

# ECREEE's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Capacity Building Programme for the ECOWAS Region

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# Background

- In 2012 ECREEE developed a **Capacity Building Needs Assessment** as a first step for the development of a long term CB Programme for RE and EE
- In March 2015 ECREEE with the support of GIZ started the development a long term comprehensive RE and EE Capacity Building Programme for the ECOWAS region (2016 – 2021)
- The rationale
  - Lack of clear strategy for capacity building
  - Lack of long term vision
  - Lack of results monitoring
  - Strong growth of RE/EE technologies in the region requiring further capacity development to keep pace with the dynamics of the sector

# Objectives

- To build capacities and strengthen individuals and institutions in the thematic areas of policy, financing and technology in all ECOWAS countries towards acceleration of RE and EE
- To be a hub for reliable information on RE and EE capacity building institutions, experts, and activities in the ECOWAS region
- To be an agency co-ordinator for regional capacity building actions that can assist in opening up and sustaining jobs in the RE and EE markets
- To bring the latest “international level” information, knowledge and capacities into the region
- To bring capacity building institutions (educational, vocational, research centres) together at the regional level
- To foster collaboration in terms of capacity building activities in the ECOWAS region
- To assist in bringing financing to regional and local capacity building institutions in the region

# Target Groups

- **Policy makers:** Ministries of Energy and Environment, other relevant Ministries, Regulators, Planners, etc.
- **Educational institutions:** Academic and training institutions, training and research centres, vocational centres etc.
- **Financial institutions:** Commercial banks, development banks, micro finance institutions, savings associations, etc.
- **Private institutions:** Private companies, technicians, planners, engineers, associations, chambers, business incubators, small and medium entrepreneurs, etc.
- **Other institutions:** Non-governmental organisations, Community Based Organisations etc.

# 4 steps methodology

## 1. Document review

- Results of 2012 ECREEE Capacity Needs Assessment
- ECREEE/ECOWAS strategic documents

## 2. Online survey

- Objective to understand the interest of the different stakeholders for capacity building support and to assess their views on CB needed for the most potential EE/RE technologies
- Administered directly to 295 stakeholders covering the 15 ECOWAS member states

## 3. Five Country consultations

- one Portuguese speaking country (Cape Verde), two Francophone countries (Senegal and Burkina Faso) and two Anglophone countries (Nigeria and Ghana).
- 76 representatives interviewed from the policy, financial, educational and private sectors

## 4. Development of the capacity building programme

- 10 capacity building actions proposed and derived from the capacity gap analysis from the above sources of information including stakeholder consultations

# Key capacity building needs and gaps

## Planning, policy and regulation - gaps and capacity needs

- Policy level trainings are provided mostly through non-formalised courses, short workshops, etc.
- Lack of clear and operational legal framework is an hindrance for progress in the RE and EE sector. The unlocking of this will allow markets to open for RE&EE, and thereby an increase in capacity building itself.
- Regulators need further training, more so in countries that depend heavily on fossil fuels, and have RE&EE as new/or low portfolios.
- The lack of funding seems to be the major constraint to increase capacity building activities in EE/RE for all stakeholders including the government.

# Key capacity building needs and gaps

## Technical - gaps and capacity needs

- Formal courses in the region are in general more focussed on RE technologies (mostly Solar PV) than on EE technologies/measures.
- Technical capacity building is by far the most frequent measure undertaken by many development or public institutions.
- Stakeholders felt that the region is not short of trained technical persons but the markets are not opening up for the skills to be rightly absorbed.
- There is a need of vocational trainings in some countries and this lack is often compensated by actions of informal institutions such as NGOs or international organisations/donors.
- Industry Associations could be good potential capacity building entities but do not seem to be actively involved or are underdeveloped.

# Key capacity building needs and gaps

## Financial - gaps and capacity needs

- Financial institutions need clear regulatory provisions and transparent mechanisms to support investments.
- Small and medium scale entrepreneurs that are reaching rural populations, often use 'informal means of financing' such as savings, or angel investors. This often limits business growth.
- Most financing for RE projects mainly focussed on large-scale power projects with private sector involvement.
- Few financial institutions are starting to take an interest, but with the support of development partners who provide guarantees, training etc.



# Key capacity building needs and gaps

## Data- gaps and capacity needs

- Data/statistics: regional database on capacity building activities, institutions etc.
- Energy statistics data on technology in-country/region – Availability (demand, supply, balance etc.).
- Data analysis for energy sector planning - Database procedures and standardization, Data on resources
- Market studies including stakeholder matrix for specific RE technologies
- Mechanisms for setting up energy information system
- Regional data gathering tools/methodologies
- Training on statistics

# Guiding principles

- Needs based
- Results oriented
- Partnership based building on work with development partners in-countries
- Facilitator and advocate for capacity building (rather than purely an implementer)
- Gender balance

# Strategy for capacity building

- Gradual shift of capacity building activities that cut across programmatic areas to the capacity building programme
- Focus on regional level, adapted to individual country needs when necessary
- Support positive gender balance in its capacity building programmes
- Annual focus on sub sectors
- Capacity building at three levels: sector/network, institution, and individual

# 10 Capacity Building Actions

- Action 1 – Policy planning and Regulation (and strengthening)
- Action 2 – Data
- Action 3 – Quality Assurance (Standards for equipment and Certification for technicians, companies, etc)
- Action 4 – Financing - initiating dialogues and actions between policy makers, technical experts and financial institutions
- Action 5 – Financing – Strengthening financial institutions
- Action 6 – Strengthening private sector – entrepreneurship
- Action 7 – Strengthening industry associations working on RE&EE
- Action 8 – Interlinking educational institutions (Higher and Vocational)
- Action 9 – Energy efficiency in Buildings (programmatic area)
- Action 10 – Bioenergy (programmatic area)



# Thank You

For further information:  
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