

NewsLetter



ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)



ECREEE relocates to its new headquarters (P.6)



ECREEE Hosts Workshop to Strengthen Regional Partnerships (P.10)

On September 26, 2024, ECREEE convened ECOWAS agencies in Praia to tackle regional challenges in energy, water, agriculture, and gender.

The workshop fostered collaboration, emphasizing the Energy-Water-Food Nexus and gender integration in energy projects.

Actionable strategies were outlined to enhance sustainable energy and human development across West Africa.



Energy Minister of C.V presides over certificate award ceremony (P. 18)



ECREEE holds key regional certification seminar in Senegal (P. 5)



The ECOWAS Special Intervention Fund (ESIF) projects (P. 11)

The ESIF Fund delivers clean energy solutions to empower communities, schools, and hospitals, advancing regional development goals.



Annual report publication (P. 7)

Showcasing progress in renewable energy and energy efficiency, with 22 completed activities driving sustainability across the ECOWAS region.



Dear reader,

It is with great pride and anticipation that I present this yearly edition of the ECREEE newsletter, highlighting the key achievements and initiatives we have undertaken throughout 2023 and 2024. These years have been marked by significant milestones that demonstrate ECREEE's unwavering commitment to advancing sustainable energy across the ECOWAS region, contributing to the economic resilience and environmental sustainability of our communities.

Francis Sempore

Executive Director

Foreword by the Executive Director

ECREEE marked two years transformation with the launch of its Strategic Plan 2023-2027, aligning with ECOWAS' 4x4 strategic objectives and Vision 2050. This ambitious plan prioritizes renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy access, aiming to drive inclusive growth, sustainability, and regional integration across the ECOWAS region.

One of the key recent achievements of 2024 was the adoption by the Ministers in charge of Energy of ECOWAS Member States of the ECOWAS Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency Facility (EREEEF) and the ECOWAS guidelines on the promotion of grid-connected solar photovoltaic projects (model Electricity Purchase Agreements-PPAs, Concession Agreements-CA solar photovoltaic projects including battery energy storage systems-BESS) ECREEE also supported

the implementation of ECOWAS Special Intervention Fund (ESIF) projects, delivering transformative benefits in agriculture, education, and health, particularly in underserved areas. These efforts exemplify our dedication to sustainable energy-driven development. Additionally, 2023 saw the adoption of the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy and Strategy Framework, positioning the region as a important actor in green hydrogen.

Building on these milestones, ECREEE strengthened its collaborative efforts through strategic partnerships with regional and international organizations enhancing the delivery of impactful projects and fostered knowledge exchange, capacity building, and co-financing sustainable energy infrastructure to address pressing energy challenges in the ECOWAS region.

The ECREEE Strategic Plan 2023 – 27 A New Era for Sustainable Energy in West Africa

ECREEE had the pleasure to launch its Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027, marking a transformative chapter in the history of the Centre in the region. This forward-looking plan is a pivotal step in aligning ECREEE's mission with the ECOWAS 4x4 Strategic Objectives and supporting the realization of ECOWAS Vision 2050. The plan articulates a vision to be the primary facilitator of universal access to sustainable energy across ECOWAS Member States. It also underscores the need to building institutional strength, improving program implementation, fostering partnerships, and ensuring social and environmental responsibility, all aligned with its vision of universal access to modern energy in the ECOWAS region.

The Plan establishes ECREEE as a key driver of sustainable energy initiatives in the region, focusing on an inclusive energy transition across four strategic axis:

1. **Energy Access for All:** Expanding access to modern, affordable, and sustainable energy solutions.
2. **Energy Security:** Promoting regional cooperation and the integration of renewable energy to ensure energy stability.
3. **Energy Efficiency:** Driving programs that reduce energy consumption and environmental impacts, especially through innovative technologies.
4. **Climate Resilience and Adaptation:** Strengthening the region's capacity to combat climate change through cleaner energy systems and low-carbon development strategies.

The success of the strategic plan relies on effective collaboration with stakeholders involved in sustainable energy promotion. ECREEE emphasizes synergy with funding partners, national institutions, private sector, civil society, academia, scientific partners, and development banks.

The goal is to mobilize resources and implement sustainable energy programs for the region's economic benefit and universal access by 2030.

You may download the ECREEE 2023 – 2027 Strategic Plan at: <https://www.ecreee.org/strategic-plan/>



ECOWAS Energy Ministers Adopt the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy in Bissau

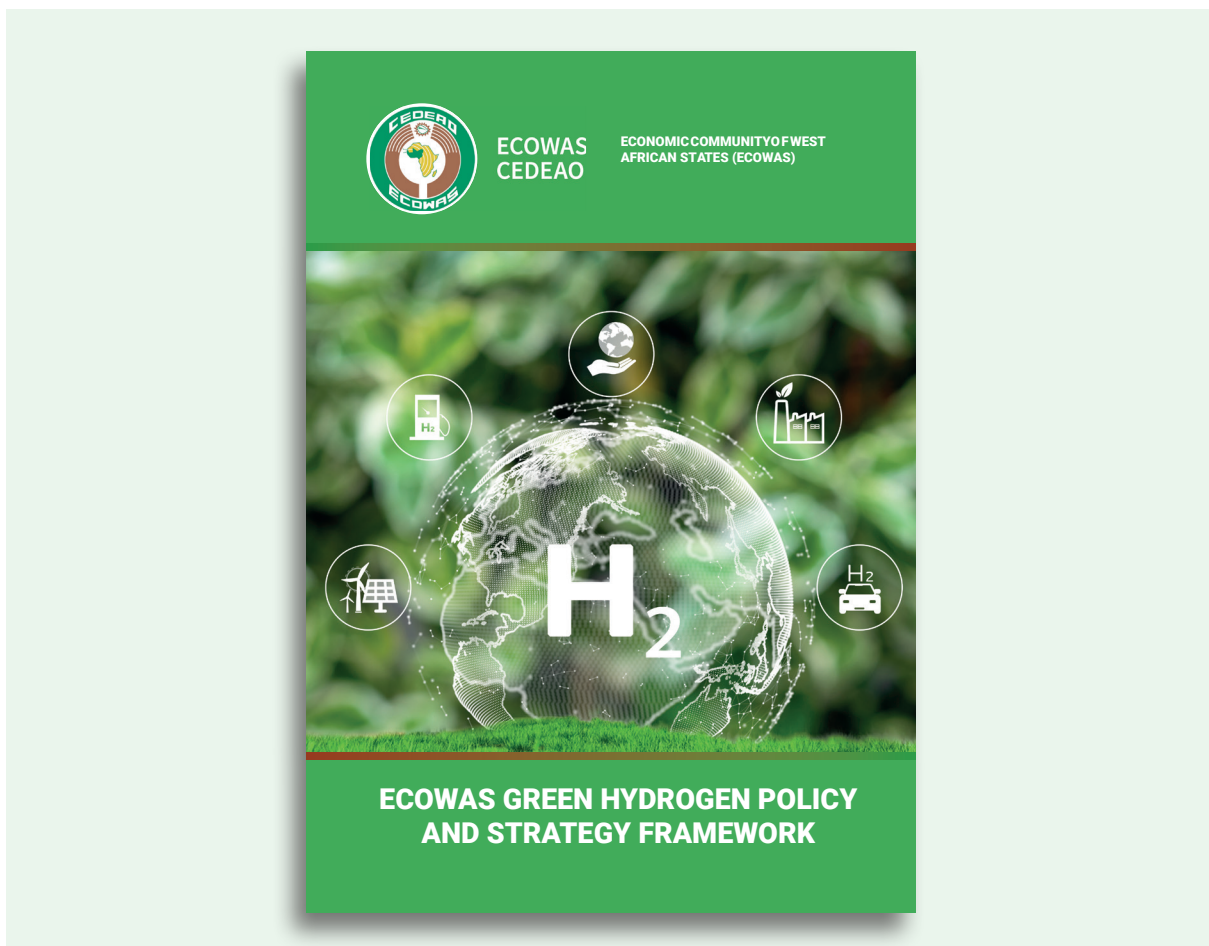
ECOWAS Energy Ministers, on the 24th of March 24, 2023, met in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, where they adopted the updated ECOWAS Energy Policy, the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Code, and the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy. These decisions followed the recommendations of the ECOWAS Energy Experts Meeting held from 22 to 23 of March 2023 in Bissau, underscoring a collective regional commitment to sustainable development. The ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy aims to position the region as a globally competitive producer and supplier of green hydrogen and its derivatives, while also contributing to socio-economic growth and sustainable development across all member states. The ECOWAS Commissioner for Infrastructure,



Energy, and Digitalisation, Dr. Sédiko Douka, in his open remarks, expressed gratitude to the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Landuse (WASCAL) and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research for their collaboration with ECREEE in developing this critical policy. The Hon. Commissioner emphasized that energy is a key driver of socio-economic development, noting the region's current energy access challenges, with rates currently around 53%. In response, ECOWAS is pursuing substantial investments to improve energy access, major regional electricity projects such as ECOREAP, BEST, ROGEAP valued at over USD 1 billion, with financing from the World Bank.

The Green Hydrogen Policy and Strategy Framework targets a production capacity of at least 0.5 million tons of green hydrogen per year by 2030, scaling up to 10 million tons by 2050. Achieving these milestones will necessitate approximately 4-5 GW of electrolyzer capacity by 2030 and substantial investment, estimated at USD 3-5 billion. With projected annual revenues of USD 1.25 billion, these ambitious targets underscore ECOWAS's vision for green hydrogen as a catalyst for economic growth, energy security, and environmental sustainability in West Africa.

The ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy and Strategy Framework is available to download at: <https://www.ecreee.org/regional-policies/>





Prime minister of Cabo Verde and President of the ECOWAS Commission inaugurate new ECREEE premises



In a momentous occasion, ECREEE on the 11th of October, inaugurated its new headquarters in Praia, Cabo Verde, in a ceremony led by Prime Minister of Cabo Verde, Dr. Ulisses Correia e Silva and ECOWAS President Dr. Omar Aliou Touray. The event, attended by high-ranking officials, including the Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Energy, and the ECOWAS Commissioner for Energy, Mines, and Digitalization, underscored Cabo Verde's dedication to sustainable energy development and ECREEE's pivotal role in the ECOWAS region.

The Prime Minister highlighted ECREEE's cross-border efforts in combating climate change, expressing confidence that the new premises would become a hub for innovation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. Dr. Touray commended ECREEE's 13 years of impactful work, positioning it as a cornerstone agency for advancing the region's ambitious sustainable energy goals. The Executive Director of ECREEE, Mr. Francis Sempore emphasized the significance of Cabo Verde's support in

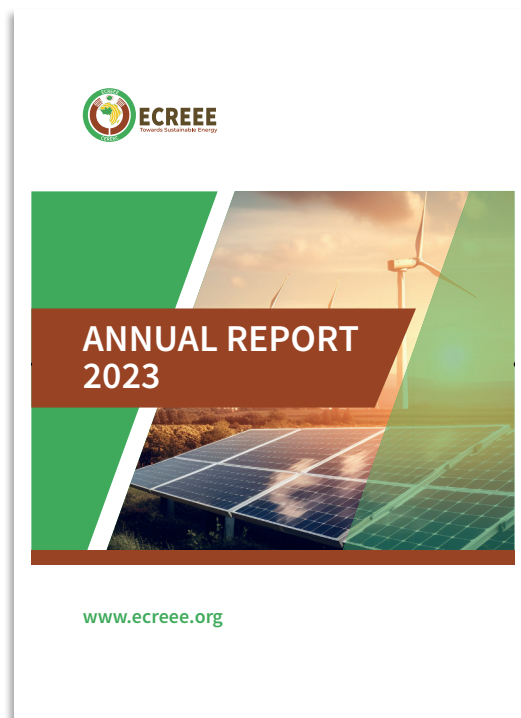


hosting ECREEE and its critical role in regional energy initiatives.

The unveiling of the plaque marked the beginning of a new chapter in ECREEE's journey, symbolizing renewed commitment to sustainable energy solutions. The event concluded with a shared vision of collaboration and optimism, reinforcing the collective resolve of ECOWAS member states to address pressing energy and climate challenges in West Africa.

ECREEE published its 2023 Annual Report: A Year of Progress and Strategic Alignment

ECREEE has published its 2023 Annual Report, showcasing its achievements and challenges during the first year of implementing the 2023–2027 Strategic Plan. The report highlights the Centre’s unwavering commitment to advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency across the ECOWAS region. Out of 87 planned activities, 22 were successfully completed, while 38 are progressing at various stages of execution. Despite administrative and budgetary constraints leading to the postponement or suspension of some initiatives, ECREEE maintained a strong focus on its mission, achieving tangible results that contribute to regional energy transformation.



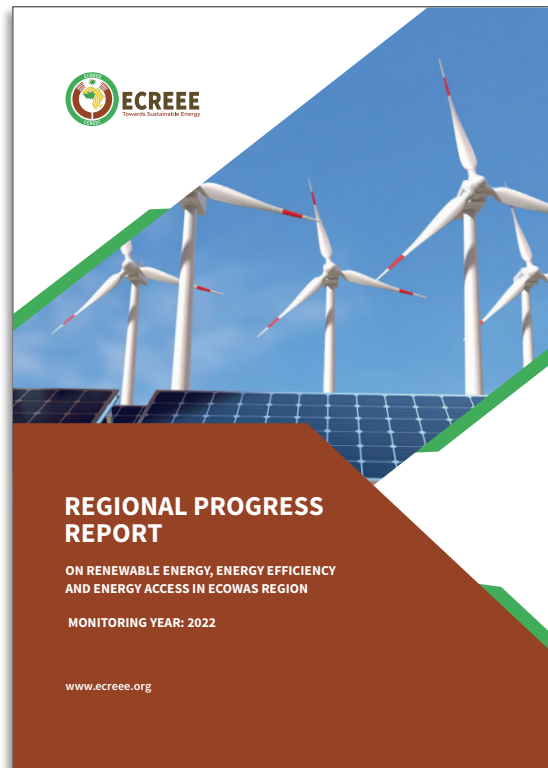
The report also provides insights into ECREEE’s priorities for 2024, emphasizing strengthened partnerships and enhanced resource mobilization to address emerging challenges. It reflects on the Centre’s adaptability and resilience in delivering impactful projects that align with ECOWAS’s vision for sustainable development. The 2023 Annual Report is a testament to ECREEE’s dedication to driving progress and collaboration in building a more sustainable energy future for West Africa.

The ECREEE 2023 Annual Report is available for download at: <https://www.ecreee.org/publications/>



Publication 2022 Regional progress Report

ECREEE published the 2022 Regional Progress Report on Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Energy Access in the ECOWAS Region. This comprehensive report highlights the strides made by ECOWAS Member States in advancing sustainable energy solutions, in line with regional and international commitments. From the increased deployment of renewable energy technologies to improved energy efficiency measures and expanded access to modern energy services, the 2022 report provides a detailed overview of the region's progress, challenges, and future opportunities in achieving a resilient and inclusive energy transition.



In 2022, the ECOWAS region made notable strides in improving energy access, renewable energy generation, and energy efficiency. Here is a detailed overview of key achievements:

1. Electricity Access:

- The overall electricity access rate reached 57.4%, covering 243.5 million people, with the majority (74%) in urban areas.

2. Modern Cooking Solutions:

- 23% of households, or 98 million people, in the ECOWAS region used modern cooking solutions such as LPG.

3. Electricity Generation Capacity:

- Between 2021 and 2022, total grid-connected electricity generation capacity increased by 2.2% to 28,032

MW, of which 7,059 MW is from renewable energy.

- The share of renewable energy in the electricity mix remained at 25.2%, with a target of 49% by 2030.
- Renewable energy sources like small hydropower, solar PV, wind, and bioenergy contributed 3% to the energy mix, with a target of 19% by 2030.
- Large and Medium Scale Hydropower (LMSH) dominated renewable capacity, accounting for 6,128 MW (86.8%).



4. Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Power:

- In 2022, there were 48 grid-connected solar PV power plants with a combined capacity of 616 MW.

5. Electricity Generation:

- Total electricity generation in the ECOWAS region increased by 2.8% in 2022, reaching 87,810 GWh, with 20.5% coming from renewable sources.
- Small hydropower plants, solar PV, wind, and bioenergy contributed 1,189 GWh (1.4%) to the total electricity generation.

6. Clean Energy Mini-Grids and Solar Home Systems (SHS):

- By 2022, the region had 565 operational clean energy mini-grids with a total capacity of 51.9 MW.
- SHS sales grew significantly, with an 115% increase from 2021, reaching 811,126 units sold.

7. Technical and Non-Technical Losses:

- Losses increased slightly from 22.7% to 23.2% between 2020 and 2021.

8. Efficient Lamps and Appliances:

- Sales of solar lanterns and domestic electrical systems increased by 66% between 2018 and 2022, reaching 727,000 units sold, with Nigeria accounting for 77%.
- Energy-efficient appliances saw a 144% increase in sales volume between 2019 and 2022, totaling 385,000 units, with Nigeria representing 72% of the market.

9. Energy Management Systems:

- Nigeria is the only country with ISO 50001-certified industries, with 9 industries certified and 11 more in the process of certification.

This is available to download on the ECREEE website at: <https://www.ecreee.org/regional-progress-reports/>



ECREEE Hosts Workshop to Strengthen Regional Partnerships

Praia, September 26, 2024 – The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) convened a high-level workshop at its headquarters in Praia, Cabo Verde, focusing on enhancing collaboration among ECOWAS specialized agencies. The event addressed critical regional challenges, including energy, water, agriculture, and gender mainstreaming. The event brought together directors and representatives from agencies including the ECOWAS Gender Development Center (EGDC), Water Resources Management Centre (WRMC), Project Preparation and Development Unit (PPDU), and the Regional Authority for Agriculture and Food (ARAA). Discussions highlighted synergies to strengthen the Energy-Water-Food Nexus and gender integration in energy projects.

ECREEE Executive Director, Jean Francis Sempore, underscored the pivotal role of inter-agency collaboration in addressing West Africa's development challenges. Participants emphasized the need for robust infrastructure, enhanced partnerships, and strategic planning to achieve sustainable impact. The workshop concluded with actionable strategies to integrate sustainable energy and human development across ECOWAS initiatives, marking a significant step toward unified efforts in achieving the region's sustainable development goals.

The ECOWAS Special Intervention Fund (ESIF) projects

The ECOWAS Special Intervention Fund (ESIF) was established to promote sustainable development in rural and peri-urban areas of West Africa by increasing the deployment of clean and affordable energy technologies. The fund aligns with the ECOWAS Vision 2050 and ECREEE's Strategic Plan 2023–2027, contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During its first phase, projects were inaugurated in Benin, Cabo Verde, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo. These initiatives provided sustainable energy solutions that benefitted agricultural workers, powered hospitals, extended electricity access to underprivileged communities, and supported schools across the region.



For detailed information about the projects can be accessed via the following link: <https://bit.ly/3YnbmkX>

ESIF video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJGbWWFdcPQ&t=26s>





BENIN- Solar-Powered Irrigation System (SPIS) installed at the Adja-Ouère Agricultural Technical High School



CABO VERDE (FOGO) Electrification of the Chã das Caldeiras Region



CABO VERDE (SANTO ANTAO) Refurbishment of Ribeira Alta's Hybrid Power System



GHANA - 3 Hospitals benefited from Solar PV Installation



NIGERIA - Solar Power Installation at Bayero University, Kano



SENEGAL - 10 solar-powered pumping system installed in Kedougou, for productive use



THE GAMBIA - Solar Home Systems for Mamud Fana South – Keliman Society



TOGO - Sustainable access to water for 10 rural health units

8 Projects



ECREEE inaugurates 2 Energy Efficiency Light Testing Laboratories in The Gambia

On the 31st of May 2024, ECREEE in partnership with the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (MOPE), the Gambia Standards Bureau (TGSB), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), officially inaugurated two state-of-the-art energy efficiency light testing laboratories in Banjul, The Gambia. The facilities, which include a sphere energy efficiency testing laboratory and a photogoniometer light testing laboratory, mark a significant milestone in enhancing energy standards and efficiency in The Gambia. This project was funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) through UNIDO.

Representing ECREEE's Executive Director, ECOWAS Resident Representative in The Gambia, H.E. Madam Miatta Lily French, underscored the initiative's importance in ensuring quality assurance, enhancing market capacity, and safeguarding the region from non-efficient equipment. The new facilities enable The Gambia to test various lighting types, including domestic, industrial, and airport lights, in line with Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS). Mr. Papa Secka, Director of the Gambia Standards Bureau, emphasized the laboratories' role in preventing obsolete imports and reaffirmed their accessibility to all ECOWAS member states for light testing.



ECREEE organizes strategic Energy Efficiency regional workshop

ECREEE, in collaboration with GIZ and the African Energy Commission (AFREC), officially launched a regional workshop on «Energy Efficiency Initiatives and Sustainable Energy Data Collection» in Cotonou, Benin. Held from June 24 to 28, 2024, the workshop brought together national energy data focal points from ECOWAS member states, along with representatives from the ECOWAS Commission, UEMOA, and AFREC. The opening ceremony, chaired by Mr. Basile Kanon Adjo, General Secretary representing Minister of Energy, Water and Mines of Benin, highlighted the collective commitment to advancing energy efficiency and robust data systems across West Africa.

During the workshop, ECREEE, and partners (GIZ, UNIDO, UNDP, KfW, and AFREC) discussed energy efficiency initiatives to enhance synergy and ensure active member state participation in their implementation. The event also focused on establishing a robust data collection system for energy efficiency in West Africa, consolidating data for the ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Observatory (ECOWREX), and facilitating the preparation of annual progress reports. These efforts aim to strengthen the implementation of sustainable energy programs and projects across the region.





ECREEE holds key regional certification seminar in Senegal

ECREEE organized the annual ECOWAS Regional Workshop on Certification of Sustainable Energy Skills July 29, 2024, in Dakar, opened under the chairmanship of Mr. Cheikh Niane, Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy, Petroleum and Mines of Senegal. The workshop supported by GIZ's under the ProMERC II program, featured three pivotal meetings: the inaugural gathering of National Focal Institutions of the Certification Scheme, the second convening of the Tripartite Advisory Committee, and the fourth session of the Technical Committee for the ECOWAS Certification Body for Sustainable Energy Skills (ECBSES). These meetings facilitated in-depth discussions among stakeholders to enhance the certification scheme's effectiveness, ensuring the program's role in promoting a skilled workforce for sustainable energy across the region.

Operational since 2015, the ECOWAS certification scheme has focused on certifying Off-Grid PV Solar Installers (Level 1). Starting in early 2025, the program will expand to include the certification of professionals such as Designers, Installers, and Inspectors for Clean Energy Mini-grids (Level 2), with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB) under the Desert-to-Power West Africa Regional Energy Program (WAREP). Additionally, regional certification frameworks for Energy Efficiency and Solar Thermal skills are currently being developed with the support of AfDB and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).



WACEC Regional Validation Workshop



The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), in collaboration with the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA), the West African Power Pool (WAPP), with support from International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and GIZ under the ProCEM II program, hosted a regional validation workshop of the West African Clean Energy Corridor (WACEC) documents. Held in Banjul, The Gambia, from June 12 to 14, 2024, the event aimed to finalize key policies to advance renewable energy and promote solar PV projects in the region.

The workshop was officially opened on June 13, 2024 by Mrs. Amie Njie-Joof, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy of The Gambia, alongside the Executive Director of ECREEE, Mr. Francis Sempore. The workshop convened stakeholders from Energy Ministries, National Regulators, ECOWAS Specialized Agencies, and other partners to validate critical documents, including the

1. Draft Regional Directive on promoting solar PV projects
2. Draft catalogue of guarantees and insurance for renewable energy investments

Preceding this event, ECREEE, ERERA, and WAPP organized a similar workshop in November 2023 to validate electricity purchase and concession contract models. Together, these efforts underscore ECOWAS's commitment to fostering a sustainable and climate-friendly electricity market in West Africa.

ECOWAS energy ministers adopt facility and guidelines on promoting sustainable energy

On the 1st of November 2024, the ECOWAS Energy Ministers convened in Abuja, Nigeria, to deliberate on critical initiatives aimed at advancing sustainable energy in the region. The meeting culminated in the review and adoption of the ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Facility (EREEEF) and the ECOWAS Guidelines on the Promotion of Grid-Connected Solar Photovoltaic Projects. The Ministers' decisions were informed by the outcomes of the ECOWAS Energy Experts Meeting held on October 30–31, 2024, also in Abuja. These regional initiatives will be recommended to the ECOWAS Council of Ministers for adoption.

ECOWAS energy ministers commended the strides made in advancing sustainable energy in the region, particularly the establishment of the ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Environment Financing Facility (EREEEF). With an initial funding target of \$75 million, EREEEF is designed to address the critical investment gap in renewable energy and environmental projects across West Africa. The Facility will provide grants, loans, and guarantees through competitive calls for proposals, supporting clean energy initiatives. Implemented by ECREEE in

collaboration with the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) and with technical assistance from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), EREEEF is poised to drive transformative progress in energy access and environmental sustainability in the region.

The ECOWAS Energy Ministers also applauded the development of comprehensive guidelines to promote grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) projects. These include model Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and Concession Agreements (CAs) tailored for solar PV systems and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). The initiative aims to strengthen regulatory and institutional frameworks, fostering increased investment in renewable energy across the region. These guidelines align with the objectives of the West Africa Clean Energy Corridor (WACEC) initiative, endorsed by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government in June 2017. WACEC seeks to accelerate the development of large-scale renewable energy projects, supporting the region's transition toward clean and sustainable energy solutions.





Energy Minister of Cabo Verde presides over certificate award ceremony



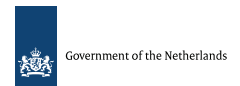
As part of ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Skills Certification Program, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) held the 1st exams in Cabo Verde and Sierra Leone for the certification of off-grid solar photovoltaic system technicians- level I, from the 17th to 19th of October, in Praia and 11th to 15th in Freetown respectively.

The certificate award ceremony in Praia, was attended by ECREEE Executive Director Francis Sempore, IGQPI Board Chair Ana Paula Spencer, and CERMI CEO Gilson Correia, the Minister of Industry, Trade, and Energy, Alexandre Monteiro, congratulated the trainees on their achievement. He emphasized that the regionally recognized certificate benefits both professionals and the sector by enhancing career mobility within ECOWAS countries and strengthening the overall workforce. The Minister highlighted the broader impact on businesses, noting that certified professionals contribute to increased competitiveness and business expansion, leading to significant economic benefits. He commended the initiative as a step forward in fostering skilled professionals and driving regional economic growth.



Special thanks to our partners

None of these achievements would have been possible without the generous support of our partners. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to organizations such as GIZ, WASCAL, the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), AECID, Austrian Development Cooperation, the Government of Cabo Verde, USAID, the European Union, and many others. Your commitment and collaboration have been instrumental in enabling ECREEE to advance its mission and strengthen the sustainable energy landscape across West Africa





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