



## WORKSHOP REPORT

### REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO VALIDATE ECOWAS BIOENERGY POLICY, WACCA REGIONAL ACTION PLAN & FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Venue: King Fahd Palace, Dakar, Senegal

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> September – 2<sup>nd</sup> October

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SUSTAINABLE ENERGY  
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ECOWAS CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
CENTRO PARA AS ENERGIAS RENOVÁVEIS E EFICIÊNCIA ENERGÉTICA DA CEDEAD  
CENTRE POUR LES ENERGIES RENOUVELABLES ET L'EFFICACITÉ ÉNERGÉTIQUE DE LA CEDEAD

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The energy access situation in the ECOWAS region continue to be characterised by heavy dependence on traditional biomass and fossil fuels with negative consequences on the environment, health and socio-economic aspects. According to the energy balance of the region, almost 80% of the total energy consumption comes from traditional biomass, the harvesting and use of which are very unsustainable. This contributes to smoke-related health problems, deforestation and desertification and thereby affecting water resources, food production and security and climate change impacts. The Bioenergy energy policy was therefore elaborated with the support of UNDP Regional Office in Dakar to provide the framework for sustainable bioenergy resource production, transformation and utilisation to guarantee sustainable and affordable energy access in the ECOWAS region for electricity generation, heating and cooking. With the RE and EE policies already adopted by Heads of governments of the ECOWAS Member States, the ECOWAS Bioenergy policy was the subject of the 2-day workshop on the 30 September and 1 October 2015.

Within the domestic energy sphere, efficient and clean cooking energy services (cook-stoves and fuels) exist. However, they are not getting the necessary patronage by the people who need them the most as a result of several barriers. The West Africa Clean Cooking Alliance (WACCA) was therefore launched by ECREEE and its partners in October 2012 with the aim to promote and disseminate clean, efficient and affordable cooking fuels and devices to all ECOWAS citizens by 2030. A WACCA regional Action framework was formulated in Ouagadougou in April 2013 and it is this framework which has been developed into action plan for validation in Dakar during this workshop.

To address the supply side of the domestic energy value chain and to curb the problem of deforestation and forest degradation, ECREEE with the support of the Austrian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Management (BMLFUW) initiated the REDD+ programme for the region in September 2013. To ascertain the state of the art of the forests in the ECOWAS region, there was the need to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the state of forests in the region which was done via a consultant. It is the report of which was on the table for validation during the workshop.

The validation of this ECOWAS Bioenergy policy was held back-to-back with the validation of the WACCA regional Action Plan and the Forest Resources Assessment report for the ECOWAS region. All these events took place in Dakar from September 30 - October 2, 2015.

## **II. Objectives of Workshop**

The overall objective of the workshop was to review and analyse the draft ECOWAS Bioenergy Policy, WACCA regional action plan and the Forest resource assessment report by the technical

experts from the Ministries of Energy and Forestry in the ECOWAS region and eventually have them validated.

Specific objectives were:

- a. Make technical inputs by the technical experts to all the draft documents which will stand the test of time after they have been validated and adopted;
- b. To learn from the experiences on the uses of bioenergy in the major bioenergy regions about the key opportunities available after the adoption of the policy, WACCA action plan and the Forest Resource Assessment report;
- c. To interact and explore business opportunities within the bioenergy resource utilisation for energy generation, employment creation and environmental protection; and
- d. Validate the ECOWAS Bioenergy Policy, WACCA regional action plan and Forest Resource Assessment Report,

### **III. Participants**

- a. The workshop was attended by high level Participants from the ministries of Energy and Forestry and the Environment of the 15 ECOWAS member states, the ECOWAS Commission, UNDP, GBEP, Civil Society Organisations, Non-governmental Organisations, international organizations, private sectors and reputable financial and research institutions from Brazil, Italy, and USA.
- b. About 85 participants took part in the 3-day event. The list of participants is attached to this report as Annex 1.

### **IV. OPENING SESSION**

The Workshop was formally opened by Mr Mor Ndiaye, Director of Cabinet at the Ministry of Energy and Renewable Energy Development of Senegal, who provided participants with a background on the state of sustainable energy access in the Region. In his Opening Speech, Mr. Ndiaye gave a recount on the existing energy situation, characterised by high dependence on fossil fuels and traditional biomass and the negative environmental and health consequences and hence the need to formulate regional responses to tackle the energy access challenges.

Earlier, Mr. Mahama Kappiah, Executive Director of ECREEE gave a recount of the efforts of ECOWAS in providing sustainable energy access from the early 2000. He explained

the recent developments in the elaboration of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policies and the Bioenergy Policy being validated to complement the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency policies. In conclusion, Mr Kappiah lamented about the current energy access challenges in the ECOWAS region and mentioned the low access to electricity and unsustainable harvesting and use of biomass energy as problems that seeks to be addressed by the Bioenergy Policy, WACCA Action plan and Forest Resources Assessment activities.

The Manager of the UNDP Regional Bureau, Mr. Aboubakar Oualy, recognized that the unsustainable use of biomass energy is leading to reduction of forest cover resulting in ecological degradation and desertification. He therefore reiterated the readiness of his institution to contribute to the development of sustainable energy access and the support they have been providing to the ECOWAS Region and the member states. He subsequently stressed the need for countries to change the energy model and to make a transition to a more sustainable model that respects the ecological balance of the sub-region.

## **V. AGENDA**

The concept notes and Agendas is attached as Annex 2 to this document.

## **VI. CONDUCT OF DELIBERATIONS**

The workshop was divided into 4 compartments as follows:

- i. Validation of the ECOWAS Bioenergy Policy;
- ii. Validation of the WACCA Action Plan;
- iii. Validation of the Report of Forest Resource Assessment; and
- iv. Special Session on the Brazilian Study on Biofuels Potential Production in the UEMOA countries.

- i. Workshop on the ECOWAS Bioenergy Policy Workshop

The Introductory Session followed the Opening Ceremony that introduced participants to the state of bioenergy utilization globally and regionally. The participants were provided insight into the global dimension of bioenergy utilization, particularly on trade and the contribution of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) with the framework of the SE4ALL initiative. The regional perspective of Bioenergy use and the potentials for biomass in the ECOWAS Region was also

presented. It was noted that from the previous study in the UEMOA countries on the potentials of agro-industrial waste, if properly harnessed, could make the ECOWAS Region a power house for energy in the world.

The workshop participants were introduced to the SE4ALL High Impact Opportunity (HIO) for Bioenergy and the opportunities that exist, and thus making Bioenergy a source of sustainable and reliable form of energy that needs to be tapped. In the intervention of African Union Commission/NEPAD, the Africa Bioenergy Framework was presented as a continental structure to harmonize regional and continental policies. This was followed by efforts made by ECREEE with the support of its partners in developing its strategy for Bioenergy and the eventual elaboration of the policy document. The session was concluded with a presentation on the Brazilian experience on creating the necessary enabling environment and investment framework.

The afternoon session was used to showcase successful business cases for bioenergy projects from the private and public sectors, how the successful projects have contributed to increasing sustainable energy access, increasing employment opportunities, reducing environmental degradation and climate change and enhancing food security. Bright cases were drawn from projects on Biogas, Sustainable Biofuels production, Biochar systems, Rural Wood Energy Markets in the Sahel, Bioethanol for clean cooking solutions and Bioelectricity generation. A panel discussion followed these bright examples. The Panellists provided responses to the barriers they individually identified in expanding Bioenergy utilization in the Region and how to ameliorate the situation with specific input from the panellists concluded the session and the day.

The first half of the second day (1<sup>st</sup> October 2015) was devoted to review and discussions on the draft Bioenergy Policy document. Following on the presentations of the various aspects of the document, were discussions and feedbacks which eventually led to the validation of the document.

ii. Validation of the WACCA Action Plan

The second half of the second day (1<sup>st</sup> October 2015) was devoted to the presentation and discussions on the draft regional WACCA Action Plan document. This was preceded by a presentation on progress made in the implementation of the WACCA initiative since its creation. The WACCA Action Plan was thoroughly reviewed and discussed with valuable feedbacks.

iii. validation of the Report on Forest Resource Assessment

On the third day of the workshop, the report on the state of the forest in the ECOWAS Region was presented and reviewed. Earlier, the participants were introduced to the interventions of the ECOWAS Commission in the forestry sector in terms of the ECOWAS Forest Policy and the

Forest Convergence Plan, the initiative in Cote d'Ivoire in introducing re-afforestation programme through an education system and presentation of the recommendations of a Regional workshop held in Niamey in April 2015 on 'Sustainable Forest Management with Focus on REDD+'.

Detailed technical discussion and feedback followed the presentation of the report on the Forest Resource Assessment in the ECOWAS Region, leading to some recommendations from the participants to be included in the report as a final document.

- i. iv. Special Session on the Brazilian Study on Biofuels Potential Production in the UEMOA countries

As part of the workshop, a special session was organised with the support of the delegation from Brazil to launch and present the findings of the study on Sustainable Biofuels Production in the UEMOA countries. The Study provided an opportunity to the participants on the methodologies used and the screening techniques applied in the consideration of identifying the most suitable energy crop for these countries. Finally sugar cane was identified and the presentation identified the various mechanisms and systems that can be applied, taking lessons from the vast experience of Brazil.

This was followed by discussion and feedback section. The delegation was also requested to extend the study to the rest of the ECOWAS countries to cover the entire Region.

## **VII. Main Outcomes**

At the end of the three days of deliberations, the three documents i.e. the ECOWAS Bioenergy Policy, the WACCA Action plan and Forest Resource Assessment reports were all validated pending the incorporation of the key amendments sought by the participants.

## **VIII. Follow-up Actions Required**

The consultants for the three documents are to follow up with the recommendations and observations by participants to bring the documents to the required standards for dissemination to member states. The Bioenergy policy document has to be adopted by the ECOWAS Ministers of energy prior to its adoption by the ECOWAS Council of Minister and the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government.

## **IX. EXHIBITION**

Within the framework of the Workshop, there was demonstration of a gasifier stove Dr. Giorgio Alberti from the University of Udine in Italy and Mr. Musa Samura of Renewable Energy Agency from the Gambia.

## **X. CLOSING CEREMONY**

In delivering the closing remarks, Mr. Birame Faye from the Department of Petroleum, Ministry of Energy and Renewable Energy Development, on behalf of his Ministry, thanked the participants for their valuable contributions during the workshop. He expressed his conviction that the outcome of the workshop; i.e the validated documents will contribute to providing sustainable energy services for the people of the region. He wished all the participants a very safe and pleasant journey back to their respective destinations.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Mahama Kappiah, Executive Director of ECREEE, thanked all the participants for their enthusiasm and dedication to the cause of improving the lives of our citizens by contributing positively in the discussions that finalised the documents through their validation. He thanked also the partners who supported the event, particularly UNDP, the Austrian Ministry of the Environment, the Government of Senegal and AECID in making this workshop a success. He finally wished all the participants safe returns to their respective countries.

### ***Annex 1: List of Participants***

### ***Annex 2: Workshop Concept Notes and Agendas***

