

**Stakeholder Meeting
Chidamparapuram Village
17th February 2008
for the
The Converging World
Windfarm proposal
Tamil Nadu**



1: Overview

The Converging World (www.theconvergingworld.org) plans to develop a wind farm in Tamil Nadu, India.

A stakeholder meeting was held in the village near to the proposed site of the windfarm on 17th February 2008. This document summaries the questions raised and provides The Converging World's responses to these questions.

A DVD of the entire event and the original copies of the questionnaires are available for review.

A total of 50 people attended the two hour stakeholder meeting in the village in Chidamparapuram Panchayat (Lat: 8° 15` 36.33`N; Long: 77° 44` 59.97`E) on Sunday 17th February 2008.

The Converging World's local contact at SCAD, Mr. Antony, made a field visit to Udayathur Village at Chidamparapuram Panchayat in Radhapruam Taluk on 24th January 2008 to meet the people and to plan for the stakeholders meeting. Local NGOs (CODE, TMSSS and Agricultural Group) were also invited and international NGOs were invited by email. The SCAD team that organised the event on behalf of TCW was:

Mr Anthony – Programme Coordinator
Mr Thiruselvam – Development Officer
Mrs Jeyealakshmi – Assistant Development Officer
Mrs Dhanalakshmi – Community Organiser

At the start of the stakeholder meeting Mr David Friese-Greene explained the objective of the meeting, which was to provide details about the proposed project and listen to what people's thoughts were about it. Mr Pillai of Suzlon (Customer Relations Manager based in Tirunelveli, being responsible for Suzlon's projects in the southern part of Tamil Nadu) answered many technical questions.



Questionnaires were distributed at the end of the event and lunch was provided for all the participants. This was designed to obtain sufficiently detailed responses to inform decision-making by The Converging World team. A copy of the questionnaire distributed at the meeting and the one distributed to national and international NGOs is available separately.

2: Stakeholder Questionnaire Analysis

A total of 49 questionnaires were completed by the attendees at the stakeholder meeting.

No questionnaires were completed by national or international NGOs. However, one response was obtained (this is included in Annex 1).

About the respondees

Q1 Male	13
Q2 Female	36
Q3 Mean distance people live from the site (m)	1,327
Q4 Mean distance people work from the site (m)	1,486
Q5 Policy maker	4
Q6 Local farmer	46
Q7 Government official	1
Q8 Women's group member	34
Q9 Mother	33
Q10 Father	7
Q11 Representative of local people	10
Q12 Representative of NGO	0

Question 1

Did you attend the stakeholder meeting to discuss the project?

Yes	49
No	0

Question 2

Do you understand what the project will do, what it will look like and what the impact of the project will be?

Yes	48
No	0

Question 3

Do you agree with the building of the project?

Yes	49
No	0
Don't know	0

Written comments 19

Question 4

Do you think the project will have positive or negative impact on you?

Positive	48
Negative	1
Don't know	0

Written comments 14

Question 5

Do you think the project will have economic benefits?

Yes	47
No	2
Don't know	0

Local economic benefits of jobs during construction	32
Local economic benefits of jobs during operation	27
Other local economic benefits	0

Written comments	11
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Question 6

Do you think the project will have negative impact on the environment?

Yes	27
No	21
Don't know	0

In what way?

Noise	22
Sight spoiling	7
Impact on wildlife	14
Impact on birds	1
Others	3

Written comments	17
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Question 7

Do you think the government rules or the developer's business culture guarantees good, safe and clean construction and operation?

Yes	27
No	8
Don't know	10

Written comments	10
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Question 8

Please provide suggestions for improving, construction and operation.

People who have responded to the question	35
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3: Written comments given by stakeholders and The Converging World's considered responses

Q3 Do you agree with the building of the project?

Land in and around the turbines should be available for the local people to use.

A: The Converging World has been assured by Suzlon that it is the owner of the land beneath the turbines. The Converging World will liaise with local stakeholders through the panchayaat to determine the best use for the land. This will be conducted through The Converging World's local liaison team (SCAD: www.scadindia.org) in Tamil Nadu.

Generates employment opportunities for us. [12 people stated this]

The project will be very good for us. [2 people stated this]

My husband got employment at a local wind farm.

By implementing this project we get clean and good air.

Wind farms are leading to a shortage of laborers for agricultural activities during rainy season.

B: This was a comment from one farmer at the stakeholder meeting. The Converging World's wind farm is expected to involve the services of possibly four people from the local community. It is therefore our view that the issue is more affected by other factors and The Converging World's wind farm is not expected to have a noticeable detrimental impact on the availability of labourers in the region. Nevertheless, the issue will be investigated further and solutions explored via the continuing local consultation that will be organized by SCAD on behalf of The Converging World. Moreover, the number of local people working at the wind farm will be monitored.

Q4 Do you think the project will have positive or negative impact on you?

The barren land becomes useful land.

It's a good opportunity for the people to develop themselves.

Even the aged (people over the age of 40) get employment.

The sound is irritating during the night time.

C: None of The Converging World's wind turbines will be less than 500 metres from the nearest inhabited residence, which ensures the noise level in local homes is not unduly intrusive. It is apparent that some turbines owned by other organisations in the region are closer than 300 metres to inhabited houses and this is causing concern for some of the local residents.

Gives employment opportunities. [3 people stated this]

Very many people are getting employment.

My pastureland has been diminished.

D: As stated above (in point A), The Converging World is in liaison with the owner of the land with the aim of enabling the local community to benefit from the land under the turbines.

Via its SCAD local liaison team, The Converging World will organise more meetings with the local community to determine how much of the land can best be used as common grazing land with open access for community use.

It gives us protection.

The roads are getting damaged due to the building of wind turbines.

E: During the meeting one participant commented that the Government was failing to respond and repair roads that are being damaged by the large trucks that transport turbine parts.

After further examination of this issue it is clear that some of the wind farms being built in the area have had a damaging affect on the local roads and also on irrigation canals that link essential water catchments.

The Converging World will work with the wind farm construction company (Suzlon) and the local community to ensure that all water courses relating to The Converging World sites are repaired and maintained. A SCAD liaison officer is presently working with the community to determine the impact that the roads have had and The Converging World will fund their restoration.

The up keep of the roads themselves are the responsibility of the local government. The developer is paying local taxes some of which is for this purpose.

It is beneficial for our families.

Without power breaks we will get electricity.

Q5 Do you think the project will have economic benefits?

Many people are getting employment.

Gives employment opportunities. [5 people stated this]

Many men are getting employment.

Even the aged are getting good employment.

Uninterrupted power supply will be available.

Aged male persons get employment as watchmen.

Q6 Do you think the project will have a negative impact on the environment?

The turbine sound disturbs the snakes very much and they come into the village.
[8 people stated this]

F: The Converging World has sought professional advice which indicates that there has indeed been an increase in the number of snakes in local villages, which is being caused by the impact on their local habitat of construction of the roads and preparation of the site. It has been stated that the operation of

turbines themselves is not the cause of snakes moving from their habitat. Restoration of the habitat under the wind turbines and returning it to its previous use will help to address the problem. The Converging World will also engage its local liaison team at SCAD to listen to any ongoing issues and find ways to address them.

Building disturbs the farmland and the snakes come into the village.

See point F above.

The sound at night disturbs the serenity of the night. [2 people stated this]

See point C above.

The amount of grazing land has been reduced, effecting herders. [2 people stated this]

See point A above.

The turbines disturb the rainy clouds and reduces the rainfall.

G: This is not the case. Nevertheless, it is clear there is an issue of lack of rainwater in the local area. The repair of the irrigation canals (as described in point E) will improve the availability of rainwater in some areas. . In addition the Converging World will continue to engage with the local community and address any further perceived issues.

A lot of polythene and packing materials being bought into the area that negatively affect the environment.

H: The Converging World will ensure that any packaging materials that results from the construction of the wind turbines is collected and returned to Suzlon, re-used or disposed of responsibly. The Converging World is presently in discussions with Suzlon for them to collect it, but if the company is unwilling to take the material, The Converging World will pay for its removal.

When a site is being developed a lot of new people (technicians, construction workers, business people, industrialists, truck drivers, crane and lift operators and cleaners) come into the village and the village life is being disturbed.

I: This issue is being investigated by The Converging World in conjunction with SCAD and the local community in order to address any issues that arise. Where necessary SCAD will raise any issues with the local council where they can have a positive influence on issues that arise.

These schemes don't just disturb the land they disturb the very lifeline of agriculture. [2 people stated this]

J: It is understood that this point relates to the impact which local roads constructed during the turbine installation period have had upon irrigation canals in the area. The Converging World have committed to restoring

irrigation canals damaged due to the construction of their turbines (see point E).

If this building of windturbines continues there will not be any land leftover. Maybe we should develop a policy of developing the land around a turbine for local agricultural use, as part of the purchase of a turbine.

See point A.

Exploitation by the middlemen when buying or selling land for turbine use.

K: During the meeting one farmer said that he had sold land to a 'middleman', but not received payment yet. The land in question is being used for a different wind farm, nevertheless The Converging World is liaising with Suzlon to ensure that it has honored all its commitments relating to land ownership rights for the land to be used for the The Converging World's turbines. This is a wider political issue affecting the region (not only connected to the development of wind turbines) and so The Converging World has done its utmost to ensure any issues relating to the land where its turbines are based has been done fairly with the original owners of the land.

Q7 Do you think the Government rules or the developer's business culture guarantees good, safe and clean construction and operation?

Culture will develop the village.

Developers should create clear awareness of the project. [3 people stated this]

L: The Converging World is engaging with the local community to ensure that they are aware of the project and its impacts, and have the ability to make their concerns and suggestions known. This will include ongoing liaison with stakeholders prior to and during the operation of the turbines. Most of this work will be conducted through SCAD.

We believe in you, you should lobby for our sake to the government.

For the workers generally health facilities should be assured.

M: The Converging World has secured the services of Suzlon to install and commission the turbines and then to manage their operation. The Converging World is presently happy with the approach being taken by Suzlon, and the health and well being of their workers is an issue for them to address. Nevertheless, if there are specific issues that are of concern, The Converging World will address them in conjunction with Suzlon.

In the past developers and promoters have not followed up after the first meeting.

N: The Converging World will continue to engage with the local community via SCAD throughout the operation of the turbines (see point I).

Q8 Please provide suggestions for improving the project, construction and operation.

Wind turbines are beneficial for people they generate employment. [5 people stated this]

Wind turbines are beneficial for people they generate employment and sound. [2 people stated this]

The barren land sold for the purpose of building wind turbines gives sustenance for the aged persons.

The meeting you conducted was good and we liked it very much.

Give preferential option to the employment of our own children.

O: Some local people are to be employed to work on the project. The Converging World cannot affect this. Through the work of SCAD, TCW may be able to provide support to help them apply for local employment related to TCW's turbines. .

You should plant more trees in and around the turbines and make our village green.

P: The best use of the land will be determined in conjunction with the local community (see point A). The Converging World is working with Suzlon to determine how to provide access to the land for the local community.

A lot of job opps can be created for the educated unemployed youth.

Uninterrupted electrical supply can be created.

Plant more trees and keep the environment clean.

See point P above.

More elders can get work.

This scheme creates employment opps and electricity.

The sound of the turbines can disturb sleep. [4 people stated this]

See point C above.

The project should be implemented in the proper way. [2 people stated this]

Q: The Converging World is working with Suzlon to ensure our projects are implemented in accordance with legal and environmental requirements and the stakeholders' best interests.

The implementer should get proper permission from the panchayaat. [4 people stated this]

R: Suzlon has liaised the local panchayaat on behalf of The Converging World and secured the proper permissions for the development of the turbines.

There should not be any hindrance for the public.

S: The Converging World plans to develop the land for the good of the local community. See point P above.

The damaged roads, because of the heavy vehicles and heavy traffic, should be repaired.

When constructing new roads to new turbine sites, water canals linking traditional water harvesting structures are often filled in or at least damaged. This should not happen at all and if it does the damage should be repaired. [2 people stated this]

See point E above.

Developers should fulfill the basic needs of the village, including community buildings.

T: The Converging World is in the process of assessing which of the basic needs of the community can be supported by funds raised from the project. This is being undertaken by SCAD.

SCAD could initiate vocational skills training for women and unemployed youth.

U: This comment is related to SCAD and whilst The Converging World supports their activities, this is a decision that needs to be taken by SCAD and the local community.

Given that land is being built on the proper taxes due for the local panchayat should be paid. Generally they are not paid to the panchayat. Where are the taxes going?

V: This is not strictly related to The Converging World projects, but to others in the area. The Converging World will be paying its full taxes to local Panchayaat via Suzlon.

Wind turbines should be built away from the village.

See point C.

Employ lawyers while buying the land, then you can rectify the initial problems.

Organise this type of meeting before putting up windturbines anywhere.

Before purchase of land for the turbines make sure that all the relevant documents should be verified.

W: The Converging World has been assured by Suzlon that all the relevant documents have been obtained for the development of the turbines on the land.

Wind turbine owners should give preference for employment to the local village youth and people.

See point O above.

Don't do any harm to the common property when transporting or building turbines, including electricity lines, roads, trees and buildings.

X: The Converging World plans to restore any damaged irrigation canals and other infrastructure damaged due to the construction of its turbines.

This consultation was very good.

Wish you all the best for your noble endeavors.

Annex 1: Responses obtained from international NGOs

Response obtained from Narenendra Paruchuri, Climate Change Consultant EnerGHG India (narendra@energhg.in) on 5th February 2008. These comments are being taken into account by the Converging World team in updating the PDD and working through the validation process.

"Dear John,

I am providing my initial comments on the PDD which was sent to me a few days ago, as part of the stakeholder consultation. I would recognise the good efforts of the TCW in promoting the renewable energy in India through charity route and contribute to the mitigation of climate change as well as for contributing to the sustainable development. As yet I reviewed only the PDD and it appears to me that the PDD was still in draft stage. Hence, my initial comments might be helpful for you while finalising the PDD following the stakeholder consultation. In case you need any further clarification / information, do not hesitate to write to me.

1. For the net generation from wind turbines and also for the financial viability, energy losses to an extent of 10% have been considered. For a wind power plant, this consideration looks very high. Could you please clarify?
2. Based on the capacity and generation data provided in the PDD, Plant load factor works to be around 30%, which is quite good for wind power projects and represents a good wind power project with high economic viability. Could you please clarify.
3. For the investment analysis, a benchmark of 12.5% was considered, which is the prime lending rate of Indian Bank. However, Indian Bank is one of several banks operating in India. A justification may please be provided on why only Indian Bank and its PLR was considered for benchmark. Further, you may also clarify on why and how only Prime Lending Rate of a commercial bank is suitable for Benchmark.
4. As part of the barrier analysis, only investment barriers were presented. However, these barriers appear to be very specific to the Project Developer (TCW) and appear to be mainly due to its charity status. Any barriers that are specific only to one particular developer cannot be termed as barriers to the project implementation, meaning that any other project developer without the charity status could easily implement the project. Please clarify.
5. Under the common practice analysis, no specific information on similar projects that are occurring were not presented. This section may need significant improvement. Particularly, a tabular list of similar project activities that are occurring together with capacity and anticipated generation might help to demonstrate that the project was not a common practice.
6. Please note that the latest version (04) of the additionality shall be applied for demonstration of the additionality.
7. It appears that several gold standard requirements were not complied OR yet the PDD was not developed fully to the gold standard requirements.

One of your mails indicated that a questionnaire was attached. But, I could not find it. You may please send it to me.

Best regards,

Narendra"