

Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Promote the Use of Renewable Energy to Achieve Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction

Implementing Biofuels Programme for Household and Transport Energy Use

What does this Project seek to achieve in 2015?

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the NEPAD Policy and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) are implementing a project which explores and promotes modern biofuels development in Africa, particularly providing policy and regulatory support. It is expected that the project will lead to (a) establishment of harmonized financial, institutional and

policy frameworks for the promotion of biofuels mainly for household and transport end uses in Africa; (b) enhanced capacity of African countries to formulate and implement gender sensitive policies and programmes on biofuel development; and (c) improved capacity of African countries, particularly project developers, to package biofuels projects for investment.

What does the Project support?

This project is implemented to support the United Nations *Sustainable Energy for All* (SE4All) initiative and the AUC *Bioenergy Framework and Policy Guidelines*. The SEA4All has three goals to achieve by 2030, which are to: (a) ensure universal access to modern energy; (b) double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency services; and (c) double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. The AUC Bioenergy Framework and Policy Guidelines, which

was endorsed by the African heads of state and government in 2013, (a) builds consensus on shared framework that inspires and provides guidance to individual African countries and regions in developing bioenergy policies and regulations; and (b) enhances awareness among African policymakers and civil society on the need for environmentally friendly and socially acceptable bioenergy development policies.

How will the Project be implemented?

This project will be implemented jointly with the IRENA led African Clean Energy Corridor (ACEC) programme, which aims to (a) identify renewable energy development zones to cluster solar, wind, geothermal or biomass projects clustered; (b) facilitate government planning so that renewable nearby has a bigger share of the energy mix; (c) foster new financing models and investment frameworks that rapidly can get projects on the ground; (d) build local knowledge base and leading public information campaigns.

This project will also be implemented in partnership with ECA's Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), whose objective is to build, upgrade and/or update technical aptitudes and proficiencies

of government officials in economic management and development planning. IDEP will play specific role of structuring the bio-fuels courses and providing training to identified participants from the beneficiary countries.

The AUC African Energy Commission (AFREC) coordinates and harmonizes the protection conservation development rational exploitation marketing and mainstreaming of energy resources on the African continent. AFREC will provide baseline statistical data on biofuel exploitation and energy indicators in general of the beneficiary countries in support of the project. The following project implementing architecture will therefore apply:



What are the offerings of this Project?

The overall objective of the project is to build the capacity of targeted countries to promote the production and usage of biofuels in order to achieve sustainable development and poverty reduction. The main activities are of the project are following:

- Case studies on the experience of enabling policies and regulatory reforms that facilitates for the adoption of the biofuels technologies.
- Regional workshops based on case studies to share the lessons learned, and link these lessons to local context and experience;
- Guidelines and training materials and training manuals, model agreements and standards for creating a harmo-

nized enabling environment for up-take of biofuels in Africa.

- Training workshops on: (a) policy and regulations (formulation); (b) establishing the national systems of innovation (linking R&D to industrial policy); (c) biofuels standards or standardisation; (d) biofuels project development; and contract negotiation (financing).
- Providing specific and demand-driven technical assistance to identified countries on how they can develop and modernise the biofuel sector in order to generate modern electricity, heat energy, and/or transport fuels.

Who benefits from the Project?

The main beneficiaries of this project are all the African countries, especially those that have included the development of biofuel in their strategic energy development plans. There is a realization that African best examples of modernizing the biofuels sector are not shared. The project will chronicle lessons learned from the following countries, in the short term:

- South Africa,
- Mauritius,
- Rwanda
- Ethiopia, and
- Kenya.

In the course of the year, examples from West Africa, particularly from Francophone Africa, will also be identified and captured. These examples, which detail the role that

biofuels play a role in the producing heat, electricity and transport fuels will spur on the coordinated and harmonized approach across Africa. The following countries, which are signatories of the ACEC, will particularly stand to benefit. They will benefit by participating in capacity building workshops as well as training workshops that will take place in the course of implementation of this project. It is expected that the outcomes and lessons learned will spur country led or regionally conceived biofuels programmes. The following countries in particular have been identified as the countries with one of the highest potential for biofuels, as well as the highest biomass users on the continent. They are also countries with least developed modern biofuels programmes. In 2015, these

countries will receive technical assistance as to how they could develop and modernise this sector, especially with regards to policy and regulatory assistance, and project packaging.

- Swaziland,
- Burundi
- Botswana,
- Malawi,
- Tanzania,
- Uganda, and
- South Sudan,

There are plans to increase the number of these countries to include those that are not participating in the African Clean Energy Corridor.

What are the tentative milestones of the Project?

The advisory services to identified countries will take place as and when needed because they are demand driven. This means that these will be bottom up and decided upon by the beneficiary countries individually. However all the technical assistance/services will be provided in year 2015. The main activities of the project for all African countries will be capacity building workshops as well as regional training on biofuel development as outlined above. The tentative dates, as well as hosting countries, for these meetings are as follows:

- **Capacity building workshops**
 - 05-07 May, Mbabane, Swaziland
 - 27-28 May, Arusha, Tanzania
 - 23-25 Jun, Bamako, Mali
- **Regional training workshops**
 - 14-18 Sept, Bujumbura, Burundi
 - 05-09 Oct, Port Louis, Mauritius
 - 26-30 Oct, Dakar, Senegal

What is the rationale for the Project?

The promotion of clean renewable energies is a pro-poor development strategy for Africa, which has a large share of rural population and is highly vulnerable to climate change-induced calamities such as droughts. The energy poverty in rural areas deprives communities of economic and social opportunities as they do not have access to, or cannot afford, adequate energy services. Women are disproportionately affected by the lack of energy, as they undertake the majority of household chores. *One of the most effective ways of addressing energy poverty, particularly in underdeveloped areas in Africa, as well as facilitating or unlocking economic development is to develop a modern biofuels sector.*

For this Project to attain its objectives, and particularly to reverse the current situation, as far as biomass is used, it needs active support and engagement from African countries. The indicator of a successful implementation of this project will be the number of countries that, as a result of the activities above, have embarked on implementing policies, measures and actions (PAMs) to modernise the biofuels sector. In addition, and more poignantly, it will be the number of projects that have been designed and ready for funding. Therefore the commitment from government ministries/departments in charge of energy, local project developers (or private sector) and NGOs will be essential if the expected accomplishments can be achieved,

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