

# **Report of the Initial Stakeholder Consultation under the Gold Standard of the Inner Mongolia Energy Erlianhot Wind Farm Project in China**

## 1. Background

The Inner Mongolia Energy Erlianhot Wind Farm Project is being developed by the Inner Mongolia Energy Investment Co. Ltd and Carbon Resource Management Ltd (CRM). The project meets the highest levels of sustainable development and environmental standards, therefore, the project participants are planning to register it as a Gold Standard (GS) CDM Project.

In order to satisfy the requirements of the *“Gold Standard Manual for CDM Developers”*, an initial Stakeholder Consultation has been held. All stakeholders were welcome to attend and give comments and suggestions. The meeting served as a platform of communication between the project owner and other stakeholders. The project owner has the intention to take the comments and suggestions raised during the meeting into account during the construction and operation period of the project.

## 2. Details of the Meeting

### 2.1 Notices and Invitations

a) Three notices about the meeting were posted at three different prominent places in Erlianhot City on 30 April 2008. Details of the locations are provided below:

- 1) On a bulletin board opposite the Antai Hotel on Youyi Road.
- 2) On a bulletin board on Sunite Street, located at the intersection of Jinye Times Square and Erlianhot Department Store and Erlianhot television station.
- 3) On a bulletin board at the entrance of Erlianhot Yiwu Market.

b) A notice was also posted on the website of CRM: [www.carbonresource.com](http://www.carbonresource.com).

c) Written invitations were sent to government offices.

d) Written invitations were sent to the following NGOs: WWF, Greenpeace, GEI, Mercy Corps and REEEP.

## 2.2 Date and Venue

Date: 8 May 2008 from 9:30 to 11:00h.

Venue: No. 2 Assembly Room, Yindu Hotel, Erlianhot City.

## 2.3 Participants

The following persons attended the meeting:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Function</b>	
Mr Li Shibo	Inner Mongolia Energy investment Co. Ltd	Project owner representatives	
Mr Fanyuan	Inner Mongolia Energy investment Co. Ltd		
Ms Li Ning	Carbon Resource Management Ltd.	CDM developer representatives	
Mr Ding Lin'en	Carbon Resource Management Ltd.		
Mr Yan Hong	Erlianhot City Government	Local policy makers	
Mr Zhao Shaoxia	Development and Reform Commission, Erlianhot City		
Mr Dou Xiaojun	Bureau of Construction, Erlianhot City		
Mr Qiao Wengui	Bureau of Forestry and Water, Erlianhot City		
Mr Xu Shiwen	Bureau of Grass Supervision, Erlianhot City		
Mr Meng Ke	Office of Ecology, Erlianhot City		
Mr Liang Yuwen	Bureau of Tourism, Erlianhot City		
Mr Song Puwang	Weather Bureau, Erlianhot City		
Mr Wang Junyou	Bureau of State Land and Resources, Erlianhot City		
Mr Xie Guolin	Bureau of Environmental Protection, Erlianhot City		
Mr Chaoketu	Herdsman representative		Local people directly impacted by the project
Ms Sarina	Herdsman representative		
Ms Nayiqiqige	Herdsman representative		
Ms Dong Chuling	Resident representative		
Ms Wu Sufen	Resident representative		
Ms Guo Furong	Resident representative		
Ms Lu Qiuju	Resident representative		
Ms Jia Hongwei	Resident representative		
Mr Zhang Huibin	Resident representative		

Mr Yang Junjun	Resident representative	
Mr Liu Yongsheng	Resident representative	
Mr Deng Kai	Resident representative	
Mr Li Hailong	Resident representative	
Ms Yang Jinge	Resident representative	

## 2.4 Language

Mandarin (local language), with the support of Mongolian translator.

## 2.5 Proposal of the Meeting

a) The agenda, questionnaires, details of sustainable development indicators and other documents would be distributed before the meeting.

b) Representatives from the Inner Mongolia Energy Investment Co. Ltd would introduce the Company and give details about the proposed installed capacity, the construction programme and the development of the CDM. Also, information about the anticipated environmental and social impacts of the project would be provided, as well as details of the mitigation measures which would be carried out during building and operation of the project.

c) Ms Li Ning from Carbon Resource Management Ltd. would give further details about the CDM, Gold Standard, opportunities for Chinese Enterprises, sustainable development indicators and the dissemination and collection channels of the stakeholder consultation.

d) Discussion

e) Questions and Answers

f) Completion of Questionnaires

## 2.6 Summary of the Meeting

a) The Vice Director, Mr Zhao Shaoxia, introduced the participants, the purpose of the meeting and the agenda.

b) The Vice General Manager, Mr Li Shibo, introduced the Inner Mongolia Energy Investment Co. Ltd and provided some information about the proposed installed capacity and construction programme, as well as the anticipated environmental impact on the environment and residents. He explained that the project will adopt effective environmental protection measures to reduce any negative effects during the construction and operation periods. As wind power is a clean energy source, it would help to reduce fossil fuel consumption and emissions of waste gases. Meanwhile, the project would provide job opportunities and increase local tax revenues, which would bring good social and environmental benefits.

c) Ms Li Ning from CRM provided background information about the CDM, GS and sustainable development indicators. She also explained that two stakeholder consultations need to be held according to the '*Gold Standard Manual for CDM Developers*'. This was the initial stakeholder consultation which served as a platform of communication between all stakeholders. The project owner would take comments or suggestions into account during the construction and operation periods. The meeting report would be posted on CRM's website 15 days after the meeting. A second stakeholder consultation would be held before the project was put into production during which any comments and suggestions received from the initial stakeholder consultation would be addressed and more comments would be welcome. Participants were told that they were welcome to make further enquiries to CRM and/or the Inner Mongolia Energy Investment Co. Ltd.

d) Questions and Answers:

Question 1 (Local resident) Will the project have a negative impact on human health during the construction and operation periods?

Answer (Project owner) No. The wind farm has been chosen in a remote area away from local residents and herders and with full consideration of them. The volume of noise produced by

wind turbines is low and dies quickly.

Question 2 (Local resident) Will the project produce dust during the construction period? If so, what will be done about it?

Answer (Project owner) If there is a gale during the construction period, sprinkling and covering will be done in order to prevent dust. The bulldozer will be covered during the excavation period.

Question 3 (Local resident) Are turbines safe?

Answer (Project owner) The wind turbines that will be used for this wind farm have been manufactured to the highest standards. They have worked without event at many other wind farms so can be deemed to be safe.

Question 4 (Herder representative ) Will the wind farm have a negative impact on the livestock, birds or wild animals?

Answer (Project owner) The impacts are not considered significant. Solid waste will be removed and reused after excavation and vegetation will be restored after completion of the project. Therefore there should be no negative impact on animals, or humans. (This answer was translated into Mongolian for the herder representative.)

Question 5 (Local resident) How will waste water and solid waste be treated?

Answer (Project owner) The project will take advantage of the wind resource without generating waste water. Solid waste will be removed to Erlianhot landfill treatment factory. Waste water will be able to be discharged after being treated.

Question 6 (Representative from Bureau of Environmental Protection) What are the main points of Gold Standard?

Answer (CRM) Gold Standard requires a number of additional steps compared to a conventional CDM project. These additional steps are mostly related to sustainable development which means that the indicators for environmental protection, and social, economic and technological sustainability are more stringent.

- Question 7 (Local resident) Will the project produce noise or electromagnetic interference?
- Answer (Project owner) Regarding electromagnetism: the project site is so far from residential areas that the intensity of the interference will be weak. About noise: compared to other operational wind farms in Inner Mongolia, little noise will be produced by the wind turbines and this noise will dissipate quickly so there will be no negative impacts on the local residents.
- Question 8 (Representative from Bureau of Tourism) Will the wind farm have a negative impact on the scenic spots?
- Answer (Project owner) When Huitengxile wind farm was built, a Taiwanese businessman built a centre of Mongolian culture for tourists near the wind farm in collaboration with the local government. This benefited the local economy as well as contributing to local tax revenues and employment figures.

e) A government representative thanked everyone for their support. He explained that wind power is a clean energy source, which helps to reduce fossil fuel consumption and emissions of waste gases. He said that the project would provide job opportunities and increase local tax revenues, which could bring good social and environmental benefits. A wind farm project added status to Erlianhot City and would beautify the urban environment. The Erlianhot wind farm project would produce green energy as well as reduce emissions. It would eliminate the negative impacts created by the usual scenario of fossil-fuel power stations. Its implementation would be rigorously monitored by the EIA. During the operation period, there would be minimal influence on the local water, atmosphere, sound and ecological environments. Meeting the rigorous standards imposed by GS could only provide additional benefits to the local environment, economy and the development of social sustainability.

He declared that the local government supported GS development and was willing to provide any necessary assistance for the GS accreditation process.

f) and g) All stakeholder questionnaires were completed and collected. In total there were 24 questionnaires collected.

A CRM representative asked all the participants whether there were any further questions or issues about the content of the meeting or the questionnaire. The CRM representative then explained that the notes of this meeting would be made available and that related documents could be obtained from the project owner. Finally, all participants were thanked for their presence and their opinions.

### 3. The Questionnaire

#### 3.1 Participants

		<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Sex	Male	16	66.7%
	Female	8	33.3%
Age	20-29	5	20.8%
	30-39	7	29.2%
	Above 40	12	50%
Education	Under junior high school	3	12.5%
	Senior high school	6	25%
	University	15	62.5%

#### 3.2 Findings of the Questionnaire

- (a) 87.5% of the participants knew about the project, 12.5% of the participants felt they knew about this project well.
- (b) 58.3% of the participants knew about the CDM. 41.7% of the participants did not know about the CDM.
- (c) 70.8% of the participants did not believe the project would have negative effects on the local environment.

Among those who thought it would:

- 4.2% thought noise would disturb the local environment.
- 8.3% thought the air may be polluted.
- 4.2% thought waste water and solid waste may disturb the local

environment.

- 8.3% thought electromagnetic interference may disturb the local environment.
  - 8.3% thought that birds may be disturbed.
  - 12.5% thought that vegetation and the occupation of the land may disturb the local environment.
  - 8.3% thought that the vegetation, natural resources, ecological system or surface water may be polluted.
  - 100% did not believe the project would bring any significant negative impacts on the local environment.
- (d) 100% of the participants believed that the project would benefit the local economy:
- 58.3% thought it would bring more work opportunities during the construction period.
  - 66.7% thought it would bring more work opportunities during the operation period.
  - 66.7% thought it would reduce the local electricity shortage.
  - 41.7% thought it would reduce environmental pollution.
  - 70.8% thought it would benefit the development of the local tourism industry.
  - 87.5% thought it would reduce poverty, increase tax income and improve the economy.
- (e) Among those who thought that the project would change the local standard of living:
- 41.7% thought it would increase income.
  - 91.7% thought it would improve the electricity supply.
  - 16.7% thought it would improve the traffic situation.
  - 29.2% thought it would not have a negative impact on the air quality.
  - 79.2% thought it would increase opportunities for work.
  - 54.2% thought it would improve the quality of life.
- (f) 100% participants thought this project would bring positive change.
- (g) 100% participants agreed to the construction of the project.
- (h) There were no voices of opposition. All stakeholders agreed that the wind farm would become an attraction. Mr Zhang Huijun hoped that the project

could be put into operation soon so all the benefits could be enjoyed by the local people. Mr Yang Junjun hoped that more grass could be planted during the operation period. The representative from the Weather Bureau suggested that several measures for lightning protection should be taken, and that water should be treated and reused. The representative from the Bureau of Grass Supervision suggested that the vegetation should be protected well. The Representative from the Bureau of Forestry and Water suggested that safety measures, such as a fence, could be considered.

#### 4. Further Feedback

Based on the discussions during the meeting the project owner has since given further feedback on several issues:

Regarding the findings of the questionnaire relating to potential negative impacts (outlined in 3.2 (c) above), he stated that he believed that none of the concerns would have a significant negative impact.

However, the project owner is aiming to further reduce any possible negative impacts of the project by enhancing the management of the construction period, shortening the construction period and limiting vehicle access. He reiterated that little noise would be produced by the wind turbines when they are in operation, and that the project will be built in a remote area, so there would be no significant negative impacts on the local residents.

He also clarified that dust would be prevented by the sprinkling and spreading of tarpaulin if there was a gale or any other adverse weather conditions during the construction period. In addition, it was clarified that the bulldozer would be covered during the excavation period. These steps would ensure that the air would not be polluted.

Also, he repeated that solid waste would be removed to the Erlianhot landfill treatment factory during the construction period and that vegetation would be restored after completion of the project. Finally, waste water would only be discharged after being treated well.

Regarding electromagnetic radiation, he stated that as the nearest residence is 5 kilometres from the wind farm, therefore any interference would not be a negative impact on the local residents.

Finally, as the wind farm was not on a main route of migrating birds, and there were only a few species of birds in the area, there would be negligible impact on the local birds and the local ecological system.

All the participants of the meeting gave a positive assessment on the environmental, and social and sustainable impacts of the project. Also, the participants thought that the project would provide more work opportunities and promote the development of the renewable energy industry. Meanwhile, the project would also become a new attraction for Erlianhot City. In summary, the participants supported the construction and operation of the project and had no dissenting opinions.

For any further questions, opinions and suggestions, please contact:

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