

TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – 31/05/2023

1.2 | Decision

The deviation request is approved.

The project developer may carry out the physical meeting and SFR whenever possible during/before the conclusion of design certification review.

However, the project developer shall:

- a. Carry out a remote physical stakeholder consultation meeting using appropriate means (like teleconferencing, video conferencing etc.).
- b. Also carry out a physical meeting and SFR as soon as the situation allows.

- c. The postponed physical stakeholder consultation and SFR shall be carried out in line with the latest [Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements](#).
- d. Note that project developer may be required to retroactively modify the project design, safeguarding principles and SDG impact parameters (which may, for instance, involve retroactively reducing the amount of emissions reductions/impact statements issued in the first verification as a result of the project design changes) based on all relevant feedback received from stakeholders during the delayed physical stakeholder consultation meeting and SFR.
- e. Document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the GS PDD and Monitoring Report (for the relevant MP).

The Validating VVB shall:

- a. through appropriate means at their disposal, evaluate the project developer's justification for carrying out a delayed physical meeting and provide their opinion in the validation report.
- b. verify the evidence to confirm that the physical stakeholder meeting was disrupted and could not have been carried out due to the reasons provided by project developer.
- c. seek feedback from relevant stakeholders on the grievance mechanism, safeguarding principles and sustainable development assessment during the audit process.
- d. evaluate the project's compliance with the above condition(s) and provides its opinion in the Validation Report.

SustainCert shall review both the project developer's response and the VVB's assessment/opinion of the same and take appropriate steps.

1.3 | Is this decision applicable to other project activities under similar circumstances?

No

B. To be completed by the Project Developer/Coordinating and Managing Entity and/or VVB requesting deviation (Submit deviation request form in Microsoft Word format)

2| Background information

Los Negros Power Plant is a project under development, which consists of a grid-connected utility-scale renewable energy production in the Dominican Republic, a Small Island Developing State.

The project will generate solar renewable energy using photovoltaic technology and substitute fossil fuel energy from the Dominican grid. The project will be able to promote sustainable development in the Dominican Republic. It will be in Puerto Viejo, in the province of Azua in the Dominican Republic.

Los Negros Power Plant will consist of a 25 MWp solar installation. The proposed project activity will supply an average of 46 GWh to the SENI (Sistema Eléctrico Nacional Interconectado), replacing part of the electricity generated by the grid-connected plants. The start date of the project is 06/06/2022, when the solar panels purchase agreement was signed, so it is a retroactive project. It is expected that it will reduce around 28,000 tCO_{2e} per year.

This project is planned to be certified under the Gold Standard ensuring enhanced local socio-economic benefits as well as verifiable emission reductions, which shall significantly help the project. ClimatePartner Impact will act as the carbon developer of this Gold Standard project and will work with Phinie & Co. Development Ltd, which is the implementation Partner. The project meets all the legal requirements.

Being a solar project, it contributes to the sustainable development of the Dominican Republic. It supports the much-needed energy transition of the country, to shift from fossil fuels to energy renewable. It also decreases dependence on fossil fuels, the most imported product in the country, so it helps to improve its trade balance. Furthermore, the ecological attractiveness of the country as a tourist destination is increased. This is

essential since it is a very important sector for the country and its main source of currency.

More specifically, regarding the impact on the community, it is expected to generate 300 direct jobs during the construction stage. Currently, 258 people have already worked on the project (98% were local people). In addition, it is expected to employ 12 people during the operation stage, for at least 20 years.



Deviation Reference Number	DEV_420	
Date of decision	31/05/23	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	NA	
Date of submission	03/05/2023	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – NA
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GSXXXX
Project/PoA/VPA title	Los Negros Solar Power Plant	
Date of listing	NA	
GS Standard version applicable	GS4GG	
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)	NA	
Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable)	NA	
Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable)	NA	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Dominican Republic	
Scale of the project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> Microscale <input type="checkbox"/> Small scale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large scale	
Gold Standard Impact Registry link of the project/PoA/VPA	NA	
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Listed <input type="checkbox"/> Certified design <input type="checkbox"/> Certified project	

Title/subject of deviation	Request for an extension of the deadline or postponing the LSC meeting to the Validation step
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	GS Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements, ver 1.2 para: 3.6.6 and 3.6.7 Or GS Principles and Requirements, ver 1.2. para 4.1.49
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date End date
Submitted by	Contact person name: Robin Stoffers
	Email ID: robin.stoffers@climatepartner.com
	Organization: ClimatePartner Impact GmbH
	Project participant: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Validation and Verification body (VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the applicable rules/requirements or request is submitted by the VVB).	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes; VVB name: VVB Staff name(s):
Any previous deviations approved for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3| Deviation detail

3.1 | Description of the deviation:

3.1.1 | Deviation detail (to be completed by Project developer):

We have completed our preparations for the LSC meeting in accordance with GS Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements and GS Principles and Requirements. We were planning to have a comprehensive meeting with the

stakeholders, to discuss the project details and sustainable development goals of the project.

As per the rules of Gold Standard, invitation emails are sent 30 days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting (on 16/03/2023).

The local stakeholder meeting was opened on 18th April of 2023 in Puerto Viejo/Los Negros Town Hall office, Dominican Republic.

At the beginning of the social consultation meeting, a big argument broke out between the authorities and the community due to some issues that are external to the solar project. The discussion was mainly caused by another project that is not related to ours and that is causing a big conflict in the community. It involves the installation of a 178-megawatt fossil-fueled generation plant in the same area (Puerto Viejo). This project is supported by the Government of the Dominican Republic.

Therefore, the participation of the local (mayor of Los Negros) and national authorities (Ministry of Environment) in our meeting was seen as a big problem by the local community. Unfortunately, the very tense discussion that broke out suddenly, led to a security problem, both for the authorities and the community and for our team.

Due to this situation, it was impossible for the representative of ClimatePartner Impact GmbH to carry out the local consultation.

In the following links, there is a selection of some publicly available news/information/live videos that explain the other project and the big conflict that is causing in the area:

1 – News about riots that were registered in the community due to the fossil-fueled generation plant that they are planning to install close to the village. Several community members were injured:

<https://www.diariolibre.com/planeta/medioambiente/2022/09/26/disturbios-en-azua-por-rechazo-a-barcaza-electrica/2088640>

2 – News about the conflict between the community and the Ministry of Environment:

https://www.diariolibre.com/planeta/medioambiente/2022/10/27/empresa-atribuye-autoridades-lugar-para-barcazas-en-azua/2122525?utm_source=relacionadas&utm_medium=nota&utm_campaign=relacionadas

3 – News that includes a video where some community members explain why they are against the fossil-fueled generation plant:

<https://proceso.com.do/2022/10/08/en-puerto-viejo-de-azua-siguen-amotinados-contra-instalacion-de-barcaza-de-electricidad/>

Evidence proving invites were sent to Stakeholders

Invitation for Local Stakeholder Consultation for Gold Standard Los Negros ...



Asier Aramburu

To help@goldstandard.org

Cc [Robin Stoffers](#); [Priscilla Nunnari](#); [Gamze Karaca](#)



16/03/2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

ClimatePartner Impact GmbH & Phinie & Co. Development Ltd are pleased to invite you for a local stakeholder consultation meeting to discuss the proposed Gold Standard Project "Los Negros Power Plant Project."

Los Negros Power Plant is a project under development, which consists of a grid-connected utility-scale renewable energy production in the Dominican Republic, a Small Island Developing State.

The project will generate solar renewable energy using photovoltaic technology and substitute fossil fuel energy from the Dominican grid. The project will be able to promote sustainable development in the Dominican Republic. It will be located in Puerto Viejo, in the province of Azua in the Dominican Republic.

Los Negros Power Plant will consist of a 25 MWp solar installation. The proposed project activity will supply an average of 46 GWh to the SENI (Sistema Eléctrico Nacional Interconectado), replacing part of the electricity generated by the grid-connected plants.

ClimatePartner Impact will act as the carbon developer of this Gold Standard project and will work with Phinie & Co. Development Ltd, which is the implementation Partner. This project will be certified under the Gold Standard ensuring enhanced local socio-economic benefits as well as verifiable emission reductions, which shall significantly help the project.

We value your input into our project design and invite you to attend the Local Stakeholder Consultation which will take place in the local language, Spanish. The consultation workshop will take place at the Townhall of Los Negros on the 18th of April 2023, at 11 am. Refreshments will be provided.

The following topics will be discussed:

- Presentation of ClimatePartner Impact GmbH and Los Negros Power Plant Project and the objectives sought through the project.
- Objectives of the stakeholder consultation.
- Overview of project activities & technology.
- Presentation of the climate contributions made by the project (Sustainable Development Goals).
- Explanation of the certification process for carbon credits & role of carbon finance.
- Presentation and evaluation of the safeguarding principles.
- Evaluation of impacts and benefits via breakout sessions among all participants.
- Identification of barriers to project deployment.
- Monitoring mechanism.
- Grievance Mechanism.
- Introduction to stakeholder feedback round procedure.
- Follow-up action plan.
- Feedback forms.

We look forward to your participation and constructive discussion during the consultation meeting. Should you not be able to join the physical meeting, you will be able to share your views, concerns, and feedback regarding the project in writing by email to mail to the following contact details:

ClimatePartner Impact

1) Asier Aramburu

Email: asier.aramburu@climatepartner.com

Phone: +49 89 231218741

Los Negros Power Plant Project

RE: Invitación a la consulta de las partes interesadas locales para el proyecto Gold Standard



Nathalie Flores Gonzalez <Nathalie.Flores@ambiente.gob.do>

To Asier Aramburu; gomez@akuoenergy.com

Cc Ruben Mesa Cordero; Kenia Feliz

This sender Nathalie.Flores@ambiente.gob.do is from outside your organization.

You forwarded this message on 20/04/2023 15:29.

If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.



Translate message to: English

Never translate from: Spanish

[Translation preferences](#)

Hola,

Reservamos la fecha, tentativamente asistiré y los encargados de mitigación y de métrica y transparencia climática, en copia.

Saludos,



Nathalie FLORES

Directora de Adaptación y Mitigación del Cambio Climático
Viceministerio de Cooperación Internacional (Cambio Climático y Sostenibilidad)

Ave. Cayetano Germosén esq. Ave. Gregorio Luperón
Ensanche El Pedregal, Santo Domingo, 11107, República Dominicana
+1-809-567-4300 Ext.: 6250 | www.ambiente.gob.do | [@AmbienteRD](https://twitter.com/AmbienteRD)

Hola,

Reservamos la fecha, tentativamente asistiré y los encargados de mitigación y de métrica y transparencia climática, en copia.

Saludos,



Nathalie FLORES

Directora de Adaptación y Mitigación del Cambio Climático
Viceministerio de Cooperación Internacional (Cambio Climático y Sostenibilidad)

From: visión Social <visionsocialazuaong@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 11:15 PM

To: Asier Aramburu <asier.aramburu@climatepartner.com>

Subject: RE: Invitación a la consulta de las partes interesadas locales para el proyecto Gold Standard

Muchas gracias.

Pues estaremos presente en dicho encuentro

Abrazo

Wilson

Asunto del correo electrónico: Invitación a la consulta de las partes interesadas locales para el proyecto de planta de energía solar Los Negros.

Texto del correo electrónico:

Invitación a la consulta de las partes interesadas locales para el proyecto Gold Standard

Proyecto de planta solar Los Negros

Fecha: 18/04/2023

Hora: 11 am

Lugar: Ayuntamiento de Los Negros

Título del proyecto: Proyecto de planta solar Los Negros

Estimado Sr./Sra,

ClimatePartner Impact GmbH y Phinie & Co. Development Ltd se complacen en invitarle a una reunión de consulta con las partes interesadas locales para debatir el proyecto solar Los Negros bajo Gold Standard.

Los Negros es un proyecto en desarrollo, que consiste en una planta de energía solar fotovoltaica que estará conectada a la red nacional de la República Dominicana.

El proyecto generará energía solar renovable mediante el uso de tecnología fotovoltaica y sustituirá la energía procedente de combustibles fósiles de la red dominicana. El proyecto podrá promover el desarrollo sostenible y reducir la huella de carbono en el país. Estará situada en Puerto Viejo, en la provincia de Azua.

Los Negros tendrá una capacidad instalada de 25 MWp. El proyecto propuesto suministrará una media de 46 GWh al SENI (Sistema Eléctrico Nacional Interconectado), sustituyendo parte de la electricidad generada por las centrales actualmente conectadas a esta red.

ClimatePartner Impact promoverá la certificación de este proyecto Gold Standard, y trabajará con Phinie & Co. Development Ltd, que es el socio ejecutor del mismo. La certificación bajo Gold Standard garantizará mayores beneficios socioeconómicos locales, así como reducciones verificables de las emisiones.

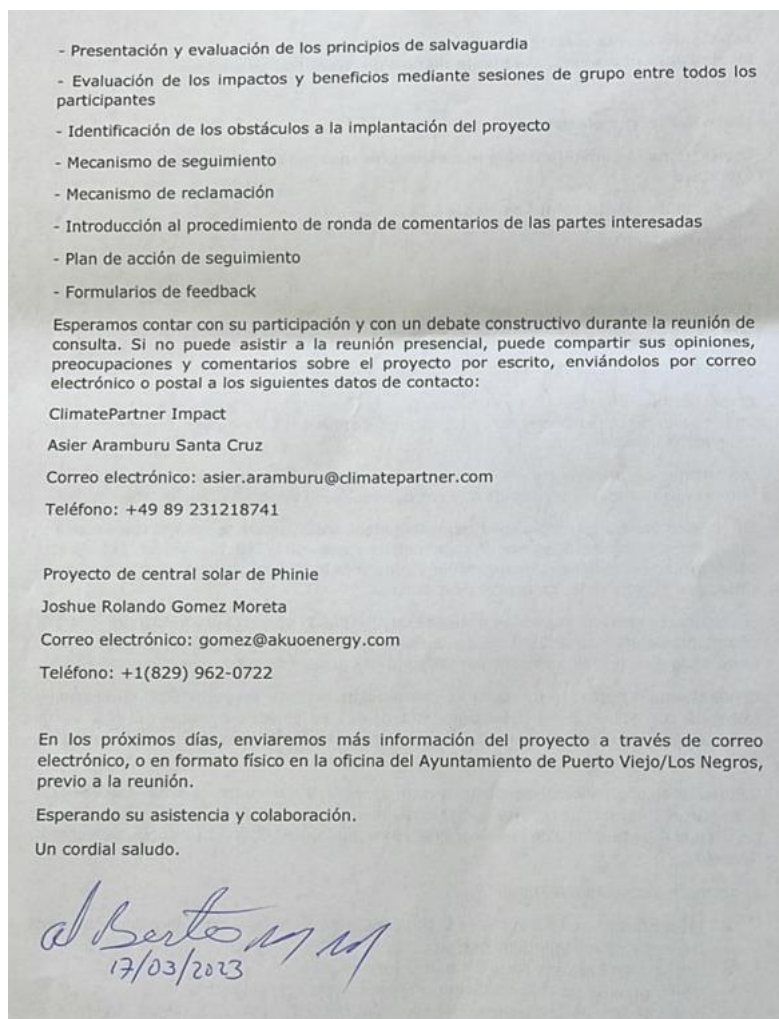
Valoramos su aportación al diseño de nuestro proyecto y le invitamos a asistir a la Consulta a las Partes Interesadas Locales que tendrá lugar en español. El taller de consulta tendrá lugar en el Ayuntamiento de Los Negros el 18 de abril de 2023, a las 11 horas. Se servirán refrescos.

Se tratarán los siguientes temas

- Presentación de ClimatePartner Impact GmbH y del proyecto de planta solar Los Negros y de los objetivos que se persiguen con el proyecto.
- Objetivos de la consulta a las partes interesadas
- Visión general de las actividades y la tecnología del proyecto
- Presentación de las contribuciones climáticas del proyecto y de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible

- Explicación del proceso de certificación de créditos de carbono y papel de la financiación del carbono

Nuri Figuera P.
17/03/2023



Evidence proving that ClimatePartner Impact and Phinie & Co. Development Ltd tried to conduct the LSC Meeting on the agreed date (18/04/2023)





Evidence proving that the community supports the project (19/04/2023)



Miércoles 19 de abril de 2023

Proyecto Solar Phinie.

Comunidad de Los Negros

Nosotros la comunidad queremos hacer constar mediante la firma de esta carta, que no nos oponemos al proyecto Solar Phinie, actualmente en construcción en la Comunidad de los Negros por parte del promotor Akua Energy.

El proyecto Solar Phinie, de 17 MW, estará inyectando a la red nacional de la Republica Dominicana, energía limpia o renovable a partir de la radiación solar, logrando de esta forma muchos beneficios para el país y la comunidad de Los Negros, como lo son: empleos, energía eléctrica sin emisiones nocivas al ambiente, como gases de efecto invernadero, ruido, y la reducción de la dependencia del país de los combustibles fósiles.

Esta carta va dirigida a toda parte interesada de la comunidad de los Negros, como lo son: Lideres Comunitarios, Comunitarios, Autoridades, Iglesias, Colegios, Empresas, y otros. Y tiene como único fin apoyar la certificación del proyecto bajo las normas de calidad de Gold Standard,

Atentamente,

Parte Interesada
Comunidad de los Negros

Jhonatan Perez
[Signature]

Junta de Vecino Brisa del
Proyecto 2.0C may

Candi Beltró - B (miembro)
Virginia Ramiro Batista

Miguel Al Lo Santos
RAMONCITO (Lider Comunitario)
ANTONIO SEJURA (Alcalde)

Proyecto - Créditos de Carbono Phinie Solar Farm

Therefore, the project participants kindly ask for the following deviation options under these special and difficult circumstances that are completely external to our solar project:

- a) postponing the LSC meeting to the design review step

b) extending the submission timeline of the preliminary review

Considering this circumstance, we would be grateful to hear if Gold Standard has different approaches or suggestions.

3.1.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable):

As there is no official agreement with any VVB at this stage of the project, VVB's opinion has not been added.

3.2 | Assessment of the deviation:

3.2.1 | Deviation assessment (to be completed by Project developer):

The project contributes significantly to the region's sustainable development. The project will not impact safeguarding or SDG assessment as the LSC meeting will be held again during the validation step of the project as per the GS4GG requirements. Or, if our deadline for the project submission for preliminary review is extended, another LSC meeting will be held as soon as possible.

3.2.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable):

As there is no official agreement with any VVB at this stage of the project, VVB's opinion has not been added.

3.3 | Impact of the deviation:

3.3.1 | Impact assessment (to be completed by Project developer):

The project will not impact safeguarding or SDG assessment as the LSC meeting will be held again during the validation step of the project as per the GS4GG requirements. Or, if our deadline for the project submission for preliminary review is extended, another LSC meeting will be held. The deviation shall have no impact on the project design, safeguarding principles assessment, SDG assessment, emissions reductions, monitoring frequency, data quality, potential risk, or any other relevant aspect of the project. The project developer would comply with all GS4GG-related rules and guidelines during the project cycle. We will provide relevant evidence of delay in the LSC and stakeholder feedback round of the project activity to the VVB and document the same in the stakeholder consultation report.

3.3.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable):

As there is no official agreement with any VVB at this stage of the project, VVB's opinion has not been added.

3.4 | Documents:

Version number	Release date	Description
5	11.04.2022	<p>Additional information added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - date of listing, design certification, transition - standard version - specific reference to a requirement deviated from - any previous deviations/design changes approved <p>Guidance on VVB opinion</p>
4	14.01.2021	
3	16.07.2020	
2	03.05.2018	
1	01.07.2017	Initial adoption