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

SECTION C - Report of the Consultation Process

SECTION D - Continuous input / Grievance mechanism

SECTION E - Stakeholder Feedback Round

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**

Please delete blue text boxes upon completion

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

GS ID of Project	XXXXXXX
Title of Project	GS23430 Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Kericho County, Kenya
Version number of this Report	1.0
Completion date of version	30/04/2026
Time of First Submission Date	01/05/2026
Start Date of the Project	28/03/2026
Date of Meeting (s)	27/03/2026
Project Cycle:	☒ Regular ☐ 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
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 2024, Kenya lost 400 kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 12% decrease since 2000. Out of this, Kericho lost 20 kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 14% decrease in tree cover and 13 Mt of CO_2e emissions[1]. 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%[2] of deforestation and are mostly consumed domestically. Estimated tree cover loss from commodity-driven deforestation is typically large-scale deforestation linked primarily to commercial agricultural expansion. This type of tree cover loss usually represents permanent deforestation[3].

[1] Kenya Deforestation Rates & Statistics | GFW
[2] https://news.mongabay.com/2012/09/agriculture-causes-80-of-tropical-deforestation/
[3] https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/commodity-driven-deforestation?tab=chart&country=~KEN

The economic impact on society is enormous. In terms of coffee, drier and hotter conditions are jeopardizing coffee production in Kericho 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.

Coffee is mostly grown under full sun in monoculture plantations and on smallholder farms. 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.[4] 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 Kericho County, Kenya" comes in in order to change that situation.

Objectives, applied approach and location of the project.

The "Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Kericho County, Kenya" is the second voluntary project activity in Kenya (following the first voluntary project under the PoA in Nyeri County) targeting a project area of approximately 1,800 hectares to be included under the broader framework of the Programme of Activities (PoA) "Global Syntropic Agroforestry Program". (GS13053). The PoA establishes the guidelines for any project that will make part of the PoA. Other VPAs are expected to be implemented in Kenya under the PoA. This first voluntary project activity in Nyeri county (called real case VPA) as well as several possible follow up projects (called regular VPAs) such as this one being implemented in Kericho county make part of a grouped local stakeholder consultation (LSC)[5].

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 Croton macrostachys, Grevillea robusta (Grevillea), Mangifera indica, Senna Siamea, Azadirachta Indica (Neem), Acrocarpus fraxinifolius, Cordia Africana among others). This will be incorporated together

[4] According information provided by Soil Food Web.

[5] A grouped stakeholder consultation is a single stakeholder consultation which is valid for both real case project (real case VPA) and/or several regular projects. Regular projects correspond to the same real case project, are implemented in the same geographical boundary as outlined in this Non-Technical Summary and are included in the PoA within 2 years of this announced Local Stakeholder Consultation meeting.

with fruit trees (such as guava, avocado, macadamia, mango, and pomegranate) and other annual crops and is targeted towards estate farmers and small scale farmers alike.

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 (CO_2) 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.
- **Agri-Solutions Enterprises Ltd (ASEL)** is a premier consultancy firm specializing in agronomy, sustainability, and certification services across Africa. Established with a vision to transform agricultural and rural enterprises, ASEL brings extensive practical experience in enhancing productivity, efficiency, and market access for farm enterprises and farmer producer groups. Their commitment is to deliver tailor-made productivity

improvement plans and strategic implementation, ensuring that their clients thrive in today's competitive agricultural landscape. ASEL will be the local project implementer for the initiative in Kenya.

- **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.

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 Kericho County, Kenya is expected to be registered with the Gold Standard for the Global Goals as a large-scale project. The tree planting has been implemented at the onset of the rains in End of March/start of April 2026.

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 1,800 ha of full-sun monoculture coffee plantations with different coffee farmers scattered across the Kericho County and farms bordering Kericho 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 REQUIREMENTS[6].
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 body[7].
- 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 project[8].
- 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

[6] https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/102-par-stakeholder-consultation-requirements/
[7] https://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/bak/index.html
[8] 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	25th Feb 2026
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	25th Feb 2026
C	Kericho County Governmet - CECM Agriculture		M	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	CECM - Water, Environment, Energy and natural resources		M	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026

	Chief Officer - Agriculture, Livestock & Cooperative Management		F	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Kericho County Government - NEMA Director		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Director Climate Programmes Coordination		Open	Email/social media/GrowGrounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Principal Secretary,State Department for Agriculture		open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Principal Secretary,Ministry of Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development		Open	Email/SMS/Letter/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026

	Kenya Forest Service - County Forest Conservator		M	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
D	Ministry of Interior		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Kenya Forest Service (KFS)		M	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA)		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	KALRO – Coffee Research Institute (CRI)		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	County Government of Kericho		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	NEMA Kenya		M	Email/SMS/Letter/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	NEMA Kenya		F	Email/SMS/Letter/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026

	NEMA Kenya		Open	Email/SMS/Letter/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	NEMA Kenya (National Office)		Open	Email/SMS/Letter/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
E	Solidaridad East & Central Africa		F	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Solidaridad East & Central Africa		F	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	AGRA		open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Agriterra		open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Agriterra (Kericho Coffee Project)		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	WeEffect		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Key-Cert Services Ltd		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026

	Fairchain Foundation / Fairchain Coffee Kenya		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Fairchain Foundation		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Cereal Growers Association (CGA)		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	PUR Project (PUR Projet)		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Community Environmental Social Welfare Rehabilitation Programme (CESCAWR)		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
F	Gold Standard	help@goldstandard.org	Open	Email	25th Feb 2026
G	Global Offset Research		f	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Lean Management Systems Promotion Society		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	HIVOS		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	myclimate		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026

H	Swiss Carbon Value Ltd		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	WWF-Kenya		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Livelihoods Fund SICAV SIF		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Vi Agroforestry		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	One Carbon World Ltd.		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Climate Investment Partners LLC		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Entooma Sidai Limited		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Entooma Sidai Limited		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Entooma Sidai Limited		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	CarbonSolve, LLC		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	OYU Green Private Limited		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Shri Maa Marketing Pvt. Ltd.		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026

	Soils for the Future Africa Ltd		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Climate Asset Management as Portfolio Manager for the Nature Based Carbon Fund (NBCF)		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Converge Analytics		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Biodiversity Research Institute		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Olgulului Group Ranch		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Eselenkei Group Ranch		f	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Olkiramatian Community Land		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Shompole Community Land		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	ACES		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	KMFRI		m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	The Upper Tana – Nairobi Water Fund Trust		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026

	Mikoko Pamoja project	Mr Noel Mbaru	m	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Rabobank Acorn Agroforestry Carbon Programme		f	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
I	UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Dedan Kimathi University of Technology		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	FAO Kenya		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	GIZ Kenya		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	World Coffee Research-Kenya		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026
	COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE OF KENYA		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026

	We Effect – East Africa		Open	Email/social media/Grow Grounds Website	25th Feb 2026

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 linkedin, website notice on the GrowGrounds website, SMS 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 Kalenjin and Kiswahili were used during the meeting in addition to English for easy engagement with the stakeholders.

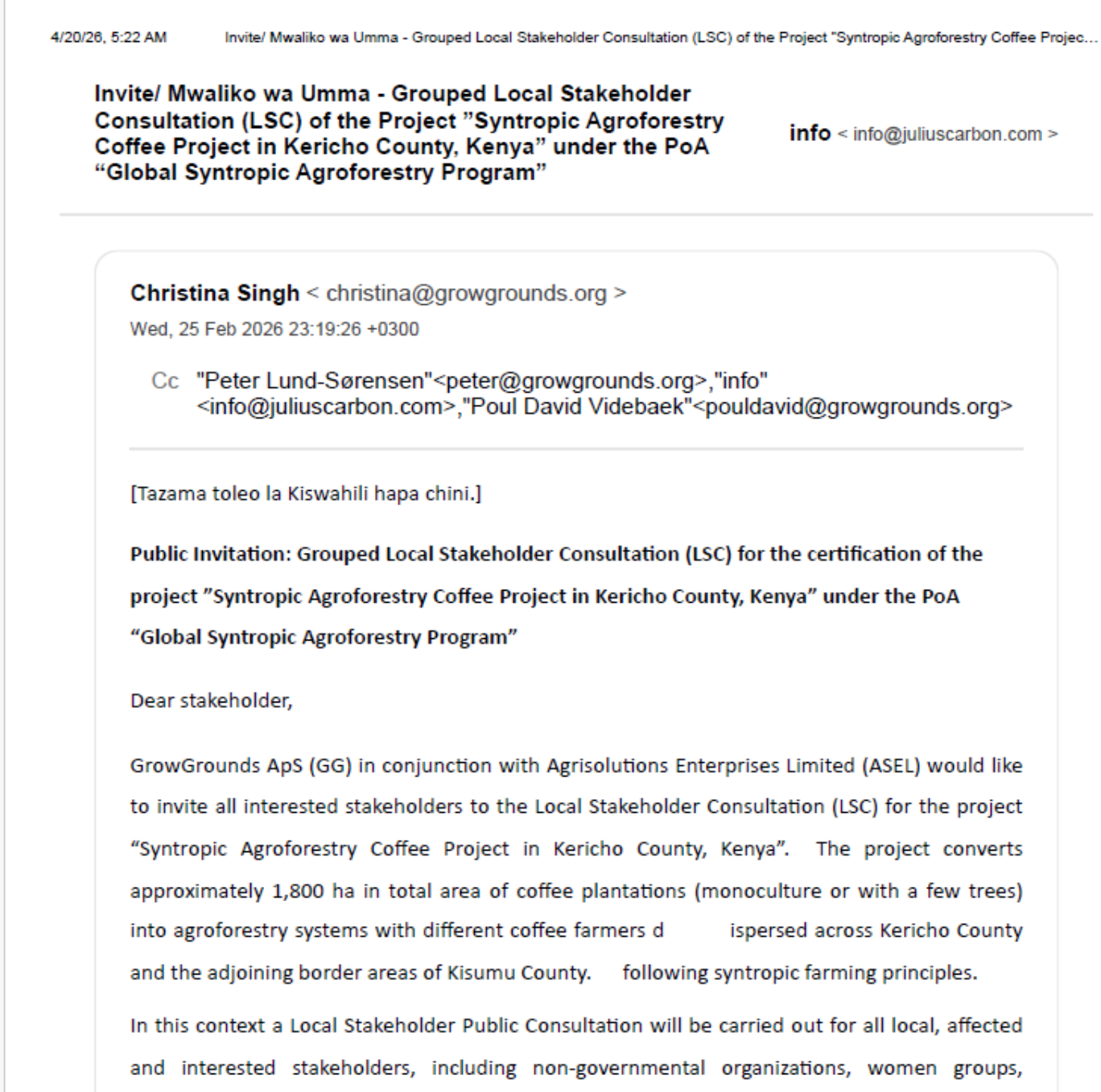
B.1.2. Gender Sensitivity

>> 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 (76%) and women (24%) 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 25th Feb 2026.



4/20/26, 5:22 AM Invite/ Mwaliko wa Umma - Grouped Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) of the Project "Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Projec...

Invite/ Mwaliko wa Umma - Grouped Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) of the Project "Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Kericho County, Kenya" under the PoA "Global Syntropic Agroforestry Program"

info < info@juliuscarbon.com >

Christina Singh < christina@growgrounds.org >
Wed, 25 Feb 2026 23:19:26 +0300

Cc "Peter Lund-Sørensen"<peter@growgrounds.org>,"info" <info@juliuscarbon.com>,"Poul David Videbaek"<pouldavid@growgrounds.org>

[Tazama toleo la Kiswahili hapa chini.]

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

Dear stakeholder,

GrowGrounds ApS (GG) in conjunction with Agrisolutions Enterprises Limited (ASEL) would like to invite all interested stakeholders to the Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) for the project "Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Kericho County, Kenya". The project converts approximately 1,800 ha in total area of coffee plantations (monoculture or with a few trees) into agroforestry systems with different coffee farmers d ispersed across Kericho County and the adjoining border areas of Kisumu 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,

Meeting Invitation reminder sent on March 16th 2026

4/20/26, 5:24 AM RE: Invite/ Mwaliko wa Umma - Grouped Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) of the Project "Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee P…

RE: Invite/ Mwaliko wa Umma - Grouped Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) of the Project "Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Kericho County, Kenya" under the PoA "Global Syntropic Agroforestry Program"

info < info@juliuscarbon.com >

Christina Singh < christina@growgrounds.org >

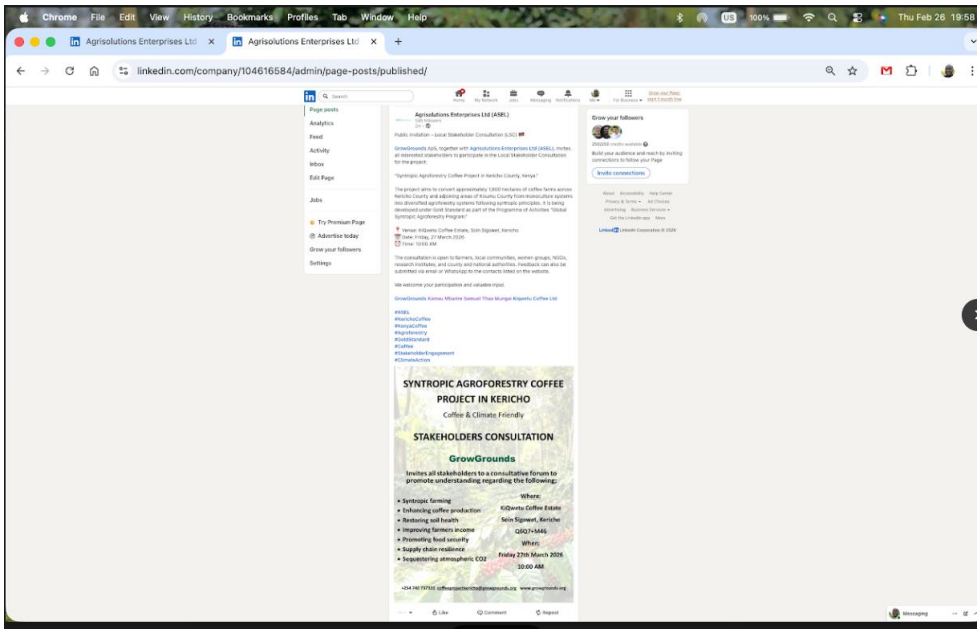
Mon, 16 Mar 2026 11:12:07 +0300

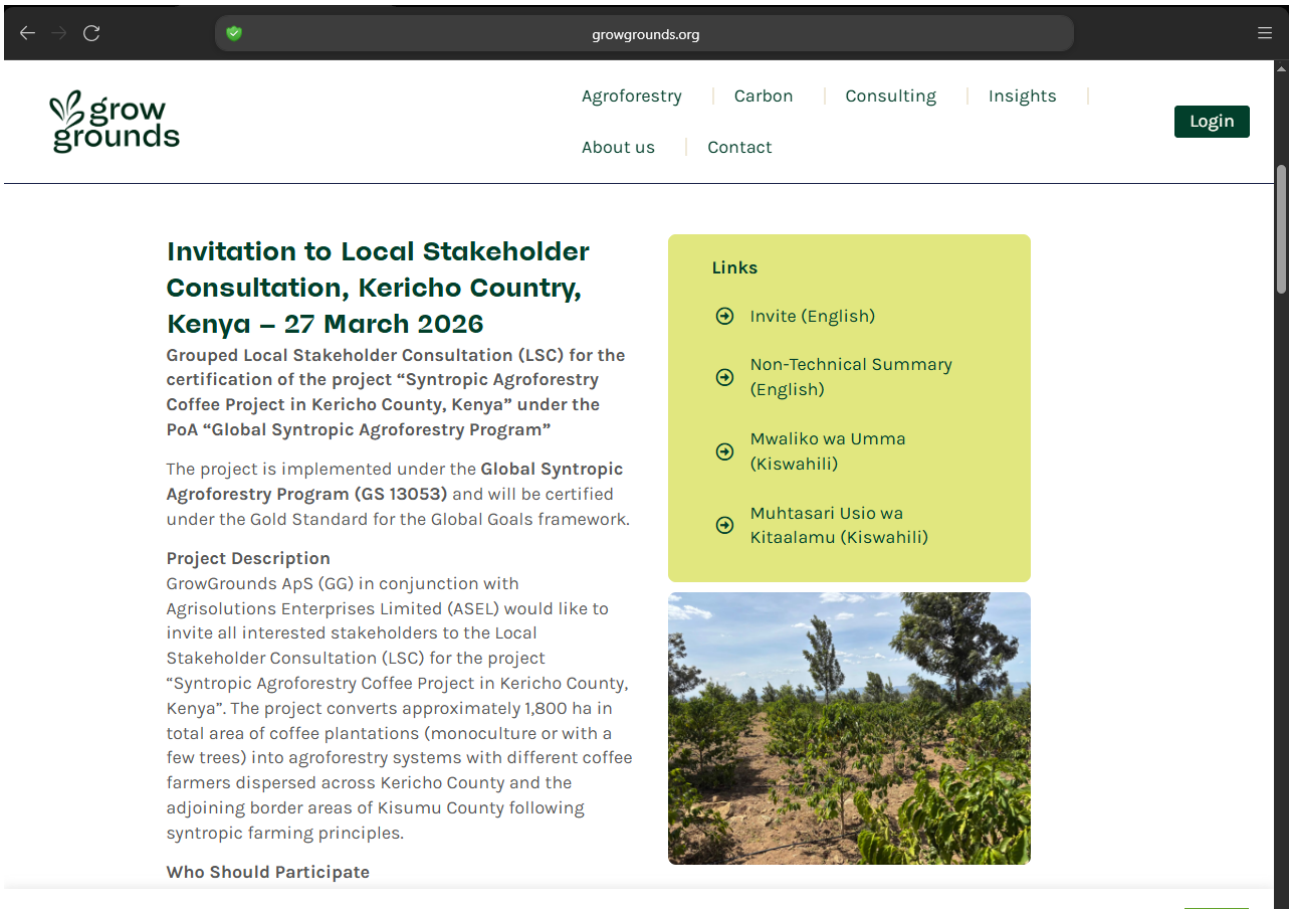
Cc "Peter Lund-Sørensen"<peter@growgrounds.org>,"info" <info@juliuscarbon.com>,"Poul David Videbaek"<pouldavid@growgrounds.org>

Dear stakeholder,

This is a friendly reminder of the upcoming **Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC)** for the project *"Syntropic Agroforestry Coffee Project in Kericho County, Kenya"* under the **Global Syntropic Agroforestry Program (PoA)**.
The consultation aims to gather feedback from local stakeholders and ensure that the project benefits the community while avoiding any potential negative impacts.
Meeting details
Venue: KiQwetu Coffee Estate, Soin Sigowet, Kericho

Public invite on GrowGrounds and ASEL official LinkedIn pages





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

https://growgrounds.org/insights-0/#announcements

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

Poster invitation



LSC Meeting official programme

Time	Activity	Group/Individual
09.00 – 09:30	Reception & Registration - Participants List	Participants
10:00– 10:30	Introduction & Project Presentation	ASEL & JCV
10:30– 11:00	Questions and Comments on the Project	Participants, , ASEL & JCV
11:00– 11:15	Coffee/Tea Break	N/A
11:15– 11:45	Safeguarding Principles Assessment of the Project	Participants, ASEL & JCV
11:45– 12:15	Sustainability Assessment of the Project	Participants, ASEL & JCV
12:15– 12:45	Discussion on Grievance Mechanism	Participants, ASEL & JCV
12:45 – 13:00	Evaluation Forms and Closure of Meeting	Participants
13:00– 14:00	Demo Plot Activities	Participants, , ASEL & JCV
14:00	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

>>27/03/2026

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[9]

Date and Time	Friday 27th March 2026 at 10:00 AM	Location	KiQwetu Coffee Estate, Soin Sigowet, Kericho

Category Code	Job/position	Name of the participant, job / position in the community	Male / Female	Contact details	Organisation (if relevant)	Signature
A	FARMER	SIMION MELI	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	HILLARY SIGEI	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	KIMTAI BORE	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	ROBERT TONUI	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Jack Melly	M	N/A	N/A	N/A

[9] Please note the farmer contact details, organization (i.e farm name) and Signatures are withheld in this public document for privacy protection purposes but are available for GS and VVB review upon request.

A	FARMER	BRIAN KIPRONO	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Allan Kibet	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	HENRY KURGAT	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	RONO PHILEMON	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Naomi Jerono	F	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Kipkemoi Lawi	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	KIPKIRUI KEMBOI	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	FRANCISCA	F	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	JOYCE CHEPKORIR	F	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Edward Kemboi	F	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Kibet Langat	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	JOSEPH RONO	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	FLORENCE CHEPINGENO	F	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	KIPKOSKEI YEGON BITOK	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Brian Ochieng	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Daniel K. ROP	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Joan C Simbolei	F	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Benjamin K Koskei	M	N/A	N/A	N/A

A	FARMER	SIMION K CHEPKWONY	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	DANIEL SITIENEI	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	NELSON KOSKEI	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Vincent Kemboi	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	JOHN MITEI	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	REUBEN BORE	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	ISMAEL LANGAT	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	JOSEPH KOECH	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Gilbert Too	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Paul Kiplangat Soi	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	PHILIPS C. RONO	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Kenneth Chepkwony	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Larry Oliwo	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Nyambae Patricia	F	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	Patrick Chelule	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
A	FARMER	TOO MOSES	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
D	ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER	Florence Were	F	N/A	N/A	N/A

E	Agriterra	Henry Stui	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
E	Key-cert	James Muriithi	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
E	SOLIDARIDAD	DORICE MULANDA	F	N/A	N/A	N/A
E	Odylian AgroSC.	Bernard Omwansa	M	N/A	N/A	N/A
E	Agriterra	Gloria Chepkorir	F	N/A	N/A	N/A
E	Odylian AgroSC.	JOYCE JEMUTAI	F	N/A	N/A	N/A

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



Figure 1: Julius K. of Julius Carbon Ventures, the Carbon Asset development expert explaining aspects of the project to participants during the meeting.



Figure 2: Mr. Jack M, director at KiQwetu Coffee Estate, Soin Sigowet, Kericho welcoming participants at the start of the meeting.





Figure 3: Stakeholders following the meeting proceedings as Mr. Kamau M explains some of the different tree species that will be planted in the project.



Figure 4: Mr. Kamau M. of ASEL delivering his presentation during the meeting.



Figure 5: Overview of the meeting venue at KiQwetu Coffee Estate, Soin Sigowet, Kericho 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 KERICHO COUNTY, KENYA" UNDER THE POA "GLOBAL SYNTROPIC AGROFORESTRY PROGRAM HELD AT KiQwetu COFFEE ESTATE, Soin Sigowet, IN KERICHO COUNTY ON FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2026 FROM 10:00 AM TO 2.00 PM

Members Present

Participant's list provided as an Annex.

Agendas of the Meeting

- Reception & Registration - Participants List
- Introduction & Project Presentation
- Questions and Comments on the Project
- Coffee/Tea Break
- Safeguarding Principles Assessment of the Project
- Sustainability Assessment of the Project
- Discussion on Grievance Mechanism
- Evaluation Forms and Closure of Meeting
- Demo Plot Activities
- Refreshments

Min 01: Reception & Registration - Participants List

Participants started arriving at 9.30 am and were welcomed by the ASEL and Julius Carbon team members made up of Mr. Kamau M, Mr. Sam M (both of ASEL) and Mr. Julius K. (of Julius Carbon Ventures). All arriving participants also signed the attendance sheet and were given stationary (pen and paper) to use during the meeting.

Min 02: Introductions and Project Presentation

Sam (ASEL) welcomed participants and a word of prayer by Mr. Brian who was one of the partners was offered to start off the meeting. Mr. Jack (Kiqwetu farm director) welcomed participants officially to his farm and Mr. Kibet (interim chairman of the Estate Farmers Association called Kericho Speciality Coffee Producers Association) welcomed participants and farmers especially.

Mr. Mbarire K. (ASEL) introduced the partners who work with ASEL to mobilize farmers and gave them a chance to greet the participants. Mr. James (Key Cert certifications)

who is one of the partner organisations that works closely with ASEL in the region explained the importance of farmers coming together under an organic farming framework and hence the importance of the project to help them attain the organic coffee status. He stressed the importance of organic farming to the farmers. Madam Doris (Solidaridad), another key ASEL partner in the region briefed the farmers on the importance of organic farming. She emphasized the importance of the GG Syntropic Agroforestey project as it's a pathway to attaining organic farming certification. The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) also introduced themselves and stressed on the need for projects such as the GG one so as to restore the health of the environment.

GG was introduced by Julius K as he introduced himself and invited the GG team to introduce themselves as they had joined via the online portal where Lars, Poul, Christina and Peter introducing themselves via TEAMS. Mr.Julius explained the roles that would be played by the different partners in the project:

- **GrowGrounds (GG)** 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.
- **Agri-Solutions Enterprises Ltd (ASEL)** is a premier consultancy firm specializing in agronomy, sustainability, and certification services across Africa. Established with a vision to transform agricultural and rural enterprises, ASEL brings extensive practical experience in enhancing productivity, efficiency, and market access for farm enterprises and farmer producer groups. Their commitment is to deliver tailor-made productivity improvement plans and strategic implementation, ensuring that their clients thrive in today's competitive agricultural landscape. ASELlocal collaboration partner 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.

Mr. Sam (ASEL) took the participants through a brief history of the project where he 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. He explained that the project is being added to the PoA "Global Syntropic Agroforestry Program" under which the first VPA has been developed in Brazil with another Real Case VPA already underway in Nyeri county, Kenya. He noted that the proposed project activity was the second in Kenya and in future the project developer intends to spread to Uganda and Ethiopia. He 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.

Sam further explained that the purpose of the meeting was to inform and consult the stakeholders about the project. He urged them to freely share their views and raise any concerns they might have to make sure they were addressed.

Mr.Mbarire (ASEL) took participants through the agroforestry aspect of the project including the planting design, the different tree species (focusing on where they lie in the planting design I.e. mother trees, emergent trees and fruit trees) and how they interrelate to Carbon Capture, coffee production and soil health.

The following aspects of the projects were discussed during the meeting with Mr. Sam, Mr. Mbarire and Mr. Julius taking turns to take participants through:

Context of coffee cultivation in Kericho County-Mr. Sam and mr. Kamau (ASEL)

Kericho County is a good region for coffee farming because of its cooler temperatures, adequate rainfall, and high-altitude terrain suitable for Arabica varieties and Mean Annual Temperatures categorized as "Warm Temperate. Additionally, the region receives approximately 1300mm of precipitation annually. The soil types identified in the region include Nitisols, Acrisols, Ferralsols and Phaeozems as per the results of the Forest-Non Forest Assessment and as supported by the Kericho County Spatial Report by the Kericho County government . Coffee is mostly grown under full sun in monoculture plantations or with a very sparse tree population. 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.

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 1,800 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 1,800 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:** Up to 1,800 ha with different coffee growers (other projects possible in the future!)
- **Location:** Kericho County (as shown in the map below), Kenya where this is the 2nd VPA and further VPAs will/may be added.

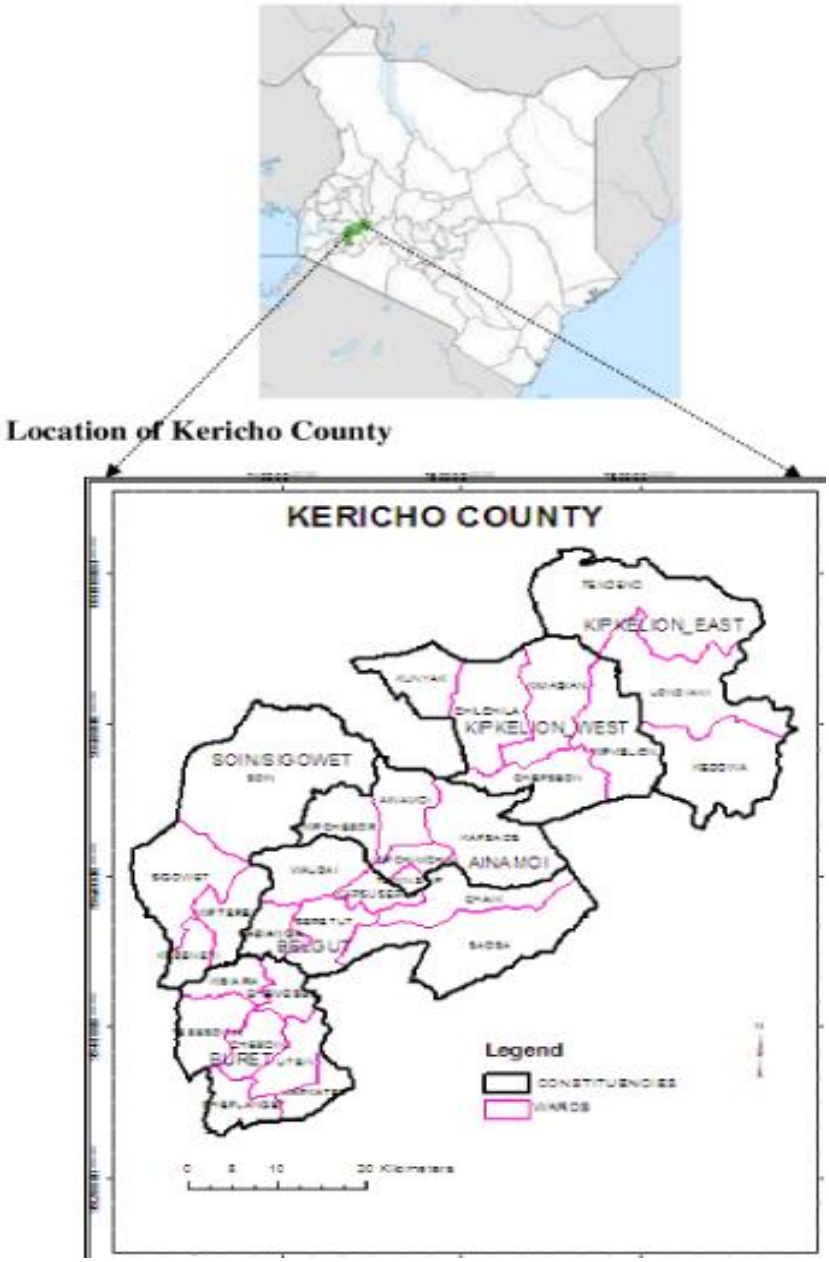


Figure 6: Map showing the proposed project boundary.

- **Implementation period: 3** years (2026 – 2029). Planned period which may change depending on project circumstances.
- 1 **Test Plots**: To be installed on 28/03/2025 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 the farmers' Association of Coffee estate farmers primarily (other projects possible in the future!)

a) 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

Azadirachta indica
Cordia africana
Croton macrostachys
Jacaranda mimosifolia
Mangifera indica
Markhamia lutea
Persea americana (native)
Senna Siamea (Cassia siamea)
Warburgia ugandensis

Emergent trees

Cupressus lusitanica
Juniperus procera
Podocarpus falcatus
Pouteria adolfi-friedericii
Prunus africana

Mother trees and emergent trees

Acrocarpus fraxinifolius
Croton megalocarpus
Eucalyptus spp
Grevillea robusta
Vitex keniensis

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.

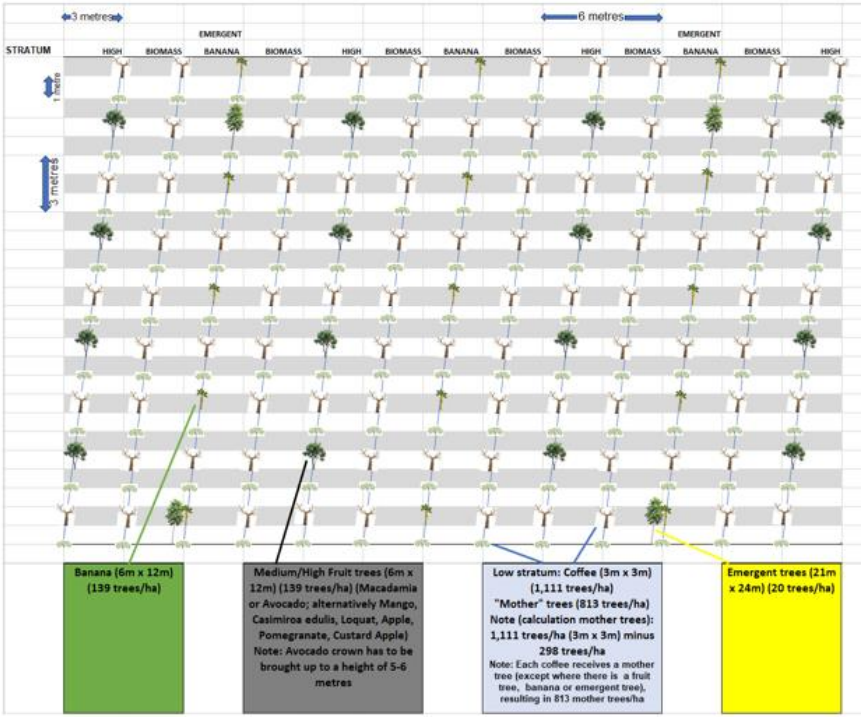
It is important to manage the fruit trees in the right way, so that they do not enter into conflict with coffee. E.G for avocado, the crown must be brought up to a height of 5 to 6 meters in order not to be in the same vertical layer than the coffee.

Persea americana
Macadamia integrifolia
Eriobotrya japonica
Mangifera indica
Malus pumila
Psidium guajava
Annona cherimola
Punica granatum
Casmoroa edulis
Citrus spp

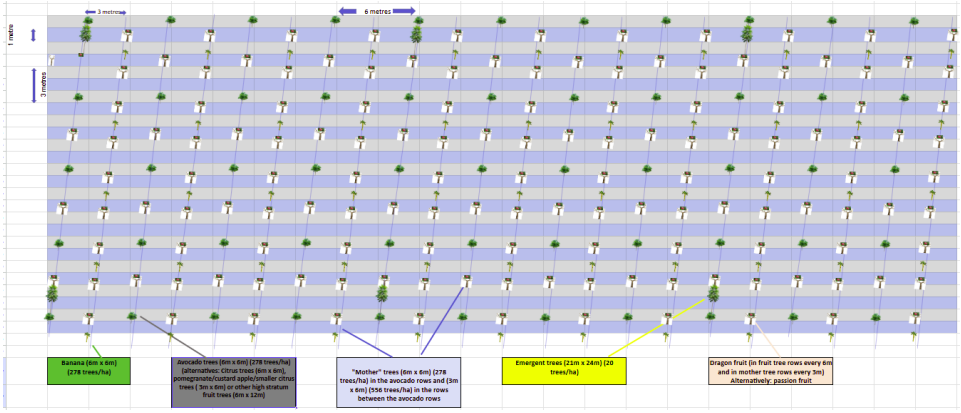
Planting design overview

The proposed planting designs are as follows:

i) Inside the Coffee Plot



ii) Outside the Coffee Plot



Introduction to the Carbon Certification Process of the project-Mr. Julius (Julius Carbon Ventures)

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 10-18 tonnes of CO2e per ha per year upon successful implementation of the project.

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.

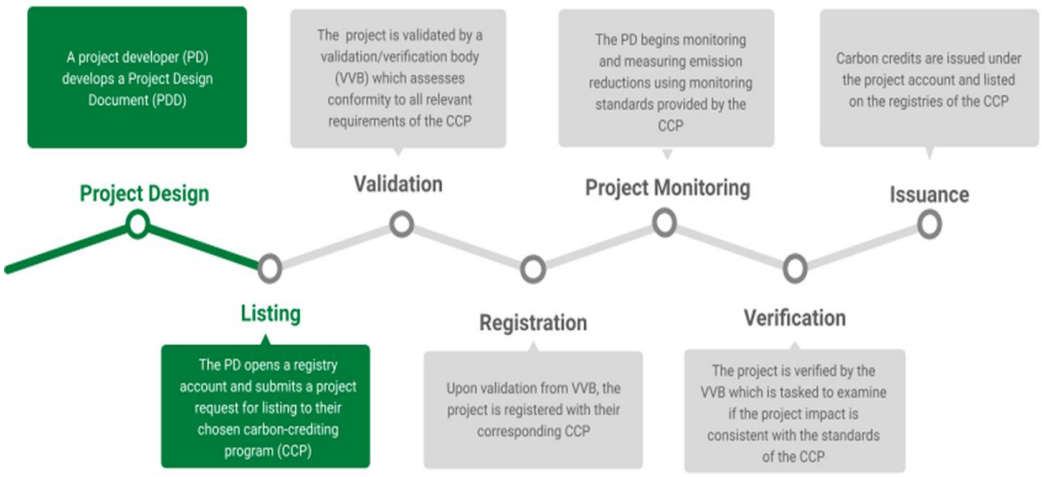


Figure 7: An overview of the carbon certification process.

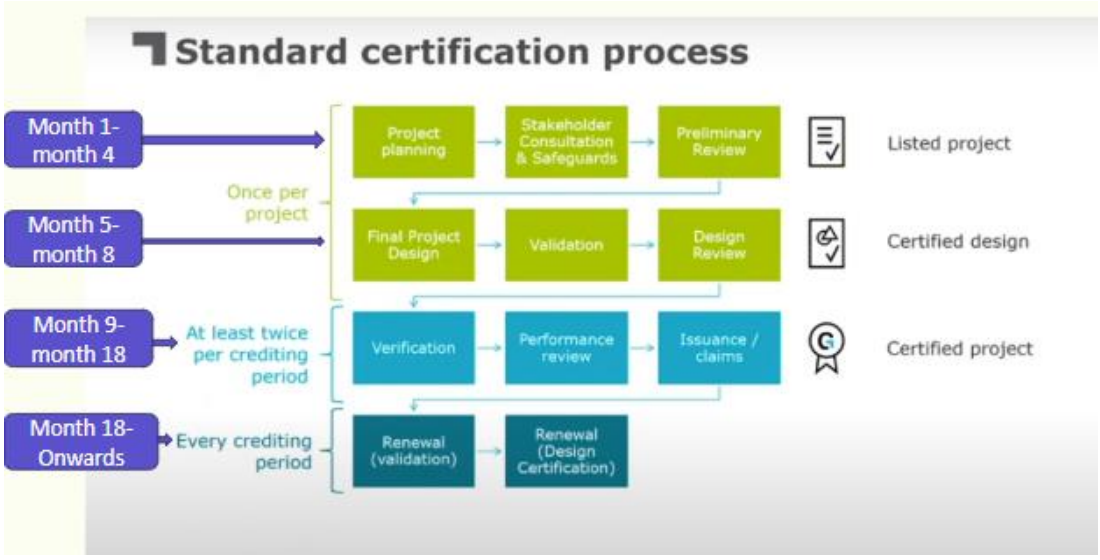


Figure 8: Typical Gold Standard certification process and timelines.

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

Mr. Julius K. explained that for the project developer to have access to the carbon credits to be generated by the project, an aagreement 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 03: Questions and Comments on the Project

The floor was opened for questioned and none came up at this point as participants proposed to ask questions at the end of the presentation in the interests of time.

Min 04: 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.

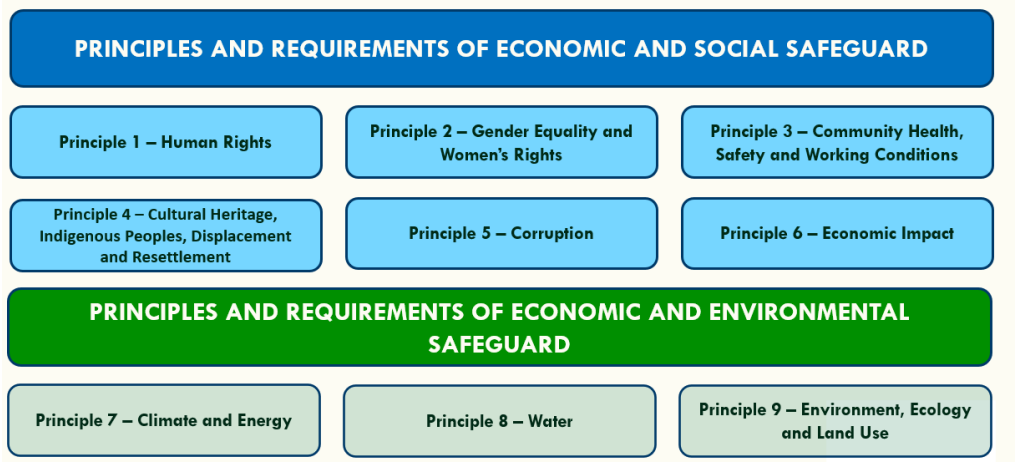


Figure 9: Overview of GS4GG Safeguarding principles and requirements.

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 05: 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:

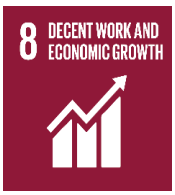
Stakeholders mentioned the following positive impacts of the project.

- 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
	1. Improved soil conditions and sustainable food production systems→ Stable income and subsistence food for the coffee farmer 2. Reduction/elimination of external inputs → cost savings for the coffee farmer 3. Payments to the coffee farmer in cash.	1. Proportion of fungi and bacteria in the soil (before and after the project) (optional) 2. Expenditure on external inputs (before and after the project) 3. Contributions to coffee growers in the form of cash, seeds, seedlings, tools, training measures, other forms of assistance
	1. 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.	1. Number of training sessions/workshops offered to coffee growers and technicians. 2. Number of coffee growers and technicians trained.
	Creation of jobs for technicians, service providers (clearing, monitoring, etc.) → project will increase business and income opportunities in the intervention municipalities.	Number of jobs created (permanent, temporary, seasonal)
	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.	Emissions removal in tCO2e

	Conversion of up to 50 ha of full-sun monoculture coffee plantations and land outside the coffee plantations into agroforestry systems following the principles of syntropic agriculture creates new habitats for flora and fauna.	Total area (in ha) of current full-sun coffee plantations and land outside of the coffee plantation converted to agroforestry systems

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	- 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	-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 06: Discussion of Continuous Input/ Grievance Mechanism

Julius and Sam of ASEL 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: christina@growgrounds.org
- ASEL: agrisolutionsenterprisesltd@gmail.com
- Phone: +45 41760744 and +254 740 737331 (WhatsApp)
- Written feedback to the nearest participating coffee organisation by utilising the Grievance books located in select coffee farm offices of participating estate farmers including KiQwetu Coffee Estate, Soin Sigowet, Kericho and at the Kericho Specialty Coffee Producers Association offices located at the National Cereal & Produce Board House, 1st Floor Kericho.
- Gold Standard: help@goldstandard.org
- No independent mediator appointed.

The following points were also discussed alongside the Grievance Mechanism discussion

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 farmers office including KiQwetu Coffee Estate, Soin Sigowet, Kericho and at the Kericho Specialty Coffee Producers Association offices located at the National Cereal & Produce Board House, 1st Floor Kericho.

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Min 07: Evaluation Forms and Closure of Meeting

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 and below are the questions asked by participants during the meeting:

Questions for Clarification about the project

Q. Mr. Allan kibet-Which are the best tree species to plant in the project?

A- Mr Julius K (Julius Carbon Ventures)-for the project, the best tree species are determined by one main factor which is "which trees are native to the region?". Some of the best species include the tree species that we've lined up at the tree species demonstration area just behind me and we'll have a look at this after this presentation sessions[10]. Farmers were also made aware that the planting design is to serve as a guide and is not an end in itself and that any updates to it would mainly be on the density and spacing aspects. Participants were also informed future changes to the planting design would be communicated in advance of planting seasons and incorporate their feedback as well.

Q. Mr. KIPKOSKEI -How much will be paid out to farmers in terms of the carbon credit money on a per acre basis?

A. Mr Julius K (Julius Carbon Ventures)-as highlighted earlier during the presentation, the farmers will receive a share of the carbon revenue through their farmers' organisation. In terms of actual money, the current market rate for a tonne of carbon credit is approx. 10-30 USD and our conservative estimation is that the project will generate approximately 10tonnes of CO2Er/Ha/year. Conversely, this translates to approximately 100-300 USD/Ha/Year. This

[10] Refer to the tree species highlighted in Figure 3 of this report.

translates to approximately Kshs. 5,000-15,000[11] per acre per year Depending on the total eligible acreage for each farmer and the outcome of the monitoring results in a couple of years, one is then able to determine how much each farmer would receive based on the 72% of the revenue/value of carbon credits that goes back to the coffee farmer in cash.

Q. Mrs Naomi Jerono-Are there negative effects of having shade trees inside a coffee plantation?

A. Mr. Kamau M (ASEL)- coffee in its natural conditions grows inside the forest thus introducing shade trees inside a coffee plantation/farm is returning the coffee into its natural habitat. If you look at the coffee behind us, you'll notice that the coffee growing under full sun has yellowish leaves while the coffee growing under various shade trees has green leaves. This is an indication that having shade trees inside the farm is advantageous to the coffee.

Min 08: Demo Plot Activities

After participants filled out the evaluation forms they were directed to the farm site by Mr. Kamau and Mr. Sam (both of ASEL) who took the participants through some select tree species where participants contributed greatly in pointing out the local names and uses of the trees in addition to the information they were given by ASEL on the relevance of the trees in providing shade cover and natural manure whenever they shed their leaves or are pruned. During the Demo, farmers were shown practically how the tree spacing will be applied inside a coffee plot and outside.

Min 09: Refreshments

Participants had refreshments and a vote of thanks was given by the interim chairman of the Kericho Specialty Coffee Producers Association, Mr. Kibet. Mr Jack (KiQwetu Coffee Estate director) also gave a vote of thanks and urged farmers to focus on

[11] The amount of 100-300 USD/Ha/Yr is converted to per acre by dividing 100-300 by 2.46 i.e 1Ha=approx2.46 acres and then multiplying the resulting value by 130 using a conversation rate of 1USD=130Kshs to get Kshs.5,000-15,000.

indigenous tree varieties which will do well in the area even as they take up planting other trees in the project. 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 2.30 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

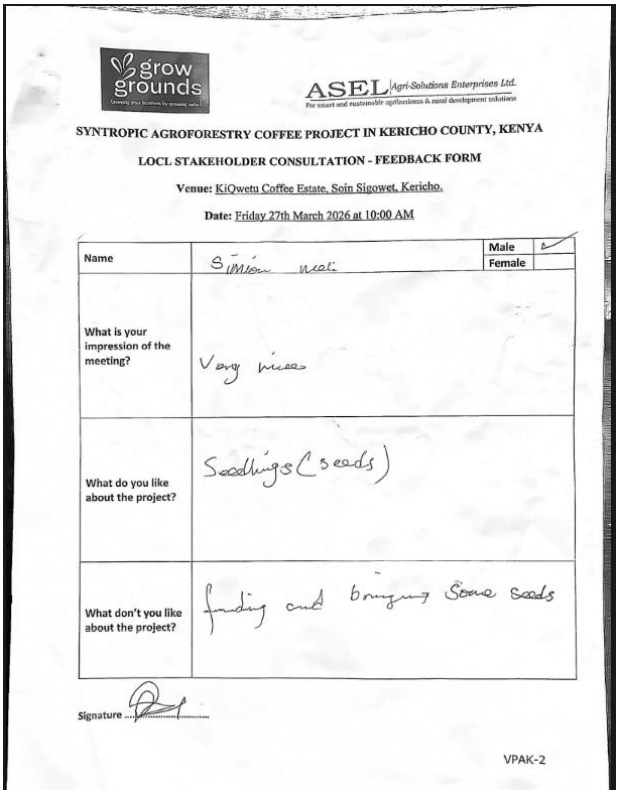
Gender of Stakeholder	Stakeholder comment	Was comment taken into account (Yes/ No)?	Explanation/ Justification (Why? How?)
Female	How are you factoring in the calculation of different trees and crops?	Yes	The carbon calculation will only be done for trees that meet the requirements set out in the methodology. Project is not claiming carbon credits from coffee bushes and other crops.
Male	Is it ok if we cut down trees that are already in our farms inorder to plant more of the project trees?	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 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?	Yes	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.
Female	The weather and temperature situations in Kenya and Brazil as well as in Kericho and Nyeri are different. What has the project done to ensure there is no replication with the Brazil and Nyeri projects?	Yes	The planting designs including the trees proposed by the project are specific for Kericho county. These are species already found in Kericho and can grow in the project area. The designs have been developed by an expert ASEL who have already visited farmers in their farms before developing the designs and incorporated Syntropic

			agroforestry aspects from the planting designs developed by experts such as Earnest Gosch.

C.3.1. Evaluation forms (best practice)

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



grow grounds

ASEL Agri-Solutions Enterprises Ltd.

SYNTROPIC AGROFORESTRY COFFEE PROJECT IN KERICHO COUNTY, KENYA

LOCL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION - FEEDBACK FORM

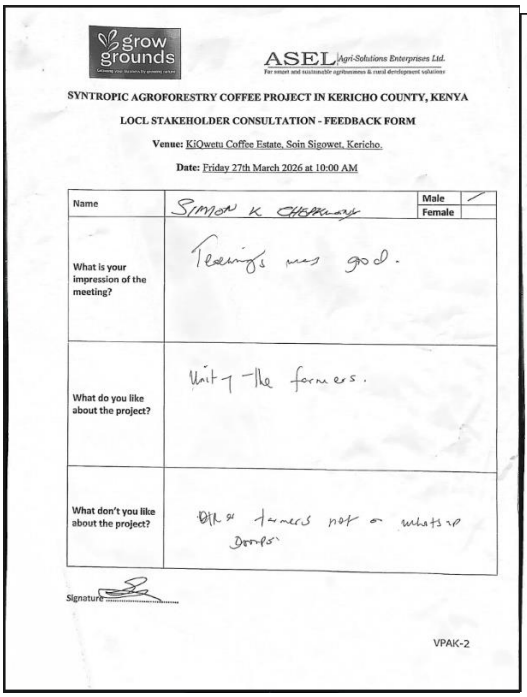
Venue: KiQwetu Coffee Estate, Soin Sigowet, Kericho.

Date: Friday 27th March 2026 at 10:00 AM

Name	Simion Mol:	Male	✓
		Female	
What is your impression of the meeting?	Very nice		
What do you like about the project?	Seedlings (seeds)		
What don't you like about the project?	funding and bringing some seeds		

Signature .....

VPAK-2



SYNTROPIC AGROFORESTRY COFFEE PROJECT IN KERICHO COUNTY, KENYA

LOCL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION - FEEDBACK FORM

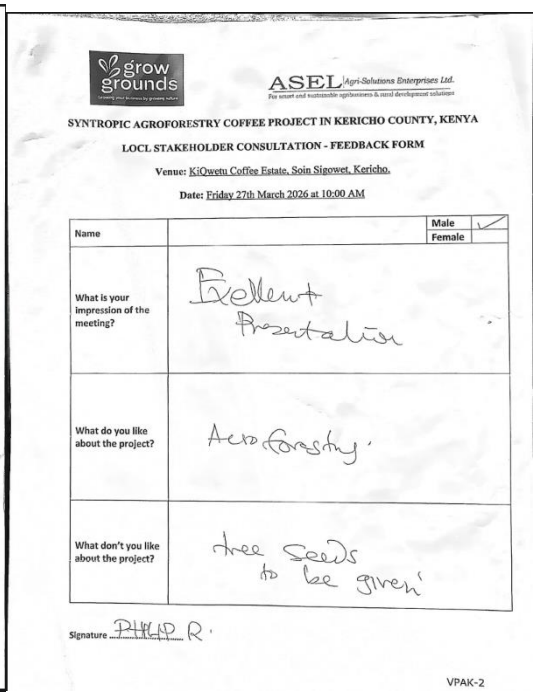
Venue: KiQwetu Coffee Estate, Soin Sigowet, Kericho.

Date: Friday 27th March 2026 at 10:00 AM

Name	Simon K Cheruiyot	Male ✓ / Female
What is your impression of the meeting?	Teachings was good.	
What do you like about the project?	Unity The farmers.	
What don't you like about the project?	Bill of farmers not on whatsapp Groups	

Signature

VPAK-2



SYNTROPIC AGROFORESTRY COFFEE PROJECT IN KERICHO COUNTY, KENYA

LOCL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION - FEEDBACK FORM

Venue: KiQwetu Coffee Estate, Soin Sigowet, Kericho.

Date: Friday 27th March 2026 at 10:00 AM

Name		Male / Female ✓
What is your impression of the meeting?	Excellent Presentation	
What do you like about the project?	Agro Forestry.	
What don't you like about the project?	Free Seeds to be given.	

Signature PHILIP R.

VPAK-2

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)	Written feedback to the nearest participating coffee estate including KiQwetu Coffee Estate, Soin Sigowet, Kericho and at the Kericho Specialty Coffee Producers Association offices located at the National Cereal & Produce Board House, 1st Floor Kericho by utilising the Grievance books located in each of the Coffee farm office	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.

GS Contact (mandatory)	help@goldstandard.org	This is the GS contact and can be used by any stakeholder to raise concerns about the project activity.
Telephone access (optional)	WhatsApp: +254 740 737331 Phone: +45 41760744	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: christina@growgrounds.org ASEL: agrisolutionsenterprisesltd@gmail.com	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	26/10/2026	☒	☐
End Date	27/11/2026	☒	☐

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