

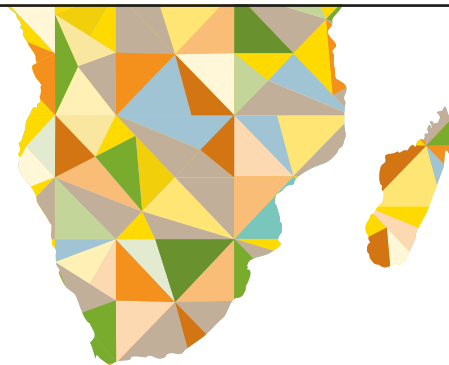
SUMMARY REPORT

AREI REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR CENTRAL AFRICA



AREI

Africa Renewable Energy Initiative



N'Djamena, Chad, 26 - 28 April 2018

AFRICA RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVE



Transforming Africa towards a renewable energy powered future with access for all

In September 2015, countries that met at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Energy-related SDG N°7 aims to correct inequalities in access to energy and to guarantee access for all to reliable, sustainable and modern energy services, at an affordable cost, through both national actions and international cooperation. This goal is in line with SDG N°13 on Climate Change.

Furthermore, considering that on the one hand access to energy services is a sine qua non to good health, economic development and job creation, and on the other that Africa is most vulnerable to climate change risks, not to mention the most affected continent by the adverse effects generated by climate change, African Heads of State gave a strong global signal to COP 21 in Paris by endowing the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) with a dual objective: Reconciling the dual challenge of expanding energy access and mitigating climate change.

It is in this context that from 26 – 28 April 2018, the 1st AREI Regional Dialogue Forum was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in N'Djamena, Chad. The meeting was organized by the AREI Independent Delivery Unit (IDU) with the support of the African Development Bank (AfDB)

Key objectives of the Forum were to: -

- ensure that all countries in the Central African region are aware of AREI and its objectives;
- strengthen ownership and the basis for broad participation in each country in the region;
- provide direct links to key persons (AREI focal points) in each country and consolidate contacts and networks between countries, stakeholder groups and professions;
- mobilise national stakeholders to contribute directly to the mapping process already initiated (AREI Work Area I), to policy and incentive development (AREI Work Area II), to project development and support (AREI Work Area V), criteria, safeguards and technology assessment (AREI Work Area VI) and multi-stakeholder engagement processes (AREI Work Area VII);
- set in motion the process of translating the AREI action plan into national contexts;
- provide an opportunity to share best practices and examples of policy interventions that other countries in the region might consider;
- map barriers and assess needs, including public financing needs for accelerated investments in renewable energy;
- build a dynamic database of renewable energy project pipelines in countries and the region, including the initial assessment of priorities;
- Identify reliable partners and initiate the preparation and submission of joint proposals to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other funding sources;
- improve understanding of national and regional needs.

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The N'Djamena Forum brought together¹: -

- representatives from the following ECCAS countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon;
- representatives of the following sub-regional and international organizations: AFD, BAD, BDEAC, CEEAC, PEAC,
- government officials and representatives of financial institutions and civil society organizations.

The Forum Agenda was divided into four parts, notably; opening ceremony; plenary presentations and exchanges; group discussions; feedback sessions and adoption of recommendations.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony included; remarks by the Director-General of SNE, National Coordinator of the Dialogue, a briefing from the AREI Interim Director, a speech by the Deputy Secretary-General of ECCAS in-charge of socio-cultural integration and the official speech delivered by the Chadian Minister for Petrol and Energy.

In his opening remarks, Dr Jean-Paul M'BATNA, SNE Director-General, welcomed delegates and expressed his most sincere gratitude to the President of the Republic of Guinea, H.E. Professor Alpha CONDE, and the IDU Interim Director, for the confidence placed on his country to organize the 1st AREI Regional Dialogue Forum. In the same vein, he thanked the President of the Republic of Chad for his foresight and vision in making Renewable Energies a lever for Chad's development. He lauded the efforts undertaken ECCAS member states, experts and development partners in accompanying ECCAS member states in the Renewable Energies challenge.

Ambassador Seyni NAFO, the AREI Interim Director gave a presentation highlighting the context under which the Initiative was founded and its key objectives. He emphasized on the Initiative's support process to countries on the basis of certain criteria to be followed. He underscored the Initiative achievements in 2016 – 2017 (here below) and concluded with the pointers on the way forward for 2018 – 2020 AREI.

- Establishment of the Independent Delivery Unit, (IDU);
- Launch of a mapping process of existing renewable energy initiatives and programmes in Africa;
- Compilation of 450 existing renewable energy projects for a capacity of 50GW;
- Development of a robust criteria for African ownership of environmental and social safeguards relating to access to energy and population well-being.

In his speech, H.E. Andres Edu MBA MOKUY, the ECCAS Deputy Secretary-General in-charge of socio-cultural integration thanked and congratulated H.E. President Idriss Deby ITNO and

¹ The full list of participants is annexed to the Final Communiqué.

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the People of Chad for their warm welcome, conducive environment and leadership in renewable energy. Additionally, he reiterated the need for assistance not only in relation to surmounting the several challenges ahead, but also capacity building with regard to initiatives already being implemented by ECCAS including the creation of the Central African Power Pool the adoption of the Electricity Market Code in October 2009 and the CEMAC/ECCAS White Paper of May 2015; elements that led to the organization of a Roundtable of Donors in Brussels on the portfolio of priority projects in the Energy Sector in the Central Africa region. In closing his remarks, he defined ECCAS perspectives and urged development partners to support the implementation of the Central Africa Energy Policy.

The Minister of Oil and Energy, Hon. Bechir MADET delivered a speech on behalf of the President wishing participants from the countries in the sub-region a cordial and warm welcome to Chad. He recalled the efforts undertaken by Chad and the results achieved in terms of harnessing the country's energy potential. Hon. Madet, lauded the vision, foresight and leadership of H.E. President Prof. Alpha CONDE and H.E. President Idriss Deby ITNO in making Central Africa the space for promoting development through renewable energies.

The working session with a Bureau for the Forum being set up and the nomination of presiding officials as follows: -

- **Chairman:** Mr Abdelkerim DANGAYE Deputy Director-General of the Chad Renewable Energy Development Agency (ADER);
- **1^{er} Vice Chair :**Mr KOUTELE Jean, ECCAS representative;
- **2^{ème} Vice Chair :** Mr Mogo ATADE, PEAC representative ;
- **Moderator:** Ms Stephanie NJIOMO, Program Officer (Climate) at the Friedrich Ebert Fondation in Yaounde, Cameroon;
- **Secretary:** Mr Fleury PABANDJI Junior, Director-General of *Fonds National de l'Environnement* in Central African Republic (CAR);
- **Deputy-Secretary:** Mr Joël Célestin, MAMBOUNDOU Executive Director of the Observatory of Natural Resources in Central Africa (ORNAC) of Gabon.

The Moderator outlined the programme for the D-day forum and the expectations.

Plenary session:

The plenary session included presentations on; AREI by Amb. Seyni NAFO; Renewable energies by Dr. Mbiake; ECCAS - Central Africa Power Pool on program portfolios and project priorities by Mr Atadet Azarak Morgo; country presentations by Experts.

Following the presentation and discussions that ensued, the following expectations were met:

- Understanding of the role of AREI, its operations and what measures it is putting in place to address both energy and climate change mitigation challenges;
- Ownership by participants of the progress of the portfolio of priority programmes and projects of the PEAC;

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- Understanding of the progress of the renewable energy sector in the different countries and the difficulties encountered in financing respective strategies;
- Understanding of the mechanisms put in place by sub-regional financial institutions, including BDEAC;
- Experience-sharing and transfer of skills between member-states.

Recommendations :

To countries :

- Ensure the full participation of Designated National Authorities and Green Climate Fund Competencies in all AREI activities and in particular in the Dialogue Fora;
- Involve national and regional academic and research centres in the implementation of AREI activities in the relevant work areas;
- Involve the relevant Community institutions (ECCAS, CEMAC, BDEAC, etc.) more closely in structuring projects and mobilising funds for the implementation of their projects;
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To AREI :

- Ensure the urgent establishment of a regional technical assistance facility for capacity building, project development and resource mobilization;
- Intensify the participation of national and regional academic and university research centres in the implementation of AREI activities, and set up an ad hoc scientific and technical panel to strengthen the capacities of the IDU and AREI in general;
- Avail to countries, an online platform with the opportunities relating to the implementation of renewable energy projects (financing, capacity building, technical studies etc.)

To ECCAS and the Central Africa Power Pool:

Support national capacity building in the establishment of a conducive business environment to the full development of renewable energies, while ensuring the harmonisation of institutional and regulatory frameworks.

To the Development Bank of Central African States (BDEAC):

Within the framework of its accreditation to the Green Climate Fund, accompany the countries in the region in programme development and implementation of respective National Determined Contributions (NDC) through the implementation of a priority investment portfolio, and encourage the setting up of a network of national financing institutions for the development of renewable energies.

Done at N'Djamena, 28 April 2018, by the rapporteurs.



AREI

L'initiative de l'Afrique sur les énergies renouvelables