

## GEF-Strategic Programme for West Africa (SPWA) Energy Component

### Context

The energy systems of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are facing the interrelated challenges of energy poverty, energy security and climate change mitigation. The region, with around 300 million inhabitants equivalent to roughly one third of Africa's total population, has one of the lowest modern energy consumption rates in the world. Only around 8% of the rural population has access to electricity services.

The urban electricity systems are in crisis due to the gap between growing demand, low and in-efficient generation capacities and limited capital to invest. Around 60% of the electric generation capacity depends on expensive diesel of heavy fuel oil. There is need for significant investments in sustainable energy infrastructure and services throughout the next decades. Apart from significant fossil fuel resources the ECOWAS region can rely on a wide range of untapped renewable energy and energy efficiency potentials. However, so far the ECOWAS countries do not take advantage of these potentials due to various technical, financial, economic, legal, institutional, policy and capacity related barriers for scaling up renewable energy and energy efficiency investments and markets in the region.

### Strategy

In light of the severe energy crisis in West Africa, UNIDO in cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) launched the regional programme to promote access to modern energy services; increased use of renewable sources of energy and improving energy efficiencies in the industrial and household sectors in West Africa. The regional programme promotes common energy markets, policies and financial mechanisms for decarbonizing energy sector in the sub-region. In addition, the programme would specifically aim at promoting coherency, synergies and public private partnerships in West Africa besides yielding significant local and global environmental benefits. The programme applies a holistic approach and assists the ECOWAS countries in the mitigation of the existing barriers for the establishment of renewable energy and energy efficiency markets. The SPWA provides grant funding and technical assistance for the promotion investments, coordination, policy coherence, capacity building and knowledge management.

### Impact/Outlook

The projects under GEF-SPWA will contribute considerably to increased energy security, energy access and reduction of GHG emissions in West Africa. The projects will build a sound basis for up-scaling and replication. Based on the ECREEE best-practice model, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) requested UNIDO to support the creation of similar regional sustainable energy centres.

Links: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/strategic-program-west-africa-spwa>  
<http://www.ecreee.org>  
<http://www.ecowrex.org>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iz98yficE4>



### Results:

- ◊ A portfolio of twenty-two national and regional renewable energy and energy efficiency projects has been developed at the national level in 15 countries which are under implementation (GEF grant of \$39.86 million and around \$468 million of co-funding).
- ◊ UNIDO is executing ten demonstration projects at the national level, and is also responsible for the overall coordination and knowledge management of the SPWA.
- ◊ With key technical assistance of UNIDO, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency ([www.ecreee.org](http://www.ecreee.org)) was created in 2010, which assists in the coordination of the SPWA and implements other flagship programmes. The Centre has gained international recognition as best practice model and mobilized around \$17 million for its activities.
- ◊ With assistance of UNIDO, the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy (EREP) and the ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Policy (EEEP) have been developed and adopted by the ECOWAS Summit of Heads of State in July 2013.
- ◊ More than 800 key technical experts and policy makers received training on various aspects of sustainable energy and technology conferences with more than 2.000 participants from the ECOWAS region were organized.
- ◊ The ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency ([www.ecowrex.org](http://www.ecowrex.org)) has been launched to promote knowledge management.
- ◊ The ECOWAS Renewable Energy Facility (EREF) for peri-urban and rural areas established and 41 rural projects with an overall volume of \$3.5 million are under execution.

### At a Glance

<p>MDG: THEME: DONORS:</p>	<p>MDG7 Ensuring Environmental Sustainability Energy and Environment Global Environment Facility (GEF), sixteen SPWA partners countries, ECOWAS, the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID), USAID and the European Commission.</p>
<p>BUDGET: STATUS: DURATION:</p>	<p>total \$57 million (\$17 million managed by UNIDO/ECC) Under Implementation Ongoing</p>