

Non-Technical Summary for the Design Consultation of the Programme of Activities:

Empower Solar Programme of Activities in Nigeria

1. Purpose of this Non-Technical Summary

This Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is prepared for the purpose of conducting a Programme of Activities (PoA) Design Consultation under the Gold Standard for the Global Goals.

The objective of this consultation is to seek stakeholder feedback on the design, scope, eligibility criteria, implementation framework, safeguard approach, and sustainable development contributions of the proposed Programme of Activities “Empower Solar Programme of Activities in Nigeria”.

The Public Consultation for the PoA: “Empower Solar Programme of Activities in Nigeria” will be maintained online.

2. Relevant Information for the PoA - Empower Solar Programme of Activities in Nigeria (Design Stage)

Empower New Energy AS proposes to develop a Programme of Activities (PoA) that will support the deployment of distributed solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at commercial and industrial (C&I) facilities across Nigeria. The PoA is currently in the **design phase** and is intended to provide a harmonised framework under which multiple VPAs may be implemented over time.

The PoA will have up to 15MW of installed capacity distributed in different VPAs. Each Voluntary Project Activity (VPA) will involve the installation and operation of a rooftop or ground-mounted solar PV plant, either grid-connected or off-grid, depending on the host facility and local network conditions to provide clean and renewable energy.

The PoA is designed to reduce electricity consumption from the national grid and on-site diesel generators by supplying clean, reliable renewable energy directly to commercial and industrial users.

All VPAs implemented under the PoA will follow harmonized eligibility criteria, design parameters and monitoring procedures established at PoA level.

The PoA will be registered under the Gold Standard for the Global Goals, with a start date of 30/11/2026, date in which operations will start, and a duration of 20 years. The goal is to generate carbon credits, measured in tons of CO₂ equivalent, to be traded on the voluntary carbon market.

Construction time: approx. 10 months

Operation begins: 30/11/2026

The creation of this PoA is a **voluntary action** by Empower New Energy AS.

3. Eligibility Criteria for Voluntary Project Activities (VPAs)

VPAs included under the PoA are expected to meet harmonised eligibility criteria defined at PoA level, including but not limited to:

- Installation of solar PV systems.
- May be grid-connected or off-grid, depending on the characteristics of the host facility and local grid conditions.
- Compliance with applicable national and local regulations
- Mandatory site-specific stakeholder consultation and safeguard assessment prior to inclusion

These criteria are subject to refinement based on stakeholder feedback received during this PoA Design Consultation.

Illustrative Example of a Proposed Voluntary Project Activity (VPA)

As part of the development of this Programme of Activities (PoA), Empower New Energy has identified an initial Voluntary Project Activity (VPA), the **Juddy-Bolema Industries rooftop solar PV project**, which is intended to be the **first real-case VPA** under the PoA. The VPA is located in Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria.

The project consists of the installation of a rooftop solar photovoltaic system at an existing industrial facility, designed to supply renewable electricity primarily for on-site consumption.

This project reflects the typical characteristics of VPAs to be included under the PoA, including:

- Deployment of distributed solar PV technology at commercial and industrial sites;
- Displacement of electricity from the national grid and on-site diesel generators;
- Contribution to greenhouse gas emission reductions and improved energy reliability for industrial users.

The project is presented in this Design Consultation **as a concrete example of the type of activities to be implemented under the PoA**, in order to support stakeholder understanding of the PoA design, expected impacts, and safeguard approach. At this stage, any impacts associated with this project are indicative and will be assessed and confirmed at VPA level through site-specific studies and stakeholder engagement.

The formal inclusion of this VPA in the PoA will be subject to a **separate VPA-level stakeholder consultation, validation, and approval process**, in accordance with Gold Standard requirements.

4. VPA Development and Inclusion Process

Individual VPAs will be identified and developed in line with the PoA eligibility criteria. Prior to inclusion in the PoA, each real-case VPA will:

- Conduct a local stakeholder consultation in accordance with Gold Standard requirements
- Assess site-specific environmental and social impacts
- Establish a continuous input and grievance mechanism
- Demonstrate compliance with the PoA design and safeguards

As part of the Programme of Activities (PoA) design process, Empower New Energy AS will conduct its first Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) in relation to the initial real-case VPA proposed under the PoA, the **“Juddy-Bolema Industries rooftop solar PV project”**.

The consultation will take place on:

- Date: 18 August, 2026
- Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- Venue: Juddy-Bolema Ind. Ltd, 33 Umuoji St, Odoakpu, Nkpor 431108, Anambra, Nigeria

The consultation will focus on the “**Juddy-Bolema Industries rooftop solar PV project**”, which is proposed as the first real-case VPA under the Empower Solar Programme of Activities in Nigeria.

The consultation will focus on the proposed Juddy-Bolema project and will serve a dual purpose: (i) as the PoA Design Consultation, to gather stakeholder feedback on the overall design and framework of the Empower Solar Programme of Activities in Nigeria; and (ii) as a VPA-level stakeholder consultation specific to the Juddy-Bolema project. Stakeholders will be informed about the project objectives, expected impacts and applicable safeguards, and will be given the opportunity to provide comments and feedback.

Stakeholder feedback at the VPA level may result in modifications to project design or implementation measures.

5. Synergies with Similar Initiatives

This proposal supports technological innovation, installation of infrastructure in the rooftop or on the ground related to commercial and industrial clients. The PoA is designed to complement existing renewable energy initiatives and avoid overlap or double counting by ensuring clear project boundaries and exclusive attribution of emission reductions.

6. Target End Users

The PoA is expected to directly benefit the following groups:

- **Commercial and Industrial electricity consumers.** Empower will provide renewable energy, cutting emissions related to fossil fuels.
- **Local community.** Gains from local employment during construction, operation and maintenance. There will be strengthened partnerships between Empower, local EPC contractors and industrial associations.

7. Safeguards, Risk Management and Mitigation Measures

The Empower Solar Programme of Activities in Nigeria is designed to integrate environmental and social safeguards at programme level, in line with the Gold Standard for the Global Goals and applicable national regulations.

At the PoA level, potential risks associated with typical Voluntary Project Activities (VPAs) have been identified as low to moderate in nature and primarily related to:

- Temporary disturbance during installation works (e.g. noise, access constraints);
- Occupational health and safety risks during construction, operation, and maintenance activities.

To address these risks, the PoA establishes a harmonised safeguard framework that will apply to all VPAs, including:

- Compliance with applicable national and local regulations;
- Application of Empower's requirements and contractor standards;
- Mandatory site-specific environmental and social risk screening for each VPA prior to inclusion;
- Implementation of appropriate health and safety procedures during construction and operation.

Any site-specific risks identified at VPA level will be addressed through tailored mitigation measures and documented as part of the VPA Design Document (VPA-DD). Stakeholder feedback received during consultations may result in adjustments to project design or implementation measures to further reduce risks.

8. Summary of PoA's Economic, Social, and Environmental Impacts

• Economic Impacts

Impact Category	Description
Investment Catalyst	The PoA is expected to mobilise private capital for the deployment of distributed solar PV systems across Nigeria's commercial and industrial sector, supporting investment in clean energy infrastructure that would otherwise face financial barriers without carbon finance.
Green Job Creation	The PoA is expected to support job creation during construction, installation, operation and maintenance of the solar PV system.
Energy Security	Distributed solar generation reduces reliance on Nigeria's fossil-dominated grid and diesel generators, increasing operational resilience for industrial users facing frequent power outages.
Technology Innovation	The PoA is expected to demonstrate a replicable and scalable business model for renewable energy deployment in the industrial and commercial sector, supporting broader market transformation.

• Social Impacts

Impact	Description
Improved public health and well-being	Reduced dependence on diesel generators lowers noise, air pollution, and occupational health risks for workers at industrial facilities.
Encouraging citizen participation and community empowerment	The PoA includes structured stakeholder consultations and continuous grievance mechanisms, ensuring transparency, inclusiveness, and consideration of local stakeholder concerns throughout the project lifecycle.

The project applies a gender-sensitive approach to stakeholder engagement and employment opportunities, ensuring equal access to participation and benefits.

• Environmental Impacts

Impact	Description
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Contribution to climate change mitigation	The PoA is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by displacing electricity from Nigeria's fossil-dominated grid and diesel generators with renewable solar PV electricity.
Improved soil health and biodiversity	When the VPAs use rooftops to install the solar PV pannels, the land-use impacts are minimal, avoiding pressure on natural or agricultural land.

9. Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Empower Solar Programme of Activities in Nigeria is expected to contribute positively to sustainable development in Nigeria by supporting the deployment of renewable energy solutions in the commercial and industrial sector. Anticipated contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are based on the typical characteristics of VPAs and will be assessed and confirmed at the individual VPA level.

The PoA is expected to contribute to the following SDGs:

- **SDG 4 – Quality Education**
 - **Expected impact:** The project provides skill development and technical training to employees involved in the installation, operation, and maintenance of the solar system, building local capacity in renewable energy technologies.
 - **Monitoring approach:** Training records maintained by Empower New Energy and local EPC contractors, reported annually.
- **SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy**
 - **Expected impact:** Increased supply of clean, reliable renewable electricity to industrial facilities, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and diesel generators.
 - **Monitoring approach:** Measurement of electricity generated by solar PV systems (MWh), based on calibrated meters and recorded annually.
- **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**
 - **Expected impact:** Creation of employment opportunities during construction, installation, operation, and maintenance phases, with adherence to labour standards and health and safety requirements.
 - **Monitoring approach:** Number of jobs created, using contractor employment records.
- **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
 - **Expected impact:** Strengthening of resilient and sustainable energy infrastructure for industrial and commercial users through distributed solar PV systems.
 - **Monitoring approach:** Number of VPAs implemented, installed solar PV capacity (MWp), and number of industrial facilities served.
- **SDG 13 – Climate Action**
 - **Expected impact:** Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the displacement of grid electricity and diesel-based generation with renewable solar power.

- **Monitoring approach:** Annual calculation of emission reductions (tCO₂e) using Gold Standard-approved methodologies, verified by an accredited Validation and Verification Body (VVB).

10. Contact Information

For any inquiries related to the PoA or VPA, or for those unable to attend the public consultation, you can contact:

- Contact Person: Raja Dasgupta
- Email: projects@empowernewenergy.com
- Phone: +47 934 10 055

All feedback and grievances received will be formally recorded, acknowledged, and addressed by Empower New Energy AS in accordance with the project's continuous input and grievance mechanism, and responses will be communicated to stakeholders. Also, all the comments will be integrated in the final version of the PoA.

This Non-Technical Summary and related project information will remain available to stakeholders throughout the minimum 30-day stakeholder feedback round.