

TEMPLATE

POA - DESIGN CONSULTATION REPORT

PUBLICATION DATE 05.05.2022

VERSION 2.0

This is a report template to be used for filling the information pertaining to PoA Design Consultation conducted in line with the [Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements](#).

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

GS ID of PoA	GS23399	
Title of PoA	Green Briquettes for Fossil Fuel Displacement in South Africa	
GS ID (s) of real case VPA (s) submitted at PoA Preliminary Review	GS23400	
GS ID (s) of regular VPA (s) submitted at PoA Preliminary Review	Not applicable	
The version number of the DCR	1.0	
Completion Date of version	12/08/2025	
Time of First Submission Date	12/08/2025	
Design Consultation	Start date	12/08/2025
	End date	11/09/2025
Date of any Physical Meeting (s) – please mark N/A if none were held	25/07/2025	

SECTION A. DESIGN OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

A.1. Description of the consultation methods used

>> As part of the design consultation for the proposed Programme of Activities (PoA), a physical stakeholder consultation meeting was conducted on 25/07/2025 at Southbroom Golf Estate, Captain Smith Road, Southbroom. This consultation was held to ensure transparent, inclusive engagement with stakeholders who may be affected by or have an interest in the PoA and its future Voluntary Project Activity (VPAs).

Stakeholders were invited through a combination of public notice and direct email invitations, issued on 24/06/2025, i.e., one month prior to the meeting, in accordance with GS4GG requirements. This method was deemed most appropriate considering the nature and geographical spread of the PoA, the need for direct outreach to local stakeholders, and the importance of providing sufficient notice to enable participation. The consultation meeting was attended by a range of stakeholders including local residents, biomass suppliers, and community representatives—stakeholders who are directly or indirectly impacted by the biomass briquette production and supply activities envisaged under the PoA. During the meeting, information on the PoA was presented, including its goals to reduce fossil fuel use by replacing coal and heavy fuel oil with biomass briquettes made from agricultural and garden waste. It was explained that in the absence of this initiative, such waste would decompose anaerobically, leading to methane emissions.

Lindsay Hopkins provided a detailed overview of the technical strategy for briquette production using mechanical crushing and shredding of biomass, which minimizes heavy machinery usage. Additionally, the financing mechanism involving carbon credit revenues was introduced as a way to maintain affordable briquette pricing and ensure long-term sustainability of the PoA.

Feedback was collected in person during the meeting through an open discussion format. No negative or critical comments were received. On the contrary, the initiative—led by EcoLinks Co., Ltd., South Korea in collaboration with Ground Greens—was welcomed and positively acknowledged by all participants. Stakeholders expressed appreciation for the project's potential to create employment, improve waste management, and promote cleaner energy in the industrial sector.

A. 2. Information made available to stakeholders

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The Programme of Activities (PoA) aims to reduce reliance on fossil fuels—specifically coal, wood, and heavy fuel oil—used in thermal energy applications by industrial facilities. This will be achieved through the production and supply of biomass briquettes made from agricultural and organic waste. The PoA promotes clean energy, improved waste management, and sustainable development.

Entities Involved

The PoA is coordinated by EcoLinks Co., Ltd., based in South Korea, in partnership with Ground Greens, a South African entity headquartered in Margate, Kwa-Zulu Natal. Ground Greens will oversee on-ground operations including biomass collection, briquette manufacturing, and local stakeholder engagement.

Geographical Boundary

The initial geographical areas is South Africa. The PoA is designed for replication in other eligible regions within the country.

Implementation Plan and Technology

The implementation involves sourcing biomass waste such as sawdust, macadamia shells, garden waste, and woodchips from local suppliers. These materials will be processed into fuel-grade briquettes using mechanical shredding and crushing technologies, designed to reduce energy consumption and operational emissions. The briquettes will be marketed to factories requiring thermal energy, such as cooking oil facilities and poultry farms.

Target End-Users

The primary end-users of the biomass briquettes are small and medium-sized manufacturing industries that rely on fossil fuels for heat production. These include sectors such as food processing, poultry farming, and agro-industrial applications.

Contribution to SDGs and Safeguard Compliance

The PoA contributes to multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- **SDG 13 – Climate Action:** Emissions reduction from fossil fuel substitution and methane avoidance.
- **SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production:** Utilization of biomass waste for energy.
- **SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy:** Provision of cost-effective, renewable fuel to industries.
- **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Local job creation across the biomass supply chain.
- **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being:** Improved air quality through reduced pollutant emissions.

- **SDG 5 – Gender Equality:** Inclusive hiring and empowerment of women across project activities.

The PoA is designed to meet Gold Standard safeguard requirements, including social, environmental, and health-related safeguards, ensuring that the project does not result in any adverse impacts.

Stakeholder Consultations and Feedback Mechanism

A design consultation meeting was held on 25/07/2025 at Southbroom Golf Estate. Stakeholders were invited via public notice and direct emails (sent on 24/06/2025), ensuring timely and inclusive participation. The meeting was conducted in English, widely spoken in the region. No negative feedback was received. Stakeholders appreciated the project's environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Other Relevant Information

This PoA addresses key climate and development challenges in South Africa by offering a scalable and replicable waste-to-energy solution. It creates employment opportunities, promotes cleaner industrial energy, reduces unmanaged biomass waste, and contributes to air quality improvement. The use of carbon finance ensures affordability and supports long-term viability.

A.3. Invitation/consultation tracking table

Category Code	Organisation (if relevant)	Name of invitee	Method of invitation	Date of invitation (>30 days before any e-consultation)
A	Local policymakers and representatives of local authorities	-	Notices at Public place, Newspaper advertisement, Whatsapp message, telephone calls	24/06/2025
B	National government officials or National Focal Point, for example,	Mr. Thabo Mokoena Mr. Daniel Modise Ms. Thembeke Zuma Ms. Winniefred Maswanganye	Email	24/06/2025

	Designated National Authority (DNA)			
C	Local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Women Groups	Joan Gallagher	Email	24/06/2025
D	Gold Standard	help@goldstandard.org	Email	24/06/2025
E	Gold Standard NGO Supporters	Mr. Siddharth Yadav Mr. Raave Jain Thomas Mr. Finsterwald	Email	24/06/2025
-	Others (if any)	Stel Poriazis Johnny Gary Johann Pretorius Andre Coetzee	Email	24/06/2025

SECTION B. OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

B.1. Assessment of comments received

Organization	Stakeholder comment	Was comment taken into account (Yes/ No)?	Explanation (Why? How?)
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No negative comments were received from the stakeholders during the Stakeholder Feedback Round.

B.2. Summary of changes to the Programme design based on stakeholder feedback received.

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No negative feedback was received during the stakeholder consultation, and all participants expressed strong support for the PoA and its anticipated environmental and social benefits. As a result, no changes to the programme design were deemed necessary.

Revision History

Version	Date	Remarks
2.0	05 May 2022	Stakeholder Category codes added Further instructions on required information to be shared with stakeholders added Revisions in line with the revisions to Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements
1.1	14 October 2020	Addition of version history table Removal of Section A which repeats information in the POA-DD Clarification on reporting information made available for stakeholders Clarity on the minimum period for invitation and consultation and that follow up is necessary for e-consultations The clarity that a GS representative should be invited
1.0	10 July 2017	Initial adoption