# ECOWAS-EU ENERGY PARTNERSHIP FORUM 2026

11-13 November

Cotonou, Benin

## Introduction

ECOWAS Commission through the Directorate of Energy and Mines and the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy, Water and Mines of Benin and the Delegation of the European Union to Benin and the Delegation of the European Union to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and ECOWAS, intends to organise a joint forum to support the governance of the energy sector in the West African region and celebrate the ECOWAS-EU partnership. The forum will build on the joint ongoing ECOWAS-EU Energy Governance cooperation and will take place in Cotonou from 11 to 13 November 2026. The regional gathering aims to officially present two energy sector programmes, both operating under the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative (AEGEI) and agreed between the European Union and the ECOWAS Commission.

The first one is the "Support programme for specialized ECOWAS organizations active in the energy sector" (ACT61029), hereafter the **ECOWAS Energy Support Programme**, with the ECOWAS Commission Directorate of Energy and Mines, ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, ECREEE, the West African Power Pool (WAPP), and the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA) as beneficiary institutions. Part of the ECOWAS Energy Support Programme, Component C, is the **Regional Energy Governance and Information System for West Africa** (REGIS-WA), which is co-financed by the EU and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by ECOWAS with the support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Component D, ECREEE Support Programme**,** is co-financed by the EU and the French Government and implemented by ECOWAS with the support of Expertise France.

The second is the **Regional Clean Cooking Action in West Africa** (ReCCAWA) programme, co-financed by the EU and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), implemented by ECREEE, with support from the Spanish Cooperation (AECID) and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO).

Furthering in the Team Europe feature of the event, Spain will be present at the Forum with a joint initiative addressing the **Water-Energy-Agriculture Nexus and Energy Governance**, highlighting the growing importance of integrated approaches, reliable data and regional cooperation for evidence-based energy planning and policymaking. A special panel session will focus on the energy transition and **regional energy integration as critical prerequisites for consolidating social resilience and developing secure, resilient food systems**. The dialogue will present policy and financial instruments through which countries can address energy sovereignty, food and nutrition security, underscoring their interdependence. Strong public-private cooperation ecosystem can drive private innovation and mobilise resources: the **implementation of clean cooking solutions in school meals,** an initiative currently being implemented by **the ECOWAS** Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF) at regional level will be presented. Together, these activities will contribute to a more **integrated perspective on West Africa's energy transition**, connecting regional

energy governance, data systems, innovation, clean cooking and the Water-Energy-Agriculture Nexus, creating opportunities for greater coordination and synergies.

**Objectives of the Forum**

- Celebration of the ECOWAS-EU cooperation by launching the ECOWAS Energy Support Programme and ReCCAWA programmes;
- Technical and governance working sessions for both programmes:
    - ECOWAS Energy Support Programme: Refining & Shaping the Governance Structure of the Technical Committee and the Steering Committee for the four components of the programme;
    - ReCCAWA Clean Cooking White Paper consultation and validation;
    - ReCCAWA Foundational session of the Clean Cooking Community of Practice;
    - ReCCAWA: Consultative Group meeting
- Special panel session on energy and food sovereignty;
- ECOWAS-Donors Consultation Committee (EDCC) meeting for ECREEE;

**Target group**

The event aims to mobilise (60-80pp):

- ECOWAS Commission representatives (Commissioner for Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalisation, and Energy and Mines Directorate representatives);
- EU Representatives;
- ECREEE team including the AECID and RVO ReCCAWA implementing team;
- ECOWAS Energy Support Programme partner institutions (WAPP, ECREEE, ERERA), including the REGIS-WA team with the GIZ-ECOWAS Commission implementation teams, and the Component D (ECREEE Support Programme) team with the Expertise France implementation team;
- National Focal Points of ECREEE for clean cooking;
- Selected partners, NGOs, private sector;
- Representatives of the diplomatic corps.

**Expected Outcomes**

After the event, **both regional programmes**, the ECOWAS Energy Support Programme and ReCCAWA, will have been **publicly launched,** with websites, leaflets and social media posts available for visibility. The ECOWAS Energy Support Programme (ACT61029) is expected to have held the inaugural Technical Committee, adopted the drafts of the Technical Committee and Steering committee, and a planned date for the 2027 first Steering Committee. ReCCAWA is expected to have **validated the Clean Cooking White Paper for West Africa**, having held its **Consultative Group Meeting** and launch of **Clean Cooking Community of Practice**.