

Developing renewable energy markets in Africa

Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme

“Energy is one of the building blocks of EU-Africa relations because it is closely linked to sustainable and inclusive growth in the interest of both sides.”

Günther Oettinger, European Commissioner for Energy

Partners

- EU Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF)
- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

Facts and figures

EC contribution: € 5 million (+ ca. € 6 million from various EU Member States)

Duration: 2011-ongoing

Location: Africa

Target groups: Energy stakeholders and institutions including the African Union and EU Commissions, Regional Economic Communities, regional power pools, AU and EU Member States, development banks and other financial institutions, private sector, academia and NGOs



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Context

In Africa, electrification levels remain the lowest in the world, an average of only 42%. In Sub-Saharan Africa the average drops to 31% – and in rural areas to below 10%. Yet Africa is blessed with abundant renewable energy resources: about 90% of its large hydropower potential remains to be harnessed and there is vast potential for small and medium hydropower, solar, wind, biomass and geothermal energy.

The EU is a world leader in renewable energy technologies, with a strong scientific and industrial base. Cooperation between the two continents on renewable energy creates attractive opportunities for business partnerships with African counterparts. For Africa, renewables can further play a major role in meeting the continent's rapidly growing need for energy, while contributing to social progress and economic growth.

Promoting renewables is a priority within the Africa-EU Energy Partnership, under which partners have agreed concrete targets to be met by 2020. These include



PAVING THE WAY FOR INVESTMENT

With support from the RECP, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) was able to develop a Regional Renewable Energy Policy. After its adoption in 2012 by ECOWAS Ministers, and endorsement by all Heads of State in the region in 2013, the regional policy is now being translated into national policies, leading to more stable political, regulatory and legal frameworks – and thus better investment conditions in West African countries.

constructing 10,000 MW of new hydropower, at least 5000 MW of wind power, and 500 MW of all forms of solar energy facilities; and tripling the capacity of other renewables such as geothermal – all contributing to the target of bringing access to modern and sustainable energy services to 100 million more people by 2020.

Objectives

In response, the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP), a multi-donor, long-term framework for cooperation between the two continents, supports the development of renewable energy markets in Africa.

The RECP seeks to address existing constraints across the sector, by:

1. Developing the policy, regulatory, and legislative barriers in countries for renewable energy markets to take off;
2. Supporting business cooperation between African and EU actors;
3. Supporting project development and the facilitation of flagship investment projects;
4. Building capacities through vocational and higher education to ensure the next generation of energy professionals in Africa.

Impact

Through the RECP, the EUEI PDF provides **policy advisory services** to several countries. Current projects include developing renewable energy tariffs (Senegal), work on geothermal energy (Rwanda), and improving the regulatory and legal frameworks (Kenya, Djibouti, The Gambia).

Work has also started on developing the **technical vocational skills** needed for renewable energy technologies, in cooperation with vocational training institutes in African countries. Similarly, work on tertiary education is due to start in early 2014.

Further information: www.africa-eu-renewables.org

