Azerbaijan 240 MW Wind Projects
Azerbaijan

ESIA Consultation &

Disclosure Report

Prepared for:

January 2023, V3

Document Information

Project Name	Khizi-3 Wind Farm Project, Khizi Region, Azerbaijan Area 1 Wind Farm Project, Absheron Region, Azerbaijan
5Cs Project Number	1305/001/088 & 1305/001/089
Document Title	Public Disclosure Report
Client	ACWA Power
5Cs Project Manager	Reem Jabr
5Cs Project Director	Ken Wade

Document Control

Version	Version Date	Description	Author	Reviewer	Approver
1.0	25/11/2022	Public Disclosure Report	RMJ	KRW	KRW
2.0	22/12/2022	Final Report – Incorporating LEA's comments	RMJ	KRW	KRW
3.0	24/01/2023	Final Report	RMJ	KRW	KRW

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	MEANING
ADB	Asian Development Bank
BOO	Build Own Operate
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
E&S	Environmental & Social
ESAP	Environmental & Social Action Plan
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
LRP	Livelihood Restoration Plan
MENR	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
MoE	Ministry of Energy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
OFID	OPEC Fund for International Development
OHTL	Over Head Transmission Line
PAPs	Project Affected Persons
PDR	Public Disclosure Report
PIC	Project Information Centre
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
WF	Wind Farm
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator
5 Capitals	5 Capitals Environmental and Management Consulting

1 INTRODUCTION

This document is the **Public Disclosure Report (PDR)** for the Azerbaijan 240 MW Wind Power Projects (the Project) prepared following the completion of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) disclosure process.

5 Capitals Environmental and Management Consulting (5 Capitals) has been engaged by ACWA Power to undertake the independent ESIA processes including disclosure of E&S documents to stakeholders and Project Affected Persons (PAPs).

1.1 Objectives

The purpose of this report is to outline the ESIA public disclosure activities and stakeholders that were engaged and the feedback received from stakeholders/attendees and how it has been addressed within the updated environmental and social (E&S) documents package.

Information about the Project is included in the disclosed E&S documents (Refer to section 2.1.1 for links to the relevant websites).

1.2 Project Background

ACWA Power signed an implementation agreement with the Ministry of Energy (MoE) in Azerbaijan for developing, building and operating a nominal 240 MW wind power project. The wind project is expected to operate 25 years on a Build Own Operate (BOO) basis according to the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The 240.5 MW wind project will be built at two (2) locations as follows:

- Khizi 3: Capacity up to 162.5 MW and will be generated using maximum of 25 Wind Turbine Generators (WTG), located in Khizi region; and
- Area 1: Capacity up to 78 MW and will be generated using maximum of 12 WTGs, located at Absheron region.

1.3 Requirement for ESIA PDR

ACWA Power is seeking project finance from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). EBRD's Project specific Environmental & Social Action Plan (ESAP) requires the preparation of a PDR at the end of EBRD's 60 day disclosure period. Therefore, this report has been prepared in order to meet the above requirements for the Project.

1.4 Public Information Centre (PIC)

A PIC was first established in Sitalchay and Perekeshkul villages on 15th June 2021 by ACWA Power to provide information on the Project to the members of the community, receive grievances and facilitate local recruitment for the Project. The main functions of the PIC can be summarised as follows:

- Inform local community of the project status and any new developments;
- Disseminate project related announcements by placing posters within the community;
- Receive and process public grievances;
  - Register grievances and send it to project management;
  - Track the grievances until it is closed; and
  - Keep the log of grievances.
- Facilitate the local recruitment for the project;
  - Place Job Announcements;
  - Organise job interviews by engaging project company/contractors' representatives; and
  - Document and keep record of interview results.
- Organise public meetings by engaging local authorities and project management;
- Generate project proposals from communities for financing by the Project Developer; and
- Document and keep the records of all communication with community.

The PIC office has been used throughout the ESIA process to engage with the local community and PAPs and also for the disclosure of ESIA documents. Location of PICs is provided in the Table below.

Table 1-1 Location of PICs

PIC	LOCATION
Khizi 3 Wind Farm Project	Sitalchay village, Khizi region, Elekberov Elabbas street
Area 1 Wind Farm Project	Perekeshkul village of Absheron district, Mamedamin Rasulzade Street

Plate 1-1 PIC at Sitalchay Village

PHOTOGRAPHS	
Area 1 WF Project - Perekeshkul Village	Khizi 3 WF Project – Sitalchay Village
Note: The PIC office in Sitalchay Village is powered by a Photovoltaic (PV) panel and small wind turbine, installed by the local consultant, Ecoenergy.	

1.5 Disclosed Documents

The following documents are part of the E&S public disclosure package and informed the ESIA public disclosure process for both projects (Area 1 and Khizi 3 WFs):

- ESIA Reports which include:
  - Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary (NTS);
  - Volume 2: Main Text, Tables & Figures;
  - Volume 3: Framework for Environmental & Social Management; and
  - Volume 4: Appendices.
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP);
- Draft Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP); and
- Project Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP).

2 ESIA DISCLOSURE PROCESS

The ESIA disclosure process was informed by the requirements within the Project specific SEP (disclosed) which provides details of the stakeholders, engagement methods and an ESIA disclosure timetable. For the Azerbaijan 240 MW Wind projects, two (2) public disclosure events were carried out as follows:

- Disclosure meetings held in January 2022 in line with national requirements and prior to submission of the ESIA to national Environmental Regulator; and
- Disclosure meetings held in June/ July 2022 to disclose ESIA updates in line with EBRD requirements.

This report focuses on the outcome of the second public disclosure meeting; however a summary is provided on the first public meeting held in January 2022.

2.1 First Public Disclosure - January 2022 (National Requirement)

Based on national requirements (revised Law on EIA (2018)), public consultations in the form of hearings should be carried out during the development of EIA study in line with Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Public Participation" and prior to the submission of the ESIA for approval by the national regulator (Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR). Therefore, four (4) public disclosure meetings were undertaken from 8th to 11th January 2022 at the Sitalchay and Perekeshkul villages (local communities) as follows:

- Two (2) meetings on 8th and 10th January 2022 at Sitalchay village for Khizi 3 Wind Project; and
- Two (2) meetings on 9th and 11th January 2022 at Perekeshkul village for Area 1Wind Project.

The objectives of the meetings were to:

- Publicly disclose the results of detailed ESIA undertaken for the Khizi3 and Area 1 Wind Farm Projects over the past 2 years;
- Give an opportunity for national and local government to comment on the ESIA findings;
- Give an opportunity for affected Stakeholders and interested parties to comment on the ESIA findings; and
- To provide project information on:
  - Purpose, nature, and scale of the project;
  - Duration of proposed project activities (construction and operation);
  - Risks, impacts and relevant mitigation measures and benefits; and
  - Public feedback forms and grievance mechanism.

Meetings were held over a weekday and weekend for each Project, to ensure maximum number of participants of attendance.

2.1.1 Disclosure of ESIA documents and Notifications to Stakeholders

Prior to the meeting, hard copies of the ESIA, SEP and NTS were available at the PIC office established for the Project. In addition, copy of the ESIA NTS was published on the project website along with a feedback form (www.azerwind.az).

Due to the COVID restrictions imposed in Azerbaijan at that time, a maximum of 50 people were allowed to attend each meeting. Meeting announcement and invitations were sent out 10 days prior to meetings and announced in the press and project website (www.azerwind.az). Invitations were also posted in the village and sent out to NGOs and state agencies. List of stakeholders and copies of invitation letters and announcements are provided in Appendix A of this Report. Feedback forms were provided in PIC and during the meetings to receive any feedback (copy of forms are provided in Appendix B).

Plate 2-1 Announcements of Public Disclosure in Local Community

SITALCHAY VILLAGE	PEREKESHKUL VILLAGE

Plate 2-2 Announcement of Disclosure Meetings in national Newspaper (Respublika Newspaper)

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT	

Table 2-1 First Public Disclosure – Participants (January 2022)

	DETAILS
Khizi 3 WF Project – Public Disclosure	
Dates	8th and 10th January 2022
Venue	Sitalchay Village - Village Sports Club yard, Khizi District
No. of Participants (Total)	88
Breakdown by Gender	Women: 23 Men: 65
Participants	- 5 Capitals ESIA team - Ecoenergy team (local consultant) - Members of Local community (Sitalchay and Village) - NGOs including Azerbaijan Ornithological Society, Environmental Education and Monitoring PU, Support for innovative education of women and children PU, Social and political research PU, Support for Sustainable Tourism Development PU - State Agencies such as State Agency for Renewable Energy Sources, State Employment Agency Territorial Employment No. 10, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of ANAS, Museum of Natural History of ANAS, Representation on Administrative Territorial Districts - Youth Tourism Public Union
Area 1 WF Project – Public Disclosure	
Dates	9th and 11th January 2022
Venue	Perekeshkul Village – Municipality
No. of Participants (Total)	76
Breakdown by Gender	Women: 23 Men: 53
Participants	- 5 Capitals ESIA team - Ecoenergy team (local consultant) - Members of Local community - State Agencies such as Regional Department of Ecology and Natural Resources No. 4, State Employment Agency, Representative of Absheron Executive power, State Agency for Renewable Energy Sources, Azersu OJSC - Unios such as Public Union for Development and Prosperity, Law Public Union, Support to Innovative Education of Women and Children" Public Union

Plate 2-3 Public Disclosure Meetings – Compilation of Photographs (January 2022)

JANUARY 2022	

2.1.2 Outcome of Meetings

The key issues/questions raised during the meetings were included in a Public Disclosure Report and provided in Volume 4 of the ESIA report disclosed in May 2022. However, the key issues raised and of great interest were recruitment plans and social support expected from the Project to the local communities such as better infrastructure, parks, playgrounds, etc. Only one concern/ question was raised regarding compensation and impact on grazing areas.

2.2 Second Public Disclosure – June/July 2022 (EBRD Disclosure)

Since the submission of the ESIA Reports to the MENR for approval and the public disclosure meetings in January 2022, the ESIA reports have been submitted for review and approval by EBRD since the project is seeking financing. Therefore, the ESIA Reports along with the other environmental and social (E&S) Management Plans have been updated to address feedback and comments received from EBRD and project technical advisors.

As requested by EBRD, additional public disclosure meetings were held with the relevant stakeholders and local communities to disclose the updates to the ESIA and E&S Package since it was published on EBRD and ACWA Power websites on 20th May 2022.

Project leaflets in local language (Azerbaijani) were also distributed during the meeting to all participants and included information on the key updates made in the ESIA, disclosure of the Draft LRP, project information and a group of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). The number of leaflets distributed is provided in the table below. The project leaflets and presentation slides are provided in Appendix C.

Table 2-2 Number of Leaflets Distributed

Stakeholder Bodies/Communities	Number of Leaflets Distributed
Wind Farm	
Sitalchay Village, Tent	16
Perikishekul Village , Tent (for Disclosure of Area 1 WF)	31
NGOs and Academics, Baku, Holiday Inn	21
State Agencies, Baku, Holiday Inn	13
OHTL	
Perikishekul Village, PIC	15
Total	**96**

Summary of meetings are provided in the Table below.

Table 2-3 Second Public Disclosure – Meetings (June and July 2022)

Day	Date	Stakeholders
Day 1	30th June 2022 - Thursday	OHTL Stakeholders (land users, receptors, Off-taker, etc_
Day 2	1st July 2022 - Friday	Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and State Agencies Two (2) sessions: – 1st Session (9 am to 11 am) - NGOs/CSOs – 2nd Session (1 to 3 pm) – State Agencies
Day 3	2nd July 2022 - Saturday	Local communities, PAPs (LRP), etc. Two (2) sessions: – 1st Session (10 am to 12 am) – Sitalchay Village (Khizi 3 WF Project) – 2nd Session (2 pm to 4 pm) – Perekeshkul Village (Area 1 WF Project)
Note: Details on participants for each session is provided in Chapter 3 below.		

Plate 2-4 Public Disclosure Meetings – Compilation of Photographs (July 2022)

JULY 2022	
Day 1	
Day 2	
Day 3	

JULY 2022	

2.2.1 Online Disclosure

In line with EBRD requirements on information disclosure, the updated Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) studies as well as supplementary ESIA package, inclusive of the updated Non-Technical Summary, Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Draft LRP and the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) have been disclosed on ACWA Power's and EBRD's websites on 20 May 2022 and can be accessed using the below links (in both English and Azerbaijani languages):

Table 2-4 Website Links to Disclosed ESIA Documents

ENTITY	WEBSITE	DISCLOSURE TIMELINE
EBRD	https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/esia/azerbaijan-absheronkhizi-wpp.html	May 2022
ACWA Power	https://acwapower.com/en/projects/azerbaijan-wind-ipp/	May 2022

The disclosed documents were prepared in English and translated to Azerbaijani:

- EISA Volume 1, NTS;
- ESIA Volume 2, Main Report;
- ESIA Volume 3, Framework for Environmental & Social Management;
- ESIA Volume 4: Appendices;
- SEP;
- Draft LRP; and
- ESAP.

2.2.2 Notification to Stakeholders on the Online disclosed documents

A number of pre-determined stakeholders (as specified in the SEP) were provided with letters in Azerbaijani with a summary of the Project information, expected financing DFIs and notification regarding finalisation of the EISA documents and their disclosure online and how to access them (refer to table 2-1 above). These letters were sent to the stakeholders below. Copies of the invitations and announcements are provided in Appendix D.

Table 2-5 Stakeholders provided with links to websites

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	STAKEHOLDER
National government	Ministry of Energy Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) Ministry of Tourism and Culture (Cultural Heritage Protection State Service) Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (Employment Department) Motorways State Agency
Regional government	Municipality Heads (Baladiyya); Regional Executive Committee (Ijra).
Local government	Head of Village Municipality (Ijra); Village Executive Committee Representative.
National non-governmental organizations (NGOs)	"Water use specialists" Public Union "Support for Sustainable Tourism Development" Public Union "Youth Contribution" Public Union "Social and Political Research" Public Union "For Development and Prosperity" Public Union "Socio-Economic and Environmental Development" Public Union Biosphere Public Union "Support to innovative education of women and children" Public Union "Environmental Education and Monitoring" Public Union "Legal World" Legal Propaganda Public Union Public Association for Support of Socio-Economic and Cultural Development of Youth "Azerbaijan Food and Beverage Industry Association" Public Union "ECO-TES" Environmental Research and Education Public Union "Assistance to Nature Protection in Gabala Region" Public Union EcoSphere Social Ecological Center WWF Azerbaijan REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE FOR AZERBAIJAN (REC) Azerbaijan Ornithological Society
Academics	The Institute of Botany of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences Institute of Zoology

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder
	Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences Institute of Archeology, Ethnography and Anthropology Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences Institute on Law and Human Rights Baku State University Faculty of Biology Baku State University Faculty of Ecology and Soil Science
Project-affected Communities	Community Members, Leaders and Vulnerable groups (Sitlachay and Cayl Villages); PAPs identified in draft LRPs i.e. Farmers, household herders, Workers employed by farmers, Herb collectors Poultry farm Land users along OHTL (e.g. Almond orchard, Military bases Dog shelter. Farms, etc).

2.2.3 Distribution of Hard Copies

In line with the project SEP, hard copies of the NTS, Draft LRP, SEP and project Leaflet were available in the PIC office in the local language (Azerbaijani). The PIC office is located in the village and easily accessible, therefore, special arrangements to reach PIC were not required as its easily accessible by the elderly and those that do not have access to internet.

For vulnerable groups and people who still could not access the PIC, PIC representative visited the homes of these people (e.g. disabled people and elderly) and shared copies of the NTS, and SEP where required. Copies of the project leaflet were also provided. A list of households that included vulnerable people was requested from the Municipality of Sitalchay.

Table 2-6 Distribution of ESIA Documents

Project	Number of Individuals Visited
Khizi 3 WF Project - Sitalchay Village	4
Area 1 WF Project - Perekeshkul village	17

In addition, hard copies of NTS, SEP and project brochure were made available at the following PIC for the WF and OHTL:

Table 2-7 Distribution of ESIA Documents

LOCATION	CONTACT DETAILS
Wind Farm	
Sitalchay Village	PIC, Alakbarov Alabbas Street, Sitalchay village, Khizi district.
Perekeshkul village	PIC, Mahammad Amin Rasulzade Street, Pirakashkul village, Absheron district.
Baku	Bashir Safaroglu 215
OHTL	
Perikishkul Village	PIC, Mahammad Amin Rasulzade Street, Pirakashkul village, Absheron district

Note:

- *The disclosure links and location of PIC office (for hard copies) were communicated to the local community and PAPs in the project leaflets distributed to attendees during the ESIA public disclosure meetings.*
- *The Project will continue to utilise the PIC offices to provide publicised Project information to the PAPs. This will be undertaken in consultation and coordination with the Municipalities.*

3 OUTCOME OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

The outcome of public disclosure meetings are provided in the Tables below.

3.1 Day 1 – Disclosure for OHTL

Table 3-1 Public Disclosure Meeting – Participants (Day 1)

	DETAILS
Date	30th June 2022
Venue	Perekeshkul Village - Office of the Project Information Centre (PIC), Absheron district
No. of Participants (Total)	15
Breakdown by Gender	Women: 3 Men: 12
Participants	- 5 Capitals ESIA team - Ecoenergy team (local consultant) - ACWA Power - EBRD - Azerenergy (Off-taker) - OHTL stakeholders; Farmers, greenhouse farm, PERM company (land user), Baku State University (all men particpants)

Table 3-2 Key Questions/ Issues Raised

QUESTION	STAKEHOLDER	ANSWER
Land fragmentation and impact on value of land		
Participant stated that the University leases land along the OHTL route. University would like to know more on the design and construction timeline of OHTL. In addition, University is concerned about land fragmentation and impact on value of land.	Baku State University – Land User	Project Company (PC): The construction of electricity transmission lines is financed entirely by the state, Azerenergy. Final design and construction schedule will be shared once finalised by Azerenergy.

3.2 Day 2

Table 3-3 Public Disclosure Meeting – Participants (Day 2)

	DETAILS
Date	1st July 2022
Venue	Holiday Inn Hotel (in Baku)
Session 1 – NGOs/CSOs	
No. of Participants (Total)	21
Breakdown by Gender	Women: 10

	Details
	Men: 11
Participants	- 5 Capitals ESIA team - Ecoenergy team (local consultant) - ACWA Power - EBRD - NGOs/CSOs stakeholders: MENR Public Councils, Baku State University, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences- University of Zoology, Azerbaijan Ornithology Society, Institute of Archaeology, Ethnography and Anthropology (6 women participants)
Session 2 - State Agencies	
No. of Participants (Total)	13
Breakdown by Gender	Women: 4 Men: 9
Participants	- 5 Capitals ESIA team - Ecoenergy team (local consultant) - ACWA Power - EBRD - State agency stakeholders ; State Agency for Renewable Energy Sources, State Agency of Azerbaijan Automobile Roads, MENR, State Employment Agency (1 women participant)

3.2.1 Session 1 - Disclosure to NGOs/CSOs

Table 3-4 NGOs - Key Questions/ Issues Raised

Question	Stakeholder	Response
Local Consultant Qualifications		
You mentioned a local consulting company. I wonder if this local company has sufficient experience in this field?	Ekoloji Monitoring (NGO)	Local Consultant (EcoEnergy): "EcoEnergy" has been operating since 2008 and specializes in consultations on Environmental Impact Assessments, Carbon Footprint Measurement and Renewable Energy. Company has local and international experience. Examples of cooperation with local companies include Azercell, the Azerbaijan Railways, Tamiz Sheher, etc., while those of our cooperation with foreign companies include the German Energy Agency, UNIDO, ACWA Power, etc. More information can be found on company we site www.ecoenergy.az
Monitoring Activities during Construction Phase		
Will there be any monitoring during the project construction?	Azerbaijan Ornithological Society	Project Company (PC): Yes, monitoring will be carried out during the construction phase.
Will construction work be monitored only by people hired by the Project Company? Is there a possibility of	Azerbaijan Ornithological Society	5 Capitals: A team of independent experts will be required during the construction phase such as ornithologist, botanist, etc in line with the biodiversity management plans developed for the projects. These people will be qualified

QUESTION	STAKEHOLDER	RESPONSE
independent experts joining this work?		experts on archeology, ornithology and other areas and will be required throughout the construction phase.
Archeological research during the project was carried out by the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography I represent. As far as I know, more than 50 archaeological sites have been recorded. My question is whether the institute will also be involved in monitoring during the construction phase?	ANAS Institute of Archeology and Ethnography	PC: Archaeological surveys were carried out for the project by experts from the Institute. Yes monitoring will be carried out in line with Institute requirements during construction phase.
Land Use		
The project area is used for grazing which is carried out informally. Is there a plan for the people to use the grazing area during construction?	Azerbaijan Ornithological Society	PC: Access to project site will not be allowed during construction for health and safety reasons. However, a temporary pasture/ area will be allocated for land users. Information about alternative grazing areas has been obtained from local municipalities and will be disclosed to affected people.
Ecology		
According to the presentation, there are few rare species in the project area. What are the management plans to protect these species during construction?	Member of MENR Public Association	5 Capitals: The ESIA has assessed impacts on flora and fauna within area of influence and included adequate mitigation and management measures to ensure impact is avoided or limited. For example, tortoises found in the project area include relocating them prior to construction in line with the Reptile Relocation Plan developed for the project.
Environmental Approval		
You mentioned in your presentation that an environmental approval has been received from the Ministry of Ecology. This is a great result. Did you also establish relationships with other institutions during the project?	Environmental Monitoring (NGO)	PC: Communications and consultations were carried out with several state and non-state organizations during the Scoping and ESIA process to ensure national requirements are considered in the ESIA.
Decommissioning of Project		
What will disposal procedures look like after	Member of the MENR Public Association	PC: After the end of the operation period, the turbines will be dismantled and the area

QUESTION	STAKEHOLDER	RESPONSE
the end of the operation period?		returned to its original condition and handed over.
Recruitment		
Will workers be hired from the local village during construction? What will this process look like in general?	Member of the MENR Public Association	PC: More than 300 people will be employed during the construction phase. These people will work during the construction period. Only 30 of them will be employed permanently. Permanent recruits will primarily perform security functions.

3.2.2 Session 2 - Disclosure to State Agencies

Table 3-5 State Agencies - Key Questions/ Issues Raised

QUESTION	STAKEHOLDER	ANSWER
Recruitment		
Requested that records of employment to be submitted to Ministry of Labour & Social Protection. Also requested to know more on recruitment and local support to local communities. Also, Agency can support with recruitment for project as they have database of unemployed people in the areas.	State Employment Agency	PC: We met representatives of the Agency at the previous public meetings held in January 2022. The State Employment Agency stated that they can help with recruitment and the Agency can provide free vocational education courses to train the local community to ensure they have the right skills. Almost 300 workers will be employed during the construction period. These will mainly be concrete workers, welders, laborers, drivers, etc. However, around 30 people will be employed during the operation period. 25 people will be required for security duties on site and in the offices. Salaries will be set according to local regulations and the labour market.

3.3 Day 3 – Disclosure to Local Community and PAPs

3.3.1 Session 1 – Sitalchay Village (Khizi 3 WF Project)

Table 3-6 Public Disclosure Meeting – Participants (Day 3 – Session 1)

	DETAILS
Date	2nd July 2022
Venue	Sitalchay Village - Village Sports Club yard, Khizi District
No. of Participants (Total)	16
Breakdown by Gender	Women: 3 Men: 13
Participants	- 5 Capitals ESIA team

	Details
	- Ecoenergy team (local consultant) - ACWA Power - EBRD - Local community stakeholders

Table 3-7 Sitalchay Village - Key Questions/ Issues Raised

Question	Stakeholder	Answer
Community Development – Social Projects		
We participated in the previous public meeting too. We have already asked all our questions and made suggestions. PIC representative is keeping us up to date. We have given our proposals to PIC. My proposal was to build a small park in the village so that people could spend their free time there. I wanted to remind you of this proposal again. I was wondering when you will consider our proposals.	Member of local community	PC: Thank you for your question. First of all, let me say that there are some delays in the project implementation due to the Russian-Ukrainian war. There are shipping restrictions in the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov and the Volga river. Our turbines are large pieces of equipment. The height of the tower is 100 meters, the generator weighs 126 tons and each blade is 86 meters long. The initial plan was to bring the equipment across the Volga river, but the roads are closed due to the current political situation. Project is looking for alternative routes maybe across Turkey. However, there are many tunnels in the territory of Georgia, which hampers the transportation of blades. Unfortunately, it is not possible to bring blades in parts. Since the project is being delayed for technical issues, we are also behind with social plans. You can rest assured that we will implement the social component. We have received several suggestions from community members. All suggestions received will be discussed and selected with the local community.
We will require to know the budget allocated for the social projects for the village Before we can discuss a social project, we need to know what the budget is. We will give our suggestions in accordance with that.	Member of local community	PC: You are absolutely right. We have been doing research for two years and are aware of certain things that need to be done. We will calculate and determine the budget. We will move into operation two years later. During the 25-year operation period, the budget will be allocated every year. The process of determining the budget is still underway. We will provide you with a list and discuss what needs to be done. However, the approach will not be individual, a project that will benefit the entire community will be chosen. There are projects that we will implement together with state agencies. The budget figures will be shared with you.
Recruitment		
What employment opportunities will there be?	Member of local community	PC: About 300 workers will be involved in both projects during construction. Drivers, workers, welders, engineers will be needed.

QUESTION	STAKEHOLDER	ANSWER
		Advertisements will be posted in our project information centre and in population centres. We will require contractors and subcontractors to give preference to the local population whenever possible.
Status of Project and Timeline		
Are we going to wait for the Russian-Ukrainian war to end for the project to start?	Member of local community	PC: Alternative ways are being considered to deliver project materials and turbines. Project will proceed and will not wait for war to end.

3.3.2 Session 2 – Perekeshkul Village (Area 1 WF Project)

Table 3-8 Public Disclosure Meeting – Participants (Day 3 – Session 2)

	DETAILS
Date	2nd July 2022
Venue	Tent, Perekeshkul village, Absheron district
No. of Participants (Total)	31
Breakdown by Gender	Women: 16 Men: 15
Participants	- 5 Capitals ESIA team - Ecoenergy team (local consultant) - ACWA Power - EBRD - Local community stakeholders

Table 3-9 Perekeshkul Village - Key Questions/ Issues Raised

QUESTION	STAKEHOLDER	ANSWER
Livelihood Restoration Plan and Land Use		
Leaflet mentions 40 families? There are more than 40 families (about 200).	Member of local community	5 Capitals: Thank you for your question. A total of 47 families, or 223 people, have been identified as being affected by the Area 1 Project. They are listed in the draft Livelihood Restoration Plan.
What conditions will be created for people with farms in the project area? There was talk that "ACWA Power" would help people with farms. It seems that assistance is only intended in the form of an alternative area.	Member of local community	PC: During construction, access to the site will be restricted due to health and safety considerations. After construction, there will be no restrictions or fencing and project area can be accessed as agreed with Municipality.
What do you intend to do for those affected by the project?	Member of local community	PC: We have carried out the relevant socio-economic surveys and consultations as part of the LRP to confirm the project affected

QUESTION	STAKEHOLDER	ANSWER
		people. The support and compensations will be included in the Final LRP which will be disclosed to the affected people. This issue will be discussed with every household and a decision made in agreement with them. The grazing fields have already been agreed upon. Alternative locations have been discussed both with the municipality and the executive authority.
Recruitment		
You mentioned that around 300 people will be employed during construction. Will this include recruitment from our community? We need the local population to be involved in the work. Otherwise, we will see only negative effects of this project.	Member of local community	PC: I fully agree with you. We will require the contractor and subcontractor to ensure that workers for both projects are transparently selected from the local population.
Will there be an age limit for the employees to be hired?	Member of local community	Project company representative: The process will be carried out according to the labor code. There will be no exploitation, age restriction and gender discrimination. The process will be conducted in a completely transparent manner.
Community Development and Social Projects		
You mentioned social assistance to the rural population. What kind of assistance did you mean?	Member of local community	PC: I can give you examples of our company's projects in other countries – issues related to waste collection, water supply, medical aid, education in the village. We are talking about issues that benefit the village.
The state is already doing what you have just listed. We suggest that you help us in matters that the state does not.	Member of local community	PC: We will decide what social project to implement after consulting with you.
Health Impacts from Project		
Can radiation have an impact on my illnesses?	Member of local community	PC: No radiation is generated from the turbine. Therefore, there is no danger for your health.

3.4 Grievance Mechanism

The details of the grievance mechanism were provided to all participants including local community and PAPs during the disclosure meetings and within the leaflets distributed in accordance with the Project specific SEP. All stakeholders were informed that the grievance

mechanism would be available to them throughout the Project construction and operational phase.

4 FEEDBACK FROM EBRD ON DISCLOSURE MEETINGS

EBRD representative attended the 2nd public disclosure meetings held in June/ July 2022 and the following key actions are proposed for ACWA Power/ Project Company's consideration (email issued by EBRD on 6th July 2022):

Table 4-1 Distribution of ESIA Documents (email issued on 6/07/2022)

	FOLLOW UP ACTIONS	COMMENT
OHTL	ACWA Power to share the meeting request from Baku-state university with Azerenegy and ensure a proper consultation meeting is organised to discuss land impacts and land acquisition process.	The above actions will be issued to Azerenergi for their consideration.
	Brochures for land acquisition along the OHTL to be prepared and distributed to the land users prior to land acquisition process	
	Land values/unit rates to be disclosed prior to implementation of the LRP for OHTL	
WFs	ACWA Power to disclose compensation rates (at least unit rates and calculation methodology) including those paid to municipality to avoid any potential claims and to ensure transparency of the project activities in future.	Noted and will be carried out during LRP disclosure once approved by EBRD.
	ACWA Power to employ experienced local Community Liaison Officers (CLOs)- and train them before they start engagements with communities prior to construction. CLOs should not be employed from the affected villages to maintain independency /objectivity from communities and to avoid any potential involvement in inter-village conflicts.	A qualified CLO will be hired for the Projects.
	ACWA Power to develop a Community Development Framework/Plan and share it with key stakeholders explaining the needs assessment, project selection criteria, beneficiaries, principles of social investment, project implementation and monitoring, annual budget plans etc.	A Community Development Framework/Plan will be developed by Project Company. Expected timeline: 6 months after Financial Close
	ACWA Power to develop and implement a strategy to manage high expectations of communities and NGOs from social investment programme.	
	ACWA Power to set up a participatory mechanism/community based committee to design and implement the community investment plan.	
	ACWA Power to ensure social manager/CLOs to be employed have some community development experience to ensure social investment programme is designed and implemented in line with the international best practices	A qualified CLO will be hired for the Projects.

5 SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

Two (2) public disclosure events were carried for the Azerbaijan 240 MW Wind Projects and included the following meetings:

- Four (4) public disclosure meetings were undertaken from 8th to 11th January 2022 at Sitalchay and Perekeshkul villages (local communities). The objective of the meetings were to present the outcomes of the ESIA process and to present the key impacts, mitigation and management measures, including key elements of the SEP such as the PIC and the grievance mechanism and how it can be accessed. The meetings were attended by a total of 88 participants for Khizi 3 WF Project and 76 participants for Area 1 WF Project. This was in line with national requirements and prior to submission ESIA to national Environmental Regulator; and
- As requested by EBRD, additional public disclosure meetings were held with the relevant stakeholders and local communities to disclose the updates to the ESIA and E&S Package since it was published on EBRD and ACWA Power websites on 20th May 2022. Five (5) additional meetings were carried out from 30th June to 2nd of July 2022 and included NGOs/ CSOs, State Agencies, local communities, PAPs (Wind Farm and OHTL) and other stakeholders.

The public disclosure meetings were undertaken in accordance with the methods and records outlined in this report. It is noted that the majority of the clarifications and concerns raised by the stakeholders and local community were addressed during the meetings and did not necessitate the update of ESIA package documents.

The key concerns raised during both public disclosure events are recruitment opportunities with the projects during construction and operation and the social support/ development expected from the Project such as better infrastructure, parks, playgrounds, etc.

For land use and PAPs, separate disclosure meetings and consultations will be carried out with the PAPs to disclose the compensations in line with the LRP implementation plan.

APPENDIX A – LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS AND COPIES OF INVITATION LETTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (1ST PUBLIC DISCLOSURE MEETINGS – JANUARY 2022)

List of stakeholders and copies of invitation letters and announcements are provided in Appendix A of this Report.

A- List of Stakeholders

Local Community	Sitalchay Village
Water authority	Azerbaijan Amelioration and Water Farm Open Joint Stock Company
Water distributor authority	"AZERSU" Open Joint Stock Company
Water Canal authority- Khizy	Khizy Water Canal Office
Water Canal authority- Absheron	Absheron Water Canal Office
Waste authority	Khizy District Executive Power
	Absheron District Executive Power
Wastewater/ sewage authority	"AZERSU" Open Joint Stock Company
Military	Main Operational Department of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Civil Aviation Authority	The Ministry of Transportation, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, State Civil Aviation Agency
Military Aviation Authority	Deputy Minister of Defense-Commander of the Air Force
Telecommunication Towers	National Television and Radio Council
	The Ministry of Transportation, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Aztelekom LLC
OHTL and Electric System	"Azerishiq" Open Joint Stock Company
	"Azerenerji" Joint Stock Company
Ministry of Labour	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Azerbaijan Republic
Ministry of Emergency Situation	The Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan Republic, State Agency for Construction Safety Control
National government	Ministry of Energy (AREA)
	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR)
	Ministry of Tourism and Culture (Cultural Heritage Protection State Service)
	Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (Employment Department)
Regional Executive Committee	Khizi District Executive Power
	Absheron District Executive Power
Local government	Khizy District Sitalchay Municipality
	Absheron District Municipality of Pirakashkul-Gobustan
NGOs	Public Union for Development and Prosperity
	Youth Contribution Public Union
	Public Association for Support of Socio-Economic and Cultural Development of Youth
	Support to Sustainable Tourism Development" Public Union
	"Socio-Economic and Environmental Development" Public Union
	"Support to innovative education of women and children" Public Union
	"ECO-TES" Environmental Research and Education Public Union

	"Environmental Education and Monitoring" Public Union
	Biosphere Public Union
	"Legal World" Public Union
Project-affected communities	Farm 3
	OHTL Farm
	OHTL Farm

B – Invitation Letters

Invitation letter sent to State Agency on Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources under the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Invitation Letter sent to Employment Department of the State Employment Agency under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Invitation letter sent to "For Development and Wellbeing" Public Union of the Public Council under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Invitation letter sent to "EKO-TES" Environmental Researches and Enlightenment Public Union of the Public Council under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan

English Translation

December XX, 2021

XXXXXXX
XXXXXXX
XXXXXXX

Re: Invitation to Public Consultation Meeting

Dear XXX.XXXX XXXXXXXX,

ACWA Power has signed an agreement with the Government of Azerbaijan to develop, own and operate a 240 MW renewable wind energy project in the Khizi and Absheron regions of Azerbaijan. A Public Meeting will be held in January 2022 to disclose the findings of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for Khizi 3 Wind Farm Project.

ACWA Power invites stakeholders to attend the meeting, which will take place at the XXXX of Sitalchay village, Khizi Region on the 6th and 8th of January 2021 from 10:00 – 14:00.

Copies of the accompanying ESIA documents will be available at the meeting and feedback forms in Azerbaijani and English languages will also be available to write down any comments or further questions you may have. From early January the detailed ESIA documents will be available for anyone to review at the ACWA Power Public Information Centers in /XXXX or on the website https://azerwind.az.

During the meeting, representatives from ACWA Power, its appointed consultants, *5 Capitals Environmental & Management Consultancy* and appointed a local consultant, *Ecoenergy Ltd* will make presentations and take questions, comments and feedback on the draft ESIA from the audience. Comments can also be sent to info@ecoenergy.az

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on how many people may gather at an indoor event, it is important that we all follow the rules and advice, and in particular a limitation on the number of participants of no more 50 persons can safely attend the meeting at the venue. This also includes persons who are vaccinated or have had COVID-19.

For further information please contact: Farida Malidzade at Ecoenergy Ltd. Tel.: [994 XX] XXX XX XX.

Best regards,

XXXXX XXXXXX

XXXXXXXX

C – Copy of Announcement in English

ACWA Power as the developer of a 240 MW renewable wind energy project in Khizi and Absheron regions in Azerbaijan announces that as part of the consultation process, it will hold an open public meeting to disclose the draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Khizi 3 Wind Farm Project

ACWA Power invites stakeholders to attend the meeting, which will take place **at the Village Sports Club of Sitalchay village, Khizi Region on dates: the 6th and 8th of January 2021 at 10:00 – 14:00.**

From 27th December 2021, copies of the draft ESIA documents and feedback forms in Azerbaijani and English languages will be available for access and download website https://azerwind.az.

These documents will also be available at the Project Public Information Centre (PIC) located at the Municipality Building, 12 Alabbas Alakbarov Street, Sitalchay village, Khizi District.

During the meeting, representatives from ACWA Power, its appointed Consultants 5 Capitals Environmental & Management Consultancy and the local consultant, Ecoenergy Ltd will make presentations and take questions, comments and feedback on the draft ESIA from the audience. ACWA Power welcomes all comments and feedback on the draft ESIAs.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on how many people may gather at an indoor event, it is important that we all follow the rules and advice, and in particular a limitation on the number of participants of no more 50 persons can safely attend the meeting at the venue. This also includes persons who are vaccinated or have had COVID-19.

For further information please contact: Farida Majidzade Tel.: 05576127 52

APPENDIX B – FEEDBACK FORMS

Feedback Form Khizi 3 Wind Farm Project ESIA

We welcome all comments on the proposed Khizi 3 Wind Farm Project. Tell us what you think by completing this form and returning it to the public meeting organizer during this meeting or to Community Liaison Officer working at Project Information Centre in Sitalchay village after the meeting. Please submit your comments no later than the 11th January, 2022. Substantive comments will be carefully considered and incorporated into the draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) as required. However, we will not be able to respond individually to those who fill in this form. The final ESIA will be available on https://azerwind.az and will include a record of comments received and responses Thank you for taking the time to send us your comments.

Name:	
Name of Entity or Community:	
Telephone No:	
Address:	
Date:	

It would be helpful for us to have these contact details. All your comments will be considered whether or not you provide these details.

If you have any comments or concerns about the draft ESIAs or the disclosure process, please write them below. Please refer to a specific section in the ESIA where relevant.

ESIA Section	Comment

Office use only:
Reference No: Date received:

ACWA POWER كوا باور ECOENERGY
5 capitals

Feedback Form Area 1 Wind Farm Project ESIA

We welcome all comments on the proposed Area 1 Wind Farm Project. Tell us what you think by completing this form and returning it to the public meeting organizer during this meeting or to Community Liaison Officer working at Project Information Centre in Pirakashkul village after the meeting. Please submit your comments no later than the 11th January, 2022. Substantive comments will be carefully considered and incorporated into the draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) as required. However, we will not be able to respond individually to those who fill in this form. The final ESIA will be available on https://azerwind.az and will include a record of comments received and responses Thank you for taking the time to send us your comments.

Name:	
Name of Entity or Community:	
Telephone No:	
Address:	
Date:	

It would be helpful for us to have these contact details. All your comments will be considered whether or not you provide these details.

If you have any comments or concerns about the draft ESIAs or the disclosure process, please write them below. Please refer to a specific section in the ESIA where relevant.

ESIA Section	Comment

Office use only:
Reference No: Date received:

APPENDIX C – ESIA PUBLIC DISCLOSURE LEAFLET & PPTS

AZERBAIJAN 240 MW WIND PROJECTS
KEY UPDATES

ESIA - KEY UPDATES

Introduction

Azerbaijan 240MW Wind Farm incorporating wind turbines at two sites (Area 1 and Khizi 3) is being developed by ACWA Power. The Project Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), which has been prepared over the past 2 years, has been undertaken by 5 Capitals (headquartered in Dubai) in association with local consultant EcoEnergy and Azerbaijani experts in ecology, archaeology and social issues relating to the community and land uses.

The purpose of the meetings is to disclose any updates to the ESIA since it was published on EBRD and ACWA Power websites on 20th May 2022. Here are some frequently asked questions.

Question 1: What are the key updates made to the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Studies developed for the project and disclosed during the Public Disclosure meetings held in January 2022?

The project is seeking project finance from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). To obtain financing, the ESIA reports have been submitted for review and approval by EBRD. Therefore, the ESIA Reports along with the other environmental and social (E&S) Management Plans have been updated to address feedback and comments received from EBRD and their technical advisors.

Key updates include the following:

a. **Environment - Biodiversity**: The following have been updated in ESIA reports:

(i) A commitment to implement upfront shut down of the turbines when raptors including eagles, vultures and falcons are flying towards a wind turbine (the process is called "Shut-down on Demand").

(ii) There is also a commitment to stop wind turbines during peak activity when the wind speed is slow (known as "Curtailment" – this will allow data to be collected to analyze the most effective measures to protect bats.

(iii) Critical Habitat Analysis has been updated in relation to *No Net Loss* and *Net Gain* for qualifying species.

b. **Environment – Batching Plant**: A concrete batching plant may be located at the wind farm if ready mix concrete will not be sourced for the project. Exact location of plant is unknown at this stage however; will be located at a minimum distance of 500 m from any sensitive receptors in line with EBRD requirements. The key impacts, management and monitoring measures to reduce impacts from the operation of the batching plant have been included in the updated ESIA reports. – Across ESIA Report

c. **Environment – Water Assessment**: A quantitative assessment of water demand during the construction phase have been included. A water management plan will be developed for the construction and operational phases of the project which will include management controls to ensure limited impact on water recourses used for the project. – Chapter 9 in ESIA

d. **Social - Supply Chain:** A supply chain risk assessment is being undertaken by Envision (wind turbine Supplier) for all suppliers that will be engaged in the Azerbaijan Wind Project. The assessment is to ensure the Project complies with EBRD requirements on supply chain and none of the companies are engaged in human right violations such as forced and child labour in their operations. The preliminary findings of the assessment have been included in the ESIA reports, which showed that none of the suppliers are engaged in child and forced labour violations. A Supply Chain Management Plan will be developed by Project Company to ensure its core suppliers will implement the recommendations from the Supply Chain audit assessment. – Chapter 16

e. **Social – Human Rights**: Human rights impacts have been integrated into the Labour and Working Conditions Chapter of the EISA which includes assessment of forced labour, child labour, and other human rights violations. Also, more information on human rights in Azerbaijan have been included. – Chapter 19 in ESIA

f. **Social – Livelihood Restoration Plan**: The Project will not result in any physical displacement or resettlement of people. The consultations and surveys undertaken as part of the ESIA and LRP have identified project areas are informally used for grazing and herb collection activities. Since the project will only involve economic displacement, a draft Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) has been developed for the project which outlines the objectives, principles and planned approach to livelihood restoration and compensation for economic displacement within the two project sites. ESIA have been updated to include the identified potentially affected people (PAP) and their socio-economic profile. – Chapter 16 of ESIA

g. **Social – Overhead Transmission Line (OHTL):** The OHTL is considered an 'Associated Facility' to the Project; as it is not being directly funded under the loan agreement with lenders. Land users along the OHTL have been identified based on a socio-economic survey undertaken by the local consultant. The ESIA assessment has been updated to include the landownership and land use status of the land along the route. A Public Disclosure meeting will also be undertaken to disclosure key information on OHTL and project. – Chapter 16 of ESIA

Azerenergi is the owner/developer of the OHTL, and will comply with national and applicable lenders requirements in order to ensure all E&S risks and impacts associated with the development of the OHTL are adequately assessed.

e. **Regulatory Requirement**s: The ESIA studies have been updated to include Asian Development Bank (ADB) E&S requirements as a prospective Lender. – Across ESIA Report

Question 2: Where can I find copies of the updated documents?

The updated Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) studies as well as supplementary ESIA package, inclusive of the updated Non-Technical Summary, Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Draft LRP and the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) have been disclosed on ACWA Power's and EBRD's websites on 20 May 2022 and can be access using the below links (in both English and Azerbaijani languages):

Websites:

EBRD: https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/esia/azerbaijan-absheronkhizi-wpp.html

ACWA Power: https://acwapower.com/en/projects/azerbaijan-wind-ipp/

Hardcopies:

Hard copies are available at the Public Information Centres (PICs) established for the Projects at the following locations:

- Khizi 3 Wind Farm Project - Location of PIC Office: - Sitalchay village, Khizi region, Elekberov Elabbas street

- Area 1 Wind Farm Project - Location of PIC Office: Pirakashkul village of Absheron district, Mamedamin Rasulzade Street

Question 3: Did the projects obtain the national environmental approval from the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources?

Yes, the Projects have obtained the Environmental approval on 19 May 2022 from the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR). Updates made to the ESIA reports will be shared with MENR.

Contacts for Feedback

For any feedback or more information please contact the following:

COMPANY	CONTACT DETAILS
Project Company	ACVA POVER AZERBAYCAN RENEVABLE ENERGY
Grievance Manager/In-Charge	Javid Alifli Phone: M + 994 12 465 99 38 Email: JAlifli@acwapower.com
PIC	Vusal Safarov Phone: +99455 260 08 09 Email: vusal.safarovv@gmail.com
Feedback forms are also available at the PIC offices.	

Livelihood Restoration Plan (PLAN) - Updates

Question 4: What has been updated since the first disclosure of ESIA in January 2022?

A draft livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) has been developed for each project which outlines the principles and planned approach to livelihood restoration and compensation to be provided to affected people to ensure no one is worse off. The draft LRP has been disclosed on EBRD and ACWA website as shown above.

Question 5: Who owns the land?

Khizi 3 WF project area: The land is municipality (Sitalchay Municipality) and state owned (Khizi District Executive Power). The total area of land that will be leased by the project is 22.59 ha and this covers the WTG footprints, substation and laydown area. The lease agreement is for 30 years.

Area 1 WF project area: The project area is municipality (Gobustan and Pirekeshkul Municipality) and state owned (Absheron District Executive Power). The total area of land that will be leased by the projects is 14.18 ha. The lease agreement is for 30 years.

The project areas have been assigned to the Ministry of Energy for leasing by a Presidential Order No. 2366 of 2020 and Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 720 of 2020. The Presidential and cabinet of Ministers Orders instruct the government to lease the state/public lands to the 240 MW Wind Projects.

Question 6: Who are the potentially affected people (PAP)?

The project sites are used for grazing and herb collection activities. The activities are informal and not carried out under any formal agreement with the Municipalities or Government. The identified PAPs include:

- Area 1: Project Affected Households (PAHs) from Pirekeshkul Village .

- Khizi 3: Farmers who currently graze at the project site

- The workers (herders) who are engaged by the farmers and household herders to graze livestock at the project site on their behalf (both projects)

- Herb collectors (both projects)

Question 7: Have consultations been undertaken with potentially affected people (PAPS)?

Yes consultations and surveys have been undertaken with PAPs as part of the LRP from April to May 2022. Further consultations will be undertaken to assess suitability of alternative land that will be provided during the construction phase and to disclose the entitlement and compensation packages that will be provided by the Project.

Question 8: Will the project involve any physical resettlement?

The Project development will not result in any physical displacement or resettlement of people.

Question 9: Can project areas be accessed during the construction and operational phases?

Access to the project areas will be temporarily restricted during the construction phase only for health and safety reasons. Such restriction will be limited to the project footprint (i.e. the turbine pad areas, access road, laydown areas, etc.) and for the duration of the construction period which is 18 months. Therefore, the impact on livelihood is expected to be very minimal and limited to the construction phase only.

Question 10: Will the project areas be fenced during operation?

During operation, the site will not be fenced and farmers and herders can access the areas.

Other Frequently Asked Questions

Question 12: Will the project provide job opportunities?

A Local Recruitment Plan will be developed for the Projects to ensure equal opportunities are provided to men and women from the local communities where possible. Project Company will liaison with the Employment Department of State Employment Agency who has offered to provide trainings required to enhance skill sets required for jobs required for the project.

Question 13: Employment- how many jobs will be available during construction-operation- and how they can apply for jobs? When/where?

Approximately 300 people will be employed by project company, main contractor and subcontractors during construction phase. During operation phase approximately 25-30 people will be hired by project company and its service providers.

All job openings will be published on relevant websites and in Project Information Centres. Also job announcements will be posted in public places in villages.

Question 14: Will the project provide social support to the local communities?

Yes the project will provide social support. The Project Company will consult with the local communities and municipalities to determine and agree the priority projects/ support required by the communities and the company can support with.

Question 15: How will the Project engage with the local communities and NGOs and how are complaints addressed?

The projects have established Public Information Centres (PIC) in the local communities to provide information about the Project to the members of the community, receive grievances and facilitate local recruitment for the Project. The PICs were established on 15 June 2021. The PIC also includes a grievance box, where complaints and feedback can also be received through this box.

The project has zero-tolerance policy to reprisals which will be reflected in the Code of Conduct and company policies once developed. We encourage all stakeholders to express their opinions without fear of retaliation.

Question 16: Any additional measures for disclosure to vulnerable groups?

Copies of the Non-Technical Summaries (NTSs), Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEPs) and these leaflets have been distributed to vulnerable households in both local communities. Feedback and concerns can be also addressed to the contacts provided above.

Key project Information – Wind Farms Refresher

Project Rationale:

Azerbaijan aims to increase the share of alternative and renewable energy sources to 30% by 2030. Wind has been identified as the one of the preferred source of alternative energy with an estimated annual wind power capacity of 800 MW (based on International Energy Agency (IEA)).

Background to Projects:

ACWA Power signed an implementation agreement with the Ministry of Energy (MoE) in Azerbaijan for developing, building and operating a 240 MW wind power project. The wind project is expected to operate for 25 years on a Build Own Operate (BOO) basis according to the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

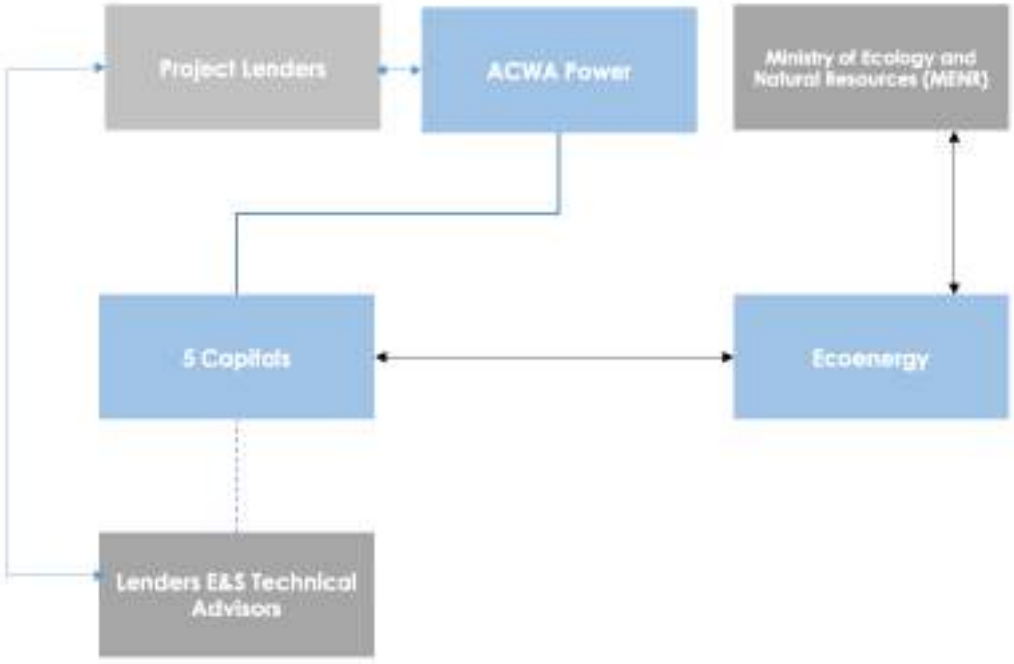
Project Locations:

The 240 MW wind project will be split and built on two (2) locations as follows.

- Khizi 3: Capacity up to 162.5 MW and will be generated using 25 x 6.5 MW Wind Turbine Generators (WTG), located in Khizi region; and
- Area 1: Capacity up to 78 MW and will be generated using 12 x 6.5 MW WTGs, located at Absheron region.

ESIA Team and National Approval

ACWA Power appointed 5 Capitals Environmental & Management Consultancy (5 Capitals) to prepare the ESIA for the Project and they have appointed a local consultant Ecoenergy Ltd to undertake baseline surveys and consultations with the authorities and local communities and to obtain the relevant National regulatory permits. The ESIAs have been submitted to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) and have been approved on 19 May 2022.



Regulatory Compliance

The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

- Azerbaijan national environmental regulations and standards;
- E&S requirements of prospective Lenders which includes the following:
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Environmental and Social Policy (2019) and Performance Requirements;
- European Union (EU) Directives (as relevant);
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations (ESC);
- IFC Performance Standards (2012);
- IFC Wind farm Guidelines (2015);
- IFC EHS General Guidelines (2007); and
- Equator Principles IV (2020).

ACWA Power policy, which is to implement IFC E&S requirements on all its projects, including the Khizi 3 Wind Project.

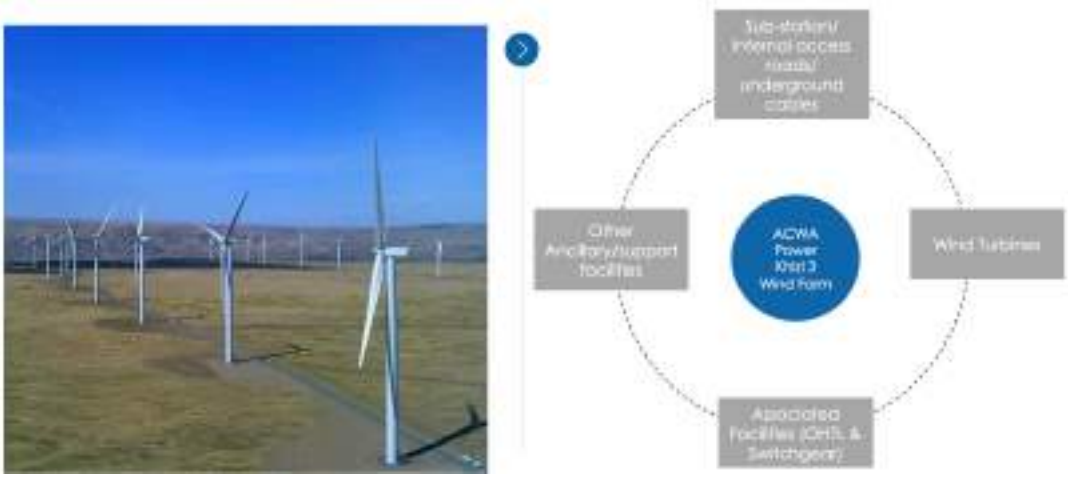
Project Components:

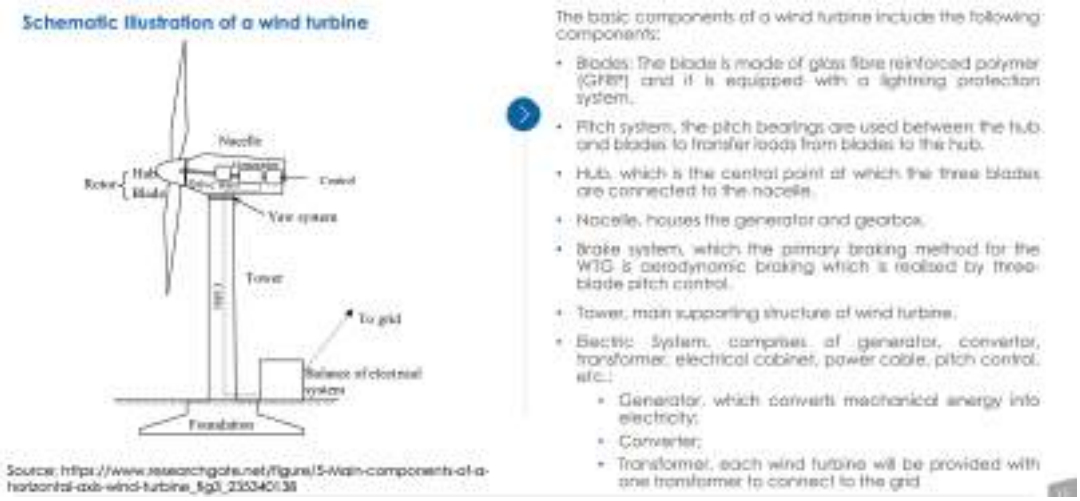
The Project footprint will include the following:

- Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) platforms (this includes foundation and crane pad area);
- Substation and any storage facilities;
- Trenches for underground cables; and
- Access roads.

The proposed WTG for both Wind Farms is the Envision Energy EN-171/6.5 Wind Turbine model. The EN-171/6.5 WTG has a rated power of 6.5 MW, hub height of 100m , 171m rotor diameter, and three (3) blades, horizontal axis, upwind direction, variable speed and pitch control.

Auxiliary facilities for the Project will include site entrance and security building; administration building, offices and amenities; central control room, warehouse and stores, security, lighting; other mobile plant and vehicles; access roads; and electrical connections (underground) and substation.





Associated Facilities

An Overhead Transmission Line (OHTL) will connect both Wind Farms (Khizi 3 and Area 1 WFs) and to the national grid. The responsibility for developing the OHTL lies with Azerenergi Open Joint Stock Company (Azerenergi), the Project off-taker and as such, the OHTL is considered an 'Associated Facility' to the Project; as it is not being directly funded under the loan agreement with lenders.

The OHTL is split into three (3) lines as follows:

- 220 kv Khizi 3 - Yashma OHTL: This OHTL will connect the Khizi 3 WF substation (SS) to the existing Yashma SS and is approximately 20 km long (red line in Figure below) – assessed as part of Khizi 3 ESIA report;
- 220 kv Khizi – Pirakashkul OHTL: The OHTL line that will connect Khizi 3 and Area 1 WFs SS and is approximately 30 km long (yellow line in Figure below) - assessed as part of Khizi 3 and Area 1 ESIA report; and
- 220 kv Pirakashkul – Gobu OHTL: The OHTL line that will connect the Area 1 WF SS to the existing Gobu Power Station and is approximately 30 km long (Green line in Figure below)- assessed as part of Area 1 ESIA report.

AZERBAIJAN WIND FARMS

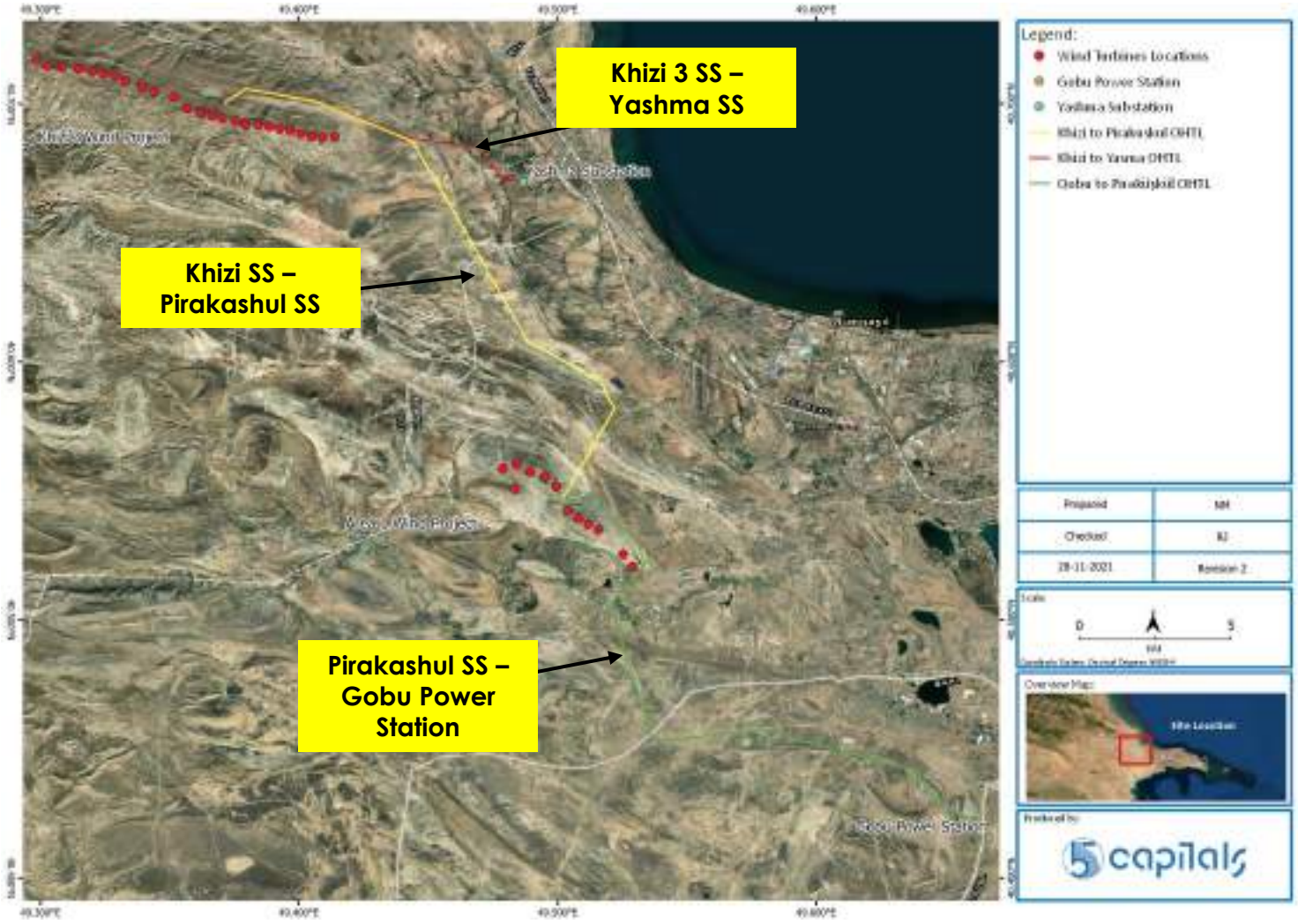
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE - UPDATE

1 July 2022

BACKGROUND - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- **Azerbaijan aims to increase the share of alternative and renewable energy sources to 30%.** Wind has been identified as the preferred source of alternative energy with an estimated annual wind power capacity of 800 MW (based on International Energy Agency (IEA)).
- **ACWA Power** signed an implementation agreement with the **Ministry of Energy (MoE)** in Azerbaijan for developing, building and operating a **240 MW wind power project.** The wind project is expected to operate for **25 years on a Build Own Operate (BOO) basis according to the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).** The 240 MW wind project will be split and built on two (2) locations as follows.
  - **Khizi 3**: Capacity up to **162.5 MW** and will be generated using using **25 x 6.5 MW** Wind Turbine Generators (WTG), located in Khizi region; and
  - **Area 1**: Capacity up to **78 MW** and will be generated using **12 x 6.5 MW** WTGs, located at Absheron region.

OVER-HEAD TRANSMISSION LINES (OHTL)



Total length is ~ 80 km

OHTL will connect both Wind Farms (Khizi 3 and Area 1 WFs) and to the national grid. Azerenergi Open Joint Stock Company (Azerenergi is responsible for developing the OHTL. The OHTL is not being directly funded under the loan agreement with lenders. The OHTL is split into three (3) lines as follows:

- **220 kv Khizi 3 - Yashma OHTL**: Connects the Khizi 3 WF substation (SS) to the existing Yashma SS approximately 20 km long (red line in Figure) – assessed as part of Khizi 3 ESIA report
- **220 kv Khizi – Pirakashkul OHTL**: Connects Khizi 3 and Area 1 WFs SS approximately 30 km long (yellow line in Figure below) - assessed as part of Khizi 3 and Area 1 ESIA report
- **220 kv Pirakashkul – Gobu OHTL**: Connects Area 1 WF SS to the existing Gobu Power Station approximately 30 km long (Green line in Figure below)- assessed as part of Area 1 ESIA report.

KEY UPDATES & PURPOSE

- Azerbaijan 240MW Wind Farm incorporating wind turbines at two sites (Area 1 and Khizi 3) is being developed by ACWA Power.
- The Project Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), which has been prepared over the past 2 years, has been undertaken by 5 Capitals (headquartered in Dubai) in association with local consultant EcoEnergy and Azerbaijani experts in ecology, archaeology and social issues relating to the community and land uses.
- The purpose of the meetings is to disclose any updates to the ESIA since it was published on EBRD and ACWA Power websites on 20th May 2022.

DISCLSOURE OF DOCUMENTS

- The updated Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) studies as well as supplementary ESIA package, inclusive of the updated Non-Technical Summary, Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Draft LRP and the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) have been disclosed on ACWA Power's and EBRD's websites on 20 May 2022 and can be access using the below links (in both English and Azerbaijani languages):

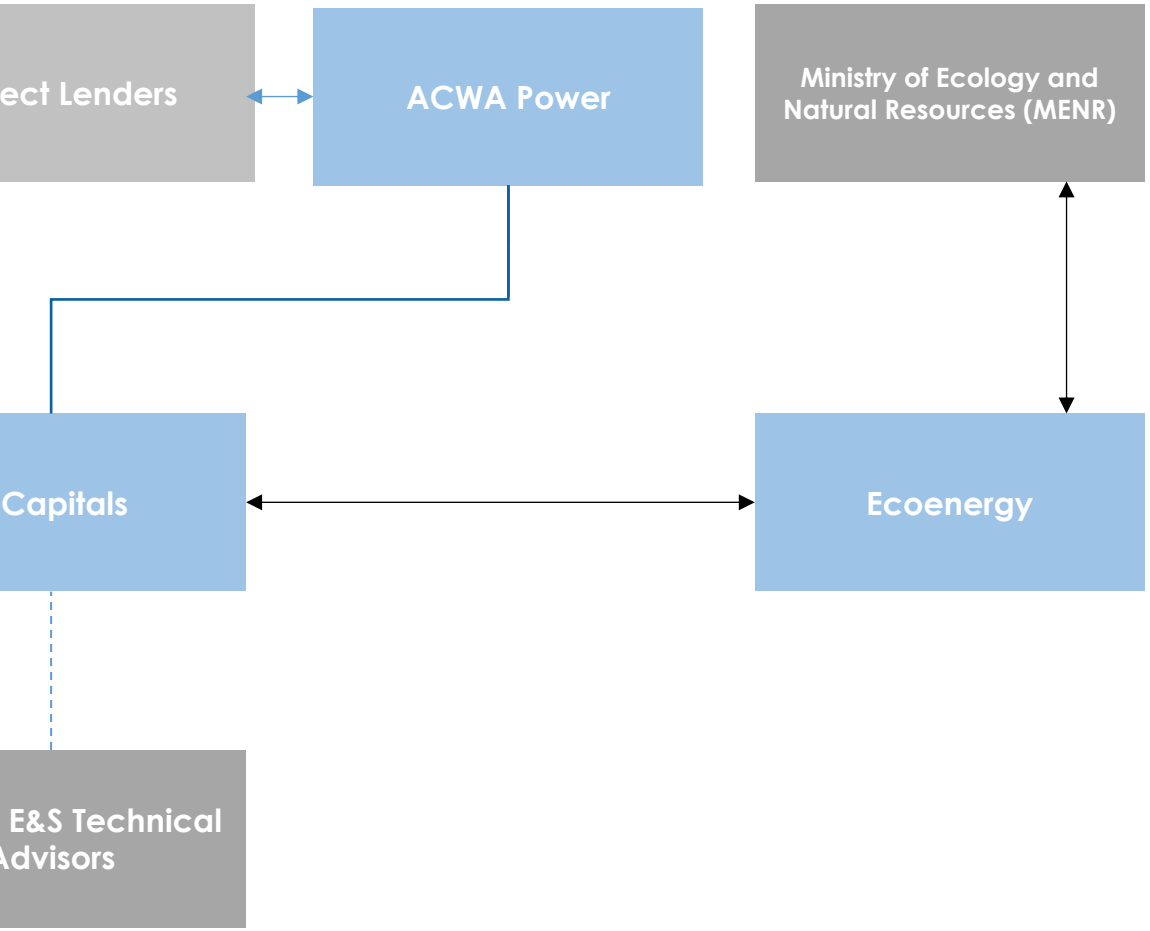
  Websites:

  EBRD: https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/esia/azerbaijan-absheronkhizi-wpp.html

  ACWA Power: https://acwapower.com/en/projects/azerbaijan-wind-ipp/

- Hard copies are available at the Public Information Centres (PICs) established for the Projects at the following locations:
  - Sitalchay village, Khizi region, Elekberov, Elabbas street
  - Pirakashkul village of Absheron district, Mamedamin Rasulzade Street

PROJECT TEAM - ESIA



REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report has been prepared in accordance with the following:
  - **Azerbaijan national environmental regulations and standards**;

  - E&S requirements of prospective Lenders which includes the following:
    - **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** Environmental and Social Policy (2019) and Performance Requirements;
    - **European Union (EU)** Directives (as relevant);
    - **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** Policies;
    - **OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID);**
    - **IFC Performance Standards** (2012);
    - **IFC Wind farm Guidelines** (2015);
    - **IFC EHS General Gu**idelines (2007); and
    - **Equator Principles IV** (2020).

  - ACWA Power policy, which is to implement IFC E&S requirements on all its projects, including the Khizi 3 Wind Project.

KEY UPDATES

- The project is seeking project finance from the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).** To obtain financing, the **ESIA reports have been submitted for review and approval by EBRD.** Therefore, the ESIA Reports along with the other environmental and social (E&S) Management Plans have been **updated to address feedback and comments received from EBRD and their technical advisors**.

Key updates include:

- **Environment - Biodiversity**: The following have been updated in ESIA reports:

  (i) A commitment to implement upfront shut down of the turbines when raptors including eagles, vultures and falcons are flying towards a wind turbine (the process is called "Shut-down on Demand").

  (ii) There is also a commitment to stop wind turbines during peak activity when the wind speed is slow (known as "Curtailment" – this will allow data to be collected to analyze the most effective measures to protect bats.

  (iii) Critical Habitat Analysis has been updated in relation to *No Net Loss* and *Net Gain* for qualifying species.

KEY UPDATES (CONTD)

- **Environment – Batching Plant**: A concrete batching plant may be located at the wind farm if ready mix concrete will not be sourced for the project. Exact location of plant is unknown at this stage however; will be located at a minimum distance of 500 m from any sensitive receptors in line with EBRD requirements. The key impacts, management and monitoring measures to reduce impacts from the operation of the batching plant have been included in the updated ESIA reports. – Across ESIA Report

- **Environment – Water Assessment**: A quantitative assessment of water demand during the construction phase have been included. A water management plan will be developed for the construction and operational phases of the project which will include management controls to ensure limited impact on water recourses used for the project. – Chapter 9 in ESIA

- **Regulatory Requirement**s: The ESIA studies have been updated to include Asian Development Bank (ADB) E&S requirements as a prospective Lender. – Across ESIA Report

KEY UPDATES (CONTD)

- **Social - Supply Chain:** A supply chain risk assessment is being undertaken by Envision (wind turbine Supplier) for all suppliers that will be engaged in the Azerbaijan Wind Project. The assessment is to ensure the Project complies with EBRD requirements on supply chain and none of the companies are engaged in human right violations such as forced and child labour in their operations. The preliminary findings of the assessment have been included in the ESIA reports, which showed that none of the suppliers are engaged in child and forced labour violations. A Supply Chain Management Plan will be developed by Project Company to ensure its core suppliers will implement the recommendations from the Supply Chain audit assessment. – Chapter 16
- **Social – Human Rights**: Human rights impacts have been integrated into the Labour and Working Conditions Chapter of the EISA which includes assessment of forced labour, child labour, and other human rights violations. Also, more information on human rights in Azerbaijan have been included. – Chapter 19 in ESIA

KEY UPDATES (CONTD)

- **Social – Livelihood Restoration Plan**: The Project will not result in any physical displacement or resettlement of people. The consultations and surveys undertaken as part of the ESIA and LRP have identified project areas are informally used for grazing and herb collection activities. Since the project will only involve economic displacement, a draft Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) has been developed for the project which outlines the objectives, principles and planned approach to livelihood restoration and compensation for economic displacement within the two project sites. ESIA have been updated to include the identified potentially affected people (PAP) and their socio-economic profile. – Chapter 16 of ESIA
- **Social – Overhead Transmission Line (OHTL):** The OHTL is considered an 'Associated Facility' to the Project; as it is not being directly funded under the loan agreement with lenders. Land users along the OHTL have been identified based on a socio-economic survey undertaken by the local consultant. The ESIA assessment has been updated to include the landownership and land use status of the land along the route. A Public Disclosure meeting will also be undertaken to disclosure key information on OHTL and project. – Chapter 16 of ESIA

  Azerenergi is the owner/developer of the OHTL, and will comply with national and applicable lenders requirements in order to ensure all E&S risks and impacts associated with the development of the OHTL are adequately assessed.

LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION PLAN (LRP)

- A draft livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) has been developed for each project which outlines the principles and planned approach to livelihood restoration and compensation to be provided to affected people to ensure no one is worse off.
- The draft LRP has been disclosed on EBRD and ACWA website as shown above.

LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION PLAN (LRP)

- Land ownership
  - Khizi 3 WF project area: The land is municipality (Sitalchay Municipality) and state owned (Khizi District Executive Power). The total area of land that will be leased by the project is 22.59 ha and this covers the WTG footprints, substation and laydown area. The lease agreement is for 30 years.

  - Area 1 WF project area: The project area is municipality (Gobustan and Pirekeshkul Municipality) and state owned (Absheron District Executive Power). The total area of land that will be leased by the projects is 14.18 ha. The lease agreement is for 30 years.

  - The project areas have been assigned to the Ministry of Energy for leasing by a Presidential Order No. 2366 of 2020 and Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 720 of 2020. The Presidential

LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION PLAN (LRP)

- **Potentially Affected People (PAP)?**
- The project sites are used for grazing and herb collection activities. The activities are informal and not carried out under any formal agreement with the Municipalities or Government. The identified PAPs include:
  - Area 1: Project Affected Households (PAHs) from Pirekeshkul Village .
  - Khizi 3: Farmers who currently graze at the project site
  - The workers (herders) who are engaged by the farmers and household herders to graze livestock at the project site on their behalf (both projects)
  - Herb collectors (both projects)

LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION PLAN (LRP)

- Consultations and surveys have been undertaken with PAPs as part of the LRP from April to May 2022. Further consultations will be undertaken to assess suitability of alternative land that will be provided during the construction phase and to disclose the entitlement and compensation packages that will be provided by the Project.

- The Project development will not result in any physical displacement or resettlement of people.

- Access to the project areas **will be temporarily restricted during the construction phase** only for health and safety reasons. Such **restriction** will be **limited to the project footprint (i.e. the turbine pad areas, access road, laydown areas, etc.)** and for the duration of the construction period which is 18 months. Therefore, the **impact on livelihood is expected to be very minimal and limited to the construction phase only.**

- During operation, **the site will not be fenced** and **farmers and herders can access the areas**.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will the project provide job opportunities?

A Local Recruitment Plan will be developed for the Projects to ensure equal opportunities are provided to men and women from the local communities where possible. Project Company will liaison with the Employment Department of State Employment Agency who has offered to provide trainings required to enhance skill sets required for jobs required for the project.

Employment- how many jobs will be available during construction-operation- and how they can apply for jobs? When/where?

Approximately 300 people will be employed by project company, main contractor and subcontractors during construction phase. During operation phase approximately 25-30 people will be hired by project company and its service providers.

All job openings will be published on relevant websites and in Project Information Centres. Also job announcements will be posted in public places in villages.

Will the project provide social support to the local communities?

Yes the project will provide social support. The Project Company will consult with the local communities and municipalities to determine and agree the priority projects/ support required by the communities and the company can support with.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will the Project engage with the local communities and NGOs and how are complaints addressed?

The projects have established Public Information Centres (PIC) in the local communities to provide information about the Project to the members of the community, receive grievances and facilitate local recruitment for the Project. The PICs were established on 15 June 2021. The PIC also includes a grievance box, where complaints and feedback can also be received through this box.

The project has zero-tolerance policy to reprisals which will be reflected in the Code of Conduct and company policies once developed. We encourage all stakeholders to express their opinions without fear of retaliation.

Any additional measures for disclosure to vulnerable groups?

Copies of the Non-Technical Summaries (NTSs), Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEPs) and these leaflets have been distributed to vulnerable households in both local communities. Feedback and concerns can be also addressed to the contacts provided above.

GRIEVANCE PROCESS & TIMELINE

STAGE	TIMELINE
Grievance Received/Submitted	-
Grievance logged and acknowledged	Within 1 week of grievance being submitted
Grievance investigated	Within 2 to 3 weeks of grievance being submitted*
Proposed resolution conveyed to grievant	Within 30 days of grievance being submitted
If applicable following dissatisfaction of resolution by Grievant	
Actions to re-assess grievance/propose new solution/inform Grievant of final decision	Within 2 weeks of notification of dissatisfaction by Grievant
In the event that a grievance cannot be resolved between the two parties a mediator will be involved i.e. local leaders who understand the culture and practices within the Project site.	Within 2 weeks of notification of dissatisfaction by the Grievant.
Grievances that are not resolved at the project level - a grievance committee involving senior management from ACWA Power, municipality and any other relevant authorities (if required).	Within 30 days of notification of dissatisfaction by the Grievant.

***Note**: Where complex grievances, or other factors are extending the investigation time, the Grievant will be informed of this delay and advised of an updated expected timeline for response.*

CONTACTS FOR FEEDBACK

Please contact us if you need more information or for any comments

COMPANY	CONTACT DETAILS
Project Company	ACVA POVER AZERBAYCAN RENEVABLE ENERGY
Grievance Manager/In-Charge	Javid Alifli Phone: M + 994 12 465 99 38 Email: JAlifli@acwapower.com
PIC	Vusal Safarov Phone: +99455 260 08 09 Email: vusal.safarovv@gmail.com
Feedback forms are also available.	

Thank you

AZERBAIJAN WIND FARMS

ASSOCIATED FACILITY – OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE (OHTL)

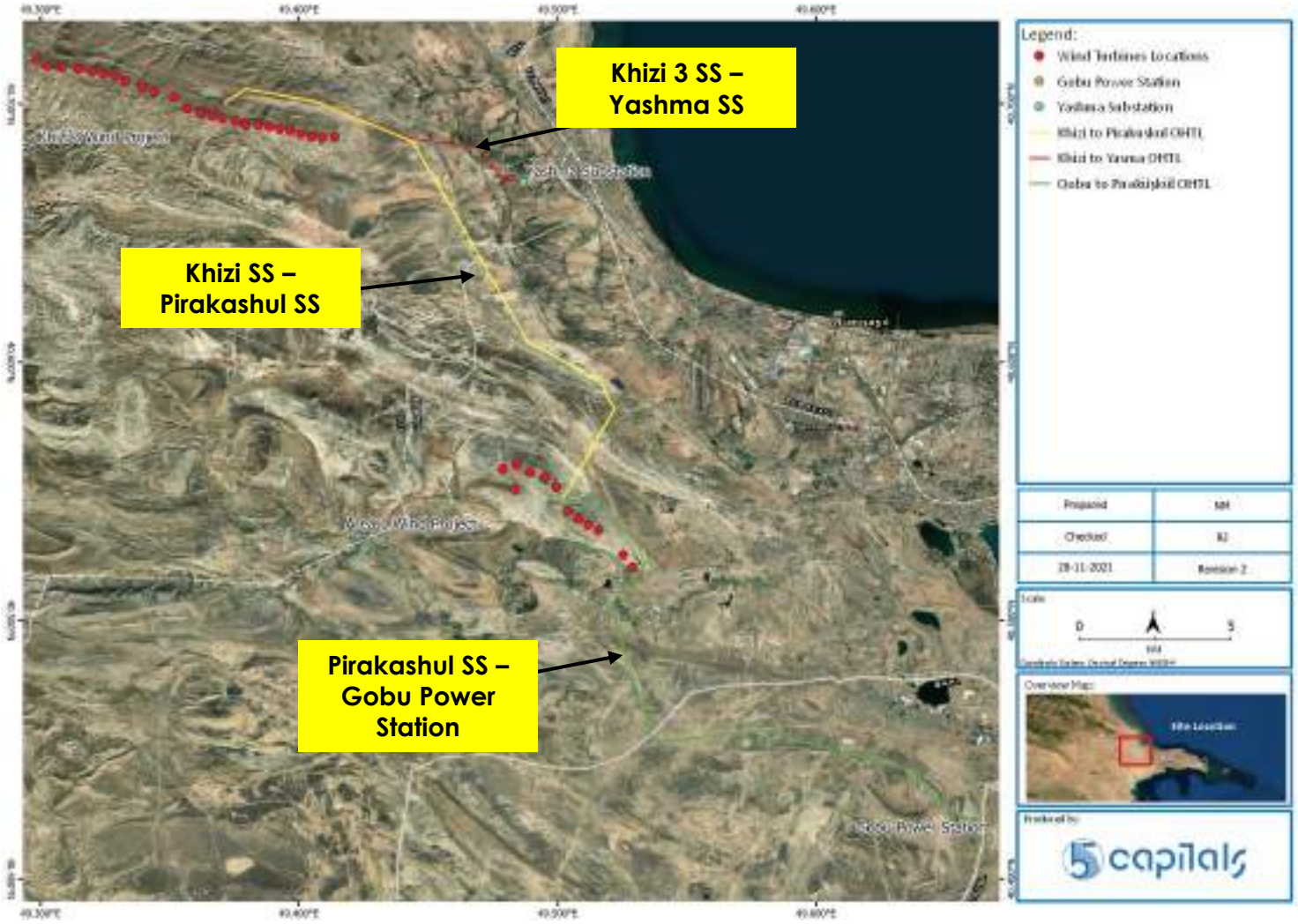
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

30 June 2022

BACKGROUND - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Azerbaijan aims to **increase the share of alternative and renewable energy sources to 20%. Wind** has been identified as the **preferred source** of alternative energy with an estimated annual wind power capacity of 800 MW (based on International Energy Agency (IEA)).
- ACWA Power signed an implementation agreement with the Ministry of Energy (MoE) in Azerbaijan for developing, building and operating a **240 MW wind power project**. The wind project is expected to operate for **25 years** on a Build Own Operate (BOO) basis according to the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The 240 MW wind project will be split and built on two (2) locations as follows.
  - **Khizi 3**: Capacity up to **162.5 MW** and will be generated using using **25 x 6.5 MW** Wind Turbine Generators (WTG), located in Khizi region; and
  - **Area 1**: Capacity up to **78 MW** and will be generated using **12 x 6.5 MW** WTGs, located at Absheron region.

OVER-HEAD TRANSMISSION LINES (OHTL)



OHTL will connect both Wind Farms (Khizi 3 and Area 1 WFs) and to the national grid. Azerenergi Open Joint Stock Company (Azerenergi is responsible for developing the OHTL. The OHTL is not being directly funded under the loan agreement with lenders. The OHTL is split into three (3) lines as follows:

- **220 kv Khizi 3 - Yashma OHTL**: Connects the Khizi 3 WF substation (SS) to the existing Yashma SS approximately 20 km long (red line in Figure) – assessed as part of Khizi 3 ESIA report
- **220 kv Khizi – Pirakashkul OHTL**: Connects Khizi 3 and Area 1 WFs SS approximately 30 km long (yellow line in Figure below) - assessed as part of Khizi 3 and Area 1 ESIA report
- **220 kv Pirakashkul – Gobu OHTL**: Connects Area 1 WF SS to the existing Gobu Power Station approximately 30 km long (Green line in Figure below)- assessed as part of Area 1 ESIA report.

Total length is ~ 80 km

PROJECT BACKGROUND

- The responsibility for developing the OHTL lies with **Azerenergi Open Joint Stock Company (Azerenergi),** the Project off-taker and as such, the OHTL is considered an '**Associated Facility**' to the Project; as it is not being directly funded under the loan agreement with lenders.

- An **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)** has been undertaken for the Wind Farms (WFs), which also included an assessment of the **Overhead Transmission Line (OHTL)** as an associated facility.

- The ESIA studies have been submitted to the **Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR)** and obtained the **environmental approval on 19 May 2022.**

- Also, the project is seeking project finance from the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).** To obtain financing, the ESIA reports have been **submitted for review and approval by EBRD**. Therefore, the ESIA Reports along with the other environmental and social (E&S) Management Plans have been **updated to address feedback and comments received from EBRD .**

DISCLSOURE OF DOCUMENTS

- The updated Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) studies as well as supplementary ESIA package, inclusive of the updated Non-Technical Summary, Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Draft LRP and the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) have been disclosed on ACWA Power's and EBRD's websites on 20 May 2022 and can be access using the below links (in both English and Azerbaijani languages):

  Websites:

  EBRD: https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/esia/azerbaijan-absheronkhizi-wpp.html

  ACWA Power: https://acwapower.com/en/projects/azerbaijan-wind-ipp/

- Hard copies are available at the Public Information Centres (PICs) established for the Projects at the following locations:
  - Sitalchay village, Khizi region, Elekberov, Elabbas street
  - Pirakashkul village of Absheron district, Mamedamin Rasulzade Street

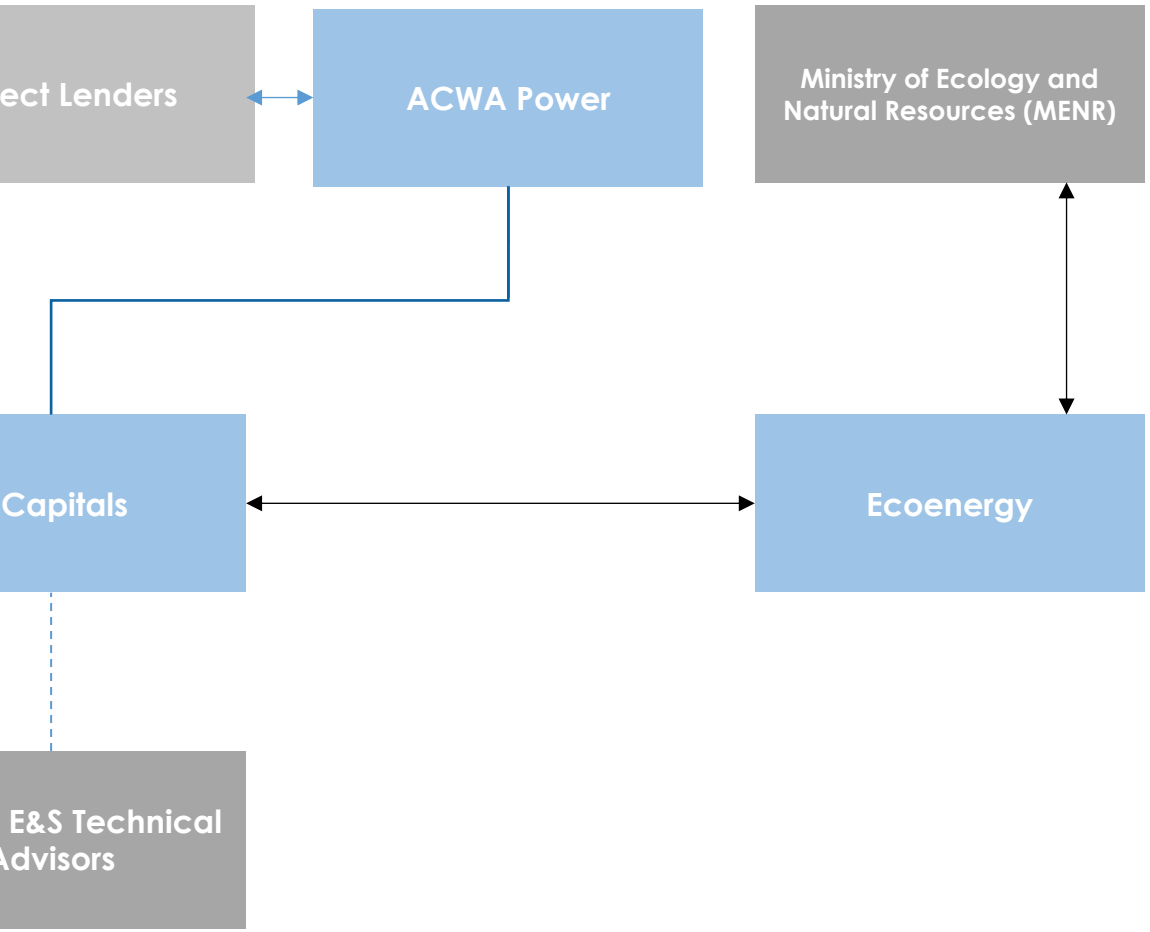
PURPOSE OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

- Today we are disclosing the results of the impact assessment undertaken for the OHTL as part of the ESIA carried out for the WFs.

- To give an opportunity for affected Stakeholders and interested parties to comment on the ESIA findings; and

- To provide project information on:
  - Purpose, nature, and scale of the project;
  - Risks, impacts and relevant mitigation measures and benefits;
  - Public feedback forms and grievance mechanism; and
  - Duration of proposed project activities

PROJECT TEAM - ESIA



ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY OVERVIEW

National Standards

- **Environmental Protection Law of 1999 (No. 678-IQ) and its amending Laws (Law No. 1032-IVQD, 932-IVQD, 590-VQD and 553-IVQD)**
- **New Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) (14th July 2018), sets out the mandatory EIA requirements within Azerbaijan**

IFC & EP

- IFC Performance Standards (2012);
- WBG EHS Guidelines (2007)
- General EHS Guidelines (2007)
- IFC Wind farm Guidelines (2015)
- Equator Principles IV (2020).

EBRD

- EBRD Environmental & Social Policy (2019);
- Applicable EU Environmental Standards

ADB

- ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (2009);
- ADB Social Protection Strategy (2001);
- ADB Gender and Development Policy (1998); and
- ADB Access to Information Policy (2019).

OFID

There are no specific environmental and social requirements disclosed on OFID's website

Common Requirements: IFC & EBRD Workers' Accommodation, Processes and Standards (2009)

CONSTRCUTION AND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Construction activities will include transportation and delivery of equipment/machinery and OHTL components, site preparation, construction of platforms for overhead transmission line towers, assembly of the towers etc.

- The expected duration to complete the construction of the OHTL route is 6 to 12 months.

- The OHTL will be operated and maintained by Azerenergi. Dedicated/full time personnel will not be required for this purpose, however, both preventive and corrective maintenance will be undertaken at the OHTL.

OHTL Route Revision

- A **preliminary assessment** of potential impacts associated with the development of the OHTL has been undertaken as part of the ESIA study.

- This included an **initial review and site reconnaissance survey** undertaken in **April and May 20**21, which key environmental and social receptors were identified along the route.

- The **outcome of the survey was shared with the off-taker**, which resulted in **Azerenergi revising the initial OHTL route to avoid the identified human and ecological receptors**.

LAND OWNERSHIP

- Based on the data collected during the socioeconomic survey carried out in May 2021, the land along the OHTL is mainly state and municipality owned.

- **None of the land is privately owned**.

- Azerenergi will follow the national requirements during the development of the OHTL.

- Based on "Rules for the protection of electrical networks with a voltage of more than 1000 volts" approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 10.06.2005, No 103, "*Land plots included in the protection zones of electricity networks remain in the use of the land owner or user and can be used by them for agricultural and other purposes in compliance with the requirements of these Rules*". **Therefore, the development of the OHTL will not involve any land expropriation in line with local regulations**.

LAND USRES

- Land users identified along the OHTL are provided include farms, agriculture areas, dog shelter and military areas.

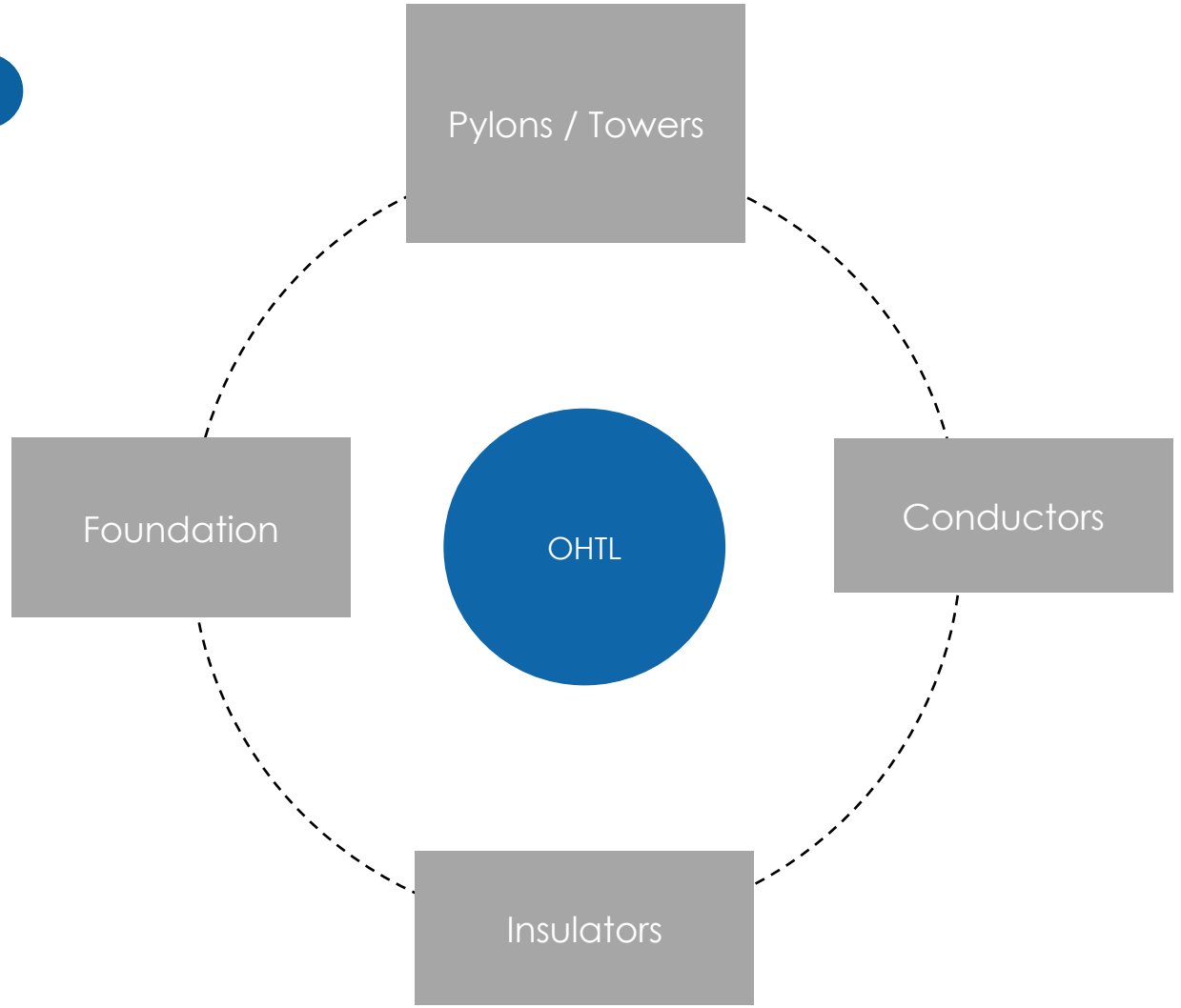
ID	LAND USE TYPE	APPROXIMATE DISTANCE TO THE OHTL
F01	Farm	110m from the Perekeshkul -Gobu OHTL route
M01	Military Base	180m from the Perekeshkul -Gobu OHTL route
B01	Almond orchard	The Perekeshkul -Gobu OHTL route crosses this almond orchard for about 0.5km and runs at a distance of approximately 50m from closest boundary of the orchard with productive almond trees.
D01	Dog shelter (State owned)	80m from the Perekeshkul -Gobu OHTL route
B02	Greenhouse farm	80m from the Perekeshkul -Gobu OHTL route
F02	Farmstead	110m from the Khizi – Perekeshkul OHTL
B03	Abandoned workshop	70m from the Khizi – Perekeshkul OHTL
F03	Farmstead	50m from the Khizi – Perekeshkul I OHTL
D02	Baku-Mozdok Gas Pipeline	The Khizi – Perekeshkul OHTL crosses operational gas pipeline owned by State Oil Company of Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR)
F04	Farm	110m from the Khizi – Perekeshkul OHTL
M02	Military Base	The Khizi – Yashma OHTL route crosses the eastern plot of the military base
F05	Farm	15-20m from the Khizi – Yashma OHTL
F06	Farm	80m from the Khizi – Yashma OHTL

A- Locations of Farm F01, Military base M01 and Almond orchard B01

C- Locations of Farms F03, D02, F04, F05, F06 and M02

B - Locations of Dog shelter D01, Greenhouse Farm B02 and Farm F02

COMPONENTS OF AN OHTL



BASELINE SURVEYS & SITES CONDITIONS

Noise
Baseline noise monitoring was undertaken at 10 locations along the OHTL routes. All recorded noise levels where within the national standards with the exception of 3 locations and this is attributed to noise from the wind. Nearest receptor is located app. 300 m form OHTL route.
Air Quality
The OHTL route is located in areas that are not heavily influenced by pollution sources and expected to be similar to the air quality conditions at WF sites where measured pollutants were within Azerbaijan, WHO and EU standards. Nearest receptor is located app. 300 m form OHTL route.
Ecology
More than flora 45 soecies were recorded along the OHTL route. OHTL segments were surveyed at 6 vantage points (VP). In addition to VP surveying of the three segments of the OHTL alignment, transects of 4km each were also employed. Bird species recorded are included in ESIA Report. Criticlity was triggered for Steppe Eagle. During the VP survey of the OHTL alignment, records were made of bird species observed on and around existing OHTLs in the survey area. In total, 48 carcasses and bird remains were registered along the OHTL route. Other identified species of concern, including nationally listed bird, mammal, and reptile species, as well as range-restricted and endemic flora species, were classified as Priority Biodiversity Features (PBFs).

BASELINE SURVEYS & SITES CONDITIONS (CONTD)

Soils
A soil investigation was conducted in June 2021 to identify existing soil quality conditions and characteristics at the Project OHTL areas. Soil sample analysis showed the majority of parameters are well within the national standards. Nickel and zinc in samples often exceeded the national standard but comply with the Dutch Intervention Values and are typical of the region.
Archeology
An archeological survey was undertaken by Academy of Science during the month of July 2021 and no significant archeological findings were identified.
Soical
A socio-economic survey was undertaken in November 2021 and included representatives of land users along the route (within 1 km of route) local farms, greenhouse farms, almond orchard and dog shelter. A total of eight (8) representatives were interviewed during the socio-economic survey. During the survey, information on the economic status, infrastructure and services, traffic and transportation, income and the presence/absence of vulnerable groups were obtained from the land users

POTENTIAL KEY E&S IMPACTS - CONSTRUCTION

Aspect	Impact	Mitogation/ Management
Air Quality	Construction: Increased dust generation and gaseous emissions. Impacts are expected to be minor in significance. After implementation of mitigation measures, impacts are expected to be negligible to minor. Operation: Impacts on air quality are not expected during the operations of the transmission line	Will be manged by mitigation and management measures outlined in ESIA and CESMP/ other management plans.
Noise	Construction: Temporary noise and vibration impacts at the OHTL route. After implementation of mitigation measures, impacts are expected to be negligible to minor. Operation: None expected	• Will be manged by mitigation and management measures outlined in ESIA and CESMP/ other management plans. • Night time construction works particularly near land users near the OHTL alignment will be avoided and if undertaken, night work permits will be obtained. • Notice will be provided to the sensitive receptors as early as possible for periods and duration of noisier works in regards to certain construction activities • Implementation of the grievance mechanism so that receptors near the project site can submit their complaints, concerns etc

POTENTIAL KEY E&S IMPACTS - CONSTRUCTION(CONTD)

Aspect	Impact	Mitogation/ Management
Biodiversity	Construction: There will be habitat loss relating to land impacts & habitat loss along the overhead transmission line (OHTL) tower locations. Operation: Potential risk for birds colliding and/or being electrocuted by the OHTL	Construction: • Pre-construction surveys to identify animals along the overhead transmission line footprint & suitable areas to relocate them. • Construction areas will be restricted to areas of tower location. • Restoration of habitat to its natural condition after the completion of the construction phase. Operation: • Inclusion of bird visual diverters; • Integration of bird-safe design for appropriate wire spacing; • insulator types to provide safe perching platforms; • Implementation of post-construction monitoring.
Archaeology	Construction: Accidental destruction of unknown archaeological resources buried within the Project site. Operation: None	• Chance Find Procedure • Unknown archaeological remains encountered, site will be clearly signed/delineated and he Academy of Science and Ministry of Culture and Tourism will be notified immediately.

POTENTIAL KEY E&S IMPACTS - CONSTRUCTION(CONTD)

Aspect	Impact	Mitogation/ Management
Soil, Geology & Groundwater	Construction: Impacts from excavation and soil compaction, accidental spills or leaks, disposal of wastewater and inadequate management of waste. Operation: Specific project impacts to soil, groundwater and geology are not expected during the operational phase. Impact is expected to be negligible	• Will be managed in line with national regulation and international good practice, mitigation and monitoring as per ESIA and CESMP. • Implementation of pollution prevention & control measures with designated storage areas, equipment checked regularly & spill kits will be available. • Implementation of Waste Management Plan which will include waste segregation, use of licensed waste transporters & waste management facilities.
Traffic & Transport	If improperly planned and managed, an potentially damage of existing highways, bridges, roads, etc and increase in traffic	• Close coordination with transport authorities, including developing a Traffic Management Plan and inline with ESIA mitigations and CESMP. Plan which will outline how OHTL components will be delivered to sites, management of construction traffic, personnel etc. • Identification of alternative suitable access roads for communities and land users using existing access roads. • Rehabilitation of any roads damaged as a result of transporting project materials. • A grievance mechanism will be established to allow local communities to make complaints relating to project drivers.

POTENTIAL KEY E&S IMPACTS - CONSTRUCTION(CONTD)

Aspect	Impact	Mitogation/ Management
Landscape & Visual Impacts	Construction: Changes in landscape character visual amenity	• Site clearance will be limited to the OHTL tower footprint, laydown areas. • All temporary construction facilities along the OHTL will be removed once each phase is complete and the habitat restored. • When not in use, cranes and other construction plants will be lowered, so they are at their minimum height and do not protrude unnecessarily within the visual envelope of local receptors. • Minimisation of any night time construction works and any floodlights will be directed onto working areas and back spill shields, therefore minimising any unwanted light spills.
EMF	Operation: Impact from the EMF (non-ionising radiation) that will generate from the OHTL is expected. However, impacts are not expected to be significant since the lines will be installed at an elevated height and not at ground level, therefore reducing EMF exposure to the receptors.	• Adhere to Azerbaijan protection zones (25 m) • Information on EMF will be provided to land users (almond orchard workers and military personnel) who will work on land under the OHTL along with recommendations to reduce potential exposure as well as safe working practices. • Safety signals and warning signs will be posted along the OHTL.

POTENTIAL KEY E&S IMPACTS - CONSTRUCTION(CONTD)

Aspect	Impact	Mitogation/ Management
Community Health & Safety	Construction: - Safety impacts from increased traffic movement. - Health & safety risks posed by activities in construction areas. - Security incidents between security personnel & communities	• Safety campaigns relating to traffic. • No security personnel will be armed. • Implementation of a Community Health & Safety Plan • Access to the grievance mechanism.
	Operation: - Potential risk relating to electrocution from direct contact with high voltage lines.	• The design of the OHTL will be designed in accordance with Azerbaijan requirements and maintained regularly. • Safety signals will be posted along the OHTL route.
Social/ Land use	Physical displacement is not anticpated however, might cause economic displacement for certain land users such as herders (informal) and farming activities. Land users experience short term disruption during tower/pylon installation. At this stage, the exact location of the pylons is not known.	The outcome of the ESIA and socio-economic survey will influence the final layout and route of OHTL by Azerenergi to minimise temporary restrictions on land use and livelihood impacts. Where this cannot be avoided, Azerenergi will provide compensation based on national laws and requirements with appropriate consultation.

POTENTIAL KEY E&S IMPACTS - CONSTRUCTION(CONTD)

Aspect	Impact	Mitogation/ Management
Labour & Working Conditions	Construction: - Occupational health & safety risks - Forced labour & child labour - Lack of worker representation & restrictions on trade unions. - Compulsory overtime & excessive working hours. - Provision of inadequate accommodation facilities	• Establish an Occupational Health & Safety management system taking into account specific risks associated with the project, legal requirements and dury of care. • Zero tolerance to forced labour and will only engage with registered recruitment agencies and no persons under 18years will be employed at the project. • HR policies will include the ability of workers to form or join all types of associations, trade unions etc. • All workers will be informed about their working conditions, wage entitlements, overtime arrangements, overtime compensation, benefits such as holiday leave, sick leave, maternity/paternity etc. • Accommodation areas will be managed in accordacne with EBRD & IFC Worker's Accommodation Processes & Standards. • There will be zero tolerance to ender discrimination in employment, wages, working conditons, benefits etc. • All workers will have access to a grievance mechanism where they can submit their complaints, concerns.

POSITIVE IMPACTS

Aspect	Impact
Positive impacts	• Diversification in power through increased share of renewable energy sources in power through increased share of renewable energy sources. o Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions o Reduction of atmospheric pollution in comparison to other power generation technologies in the current energy mix of Azerbaijan • Employment opportunities during construction phase

The majority of the impacts that will arise during the construction phase will have minimal effect on receptors and any residual impact is expected to be minor and can be readily mitigated and managed by standard measures and controls common for OHTL.

THIRD PARTY GRIEVANCE PROCESS

- Third-party grievance process will be developed by Azerenergi in line with national and EBRD requirements and will be disclosed to stakeholders and land users.
- Formal records of the grievance submission, investigation, determination of root cause (if any), corrective and preventative actions and any follow up (including monitoring) will be recorded in a grievance follow up form and maintained as documented information.

CONTACTS FOR FEEDBACK

Please contact us if you need more information or for any comments

I

Javid Alifli – ACWA Power
JAlifli@acwapower.com

II

Azerenergi
To be provided

Thank you

APPENDIX D – COPIES OF INVITATION LETTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (2ND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE MEETINGS – JUNE/JULY 2022)

A – Invitation Letters

State Renewable Energy Agency under the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Institute of Archaeology, Ethnography and Anthropology of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences

State Employment Service under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Environmental Awareness and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan

English Copy

ACWA POWER ECOENERGY 5 capitals

DATE XXX

XXXXXXX

Re: Invitation to Public Consultation Meeting

Dear ,

ACWA Power has signed an agreement with the Government of Azerbaijan to develop, own and operate a 240 MW renewable wind energy project in the Khizi and Absheron regions of Azerbaijan.

The Project Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), which has been prepared over the past 2 years and undertaken by 5 Capitals (headquartered in Dubai) in association with local consultant EcoEnergy have been updated since the initial public disclosure carried out in January 2022

ACWA Power will hold a public meeting to discuss the updates to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the 240 MW Khizi-Absheron Wind Farm project.

ACWA Power invites stakeholders to attend the meeting. The meeting will be held in INSERT LCOATION.

The updated ESIA studies as well as the supplementary ESIA package, inclusive of the updated Non-Technical Summary, Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Draft LRP and the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) can be accessed using the below links (in both English and Azerbaijani languages):

Websites:

EBRD: https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/esia/azerbaijan-absheronkhizi-wpp.html

ACWA Power: https://acwapower.com/en/projects/azerbaijan-wind-ipp/

These documents are also available for anyone to review at the ACWA Power Public Information Centers located at:

INSERT LOCATIONS

During the meeting, representatives from ACWA Power, its appointed consultants, *5 Capitals Environmental & Management Consultancy* and appointed a local consultant, *Ecoenergy Ltd* will make presentations and take questions, comments and feedback on the upadted ESIA from the audience. Comments can also be sent to info@ecoenergy.az

It is important that participants follow the rules and recommendations indoors regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. People who have been vaccinated or who have had COVID-19 immunity certificate can attend the meeting.

For further information please contact: Farida Majidzade at Ecoenergy LLC. Phone: +994 55 791 03 67.

Best regards,

B – Copy of Announcement in English

ACWA POWER ECOENERGY 5 capitals

ACWA Power will hold a public meeting to discuss the update of the Environmental Impact Assessment (ESIA) documents for the 240 MW Khizi-Absheron Wind Farm project.

ACWA Power invites stakeholders to attend the meeting, which will take place **at the Village Sports Club of Sitalchay Village on dates: xxxx at xxxx.**

The purpose of the meetings is to disclose any updates to the ESIA since it was published on EBRD and ACWA Power websites on 20th May 2022.

Copies of the accompanying ESIA documents will be available at the meeting and feedback forms in Azerbaijani and English languages will also be available to write down any comments or further questions you may have.

The updated ESIA studies as well as the supplementary ESIA package, inclusive of the updated Non-Technical Summary, Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Draft LRP and the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) can be accessed using the below links (in both English and Azerbaijani languages):

Websites:

EBRD: https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/esia/azerbaijan-absheronkhizi-wpp.html

ACWA Power: https://acwapower.com/en/projects/azerbaijan-wind-ipp/

These documents are also available at the Project Public Information Centre (PIC) located on the Chavli road, building between the Municipality Building and Village School, Pireshkul village, Absheron District.

During the meeting, representatives from ACWA Power, its appointed Consultants 5 Capitals Environmental & Management Consultancy, and the local consultant, Ecoenergy Ltd will take questions, comments, and feedback on the draft ESIA from the audience. ACWA Power welcomes all comments and feedback on the draft ESIAs.

It is important that participants follow the rules and recommendations indoors regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. People who have been vaccinated or who have had COVID-19 immunity certificate can attend the meeting.

For further information please contact: Phone.: +994 55 791 03 67