



## Press Release

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### MAIDEN REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON GIS FOR ENERGY PLANNING TO OPEN IN DAKAR

**Dakar, July 26, 2016** – In what seems an unprecedented move, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) will officially open the validation and training workshop scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Dakar, Senegal, making it the first of such workshop to be organized at regional level, on the use of GIS for energy planning.

The event will unfold in two parts and will convene experts from the various ECOWAS member states energy directorates and other affiliated organizations in West Africa, GIS experts, energy experts, energy data scientists and hydro power experts from the River Basin Authorities. The main objectives of the workshop are validation of the outcome of the ECOWREX2 project; dissemination of the project results; presentation of the output of modeling hydro power potentials for all river basins in West African; training on hydro power resource mapping, as well as the use of ECOWREX for promoting sustainable energy development.

The workshop is implemented under two project titles namely: “Promoting Sustainable Energy Services in West Africa, through the use of Geospatial Technology” (ECOWREX2) and “GIS Mapping of hydro power potentials in all river basins of West Africa”. The former is funded by the European Union under the ACP-EU Science and Technology Programme II (ACP S&T II) and it is coordinated in partnership with the University of Geneva, Noveltis S.A.S, the Energy Centre of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and the Directorate of Energy of Cabo Verde. The latter is funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), and implemented under the umbrella of the ECOWAS Small-Scale Hydro Power Program, which aims to develop small-scale Hydro power sector in West Africa.

The ECOWREX2 project contributes to ongoing efforts towards promoting the use of geospatial technology in West Africa, to help eradicate the information and knowledge barriers posing a major challenge in the energy sector. It will improve the ECOWREX GIS framework by developing a complete Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), fully compliant with the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards, appropriate for data interoperability, effective data processing, information sharing and knowledge transfer.

ECREEE is modeling hydro power potentials of thousands of river reaches on the basis of discharge, precipitation, climatic and topographical data. Moreover, the study takes into

account the scientific climate change prospection for West Africa and models the impact of different climate change scenarios in the hydro power potential. A geo-database has been developed to hub all existing hydro power plants in West Africa and it's available on [ECOWREX](#).

Expected outcomes of the workshop include:

- Gaining understanding of the project benefits and how ECOWREX can support the member states.
- Acquiring knowledge on promoting sustainable energy development through the use of geospatial technology.
- Gaining insight into the approach and methodologies for the development of the online energy access software - Intigis, including its application for energy planning.
- Brainstorming and developing a data and metadata collection strategy for ECOWREX.
- Sharing experiences on energy and rural electrification planning in the member states.
- Providing feedback to ECREEE on the proposed indicators and data collection methods in the template for the annual reports on the implementation of the Sustainable Energy Country Action Plans.
- Acquiring knowledge of hydro power resource mapping and potential, including climate change scenarios.
- Gaining insight into the project methodology and scientific considerations of the model and how this model can support the member states with the small-scale hydro power development.
- Acquire knowledge on how to explore and use ECOWREX data.

**About ECOWREX:** The ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECOWREX) is a web-based information platform established in October 2012 to address poor data quality and information pertaining to the energy sector in the ECOWAS region at the same time providing decision makers, project developers, investors and other stakeholders with tailored energy information and planning tool.

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