



# 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF 2025)

**Accelerating Sustainable Energy Infrastructure  
Solutions for Growth in the ECOWAS Region**

Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Center  
18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - Banjul, The Gambia

## CONCEPT NOTE



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## INTRODUCTION

The ECOWAS region has achieved notable milestones in its energy sector, particularly in renewable energy deployment and regional power system integration, but important challenges persist. Over half the population lacks reliable electricity, with rural electrification at just 8% . Heavy reliance on fossil fuels leaves economies vulnerable to price shocks while delaying the clean energy transition. Aging energy infrastructure compounds these issues, with high transmission and distribution losses , utility insolvency, and chronic underinvestment stifling progress. Despite abundant solar, wind, and hydro potential, financing gaps, policy barriers, and weak private sector participation hinder sustainable energy expansion.

To unlock the ECOWAS region's potential, urgent action is needed with the view of scaling up sustainable energy solutions, modernizing power grids, promoting clean cooking, strengthening the energy-water-food nexus systems, and improving the sector governance. Addressing energy poverty, reducing transmission and distribution losses in the electricity supply system, and attracting private investment through stable policies are essential steps. Energy efficiency must also be prioritized as it can drive





# INTRODUCTION

inclusive growth by expanding decentralized renewables like solar mini-grids, deploying climate-resilient cooling solutions, modernizing grids with smart technologies, and promoting sustainable mobility. These measures would simultaneously bridge energy gaps, reduce emissions, and enhance economic resilience.

The ECOWAS region's transition is being driven by two landmark regional policies: the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy (EREP) and the ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Policy (EEEP), both adopted in 2013. The EREP establishes a bold vision for renewable energy adoption, targeting a minimum 48% renewable (including large hydro) share in the regional energy mix by 2030. Complementing this, the EEEP provides a strategic framework for optimizing efficient energy use across critical sectors. Together, these policies form a comprehensive approach to achieving multiple objectives: reducing carbon emissions, strengthening energy independence, and building climate resilience while supporting sustainable economic growth across the ECOWAS region. Dialogues and coordinated implementations approach and solutions will help the region overcome still existing energy-related crises and constraints.





## INTRODUCTION

In light of this, the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF), established in 2016 by the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), serves as one of the key platforms to drive forward the required actions and to promote sustainable energy investments and policies across the region. ESEF is one of the three regional initiatives of the ECREEE Strategic Plan 2023-2027 which is aligned with the 2050 vision of ECOWAS and with the objectives 4x4 of ECOWAS Management.

Against this backdrop, the 10th edition of the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF 2025) will be organized from September 18-19, 2025, at Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Center, in Banjul, The Gambia, under the theme "Accelerating Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Solutions for Growth in the ECOWAS Region".







## ABOUT ESEF

The inaugural ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF) was held in 2016 in Accra, Ghana, with subsequent editions hosted as follows: ESEF 2017 and ESEF 2018 in Dakar, Senegal; ESEF 2019 in Accra, Ghana; ESEF 2020 and ESEF 2021 virtually due to COVID 19; ESEF 2022 in Abuja, Nigeria; ESEF 2023 in Praia, Cape Verde, and ESEF 2024 in Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire.

ESEF serves as a strategic platform to accelerate investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency across West Africa. The forum fosters regional cooperation and partnerships to develop viable markets for sustainable energy solutions within ECOWAS. By bringing together policymakers, international, regional and national partners, private sector leaders, financial institutions, investors, and other key stakeholders, ESEF







## ABOUT ESEF

strengthens the institutional, policy, and regulatory frameworks needed to attract public and private investments in the energy transition in the region.

Over the past eight years, ESEF has established itself as the West Africa's Premier Energy Event, annually convening more than 500 participants. Attendees include ministers, heads of international and regional organizations, financial institution leaders, investors, private sector executives, researchers, experts, students, and civil society representatives working across energy, environment, and climate sectors.







## OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of ESEF are the following:

- 01 Advancing Sustainable Energy Goals – Supporting ECOWAS member states in achieving their sustainable energy targets and commitments
- 02 Unlocking Investment Opportunities – Promoting viable investment prospects across West Africa’s renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors.
- 03 Strengthening Policy & Partnerships – Serving as a high-level networking platform for key stakeholders including policymakers, public and private sector stakeholders, and financial institutions, to improve regulatory frameworks and attract regional/international investments in sustainable energy.
- 04 Accelerating Clean Energy Deployment – Fostering regional cooperation to scale up smart mini-grid solutions, off-grid solar systems, and renewable-integrated electricity markets.
- 05 Driving a Just Energy Transition – Exploring innovative pathways including energy efficiency, accelerating distributed generation, clean cooking, green hydrogen, e-mobility, energy-water-food nexus solutions, and gender-inclusive energy access.





## PARTICIPANTS

ESEF 2025 will convene diverse stakeholders from across the region and beyond. Expected participants include:

01

**Public sector :** Ministers, Senior Officials, and Policymakers From ECOWAS Member States

02

**Private sector :** CEOs, Business Leaders, Entrepreneurs, Industry Association Executives, and Startup Founders

03

**Financial Institutions :** Heads of Development Banks, Commercial Banks, Investment Firms, and Financing Agencies

04

**Technical and Financial Partners :** Representatives from International, Regional, and National Development Institutions

05

**Academics and scientists :** Energy Experts, Professors, Researchers, PhD Candidates, Students, and Vocational Training Specialists

06

**Civil Society :** Leaders from NGOs, Community Organizations, and Consumer Advocacy Groups





# DATE AND VENUE

ESEF 2025 will take place from , at



**September 18-19, 2025**



**Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International  
Conference Center in Banjul, The Gambia.**

## AGENDA

The ESEF 2025 agenda is structured around the following activities: **Official Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Ministerial Dialogue, High-Level Session, Special Session, Thematic Sessions and Pre-events.**

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the three (3) ECOWAS languages (English, French and Portuguese).

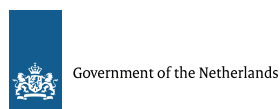
Join us online via: <https://ecreee-org.zoom.us/j/86782217430>

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.ecreee.org/ecreee-event/ecowas-sustainable-energy-forum-esef2025/>



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ECOWAS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FORUM

## THE GAMBIA 2025

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