West Africa Energy Transition Week 2023

8th Edition of the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF) 2023

Empowering Sustainable Energy in the ECOWAS Region

Date: 12 - 13 October 2023
Venue: National Assembly (TBC), Praia - Cabo Verde

www.ecreee.org
1. Context

In 2020, the ECOWAS region was estimated to have approximately 401.9 million inhabitants, with the youth accounting for over 60% of the population. This demographic composition positions the region as one of the youngest in the world, characterized by rapid urban growth. The ECOWAS region represents about one third of the total population of sub-Saharan Africa. (Source: ECOWAS Vision 2050, Page 18, paragraph 10)

To confront the challenges associated with this rapid growth, ECOWAS formulated a shared vision for 2050, aiming to create "A fully integrated Community of peoples, living in a peaceful and prosperous region, with strong institutions and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, striving for inclusive and sustainable development."

Despite the dedicated efforts of Member States and partners over the past decades, the region continues to face significant challenges, including limited access to clean and affordable energy services, which are crucial for supporting socioeconomic development. Notably, the ECOWAS region has one of the lowest rates of energy access globally, with only 56% of the overall population and less than 10% of the rural population having access to electricity.
1. Context (Cont.)

Currently, more than 80% of the population heavily relies on biofuels, particularly wood and charcoal, for cooking. This heavy dependence on traditional biomass and solid fuels has severe environmental and health consequences, particularly for women and children.

To address these challenges, the Authority of Heads of States and Governments adopted important regional sustainable energy policies in 2013 and 2017. These policies include the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy (EREP), the ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Policy (EEEP), the ECOWAS Bioenergy Policy (EBEP), and the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access. Additionally, the region is currently considering the adoption of the Green Hydrogen Policy and Strategy Framework, aiming to leverage the economic and technological opportunities presented by green hydrogen technologies, which are considered the energy of the future.

Specifically, the EREP aims to achieve universal access to electricity and clean cooking by 2030, along with increasing the share of renewable energy (including large hydro) in the region’s overall electricity mix to 48% by 2030. On the other
1. Context (Cont.)

hand, the EEEP seeks to implement energy efficiency measures that would release 2,000 MW of power generation capacity by 2020.

Significant progress has been made towards achieving these ambitious targets, as reported by ECOWREX:

• Access to electricity has increased from 42% in 2010 to around 56% in 2020.
• An additional capacity of 545.84 MW of renewable energy (excluding Medium and Large Hydro) was installed between 2016 (249.16 MW) and 2020 (795 MW).
• Electricity distribution losses reduced by 4.5% from 2016 (35.5%) to 2020 (31%).

The establishment of such an enabling environment for investment, led by institutions like the ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), the West African Power Pool (WAPP), the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA), and the ECOWAS Energy Directorate, has played a significant role in promoting a viable market for renewable energy.
1. Context (Cont.)

However, substantial investments and appropriate regulatory frameworks are still needed to build investor trust. Therefore, achieving the regional goal of scaling up renewable energy and energy efficiency heavily relies on increased participation from the private sector.

To comprehensively address the actions, resources, and other critical elements required to achieve the ambitious objectives set in the regional policies, ECREEE has adopted its strategic plan for the period 2023-2027, aligning with the vision 2050 and the strategic objectives of ECOWAS. This strategic plan encompasses three main orientations:

2. Improved implementation of Programs and Projects.

The plan will be executed through three regional programs, namely Renewable Energies (RE), Energy Efficiency (EE), and Cross-cutting (CC), along with three regional initiatives, including the Observatory for RE and EE (ECOWREX), the RE
1. Context (Cont.)

and EE Annual Progress Report, and the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF).

ECREEE established the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF) in 2016 to facilitate discussions and identify ways to support investment and policy initiatives of the member states. This initiative aligns perfectly with ECREEE's Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and involves collaboration with local, regional, and international stakeholders to enhance the contributions of renewable energy and energy efficiency in meeting the energy needs of the member states.

The 8th edition of the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF 2023) will be held in Praia from October 12th to 13th, 2023, as part of the Sustainable Energy Transition Week. The event, organized under the high patronage of His Excellency the Prime-Minister of Cabo Verde in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Energy (MICE), will focus on the theme "Empowering Sustainable Energy in the ECOWAS Region."
2. About ESEF

The ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF) is one of the biggest sustainable energy events in Africa. It was instituted in 2016 by ECREEE to discuss and identify strategies to support investment and policy initiatives of ECOWAS member states.

ESEF is a demand-driven and result-oriented event, which aims to facilitate investments in the regional renewable energy sector. The forum promotes cooperation and partnerships to accelerate the uptake of a viable market for sustainable energy solutions in ECOWAS. ESEF is also a platform for improving the policy and regulatory landscape for private sector investment through engagement between ECOWAS policy makers, regional and international private sector players, and financial institutions.

Within seven years, ESEF has established itself as the “go-to” rendezvous for energy stakeholders in West Africa, bringing together over 300 stakeholders each year, including Ministers and Heads of renowned developmental organizations, finance institutions and private sector in the energy and climate sector.
3. Objectives

The main objectives of ESEF are to:

1. Foster concrete progress in attainment of the region’s sustainable energy targets.
2. Showcase and facilitate investment opportunities in the region’s sustainable energy sector.
3. Provide a platform for networking and improving the policy and regulatory landscape for private sector investment through engagement between ECOWAS policy makers, regional and international private sector players, and financial institutions.
4. Promote cooperation and partnerships to accelerate the development of a viable regional electricity market with the massive integration of renewable energy.
5. Engage in dialogue on the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy and Strategy Framework and showcase the opportunities offered by green hydrogen for the energy transition of ECOWAS region.
4. What to Expect?

**What to expect at ESEF 2023?**

- Inform and raise awareness on progress made towards achieving the ECOWAS sustainable energy targets while highlighting the role of various stakeholders in fast-tracking further development.
- Highlight barriers hindering an increased engagement of the private sector in scaling-up renewable and energy efficiency markets in the ECOWAS region.
- Share best-practices and innovations in terms of technological solutions and business models in utility scale and off-grid renewable energy sector.
- Spur discussions on the role of renewable energy and energy efficiency in strengthening the economy and in building resilient value-chains.
- Highlight concrete strategies being implemented by governments in the region to facilitate energy transition.
- Provide information on the ECOWAS policy and strategy framework for green hydrogen, as well as encourage debate and emphasize on the prospects that this clean energy presents to the ECOWAS region.
- Explore the possibilities of financing projects in the field of sustainable energy.
4. What to Expect? (Cont.)

The agenda features a series of panel discussions, presentations from high-level delegates from the public and private sector. All sessions will have simultaneous interpretation in the three (3) ECOWAS languages (English, French and Portuguese).

5. Participants

ESEF 2023 will bring together diverse groups of stakeholders from within and outside the region. The expected participants include high-level representatives from the government, such as Ministers and Directors of Energy (especially those responsible for renewable energy and energy efficiency) regional and international development partners/donors, regional and international private sector companies, financial institutions, academia and research and civil society representatives.
6. Exhibition & B2B Matchmaking

This year’s event provides an opportunity to feature an exhibition for organizations looking to showcase their products and services. The exhibition is open to all stakeholders across the sustainable energy value chain (manufacturers, EPC contractors, financing institutions, distributors, suppliers, etc.).

Information (fees and conditions) on the exhibition is available on page 9 of the ESEF sponsorship package.

ESEF2023 will host an innovative Business-to-Business (B2B) Matchmaking to serve as an avenue to foster partnerships, business development and investment.

7. Date and Venue

The 8th Edition of ESEF will take place on 12th to 13th of October 2023, at the National Assembly (Parliament House) (to be confirmed) in Praia, Cabo Verde.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:00</td>
<td>Opening ceremony</td>
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<td>10:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>10:30 - 12:00</td>
<td>High Dialogue Ministerial - Energy Transition and Green Hydrogen</td>
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<td>Role of Green Hydrogen in the global energy transition: Opportunities for West Africa</td>
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<td>12:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13:00 – 15:00</td>
<td>Graduation Ceremony – International master’s Program in Energy and Green Hydrogen</td>
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<td>Students from all ECOWAS countries</td>
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<td>15:00 – 15:30</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>15:30 – 17:00</td>
<td>High-Level Dialogue - ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy and Strategy Targets: Focus on Capacity Building Challenges</td>
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<td>9:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>Session 1 – Financing Energy Transition Projects</td>
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<td>11:00 – 12:30</td>
<td>Session 2 – Energy Transition</td>
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<td>12:30 – 13:30</td>
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<td>13:30 – 15:00</td>
<td>Session 4 – Women and Youth in Clean Energy in West Africa</td>
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<td>15:00 – 15:30</td>
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<td>15:30 – 17:00</td>
<td>Session 6 – Energy Efficiency in Industry and Buildings</td>
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<td>18:00 – 20:00</td>
<td>Closing Cocktail Reception</td>
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The ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF 2023) is organized by the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)
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