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In cooperation with



This project is co-funded by the European Union

Improving the Governance of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Sector in West Africa (AGoSEREE-AO)

Background

The European Union (EU) and the German Government are supporting bilateral and regional efforts to improve access to modern energy and promote renewable energy (RE) as well as energy efficiency (EE) since many years.

In 2017 the EU under the 11th *European Development Fund* (EDF) approved the regional programme “*Improving the Governance of the Energy Sector in West Africa*” (known by its French acronym AGoSE-AO). This includes support to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its specialised institutions in the energy sector, namely the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), the West African Power Pool (WAPP) and the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA).

In addition to the above-mentioned institutions the programme collaborates with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Centre for Renewable Energy and Industrial Maintenance (CERMI) in Cabo Verde.

As part of the regional programme AGoSE-AO, the EU and the German government -on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), agreed to set up a joint action aiming at supporting ECREEE. From this raises the project “*Improving the governance of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency sector in West Africa*” (AGoSEREE-AO).

The **AGoSEREE-AO** project also forms part of the regional energy programme of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) ‘**Promotion of a Climate-friendly Electricity Market in the ECOWAS Region**’ (ProCEM); and is implemented by GIZ in cooperation with ECREEE.

Objective

The AGoSEREE-AO project strives to contribute to the improvement of the regional governance of the energy sector in West Africa through activities on the regional and national level.

It provides technical assistance for initiatives aimed at improved access to modern energy and the promotion of RE and EE to a variety of public and private actors from the 15 ECOWAS countries and Mauritania. Through this, the project contributes to the achievement of the following objectives:

1. Improving the regional policy, strategic and planning frameworks
2. Harmonisation of institutional, legislative and regulatory national frameworks to promote investments in RE, EE and universal access to modern energy
3. Development of the regional electricity market by promoting energy efficiency and renewable energies in the energy mix.

Approach

Through its national and regional approach to achieving its objectives, AGoSEREE-AO collaborates with a wide range of international, regional and national institutions and actors.

More specifically with WAPP, ERERA, IRENA, UEMOA, etc.

Project name	Improving the governance of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency sector in West Africa (AGoSEREE-AO)
Commissioned by	European Union (UE) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Mauritania
Lead executing agency	ECOWAS Commission
Duration	01.2018 – 12.2020





Achieved results

Mid-term implementation status of the activities of AGoSEREE-AO project is marked by significant progress:

Renewable Energy Corridors

The project contributes to the West Africa Clean Energy Corridor (WACEC) initiative by supporting the development of strategies for solar, hydropower and wind energies and promoting their implementation. In this framework international consultancy firms were committed to develop the strategies for the implementation of corridors for the sub-mentioned energy sources.

The development processes are now achieved, and ECREEE, IRENA and GIZ will bring together the regional and national stakeholders within a concerted framework aiming at validating the developed strategies and defining joint and complementary actions for the achievement of the objectives of the three strategies and their implementation.

Enabling environment for grid-connected and off grid Renewable Energy

Under this intervention area, ECREEE and GIZ provide technical assistance upon request, to selected actors of the energy sector in the West African member states and Mauritania (Ministries of Energy, RE Agencies, regulators, utilities, etc.) to create an enabling environment for RE projects. These supports are on going in Benin and Niger (grid connected and off-grid renewable energy projects), Senegal, Guinea Conakry and Sierra Leone, and focus on developing new documents and improving existing legal, regulatory and technical frameworks to increase RE share in the energy mix.

In addition, the project supports through its Technical Assistance Facility the developers of grid-connected RE projects and the dissemination of experiences with selected flagship projects in the sub-region. The project also supports the entrepreneurs/operators of Clean Energy Mini-Grids (CEMG) through Capacity development/ training of CEMG projects developers and operators.

Renewable Energy Standards

The widespread use of substandard products is harming the RE market. The AGoSEREE-AO project supports the development of regional standards for RE components. Once these standards are approved by the relevant authorities, it will disseminate information about the new standards to public and private institutions and promote their use on the national level. Regional standards for (i) the installation procedures, (ii) inspection procedures and (iii) inverter for photovoltaic mini-grid systems are being developed. The project also addresses bioenergy through the development of regional standards for biodiesel and bioethanol.

Energy Efficiency Standards and Labelling

Standards and labelling are powerful instruments to promote the use of energy-efficient electric appliances. ECREEE has already developed Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for lighting, refrigerators and air conditioners. AGoSEREE-AO through its interventions supported the development and validation of MEPS for three types of electric appliances: Fans, TV Station and Electric Water Heaters; and intends to promote the adoption of these regional standards at the national level. In addition, the project will support the development of a regional labeling system and a regional directive or regulation for the electrical appliances based on the MEPS. From the development to the adoption of the MEPS, the entire process is in line with the ECOWAS Standards Harmonisation Model (ECOSHAM) which plays an important role.

Certification of Renewable Energy professionals

Initiated since 2015 by ECREEE in cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and GIZ, the *ECOWAS Certification of Sustainable Energy Skills (ECSES)* is now operational through the regional examinations organised by the examination centres which are the partners in the ECOWAS member States. The successful candidates are the first certified installers of off-grid solar photovoltaic systems and will receive the regional certificate, a guarantee of recognition of their skills and professional mobility within the region. The *Female Installers Scholarship Programme* has been set up to ensure gender equality in the implementation of the certification system.

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