

# Case studies: Renewable energy & human rights

## Wind energy

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### Colombia: Jepirachi Wind Farm impacts indigenous people in La Guajira

Country: Colombia	Project name: Jepirachi wind farm
Capacity: 19.5 MW	Companies involved: Project developer: Empresas Públicas de Medellín (EPM). Wind turbine provider: Nordex. Contractor: Industrias Ectricol
<p>Positive Steps: EPM's <a href="#">Jepirachi wind farm</a> is cited as an example for emission estimation methodologies and consultation with the local communities. According to the World Bank, the project carried out extensive consultation with the Wayuu indigenous peoples and instituted social management programs based on the respect for the Wayuu peoples' ethnic and cultural integrity.</p> <p>Summary: A <a href="#">recent investigation</a> into the social &amp; environmental impacts of the project found that the Wayuu communities continue to live in impoverished circumstances with their culture threatened. Minimal clean water leaves people without work and resources. The investigation claims that the project brings no opportunities to the Arutkajui and Kasiwolin communities while the company advertises that it has community support programmes in place.</p> <p>The project is due to be <a href="#">renewed</a> in 2019 for it to continue till 2025. CDM has received the validation request and has found that the report submitted is valid and aligns with original goals.</p>	
Company response: <a href="#">EPM (see Question 8)</a>	<a href="#">Registered under UN Clean Development Mechanism</a>

Categories: [Access to water](#) [Indigenous peoples](#) [Poverty/Development/Economic & social rights](#): [General](#) [Colombia](#) [Americas: General](#) [Wind energy](#) [Utilities](#)

## France: Offshore wind farm impacts communities in Yeu and Noirmoutier

Country: France	Project name: Offshore wind farm near the islands of Yeu and Noirmoutier
Capacity: 1,000 MW	Companies involved: Engie (formerly GDF Suez), EDP Renewables, Neoen Marine and AREVA
<p>Summary:</p> <p>In France, after winning the tender of an offshore wind farm off the islands of Yeu and Noirmoutier, Engie began communication with a regional committee representing local fishermen. Although the committee originally opposed Engie's plans, the company changed its plans and proposed to install fewer wind turbines therefore reducing the land used. This new proposal gained support from regional committee, though the fishermen were still opposed. Engie began a dialogue process with this committee and its fishermen and after 2 and a half years the local committee endorsed the project unanimously.</p>	
Company responses: <a href="#">Engie (see Question 8)</a>	

Categories: [Wind energy](#) [France](#) [Land rights](#) [Europe & Central Asia: General](#) [Company advances on human rights](#)

## Kenya: Baharini Electra Wind Farm impacts communities in Mpeketoni

Country: Kenya	Project name: Baharini Electra Wind Farm
Capacity: 90 MW	Companies involved: Project developer: Electrawind, Kenwind. Funders: International Finance Corporation (IFC).
<p>Positive Steps:</p> <p>Over 8000 local Mpeketoni residents allegedly were <a href="#">not informed</a> of the project's intention to acquire their land, and were not offered any compensation or alternative settlement. The local residents filed a lawsuit at the Lamu County Assembly to stop compulsory acquisition of their land. The project was then approved with a number of conditions, such as the requirement to give priority to locals for employment, and provide land and monetary compensation to 259 families. Community consultation and hearing the concerns of the people who will be impacted by the project kept the project from suffering devastating losses.</p> <p>After examining the case, the Lamu Court of Appeal finally <a href="#">dismissed</a> the Cordison International application. When the verdict was announced, people showed their enthusiasm by chanting slogans in favour of Kenwind. This will allow the company to continue investing 21 billion Kenyan shillings (nearly \$210 million) in Lamu County.</p>	

Categories: [Kenya](#) [Land rights](#) [Displacement](#) [Company advances on human rights](#) [Legal accountability: General](#) [Africa: General](#) [Wind energy](#)

## Kenya: Kinangop Wind Park impacts communities in Nyandarua

Country: Kenya	Project name: Kinangop Wind Park
Capacity: 60 MW	Companies involved: Project developer: Funders: Africa Infrastructure Investment Fund II (owned by Old Mutual Investment Group and Macquarie), Norfund.
<p>This section briefly summarises key concerns about the projects: The Kinangop Wind Park was planned to come online by mid-2015, and provide electricity to approximately 150,000 homes by 2018. However, it was <a href="#">cancelled</a> following disputes over land compensation by local farmers and landowners. Fears of forced displacement, environmental and health concerns led to local protests, which left one <a href="#">dead</a> in a confrontation with the police. A lawsuit was filed by locals to stop the project until their questions were answered. Protests made construction impossible, and the developers depleted their funds by February 2015, forcing them to cancel the project. <a href="#">Equitable Origin</a> argued that had developers embraced community engagement and integrated free, prior, and informed consent into the project, it may not have been cancelled.</p>	
<a href="#">Registered under Clean Development Mechanism</a>	

Categories: [Wind energy](#) [Protests](#) [Land rights](#) [Killings](#) [Kenya](#) [Finance & banking](#) [Africa: General](#)

## Kenya: Lake Turkana Wind Power Project impacts indigenous people in Lake Turkana region

Country: Kenya	Project name: Lake Turkana Wind Power Project
Capacity: 310 MW	<p>Companies involved: Project developer: Lake Turkana Wind Power (KP&amp;P Africa B.V. and Aldwych Intl. co-developers).</p> <p>Funders: Investment Fund for Developing Countries, Vestas, Eastern Africa Limited, Finnish Fund for Industrial Cooperation, KLP Norfund Investments, Sandpiper Ltd.</p>
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Lake Turkana Wind Power is poised to build the largest wind farm in Africa, with a planned capacity of 310 MW covering 162 km<sup>2</sup>. The project has been accused of inadequate consultations and of abusing indigenous peoples' rights, land rights, and free, prior and informed consent. Lake Turkana Wind Power states that they have respected the rights of all affected communities in the area.</p> <p>The most recent publications by the <a href="#">International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs</a> and <a href="#">Danwatch</a> detail allegations of inadequate consultation with indigenous communities and increased alcoholism, prostitution, and violence due to an influx of migrants into the area, and call on the company to respect local pastoralists' right to free, prior &amp; informed consent (FPIC). At the time of the publications, Lake Turkana Wind Power recognised this right but held that the pastoralist groups affected by the project are not indigenous and therefore FPIC was not necessary. In their most recent response, Lake Turkana Wind Power has stated that they would engage with affected communities regardless of whether they are indigenous or not.</p> <p>Since 2016, the project has engaged in various activities to include indigenous people including organising environment days, visiting days and collaboration. In July 2019, President Uhuru Kenyatta officially <a href="#">inaugurated the project</a>, and since then the project has been controversial, with winners and losers from the development, and impacts on community relationships, activities of pastoralists in the area, and even relocations of some local people.</p>	
<p>Company response:</p> <p>Lake Turkana Wind Power <a href="#">response (Mar 2016)</a> / <a href="#">questionnaire (Apr 2016)</a> / <a href="#">questionnaire (Oct 2016)</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Registered under UN Clean Development Mechanism</a></p> <p>Also see: <a href="https://www.resilience.org/stories/2020-02-13/a-different-wind-of-change-harnessing-africas-largest-wind-project-for-climate-action/">https://www.resilience.org/stories/2020-02-13/a-different-wind-of-change-harnessing-africas-largest-wind-project-for-climate-action/</a></p>

Categories: [Wind energy](#) [Free, prior & informed consent](#) [Indigenous peoples](#) [Kenya](#) [Africa: General](#)

## Mexico: Ixtepec wind project impacts communities in Oaxaca

Country: Mexico	Project name: Ixtepec wind project
Capacity: 100 MW	Companies involved: Yansa Group
<p>Positive Steps:</p> <p>In contrast to other wind farms in Oaxaca, Mexico, this is a <a href="#">community-owned</a> indigenous wind power project. The community of <a href="#">Ixtepec</a> reached out to Yansa in order to build a wind farm in the area. Yansa proposed a site where agricultural impact would be minimal, and conducted an environmental impact assessment. Yansa seeks to directly involve communities in the construction and operation of the wind farms, therefore giving them control of the renewable energy sources. The energy will be sold to the national grid at a guaranteed fixed price, therefore giving the community members an income and an opportunity for economic and social growth. <a href="#">50%</a> of the earnings will go to community members to compensate land owners and pay for community programs.</p> <p>Political pressures led the CFE to announce a <a href="#">temporal suspension</a> of the tender. However, controversy remains open: while international media announces that Enel Green Power has already been awarded to develop the "Sureste" project, the Ixtepec community and Yansa keep pushing the issue. As stated in a recent forum celebrated in Ixtepec, the community continues to overcome obstacles for their project, while demanding the restitution of their land if CFE allows a private project in their territory.</p>	

Categories: [Wind energy Mexico](#) [Company advances on human rights](#)  
[Poverty/Development/Economic & social rights: General](#) [Americas: General](#)

## Mexico: Lubricant fuel spills in Juchitan, Oaxaca

Country: Juchitan, Oaxaca, Mexico	Companies: EDF (developer), Acciona SA (developer), Gamesa Corp Tecnologica SA (turbine manufacturer)
Project : Wind turbines in Juchitan, Oaxaca, Mexico	
<p>The smell of lubricating fuel used for wind turbines is a common complaint among local communities in Oaxaca, Mexico. In 2017, a lubricant leak from a wind turbine operated by EDF in Juchitan reached ground level. According to a Bloomberg article reporting the incident, the company cleaned the turbine, removed contaminated soil and compensated the landowner. Similar problems have been encountered by other companies operating in the area, with turbine manufacturers noting that lubricating fuel leaks are relatively common and can often be cleaned before reaching ground level depending on weather conditions. Civil society argues that the accumulation of small lubricant leaks in Oaxaca, due to the number of turbines (around 2,000) poses a threat to the quality of soil and water in the region. Civil society organisation ProDESC has observed poor turbine maintenance in the region, and shared that local communities had noticed a decreased in the numbers of fish arriving in local lagoons in the last five to six years, although couldn't confirm whether there was any correlation between the two.</p>	
Sources: <a href="#">Mexico's Wind Farms Brought Prosperity but Not for Everyone</a> , <a href="#">Even Clean Energy Has Its Little Oil Spills</a>	

Categories: [Wind energy](#) [Renewable Energy](#) [Agriculture & livestock](#) [Mexico](#)

## Mexico: Oaxaca Wind Farms impact indigenous peoples in Oaxaca

Country: Mexico	Project name: Oaxaca wind farms (several projects)
Capacity: N/A (several projects)	Companies involved: Project developers & operators: Acciona, Enel Green Power, Energia Eolica del Sur (formerly Mareña Renovables), Gamesa, Iberdrola, EDF Group, Renovalia, Gas Natural Fenosa (developers), Vestas (wind turbine provider) Investors: PGGM (has since quit the project), Macquarie Bank, Mitsubishi .



This section briefly summarises key concerns about the projects. See below for companies' responses to those concerns, wherever available:

The state of Oaxaca is home to 28 wind farms, with the number still rising. Local communities allege that multinational companies and the federal government did not respect their right to free, prior and informed consent before construction began. In addition, landowners report that they lacked full information and understanding of the leases they signed with wind companies. While some landowners prospered from their leases, other community members, especially those without land titles, complain of deepening inequality in the region. Much of the land on the Isthmus is collectively owned, with some communities claiming that companies didn't conduct proper consultation with indigenous groups. In December 2012, the Indian Law Resource Center filed a complaint on behalf of indigenous communities against one of the largest projects, financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). A 2016 IADB report found that the Mareña Renovables Wind Power Project (now Eolica del Sur) did not comply with the Bank's Environmental and Safeguards Compliance Policy and Indigenous Peoples Policy. Mareña Renovables did respond to the allegations. A Zapotec group also filed a lawsuit against Eolica del Sur citing that their right to prior consultation had been violated. While the Mexican Supreme Court has initially ruled in favour of the Zapotec community, ordering the temporary suspension of construction work, it eventually allowed the project to go ahead. Similar allegations have led the Zapotec community of Union Hidalgo in Oaxaca to file an OECD complaint against EDF in February 2018. In October 2019, NGO ProDESC sent the company a formal request to comply with the French duty of vigilance law in relation to its activities in Mexico. EDF has responded.

A number of these projects have been linked with human rights concerns, primarily related to [rights of indigenous peoples](#), [land rights](#), [lack of adequate consultation](#) and [security concerns](#) including intimidation and death threats. Indigenous Ikoots communities hold that their right to free, prior & informed consent has not been respected.

<p>Company responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Developers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mareña Renovables (now Eólica del Sur) <a href="#">response (Nov 2012)</a></li> <li>○ EDF <a href="#">response</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Wind turbine providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vestas <a href="#">response (Nov 2012)</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Energy buyers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FEMSA <a href="#">response (Nov 2012)</a></li> <li>○ Heineken <a href="#">response (Nov 2012)</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Funders &amp; investors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">PGGM response (Nov 2012)</a> [PGGM has since quit the project]</li> <li>○ Macquarie Bank <a href="#">response (Nov 2012)</a></li> <li>○ Mitsubishi <a href="#">response (Nov 2012)</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Registered under UN Clean Development Mechanism: <a href="#">Oaxaca I</a>, <a href="#">Oaxaca II</a>, <a href="#">Oaxaca III</a>, and <a href="#">Oaxaca IV</a></p>
<p>Further information: <a href="#">Equitable Origin's case study (Jan 2016)</a> provides an overview of human rights concerns and a stakeholder map related to wind farms in Oaxaca.</p>	

Categories: [Wind energy](#) [Mexico](#) [Finance & banking](#) [Intimidation & threats](#) [Death threats](#) [Land rights](#) [Indigenous peoples](#) [Free, prior & informed consent](#) [Americas: General](#)

## Mexico: Wind farm launched despite local rebellion

Country: Mexico, Oaxaca	Project name: Eólica del Sur wind farm
Capacity: 396 MW	Companies involved: Eólica del Sur. Investors: Mitsubishi, Macquarie
<p>When the Eólica del Sur wind farm entered construction phase in 2012, tensions between the project and local opponents escalated. According to local civil society, protesters were subject to threats and intimidations, including death threats. The company responded. The role of public authorities in this case has also come under scrutiny. In 2018, municipal authorities allegedly opened fire on protesters, and indigenous activist Rolando Crispin Lopez was murdered. That same year, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) ordered Mexico to protect the life of human rights defender, Bettina Cruz, who had been the victim of threats for her work defending Zapotec people affected by the Eolica del Sur project. The Mexican state of Oaxaca held on Tuesday (May 2019) the <a href="#">inauguration ceremony</a> for the 396-MW Energia Eolica del Sur wind park, the local government announced.</p>	
Further information: <a href="#">Renewables Now</a>	

Categories: [Wind energy Mexico](#) [Intimidation & threats](#) [Death threats](#) [Land rights](#) [Indigenous peoples](#) [Free, prior & informed consent](#) [Americas: General](#)

## Mexico: Wind turbines threaten ecosystem

Country: Yucatán, Mexico	Companies Involved: Elecnor, SunPower
Project: Wind Turbines	
<p>Renewable energy, including both solar and wind, has rapidly expanded in Yucatán, Mexico. These new renewable energy projects will require an estimated 12,000 hectares of land close to protected areas, local populations, or sacred and archaeological sites. Local communities have warned that this scramble for land could negatively impact the region's ecosystem. For example, construction of wind turbines on leased land parcels next the region's protected mangroves is likely to disrupt natural progression of water towards these mangroves, altering that ecosystem's resources. In addition, local farmers have expressed fear that wind turbines will impact their agricultural production and in particular their beekeeping trade. Although environmental and social impact assessments have been conducted for individual projects, there is no strategic impact assessment done at the regional level to understand the overall impact of a concentrated installation of multiple energy projects.</p>	
Sources: <a href="#">Fast &amp; fair renewable energy: A practical guide for investors</a> , <a href="#">Business and Human Rights Resource Center</a> , <a href="#">Mexico Communities Denounce Lack of Consultation</a>	

Categories: [Mexico](#) [Wind energy](#) [Indigenous peoples](#) [Agriculture & livestock](#) [Land rights](#)

## Morocco: Foug El Oued Wind Farm impacts indigenous peoples in Foug El Oued

Country: Western Sahara/Morocco	Project name: Foug El Oued Wind Farm
Capacity: 50.6 MW	Companies involved: Project developer: Energie Eolienne du Maroc, Nareva Holding. Wind turbine provider & wind farm construction: Siemens
<p>This section briefly summarises key concerns about the projects. See below for companies' responses to those concerns, wherever available:</p> <p>In 2012, Siemens won the rights construct a <a href="#">wind farm</a> in Western Sahara. The local indigenous population, the Saharawis, were allegedly not consulted and claim that Siemens and Nareva Holding violated international law by occupying their land, infringing upon the people's rights to self-determination. Africa Contact, a Danish NGO, claims that all trade with Western Sahara legitimises Morocco's illegal occupation of Western Sahara, and sent a <a href="#">letter</a> calling on Siemens to cancel the deal. [Western Sahara Resource Watch <a href="#">published a report</a> in November 2016 outlining the ways in which companies continue to be silent and deny responsibility].</p>	
<p>Company responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Siemens <a href="#">response (Apr 2012)</a></li> <li>● Nareva Holding <a href="#">non-response (Apr 2012)</a></li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Registered under UN Clean Development Mechanism</a></p>

Categories: [Morocco / Western Sahara](#) [Wind energy](#) [Geneva Conventions](#) / [Humanitarian law](#) [Indigenous peoples](#) [Land rights](#) [Africa: General](#)

## Norway: Indigenous people oppose offshore wind farms

Country: Norway	Company: Statkraft
<p>The Norwegian state energy company, Statkraft, began construction of Norway's largest onshore wind project, Fosen Vind, in 2016 with electricity production estimated to begin in 2020. The local Southern Saami reindeer-herding community oppose the project, <a href="#">filing complaints</a> with national authorities and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. They argue that the project would result in a loss of 44% of their winter pastures, forcing many families to abandon their traditional trade of reindeer herding. Statkraft has already been the target of an OECD <a href="#">complaint filed</a> by the Saami people in 2012 relating to the impacts of multiple wind farm projects built on traditional lands in Jämtland, Sweden. The National Contact Points in Sweden and Norway had provided recommendations to Statkraft to work in a manner that promotes indigenous people's rights. In 2018, Statkraft faced renewed opposition from the Saami people, this time in Norway. The Saami people filed a complaint with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In December 2018, the Norwegian Petroleum and Energy Ministry <a href="#">refused to suspend</a> the Fosen Wind project while the Committee examined the complaint, stating that "after careful consideration...there is no basis for stopping the building of Storheia wind turbines."</p> <p>On 16 January 2020, the Society for Threatened People (STP) <a href="#">filed a complaint</a> with the Swiss National Contact Point against energy company BKW for investing in a wind farm project in western Norway.</p>	
More on Statkraft and complaints filed against it: <a href="#">Sweden</a>	

Categories: [Wind energy](#) [Renewable Energy](#) [Norway](#) [Indigenous peoples](#) [Agriculture & livestock](#) [OECD Guidelines](#) [Europe & Central Asia](#)

## Scotland: Wind farm built by migrants with no labour rights

Country: Scotlant	Companies: Scottish and Southern Electricity (SSE), Seaway Heavy Lifting (SHL) Investors: SSE, Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), Red Rock Power Limited
Project: Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm	
<p>The Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm is a £2.6bn project that started producing electricity in 2019. During construction phase, worker unions and different media outlets reported that SHL, a subcontractor of project developer and operator SSE, paid non-EEA workers below UK minimum wage. An inspector for the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) described the situation as "effectively slave-labour". SHL denied claims of violations of minimum wage laws, while SSE noted that its suppliers had to comply with UK law and minimum wage regulations. A Guardian report claimed, however, to have identified several other low-paid migrant workers on guard vessels for other windfarm construction and offshore cable-laying sites, revealing broader trends of underpaid work in the offshore wind industry.</p>	
Sources: <a href="#">The Guardian</a> , <a href="#">Energy Voice</a>	

Categories: [Forced labour & modern slavery](#) [Living wage](#) [Labour: General](#) [United Kingdom](#) [Wind energy](#)

## So. Africa: Jeffreys Bay Wind Farm impacts communities in Jeffreys Bay

Country: South Africa	Project name: Jeffreys Bay Wind Farm
Capacity: 138 MW	<p>Companies involved: Operations &amp; management: Globeleq, Siemens.            Construction: Murray and Roberts Construction, Consolidated Power Projects.            Wind turbine supplier: Siemens.            Investors: Globeleq, Old Mutual Life Assurance Co., Thebe Investment Co., Mainstream Renewable Power, Amandla Omoya Trust, Enzani Technologies, Usizo Engineering</p>
<p>Positive Steps:            The environmental impact assessment for Jeffreys Bay wind farm included <a href="#">stakeholder consultation</a> as a prerequisite before operations. The consultation emphasised community involvement and included information meetings and open communication. Complaints from the community were assessed by the planning and environmental authorities. Various socio-economic development programmes were set up. Locals were <a href="#">employed</a> to operate and maintain the wind farm. 6% of the wind farm is owned by community <a href="#">Amandla Omoya Trust</a> which will use 80% of its social development budget for educational projects in low-income Port Elizabeth. Since the inception of the project, the Jeffreys Bay Wind farm has <a href="#">invested in and developed</a> schools, libraries, medical centers and scholarships focused on renewable energy sector. Most recently they have supported and facilitated food distribution programs during the COVID19 crisis.</p>	
<p>Clean Development Mechanism: The project owners are preparing registration of the project as a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project under the Kyoto Protocol.</p>	

Categories: [Company advances on human rights](#) [South Africa](#) [Finance & banking](#) [Wind energy](#)  
[Poverty/Development/Economic & social rights: General](#) [Africa: General](#)



## Sweden: Wind power project impact indigenous people in Jämtland

Country: Sweden	Project name: Several wind power projects in Jämtland, Sweden
Capacity: See <a href="#">here</a> for capacities of each project.	Companies involved: Statkraft, SVA
<p>Positive Steps: Statkraft is engaged in building several wind farms in Sweden, including one in Jämtland, which impacts the traditional lands of the indigenous reindeer-herding collective of Jijnjevaerie Saami village. On October 2012, the Jijnjevaerie Saami village submitted a <a href="#">complaint</a> to the Swedish and Norwegian National Contact Points for the OECD Guidelines concerning Statkraft's planned wind power project. The NCPs accepted the complaint and reviewed parts of the case. They found no grounds for non-compliance to the OECD Guidelines, but provided recommendations for how Statkraft can work in a manner that promotes indigenous people's rights. NCPs recommended that parties show a renewed will to negotiate on the further development of wind power projects, the scope of the projects, and the compensation schemes. <a href="#">Statkraft</a> welcomed the decision by the NCPs and noted that they will consider the final statement concerning engagement with the Saami Village.</p>	
Further information: <a href="#">OECDWatch</a> More on Statkraft and complaints against them: <a href="#">Norway</a>	

Categories: [Indigenous peoples](#) [Sweden](#) [Company advances on human rights](#) [Wind energy](#) [Land rights](#) [OECD Guidelines](#) [Europe & Central Asia: General](#)

## Taiwan: Yuanli Wind Turbines impact communities in Yuanli

Country: Taiwan	Project name: Yuanli wind turbines
Capacity: 7 (2×3.5 MW) MW	Companies involved: Shalivahana Green Energy Limited
<p>This section briefly summarises key concerns about the projects. See below for companies' responses to those concerns, wherever available:</p> <p>In September 2012, residents of Yuanli Township formed the <a href="#">Yuanli Self-Help Group</a> to raise concerns about a <a href="#">wind turbine construction project by InfraVest</a>. The group alleges that InfraVest did not consult with local residents and that the project would affect their right to health. Residents also alleged that private security officers hired by the company used violence against protesters on 8 June 2013.</p> <p>On 16 June 2013, <a href="#">InfraVest held a mediation meeting with residents</a> opposing the project. However, the two sides failed to reach an agreement, and the company decided to carry on with the project as planned. On 16 June 2013, Yuanli Self-Help Group issued a <a href="#">statement</a>, detailing its demands for InfraVest to stop the project and calling on Standard Chartered to reconsider its investment in InfraVest.</p> <p>InfraVest filed a NT\$10 million (US\$335,000) lawsuit against seven members of the Yuanli Self-Help Organization. InfraVest also stepped up security by having dozens of security guards on site at all time, where they trail, film, question and prevent visitors, residents and students from going to the beach and embankment and approaching the construction site. On 25 February 2016, the court gave the final <a href="#">verdict of acquittal</a>.</p>	
<p>Company responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● InfraVest <a href="#">response</a> (Oct 2013)</li> <li>● Hi Tan Security <a href="#">response (Oct 2013)</a></li> <li>● InfraVest <a href="#">response</a> (Jun 2013) and Standard Chartered <a href="#">response (Jul 2013)</a> over physical &amp; mental health concerns</li> <li>● Fei-ling Electronic Engineering and Taimon did not respond</li> </ul>	

Categories: [Wind energy Taiwan](#) [Health: General \(including workplace health & safety\)](#) [Security companies](#) [Finance & banking](#) [Protests](#) [Free, prior & informed consent](#) [Beatings & violence](#) [Asia & Pacific: General](#)

## Turkey: Wind energy project impacts local community in Çeşme

Country: Turkey	Project name: ABK Çeşme Wind
Capacity: 18MW	Companies involved: Project developer: VEGA Ruzgar Enerji (formerly ABK Cesme Res), Consultancy services: Life Enerji, Turbine provider: Nordex, Financiers: DZ Bank, KfW, Euler Hermes Kreditversicherungs-AG

This section briefly summarises key concerns about the projects. See below for companies' responses to those concerns, wherever available:

In 2014, ABK Cesme Res (now VEGA Ruzgar Enerji) began construction of the [Cesme Wind energy project](#). However, the project was met with resistance by the local community who [claim](#) that the developers did not consult landowners during the planning and certification process.

The community has filed a number of (ongoing) lawsuits against the project relating to land expropriation, the project's license, planning approval and environmental impact assessment at the local, regional and national level, some of which were concluded in favour of the community. However, construction continued and the community maintains that [court verdicts](#) have not been implemented. Those opposing the project have [reportedly](#) also faced harassment via media and several strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) have been filed against them.

In 2015, the German OECD National Contact Point examined a [complaint](#) filed against Nordex, the supplier of the turbines and held a mediation session after which the company agreed to improve its due diligence process. In 2019, the community also submitted a [complaint](#) to Gold Standard, a carbon offsetting certification program under which the project is [registered](#), claiming that the developer did not adhere to the certification body's standards. Gold Standard has opened a formal investigation, which concluded in March 2020. The [investigation](#) found non-conformity issues, including that the project failed to inform Gold Standard of ongoing cases proceedings and did not fully comply with the Gold Standard Stakeholder Consultation requirements. The project's registration status has been suspended.

Company responses & community rejoinders:

Entities reportedly involved in financing ABK Çeşme Wind energy project:

- [DZ Bank declined to respond](#)
- [Euler Hermes response](#)
- [KfW response](#)

Companies reportedly involved in project development and implementation:

- [Life Enerji response](#)
- [Nordex response](#)
- [VEGA Ruzgar Enerji/ABK Cesme Res response](#) & [response](#) to community rejoinder

Community rejoinders to company responses on our website:

- [Rejoinder to Nordex](#)
- [Rejoinder to VEGA Ruzgar Enerji/ABK Cesme Res](#) & [communities' reply](#) to 2nd response

Categories: [Turkey](#) [Wind energy](#) [Land rights](#) [Environment: General](#) [Free, prior & informed consent](#) [Finance & banking](#) [Protests](#)