

SOCIAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT  
CHIRIPA  
WIND FARM  
COSTA RICA



BUSINESS AS UNUSUAL

Avda. de Europa, 18  
Parque Empresarial La Moraleja  
28108 Alcobendas  
(Madrid) Spain



[www.acciona.com](http://www.acciona.com)

ACCIONA Energy





# Chiripa wind farm

## COSTA RICA

### LOCATION

Tilarán, Guanacaste, Costa Rica

### OWNERSHIP

ACCIONA Energy (65%), Grupo Ecoenergía (35%)

### INSTALLED CAPACITY

49.5 MW

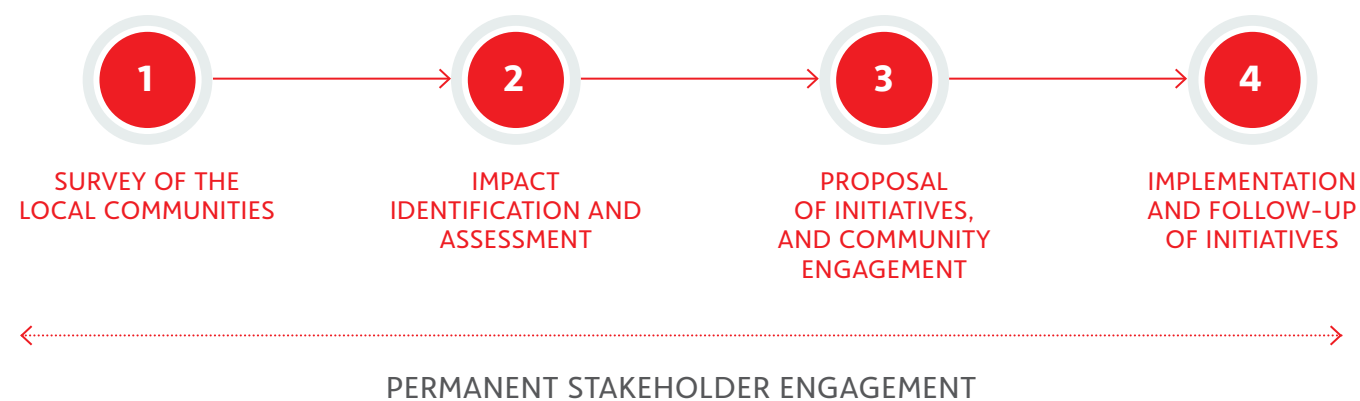
### BUDGET

USD 125 million

1st pilot project to implement the social impact management methodology.

The Chiripa wind farm was connected to the grid in 2014 and produces more than 200 million kWh per year, equivalent to the consumption of some 80,000 Costa Rican homes.

## SOCIAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT AT THE CHIRIPA WIND FARM



## 1 SURVEY OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- The project's area of direct influence: Tilarán, Quebrada Grande, and Parcelas Monseñor Morera.
- Main economic activities: livestock and energy.
- Problems of unemployment, waste collection, water supply, and access to higher education.

## 2 IMPACT IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT

### POSITIVE IMPACTS

- Improved local services.
- Hiring of local labour (50%) during the construction phase.
- Support for local residents' associations.
- Training for local workers.
- Improved perceptions of the renewable energy facility.

### NEGATIVE IMPACTS

- Disruptions on local roads.
- Nuisance caused by heavy vehicle traffic.

## 3 PROPOSAL OF INITIATIVES, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS

- Meetings with the community to present the project.
- Interviews with the local community to ascertain their perception of the project.
- Road safety campaigns.

- Improved water supply by establishing a new well.
- Promotion of entrepreneurship among small entrepreneurs in the area.

### EDUCATION

- Improved school infrastructure.
- Grants to support university entrance.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Road restoration.
- Installation of sewers.

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF INITIATIVES

Since the farm came into operation in 2014, each year the Chiripa Wind Power Consortium receives applications from community groups for support for their endeavours. Proposals are first screened on the basis of their social contribution to the area, and a short-list is referred to the Consortium Board, which chooses the projects and the budget to be assigned to each one. In 2018, a number of initiatives were undertaken in connection with amenities, training and skill-building, entrepreneurship and culture.

### IMPROVED EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Work was carried out in 3 schools in the area of influence: refurbishing a classroom, adapting toilets for students with disabilities, and creating new venues for school activities.

### SUPPORT FOR THE MUNICIPAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME

A programme of support for local small businesses through training and fairs to publicise their products. The consortium provided materials for use in skill-building courses.

- **ROAD IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUEBRADA GRANDE COMMUNITY** A three-year project that involves channeling rainwater to the roadside; this made conditions safer for local residents, particularly children and people with disabilities.

### PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE FUTURE PROFESSIONALS

The programme assists with university access by providing 6 scholarships for students in vulnerable situations. Support for local students by providing them with internships at the wind farm.

### CLEAR CORNERS PROGRAMME

A road safety awareness programme to improve local drivers' habit of parking in areas that hamper visibility.