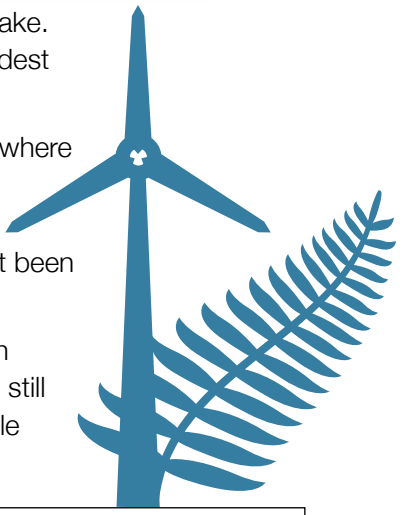
COMMUNITY WIND FOR POST-EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION IN MEXICO

On September 7th, Southern Mexico was struck by a powerful 8.2-magnitude earthquake. Indigenous communities in Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico's poorest states, were hit hardest by the disaster. Around a hundred thousand families lost their homes.

The worst devastation happened in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, an indigenous region where according to official figures, 50,000 homes were destroyed or badly damaged. The Isthmus has a world-class wind resource, wind farms totaling more than 2,000 MW were installed there during this decade. However, indigenous communities have not yet been included in wind power development in their territory. Most families remain in poverty.



On September 19th, a second earthquake devastated more indigenous communities in Morelos, Puebla and Guerrero, as well as Mexico City and other cities. The death toll is still unknown. Communities in remote mountain regions near the epicenter are receiving little attention amidst the massive destruction and numerous casualties in urban centers.

The two main assets of resiliency in the Isthmus are strong communities and powerful wind. Their combination can drive self-reliant, community-driven reconstruction, and long-term prosperity.

Yansa and the World Wind Energy Association want to set up, together with local organizations, a small wind farm to fund community-led reconstruction in rural indigenous communities devastated by the earthquakes of September 7th and 19th. This will nurture the autonomy and leadership of these communities, reducing their dependency and vulnerability.

We seek companies, in particular wind turbine manufacturers, ready to donate part or all of the equipment required for this project. Our first priority is to identify manufacturers willing to donate wind turbines in the 1.5-3.5 MW range. Financial donations for construction and commissioning will also be welcome. In-kind and cash donations may be tax-deductible.

This project will serve as model for community participation in wind energy in developing / emerging countries. After the reconstruction process is over, profits will be devoted to community-led reforestation.

Technical details

We envision a total installed capacity of 8 to 10 MW. The project will be hosted by a Zapotec community with excellent wind resource. The site is close to a substation and has good access by road.

Wind class IA, capacity factor around 40%.
Grid connection through local substation. Close to good infrastructure (harbor, highway, etc).

Power to be sold to the wholesale spot market.
Current spot price in the node: 40-55 US$/MWh.

Turbines need to comply with Mexico's grid code.

Social and governance details

The project will be structured with strong statutory safeguards to protect the social mission and ensure transparency and accountability.

All profits will be donated to community-led reconstruction based on traditional architecture using local, environmentally friendly materials.

Community organizations grounded on indigenous democratic self-governance, committed to socio-environmental objectives, and independent from political parties, will lead the effort at local level.

Yansa is a tax-exempt non-profit registered in New York. We partner with Latin American indigenous communities to advance social justice in the renewable energy sector. We foster community energy to support resilient livelihoods and nurture the common good. We work since 2008 in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, where we have very close relations with community organizations.

WWEA is the global umbrella organization of the wind energy sector with members in over 100 countries. WWEA works for an energy system completely driven by renewable energy, with wind energy as a cornerstone. WWEA has a special focus on promoting community based wind power. WWEA has special consultative status at the United Nations.
WWEA is registered as non-profit in Bonn, where it is headquartered at the UN Campus.

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WWEA
World Wind Energy Association