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TEMPLATE

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION REPORT

PUBLICATION DATE **05.05.2022**

VERSION **v. 2.0**

RELATED SUPPORT

TEMPLATE GUIDE Stakeholder Consultation Report v.2.0

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

This document contains the following Sections

[Key Project Information](#)

[Grouped Consultation Information](#)

[SECTION A - Information made available to Stakeholders](#)

[SECTION B - Invitations made to Stakeholders](#)

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This template has been revised to aid a consistent interpretation and to better support project developers submitting documentation for certification. Please read the accompanying guide to understand how to complete this template accurately. [TEMPLATE GUIDE Stakeholder Consultation Report v. 1.2](#)

TEMPLATE GUIDE Stakeholder Consultation Report v. 1.2

Please delete blue text boxes upon completion

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

GS ID of Project	GS13054
Title of Project	GS23430 Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Nyeri County, Kenya
Version number of this Report	1.1
Completion date of version	29/09/2025
Time of First Submission Date	29/09/2025
Start Date of the Project	13/10/2025
Date of Meeting (s)	11/06/2025
Project Cycle:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Retroactive

GROUPED CONSULTATION INFORMATION

GS ID of Real Case VPA	GS23430
Title of Real Case VPA	Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Nyeri County, Kenya
Geographical Boundary of Grouped Consultation	Kenya
Technology covered by the Grouped Consultation	Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Nyeri County, Kenya
Validity Period	2 years
Anticipated number of VPAs	2

SECTION A. INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE TO STAKEHOLDERS

A.1. Preliminary agenda for the meeting

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Introductions and opening remarks
3. Explanation of the Project
4. Questions for Clarification about the project
5. Introduction to the Gold Standard for the Global Goals
6. Sustainable development exercise and safeguarding principles assessment
7. Discussion of continuous input/ Grievance mechanism
8. Stakeholder Feedback Round
9. Evaluation
10. Meeting closure

A.2. A non-technical summary of the project

Background

Forests are of great importance for biodiversity, climate, healthy soils, retention of water and food production. However, according to the Global Forest Watch, between 2001 to 2023, Kenya lost 386 kha of relative tree cover, equivalent to a 12% decrease since 2000 and < 0.1% of all tree cover loss globally. Out of this Nyeri lost 6.34 kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 3.7% decrease in tree cover and 3.85 Mt of CO_{2e} emissions. Deforestation linked to agriculture is a major driver of climate change. Agriculture is the main driver of forest loss in Kenya due to high demand for land for livestock keeping, and food crops (maize, pulses, beans, and vegetables). These products are responsible for 80% of deforestation and are mostly consumed domestically. Commodity-driven deforestation is enabled by export-oriented cash crops, particularly tea, coffee, and tobacco.

The economic impact on society is enormous. In terms of coffee, drier and hotter conditions are jeopardizing coffee production in Nyeri County and Kenya in general, with climate change and deforestation being the main causes. In particular, climate change has significantly impacted coffee production by causing erratic rainfall patterns, rising temperatures, and increased susceptibility to pests and diseases, leading to lower coffee yields and potential decline in the quality of the coffee beans.

Nyeri County is a good region for coffee farming because of its rich volcanic soil and temperate climate. Coffee is grown in monoculture plantations and smallholder farms under full sun. Farmers report that coffee plantations are more and more exposed to pest and disease attacks (such as Coffee Berry Disease (CBD), Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR), Bacterial Blight of Coffee (BBC), Fusarium bark disease (FBD), Fusarium root disease (FRD)). In response to this, farmers seek to increase the use of external inputs in the form of pesticides and fungicides along with the use of chemical fertilizers. The use of glyphosate is very common, one application destroying 80% of the microbiological life. Almost all of the producers complain about decreasing coffee productivity over the last few years. This is where the proposed project activity "Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Nyeri County, Kenya" comes in in order to change that situation.

Objectives, applied approach and location of the project.

The "Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Nyeri County, Kenya" is the first voluntary project activity in Kenya to be included under the broader framework of the Programme of Activities (PoA) "Global Syntropic Agroforestry Program". The PoA establishes the guidelines for any project that will make part of the PoA.

This VPA focusing will be implemented in Nyeri County, Kenya and can cover both non-mechanised as well as mechanised coffee plantations. This project consists of conversion of existing coffee monoculture plantations under full sun towards an agroforestry system with a high density of both native and exotic trees (such as *Grevillea robusta* (Grevillea), *Tectona grandis* (Teak tree), *Tithonia diversifolia* (tree marigold), *Azadirachta indica* (neem tree), *Cordia abyssinica* (Sudan teak), *Croton megalocarpus* (croton) and *Dendrocalamus giganteus* (giant bamboo) among others. This will be incorporated together with fruit trees (such as tree tomato, guava, avocado, macadamia, mango, pawpaw, passion, and pomegranate) and other annual crops.

Syntropic farming concept

It was Ernst Götsch - the founder of the syntropic farming concept - who introduced the term "mother tree" characterizing fast growing-, deep rooting-trees which respond well to annual pollarding and are easy to manage. By annually pollarding those "mother trees" at a height of around 5m, huge amount of organic matter is provided (up to 2 to 4 times more than in a natural forest) resulting in continuously covered and revitalized soils and rejuvenation together with induction for vigorous new growth of all plants is achieved. The pollard material can be arranged to the coffee rows as either shredded or un-shredded material. In addition, around 70 fruit trees (such as avocado, mango,

jackfruit, citrus, macadamia, pecan nut) and approximately 20 emergent trees per ha are integrated. Finally, beans and cassava help to raise the trees. Grass is planted along the tree rows to produce additional organic matter. This way photosynthesis can be maximized, soils continuously be covered, external inputs significantly reduced or even completely avoided, and the dynamics of the agroforestry system maintained, all important principles under the syntropic farming concept.

The main objectives of the VPA are to restore soils and hence to stabilize or even increase coffee productivity, enhance food security of farmers, increase resilience of supply chains and remove the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere through carbon sequestration.

Involved Parties

The parties involved in the project were discussed as follows:

- **GrowGrounds** being the Coordinating and Managing Entity (CME) of the PoA and at the same time project developer of the VPA, is a Danish-based impact-driven start-up that is focused to decrease coffee's negative CO₂ impact and helps farmers to move away from monoculture coffee farming to syntropic agroforestry systems, while giving farmers access to the global carbon market.
- **Origin Connect Services (OCS)** is a coffee sector consultancy, with three decades expertise spanning the entire value chain across East Africa. This includes sourcing, marketing, fair trade practices, regulatory compliance, and ESG issues. Central to its engagement with farmers is the promotion of sustainable coffee farming, assisting cooperatives and estates in enhancing post-harvest quality, meeting market compliance requirements, and adopting ethical marketing practices. OCS will be the local project implementer for the initiative in Kenya.
- **Forests4Farming (F4F)**, a non-profit organization with long-term expertise in the implementation and management of tree-based farming projects following syntropic farming principles. F4F will transfer the necessary knowledge and know-how to farmers and technicians on the ground.
- **Julius Carbon Ventures** is a carbon consultancy firm that conducts end-to-end carbon projects management, training and field team operations, data collection and analysis, monitoring & evaluation. Julius Carbon Ventures will be responsible for the Carbon Asset development aspects of the project in line with the requirements of the GS4GG requirements guided by mkaarbon safari GmbH, having several years of experience in Nature-Based-Solution projects.

- **Mkaarbon Safari GmbH** Mkaarbon Safari GmbH is a carbon project development and consulting firm based in Munich area, Germany, that provides services to organizations seeking to increase their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals imperative. They have extensive experience in helping both public and private sectors identify and mitigate activities that lead to climate change and environmental degradation. They will provide required guidance and support to Julius Carbon Ventures on the Carbon Asset development.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) sequestration achieved through the plantation or assisted natural regeneration of trees will result in carbon credits following Gold Standard certification rules and procedures. The PoA will apply the Gold Standard methodology "Afforestation/Reforestation GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Methodology". The VPA implemented by GrowGrounds aims to pay back 60% to 80% (cash and/or in kind) of revenues from the sale of carbon credits back to the farmers. The remaining portion of the revenues are used to finance the carbon certification related costs and to cover costs incurred by the project developer/implementer.

Duration, Scale and Time-schedule

The duration of a VPA is at least 30 years following the Gold Standard for the Global Goals requirements.

The PoA along with the VPA being implemented in Nyeri County, Kenya is expected to be registered with the Gold Standard for the Global Goals as a large-scale project. The tree planting is scheduled to start at the onset of the rains in September 2025.

Registration with other Carbon standards

The voluntary project activity is not registered with any other carbon standard, nor is it seeking registration under any other GHG programs, and hence there is no likelihood that double counting would occur.

A.3. Contact details to get further technical detail and project information

For any questions or comments, please contact:

Christina Singh

Chief Operations Officer

Email: christina@growgrounds.org

Phone: +45 41760744

A.4. Summary of economic, social and environmental impacts of the Project

The project aims to contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

SDG 2 – Zero hunger

The project activity will implement resilient agricultural practices and create sustainable food production systems, which will benefit farmers in the form of stable incomes and food for subsistence. The project activity expects to reduce or even eliminate the use of external inputs (chemical or organic fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides) resulting in cost savings for the farmers.

SDG 4 – Quality education

The project activity will provide training/workshops to farmers and technicians in agroforestry practices following syntropic farming principles, thereby enhancing their skills and knowledge of sustainable agriculture. This will make their work more efficient, effective, and sustainable for soils and the environment.

SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth

The project activity expects to create jobs for technicians, service providers for conducting pollarding activities, for staff carrying out monitoring activities and others. Hence, the project activity will increase business and income opportunities in the communities where the project will be implemented.

SDG 13 – Climate action

The project activities result in carbon removals through planted trees as well as from trees of assisted natural regeneration. Soil Organic Carbon and/or biochar are further possible carbon sinks in future.

SDG 15 – Life on land

The project activity expects to convert approximately 4000 ha of full-sun monoculture coffee plantations with different coffee farmers scattered across the Nyeri County into diverse agroforestry systems following syntropic farming principles. This will provide new habitats for flora and fauna.

A.5. Other relevant information to help stakeholders understand the project

Not applicable.

SECTION B. INVITATIONS MADE TO STAKEHOLDERS

B.1. Invitation tracking table

Various stakeholders were invited for the Local Stakeholder Consultation in line with the Gold Standard STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS¹.

The various categories invited are as outline below:

- Category A- Local people, communities and/or representatives who are expected to be directly or indirectly affected (adversely affected or beneficiaries) by the project or may have an interest in the project.
- Category B- Stakeholders with land-tenure rights within or adjacent to the project and marginalised individuals and groups.
- Category C- Local policymakers and representatives of local authorities.
- Category D- National government officials or National Focal Point, for example, Designated National Authority (DNA) or equivalent body².
- Category E- Local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Women Groups working on topics relevant to the project or working with communities who are likely to be affected by the project
- Category F- Gold Standard representative at help@goldstandard.org
- Category G- Relevant international Gold Standard NGO Supporters with representation in the region and all Gold Standard NGO Supporters located in the host country of the project³.
- Category H- Implementers/CMEs of other carbon projects of similar nature in Kenya
- Category I- Any other organisations (e.g. universities, research institutes, or other) working on the topic or related topic in the host country

¹ <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/102-par-stakeholder-consultation-requirements/>

² <https://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/bak/index.html>

³ <https://www.goldstandard.org/about/ngo-supporters>

Category	Stakeholder Type/Organisation (if relevant)	Name of invitee	Gender	Means of Invitation	Date of Invitation
A	Farmers attached to the various factories and whose details are the property of the specific factory thus can't be included here for public view but will be availed once agreed to by the farmers upon registering/signing up for the project.	Open invitation	All	Posters/Announcements at places that stakeholders visit frequently i.e churches/social media/GrowGrounds Website	9th May 2025
B	Farmers attached to the various factories and whose details are the property of the specific factory thus can't be included here for public view but will be availed once agreed to by the farmers upon registering/signing up for the project.	Open invitation	All	Posters/Announcements at places that stakeholders visit frequently i.e churches/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
C	County Govt of Nyeri-Department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change-CECM		M	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	County Govt of Nyeri-Department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and		M	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025

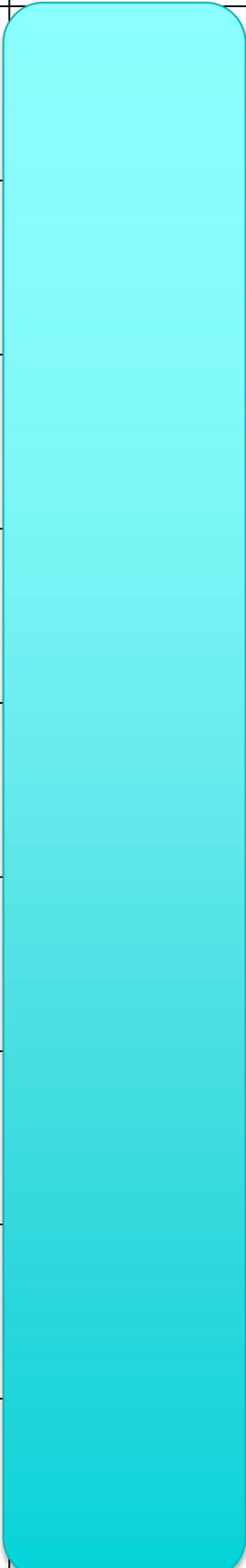
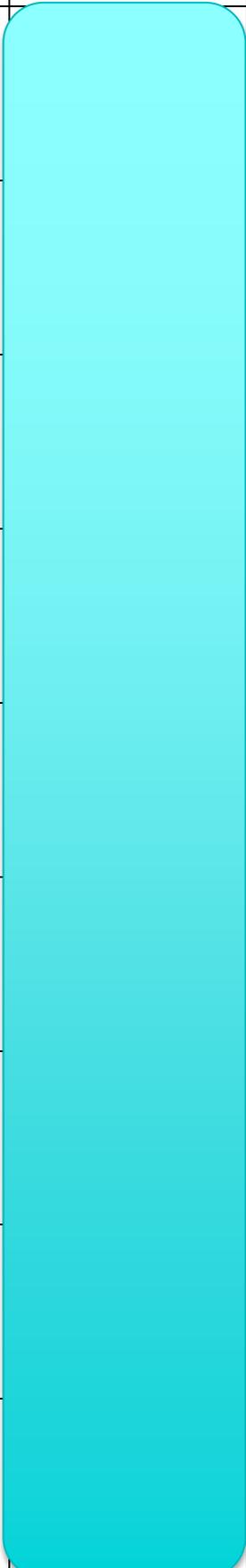
	Climate Change- Chief Officer				
	Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry	Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry	F	Email/social media/Gro w Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Director Climate Programmes Coordination	Director Climate Programmes Coordination	F	Email/social media/Gro w Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Principal Secretary, State Department for Agriculture	Principal Secretary, State Department for Agriculture	M	Email/social media/Gro w Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Principal Secretary, Ministry of Co- operatives, and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development	Principal Secretary, Ministry of Co- operatives, and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development	M	Email/social media/Gro wGrounds Website	9th May 2025
	Kenya Forest Service	Open invitation	open	Email/social media/Gro w Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	County Govt of Nyeri-Ministry Agriculture, Livestock and Aquaculture Development, CEC Member		m	Email/SMS/ Letter/socia l media/Gro w Grounds Website	9th May 2025

D	County Govt of Nyeri-COUNTY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	County Govt of Nyeri-NEMA Environmental Assistant		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	County Govt of Nyeri-NEMA Env. Officer		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	NEMA Kenya (National Environment Management Authority)		f	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	NEMA Kenya (National Environment Management Authority)		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	County Commissioner		m	Email/SMS/Letter/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
E	Amani Centre	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Nyeri County NGOs Consortium	Open invitation	open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Umbrella of Hope Children Centre Nyeri Kenya	Open invitation	open	Email/social media/Gro	9th May 2025

				w Grounds Website	
	Caritas Nyeri	Open invitation	open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Children and Youth Empowerment Center	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Nyeri County - The Youth Agenda Kenya	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Maarifa Centre	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Joyful Women Organization	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Maendeleo Ya Wanawake	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	World Vision	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Womankind Worldwide - Kenya	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Women's Empowerment Link (WEL)	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025

	The Addis Clinic	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Youth Alliance For Leadership And Development In Africa (YALDA)	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	SNV - Kenya	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Ubuntu Life Foundation	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Rainforest Alliance, Kenya	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	The Nature Conservancy in Kenya	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	United Nations Office For Project Services (UNOPS) - Kenya	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Partners For Care	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Action Against Hunger (Kenya)	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Food Banking Kenya	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Grow	9th May 2025

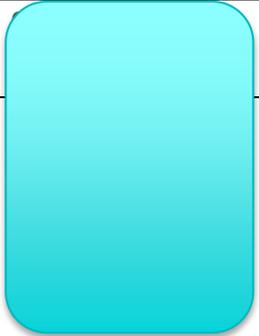
				w Grounds Website	
	Climate And Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) - Kenya	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	AFR100 - KENYA	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Vi Agroforestry	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Trees For Kenya	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	AEN KENYA	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	CIFOR-ICRAF	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	TraceX	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS	Open invitation	Open	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025

F	Gold Standard	help@goldstandard.org	Open	Email	9th May 2025
G	Global Offset Research		f	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Lean Management Systems Promotion Society		m	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	HIVOS		m	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	myclimate		m	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
G	Swiss Carbon Value Ltd		m	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	WWF-Kenya		m	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Livelihoods Fund SICAV SIF		m	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Vi Agroforestry		m	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	One Carbon World Ltd.		m	Email/social media/Growth Grounds Website	9th May 2025

H	Climate Investment Partners LLC	[Redacted]	m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Entooma Sidai Limited	[Redacted]	m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Entooma Sidai Limited	[Redacted]	m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Entooma Sidai Limited	[Redacted]	m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	CarbonSolve, LLC	[Redacted]	m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	OYU Green Private Limited	[Redacted]	f	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Shri Maa Marketing Pvt. Ltd.	[Redacted]	m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Soils for the Future Africa Ltd	[Redacted]	m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Climate Asset Management as Portfolio Manager for the Nature Based Carbon Fund (NBCF)	[Redacted]	f	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025

	Converge Analytics		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Biodiversity Research Institute		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Olgulului Group Ranch		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Eselenkei Group Ranch		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Olkiramatian Community Land		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Shompole Community Land		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	ACES		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	KMFRI		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	The Upper Tana – Nairobi Water Fund Trust		f	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Mikoko Pamoja project		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025

				w Grounds Website	
	Rabobank Acorn Agroforestry Carbon Programme		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
I	UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Dedan Kimathi University of Technology		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	FAO Kenya		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	GIZ Kenya		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	World Coffee Research-Kenya		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025
	COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE OF KENYA		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025

					
	We Effect – East Africa		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	9th May 2025

B.1.1. Appropriateness of methods

>> The project implementer made use of various methods to invite stakeholders to the meeting. The invitations were extended to the targeted communities using posters placed in strategic places such as the factory public notice board and chief’s public notice board, emails, social media such as linked, website notice on the GrowGrounds website and phone calls to reach as many stakeholders as possible. The methods used were deemed appropriate since they were fit to reach the different groups (educated and uneducated) and enable their participation in the meeting. Local languages i.e Kikuyu and Kiswahili were used during the meeting in addition to English for easy engagement with the stakeholders.

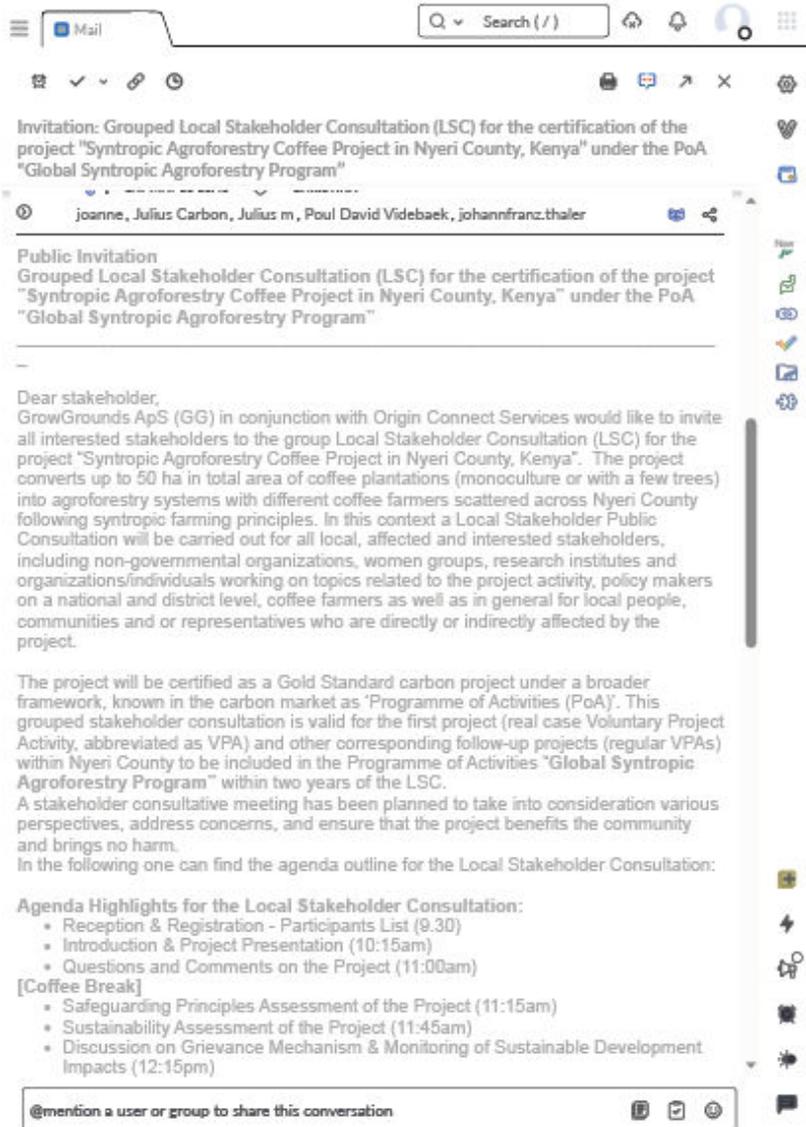
B.1.2. Gender Sensitivity

>> The stakeholder meeting was organized and facilitated in a way that aimed to encourage the participation of all stakeholder groups. Both men and women were invited to the meeting and were encouraged to attend the consultation. During the consultation, both men (73%) and women (27%) attended the meeting as indicated in the participants lists provided. The meeting respected the views of all parties and any comments raised were captured for consideration by the project developer.

B.1.3. Evidence proving invites took place as stated

>>

Email invitation sent on 9th May 2025.



Meeting Invitation reminder sent on May 26th 2025

The image shows a screenshot of an email interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the word "reminder" entered. Below the search bar, there are several icons for email actions like reply, forward, and delete. The main body of the email starts with the subject line: "RE: Invitation: Grouped Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) for the certification of the project 'Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Nyeri County, Kenya' under the PoA 'Global Syntropic Agroforestry Program'". The sender is identified as "CS Christina Singh". The email is dated "MON MAY 26 16:15" and is addressed to "joanne, Julius Carbon, Julius m, Poul David Videbaek, johannfranz.thaler". The content of the email is as follows:

Dear Stakeholder,

This is a kind reminder of the upcoming Local Stakeholder Consultation for our project, "Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Nyeri County, Kenya." We highly value your expertise and believe your participation is essential for the success of this project. We look forward to discussing the project with you and other stakeholders on:

Date: Wednesday 11th June 2025
Location: Klawamururu Coffee Factory, Mukurweini, Nyeri (Google Plus Code: F23G+86Q, Gatura)
 Open the Google Maps app and enter the Plus Code. To search a town or city you're not currently in: Enter a Plus Code with a town or city name, like given above.
 Hybrid participation possible via Microsoft Teams:
https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_MGRmZTY2YU8NmE2QC00MzJlLk5ZTgY2ZIMmJmNGY2YTl2%40thread.y2l0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%220f9e8080-b9cb-4ee4-9f15-643a50b34ea4%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22a45d772a-0d5a-461c-9fc4-5aaf7c35609%22%7d
Time: 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Please note the updated agenda:

- 09:30 – 10:00 Reception & Registration – Participants List
- 10:00 – 10:45 Introduction & Project Presentation
- 10:45 – 11:30 Questions and Comments on the Project
- ☕ Coffee Break
- 11:45 – 12:15 Safeguarding Principles Assessment of the Project
- 12:15 – 12:45 Sustainability Assessment of the Project
- 12:45 – 13:15 Discussion on Grievance Mechanism & Monitoring of Sustainable Development Impacts
- 13:15 – 13:30 Evaluation Forms and Closure of Meeting
- ☕ Refreshments

Let me use this update to provide you the google plus codes for all coffee factories, where the physical grievance mechanism books are placed:

1. Iriaini FCS – Kamũnyaka Coffee Factory 📍 G584+4H Karatina
2. Iriaini FCS – Mĩĩri Coffee Factory 📍 G567+R9M, Kaguyu
3. Iriaini FCS – Klamwangi Coffee Factory 🌐 [Google Maps link](#) (no google plus code available for this location)

Public invite on GrowGrounds official LinkedIn page

GrowGrounds 1,063 followers
1mo • 🌱

You're invited! 🌱

Join the Local Stakeholder Consultation (**#LSC**) for the Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Nyeri, Kenya

📅 Wednesday, 11 June 2025 | 🕒 10:00 AM EAT
📍 Kiawamuru Coffee Factory, Mukurweini, Nyeri
💻 Online option available: Join via Teams (link in comments)

We're transforming 50 ha of **#monoculture #coffee** into resilient, **#biodiverse #agroforestry** systems—certified under **#GoldStandard**.

🎯 Calling all local communities, coffee farmers, NGOs, researchers, and policymakers—your input matters!

📄 For info or to send feedback:
coffeeprojectnyeri@growgrounds.org | +254 715 509 753
Let's build climate-smart coffee landscapes—together! 🌍 🌱

#Agroforestry #Nyeri #GoldStandard #SyntropicFarming #ClimateAction #StakeholderEngagement #GrowGrounds #GS4GG

12 reactions • 1 comment • 2 reposts

Like Comment Repost Send

Link to the post (accessed 30/06/2025):

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/growgrounds_lsc-monoculture-coffee-activity-7326967316804452352-SO_O?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAA1mJjoBnVTQqQocjvU4qqMvGVy_iDUPVP4k

A poster invitation posted at Thunguri wetmill public noticeboard.

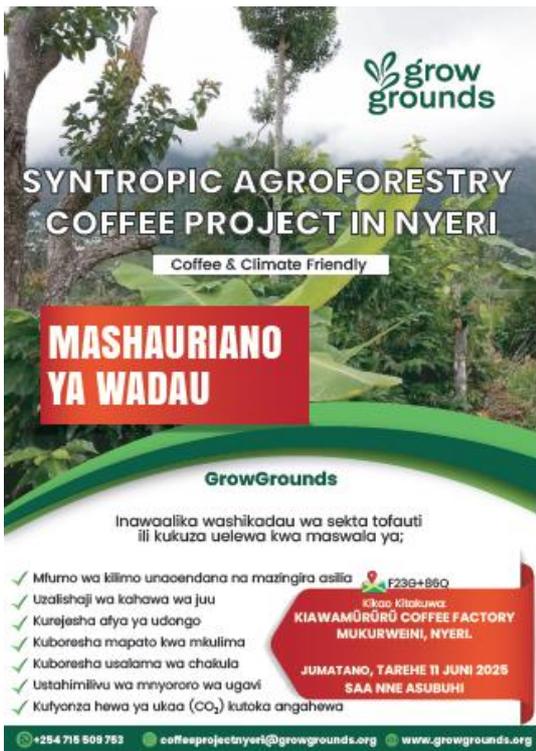


B.1.4. Sample content of invites (for each Method above)

Poster invitation in English



Poster invitation in Swahili language



Email/personal Letter invitation to the County Commissioner

(Advance copy by email)

11th May 2025

Nyeri County Commissioner

County Commissioner's Complex

Baden Powell Road

NYERI.

nyericountycommisioner@yahoo.com

Dear Sir,

SUBJECT: Grouped Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) for the certification of the project "Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Nyeri County, Kenya" under the PoA "Global Syntropic Agroforestry Program"

GrowGrounds ApS (GG) in conjunction with Origin Connect Services would like to invite all interested stakeholders to the group Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) for the project "Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Nyeri County, Kenya". The project converts up to 50 ha in total area of coffee plantations (monoculture or with a few trees) into agroforestry systems with different coffee farmers scattered across Nyeri County following syntropic farming principles. In this context a Local Stakeholder Public Consultation will be carried out for all local, affected and interested stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, women groups, research institutes and organizations/individuals working on topics related to the project activity, policy makers on a national and district level, coffee farmers as well as in general for local people, communities and or representatives who are directly or indirectly affected by the project.

The project will be certified as a Gold Standard carbon project under a broader framework, known in the carbon market as 'Programme of Activities (PoA)'. This grouped stakeholder consultation is valid for the first project (real case Voluntary Project Activity, abbreviated as VPA) and other corresponding follow-up projects (regular VPAs) within Nyeri County to be included in the Programme of Activities "Global Syntropic Agroforestry Program" within two years of the LSC.

A stakeholder consultative meeting has been planned to take into consideration various perspectives, address concerns, and ensure that the project benefits the community and brings no harm.

In the following one can find the agenda outline for the Local Stakeholder Consultation:

Agenda Highlights for the Local Stakeholder Consultation:

Reception & Registration - Participants List (9.30)

Introduction & Project Presentation (10:15am)

Questions and Comments on the Project (11:00am)

[Coffee Break]

Safeguarding Principles Assessment of the Project (11:15am)

Sustainability Assessment of the Project (11:45am)

Discussion on Grievance Mechanism & Monitoring of Sustainable Development Impacts (12:15pm)

Evaluation Forms and Closure of Meeting (12:45pm)

[Refreshments]

The physical meeting is scheduled as shown below

Venue:Kiawamururu Coffee Factory, Mukurweini, Nyeri.

Google Maps Ref: F23G+86Q

Date: Wednesday 11th June 2025 at 10:00 AM

Stakeholders who cannot physically attend the meeting, have the possibility to participate online through Microsoft Teams. The online link is available on GrowGrounds website (www.growgrounds.org) and is also provided here below:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MGRmZTY2YjUtNmE2OC00MzJILTk5ZTgtY2ZiMmJmNGY2YTI2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%220f9e8080-b9cb-4ee4-9f15-643a50b34ea4%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22a45d7f2a-0d5a-461c-9fc4-5aaef7c35609%22%7d

Please find attached a Non-Technical Summary of the project. In case of any questions or if you want further details and project information prior to the consultation, please write an Email to one of the contacts provided under 'contact information'.

Please use these contact details also for providing your feedback in case you are not able to participate in the stakeholder meeting.

Contact Information:

Christina Singh at GrowGrounds: coffeeprojectnyeri@growgrounds.org

Origin Connect Services: agroforestry@originconnectservices.co.ke

WhatsApp: +254715509753

Written feedback to the nearest participating coffee factory.

A grievance book will be available at each coffee factory office throughout the invitation period and for the duration of the project.

We look forward to your active participation in this important consultation as your insights will play a vital role in shaping the Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project and ensuring its positive impact on the community and the environment.

The following materials are attached to this letter for your reference: -

1. Non-Technical Summary of the proposed project outlining the envisioned benefits for the community and contribution to national development.
2. Sample of the customised invitation posters for respective localities.
3. Copy of the public invitation.

We respectfully request the presence of Deputy County Commissioners and/or their Assistant County Commissioners at these consultative forums. Additionally, in the interest of informing the public within the project host communities, we seek your permission to display the invitation posters on the notice boards at the respective DCC, ACC, and Subchief's offices.

As this is a long-term project aligned with some of your office's initiatives towards afforestation, food security and national development, your insights will play a vital role in shaping the Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project and ensuring its positive impact on the community and the environment.

Sincerely,

The ' Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Nyeri ' Team

Christina Singh

Chief Operations Officer

Email: christina@growgrounds.org

agroforestry@originconnectservices.co.ke

Phone: +45 41760744 (WhatsApp)

Attachments: (3)

LSC Meeting official programme

ORIGIN CONNECT SERVICES
 4th Fl, The Tripple Two Address
 Eastern Bypass , Ruiru.
 P. O. Box 9039 00100 Nairobi
 + 254 715 509 753 / 725 367 369
 Info@originconnectservices.co.ke

PROGRAMME 11TH JUNE 2025

LOCAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION :
GROW GROUNDS - SYNTROPIC AGROFORESTRY PROJECT IN NYERI

AGENDA

Call to Order : MC (9:45 AM)
 Opening Prayer : Elder from the Community
 Welcome by Host : Kiawamururu CBO, ACC, DCC
 Introduction of Partners: Director OCS [GG, OCS, JCV, Mk, F4F, Wetmills]

Main Agenda:

- Session 1: Topic 1 - 45 Minutes
- Session 2: Q&A on Session 1 – 45 Minutes
- Session 3: Coffee Break – 15 Minutes
- Session 4: Topic 2 - 30 Minutes
- Session 5: Topic 3 - 30 Minutes
- Session 6: Evaluation – 15 Minutes

Closing Remarks : County Commissioner, Chairmen Representative
 Vote of Thanks: One Wet Mill Chairman
 Closing Prayers

Time	Activity	Group/Individual
09:30-10:00	Registration-Participants, Participants List	Participants
10:00-10:15	Introduction & Briefed Presentations	OCS & JCV
10:15-11:00	Introduction and Description of THE PROJECT	Participants, OCS & JCV
11:00-11:15	10-Minute break	N/A
11:15-11:45	Self-learning/Peer-learning Assessment of the Project	Participants, OCS & JCV
11:45-12:15	Sustainability Assessment of the Project	Participants, OCS & JCV
12:15-12:45	Discussion on Grievance Mechanism	Participants, OCS & JCV
12:45-13:00	Evaluation Forms and Closure of Meeting	Participants
13:00	Refreshments	N/A

B.1.5. Description of other Means and methods to provide feedback for those who are not able to join the consultation meeting

>> During the invitation, the non-technical summary was availed for stakeholder review in both English and Swahili versions. The Non-technical summary provided sufficient information in simplified version to enable stakeholders give feedback. A stakeholder feedback form was also shared with the stakeholders to share their feedback in the event they were unable to attend the meeting. A contact email and phone number were included in the invitation for this purpose.

The project will also continue soliciting feedback from stakeholders during its implementation through the agreed continuous feedback mechanism.

SECTION C. REPORT OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

C.1. Date of Meeting

>>11/06/2025

C.1.1. Justification of why consultation took place after the project start date (retroactive projects only)

>>N/A

C.1.2. List of participants

Date and Time	Wednesday 11th June 2025 at 9:00 AM	Location	Kiawamururu Coffee Factory, Mukurweini, Nyeri.
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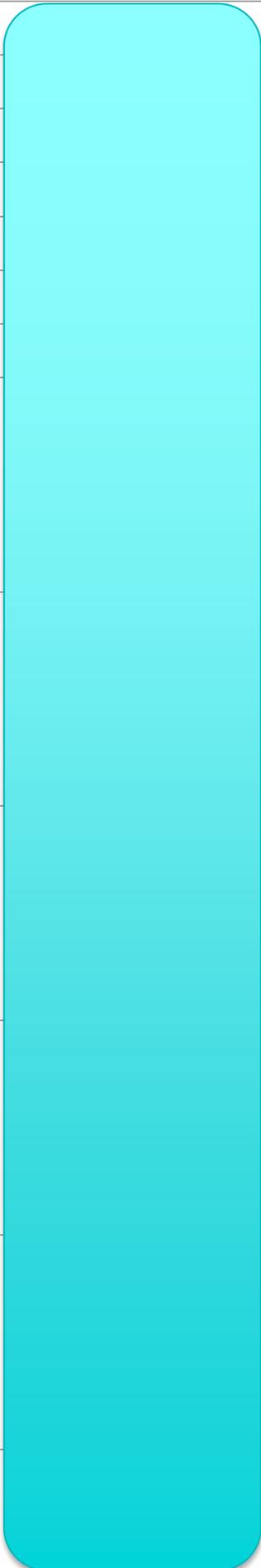
Cate gory Code	Job/position	Name of the participant, job / position in the community	Male / Female	Cont act detail s	Organisati on (if relevant)	Signatu re
A	Farmer		Male	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	Farmer		Male	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	Farmer		Male	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	Farmer		Female	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	Farmer		Male	N/A	N/A	N/A
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A	Farmer		Male	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	Farmer		Female	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	Farmer		Male	N/A	N/A	N/A
C	Deputy County Commissioner		Male	N/A	County Commissioner's Office, Nyeri County	N/A
C	Deputy County Commissioner Environmental officer		Female	N/A	County Commissioner's Office, Nyeri County	N/A
C	Deputy County Commissioner Environmental officer		Male	N/A	County Commissioner's Office, Nyeri County	N/A
C	Assistant Chief		Male	N/A	County Commissioner's Office, Nyeri County	N/A
C	Senior Assistant Chief		Male	N/A	County Commissioner's Office, Nyeri County	N/A
C	Senior Assistant Chief		Male	N/A	County Commissioner's Office,	N/A

					Nyeri County	
C	Assistant Chief		Male	N/A	County Commissioner's Office, Nyeri County	N/A
C	Assistant Chief		Male	N/A	County Commissioner's Office, Nyeri County	N/A
C	Assistant Chief		Female	N/A	County Commissioner's Office, Nyeri County	N/A
C	Assistant Chief		Male	N/A	County Commissioner's Office, Nyeri County	N/A
C	Assistant Chief		Female	N/A	County Commissioner's Office, Nyeri County	N/A
C	Chief		Male	N/A	County Commissioner's Office, Nyeri County	N/A
C	Chief		Female	N/A	County Commissioner's Office,	N/A

					Nyeri County	
C	Chief		Female	N/A	County Commissioner's Office, Nyeri County	N/A
C	Water Officer		Female	N/A	County Government of Nyeri	N/A
C	Climate Change Officer		Female	N/A	County Government of Nyeri	N/A
C	Environment Officer		Female	N/A	County Government of Nyeri	N/A
C	Water Officer		Male	N/A	County Government of Nyeri	N/A
C	Agricultural Officer		Male	N/A	County Government of Nyeri	N/A

C.1.3. Pictures from the physical meeting(s) (best practice)



Figure 1: Madam Phylis of Origin Connects, the project implementer making her opening remarks during the meeting.



Figure 2: The Deputy County Commissioner, Nyeri County, Mr. Moses Oruma presenting his opening remarks at the meeting.



Figure 3: Stakeholders following the meeting proceedings.



Figure 4: Mr. Julius Macharia of Julius Carbon Ventures delivering his presentation at the meeting.



Figure 5: Overview of the meeting venue at Kiawamururu wetmill in Mukurwe-ini, Nyeri county.

C.2. Minutes of physical meeting(s)

>> MINUTES OF GROUPED LOCAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION (LSC) FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF THE PROJECT" SYNTROPIC AGROFORESTRY COFFEE PROJECT IN NYERI COUNTY, KENYA" UNDER THE POA "GLOBAL SYNTROPIC AGROFORESTRY PROGRAM HELD AT KIAWAMURURU COFFEE FACTORY IN MUKURWE-INI, NYERI COUNTY ON WEDNESDAY 11TH JUNE 2025 FROM 9:00 AM TO 2.00 PM

Members Present

Participant's list provided as an Annex.

Agendas of the Meeting

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Introductions and opening remarks
3. Explanation of the Project
4. Questions for Clarification about the project
5. Introduction to the Gold Standard for the Global Goals
6. Sustainable development exercise and safeguarding principles assessment
7. Discussion of continuous input/ Grievance mechanism
8. Stakeholder Feedback Round
9. Evaluation

10.Meeting closure

Min 01: Opening of the Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 9.30 am by Ms. Phylis of Origin Connect (the project implementer). She welcomed all participants to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. A word of prayer was led by Muhunja wa Nyaga, one of the stakeholders and the meeting officially commenced.

Min 02: Introductions and Opening Remarks

The master of ceremony invited the represented coffee wetmills and other stakeholders to introduce themselves. The wetmill introductions were led by the respective chairpersons of the co-operative societies. The chairperson of the host wetmill (Kiawamururu), Mr. Karinga Charles invited the present wetmills to make brief remarks as they introduced their farmers. The represented wetmills in the meeting included Thunguri, Thageini, Mung'aria, Kiawamururu, Kamunyaka, Kagumo, Miiri, Kiamwangi, Gaaki and Gititu.

The opening remarks were made by the key project partners and the chief guest, Mr. Moses Oruma (Deputy County Commissioner-Nyeri County).

The first comments were by Mrs. Phylis from Origin Connects, the project implementer. She noted that she has deep passion for coffee farming and enjoys working with farmers. She is committed to promote coffee farming in the county by supporting coffee farmers secure better pricing for the coffee. She explained that over the years coffee farmers had been exploited despite them working hard in their farms. She noted the need to promote a mindset change to empower farmers to make the best of their farms and avoid handouts and other forms of exploitation. Phylis emphasized that coffee farming is a profitable business if done properly, sustainably and coupled with good marketing.

She highlighted that the project developer, Grow Grounds, was inspired to develop the syntropic agroforestry project to support coffee farming whereas promoting environmental sustainability through tree planting. She explained that the project is being added to the PoA "Global Syntropic Agroforestry Program" under which the first VPA has been developed in Brazil. She noted that the proposed project activity was the first in Kenya and in future the project developer intends to spread to Uganda and Ethiopia. She reiterated that the project would work with the national and county governments, and all other relevant stakeholders to create an enabling environment for coffee business while advancing tree planting.

Phylis further explained that the purpose of the meeting was to inform and consult the stakeholders about the project. She urged them to freely share their views and raise any concerns they might have to make sure they were addressed. She then invited the chief guest to make his remarks.

The Deputy County Commissioner, Mr. Moses Oruma started his remarks by appreciating Grow Grounds for the invitation. He noted that coffee business in Nyeri County is improving, and the government has been making efforts to support coffee production. He applauded the project developer for the project initiative and urged the farmers to plant trees especially agroforestry trees to reap multiple benefits. The D.C.C also urged the farmers to engage more youths and children in coffee farming and tree planting to nurture them into farming. This will create employment and income generating opportunities and play key role in fighting social vices such as alcoholism and mental issues. He expressed that the government would work with the project where needed to ensure success and with the remarks declared the meeting officially open.

Min 03: Explanation of the Project

The Carbon Consultant, Julius Macharia of Julius Carbon took over the presentation to explain the project in line with the GS4GG requirements as discussed below.

a) Introduction of Project Partners

The parties involved in the project were discussed as follows:

- **GrowGrounds** being the Coordinating and Managing Entity (CME) of the PoA and at the same time project developer of the VPA, is a Danish-based impact-driven start-up that is focused to decrease coffee's negative CO2 impact and helps farmers to move away from monoculture coffee farming to syntropic agroforestry systems, while giving farmers access to the global carbon market.
- **Origin Connect Services (OCS)** is a coffee sector consultancy, with three decades expertise spanning the entire value chain across East Africa. This includes sourcing, marketing, fair trade practices, regulatory compliance, and ESG issues. Central to its engagement with farmers is the promotion of sustainable coffee farming, assisting cooperatives and estates in enhancing post-harvest quality, meeting market compliance requirements, and adopting ethical marketing practices. OCS will be the local project implementer for the initiative in Kenya.
- **Forests4Farming (F4F)**, a non-profit organization with long-term expertise in the implementation and management of tree-based farming projects following

syntropic farming principles. F4F will transfer the necessary knowledge and know-how to farmers and technicians on the ground.

- **Julius Carbon Ventures** is a carbon consultancy firm that conducts end-to-end carbon projects management, training and field team operations, data collection and analysis, monitoring & evaluation. Julius Carbon Ventures will be responsible for the Carbon Asset development aspects of the project in line with the requirements of the GS4GG requirements guided by mkaarbon safari GmbH, having several years of experience in Nature-Based-Solution projects.
- **Mkaarbon Safari GmbH** Mkaarbon Safari GmbH is a carbon project development and consulting firm based in Munich area, Germany, that provides services to organizations seeking to increase their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals imperative. They have extensive experience in helping both public and private sectors identify and mitigate activities that lead to climate change and environmental degradation. They will provide required guidance and support to Julius Carbon Ventures on the Carbon Asset development.

b) Project summary

Context of coffee cultivation in Nyeri County

Nyeri County is a good region for coffee farming because of its rich volcanic soil and temperate climate. Coffee is mostly grown under full sun in monoculture plantations and on smallholder farms. Deforestation linked to agriculture is a major driver of climate change. Agriculture is the main driver of forest loss in Nyeri due to high demand for land for livestock keeping, Coffee planting and food crops (maize, pulses, legumes, and vegetables).

Coffee in Nyeri County is usually planted in a spacing of 3m x 3m. There are two coffee harvests in Nyeri County, the major one being in October to November and another smaller harvest between May to July. Coffee is usually flowering in March/April on the one hand and October on the other hand. Farmers report that coffee plantations are more and more exposed to pest and disease attacks (such as Coffee Berry Disease (CBD), Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR), Bacterial Blight of Coffee (BBC), Fusarium bark disease (FBD), Fusarium root disease (FRD))

The use of glyphosate is very common, one application destroying 80% of the microbiological life. Almost all of the producers complain about decreasing coffee productivity over the last few years.

Overview of the project

This project consists of conversion of existing coffee monoculture plantations under full sun (or with a very sparse tree population) of approximately 50 ha in total towards an agroforestry system with a high density of both native and exotic trees (such as *Croton macrostachys*, *Grevillea robusta* (Grevillea), *Mangifera indica*, *Senna Siamea*, *Azadirachta Indica* (Neem), *Acrocarpus fraxinifolius*, *Cordia Africana* among others). This will be incorporated together with fruit trees (such as guava, avocado, macadamia, mango, pomegranate) and cassava, banana, legumes.

Project objectives

The objectives of the project activity are to:

- restore soils and therefore stabilize or even increase coffee productivity and farmers' income.
- Increase food security for farmers.
- Increasing the resilience of the coffee value chain.
- removing greenhouse gas (CO₂) carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through carbon sequestration.
- Change the hydrological regime (microclimate) of the region project boundaries with the inclusion of more farmers into the project in future where we target approximately 500 ha with this project and future project(s).
- Include benefit-sharing with farmers: 72% of the proceeds will go to the farmers in CASH, 8% to the farmers' organisations and 20% remains with GG for project management.

Key Project information

- **Project Area of the first Project:** Up to 50 ha with different coffee growers (other projects possible in the future!)
- **Location:** Nyeri County, Kenya where this 1st VPA and further VPAs will/may be located as shown in the map.

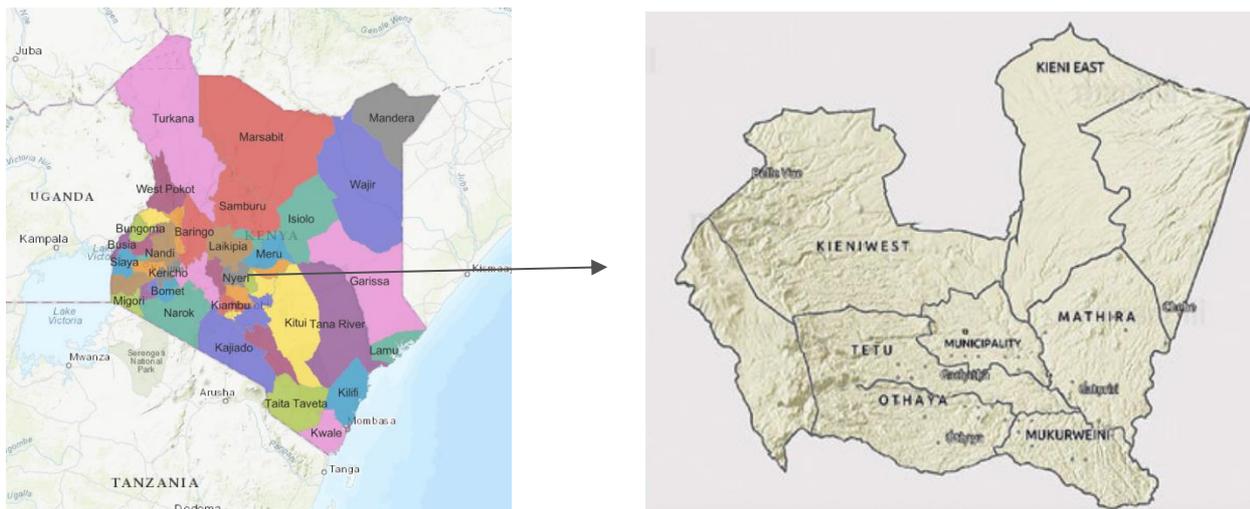


Figure 6: Map showing the proposed project boundary.

- **Implementation period: 3** years (2025 – 2027). Planned period which may change depending on project circumstances.
- **3 Test Plots:** To be installed in 10/2025 on pre-selected farmer coffee plots.
- **Certification** as a carbon project with the Gold Standard (this stakeholder consultation would be valid for other similar projects in the next 2 years in the same region)
- **Project Duration:** 30 years

Project farmers

Project Farmers-selected from among 10 Farmer organisations in Nyeri County (other projects possible in the future!)

- Iriaini FCS - Kamunyaka Factory
- Iriaini FCS - Kiamwangi Factory
- Iriaini FCS - Miiri Factory
- Aguthi FCS - Gaaki Central Factory
- Aguthi FCS - Gititu Factory
- Aguthi FCS - Kagumo Factory
- Aguthi FCS - Mung'aria Factory
- Rumukia FCS - Thunguri Factory
- Thageini Farmers CBO - Thageini Factory
- Jimbi Farmers CBO - Kiawamururu Factory

c) Proposed Planting design and trees

Trees planted in existing coffee plots: Different species, which are suitable as mother trees, have been pre-selected and can be chosen from depending on the farmer's

preferences and seed/seedling availability. Besides, fruit Trees and emergent trees be planted within the coffee plot. Completed by grasses, cassava, and legumes.

Trees planted outside of the coffee plots (focus avocado) – Avocados and other fruit trees will be planted outside the coffee plot depending on the farmers preferences but in line with the planting design approved by the Project Implementer (GG). Additionally, there will be also mother trees and emergent trees. Completed by grasses, cassava, and legumes.

The project applies principles of syntropic agriculture, such as:

- Permanent ground cover
- High density
- Diversity instead of monoculture
- Independence from external inputs (at first, some reduced inputs may still be required)
- High dynamics (annual pollarding of ‘mother trees’)
- Vertical stratification

Trees planted in the project will fall under 2 main categories i.e mother trees & emergent trees.

Some trees may be adopted both as mother trees and emergent trees while others may be adopted purely as mother trees or emergent trees.

Mother trees

Scientific name	Common name
Azadirachta indica	Neem
Cordia africana	Muringa
Croton macrostachys	Mutundu
Jacaranda mimosifolia	Jacaranda (Mucakaranda)
Mangifera indica	Mango (Mwiembe)
Markhamia lutea	Muu
Persea americana (native)	Avocado (Mukorobebe)
Senna Siamea (Cassia siamea)	Senna
Warburgia ugandensis	Greenheart (Muthaiga)

Emergent trees

Scientific name	Common name
Cupressus lusitanica	Cypress (Muthithinda)
Juniperus procera	Cedar (Mutarakwa)
Podocarpus falcatus	Podo (Muthengera)
Pouteria adolfi-friedericii	Muna
Prunus africana	Red stinkwood (Muri)

Mother trees and emergent trees

Scientific name	Common name
Acrocarpus fraxinifolius	Shingle tree
Croton megalocarpus	Mukinduri
Eucalyptus spp	Blue gum / red (Mubau)
Grevillea robusta	Silky oak (Mubariti)
Vitex keniensis	Meru oak (Muhuru)

Fruit trees

Fruit trees will also be incorporated into the planting design, and these will also be planted inside the coffee plot and outside the coffee plot.

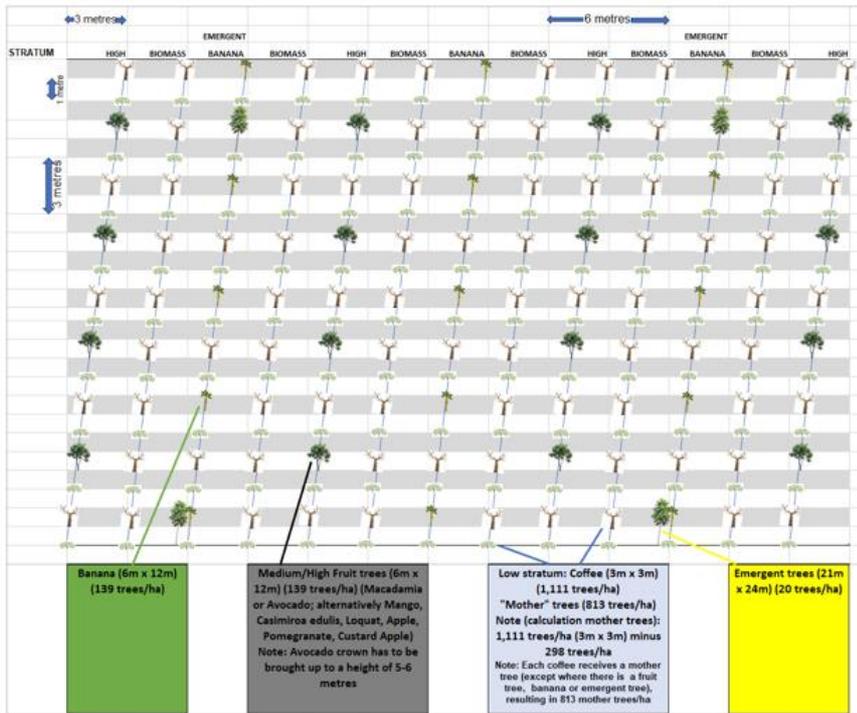
It is important to manage the fruit trees in the right way, so that they do not enter into conflict with coffee. E.G for avocado, the crown must be brought up to a height of 5 to 6 meters in order not to be in the same vertical layer than the coffee.

Scientific name	Common name
Persea americana	Avocado (Mukorobia)
Macadamia integrifolia	Macadamia
Eriobotrya japonica	Loquat (Mbera, Muburuti)
Mangifera indica	Mango
Malus pumila	Apple
Psidium guajava	Guava (Mubera, Ngando)
Annona cherimola	Custard apple (Matomoko / Matomoka)
Punica granatum	Pomegranate (Kukumanga)
Casimora edulis	White Sapota
Citrus spp	Lemon (Ndimu), Orange (Macungwa)

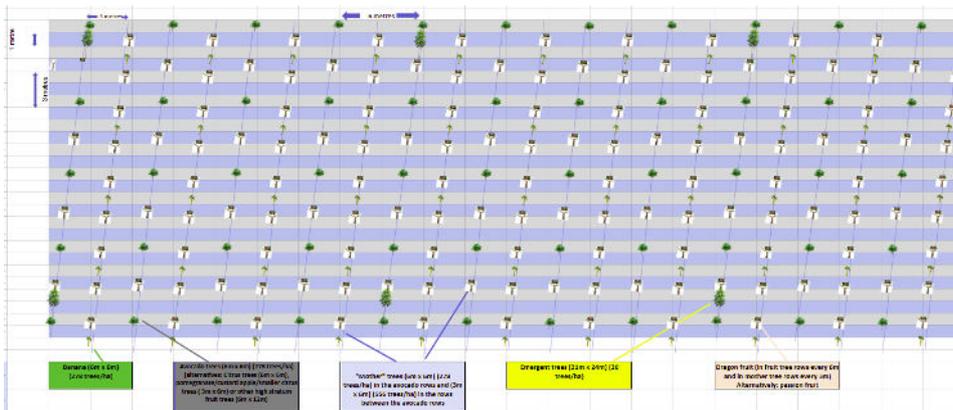
Planting design overview

The proposed planting designs are as follows:

i) Inside the Coffee Plot



ii) Outside the Coffee Plot



Min 04: Introduction to the Carbon Certification Process of the project

Julius explained that certified carbon projects generate emission reductions. Certified emission reductions are referred to as carbon credits. 1 Carbon Credit represents 1 tCO₂e which is avoided or removed from the atmosphere. Carbon credits are therefore tradable products which can be sold in the market. The project had estimated it had potential to remove 13-18 tonnes of CO₂e per ha per year upon successful implementation of the project.

Min 05: Introduction to the Gold Standard for the Global Goals

a) Carbon certification cycle

The consultant explained to the participants about the Gold Standard and how carbon credits are generated. He noted that the Gold Standard is an independent body involved in the certification of projects and issuance of carbon credits.

Projects use robust and approved methodologies to estimate emission reductions. Independent validation and verification bodies are involved in the process to ensure transparency and credibility of the verification process.

For a project to issue carbon credits, the consultant explained that a technical process needs to be followed and the steps are as summarised in figure below.

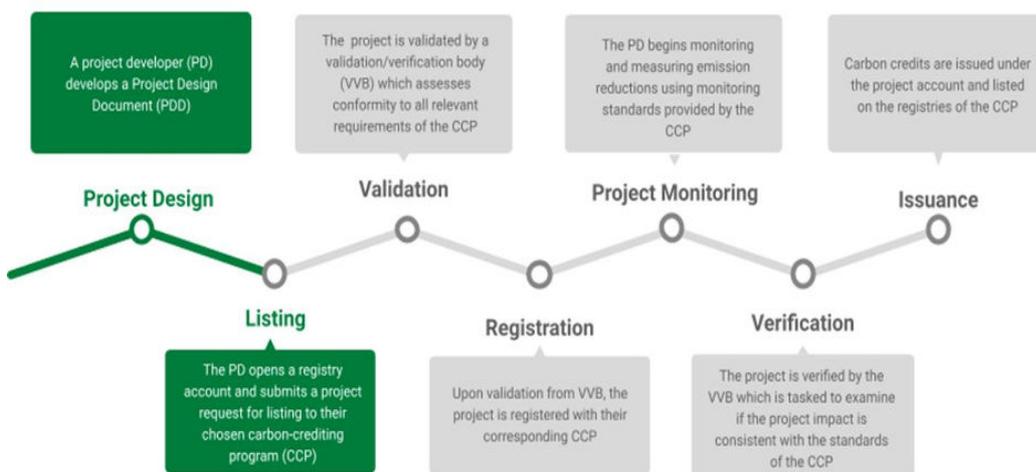


Figure 7: An overview of the carbon certification process.

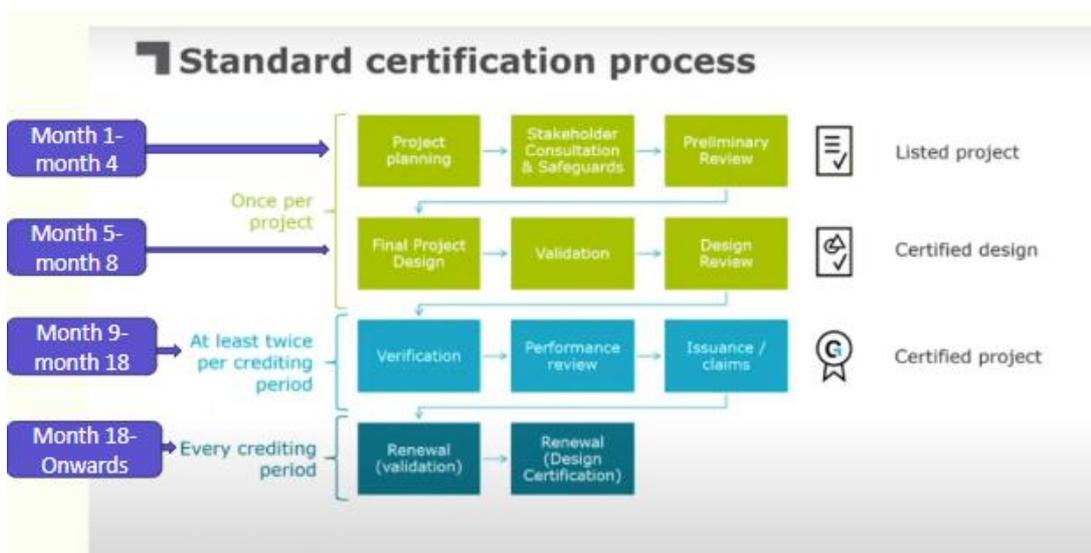


Figure 8: Typical Gold Standard certification process and timelines.

Min 06: Transfer of carbon credits and distribution of carbon credit revenues

Mr. Macharia explained that for the project developer to have access to the carbon credits to be generated by the project, an agreement had been put in place between

the coffee growers and GrowGrounds. The plan is to ensure that GrowGrounds receives carbon credits to:

- a) use them to offset its residual emissions in the coffee supply chain or
- b) sell them on the carbon market

It was transparently disclosed that 72% of the revenue/value of carbon credits would go back to the coffee farmer in cash, while 8% would be directed to the farmer organisations.

20% of the revenue/value of carbon credits would go to Grow Grounds to support project implementation such as costs of certification, monitoring, data acquisition (e.g., farm mapping) etc. This was noted to be higher than the 40% benefit sharing recommended by the government for land-based projects.

Min 07: Safeguarding principles assessment

Julius took the participants through the safeguarding principles assessment, noting that the process seeks to ensure that any negative impacts from the project are identified and effectively mitigated. He explained that the GS has a criterion to assess implications of projects on safeguarding principles, since projects are expected to do no harm to the environment, social and economic wellbeing of the people and their environments. He presented the overview of the safeguarding principles as depicted in figure below.

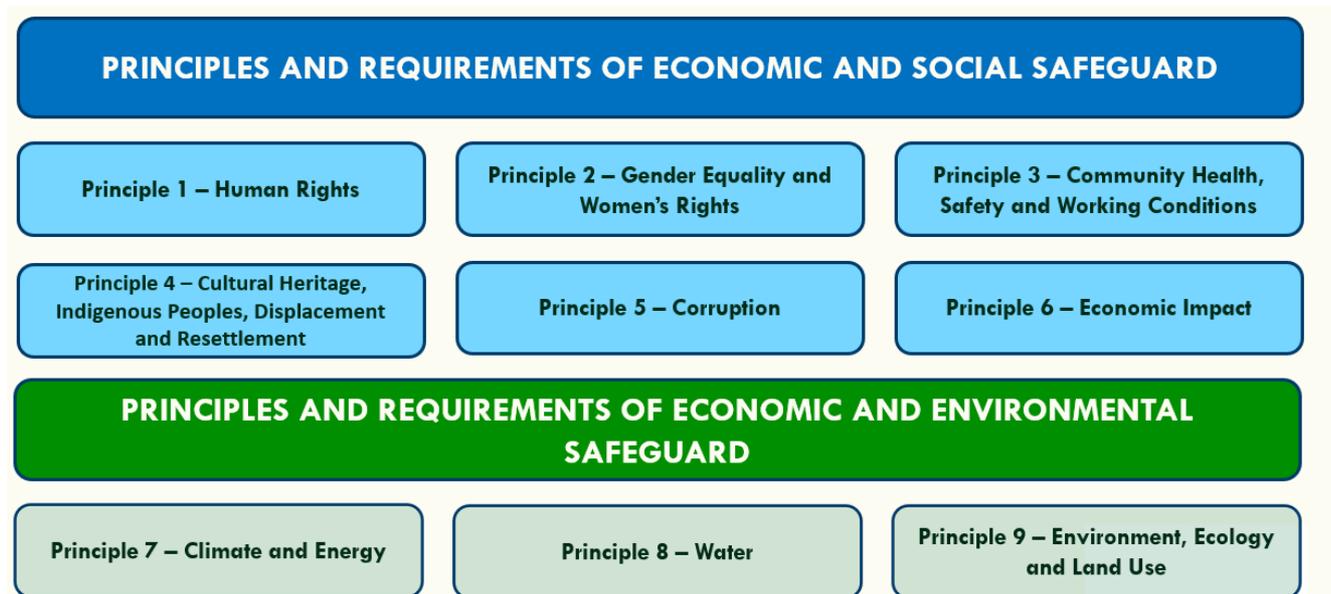


Figure 9: Overview of GS4GG Safeguarding principles and requirements.

He then dived into deeper details to explain how the project was demonstrating compliance with the safeguards as discussed below. In addition, he explained that the full assessment would be made in the VPA-DD.

Projects commitment to the safeguarding principles and requirements

- *Principle 1 – Human Rights:* The project respects internationally proclaimed human rights and is not complicit in violence or human rights abuses of any kind, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, social or indigenous origin, religion or belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation.
- *Principle 2 – Gender Equality and Women’s Rights:* The project activity does not support any form of discrimination based on gender. The project will take into account the gender roles and capacities of women and men to participate equally in the project design and consultation activities and aims including women to the largest extent possible in project activities.
- *Principle 3 – Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions:* The project will not expose the community to increased health risks and will not adversely affect the health of workers and the community. Workers involved in the project activity are not exposed to unhealthy working environments, as the project activity will not involve hazardous chemicals or other hazardous materials. It will be ensured that youth/farmers involved in pollarding activities will be properly trained and equipped with protective equipment as and when necessary.
- *Principle 4 – Cultural Heritage, Indigenous Peoples, Displacement and Resettlement:* The project activity will not negatively impact cultural heritage, indigenous peoples or displace or resettle people. The project is not located on lands/territories claimed by indigenous people.
- *Principle 5 – Corruption:* The project does not involve, complicit in, or inadvertently contribute to corruption or corrupt projects. The project is implemented on farmers' lands who have full control over their land.
- *Principle 6 – Economic Impact:* No negative economic consequences are expected from the project activity. On the contrary, the project is expected to contribute to sustainable economic growth. The project will respect all labor rights and follow the respective national laws.
- *Principle 7 – Climate and Energy:* The project will sequester CO₂, which will be monitored and verified in accordance with Gold Standard carbon requirements.

- *Principle 8 – Water:* The project will not have any negative impact on natural water patterns/flows or cause further erosion and/or instability of water bodies. On the contrary, increased vegetation through trees and other plants allow for better water retention and infiltration, which has a positive impact on groundwater availability.
- *Principle 9 – Environment, Ecology and Land Use:* The project will not have any negative impact on the environment and ecology. The project does not adversely affect or alter intact or high conservation value (HCV) ecosystems, critical habitats, landscapes, and key biodiversity areas.

Min 08: Sustainable Development Goals Assessment Exercise

The participants were taken through the Sustainable Development Goals assessment exercise. This exercise was meant to assess the impact of the project in line with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The stakeholders were asked to follow the following procedure for the exercise:

Procedure for the exercise (carried out with the entire audience):

- You are introduced to each SDG with some key words (see slides below)
- We show you how the project, in our opinion, contributes positively to the SDGs.
- You provide us with your feedback on our assessment.
- You are asked to indicate any risks (in addition to the risks we have identified) that the project may entail in the context of the SDGs or other areas?
- If you have identified additional risks, what mitigation measures do you propose?

From the exercise, some of the feedback given on the project impacts included:

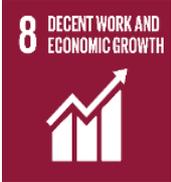
Stakeholders mentioned the following positive impacts of the project.

- Creation of employment hence promoting economic growth and reducing social vices by youths due to lack of jobs (SDG 8)
- Reductions of emissions (SDG 13)
- Improved livelihoods through income generations (SDG 1)
- Promotion of gender equality (SDG 5)
- Increased forest cover (SDG 15)
- Improved food productivity and nutrition (SDG 2)
- Promotion of partnerships among stakeholders (SDG17).

Assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals (Project)

The consultant then presented the SDG assessment that had been completed by the project, stating the impact and proposed monitoring indicator as follows:

Table 1: Summary of the Project’s SDG assessment

SDG	Positive Impact	Monitoring indicator
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improved soil conditions and sustainable food production systems → Stable income and subsistence food for the coffee farmer Reduction/elimination of external inputs → cost savings for the coffee farmer Payments to the coffee farmer in cash. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of fungi and bacteria in the soil (before and after the project) (optional) Expenditure on external inputs (before and after the project) Contributions to coffee growers in the form of cash, seeds, seedlings, tools, training measures, other forms of assistance
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Training/workshops for coffee growers and technicians in agroforestry practices following the principles of syntropic agriculture → More efficient, effective, and sustainable work for coffee growers for the soil and the environment. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Number of training sessions/workshops offered to coffee growers and technicians. Number of coffee growers and technicians trained.
	<p>Creation of jobs for technicians, service providers (clearing, monitoring, etc.) → project will increase business and income opportunities in the intervention municipalities.</p>	<p>Number of jobs created (permanent, temporary, seasonal)</p>
	<p>Carbon removals through planted trees as well as assisted natural regeneration trees. Soil organic carbon and/or biochar are other possible carbon sinks in the future.</p>	<p>Emissions removal in tCO₂e</p>
	<p>Conversion of up to 50 ha of full-sun monoculture coffee plantations and land</p>	<p>Total area (in ha) of current full-sun coffee plantations and land</p>

	<p>outside the coffee plantations into agroforestry systems following the principles of syntropic agriculture creates new habitats for flora and fauna.</p>	<p>outside of the coffee plantation converted to agroforestry systems</p>
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Potential Project Risks

The consultant also discussed some of the potential risks that may negatively impact on the project and the proposed mitigations as summarised below.

Table 2: Summary of potential risks and proposed mitigations

Potential risk	Mitigation measure
Coffee growers are not willing or able to perform tree pruning	Training young people to become service providers and offer pruning/pollarding as a professional service
Planting restrictions from local and county governments in the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plantings of trees that align with the National and county government regulations as guided by the law and local knowledge from the project Implementing partners and farmers. -OCS assists coffee growers in completing the registration
Coffee farmers harvest more trees than allowed in the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contract between the coffee grower and GrowGrounds that defines the rights and responsibilities of each party -The coffee grower will see the resulting benefits of the trees on the coffee plantations/productivity and therefore there will be no major incentive to remove the trees.
Loss of trees planted in the project boundaries.	Educating farmers to utilize available material such as thorny twigs to protect young seedlings from animal interference and conducting regular check ins with farmers to keep track of planted trees.

Min 09: Discussion of Continuous Input/ Grievance Mechanism

Julius and Joanne of Origin Connects discussed the continuous input/ grievance mechanism as a method where the stakeholders could express their grievances during the lifetime of the project. He presented the available GS4GG methods for the CI/GM

including the logbook, phone, email and nominated independent mediators. This was discussed by the participants and the proposed methods are as follows:

- Email: Christina Singh at GrowGrounds: coffeeprojectnyeri@growgrounds.org
- Origin Connect Services: agroforestry@originconnectservices.co.ke
- WhatsApp: +254 715 509 753
- Written feedback to the nearest participating coffee organisation by utilising the Grievance books located in each of the Coffee Organisations mentioned earlier in this presentation.
- Gold Standard: help@goldstandard.org
- No independent mediator appointed.

Min 10: Stakeholder Feedback Round

Julius informed the stakeholders about the Stakeholder Feedback Round (SFR) which is the 2nd round of stakeholder consultation required by the Gold Standard, as a follow-up to the live meeting. They were informed that this doesn't have to be a live meeting. The SFR will take a period of 30 days. After the 30 days all comments raised will be reviewed and taken into consideration, as necessary. It was agreed that any issues that had not been raised by the stakeholders in the meeting could be put across through a phone call, text, or email during the SFR process.

The LSC report, including meeting minutes, will be made available on the GrowGrounds website and sent by email (when available). Printed copies in English and a summary in Kiswahili can be accessed at the nearest participating coffee factory.

Min 11: Questions for Clarification about the project

1. *Lucy Wanjiru (F)-County Government of Nyeri: What carbon markets are you seeking to develop the project?* The project is a voluntary project being developed under the Gold Standard.
2. *Why Gold Standard and not VERRA?* The PoA and VPA01 has been developed under the Gold Standard, the project is being added under the PoA as the 2nd VPA. Gold Standard has an established methodology and monitoring framework suitable for the project.
3. *What methodology are you using for the carbon calculations?* The project will apply the methodology for afforestation/reforestation (A/R) GHGs emission reduction & sequestration.
4. *How are you factoring in the calculation of different trees and crops?* The carbon calculation will only be done for trees that meet the requirements set out in the

methodology. Project is not claiming carbon credits from coffee bushes and other crops.

5. *Agnes Muturi (F)-Coffee farmer, Kiawamururu: Are we required to cut down any trees that may be in the farms?* No, you should not cut down any existing trees in the coffee plantations. The new trees will complement the existing ones and the project will only claim emissions from the trees planted by the project.
6. *Mwangi (M)-Aguthi farmers: Why can't the project claim emissions from already planted trees?* The project is obligated to claim benefits that has only been realised due to its implementation. Existing trees were not part of the project and do not meet the set planting designs. The project is governed by rules and requirements as set by the standards and will ensure full compliance with the same during implementation.
7. *Wanjohi (M)-Kamunyaka: There has been cases in the past where coffee farmers were asked to uproot some trees and crop species due to lowered coffee productivity as a result of nutrient competition with the other crops. As the project is promoting intercropping, how will such issues be managed?* The project has engaged agronomists and forestry experts who have done extensive research on what crops and trees would grow best with coffee. This has been factored in the planting designs to be shared with the farmers. Intercropping and agroforestry has multiple benefits, and the farmers will be free to choose the species they want to grow on their farms.
8. *Lucy Wanjiru (F)-County Government of Nyeri: The agroecological zones in Kenya and Brazil are different. What has the project done to ensure there is no replication with the Brazil project?* The planting designs including the trees proposed by the project are specific for Kenya. These are species already found in Kenya and can grow in the project area. The designs have been developed by an expert from Forest4Farming who have already visited farmers in their farms before developing the designs.

Min 12: Evaluation

At the end of the meeting, an evaluation exercise was undertaken where the stakeholders were asked to fill the evaluation forms. The aim of the evaluation was to assess:

- Their impression of the meeting.
- What they liked about the project.
- What suggestion they had in regard of the project.

- What they did not like about the project.

The summary of the feedback from the comments is provided in the LSC report.

Min 13: Closing Remarks and Meeting closure.

The master of ceremony invited Mr. Karinga to give his closing remarks. Karinga thanked the meeting organisers for the well-coordinated meeting. He urged them to focus on indigenous tree varieties which will do well in the area. He reaffirmed his commitment to work with the project as it would empower farmers economically. He appreciated GrowGrounds for the noble initiative and called upon all farmers to embrace women and youths in the coffee business for sustainability.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2.00 pm where a word of prayer led by one of the stakeholders.

C.2.1. Minutes of other consultations

>>No other consultation was held.

C.3. Assessment of comments from all consultations above

Gender of Stakeholder	Stakeholder comment	Was comment taken into account (Yes/ No)?	Explanation/ Justification (Why? How?)
Female	What carbon markets are you seeking to develop the project?	Yes	The project is a voluntary project being developed under the Gold Standard.
Female	Why Gold Standard and not VERRA?	Yes	The PoA and VPA01 has been developed under the Gold Standard, the project is being added under the PoA as the 2nd VPA. Gold Standard has an established methodology and monitoring framework suitable for the project.

Female	What methodology are you using for the carbon calculations?	Yes	The project will apply the methodology for afforestation/reforestation (A/R) GHGs emission reduction & sequestration.
Female	How are you factoring in the calculation of different trees and crops?	Yes	The carbon calculation will only be done for trees that meet the requirements set out in the methodology. Project is not claiming carbon credits from coffee bushes and other crops.
Female	Are we required to cut down any trees that may be in the farms?	Yes	No, you should not cut down any existing trees in the coffee plantations. The new trees will complement the existing ones and the project will only claim emissions from the trees planted by the project.
Male	Why can't the project claim emissions from already planted trees?	Yes	The project is obligated to claim benefits that has only been realized due to its implementation. Existing trees were not part of the project and do not meet the set planting designs. The project is governed by rules and requirements as set by the standards and will ensure full compliance with the same during implementation.
Male	There have been cases in the past where coffee farmers were asked to uproot some trees and	Yes	The project has engaged agronomists and forestry experts who have done extensive research on what

	crop species due to lowered coffee productivity as a result of nutrient competition with the other crops. As the project is promoting intercropping, how will such issues be managed?		crops and trees would grow best with coffee. This has been factored in the planting designs to be shared with the farmers. Intercropping and agroforestry has multiple benefits, and the farmers will be free to choose the species they want to grow on their farms.
Female	The agroecological zones in Kenya and Brazil are different. What has the project done to ensure there is no replication with the Brazil project?	Yes	The planting designs including the trees proposed by the project are specific for Kenya. These are species already found in Kenya and can grow in the project area. The designs have been developed by an expert Forest4Farming who have already visited farmers in their farms before developing the designs.

C.3.1. Evaluation forms (best practice)

As an example see below 3 evaluation responses from attendees of the LSC:

Sample Form 1

Chrispin Mwangi from the County Government of Nyeri confirmed that he was satisfied that all the topics covered during the LSC were well communicated and provided feedback that GrowGrounds should hold more sensitization sessions within the subcounty so that project dynamics can be well understood by stakeholders.

Sample Form 2

Jane Munyua, a farmer from Kiawamururu confirmed that she was satisfied that all the topics covered during the LSC were well communicated and she did not have any other comments, suggestions or grievances regarding the project.

Sample Form 3

Naomi Maragua, a farmer from Mungaria factory confirmed that she sees positive impacts from the project as it will help their coffee bushes thrive and enable them earn from selling the fruits from the fruit trees they'll plant in the project. Additionally, she confirmed that she was satisfied that all the topics covered during the LSC were well communicated and she did not have any other comments, suggestions or grievances regarding the project.

C.1. Summary of alterations based on comments

>> The comments raised by the stakeholders were majorly to seek clarification on the implementation of the project. No negative issues were raised hence no alterations have been made to the project based on feedback comments.

SECTION D. CONTINUOUS INPUT / GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

	Method Chosen (include all known details e.g. location of the book, phone, number, identity of mediator)	Justification of Choice (best practice)
Continuous Input / Grievance Expression Process Book (mandatory)	<p>Written feedback to the nearest participating coffee organisation by utilising the Grievance books located in each of the Coffee Organisations below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iriaini FCS - Kamunyaka Factory • Iriaini FCS - Kiamwangi Factory • Iriaini FCS - Miiri Factory • Aguthi FCS - Gaaki Central Factory • Aguthi FCS - Gititu Factory • Aguthi FCS - Kagumo Factory • Aguthi FCS - Mung'aria Factory • Rumukia FCS - Thunguri Factory • Thageini Farmers CBO - Thageini Factory • Jimbi Farmers CBO - Kiawamururu Factory 	<p>This method can be used by all farmers near the coffee factories where the grievance book is placed, and who may not be able to use the other methods.</p>
GS Contact (mandatory)	<p>help@goldstandard.org</p>	<p>This is the GS contact and can be used by any stakeholder to raise concerns about the project activity.</p>

Telephone access (optional)	WhatsApp: +254 715 509 753	Almost all stakeholders have access to a telephone and this method was preferred as it will enable the project team to collect feedback more rapidly.
Internet/email access (optional)	Christina Singh at GrowGrounds: coffeeprojectnyeri@growgrounds.org Origin Connect Services: agroforestry@originconnectservices.co.ke	Stakeholders with internet access can use this method to raise issues/comments about the project via email.
Nominated Independent Mediator (optional)	N/A	No Nominated Independent Mediators (NIMs) were nominated during the meeting.
Other	N/A	

SECTION E. STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK ROUND

Please check this box if the project is retroactive and has done only 1 consultation with a physical meeting integrated into the SFR.

E.1. Length of the Feedback Round

Stakeholder Feedback Round		Planned	Actual
Start Date	29/09/2025	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
End Date	29/10/2025	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

E.2. Summarise how all stakeholders were/will be invited to provide feedback

>> The second round of consultation shall be carried out in compliance with GS requirements. The consultation will be conducted online and stakeholders with email access can share feedback via email. For those without emails, the project implementer will place hard copies of the project documents at the agreed logbook locations (coffee factories) and request the stakeholders to visit the places to review the documents. The documents will also be made available at the GrowGrounds website page.

The invitations will be sent out to stakeholders who were invited to the meeting, including those that did not attend the meeting. The SFR process will run for a period of 30 days. A reminder will be sent two weeks before completion of the process to remind stakeholders to send feedback.

E.3. Summarise Feedback received, including if any changes in project design were made

>> Feedback received from the stakeholders will be reviewed and any relevant proposed changes relating to the design or implementation of the project will be considered.

Revision History

Version	Date	Remarks
1.2	5 May 2022	Addition of grouped consultation info, preliminary agenda and section to justify retroactive consultation took place. Minor edits to text.
1.1	14 October 2020	Inclusion of Key Project Information Restructure, new headings and reorder to better match the steps a developer will follow in consultations. Removal of some non-mandatory template tables (Blind Sustainable Development Assessment). Clarification of best practice steps that are non mandatory processes, clarification of mandatory discussion points. Clarification regarding publishing names and that original evaluation forms (optional) and attendance lists (mandatory) should be separate documents. Improved clarity on Stakeholder Feedback round section and procedures for retroactive projects Provision of an accompanying Guide to help the user understand detailed rules and requirements
1.0	14 August 2017	Initial adoption