

Conferences Announcement



ECOWAS-GFSE-UNIDO High Level Energy Forum:

“Paving the Way for Sustainable Energy for All in West Africa through Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency”

From the 29 to the 31 October 2012, La Palm Royal Hotel, Accra Ghana

Organised jointly by:



Global Forum on Sustainable Energy
GFSE - www.gfse.at



supported by:



Austrian

Development Cooperation



RECP

Africa-EU Renewable Energy
Cooperation Programme

This event will be followed by the

“First International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference”

Organized jointly by:



01 to 02 November 2012, Accra Ghana

These events will be organized within the scope of the



2012 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
FOR ALL

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and partners are organizing the **ECOWAS-GFSE High Level Forum** and the **International Renewable Energy Off-Grid Conference**. With the conference, ECOWAS, IRENA and ARE contribute to the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, launched by the UN Secretary-General and the UN Goal on Universal Access to Sustainable Energy Services by 2030.



ECOWAS-GFSE-UNIDO High Level Energy Forum: “Paving the Way for Sustainable Energy for All in West Africa through Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency”

29-31 October 2012, La Palm Royal Hotel, Accra, Ghana

The ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), the Global Forum for Sustainable Energy (GSFE), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) are jointly organizing an **ECOWAS-GFSE-UNIDO High Level Energy Forum on “Paving the Way for Sustainable Energy for All in West Africa through Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency”** from the 29–31 October 2012, in Accra, Ghana. The event is hosted by the Government of Ghana. Under the established umbrella of the UN Sustainable Energy For All Initiative (SE4All), the ECOWAS-GFSE-UNIDO High Level Energy Forum will bring together major players of the West African energy sector. It is envisaged to **facilitate the establishment of a regional implementation framework for the SE4All Initiative in the ECOWAS region**. This event will be followed by the “First International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference”. The event will feature the participation of the ECOWAS Energy Ministers, Ministries of Environment as well as other international experts.

A. Background

The Forum takes place at the background of the **encouraging developments in energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency in the ECOWAS region**. As a policy response to the rising energy security concerns, continued lack of access to energy services and the need for climate change mitigation ECOWAS has taken a pioneering role in the promotion of sustainable energy technologies:

- In 2003, the ECOWAS Energy Protocol envisaged the improvement in energy access through regional interconnectivity, energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy sources.
- In 2006 the ECOWAS/UEMOA White Paper on access to energy services for populations in rural and peri-urban areas, which foresees increased access to energy services and that at least 20% of new investments in electricity generation should originate from locally available renewable resources.
- The West African Power Pool (WAPP) and its revised Master Plan aims at the creation of a regional electricity market by 2020/25. The expansion of electric generation capacity derives primarily from large hydro resources and secondarily from natural gas.
- In 2010, the ECOWAS Energy Ministers with support of the Governments of Austria, Spain and technical assistance of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) established the ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), the first regional renewable energy promotion agency in Sub Sahara Africa.
- Pioneering countries such as Ghana, Cape Verde and Senegal have made considerable progress in formulating and implementing RE&EE policies, laws, standards and incentive schemes to attract investments. Other countries have launched similar processes.

In 2011 the ECOWAS Commission launched two projects to **develop the Regional Renewable Energy Policy and the Regional Policy on Energy Efficiency**. The policies are a voluntary commitment of ECOWAS to the UN Sustainable Energy For All Initiative. Both policy processes are implemented by ECREEE with the support of the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP) and the ACP-EU Energy Facility. The policies include minimum targets and scenarios for RE&EE and a broad range of measures, standards and incentives to be implemented at regional and national levels. It is envisaged that the ECOWAS Member States will prepare national action plans which will contribute to the achievement of the regional policy targets. It is envisaged that the policy document will be adopted by the ECOWAS Energy Ministers during the Forum. **The RE&EE policies of ECOWAS aim at the following objectives:**

- The share of renewable energy (incl. large hydro) of the total installed electricity generation capacity of the ECOWAS region will increase to 35% in 2020 and 48% by 2030.



- The share of new renewable energy such as wind, solar, small scale hydro and bioelectricity (excl. large hydro) will increase to around 10% in 2020 and 19% by 2030. These targets translate to an additional 2.425 MW renewable electricity capacity by 2020 and 7.606 MW by 2030.
- To provide universal access to energy services it is envisaged that around 75% of the rural population will be served through grid extensions and around 25% by renewable energy powered by mini-grids and stand-alone hybrid systems by 2030.
- By 2020, the whole ECOWAS population will have access to improved cooking facilities either through improved stoves or fuel switching to other modern forms of energy such as LPG.
- The share of ethanol/biodiesel in transport fuels will increase to 5% in 2020 and 10% by 2030.
- By 2030, around 50% of all health centers, 25% of all hotels and agro-food industries with hot water requirements will be equipped with solar thermal systems.
- To implement energy efficiency measures that free 2000 MW of power generation capacity by 2016: the equivalent of creating forty virtual power plants, with a capacity of 50MW each.
- To double annual improvements in energy efficiency in the long-term.

Major public and private investments in energy infrastructure and capacities will be required to reach these set policy objectives by 2030. West African countries are yet to take full advantage of their RE&EE potentials due to various technical, financial, economic, legal, institutional, policy and capacity related barriers. Under the established umbrella of the UN Sustainable Energy For All Initiative (SE4All) the ECOWAS-GFSE-UNIDO High Level Energy Forum brings together the major players in the West African energy sector. It is envisaged to **facilitate the establishment of a regional implementation framework for the SE4All Initiative in ECOWAS.** In recent years, donors such as the European Union, the United Nations, the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the African Development Bank (AfDB) are increasing their assistance programs in the area of sustainable energy:

- The **GEF Strategic Programme for West Africa (SPWA)**, which is coordinated by UNIDO in cooperation with ECREEE, supports renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in all ECOWAS countries with an overall volume of 245 million USD. Within the auspices of the SPWA, the ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECOREX) was also developed. The web-based Observatory, which is managed by ECREEE, provides reliable and updated data for investors and project developers on RE&EE potentials, stakeholders, policies and implemented projects.
- Since 2005 the **European Union** supported sustainable energy projects in peri-urban and rural areas in Sub Sahara Africa through the ACP-EU Energy Facility with around 400 million EUR. Moreover, the EU supports the implementation of sustainable energy policies through the EUEI Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI-PDF) and the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP). Other important EU donor partners in the ECOWAS energy sector are Austria, France, Germany and Spain.
- **Norway** has recently launched the International Energy+ Initiative and France the **Paris-Nairobi Climate Initiative** to support the implementation of the SE4ALL.
- **ECREEE** has launched the implementation of several promising policies, programs and initiatives such as the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Facility (EREF) for peri-urban and rural areas, the ECOWAS Small Hydro Power Program, the High Performance Distribution Electricity Initiative, the ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Lighting and Standards and Labelling Initiatives.
- The **African Development Bank (AfDB)** has recently launched the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) which supports the development and execution of small and medium scale renewable energy projects.

B. Objectives and Results

The ECOWAS-GFSE-UNIDO High Level Energy Forum aims at the following objectives and results:

- a. launch the UN Sustainable Energy For All Initiative (SE4All) in the ECOWAS region and establish an implementation framework of for the ECOWAS region;
- b. adopt the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy and its corresponding Action Plan by the ECOWAS Energy Ministers;



- c. adopt the ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Policy and its corresponding Action Plan by the ECOWAS Energy Ministers;
- d. adopt the ECOWAS Small Scale Hydro Power Program;
- e. report on the progress of the GEF-UNIDO Strategic Program for West Africa (SPWA) and launch the ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECOREX); and
- f. present the ECOWAS energy efficiency initiatives on standards and labelling, lighting, electricity distribution and efficient cooking.

C. Forum Products

- a. Conference Report in English, French and Portuguese
- b. SE4All Implementation Framework for the ECOWAS region
- c. ECOWAS RE&EE Policy Documents and Baseline Reports
- d. Different Project Documents
- e. Web-based ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECOREX)
- f. Report on the GEF-UNIDO Strategic Program for West Africa (SPWA), and
- g. Background Papers

D. Organizing Partners

ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE): In order to improve access to modern, reliable and affordable energy services and accelerate the uptake of RE&EE technologies, the ECOWAS Council of Ministers created ECREEE, a unique regional renewable energy and energy efficiency promotion agency in Sub Sahara Africa. ECREEE started operations in 2010 with initial support of the Austrian and Spanish Governments and technical assistance of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The ECREEE Secretariat is based in Praia, Cape Verde, and maintains a network of National Focal Institutions (NFIs) in all ECOWAS countries. ECREEE aims at the establishment of regional renewable energy and energy efficiency markets by supporting various activities to mitigate existing barriers for the dissemination of these technologies. The ECREEE activities include policy development, capacity building, awareness raising, knowledge management as well as business and investment promotion.

Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE): The GFSE was launched by Austria's Foreign Minister in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment in 1999. It stems from the outreach efforts of the World Energy Assessment, which was organized by the UN Development Programme, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Energy Council. The GFSE provides a neutral platform for multi-stakeholder dialogues aimed at facilitating decision making on energy policy issues in relevant fora. It also seeks to foster public-private partnerships. The forum is perceived as a follow-up to the GFSE-6 "Africa is energizing itself", held in Vienna, Austria, in 2006. Further information is available at: www.gfse.at

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO): UNIDO is the United Nations' specialized agency with the mandate to promote industrial development in the world's developing and least developed nations. UNIDO is one of the leading agencies in the field of energy access, renewable energy and industrial energy efficiency. UNIDO's services include the execution of demonstration projects, policy support, and capacity-building in the form of local training, workshops and targeted publications. UNIDO has provided technical assistance for the establishment and operation of the Regional Centre for Small Hydropower, based in Abuja, Nigeria, and the ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE). UNIDO coordinates the energy component of the GEF Strategic Programme for West Africa (SPWA).

Supporting Partners





*ECOWAS Regional Centre for
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency*

*Centre Régional pour les Energies Renouvelables
et l'Efficacité Energétique de la CEDEAO*

*Centro Regional para Energias Renováveis e
Eficiência Energética da CEDEAO*

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“First International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference”

01-02 November 2012, Accra Ghana

Following the ECOWAS-GFSE-UNIDO High Level Forum, ECREEE, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE) will jointly organize the First International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference, from the 1st to the 2nd of November 2012.. This event will feature the participation of prominent representatives from the public and private sectors.

Background

Off-grid and mini-grid solutions based on renewable energy are often the best way of providing electricity to isolated areas. Mini-grids can provide electricity for small communities, for example, using village distribution networks. Stand-alone systems offer a wide range of options to cover the energy needs of households, public buildings or productive and commercial activities.

The technology is available and ready to be widely deployed if the right momentum is attained. Furthermore, on the basis of a decade-long experience, it is possible in many countries to identify the business models that best suit specific situations and which can be profitable for all involved stakeholders - the technology suppliers, the operators and the consumers.

The first Conference and Exhibition focusing exclusively on off-grid renewables in developing countries will contribute to developing an environment of information exchange and knowledge sharing on issues related to the scaling up of rural electrification based on renewables. It will also seek to highlight solutions for effective cooperation between the public and private sectors.

Objectives and Results

The Conference will contribute significantly to increasing the dialogue between different stakeholders involved in rural electrification, in particular policy-makers and industry players. It aims to highlight existing barriers and potential solutions for overcoming them, focusing in particular on the involvement of the private sector. There will be an opportunity to address off-grid solutions relating to their mass deployment, including technologies, policies and business models, and it further aims to illustrate and share best practices that can be replicated in different contexts.

In particular, the Conference will be structured to generate off-grid private-sector-oriented recommendations for policy makers, funding agencies and other stakeholders. It will centre on:

- Being the **first major international event** focusing on off-grid renewable energy in developing countries and establishing a **regular forum for discussions** on this theme.
- **Collectively addressing issues** related to sustainable rural electrification and the role of the private sector.
- Promoting the **long-term contacts and business relations** between the different stakeholders involved in rural electrification.

Conference and Exhibition Set up

Following a high level international opening session, the Conference will address the key issues identified for increasing cooperation between the public and private sectors and creating the required conditions for a larger private sector participation in the renewable energy industry. : **policy,**



financing, technologies and research will be the main topics analyzed during the conference. Contributions will address the current status of rural electrification in Africa and developing countries, the main bottle-necks and the successful instruments and policies set up in different areas around the world to solve them, and the role of the different stakeholders. **An exhibition** will be organized in parallel with the Conference to give the private sector the opportunity to present its products and projects as well as to offer decision makers and other stakeholders ample networking opportunities

The event will mainly target participants from the private off-grid renewable energy sector, ministries and public authorities, the financial sector, and international organizations.

Organizers

Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE): The only international business association in the world focusing on the promotion and the development of off-grid and mini-grid renewable energy solutions for rural electrification in developing countries. Currently, it comprises more than 60 members, including many market leaders.

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA):

IRENA is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to renewable energy. IRENA's mission is to promote the widespread and increased adoption and the sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy. IRENA became a fully established international organization headquartered in Abu Dhabi at its inaugural Assembly on 4-5 April 2011. As of today, 92 States and the European Union are Members of the Agency, while 65 States are IRENA Signatories/applicants for membership.

ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE): A unique regional renewable energy and energy efficiency promotion agency in Sub Sahara Africa, ECREEE aims to improve access to modern, reliable and affordable energy services. It promotes the establishment of regional renewable energy and energy efficiency markets by supporting various activities to mitigate existing barriers for the dissemination of these technologies.



www.ecreee.org

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www.ruralelec.org



www.irena.org

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ECOWAS-GFSE-UNIDO High Level Energy Forum: Paving the way for Sustainable Energy for All in West Africa through Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 29 – 31 October 2012, La Palm Royal Hotel, Accra, Ghana			First International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference 1 – 2 November 2012, La Palm Royal Hotel		
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
AM	Opening Session Minister of Energy of Ghana ECOWAS/ECREEE UNIDO, GFSE	Opening Session Minister of Environment of Ghana	ECOWAS Energy Ministers Meeting Welcome address by the Energy Minister of Ghana Opening address by the ECOWAS Commissioner for Infrastructure ----- - Adoption of the RE&EE Policies - Adoption of the SHP Program - GEF-SPWA Program	Off-grid Conference Policy and Financing	Off-grid Conference Technology and Research
AM	Introduction to the SE4ALL Initiative and ECOWAS Country Frameworks - Burkina Faso - Ghana - Nigeria - Liberia - Sierra Leone	Contribution of the GEF-UNIDO Strategic Program for West Africa (SPWA) towards SE4All - Project Portfolio - ECOWAS Observatory for RE&EE	SE4ALL High Level Panel Paving the way for Sustainable Energy for All in West Africa through RE and EE (Participants TBC)	Off-grid Conference Policy and Financing	Off-grid Conference Technology and Research
PM	ECOWAS Voluntary Commitment to the SE4ALL The ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policies and Targets	From Policy to Action: SE4All Initiatives - Contribution of the EU to the ECOWAS region - The AEEP Renewable Energy Cooperation Program (RECP) - IRENA-ECREEE Capacity Building Initiative - The contribution of the AfDB to SE4ALL The contribution of the IDB to SE4ALL - The energy+ Initiative - The Paris-Nairobi Initiative - The contribution of ESMAP/IBRD to SE4All		Opening by the President of Ghana Introduction to SE4All ECOWAS Framework Chairing & Moderation: UN Energy, GFSE ECOWAS President: The ECOWAS Voluntary Commitment to the SE4All African Union: Energy Actions in Africa EU Commissioner: Presenting EU initiatives in Africa Foreign Minister of Austria: Austrian activities in the energy sector in West Africa and the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE) Foreign Minister of Spain: Initiatives of Spain in the Energy Sector of West Africa Foreign Minister of France: Presenting the Paris-Nairobi Initiative Foreign Minister of India: Ministerial Initiative for Energy Access African Development Bank (AfDB) IRENA DG: RE in Africa to boost SE4ALL - Opening of the International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference Closing by the UN Secretary General	Off-grid Conference Policy and Financing
Evening	Evening Reception	Evening Reception Video on the ECOWAS Observatory for RE and EE	Inauguration Tour to the Off-Grid RE Exhibition Evening Reception	Evening Reception	
			Exhibition of the Off-grid renewable energy Sector		