

Policy Advice and Capacity Building Activities in the ECOWAS Region

Background.

IRENA Work Programme 2012: “The dialogue initiated with ECREEE in 2011 will be continued with the aim to define a regional capacity building action plan to be carried out jointly. This plan will be elaborated on the basis of ECREEE’s knowledge of capacity gaps in the region and the findings of the pilot readiness assessment conducted by IRENA and with participation of an expert from ECREEE in November 2011 in Senegal.”

Timeframe: Initial frame from April 2012 to February 2014.

Funded by:

- a) Governments of Germany and United Arab Emirates through a voluntary contribution to IRENA’s budget for Capacity Building;
- b) IRENA (core budget);
- c) ECREEE.

Capacity Building Initiatives - Approach.

- IRENA aims to support the development of a ***self-sustaining market*** for specific RE technologies in a region through capacity building.
- ***ECOWAS***: small to large scale ***PV technologies*** for
 - a) Grid-based power production,
 - b) Productive and community applications,
 - c) Residential installations.
- This requires strengthening of ***institutional capacities*** to support the development of national strategies addressing skills and capacity gaps with a ***longer term perspective***.
- In development and implementation, the following ***principles*** are applied resulting in a ***initiative for the ECOWAS region*** as follows:

Guiding Principles.

1. We focus on one specific topic to maximize our impact:

Support the development of a self-sustaining market for on- and off-grid PV applications, to:

- a) Solar energy most widely available and steady resource;
- b) Allow for servicing the particular characteristics of the resource and technology;
- b) Deploy a mature, robust, scalable and viable technology;
- c) Build the specific skills and capacity sets as required for PV technology deployment.

2. We look at all dimensions of the topic to make the system work:

- a) Institutional, policy and regulatory framework;
- b) Financing of renewable energy projects;
- c) Promotion of renewable energy entrepreneurship (RESCOs);
- d) Establishment and update of higher education.

3. We work closely interlinked with Focal Points and actors anchored in the region:

- a) Partnering with ECREEE, mandated by ECOWAS Member countries;
- b) Working with actors from the region.

Work Packages.

1. Steering and coordination with other initiatives carried out in the ECOWAS region;
- 2. Promotion of national renewable energy policies and incentive schemes in ECOWAS;**
3. Energy planning;
4. Increase lending for PV projects;
5. Promotion of renewable energy entrepreneurship;
6. Establishment and update of renewable energy higher education;
7. Communication and Outreach.

Main outcome and added value.

The initiative will enable governments, financial community, private sector and academia, to promote, finance and successfully implement PV projects and thereby addressing the energy challenge the countries of the ECOWAS region are facing.

Work Packages.

Work Package 2: Promotion of national RE policies and incentive schemes in ECOWAS.

Responsible: ECREEE, IRENA, IDAE, AECID

Objectives: Reinforcing the capacities among ECOWAS member states concerning policies to promote RE at the national level;
Support the development and implementation of a deployment strategy for RET with emphasis on PV:

- a) to enhance access to electricity, and
- b) to mitigate shortfalls or disruptions in electricity supply through promotion of PV electricity generation by residential, commercial and industrial consumers.

Activities: Workshops for policy makers, utilities and regulators;
Promotion of net-metering.

Expected results: 3 Workshops conducted
Creation of a network for exchange on policy implementation;
Awareness and understanding of regulators and utilities for the requirements to increase market participation of IPPs

Promotion of private sector in rural electrification: First International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference and Exhibition

ECREEE, ARE, and IRENA will jointly organize the First International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference and Exhibition (10 to 12 October 2012, in Accra, Ghana).

The Conference aims at:

- Analyzing the main aspects related to the massive deployment of off-grid solutions based on renewable energy, including technologies, policies and business models;
- Illustrating and sharing best practices, which can be replicated in different contexts;
- Increasing the dialogue between different stakeholders involved in rural electrification, and in particular between the public and the private sector.

The Exhibition will contribute to:

- Giving the private sector the opportunity to present products and projects;
- Offering decision makers and to other stakeholders ample networking opportunities.



Thank you.

Please contact for queries:

at IRENA:

Ms. Rabia Ferroukhi, Senior Programme officer Policy Advice

RFerroukhi@irena.org

Ms. Cornelia Marschel, Project Officer Capacity Building

cmarschel@irena.org

at ECREEE:

Mr. David Vilar

dvilar@ecreee.org