

Participating Countries under the Energy Component of the GEF SPWA

The 16 participating countries in this programme are Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Chad, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Participating Agencies under the Energy Component of the GEF SPWA

The participating and supporting agencies in the programme are the World Bank, UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP and ECREEE.

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GEF STRATEGIC PROGRAMME FOR WEST AFRICA
ENERGY COMPONENT

Regional Project on Promoting Coordination, Coherence, Integration and Knowledge Management



Background

West Africa is facing acute challenges in terms of access to energy at a cost, form, and quantity that can have an impact on economic development of the region. These challenges arise despite an impressive assortment of renewable energy resources West Africa possesses, including solar, wind, hydro, and biomass potential widely distributed throughout the region. These resources, if utilized prudently in a concert with one another, could greatly expand access to modern energy services in the region, particularly in peri-urban and rural areas. Overall rate of access to modern energy services is very low across the West African region, thereby inhibiting prospects of developing economic activities, providing basic social services and fighting poverty. Energy efficiency also remains one of the challenges in the region.



There is significant energy pricing inequality both within countries and between countries in the region. Access to modern fuels for motive power and electricity in rural areas is particularly low since there are no decentralized energy systems in place. Household access to electricity across the region is estimated to be 20% but wide chasms exist between the access rates in urban areas (average 40%) and the rates in rural areas (between 6% and 8%). Wood fuel is currently the primary or the only source of energy for the majority of the population in West Africa. However, its use is generally very inefficient.

With the gap between energy demand and supply widening, dependence on thermal energy production, fossil fuel prices fluctuating and lack of regional energy trade, the energy security of West Africa is threatened. Over 60% of the West African community's electricity generation capacity is running on oil. As a result, the recent unprecedented escalation of oil prices had a devastating effect on the economies in the region. Although power sector reforms with the aim to stimulate private sector participation and market liberalization were implemented, National Power Companies (utilities) in the region have continued to be under-capitalized, charge rates below cost, and hence have not been able to access financial markets for upkeep and expansion of their projects.

The global concern about increasing GHG emissions and accelerating global warming and climate change is another challenge. Root causes behind the climate change include the world dependence on fossil fuels, increasing energy demand, and degrading the capacity of forests to absorb atmospheric carbon. West African countries and their energy sectors are highly affected by the causes of climate change (temperature rise, extreme weather events and droughts). Adaptation measures and climate change impacts will have to be taken into account in energy planning (especially renewable energy).

Objective

The specific objective of this GEF Regional Project is to strengthen the coordination and coherence among the country-level energy projects implemented under the Strategic Programme for West Africa's (SPWA) - Energy Component. The regional project seeks to create an enabling policy and institutional environment for promoting renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and markets in the West African Region. The project is fully aligned with the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL).

Global Benefits

The project will support an integrated programmatic approach as promoted by GEF. This approach will accelerate the mainstreaming of renewable energy and energy efficiency into policies and investments in West Africa. It will deliver significant global environmental benefits in line with GEF focal priorities namely, climate change and biodiversity. The global environmental benefits will be delivered primarily in terms of reduced GHG emissions and local pollution due to enhanced use of renewable energies in the electricity sector, improved energy efficiency in industrial, residential and public sectors, and sustainable urban transport systems. Simultaneously, it will contribute to the enhancement of energy security and access to energy services. In addition, there will be knowledge management benefits. These will include the collection and wide dissemination of best practices, lessons learned and experience on energy projects, and will provide valuable support for local policy development.

Key Interventions under the SPWA Energy Component

1. Assist in effective coordination of the SPWA's Energy Component:
 - To set up an institutional coordination mechanism at the regional level
 - To hold regional level technical meetings and training workshops for promoting cooperation and coherence among energy projects in the region by involving project managers, national GEF focal points, RE & EE technical experts and other key stakeholders
 - To hold regional level Ministerial meetings to promote high policy-level cooperation and coherence among the countries involved in the SPWA energy component projects
 - To prepare an annual progress report
2. Enhance awareness, exchange of information and dissemination of best practices in RE&EE amongst national and regional practitioners:
 - To establish a web based ECOWAS Observatory for RE&EE actively maintained by the ECREEE Secretariat and National Focal Institutions (NFIs) with the aim to facilitate information exchange and knowledge sharing
 - To prepare publications and document good practice guidelines based on review of past and ongoing projects, and emerging opportunities as well as lessons learned and disseminate it to all stakeholders
 - To organize global forums and short / long term training programmes
3. Establish a necessary institutional framework for monitoring and evaluation of the results and impact under the SPWA – Energy Component



Activities	Timeline	
	Month	Year
CEO Endorsement /Approval	January	2011
Implementation Start	January	2011
Project Closing Date	December	2014

Progress

- Since its establishment in 2010, the ECREEE Centre has been closely involved in strengthening regional level coordination mechanism to promote coherence and synergies under the energy projects at the country level. ECREEE has organized four regional technical workshops on small-scale hydro (Monrovia, Liberia), bioenergy (Bamako, Mali), solar (Dakar, Senegal) and financial structuring of sustainable energy projects (Accra, Ghana) for policy makers and experts in the region.
- ECREEE in close collaboration with partners has prepared policy papers on renewable energy and energy efficiency, seeking a comprehensive approach to promote RE & EE technologies and markets in the region.
- The web portal of the ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECOWREX) was developed and made operational.
- In close collaboration with partners, ECREEE has undertaken regional level renewable energy resource assessments and developed a regional small-scale hydro power programme.
- The ECOWAS High Level Energy Forum, jointly organized by ECREEE, UNIDO, GEF and GFSE, will take place from 29 to 31 October 2012 in Accra, Ghana. This forum is the first annual Ministerial meeting promoting cooperation among key stakeholders involved in energy projects and programmes in the region. The ECOWAS Ministers of Energy will adopt regional policies on renewable energy and energy efficiency, and launch the ECOWREX.

Budget

The total budget (US\$ 1.49 million) includes: GEF – US\$ 0.7 million; Co-financing – US\$ 0.79 million
Co-financed by: the Austrian Development Agency, Renewable Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), Spanish International Development Agency (AECID) and UNIDO.

