central Government. (c) Place of worship notification issued by Government as detailed in rule (3) (iii). (d) Audit Report of the previous year of the company. (e) Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies Report	MoA - AoA & Certificate of Incorporation Attached  Not Applicable
5)	(i) Extent, of land for which exemption is sought, survey number wise. (ii) Agreement copy entered between the land owner and the applicant. (iii) Whether any case under section 79-A and B has been registered in respect of land now proposed to be sold. If yes, details thereof.	Attached  -No-
6)	Whether the applicant is already having agricultural land in his/its name or in the name of any subsidiary institution/company. If so, furnish the details. Village, Taluk, Survey, Number and extent.	-No-
7)	Source of finance for the proposed project	Through own equity & Loan
8)	Copy of the project report	DPR Attached
9)	Professional expertise of the applicant in the respective field.	Objective of company is to set up renewable energy project
10)	11-E Sketch If part of Survey No. is proposed (Y/N)/Survey sketch if full number	Attached
11)	Whether recommendation letter of single window agency/State High Level Clearance Committee Certificate /Order in case of Industries including Tourism, Agro based industries and housing project is enclosed.	Not Applicable
12)	Name and address of the proposed seller of the Land (Survey number wise)	Rela

PLACE: Bangalore  
DATE: 06/04/2017

For Clean Solar Power (Tumkur) Private Limited  
Signature of the Applicant/Institution

Authorised Sig



## Appendix B: ILO Guidelines

No.6

# ILO HELPDESK

ASSISTANCE@ILO.ORG



International  
Labour  
Organization

## Workers' housing

**Housing provided to workers as part of the employment contract should meet certain minimum specifications in respect of the nature and standard of the accommodation and facilities to be made available.**

The following guidance is based on international labour standards. National or state regulation will often set baseline specifications as part of housing, labour, health or even fire safety regulations; they should be checked and followed. National employers and workers organizations may also be a good source of information on national law, collective bargaining agreements and customs pertaining to housing for workers; or may be able to refer you to the appropriate statutory authority.

## Guiding principles

➔ In providing worker<sup>1</sup> housing, the objective should be to ensure "adequate and decent housing accommodation and a suitable living environment"<sup>2</sup> for workers. This includes upkeep, improvement and modernisation of housing and related community facilities.<sup>3</sup>

It is "generally not desirable that employers should provide housing for their workers directly".<sup>4</sup> Employers are encouraged to help their workers to obtain housing through autonomous private agencies, public housing

## Siting and construction

➔ The housing and related community facilities should be of durable construction, taking into account local conditions, such as liability to earthquakes.<sup>5</sup>

The location of workers' housing should ensure that workers are not affected by air pollution, surface run-off or sewage or other wastes.<sup>10</sup>

## Housing Standards

➔ Housing should ensure "structural safety and reasonable levels of decency, hygiene and comfort".<sup>11</sup> The undertaking should ensure the following:

- a) a separate bed for each worker;
- b) adequate headroom, providing full and free movement, of not less than 203 centimetres;
- c) the minimum inside dimensions of a sleeping space should be at least 198 centimetres by 80 centimetres;
- d) beds should not be arranged in tiers of more than two;
- e) bedding materials should be reasonably comfortable;
- f) bedding and bedframe materials should be designed to deter vermin;
- g) separate accommodation of the sexes;
- h) adequate natural light during the daytime and adequate artificial light;
- i) a reading lamp for each bed;
- j) adequate ventilation to ensure sufficient movement of air in all conditions of weather and climate;
- k) heating where appropriate;
- l) adequate supply of safe potable water;
- m) adequate sanitary facilities (see below);
- n) adequate drainage;
- o) adequate furniture for each worker to secure his or her belongings, such as a ventilated clothes locker which can be locked by the occupant to ensure privacy;
- p) common dining rooms, canteens or mess rooms, located away from the sleeping areas;
- q) appropriately situated and furnished laundry facilities;
- r) reasonable access to telephone or other modes of communications, with any charges for the use of these services being reasonable in amount; and

<sup>1</sup> Workers' Housing Recommendation, 1961 (No. 175). The section entitled "Suggestions concerning methods of application," Part I, paragraph 5, encourages "equality of treatment between migrant workers and national workers". Therefore, this guidance applies equally to migrant workers and national workers.

<sup>2</sup> R. 115, General Principles, Part II, paragraph 2.

<sup>3</sup> R. 115, paragraph 3.

<sup>4</sup> R. 115, Part IV, paragraph 12(2).

<sup>5</sup> R. 115, Part IV, paragraph 12(1).

<sup>6</sup> R. 115, Part IV, paragraph 12(2).

<sup>7</sup> R. 115, Part IV, paragraph 12(3a).

<sup>8</sup> R. 115, Part II, paragraph 4, Part IV, paragraph 12(3c) and (4).

<sup>9</sup> R. 115, Suggestions Concerning Methods of Application, Part I, paragraphs 10-11.

<sup>10</sup> R. 115, Suggestions Concerning Methods of Application, Part IX, paragraph 43.

<sup>11</sup> R. 115, paragraph 19.

- s) rest and recreation rooms and health facilities, where not otherwise available in the community.

In workers' sleeping rooms the floor area should not be less than 7.5 square metres in rooms accommodating two persons; 11.5 square metres in rooms accommodating three persons; or 14.5 square metres in rooms accommodating four persons. If a room accommodates more than four persons, the floor area should be at least 3.6 square metres per person. Rooms should indicate the permitted number of occupants.

As far as practicable, sleeping rooms should be arranged so that shifts are separated and that no workers working during the day share a room with workers on night shifts.

## Sanitation facilities

➤ Adequate sanitary facilities should include a minimum of one toilet, one wash basin and one tub or shower for every six persons. They should be provided at a convenient location which prevents nuisances. Sanitary facilities provided should meet minimum standards of health and hygiene. They should also provide reasonable standards of comfort, including hot and cold fresh running water. There should be separate sanitary facilities provided for men and for women. Sanitary facilities should have ventilation to the open air, independently of any other part of the accommodation. Soap and hygienic paper should be adequately stocked.

## Health and safety

➤ As far as possible, floors walls, ceilings and equipment should be constructed to minimize health risks.

The accommodations should be kept free of rats, mice, insects and vermin. In areas where mosquitoes are prevalent, workers should be provided netting.

Measures should be taken to prevent the spread of diseases. Separate facilities should be provided for sick workers to prevent the spread of transmissible diseases among the occupants. Fire safety measures should be taken, including installing and maintaining fire equipment (alarms, extinguishers, etc.). Workers should be trained in fire procedures. Bedding should not contain flammable materials. Radiators and other heating apparatus should be placed so as to avoid risk of fire, and shielded where necessary to prevent discomfort to occupants.

Safety exits should be clearly marked. Adequate means of escape should be provided and properly maintained.

Provisions should be made for workers' physical safety and well-being, and protection of their belongings. Measures should be reasonable and not unduly restrict workers' freedom of movement. Workers should be allowed visits for social relations or business, including trade union business.<sup>12</sup>

## Inspection of premises

➤ Premises should be inspected frequently to ensure that the accommodation is clean, decently habitable and maintained in a good state of repair. The results of each such inspection should be recorded and be available for review.

## Vacating the premises upon termination of employment

➤ When a worker's contract of employment is terminated, the worker should be entitled to a reasonable period of time to vacate the premises, in accordance with national law and custom.<sup>13</sup>

## Consultation

➤ In the design of housing for workers, "every effort should be made to consult those bodies representative of future occupants best able to advise on the most suitable means of meeting their housing and environmental needs."<sup>14</sup>

## References

➤ Workers' Housing Recommendation, 1961 (No. 115); full text available at: <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/recd/isp1.htm>.

➤ For comparison, you may also wish to consult the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006, Title 3, which gives detailed guidance for workers' accommodation for seafarers; full text available at: <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/convide.pl?C186>.

<sup>12</sup> R. 115, Suggestions Concerning Methods of Application, Part IV, paragraph 17.

<sup>13</sup> R. 115, General Principles, Part IV, paragraphs 12(b) and Suggestions Concerning Methods of Application, Part IV, paragraph 15.

<sup>14</sup> R. 115, Suggestions Concerning Methods of Application, Part IX, paragraph 42.

**ILO Helpdesk**  
**Multinational Enterprises Programme**  
**International Labour Office**  
 4, route des Morillons  
 1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland  
 Tel: +41.22.799.6264  
 Fax: +41.22.799.6354  
[assistance@ilo.org](mailto:assistance@ilo.org)

### Appendix C: Sample Questionnaire for community consultation

Name of the village		Panchayat			
Taluka/Block		District			
Respondent				Date:	
Total Population		Total Male		Total Female	HH No.
Religion	Name	%	Name	%	
Caste/Group	Name	%	Name	%	
	Name	%	Name	%	
Education Level	Illiterate %	Primary %	Secondary %	H.S. %	Graduate %
Occupation	Agriculture %	Business %	Service %	Labor %	Other %
Source Drinking water facility	Tube well	Dug well	Stream	Piped water	Hand pumps
Sanitation facility	Pit latrine %	Sanitary latrine %	Open defecation %	Other %	
Electricity (Available %)			Electricity availability in HH		
Village road type/transport facility					
Schools (distance)	Primary	Middle	H. S.	College	Anganwadi
Health Facility (distance)	Health sub Centre	Primary	Hospital	Others	

ESIA for 20 MW Solar Power Project at Village Tharkas Peth, Chittapur, Karnataka

Major diseases								
Major crops cultivated	Name	Period	Yield (q/acr)	Rate/q	Name	Period	Yield (q/acr)	Rate/q
Irrigation Facility	Ponds		River		Groundwater		Others	
Average land holding size								
Land rights								
Livestock	Cow		Buffalo		Goat		Pig	
	Duck		Others					
Grazing areas								
Cooking medium and source	Fuel Wood		Kerosene		Cow Dung Cake		Crop Residue	
	Others							
Common Property Resources (CPR)	Religious and Cultural Places		Sacred Places		Community Hall		Community Ponds	
	Streams		Canal		River		Others	
Major rituals and festivals	Name		Period		Name		Period	
Fishing area			Name of the					

ESIA for 20 MW Solar Power Project at Village Tharkas Peth, Chittapur, Karnataka

Forest	Wood	Timber	NTFP	Others	
Any Vulnerable Groups like- landless/homeless- people, Women headed HH, Orphans etc.					
Any program related to child / women health care program					
Any employment generation program					
HH & Cottage industries in the village / area					
Any Scheme / Program related infrastructure / any amenities					
Occurrence any Natural Calamities / industrial / anthropogenic Hazard					



## Appendix D: Summary of Stakeholders Consultation

Stakeholder Group	Village/ Department/ Designation	Name	Methodology	Findings
Project Proponent Hero Future Energies (HFE)	Asst. Site Manager	Mr. Charan	Group interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The background of the 20 MW Solar Power Project</li> <li>The project is being executed under the SPV namely Clean Solar Power (Tumkur) Pvt. Ltd. on behalf of HFE.</li> <li>Request letter for land conversion has been sent to KREDL</li> <li>Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) is completed.</li> <li>Certificate of registration for BOCW (Building and Other Construction Workers) is procured.</li> <li>Principal Labour Registration Certificate has been procured from Dept. of Labour, Govt. of Karnataka</li> <li>Regular Power Evacuation approval has been received from Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL).</li> <li>All the project land are procured willing buyer- willing seller basis and good faith negotiation.</li> <li>It was also mentioned by him that no ST land was procured for the project.</li> </ul>
Anganwadi Worker	Anganwadi Worker & Helper, Tharkas peth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manjula, Anganwadi worker</li> <li>Sabera Bibi, Anganwadi Helper</li> </ul>	Group Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is only one Angawadi Centre (AWC) in Tharkas-Peth village.</li> <li>14 children, 7 mothers of neo-natal child and 3 pregnant women, are enrolled and visit on regular basis at the Anganwadi Centre.</li> <li>The Anganwadi Centre is facing that they don't have own drinking water facility.</li> <li>Water is carried from the nearby primary school tap.</li> </ul>
School Staff	Asst. Teacher, Govt. Primary School, Tharkas peth	Chandra Kala, Mahalaxmi Amma, Mid-day Meal Cook	Group interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The govt. primary school has total enrolment of 25 children.</li> <li>The school is co-educational.</li> <li>Drinking water and sitting arrangements are main areas</li> </ul>

				<p>of concern that needs improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nearest middle school is located at Kollur adjacent to the village.</li> <li>• The high school is located at a distance of 5 km at Dappagunte. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pre-degree and degree college is located at Chitapur (around 15 Km) and Gulbarga (around 55 Km) respectively.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Community	Tharkas peth village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shafiullah</li> <li>• Gopalayah</li> <li>• Mahalingappa</li> <li>• Lingaraja</li> </ul>	Group Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main source for Irrigation in agriculture is bore well.</li> <li>• Main source of drinking water is ground water, which is harvested mostly by bore well and stored in small capacity tanks with tap connections.</li> <li>• The main crops are, Tur, cotton, Red gram.</li> <li>• Rain-fed agriculture is majorly practiced.</li> <li>• There is no health facility in the village, which is highly required. The nearest PHC is at Kollur.</li> <li>• Routine immunization programme is conducted.</li> <li>• The community is aware of the upcoming Solar Power Project and is expecting betterment in their livelihood with the initiation of the same.</li> </ul>



ESIA for 20 MW Solar Power Project at Village Tharkas Peth, Chittapur, Karnataka

Land Owner	Marenadu village	Ajjj Mia	One to one interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land is sold at willing to sale-willing to buy basis.</li> <li>The amount of transaction is satisfactory and much higher to existing rates.</li> <li>He is expecting over all development in project area.</li> </ul>
EPC Contractor	Larsen & Toubro	Surya Narayan, Sr. Engineer & Site-in-charge		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The construction work is on way of completion</li> <li>The boundary wall and the SCADA room on way of completion</li> <li>Incidents records are maintained and followed wherever necessary</li> </ul>
Labourers	L& T and Local Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mallikarajun</li> <li>Ritis Mitra</li> <li>Mallu</li> <li>Suraj Kumar</li> <li>Rasid Singh</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boundary wall are on way of completion</li> <li>They have been trained for safety on periodical basis for SCADA documentation and security records</li> <li>Security personnel have trained and deputed for different exclusive duties, viz. SCADA room, entrance etc.</li> <li>The migrated labourers are provided with a accommodation in form of camps, with water and sanitation faculties a little away separately located area in the village.</li> <li>PPEs are provided, which include safety jacket, safety shoe and helmet.</li> </ul>

**Appendix E: Power Purchase Agreement with Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM)**

POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN



BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY (BESCOM)


AND

M/s CLEAN SOLAR POWER (TUMKUR) PRIVATE LIMITED SPV  
of (M/s HERO SOLAR ENERGY PRIVATE LIMITED)

FOR

Development of Solar Power Project in the State of  
Karnataka

 <p>General Manager (Die), PP, BESCOM, B'lore.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>For Clean Solar Power (Tumkur) Private Limited</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Authorised Signatory</p>
---	---

INDIA NON JUDICIAL	
Government of Karnataka	
e-Stamp	
 सत्यमेव जयते	
Certificate No.	IN-KA505071361612190
Certificate Issued Date	: 23-May-2016 02:37 PM
Account Reference	: NONACC (FI)/ kaksfcl08/SHIVANADA/ KA-BA
Unique Doc. Reference	: SUBIN-KAKAKSFCL08506382984941470
Purchased by	: CLEAN SOLAR POWER TUMKUR PVT LTD
Description of Document	: Article-12-Bond
Description	: POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT
Consideration Price (Rs.)	: 0 (Zero)
First Party	: BESCOM
Second Party	: CLEAN SOLAR POWER TUMKUR PVT LTD
Stamp Duty Paid By	: CLEAN SOLAR POWER TUMKUR PVT LTD
Stamp Duty Amount (Rs.)	: 200 (Two Hundred only)

.....Please write or type below this line.....  
**POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT**

This Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) (hereinafter shall be referred to as "Agreement") is entered into on this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of MAY month, of 2016 year

**AMONGST**

1. Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited, a Company incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 having its registered office at BESCOM Corporate Office ,K.R.Circle, Bengaluru(hereinafter shall be referred to as "BESCOM", which expression shall, unless it be repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, include it's administrators, successors, and assigns);

**AND**

For Clean Solar Power (Tumkur) Private Limited

*[Signature]*  
General Manager (P&A),  
BESCOM, Bengaluru

*[Signature]*  
Authorized Signatory

**Statutory Alert:**  
1. The authenticity of this Stamp Certificate should be verified at "www.shclitestamp.com". Any discrepancy in the details on this Certificate and as available on the website renders it invalid.  
2. The onus of checking the legitimacy is on the users of the certificate.  
3. In case of any discrepancy please inform the Competent Authority.

M/s. Clean Solar Power (Tumkur) Private Limited, a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, [1956/2013] and having its registered office at No 212, Ground Floor, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-III, New Delhi, South Delhi, Delhi-110020, India, (hereinafter shall be referred to as "**Developer**") which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, include its successors and permitted assigns and substitutes) of the Other Part.

WHEREAS:


- A. Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (hereinafter shall be referred to as "**KREDL**") incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 is a nodal agency of the Government of Karnataka (hereinafter shall be referred to as "GoK") for facilitating the development of renewable energy in Karnataka. GoK had resolved to undertake development of 1,200 MW(AC) (One Thousand and Two Hundred Mega Watt) of solar power in Karnataka to be implemented in 60 Taluks through private sector participation.
- B. Pursuant thereto, KREDL had accordingly invited proposals by its "**Request for Proposal (RP)**" dated 20.11.2015 prescribed the technical, commercial terms and conditions for selection of Bidders for undertaking development of solar PV ground mount power plants in Karnataka to be implemented in 60 Taluks. In this regard, KREDL had received proposals from certain bidders including, inter alia, the ReNew Solar Power Private Limited{the single business entity}
- C. After evaluation of the Proposal received, KREDL had accepted the bid of the {single business entity/ Consortium} for development of 20 MW (AC) capacity of [Solar PV ground mount Project (Crystalline Silicon Solar Cells and Modules) ] in the Chikkanayakanahalli Taluk with google coordinate of the location as and issued its Letter of Award NoKREDL/07/RPO/GC/1200MWs-269/2016/1237 dated:23.3.2016(herein after called the "**LOA**") [and an Allotment Letter No. NoKREDL/07/RPO/GC/1200MWs-269/2016/1237 dated: 23.3.2016] to the {single business entity/ Consortium} ["**Selected Bidder**"] requiring, inter alia, the execution of this Agreement.
- D. {The single business entity/ Consortium has since promoted and incorporated the Developer ("**Special Purpose Vehicle**" or"**SPV**"), in accordance with the terms of RFP and has requested BESCOM through a letter bearing number No.KREDL/1200/LOA/BESCOM/02 dated 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 to accept the Developer as the entity which shall undertake and perform the obligations and exercise the rights of the Selected Bidder under the LOA, including the obligation to enter into this Agreement pursuant to the LOA for executing the Project.
- E. {By its letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 the Developer has also joined in the said request of the single business entity/ Consortium to BESCOM to accept it as the entity which shall undertake and perform the obligations and exercise the rights of the single business entity/ Consortium including the obligation to enter into this Agreement pursuant to the LOA. The

  
 General Manager (E&E),  
 PP, BESCOM, D'Hoore.

For Clean Solar Power (Tumkur) Private Limited

  
 Authorised Signatory

## Appendix F: Certificate of Registration for BOCW (Building and other construction Workers)



**FORM II**  
*[See Sub-rule (1) of Rule (16)]*  
**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**  
**OFFICE OF THE REGISTERING OFFICER**

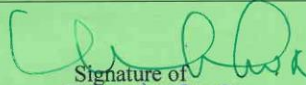
No:LOT/CWWB/RGN- 17/2016-17

Office of the Labour Officer,  
 & Registration Authority, Building And  
 Other Construction Workers Act,  
 Kandaya Bhavan, Beside District Court,  
 Tumkur. Date : 10-04-2017

A certificate of Registration is hereby granted under sub-section (3) of Section 7 of the building and other construction Workers (Regulation of employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, and the rules made there under to **M/s CLEAN SOLAR POWER (TUMKUR)PVT LTD**, having the following particulars subject to conditions laid down in the Annexure.

01	Postal address/location where building Other construction work is to be Carried on by the employer	:	M/s Clean Solar Power(Tumkur) Pvt Ltd, Chikka Nayakana Halli, Tumkur.
02	Name and address of employer including location of the building and other Construction work	:	Mr. Madhusoodana PK M/s Clean Solar Power(Tumkur) Pvt Ltd, Chikka Nayakana Halli, Tumkur.
03	Name and permanent address of the establishment	:	M/s Clean Solar Power(Tumkur) Pvt Ltd, No-302, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Prestige Infantry Court, 130 Infantry road, Bangalore-01.
04	Nature of work in which building workers are employed or are to be employed	:	Civil Works
05	Maximum number of building workers to the employed on any day by the employer	:	100 No's
06	Probable date of commencement and Completion of work	:	01-04-2017 To 31-03-2018
07	Other particulars relevant to the employment of building workers	:	RS.1000/- SBM Challan No- 19 Date : 07-04-2017

Place : Tumkur  
 Date :10-04-2017.



Signature of  
 Registering Officer with Seal  
 ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್




ANNEXURE

The registration granted herein above is subject to the following conditions, namely.


- The certificate of registration shall be non-transferable;
- The number of workmen employed or building workers in the establishment shall not, on any day, exceed the maximum, number specified in the certificate or registration ;
- Save or provided in these rules, the fees paid for the grant of registration certificate shall be non-refundable;
- The rates of wages payable to building workers by the employer shall not be less than the rates prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (2 of 1948), for such employment where applicable, and where the rates have been fixed by agreement, settlement or award, not less than the rates so fixed; and
- The employer shall comply with the provisions of the Act and the rules made there under.

## Appendix G: Principal Labor Registration Certificate



ALC-B-1/CL/P-1000005176/2017-18

05/04/2017



**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR**

ALC-B-1/CLA/P-1000005176/2017-18

Fee:Rs.3000

Office of the Assistant  
Labour Commissioner  
BENGALURU-1  
Karmika Bhavan,  
Bannerughatta Road,  
Near Dairy Circle,  
Bengaluru-29

Date:05/04/2017

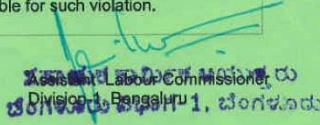
**FORM-II**  
(See Rule18(1))

**CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION**

A Certificate of Registration containing the following particulars is hereby granted under sub-section(2) of Section 7 of the Contract Labour(Regulation and Abolition) Act,1970 and the rules made there under, to CLEAN SOLAR POWER (TUMKUR) PVT LTD., CHIKKANAYAKANAHALLI, CLEAN SOLAR POWER TUMKUR PVT LTD, 302, 3rd Floor, Prestige Infantry Court, 130 Infantry Road, Bangalore - 560001

**Registration Details :**      ALC-B-1/CLA/P-1000005176/2017-18

1. Nature of work carried on the Establishment	Solar Park Developers
2. Names and address of Contractors	As Per Annexure
3. Nature of the work in which contract labour is employed or is to be employed	As Per Annexure
4. Maximum number of contract labour to be employed on any day through each	200
5. Other particulars relevant to the employment of contract labour.	The Conditions of Licence contained in the Licence issued to each of the Contract and shall be complied with if any conditions of Licence is violated/contra versed then the Principal Employer shall be held responsible for such violation.



Assistant Labour Commissioner,  
Division-1, Bengaluru 1, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು 1



ALC-B-1/CLA/P-1000005176/2017-18

05/04/2017

ALC-B-1/CLA/P-1000005176/2017-18

**Contractors Details :**

S.No	Name of the Contract	Address of the Contract	Nature of Contract work	Maximum number of Contract Workers	Estimated date of commencement	Estimated date of termination
1	Larsen And Toubro Ltd.,	L And T House, Narottam Morarjee Marg, Ballared Estate, Mumbai	Installation And Erection of Solar Panels	150	01/04/2017	01/04/2018
2	PVR Constructions	Yelahanka, Bangalore	Transmission Line Works	50	01/04/2017	01/04/2018

Assistant Labour Commissioner  
Division-1, Bangalore

## Appendix H: Regular Evacuation Approval sample page

### KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

Fax No : 080-22292204  
Phone No: 080-22210416



Office of the  
Chief Engineer (Ele)  
(Planning & Co-ordination)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, KPTCL,  
Kaveri Bhavan,  
Bengaluru 560009

No: CEE (P&C)/ SEE (Plg)/EE (PSS)/KCO-93/64150/F-874 Date: .2.2017  
16948-85

To,  
M/s. Clean Solar Power (Tumkur) Pvt Ltd,  
212, Ground Floor,  
Okhla Industrial Estate PH-III,  
New Delhi - 110020  
Sir,

= 3 FEB 2017

Sub: Regular Evacuation scheme for your proposed 20 MW solar project in  
Chikkanayakanahalli Taluk, Tumakuru District reg

Ref: 1) Your letter no: KPTCL /Evacuation /180MW /04 dated: 23.7.2016

2) KREDL LOA letter no: KREDL /07/RPO /GC /1200MWs-269/ 2016/ 1237 dated:  
23.3.2016 issued to M/s Hero Solar Energy Pvt Ltd for Chikkanayakanahalli taluk,  
Tumkur District & Paid Rs. 20,90,000/- facilitation fee to KREDL vide Rt.No: 343  
dated 25/5/2016.

3) KREDL Letter no: KREDL /07 /RPO /GC /1200MWs-269 / 2016 /2359 dated:  
5.7.2016

4) KREDL Letter no: KREDL /SG /07 /F-78 /SECI / 2016 /2706 dated: 3.8.2016  
regarding facilitation fees

5) KERC letter addressed to MD, KREDL vide letter no: KERC /S /F-31 /Vol-1131  
/16-17 /1092 dated: 21.7.2016

6) KERC letter addressed to MD, BESCOM vide letter no: KERC /S /F-31 /Vol-1131  
/16-17 /1196 dated: 22.7.2016

7) KREDL Letter no: KREDL /SG /07 /F-73 /KERC / 2016 /2896 dated: 23.8.2016

8) T.O. note approved by MD, KPTCL in connection with processing 1200MW  
KREDL Projects on 23.8.2016

9) KERC letter addressed to ACS, Vikas Soudha vide letter no: KERC /S /F-31  
/Vol-1131 /16-17 /1443 dated: 29.8.2016

10) T.O. letter no: 12716-717 feasibility report furnished by KPTCL on 27.2.2016 to  
MD KREDL

## Appendix I: Land Owner List

Sl No	Survey No	Land Owner Name	Land Extent	
			Acres	Guntas
1	54	Smt Nagamma D/o Sabanna Achholi	3	0
2	143	Sri Imam Sab S/o Abdul Sab	9	38
3	142		7	20
4	143	Sri Vijay Kumar S/o Nagappa Kankurte	5	35
5	136		16	36
6	138		14	28
7	139		11	13
8	135/1		2	6
9	135/3		5	2
10	194/1	Sri Chandappa S/o Mareppa	14	9
11	194/3		2	25
12	141		16	28
<b>Total</b>			<b>104</b>	<b>240</b>
Total extent in acres			110	

## Appendix J: THE ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY



Built to deliver a better world

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### Annexure I Environment and Social Policy

Hero Future Energy (HFE) is committed to generate Clean Power leading to a Greener Planet for our future generations HFE intends to introduce environment and community friendly source of energy through renewable options. HFE is committed to environmental excellence in all its activities. HFE will maintain cordial relations with community we work with. We shall strive to limit our direct impacts on the environment and community while delivering our projects.

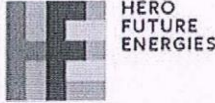
- We will provide utmost weightage to environmental and social considerations for all our operations;
- We shall strive for reduction of pollution and waste generation through improvement in operational efficiency;
- We will focus on energy and resources conservation measures ;
- We will involve with community and stakeholders to mutually benefit from all our projects;
- We will comply with all applicable laws and regulations
- We will preserve and enhance biodiversity in our projects
- We will ensure commitment towards sustainability by complying with the Green code of Company, implementing 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and IER (Individual Environment Responsibility)
- We will communicate the environmental and social policy to all employees, customers and other stakeholders and ensure it is available to the public
- We will review the environmental and social policy to ensure their continuing applicability and relevance to our operations and evolving stakeholder expectations

The corporate policy shall be signed by the Chief Executive Officer of HFE.

The policy shall be communicated to HFE employees, contractors and associated stakeholders. The signed policy shall be displayed at the corporate office, all project companies and on the website of the company.



## Appendix K: CSR POLICY

POLICY NO. HFE/CSR01	CSR POLICY
 <p>HERO FUTURE ENERGIES PVT. LTD.</p>	

1.0 OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 HFE is dedicated to contribute in the Country's development by focusing on economic, social and environmental capital towards enhancing societal sustainability. Our endeavour is to provide inclusive growth at our project locations by working on improving/providing basic amenities to communities around our project sites and generate possibilities of employment.
- 1.2 To contribute to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund or any other fund set up by the Central Government at the time of natural calamity or engage in Disaster Management system.
- 1.3 To contribute to any fund setup by the Central Government or State Government(s) including Chief Minister's Relief Fund, which may be recognized as CSR activity;
- 1.4 To promote sustainability in partnership with industry associations, like the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), PHD, FICCI, NGO's, Government schemes like Swachh Bharat etc.
- 1.5 Undertake CSR programs in collaboration or through Raman Kant Munjal Foundation.

2.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF THE POLICY

- 2.1 The Policy shall be governed by the provisions of the relevant Act made there under.

3.0 APPLICABILITY

- 3.1 This Policy is applicable to HFE for implementing CSR as per Clause 135 of the Companies Act, 2013
- 3.2 Eligibility Criteria - The CSR provisions within the Act is applicable to Companies with an annual turnover of 1,000 crore INR and more, or a net worth of 500 crore INR and more, or a net profit of five crore INR and more. The Act encourages Companies to spend at least 2% of their average net profit in the previous three years on CSR activities.

4.0 COVERAGE

- 4.1 This Policy lays down guidelines of implementing projects falling under CSR framework.

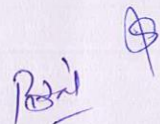
5.0 RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

- 5.1 Approval, renewal and change in this Policy is the responsibility of HR, under approval of the CEO and MD.
- 5.2 Monitoring and implementation of this Policy is the responsibility of the CSR Committee.


6.0 REFERENCE

- 6.1 Clause 135 of the Companies Act, 2013

First Issue - August 28, 2015



Page 4 of 7

POLICY NO. HFE/CSR01	CSR POLICY
 <p>HERO FUTURE ENERGIES PVT. LTD.</p>	

11.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF CSR WORKING COMMITTEE

- 11.1 The CSR committee shall formulate and recommend a CSR strategy and Policy to the Board, indicating the activities as specified in Schedule VII of the Act.
- 11.2 recommend the amount of expenditure to be incurred on the activities indicated in the Policy.
- 11.3 monitor the CSR policy regularly.

12.0 CSR STRATEGY

- 12.1 Our Company will implement projects which will have definite beginnings, ends, expected outputs and outcomes as well as budgets associated with it.
- 12.2 The projects that will be undertaken may be of a short duration (a few months) or multi-year.
- 12.3 We will implement projects either through in-house teams or in partnership with other agencies or a combination of both. In case of multi-year projects, same will be reviewed on an annual basis or as at such time as may be decided by the Committee..
- 12.4 Selected projects will be grouped as per their implementation period in a 1- year plan, 2-year plan and a 3-year plan. These plans will be presented annually at the meeting of CSR committee of the Board.

13.0 CSR PROGRAMMES


- 13.1 Project to be implemented under CSR in a specific area will depend on the needs of local community. People of the local community will be involved in decision making regarding programmes to be undertaken. A detailed due diligence of the area/community would be done to identify the critical needs and their prioritization and a project will be shortlisted.
- 13.2 Once the Project is shortlisted then a Detailed Project Report will be prepared thereafter and presented to the Board level CSR Committee for Approval.
- 13.3 Following is a list of CSR Programmes that will be undertaken
  - 13.3.1 Preserving natural resources eg. Creating water pools, Rain water harvesting.
  - 13.3.2 Basic amenities eg. Providing access to water, electricity, education, toilets, health care etc.
  - 13.3.3 Possibilities of employment
  - 13.3.4 Any other that can be added to the list as and when finalised after discussion.

14.0 CSR Fund

- 14.1 The corpus for the purpose of carrying on the aforesaid activities would include the following:
  - 14.1.1 2% of the average Net Profit made by the Company during immediately preceding three Financial Years.
  - 14.1.2 any income arising there from.
  - 14.1.3 surplus arising out of CSR activities carried out by the Company and such surplus will not be part of business profit of the Company.

*Handwritten signature and initials*



POLICY NO. HFE/CSR01	CSR POLICY
 <p>HERO FUTURE ENERGIES PVT. LTD.</p>	

15.0 CSR PROCESS

- 15.1 Following are the list of activities that will be undertaken as part of the implementation of CSR Process
- 15.1.1 Framing the CSR Strategy
- 15.1.2 Operationalizing the institutional mechanism
- 15.1.3 Due diligence of the implementation partner
- 15.1.4 Project development
- 15.1.5 Project approval
- 15.1.6 Finalising the arrangement with the implementing agency
- 15.1.7 Progress monitoring and reporting
- 15.1.8 Impact measurement
- 15.1.9 Report consolidation and communication

16.0 FOLLOW - UP AND REVIEW

- 16.1 After the CSR project has been implemented in any area, the CSR working Committee will do a follow-up on regular basis to check whether the desired outcome has been achieved or not and whether the project implemented is operating as per the plan. In case, there is a gap in the desired result and actual implementation then corrective action needs to be taken and reporting to be done accordingly.

17.0 CSR TO SUBMIT ANNUAL REPORT

- 17.1 CSR Committee shall in each calendar year prepare, in such form and at such time as may be prescribed, an annual report and submit the same to the employer and the District Officer.

18.0 ATTACHMENTS

Description	Format No.
CSR Committee	HFE/CSR01/F1
Detailed Project Report	HFE/CSR01/F2
Annual Report	HFE/CSR01/F3

19.0 AMENDMENT

This Policy is subject to change at the sole discretion of the Management but in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act.

First Issue - August 28, 2015

*(Handwritten initials)*



## Appendix L: GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM

### Grievance Redressal Mechanism

#### a) What is Grievance Redressal Mechanism Procedure?

Grievance Redressal Mechanisms focus to meet requirements, prevent and address community concerns, reduce risk, and assist processes that create positive social change.

#### b) Why it is necessary?

Managing community grievances is equally important, especially in the present arrangement of land purchase where there is a likelihood of people not being satisfied. There could be grievances due to the way construction activities are carried out or Labour movement in local area etc. HFE needs to mitigate such issues either by getting directly involved or by ensuring that mitigation is done by its contractors.

#### c) What is uniqueness of our Grievance Redressal Mechanism?

- Provides a predictable, transparent, and credible process to all stakeholders, resulting in outcomes that are fair, effective, and lasting;
- Builds trust as an integral component of broader community relations activities and between employees;
- Enables more systematic identification of emerging issues and trends, facilitating corrective action and community engagement.

#### d) Grievance Committee formation

A site level Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) consisting of representatives from the contractors and HFE officials has formed. The GRC is designed at three levels - Levels I to III. The representatives proposed at different levels of the GRC are as below:

##### Three tier approaches

Level 1

- Site Supervisors and Site HR Officer of Contractor
- Liaison Officer

Level 2

- E&S Supervisor
- Liaison Officer
- HR Head of contractor at site

Level 3

- CEO
- HSE Lead
- Corporate HR

- The GRC meet at project site on monthly basis and on corporate level as and when the grievances are filed by the workers or persons from community.
- The complaints escalated to the higher level if the lower level fails to address the grievance to the satisfaction of complainant.

**Arcadis India Pvt. Ltd.**

3rd Floor, Tower B,  
Logixtechno Park,  
Plot No.5, Sector 127 Noida  
T: (0120) 4368 400

**[Arcadis.com](https://www.arcadis.com)**

