

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF  
WEST AFRICAN STATES



COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE  
DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE  
DE L'OUEST

# **Regional initiatives to scale up energy access for economic and human development**

## **Sharing lessons learned**

### **The case of the ECOWAS**

## Foreword

This briefing paper reviews the current strategies and programs of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which aims at increasing access to energy services thereby creating a conducive environment towards poverty reduction and enhanced economic and social development. ECOWAS perceives access to energy as an indispensable element “to preserve regional stability, and promote regional economic integration, for economic development”(1) and intends, therefore, to achieve this through accelerated provision of modern energy services to its population.

The paper specifically focuses on three recent ECOWAS initiatives: the West African Power Pool; the West African Gas Pipeline; and the White Paper for a regional energy services policy, which aims at achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The main argument of this paper is that there is a direct link between access to energy and economic development as “the lack of modern fuels and electricity in most developing countries entrenches poverty, constrains the delivery of social services, limits opportunities for women, and erodes environmental sustainability”(2). The second argument of this paper is that promoting a regional energy policy fosters regional integration at the political and economic level.

Based on the context of ECOWAS, this paper concludes that increased supply of energy and increased access to modern energy services facilitates the achievement of ECOWAS national development goals through boosting Gross Domestic Product, reducing extreme poverty and achieving the MDGs by 2015. In addition, this paper shows that ECOWAS, with its specific mandate and experience in energy related issues is playing a catalytic role in this area.

### **The 15th Commission for Sustainable Development – Seizing the opportunity to share a common vision**

Following CSD 14, ECOWAS is seeking to strengthen the existing partnership geared at supporting the implementation of the White Paper. The partnership could be based on the following key principles:

- Supporting strengthening of capacities at regional level to leverage the required financing, taking advantage of raising ODA, and accelerate the creation of the capacity at national level needed to deliver investment programmes for scaling up energy access.
- Supporting the development of the energy sector as a strong vector for regional integration and as a platform for inter-sectoral coordination at national level.
- Support increased multi-sectoral and demand driven approaches based on services are a key to ensure energy access development effectiveness,
- Support the development of regional infrastructures,
- Support regional and national technologically neutral approaches,
- Support coordination mechanisms at regional and national level to strengthen leadership in the formulation and implementation of MDG based energy access policies and programmes, and facilitate donor coordination and contribute to aid effectiveness.

### **Key words**

Access to energy, capacity building, multi-sectoral approach, demand-driven, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), energy, Millennium Development Goals (MDG), Poverty Reduction Strategies.

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### **4. Key lessons learned and proposed recommendations**

## **1- The Economic Community of West African States**

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), established in 1975 in Lagos, Nigeria (3) seeks to promote regional integration as stipulated in the revised Treaty of 1992 which (4) states that “ECOWAS shall ultimately be the sole economic community in the region for the purpose of economic integration and the realisation of the objectives of the African Economic Community” (art. 2).

### **a. ECOWAS Policy**

The overall aim of ECOWAS is to create an economic union in West Africa through co-operation and integration thus ensuring:

- the harmonisation and coordination of national policies and the promotion of integration programmes, projects and activities, particularly in agriculture, natural resources, industry, transport and communications, and energy
- the establishment of a common market
- the adoption of common policies in the economic, financial and social sectors
- the creation of a monetary union
- the promotion of equitable development throughout the region (art. 3)

In the field of energy, the Treaty (art. 28) stipulates that Member States shall co-ordinate and harmonise their policies and program. In addition, ECOWAS should institute a common energy policy and a collective solution for the energy development problems. The treaty provides the institutional framework with which ECOWAS can become a major energy resource organisation and combat the challenges West African countries are facing.

### **b. ECOWAS Regional Energy Programme**

The ECOWAS regional energy programme is part of the integration and economic development policy. The main objectives of the program are to strengthen regional integration and to boost growth through market development in order to fight poverty. The community energy program has developed regional coordinated actions at all stages of the energy chain. These actions focus on developing the use of regional resources for the expansion of electricity production and exchange and on developing cross-border interconnections within the context of a regional integrated energy market. Their overall aim is to boost and optimize the availability and the end use of energy, by ensuring increased access to energy services to rural and peri-urban communities.

## **2- A challenging socio-economic context**

### **a. Macroeconomic and Human Development context**

Despite foreign investment and substantial growth rates (5) poverty remains high in ECOWAS countries and oil products make up the bulk of imports within the region (6); meaning that an increased barrel price would have severe consequences on the regional balance of trade and GDP growth. However, the region is moving ahead. A tight macroeconomic policy, which is currently underway, aims to inject much needed economic growth into the region as well as reducing budget deficits, in order to substantially reduce poverty and ensure peace and stability.

Poverty is prevalent throughout the region. All ECOWAS countries, with the noticeable exception of Ghana and Cape Verde, have a Human Development Index below .5. Furthermore, Niger, Sierra Leone, Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea Bissau, have some of the world’s lowest Human Development Index (HDI) (7). Income disparity is also a growing concern within West African countries, with the poorest 20% of the population left with only 6% of the wealth. This income disparity is further exacerbated by a rural/urban divide.

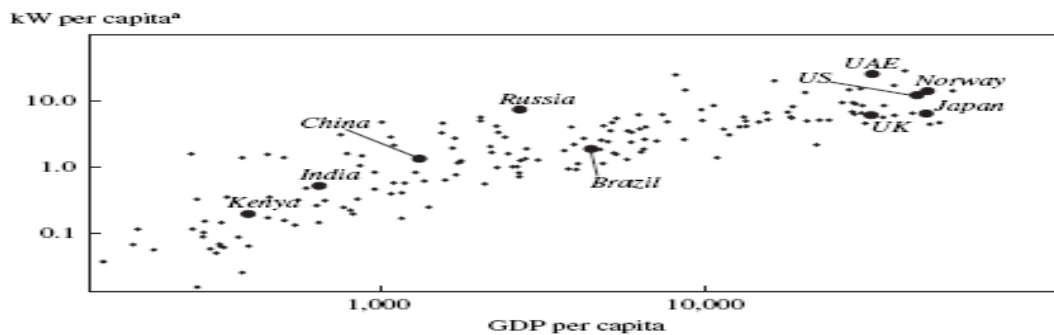
The predicted increase of population from 262 million inhabitants in 2005 to an expected 325 million in 2015, threatens the current efforts to extend access to basic social services and infrastructure which is still very low. Limited access to drinking water (60%), low enrolment to primary education (56%) and high infant mortality rates (187 out of 1000 live births) are still preventing West Africans from living a long and healthy life. In addition, massive migration and growing HIV prevalence rate in these countries (8) is challenging the future economic development as younger generations in particular are more likely to emigrate and are more susceptible to the HIV/AIDS pandemic (9).

**b. How does access to energy services (10) play a crucial role?**

In its approach, ECOWAS firmly believes that increased access to energy is essential to economic growth and will ensure that Member States achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, in particular reducing extreme poverty by half.

Addressing both the lack of access to modern energy services and the need to improve uses of traditional biomass is one of the challenges in the region. Unsustainable use of traditional energy sources for cooking and heating are still predominant. This factor has, to some extent, a direct link to the high levels of poverty in ECOWAS countries, as up to a third of household budget is set aside for fuel costs. As the main cause of dependency on biomass is people’s inability to access modern, reliable and affordable energy services, increasing that access is likely to engender significant benefits in terms of living conditions, protection of the environment and economic growth.

The chart below illustrate how increasing access to modern energy services (i.e. electricity), can reduce extreme poverty and foster economic growth. With an average household’s access to electricity grids in ECOWAS countries being only about 20%, much remains to be done.



Source: Data from EIA (2002).  
a. Scales on both axes are logarithmic.

ECOWAS is also aware that a lack of access to energy has a knock-on effect on the overall welfare of families. Women in particular bear the hardship of collecting fuel and water on a daily basis, leaving less time to access health or education services.

Over the years, ECOWAS countries have launched a set of programs aimed at increasing energy supply services. These initiatives have especially focused on the need for greater industrial and agricultural development.

### **3- Current ECOWAS Energy Regional Initiatives**

ECOWAS considers that both national and regional initiatives are deemed necessary in order to meet the challenge of limited access (11). to energy services in West Africa. Nationally, countries have committed themselves to formulating Poverty Reduction Strategies that set specific objectives, required implementation frameworks and the financial investment needed to expand energy access. Regionally, countries have to work, hand in hand, to increase reliable and affordable enhanced capacity supply. The West African Community acts as the catalyst in mobilising the required funds and resources to promote sharing knowledge and replication of good practices.

ECOWAS has managed to set up different mechanisms in the hydro (12), electricity and gas sectors. The West African Power Pool (WAPP) and the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) are two flagship programmes the Community is currently developing to face the 'supply-side' energy challenge. These two initiatives are complemented by an innovative, demand driven and multi-sectoral initiative on "Access to modern energy services".

#### **a. The West African Power Pool**

As demand for energy services in the region is expected "to grow by 5 % annually over the next 20 years, the region needs to increase its generating capacity by about 17,000 MW to keep up"(13) the pace. This regional pooling approach aimed at meeting the demand for power is the most economically rational, as the estimated savings should amount to about US \$ 3-5 billion over 20 years.

##### *Objectives of the WAPP*

In response to the long-acknowledged lack of reliable access to energy, the vision of the WAPP is to integrate the national power system operations into a unified regional electricity market. The main priorities (14) are to quadruple inter-connection capacities within the next 20 years and to generate additional electricity capacities. Furthermore, the project aims to increase trade in energy amongst ECOWAS countries and promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the sector. With an estimated investment of US \$16 billion over the period (15), ECOWAS expects the WAPP mechanism to help ensure reliable, affordable and cost-effective electricity supply for the inhabitants of the region.

Power trading within West African countries is still in the early stages of development. However, there is already a network of bilateral cross-border interconnections supporting energy trading between the countries (16) and by 2011, most countries in the region are expected to be interconnected. In addition, ECOWAS has made substantial progress in building the regional institutional and regulatory framework.

##### *Key achievements*

Four key achievements are: the creation of the WAPP Secretariat; the adoption of the ECOWAS Energy Protocol; the creation of the ECOWAS Energy Information Observatory and the establishment of a Regional Regulatory Body for the electricity sector.

- Creation of the WAPP Secretariat

The WAPP was created in 1999 by ECOWAS Member States ([A/DEC.5/12/99](#)) and granted the status of ECOWAS Specialised Institution in 2006 ([A/DEC.20/01/06](#)) to address the issue of inadequate power supply within West Africa.

- Adoption of the ECOWAS Energy Protocol (17)

The 2003 Protocol calls for the elimination of cross-border barriers to trade in energy. It encourages investment by providing for investor-friendly terms such as: international arbitration for dispute resolution; the repatriation of profits; and protection against

expropriation of assets. With respect to the electric power sector, the Protocol provides open and non-discriminatory access to power generation sources and transmission facilities, and envisions an enforcement mechanism supported by the ECOWAS Secretariat.

- **Creation of the ECOWAS Energy Information Observatory**

The ECOWAS Energy Information Observatory (18) was established to: collect energy supply and demand balances; provide forecasts of potential energy surpluses available for trading; coordinate maintenance schedules; and engage in long-term generation and transmission capacity expansion planning. It has now been integrated into the new WAPP General Secretariat in Cotonou.

- **Establishment of a Regional Regulatory Body**

As cross border trade in electricity grows, the task of the RRA is mainly to supervise an effective system for dispute resolution; establish and provide the enforcement of uniform technical rules for the management of trade; and review bulk power transactions between systems of member state entities.

The WAPP mechanism has already succeeded in persuading the international community of its potential: "Under its new approach for lending on regional integration projects, the World Bank has made the WAPP its N°1 priority for West Africa. (...) *World Bank* loans can now be made to national governments for the segment of an international transmission line lying within its territory" (19). However, the current priority for the Community is to ensure that international donors assist with the financial constraints in implementing this mechanism. Opening up the path, by providing substantial financial support, will help launch priority projects and endow the WAPP with its own resources.

#### **b. The West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP)**

Another major success of ECOWAS in the energy sector is the establishment of the WAGP. The pipeline owned and operated by a private-public consortium, is currently under construction and should be fully operational in September 2007.

The purpose of this project is to construct a 600 km pipeline at a total cost of about US\$ 615 million to transport natural gas from Nigeria to Benin, Togo and Ghana. Through this initiative, cheaper and cleaner energy sources will reach Member States for electricity generation and industrial purposes. The benefits of the pipeline will reduce overall production costs resulting in greater industrial growth and economic integration. Moreover, environmental pollution caused by electricity generation will be greatly reduced.

The economic effects of the WAGP are manifold (20): 10,000 to 20,000 primary sector jobs will be created; new power supplies will stimulate the growth of new industry potentially creating 30,000-60,000 secondary jobs; and an additional \$800 million in new industrial investment should occur in the region. The World Bank estimates that Benin, Togo and Ghana can save nearly \$500 million with the newly built WAGP over a 20-year period.

Both the WAPP and the WAGP (21) demonstrate the enormous capacity of the energy sector to foster regional integration at both an economic and political level. The positive impact of such initiatives should not be underestimated. However, ECOWAS is aware that a supply sided energy policy will not single-handedly reduce poverty and thus it is crucial to develop demand driven and multi-sectoral energy policies. To this effect, in 2003, a regional energy access policy (White Paper) was introduced to address this imbalance.

#### **c. The Regional Energy Access Policy**

Sectoral policies have failed in the last twenty years to reduce poverty and to increase access to modern energy services in rural and peri-urban areas. ECOWAS considers that large-scale access to energy services is crucial to achieve the MDGs and boost GDP growth. However,

current trends of access to energy services in rural and peri-urban areas are not sufficient to ensure the attainment of these goals. Consequently, there is urgent need for decisive actions to expand energy access. In response to this challenge, ECOWAS countries and regional institutions have launched the Regional Energy Access Policy, embodied by the White Paper endorsed by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government in January 2006 in Niamey.

#### *Objectives of the White Paper*

The Regional Energy Access Policy aims to ensure access to modern energy services to at least half the population living in rural and peri-urban areas by 2015, in line with the MDGs. The challenge is immense. For instance it will entail “supplying 36 million more households and 49 000 more localities with access to energy services” (22). Other objectives of the policy are to:

- Strengthen regional integration with a view to fostering development and building capacities
- Help harmonise political and institutional frameworks (i.e. PRSPs, MDG monitoring framework, etc.)
- Develop, on the basis of national political frameworks, coherent energy policies based on reducing poverty in rural and peri-urban areas and achieving the MDGs”(23).

“The three expected targets of ECOWAS are by 2015:

- 100% of the total population should have access to improved domestic services
- 66% of the population in rural and urban areas should have access to individual electricity supply
- 60% of the population living in rural areas should have access to motive power for productive uses” (24).

#### *Added value of the Region*

The value added of *the ECOWAS* collective regional response lies in its proven ability to “establish a knowledge management system *that* will directly support capacity-building strategy by fostering expertise based on shared practices” (25). In addition, the Community can be a catalyst, “notably concerning the mobilization of investment funds, like the first achievements of WAPP *and* WAGP grids” (26). Overall, ECOWAS, as an organisation, brings significant benefit at an upstream level, i.e. institutional reforms, technical standards, financial mechanisms, and cross-border tariff issues.

#### *Required investment*

ECOWAS estimates that for achieving the three targets by 2015, three types of investments are necessary: investments in access (the equipment required for access to modern energy services); investments in operating costs (including cost of generation and transmission) and; investments in technical studies and accompanying measures. The cost of implementing the three policies can be broken down into:

- “17.5 billion dollars (over ten years) for investment in equipment needed for access to modern energy services and for studies and accompanying measures;
- 34.6 billion dollars (over ten years) for energy related costs (27): (...) international donors should support a significant part but end users would also be able to finance a portion.”

#### *Institutional framework to implement a multi-sectoral energy policy*

The main guiding principle of the approved policy is to follow a participatory and multi-sectoral approach when developing MDG based policies and programmes for energy access. This is done through the development of a national vision for energy access for 2015, based on a need assessment which involves all key players in the identification of the energy services needed to implement other sectoral policies and programmes in the field of education, health, water,

agriculture, etc. Other guiding principles include technological neutrality and the promotion of public-private partnership (28).

Countries are building the required institutional framework in order to apply the regional policy. This includes the creation of National Multi-sectoral Committees (NMC) in the participating countries, whose mandate is to coordinate national stakeholder efforts in developing Energy for Poverty Reduction Action Plans and National Investment programs. At the regional level, a Regional Multi-sectoral Committee, with representatives from all national committees, provides oversight and guidance for the implementation of the White Paper and helps harmonize the work of the NMCs. In parallel, an energy service needs assessment is being launched in each country to help create a vision at the national level, while a regional capacity building action plan is being built to support countries.

The White Paper also proposes “the establishment of a Regional Agency for Energy Access (RAEA) to mobilize the necessary resources for tackling the enormous challenge to provide modern energy services to more than half the region’s population by 2015”(29). The mission of the RAEA, which is expected to become an ECOWAS specialised body, would be to lead and coordinate the implementation of the regional plan of action for increasing access to energy services (30).

#### *Implementation status*

ECOWAS has already launched the first phase of preparatory activities (2006 and 2008) that aim to create both an enabling environment and sufficient capacity within the region, to build market visibility and confidence. The preparatory activities will prepare the ground for the next phase (2008-2015) of the White Paper, i.e. implementation of the regional action plan and investment programs needed to reach the objectives set by the White Paper.

At this moment in time, ECOWAS countries need reliable and long-term support from the international community, in order the challenge of the low access level to modern energy services through a multi-sectoral approach. This will positively influence development policies in Health, Education or Agriculture and Food processing, etc. According to the White Paper, “the overall cost of implementing this access to modern energy services is around 16 dollars per inhabitant per year, (...) around 4.3% of regional GDP”.

## **4- Lessons learned and key recommendations**

ECOWAS countries are facing immense challenges which are all linked, to some extent, to dramatic poverty levels particularly in rural areas. The supply sided energy policies, i.e. WAPP and WAGP, and the demand-driven and multi-sectoral regional strategy, launched under the leadership of ECOWAS, are two different and complementary answers to this challenge. However, their plan of action and investment plans should be further linked in the coming future.

The Community is going in the right direction with regards to appreciating the need to develop complementary policies in order to increase access to energy. ECOWAS countries - like most the developing countries – have to manage different and often opposing priorities. However, these countries recognize that these priorities can also be balanced, as increasing access to energy should not only help overcome environmental degradation but also result in greater economic growth.

As it is crucial i. **to influence the decision-making process** in favour of increasing access to energy through a scale-up of investments, ii. **to demonstrate that the adopted approach is relevant through implementation of programmes of energy access**, ECOWAS has been taking the stake for supporting Member States at these two level for formulating national

energy access strategies. At this stage of its own experience, ECOWAS can highlight the following lessons-learnt and recommendations:

**1. Integrating energy within MDG-based PRS at national and regional level is:**

- a. creating a political space for re-introducing energy access for poverty reduction
- b. providing an opportunity and motivation at the national level to re-examine how energy needs to be approached to help achieve the MDGs
- c. defining the overall context in which energy agenda is being re-surfaced and included more appropriately in PRS discussion

**Experiences in integrating energy into PRS and in facilitating a policy dialogue**

- For instance, as a regional organization, ECOWAS has been supporting the process of integrating energy access into the Regional Poverty Reduction Strategy, under formulation.
- Moreover, ECOWAS has been learning that the recognition of energy access as a key driver of development needs a strong lobbying campaign toward key stakeholders as the Donor Community, the utilities and ministries of economy and finance. This is a prerequisite for the demand to be heard.

**2. Creating a multi-sectoral process or political fora to discuss and develop a national consensus on energy is key to expanding access to modern energy for the poor**

- Rural development activities—agriculture, transport, water supply, education, income generation, health care—all have energy requirements. Yet the ministries and departments responsible for these activities rarely coordinate or cooperate with the ministry of energy, or with one another, to arrive at the most rational, integrated solution to their energy needs,
- An institutionalized forum for coordinating and cooperating on energy strategies and action plans across government ministries and departments support the mainstreaming energy into the development process. It is the reason why ECOWAS has been promoting a cross-sectoral approach based on a regional committee of cross-sectoral experts (mainly energy and finance) and national cross-sectoral groups involving key sectors and actors as health, education, agriculture, private sector, CSOs, etc.,
- Both providers of energy services (public sector, private sector, CSOs) and the beneficiaries (agriculture, small business, industry, health, education, etc.) must be involved at all levels (local, national).

**3. MDG-based PRS works to align partners to national priorities. As ECOWAS White Paper processes show:**

- once national and regional governments integrate energy in their macro planning, that has worked to align all partners behind the set national priorities,
- This also greatly helps prioritize external assistance to national priorities.

**4. Enhance Human Capacity through Education, Training, and Research**

Even greater than the issue of financing is the shortage of skilled human resources in rural and greater urban areas. Action at regional level can go a long way towards overcoming this obstacle.

It can do this by building the capacities – including information and awareness raising – of targeted actors, including staff in public institutions in member states, local authorities and attached services and agencies; public or private operators working at local level (producers, energy system users and equipment manufacturers and fitters); civil society organisations and consumer representatives (cooperatives, NGOs, consumer associations, trade organisations, etc.).

As described within the ECOWAS White Paper for energy access, the goal, then, is to build the capacities required to devise harmonised political and institutional frameworks that rank energy as a national priority, and to develop coherent energy policies and programmes geared towards reducing poverty.

#### **ECOWAS needs in capacity building**

- WAPP Secretariat needs to be strengthened in terms of staffing in order to implement its expanded mandate
- ECOWAS should ensure National Multisectoral Committees are given the appropriate resources and capacities
- ECOWAS should ensure the principle of subsidiarity is applied in order to involve local communities in defining their needs in terms of access to energy services

#### **5. Highlighting successful local experiences can help to draw attention to existing energy poverty issues and cost-effective solutions**

- Aware of the failure of policies attempting to reproduce schemes and models conceived elsewhere, the regional body can help create a methodology – perhaps even a ‘West African model’ – for drawing up policies for widening access to modern energy.
- There is a strong need within the Member States to develop national strategies of energy access based on their own experiences and therefore avoiding reinvent one more time the wheel. Small/medium scale interesting experiences have been developed in the Region, especially through initiatives as MEPRED, EUEI, GVEP, etc. Those experiences need to be shared and scaled up to allow a large access to energy...

#### **The 15th Commission for Sustainable Development – Seizing the opportunity to share a common vision**

Following CSD 14, ECOWAS is seeking to strengthen the existing partnership geared at supporting the implementation of the White Paper. Priority actions should include the development of financial instruments combining available development resources to leverage sufficient funds for the investment plans. This is why the region has integrated energy needs within the revised PRSP currently being prepared.

This position could be based on the following key principles:

- Supporting strengthening of capacities at regional level to leverage the required financing, taking advantage of raising ODA, and accelerate the creation of the capacity at national level needed to deliver investment programmes for scaling up energy access.
- Supporting the development of the energy sector as a strong vector for regional integration and as a platform for inter-sectoral coordination at national level.
- Support increased multi-sectoral and demand driven approaches based on services are a key to ensure energy access development effectiveness, as they promote the necessary encompassed approach (institutional, socio-economic, financial, capacity building ...).
- Support the development of regional infrastructures, including cross-border projects as well as decentralized provision of energy services.
- Support regional and national technologically neutral approaches which are key to enable national dialogue as well as national strategies development.
- Support coordination mechanisms at regional and national level to strengthen leadership in the formulation and implementation of MDG based energy access policies and programmes, and facilitate donor coordination and contribute to aid effectiveness.

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1 ECOWAS Policy on Access to Energy, Speech delivered by Dr. Mohamed Ibn CHAMBAS ECOWAS Executive Secretary, on the occasion of the 14<sup>th</sup> Commission on Sustainable Development, 11th May 2006.

2 The Energy challenge for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), United Nations, UN-Energy, 2005, p. 3.

3 These countries are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Mauritania is no longer a member of ECOWAS.

4 The revised Treaty is available on the following website: <http://www.ecowas.int>. All references made further to the Treaty are from this website.

5 ECOWAS average growth domestic product is about 3.92% for the period 1995-2001.

6 Representing 40% of total exports from 1993 to 2000 – excluding Nigeria and Ivory Coast.

7 Liberia is not listed in the Human Development Index as significant indicators are unavailable.

8 For further information, see Human Development Report 2006, pp. 311-314.

9 The average rate remained high in the sub-region (4 percent), but clearly lower (by about half) than in Southern African countries. The higher incidence is more of a concern. (...) It is estimated that in 2005 (...) there were about 5 million adults and children people living with HIV/AIDS in West Africa

10[xiv] The term 'energy services' here refers "to the end use applications of an energy delivery system that meet tangible and/or intangible life and livelihoods needs and social services (e.g., recreation, lighting, cooking, communications, transportation, heating), in Expanding access to modern energy services, replicating, scaling up and mainstreaming at the local level: Lessons from community based energy initiatives, UNDP, 2006, p. 7.

11 The region's statistics on access to energy are among the lowest in the world. For example, out of fifteen countries, only four have a global electricity access rate that is above 20.

12 In the hydro sector, currently exploited only at 16% of its total capacity, the construction of the multi purpose Manantali dam on the Senegal River stands as a successful example of regional cooperation of three ECOWAS countries.

13 For further information see <http://www.usaid.gov/missions/warp/ecintegration/wapp/>

14 The following objectives are assigned to the WAPP General Secretariat: Increase collaboration in the region; Improve reliability and efficiency of power supplies; Minimise network operating costs; Encourage investment in energy; Introduce and enforce operating standards; and Increase the overall level of power supply in the region.

15 According to the ECOWAS/ UEMOA Energy Access Programme - European Multilateral Funding Targets, Discussion paper, 2006.

16 The OMVS (Organization for the Valorization of the Senegal River Valley) system connects Senegal, Mauritania and Mali to share the output of the Manantali Hydro power station.

17 To date the protocol has already been ratified by 8 ECOWAS Member States.

18 Now called the WAPP Information and Coordination Centre.

19 West African Electricity Sector Integration, p. 11.

20 According to a study commissioned by Chevron. The West African Gas Pipeline Company (WAPCo) is a public-private partnership comprising the following shareholders: Chevron Texaco West African Gas Pipeline Limited (38.2%); Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (26%); Shell overseas Holding Limited (18.8%); Takoradi Power Company (17%). SOBEGAZ (Benin) and SOTOGAZ (Togo) are also to take shares in the consortium.

21 The WAPP and the WAGP are two of flagship projects of the NEPAD.

22 Twenty ninth Summit of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, Niamey, 12 January 2006: Decision A/DEC.24/01/06 adopting and ECOWAS UEMOA Regional Policy on Access to Energy Services for Populations in Rural and Peri-Urban areas for Poverty Reduction in line with achieving the MDGs in Member States, art. 1.

23 Ibid., art. 2.

24 Ibid., art. 3.

25 White Paper for a Regional Policy, p. 36.

26 Ibid., p. 36.

27 The figure is an overall total that includes depreciation of generation and transmission costs.

28 For further information on these guiding principles, see White Paper for a Regional Policy, pp 33-34.

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29 Study on the regional agency for energy access, Abeeku Brew-Hammond, Sabine Häusler and Mansour Assani Dahuenon, ECOWAS, UEMOA, 2006, p. 1.

30 For further information, see Study on the regional agency for energy access.