



New Caledonia – Wind power plant

Overview: Two wind farms generating renewable energy.

The Pacific archipelago New Caledonia, a French Overseas Territory, is surrounded by a barrier reef enclosing one of the largest lagoons in the world. The islands' dependence on (imported) fossil fuel is reduced by these renewable power projects, which comprise over 100 small wind turbines, at two different locations on the principal island, Grand Terre.



Benefits: Emissions reductions and wider community benefits

This project delivers reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by displacing the use of fossil fuel by the existing generation plant on the island. Under the approved methodology ACM0002 “Consolidated baseline methodology for grid-connected electricity generation from renewable sources” (Version 07), the project is calculated to save about 0.9 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per megawatt-hour generated.

Although there are good wind resources in New Caledonia, infrastructure is vulnerable to cyclones. The wind turbines in this project have therefore been specifically designed to be lowered in the event of an extreme weather alert. The relatively lightweight, guyed towers can also be lowered to facilitate routine maintenance.

The wind farms have been constructed using existing roads from former mining sites to minimise local impacts such as erosion. The project contributes local employment, including over 24 permanent jobs, reducing migration pressure amongst local Kanak people, and the company supports community cultural and education initiatives as well as using the New Caledonia operation as a base for operation and maintenance of projects across the Pacific region, and for stimulation of other typhoon-safe turbine projects.

Project carbon credits

During the verification period from 1 Sept 2010 to 31 May 2011, total greenhouse gas reductions by this project amounted to 26,710 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. Carbon credits were verified to the Gold Standard in September 2011 by Germanischer Lloyd Certification GmbH (documentation available upon request).