



ECREEE
Towards Sustainable Energy

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

www.ecreee.org

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFREC	African Energy Commission
ARE	Alliance for Rural Electrification
ASER	Agence Sénégalaise d'Electrification Rurale
B2B	Business-to-Business
CAW	Climate Action Window
CC	Cross-Cutting
CERMI	Centro de Energias Renováveis e Manutenção Industrial
COP28	The 28th Session: Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
DRE	Decentralised Renewable Energy
DPERSE	Sustainable Development through Renewable Energy in the Southeast of Senegal
DtP WAREP	Desert-to-Power West Africa Regional Energy Program
EAIF	Energy Access Investment Forum
ECBSES	ECREEE as a Certification Body for Sustainable Energy Skills
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECOSHAM	ECOWAS Standards Harmonization Model
ECREEE	ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
ECSES	ECOWAS Certification for Sustainable Energy Skills
EE	Energy Efficiency
ENERGICA	Energy Access and Green Transition Collaboratively Demonstrated in Urban and Rural Areas in Africa
EREF	ECOWAS Renewable Energy Facility
ESEF	ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum
ESIF	ECOWAS Special Intervention Fund
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	German International Development Cooperation / Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GN-SEC	Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFDD	Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
ISO/IEC	International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission

NCFI	National Certification Focal Institutions
ONEPlanET	Open source nExus modelling tools for Planning sustainable Energy Transition in Africa
PAC-SOLAR	Promoting Agricultural Competitiveness through Solar Energy
ProCEM-II	Promoting a Climate-Friendly Energy Market--Phase 2
PV	Photovoltaic
QNB	Qatar National Bank
RCB	Regional Certification Body (RCB)
RE	Renewable Energy
RECP	Resource Efficient Cleaner Production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIGMA	Sustainability, Inclusiveness, and Governance of Mini-Grids in Africa (SIGMA)
SOLTRAIN	Solar Thermal Training and Demonstration Program
THC5	Electrotechnical Standards Harmonization Committee
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WAAS	West African Accreditation System.
WACCA	West Africa Clean Cooking Program
WAPP	West African Power Pool
WAEMU	West African Monetary Union (also UEMOA)
WASCAL	West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use
WOCEWA	Women and Clean Energy in West Africa

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document presents overviews of activities implemented by the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREE) in 2023 and the Centre's expectations for 2024. It provides a birds-eye-view of how the agency fared between January and December 2023. Eighty-seven activities had been planned for implementation. As of December 31, 2023, 22 had been completed, and 38 were in progress. Those in progress have been disaggregated per the various stages of execution, i.e., early stage, mid-stage, advanced stage, and near completion. Sixty (60) activities have been fully completed or are in progress. Administrative and budgetary constraints have led to the postponement of the implementation of eighteen (18) activities, the putting on hold of seven (7) activities and the non-implementation of two (2) activities. Thus far, highlights of achievements in the year under review included:

- a) The adoption of regulation relating to the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers and the subsequent development and validation of a strategy and action plan;
- b) Installation of solar PV systems have been installed for metal workshops in six villages in Guinea Bissau to enable small and medium enterprises to access clean and reliable electricity;
- c) The training of a second cohort of young entrepreneurs in Sierra Leone on the construction of clean cookstoves;
- d) The training of over 480 industrial experts in industrial energy efficiency and resource-efficient cleaner production in targeted manufacturing hubs in Nigeria;
- e) Completion of key activities that strengthen the ECOWAS Scheme for Certification of Sustainable Energy Skills;
- f) Training of select staff in fund mobilization and a renewed effort to reach out to non-traditional funding partners;
- g) Training of administrative staff in documents processing skills, protocol, and etiquettes;
- h) Hosting of the 11th Meeting of the National Focal Institutions;
- i) Hosting of the 2023 edition of the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum in Praia, Cabo Verde; and
- j) Hosting of the third meeting of ECREEE's ECOWAS-Donors' Consultative Committee.

The main challenges faced by the Center include insufficient budget allocation for administration and the need to fill vacancies in the organizational structure. Measures are currently being implemented to address these challenges.

“ With continued funding from the ECOWAS Commission and partners, ECREEE has scheduled the implementation of **77 activities** across four Thematic Areas in 2024 with a budget of **UA 8,004,395.72**, representing an increment of **65%** of its 2023 budget.”

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BRIEF BACKGROUND

The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) was established in response to the recommendation of the ECOWAS/UEMOA¹ White Paper on access to energy services in rural and peri-urban areas issued in 2006. This recommendation was further boosted by the Ouagadougou Declaration, where the ECOWAS Conference on Peace and Security on the 12th of November 2007 articulated the need to establish the Agency. At the same conference, the Austrian Minister for European and International Affairs and UNIDO pledged support for the creation and take-off of the Agency.

In November 2008, the 61st Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers adopted Regulation C/REG.23/11/08 and gave the ECREEE a legal basis. Accordingly, in 2010, the secretariat of the Centre was established during a six-month preparatory phase in Praia, Cabo Verde, with the support of the ECOWAS Commission and the Austrian and Spanish Governments, as well as technical assistance from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). As a specialized ECOWAS agency, ECREEE operates within the legal, administrative, and financial Framework of ECOWAS rules and regulations. The Agency is also part of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC), coordinated by UNIDO in partnership with various regional economic communities.

ECREEE is responsible for developing and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency in the ECOWAS region. Its objectives, according to ECOWAS implementation regulation², are:



- Coordination of projects and programs related to EE and RE, improving access to modern; energy services and energy security;



- Policy for the implementation of such projects in the Member States;



- Research and technology transfer;



- Sensitization and capacity building on EE and RE in the Region;



- Program development and resource mobilization

¹UEMOA means "Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine".

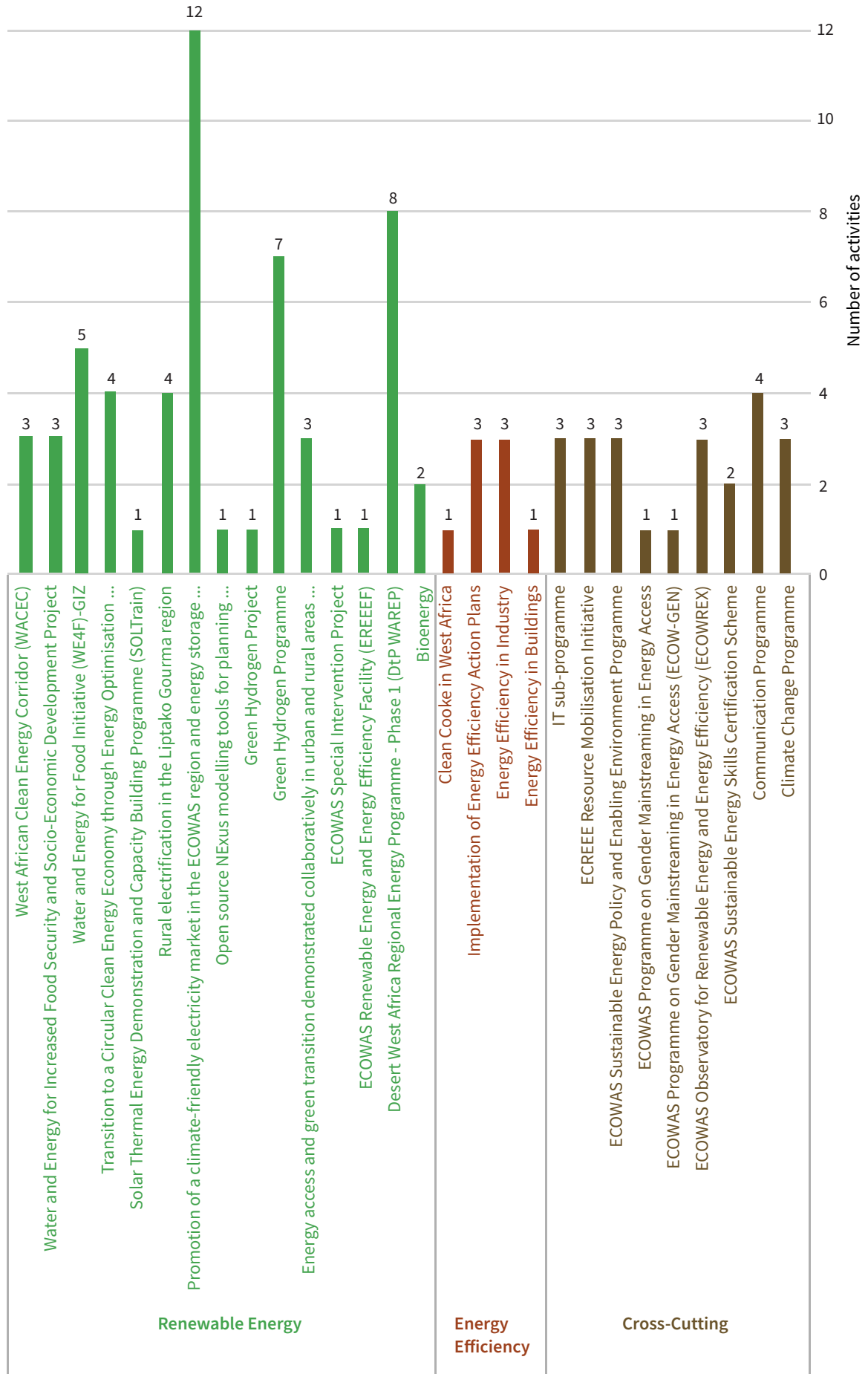
²ECOWAS Implementing Regulation PC/REX.5/06/2020 on the Organization and Functioning of ECREEE.

ECREEE defines and implements interventions to achieve short-term objectives through its annual work programs. These work programs highlight the specific program/project objectives, activities, budgets, and expected outputs under the three main program areas – Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Cross-Cutting. ECREEE’s aligns its annual work program with the year’s ECOWAS policy direction and the Agency’s strategic plan objectives.

1.2 WORK PROGRAM STRUCTURE FOR 2023

“ As illustrated by Figure 1, ECREEE planned to implement **87 activities** distributed across its three main program areas as follows: a) Fifty-six (56) under Renewable Energy, eight (8) under Energy Efficiency, and twenty-three (23) under Cross-Cutting program areas.

Figure 1: 2023 Activities by Program Area





1.3 OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES' IMPLEMENTATION STATUS AS OF DECEMBER 2023

As of December 31, 2023, twenty-two of the 87 activities had been completed and 38 were at various stages of completion. Table 1 below illustrates the summary of implementation status.

Table 1: Summary of Implementation Status as of December 31, 2023

Programs Area	Completed	In progress	Postponed	Not executed	Not finalised	Total
Renewable Energy	13	24	11	2	6	56
Energy Efficiency	1	3	4	-	-	8
Cross-Cutting	8	11	3	-	1	23
Total	22	38	18	2	7	87

The 38 activities “in progress” were at varying levels of completion and therefore disaggregated as follows:

Programs Area	Near completion (90% completed)	Advanced stage (80% completed)	Mid-stage (50% completed)	Early stage (Below % completed)	Sub-Total
Renewable Energy	-	10	10	4	24
Energy Efficiency	1	2	2	-	3
Cross-Cutting	3	3	3	2	11
Sub-Total	4	15	15	6	38

Similarly, the 18 “postponed” activities are broken down in line with the reasons for their postponement:

Program Area	Preceding activities in progress	Funds re-allocated	Lack of funding	Sub-Total
Renewable Energy	10	-	1	11
Energy Efficiency	-	4	-	4
Cross-Cutting	1	1	1	3
Sub-Total	11	5	2	18

Reasons for activities postponed, Not executed, or Not finalised

Eleven (11) activities were **postponed** to 2024 because there were precedent activities in progress. In other words, their implementation depended on completing other activities whose implementation is on-going. Five others were postponed because funding had to be re-allocated to other critical activities and two others were due lack of funding.

Two activities under the West African Clean Energy Corridor Sub-Program were **Not executed** because the recruitment of consultants for the assignments had not been completed by ECREEE’s funding partner. The activities were:

- Training of trainers from regional excellence centers on legal and environmental aspects of Renewable Energy; and
- Training of national institutions in the electricity sector on technical, financial, legal, and environmental aspects of utility-scale renewable energy projects.

Not finalised activities included:

- The hiring of a Program Coordinator for the Desert-to-Power West Africa Regional Program—Phase 1. The decision was informed by the need to free up resources to fund the consultancy fees of two PIU staff.
- Five activities under the Water and Energy for Food project (WE4F), due to the seeming disinterest by the funding partner.
- The “ECOWAS COVID-19 Response and Recovery Support Fund” due to lack of funding.

2.0 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS

2.1.1 RURAL ELECTRIFICATION & MINI-GRID PROGRAM

2.1.1.1 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC METAL WORKSHOPS IN GUINEA BISSAU

ECREEE is committed to improving access to energy in rural areas through its Rural Electrification and Mini-Grids Programme, by promoting the deployment of off-grid solutions. This initiative aims to contribute to achieving the targets set by the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy (EREP), with the ambition of reaching 25% of the region's rural population with access to renewable energy in rural areas by 2030.

With funding support of USD100,000 from the Global Environment Facility grant through the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), solar PV systems have been installed for metal workshops in six villages (Calequisse, Gã Turé, Tendinto, Gabú, Contuba and Bijine) in Guinea Bissau to enable small and medium enterprises to access clean and reliable electricity. The total capacity of the six facilities is 120 kWp



2.1.1.3 INSTALLATION OF A SOLAR PV MINI-GRID IN FOGO ISLAND, CABO VERDE

In the Fogo Island of the Cape Verdean archipelago, a solar PV mini-grid with a capacity of 44.4 kWp and an underground distribution grid was installed in Chã das Caldeiras. Nearly 200 households have been connected. The activity was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



2.1.1.3 RURAL ELECTRIFICATION THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS IN THE LIPTAKO-GOURMA REGION

To support the efforts of the governments of the Liptako-Gourma region (the contiguous areas of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger) toward providing sustainable energy services to the most vulnerable populations, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) -- in partnership with ECREEE -- are implementing a project called «Support for Rural Electrification by Renewable Energy Systems in the Liptako-Gourma Region - Pilot Phase.» The project capitalizes on the very significant potential for solar energy in the Region

and aims to (i) provide institutional support in the field of rural electrification and support the revision of the regulatory framework to promote investment in renewable energy; (ii) install six photovoltaic mini-grids with batteries; (iii) support the private sector engaged in the development of mini-grids, and (iv) promote the creation of income-generating activities through the use of the energy services provided to communities by the project. The following activities were completed in 2023:

- Development of a framework between key players in the off-grid electrification sector to develop a strategy for the implementation of risk mitigation instruments related to investments in the energy sector; and
- Development a national action plan to guide the implementation of De-Risking Renewable Energy Investment (DREI³) framework.

2.1.1.4 CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT SERVICES UNDER THE REGIONAL OFF-GRID ELECTRICITY ACCESS PROJECT

In support of the implementation of the World Bank-funded Regional Off-Grid Electricity Access Project (ROGEAP), ECREEE began collaborating with the ECOWAS Standards Harmonization Model (ECOSHAM) Secretariat and the Electrotechnical Standards Harmonization Committee (THC5) Secretariat on the capacity building of key stakeholders concerning standards for standalone Solar Home Systems (SHSs). ROGEAP. Three Program Staff participated in a regional training of trainers on the harmonization of standards across the ECOWAS Member States. ECREEE will, in turn, be training national experts on the two regional standards for off-grid solar products with a power rating of 350Wp or less, and their laboratory testing methods.

2.1.2 SOLAR THERMAL TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

West Africa lacks adequate awareness, technical know-how, and the policy direction to develop and disseminate solar thermal solutions. Hydroelectricity, diesel, and solid biomass are the primary resources for water heating. The immense potential of solar thermal energy could replace these resources. As part of the operationalisation of its new Strategic Plan 2023-2027, the sub-programme «Solar Thermal Capacity Building and Demonstration (SOLTRAIN)» is situated under the broad domain of the Regional Renewable Energy Programme.

³DREI is an innovative, quantitative framework to assist policymakers in identifying cost-effective instruments to promote and scale-up private sector investments in renewable energy .

The SOLTRAIN aims to contribute to the transition from a fossil fuel-based energy supply system to a sustainable energy supply system through solar thermal energy. The activities of SOTRAIN included training, the demonstration project, market studies, awareness-raising activities, and participation in programs of the Solar Heating & Cooling Programme (SHC) of the International Energy Agency.

In 2023, ECREEE collaborated with SHC and Cape Verde’s Centro de Energia Renováveis e Manutenção Industrial (CERMI), to organize a specialized course for 15 professionals in solar thermal energy in September 2023. The training focused on large-scale solar water heating and solar cooling.

2.1.3 GREEN HYDROGEN PROGRAM

Green Hydrogen as a fuel for the future has gained global interest in recent years. Developed with funding support from the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research and technical support from the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), some of the tasks completed under the Green Hydrogen Program in 2023 included the following:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the process of developing the Regional Strategy for Implementing the Green Hydrogen Regional Policy; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of the endorsement of the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy to the Ministers of Energy in March 2023; |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of the adoption of the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy and Strategy Framework in July 2023 by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers; and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding of the first Green Hydrogen Strategy Steering Committee meeting in Niamey, Niger in July 2023. Membership of the Committee includes representatives of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, WASCAL, Forschungszentrum Jülich⁴ and ECREEE. |

⁴The Forschungszentrum Jülich is a German national research institution that conducts interdisciplinary research in the fields of energy, information and the bioeconomy.

2.2 ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

2.2.1 ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN INDUSTRY PROGRAM

The Energy Efficiency in Industry Program is designed to promote reducing carbon dioxide generated by the industrial sector by introducing energy efficiency measures and facilitating clean energy technologies uptake.

Industrial Energy Efficiency and Resource Efficient Cleaner Production in Nigeria

Under its energy and environment thematic priority, UNIDO works with industries to help them adopt cleaner, resource- and energy-efficient patterns of production. UNIDO has been working closely with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) since 2006 to address global challenges associated with energy, climate change, phasing out of ozone depleting substances and the production and use of persistent organic pollutants in over 80 countries worldwide.

The project: “Improving Nigeria’s Industrial Energy Performance & Resource Efficient Cleaner Production through Programmatic Approaches & the Promotion of Innovation in Clean Technology Solutions (NGN IEE-RECP Project)” aims to accelerate the adoption of industrial energy efficiency (IEE) and to improve enterprise environmental performance under the wider umbrella of Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production (RECP) best practices and innovative approaches within selected small, medium and large scale industrial enterprises in Nigeria. This will not only inculcate industrial energy efficiency and optimization, materials, water and chemicals efficiency and cleaner production but also contribute to environmental sustainability, increased energy access and industrial financial improvement.

As implementing partner, ECREEE’s coordinated the implementation of the following activities:

- First Series of training in Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production for industries staff conducted in Lagos, Benin, Onitsha, and Kano o in August and September 2023.
- Training in Finance and Investment was completed in Lagos and on-going in Onitsha, Nigeria for financial institutions.



“ In all, 480 industrial technical experts in targeted industries in Nigeria who have participated in IEE RECP training.

2.2.2 WEST AFRICA CLEAN COOKING PROGRAM

The traditional use of biomass constitutes about 80% of the overall primary energy consumption of the ECOWAS region. The Bioenergy Program contributes to achieving the goal of universal access to sustainable energy services in the Region by 2030 by promoting modern bioenergy services and clean cooking solutions.

The main purpose of WACCA is to improve living conditions (economic, social and health) of the population of ECOWAS countries through increased access to clean cooking energy services (efficient stoves and sustainable fuels) thus reducing locally and globally adverse environmental impacts through reduced deforestation. WACCA works specifically to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the adoption of clean and efficient cooking equipment and disseminate sustainable biofuels and modern fuels for all households of ECOWAS, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the quality and sustainability of cooking equipment distributed in terms of environmental performance and public health in the ECOWAS countries, the quality and sustainability of biofuels disseminated, and the quality and safety of modern fuels distributed, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce an appropriate regional governance mechanism for consultation, coordination, and funding to ensure coordinated implementation of actions in the field of cooking energy.
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ECREEE provided a grant to Salone Business -Women's Hub (The Hub)/The Playhouse Foundation to train local manufacturers to build smart cookstoves. The training was held from April 24 to 29 2023 at the Government Technical Institute (GTI) in Kono District, Sierra Leone. Twenty-six artisans and local entrepreneurs were trained in constructing and marketing improved cookstoves.

The training was organized in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Global Environment Fund and the Ministry of Energy, Sierra Leone.

A practical training, participants were provided with equipment and tools to design and build stoves. The training focused only on the metalwork part of the cook stove production due to the absence of kilns to produce the clay components of the cook stoves. The training covered metal sheet measurement, cutting, panel beating, folding, and welding. Following the training, participants were awarded certificates of completion.



ECREEEE supported the training with USD13,900. The grant provided by ECREEE was used to purchase training materials and equipment as well as protective gear (helmets, gloves, boots, goggles, and overalls). The availability of equipment for panel beating, welding, etc, meant that trainees could work individually. The result from this investment was significant – the learning time in this training was shorter than the first training, with trainees completing their stove projects two days earlier than in the first training.

As a follow-up, a 3-day entrepreneurship development training was conducted for the trainees by Salone Business - Women’s Hub in partnership with the Playhouse Foundation in June 2023 with funding from UNDP-GEF.



2.3 CROSS-CUTTING PROGRAMS

2.3.1 REGIONAL ELECTRICITY MARKET AND ENERGY STORAGE

Promoting a Climate-Friendly Energy Market--Phase 2 (ProCEM-II)

In collaboration with the German International Development Cooperation (GIZ) ECREEE is implementing the Promoting a Climate-Friendly Energy Market—Phase 2 (ProCEM II) project. The project aims to contribute to efforts at meeting the energy needs of households, public institutions, and companies in the Member States of the West African Power Pool (WAPP). Some achievements include the following;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision technical support to the ECOWAS Member States to update their National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs) and National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs) and subsequent elaboration of related Project Identification Forms; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a standardized power purchase agreement (PPA) for the deployment of solar PV systems at the regional level; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a draft catalogue of standard models of guarantees and assurance provided by States, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and Project promoters.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commencement of the process to Operationalization of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) measures in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Niger; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaboration of a Due diligence document on the Regulatory Framework for BESS; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancement of data collection and grid model development.

2.3.2 CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Skills Certification Examination in Burkina Faso for Installers of Off-Grid Solar Photovoltaic Systems- Level 1

In line with its mandate to build capacity in renewable energy and energy efficiency in the ECOWAS region, the ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) has developed a regional certification system (RCS) for skills in sustainable energy with the support of several partners including GIZ through the “Promotion of a Climate-Friendly Electricity Market” Project (ProCEM II). The goal of the RCS is to promote professional competency and address the quality assurance gaps that exist along the renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) value-chain. The certification of skills is considered essential because certification gives the reassurance that professionals have the competencies and capacities required to complete a job safely and effectively. More specifically, certification is a way to promote the quality and safety of systems.



This scheme is currently covering technicians of off-grid solar PV systems known as “Level 1” but will gradually be extended to other RE and EE professionals. The regional certification scheme is designed to test the competencies of candidates. Candidates who will demonstrate the requisite skills, abilities, and knowledge typically required in installing and maintaining off-grid solar PV systems in this competency-based examination will be awarded the certificates and professional ID cards of the Regional Certification Body (RCB).

Following the success of the 2021 certification, ECREEE held a certification examination for **off-grid solar PV installers** in December within the framework of the regional certification system for renewable energy and energy efficiency professionals. This was the second ECOWAS Sustainable Energy skills certification examination in Burkina Faso for installers of off-grid solar photovoltaic systems (Level1). The examination was hosted by Institut International d'Ingénierie de l'Eau et de l'Environnement (2iE) in collaboration with Agence National des Energie Renouvelables et de l'efficacité énergétique (ANEREE) from December 3 to 8, 2023. A total of 38 candidates participated, with 37 from Burkina Faso, and one from Cote d'Ivoire. Twenty-two of the candidates, representing 57 percent, obtained the minimum required grade.

Due Diligence Mission to Potential Training and Examination Centres for Level 2

Level 2 of the certification system will be for the **designers, installers, and inspectors of photovoltaic mini-grids**. ECREEE is partnering with GIZ and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to operationalize this certification level. The interventions through which this is to be realized are the GIZ-funded ProCEM II and the AfDB-funded «Desert-to-Power West Africa Regional Energy Program (WAREP)--Phase 1».

ECREEE embarked on the selection of gender-responsive Training and Examination Centres to implement **Level 2** in the ECOWAS Member States under the DtP WAREP-Phase 1. Specifically, this is part of the second sub-component -- the Regional Mini-Grid Program and Capacity Building of the program. The sub-component targets mass training and certification of technicians and artisans, who will be a critical support to the technical sustainability of the mini-grids and for job creation. ECREEE, together with its National Focal Points visited 12 institutions in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.

The objective of the missions was to confirm that the institutions meet the minimum requirement to be ECREEE's partner training or examination Centres. Based on its findings, the mission team has made recommendations for partnership with the institution. ECREEE will sign memoranda of understanding with the selected institutions. Key responsibilities of the Centres will include the nomination of qualified staff to participate in a regional training of trainers on mini-grid design, installation, and inspection, and implementation of the training program as part of its curriculum or hosting of examinations.



3.0 STRATEGIC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

3.1 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION TRAINING

Program Officers participated in a three-day training in Fund Mobilization held in Praia, Cabo Verde with the objective of equipping and preparing the ECREEE technical staff to successfully mobilize funds in line with ECREEE's new areas of interest, from new and current donors. The training delivered by LGI Sustainable Innovation, a consulting firm based in France. Modules covered included:

- The Funding Watch Cycle
- How to write a winning proposal,
- Building a pipeline of projects.
- Proposal Management,
- Development of a project idea by participants and



By the end of the training, eight project ideas were developed by the participants.

In addition to the training, the consultant was also tasked to undertake three related assignments:

- Review projects in the ECREEE Policy Projects (EPP), suggests new projects and develop project pipeline prioritized for fund mobilisation;

- Review and update list of donors and partners to include relevant partners for outreach; and

- Organize practical sessions with at least one financial partner.

3.2 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF TRAINING

ECREEE organized a training session for the personnel in charge of administration. The staff of the ECOWAS Representation in Cabo Verde was also involved in this capacity-building activity. The following topics were covered during this session.



- Microsoft office tools;
- Protocol and etiquette;
- Road safety and defensive driving techniques.




Trainees included office managers, secretaries, administrative and human resources assistants, protocol, project assistants staff, office aides and drivers

3.3 NEW RECRUITMENTS

During the year 2023, several consultants were recruited as part of the implementation of the programs as follows.

 <p>Mr. Abdoulaye Ballo Coordinator, Open-source NEXus modeling tools for Planning Sustainable Energy Transition in Africa (ONEPlanET);</p>	 <p>Mr. Alexandre Hodonou Binazon Energy Data Expert</p>	 <p>Dr. Claudino Franklim Mendes Coordinator, ECOWAS Certification Scheme for Sustainable Energy Skills (ECBSES)</p>	 <p>Ms. Erica Flan Gender Program Assistant</p>
 <p>Mr. Juste Damada Coordinator, Energy Access and Green Transition Collaboratively Demonstrated in Urban and Rural Areas in Africa (ENERGICA);</p>	 <p>Dr. Madi Kabore Coordinator, Green Hydrogen Program;</p>	 <p>Ms. Maria Furtado Administrative Assistant, ECBSES</p>	 <p>Mr. Sahr Abraham Grass-Sessay Technical Expert, AECID-funded projects.</p>

In addition, the Centre received three interns under the “ECOWAS Young Graduates Immersion Program”. They were assigned individually to three portfolios as follows:

 Doriane Hina Rochas Dias Lopes Renewable Energy Programs;	 Jihane Gnaki Mistoul Bakounoure Energy Efficiency Programs;	 Laurence Sylviane Kiswend-sida Lalogo Financial Management
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3.4 RELOCATION TO NEW OFFICES DONATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CABO VERDE

The Government of Cabo Verde has provided ECREEE with a new, more modern headquarters with greater capacity to accommodate its growing staff and improve the working conditions for the entire team.





The GCV has provided a new headquarters in the Achada Santo António neighborhood in Praia, near the former location. The official inauguration of the new building was celebrated on October 11, 2023, with the joint presence of His Excellency Mr. Ulisses Correia e Silva, Prime Minister of Cabo Verde, and His Excellency Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, President of the ECOWAS Commission.

4.0 MAJOR EVENTS ORGANIZED BY ECREEE

4.1 REGIONAL CERTIFICATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Within the framework of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency policies of ECOWAS and the related National Action Plans of member countries, ECREEE, with the support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) developed a regional certification system for Sustainable Energy skills. Other technical and financial partners, like the European Union (EU), World Bank (WB), and the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) joined to support the regional certification system.

The regional certification system aims to promote the professional skills of Designers, Installers, Inspectors, and other Sustainable Energy stakeholders in West Africa. It is based on ISO/IEC 17024:2012 (known as “Conformity assessment – General requirements for certification bodies certifying persons”) and other international Standards.

During the pilot phase of the implementation of this regional skills certification system (2015-2022), the following results were achieved:

- Establishment of a Regional Certification Body (RCB) assumed by ECREEE;
- Establishment of a Regional Technical Certification Committee;
- Development of competency framework documents for off-grid solar home systems (Level 1);
- Development of competency framework for designers of advanced systems or mini-grids (Level 2);
- Organization of seven certification exams in five ECOWAS Member States, resulting in 96 Certified including 20% Women.

ECREEE is determined to position itself ECREEE as a Certification Body for Sustainable Energy Skills (ECBSES) aligned with regional and international standards by 2027. This is a strategic intervention in the current (2023-2027) Strategic Plan for the Centre. The year 2023 was therefore dedicated to the consolidation of the pilot phase. Actions executed with a view of strengthening the existing system during the year 2023 include :

- Development of a business plan for the Regional Certification System;
- Development of training modules for PV mini-grid;
- Selection of training centers and exam centers for PV mini-grid;
- Revision of the Bylaws;
- Revision of the various directives and the internal regulations of the regional certification body;
- Renewal of the Members of the Regional Technical Certification Committee;

- Development of a new online platform for the Regional Certification System.

The main goal of the workshop was to reconstitute the technical certification committee, whose mandate had expired. In accordance with the new statutes of the ECOWAS Regional Certification Body for Sustainable Energy Skills (ECBSES), the new Regional Technical Certification Committee is composed of ten members, including five representatives from the national certification focal points of the ECOWAS member states and five members designated by ECREEE, coming from the private sector, quality and standardization bodies, as well as scientific and academic partners.

The meeting took place from the 24th to the 26th of May 2023 at the Center for Renewable Energy and Industrial Maintenance (CERMI), in Praia, Cabo Verde. Participants were mainly representatives of Ministries responsible for Energy, Universities and Institutes recognized as certification Centres, standardization bodies, NGOs, professional associations, directorates and agencies of ECOWAS, comprising the Directorate of Education, Science and Culture, Industry, West African Power Pool, Center for Youth and Sports Development, Center for Gender Development) and observers such as the West African Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the West African Accreditation System (WAAS).



The meeting resulted in the new structure of the technical committee, which was then constituted as follows: five institutions nominated by ECREEE, and 5 institutions nominated in representation of the National Certification Focal Institutions (NCFI) of the Region.

The following recommendations emerged from the workshop:

- Establish a strategy for the promotion and employability of certified professionals;
- Harmonize the entire examination process in all ECOWAS member states;
- Develop an action plan and mobilize resources to achieve program objectives.
- Establish a monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system for the Member States and ECREEE,
- Support Member States in implementing the Certification System
- Prepare a financial model indicating the realistic cost for students, and institutions that are part of the business plan which was being developed.

Next steps for the sustainability of the Regional Certification System

The meeting made it possible to identify priority lines of action for the sustainability of the Regional Certification system, summarized in 10 points.

- Capacity building of the ECREEE Certification Body;
- Continuation and consolidation of Level 1 Certification Exams (installers of domestic photovoltaic solar systems) and Operationalization of Level 2 Certification
- Examinations for designers, installers, and inspectors of photovoltaic mini-grids;
- Extension of the system to other renewable energy sources in addition to solar photovoltaics;
- Extension of the system to the Energy Efficiency component (Building, Industry, Transport, etc.);
- Reinforcement of the Gender component of the certification system;
- Validation of the Business Plan;
- Establishment of the Tripartite Consultative Framework;
- Implementation of the online platform for exams and e-learning;
- Resource mobilization to support the creation of a sustainable ECBSES;
- System extension to level 3 related to solar power plant connected to grid.

4.2 TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIVE FRAMEWORK (TCF) OF ECBSES

As indicated in Section 4.1., ECREEE established a Tripartite Consultation Framework (TCF) to strengthen the Regional Certification System. Membership of the TCF includes i) the networks of Professionals; ii) Academic and Scientific Partners and National Agencies, and iii) Rural Electrification working in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Held as part of the 2023 edition of the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum, the first meeting of the TFC achieved the following objectives:

- Establishment of the TFC Board,
- Consideration of the functions and activities of the TFC,
- Review of status of ECOWAS Certification of Sustainable Energy Skills Program, and
- Consideration of the outcomes of the ECBSES Technical Committee meeting.



4.3 GREEN HYDROGEN STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

In September 2023, ECREEE organized a regional workshop to validate the draft ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Regional Strategy and Action Plans (form 2023-2030 & 2031-2050), on September 21st and 22nd, 2023 in Accra, Ghana. The specific objectives were to (i) review discuss and validate actions, activities, and implementation schedules following the interim report; and (ii) validate the Strategy and Action Plans 2023-2030 and 2031-2050 for the Implementation of the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy and Strategy Framework.

The workshop brought together representatives from ECOWAS member states, the ECOWAS Energy Directorate, ECOWAS Specialized Energy Agencies (ECREEE, ERERA, WAPP, WAGP), as well as representatives from BMBF, WASCAL and other partners.

Experts from each of the ECOWAS Member States, comprising the Directors of Energy and the members of the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy Working Group, attended. In addition, representatives from the institution/agencies were also present:

- ECOWAS Directorate of Energy and Mines
- ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)
- ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA)
- West African Gas Pipeline Authority (WAGPA)
- West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)
- Takoradi Technical University, Ghana
- CERMI, Cabo Verde
- Fichtner Consulting Engineers (Consultants) .

4.4 ELEVENTH MEETING OF ECREEE'S NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

Upon its establishment, ECREEE set up National Focal Institutions (NFIs) in each ECOWAS member state to increase the impact and effectiveness of programs and projects developed, coordinated, co-financed, and implemented under the direction of the ECREEE Secretariat. Thus, the ministries responsible for energy in each ECOWAS member state had appointed a permanent ECREEE Focal Institution a National Focal Point, and an Alternative Focal Point. Subsequently, ECREEE instituted the ECREEE-NFIs meeting to review the collaboration between ECREEE and its NFIs annually.

The 11th ECREEE-NFIs meeting took place from July 24th to 28th, 2023 in Niamey, Niger. The overall aim of the meeting was to strengthen collaboration between ECREEE and the NFIs to identify needs and facilitate the implementation of the various programs and projects in the member states. The main sessions of the forum included the following:

- a) Presentation and discussion of ECREEE's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, 2022 Implementation Status Report, and 2023 Work Plan;
- b) Country presentations on the following:
 - o National Action Plan for Renewable Energy,
 - o National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency,
 - o Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) National Agenda,
 - o National Bioenergy Action Plan,
 - o National Action Plan for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy,
 - o Experience in Energy Efficiency, and
 - o Proposed projects.
- c) Presentation of Capacity Building Program for the Energy Sector in Africa by the Africa Energy Commission;

- d) Presentation of the Desert-to-Power West Africa Regional Energy Program—Phase 1, funded by the African Development Bank.
- e) A workshop on the validation of 2020 and 2021 renewable energy and energy efficiency data;
- f) Development of the ECREEE-NFI Roadmap 2023-2027
- g) Presentation of the activities and projects of three ECREEE partners as follows;
 - o The African Energy Commission (AFREC): The African Energy Efficiency Strategy
 - o Francophonie Institute for Sustainable Development (IFDD): Areas of intervention in energy efficiency (Labelling of household appliances and Energy efficiency of buildings;
 - o Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID):
 - The circular economy pilot project whose general objective is to «strengthen the livelihoods of targeted communities and improve the sources of the economy of rural communities will be implemented in four countries of the ECOWAS region, namely Benin, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal;
 - The Water and Energy pilot project for increased food security and socio-economic development aimed at Promoting clean cooking solutions and solar technologies whose beneficiary countries are Guinea Bissau, Cabo Verde, and The Gambia.

From the fruitful deliberations, participants offered the following recommendations to ECREEE:

- a) Strengthen collaboration with National Focal Points within ECOWAS Member States for the successful implementation of the ECREEE Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and National Sustainable Energy Action Plans;
- b) Pay particular attention to the synergy of actions between ECREEE and ECOWAS Member States for the development of sustainable energy programs and projects and the mobilization of resources for their implementation;
- c) Improve the synergy of action between ECREEE with the ECOWAS Commission, the various Specialized Agencies of the ECOWAS Commission, the WAEMU Commission, the African Union Energy Commission, and the other Regional and international Institutions and Organizations within the framework of the development and implementation of Strategies, Programs, and Projects in the fields of Sustainable Energy;

- d) Strengthen the ECOWAS Observatory of Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency (ECOWREX) by ensuring compliance of data in the fields of RE and EE in West Africa with the SIE-ECOWAS, the other portals of data at sub-regional level and other existing EIS at continental and international level; and
- e) Ensure implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Regional Green Hydrogen Strategy and the 2023-2030 and 2031-2050 Action Plans with all stakeholders.



4.5 EIGHTH EDITION OF THE ECOWAS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FORUM

The eighth edition of the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF) themed «Empowering Sustainable Energy in the ECOWAS Region» was held in Praia, Cabo Verde, on October 12 and 13, 2023. Since its inception in 2016, the Forum has provided a platform for organizations within the sustainable energy sector to connect, collaborate, and drive innovation. It aims to accelerate the region’s transition towards sustainable energy solutions while fostering crucial business-to-business networking opportunities. ESEF aligns with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) -- access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all—as well as SDG 17-- Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. With 17 sessions, the two-day forum attracted 480 participants from 24 countries.

The objectives of the 2023 edition were:

- Promote cooperation and partnerships to accelerate the development of a viable regional electricity market with the massive integration of renewable energy;
- Hold the first Community Champion for solar off-grid;
- Engage in dialogue on the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy and Strategy Framework and showcase the opportunities offered by green hydrogen for the energy transition of the ECOWAS region.
- Foster concrete progress in the attainment of the region’s sustainable energy targets.
- Highlight and facilitate investment opportunities in the region’s sustainable energy sector.
- Provide a platform for networking and improving the policy and regulatory landscape for private sector investment through engagement between ECOWAS policymakers, regional and international private sector players, and financial institutions.





The eighth edition was organized in parallel with the West Africa Energy Transition Week and featured the fourth edition of the International Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Fair of Cabo Verde (FIEREE), which took place from October 12 to 14, 2023.

4.6 3RD MEETING OF THE ECOWAS-DONORS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The third meeting of the ECREEE's ECOWAS-Donor Consultation Committee) was held on October 14, 2023. The objectives of the meeting were to i) review the implementation of the Work Program and Budget for 2023 and achievements thus far, ii) consider prospects for projects to be funded by potential donors, and iii) deliberate on the overview and description of the 2024 priority programs and budget. Recommendations made by the committee included the need for the Centre to:

- a) prioritize the programming and implementation of renewable energy infrastructure projects that have a high potential impact on communities;
- b) ensure the immediate disbursement of the ECOWAS Special Intervention Fund (ESIF) to qualified grantees;
- c) continue the process of establishing the ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Facility (ERESEF);
- d) prepare a Terms of Reference for the construction of the ECREEE Headquarters and technological platform; involve relevant human resources within the ECOWAS Commission in the design phase of the project; and begin fund mobilization;
- e) widely publicize its activities' impact since most ECOWAS Member States citizens are unaware of ECOWAS interventions and
- f) continue the implementation of ESEF annually.





5.0 PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR EVENTS

5.1 THE 28TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The 28th session of the conference of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 28) was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and ECREEE participated in sessions from December 3 to 8, 2023. Mobilizing resources and establishing new partnerships was the main intent of ECREEE's participation in this year's COP. Participating in COP activities organized by donors and multilateral development banks (MDBs) provided an opportunity to receive first-hand information on grant funding opportunities that ECREEE can apply to such as the African Development Fund on Climate Action Window/Adaptation Sub-Window launched at COP28, among others.

In addition to having one-on-one meetings with attendees from MDBs, ECREEE presented/moderated three side events at the COP. These were side sessions on:

- Banque Ouest Africaine de Developpement (BOAD)'s outlook for the next fifty years in the financing of renewable energies – 5 December 2023.
- Catalyzing Climate Finance to Translate Global Climate Decisions into Actions in the Least Developed Countries – 06 December 2023
- Empowering Youth in Cooling and Building of Local Skills – 8 December 2023

ECREEE's participation in these COP28 events was helpful in disseminating information on ECREEE's contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as the projects by which the Centre is executing in these areas.

Several financing opportunities were announced as pledges during the COP. For immediate action, however, is the Climate Action Window (CAW)/Adaptation Sub-Window which will provide a grant of US\$ 5 million to US\$ 25 million for adaptation projects in selected African countries. Thirteen of the ECOWAS countries are on the list of countries eligible for funding (Cabo Verde and Nigeria are excluded).

The CAW aligns with the ECREEE project entitled: ECOWAS Project on Promoting Agricultural Competitiveness through Solar Energy (PAC-SOLAR). A PAC-SOLAR project proposal for funding was subsequently submitted by ECREEE under the CAW.

A key recommendation and opportunity for fund mobilisation moving forward would be for ECREEE to position itself as innovative in climate change adaptation in the energy sector as well as loss and damage issues, especially as it affects the energy sector.

5.2 AFRICAGUA CANARIAS 2023 INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS FORUM ON RENEWABLE ENERGIES AND WATER

ECREEE took part in the eighth edition of “Africagua Canarias International Business Forum on Renewable Energies and Water”, which took place on November 23 and 24, 2023. The event was held in Canary Islands, Spain. The agency participated in discussions of Green Hydrogen as a renewable energy source, with a focus on the goals, progress made and challenges in the West Africa. The Centre achieved the following during the mission:



- Dissemination of information about ECREEE and its programs, especially in the fields of Green Hydrogen and Water and Energy Nexus.
- Networking and the sharing of experiences between the actors.
- Identification of potential partners.

The participants, numbering over 300, were drawn from public companies and, multilateral organizations from Europe and African countries such as Cabo Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Morocco, Mauritania, Sao Tome y Principe, Senegal, and The Gambia.

5.3 QATAR ECONOMIC FORUM 2023

According to the Qatar Economic Forum there is an economic nexus between the Gulf, India, and Southeast Asia is rising in global importance and that appears likely “to drive global growth and optimism into the next decade.” In the Gulf, Qatar and its neighbours are capitalizing on the opportunity. The region’s sovereign wealth funds, flush with oil and gas revenue from the energy crisis, are competing to fill the \$3 trillion liquidity gap left by Wall Street’s retreat. With global supply lines rerouting and the epicenter of global growth shifting Eastward, the Gulf is increasing the pace of reforms to meet the world on its terms. Against this backdrop, the Third Qatar Economic Forum, powered by Bloomberg, aimed to shine a light on the rising south-to-south economy and the new growth opportunities it presents to the global business community.

The event brought together about 1,000 people from business, finance, economics, policy, technology, energy, academia, and media. Promoting both established viewpoints and emerging voices from around the world, the Forum aimed to identify the latest economic trends that will drive the world towards a new global growth story. ECREEE to part in the Forum from 22nd to 25th, May 2023.

The 2023 Resource Mobilisation Work Program has an activity on Expanding ECREEE’s footprint beyond traditional donor countries. As stated in the Work Program, ECREEE will work to be visible in countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia, among others. In addition, to achieve this, ECREEE would need to participate in conferences organized by these countries, among others. In line with this, ECREEE sent a delegation to the Qatar Economic Forum, which was held in May 23 – 25, 2023, in Doha, Qatar, to identify partners for ECREEE’s resource mobilization.

Objectives of the workshop included the following:

- Gain insights on key issues driving boardroom conversations
- Acquire fact-based intelligence on the subject matter.
- Participate in curated breakout briefing discussions
- Present thought leadership discussions facilitated networking and bi-lateral meetings, cultural experiences, and roundtable discussions that will identify the latest economic trends driving a new global growth story.

ECREEE established personal connections with government/financial institutions in Qatar, including the Qatar National Bank (QNB) and Agency for Investment Promotion in Qatar, as well as non-Qatar institutions.

Gained insight on how to best approach Gulf countries for partnerships/fund mobilization as well as an appetite for collaboration.

5.4 ARE ENERGY ACCESS INVESTMENT FORUM (EAIF) 2023

The Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE) held the 2023 edition of its Energy Access Investment Forum (EAIF) on 21-23 March 2023 in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. EAIF 2023 was co-hosted by the African Development Bank and the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa and made possible by GET.invest and Prospect. GET.invest and Prospect are supported by the European Union, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands and Austria. EAIF is the top annual business and finance event for the Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) sector, enabling and fostering business and investor partnerships for the purpose of renewable electrification energy access, economic growth, decarbonisation and fighting against climate change. In 2023, the sector’s global flagship investment event aims to bring together up to 350 private and public financiers, energy and climate investors, development finance institutions, international funding partners, government officials and private sector companies.

ECREEE moderated a session called “Public-private dialogue on RE business & investment opportunities in West Africa⁵”.



⁵Standing behind the lectern: Mr. Kouakou Alexis Kouassi, ECREEE’s former Director of Programs

Key take-aways from the session included the following:

- There are opportunities for RE investment in West Africa
- All investments in renewable energy thrive when there is a strong public-private partnership.

o **In Niger**, the Government pursued a fiscal policy of reducing taxes on the import of renewable energy equipment to encourage their uptake. Also, the World Bank supported a strategy to ensure universal access to sustainable energy services. An example was a USD325M investment in a Green Mini-Grid project

o **In Benin**, a national strategic objective is to achieve 100% electricity access by 2030. There is also a national framework for decentralization of renewable energy.

o **In Senegal**, there is a regulatory framework that fosters renewable energy promotion. Public-private partnerships are an integral part of framework.

ECREEE participated in two additional break-out sessions organized by the African Development Bank:

- “Promoting Green Mini-Grids in the Sahel Region”, during the Bank presented its Desert-to-Power Initiative strategy to stakeholders.
- “Technology solutions for mini-grid project development and monitoring”. Three technology firms who presented capabilities of their solutions to participants were: Odyssey Energy Solutions and Village Data Analytics (VIDA) and Prospect.

5.5 SIXTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF GN-SEC

ECREEE participated in the sixth Steering Committee meeting of the Global Network of Sustainable Energy Centres held on November 6, 2023, in Vienna, Austria under the auspices of UNIDO. This edition of the GN-SEC SC meeting was dedicated to the development of joint project proposals on priority issues identified in the conducted survey among GN-SEC Centres in 2022. Meetings were conducted in workshop formats and include sessions dedicated to specific projects to be implemented under the umbrella of the GN-SEC platform in the coming years.

ECREEE, together with other sister Centres, expressed interest in the following potential GN-SEC programs:

- “Fostering clean cooking and energy access technologies in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)”;
- “Supporting sustainable eco-tourism through clean energy solutions”.
- “Regional BLOOM Cleantech Cluster Accelerator”
- “Replication of the Regional SOLTRAIN Program and future cooperation with the IEA Heating and Cooling Program” and
- The ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Facility (EREEEF).

6.0 FUNDING AND BUDGET EXECUTION

By the end of the fourth quarter, ECREEE had received UA1,087,355.57 of Community Levy (CL) funds and UA 2,679,045.58 from partners. The CL funds consisted of regular CL (UA 672,299.05) and ECOWAS Special Intervention Fund (UA 415,056.52).

6.1 FUNDS RECEIVED

As shown in Figure 2, the most sizeable portion (UA 373,514.71) of the regular CL funds was received during the first Quarter. This was 55.6 percent total regular CL funds.

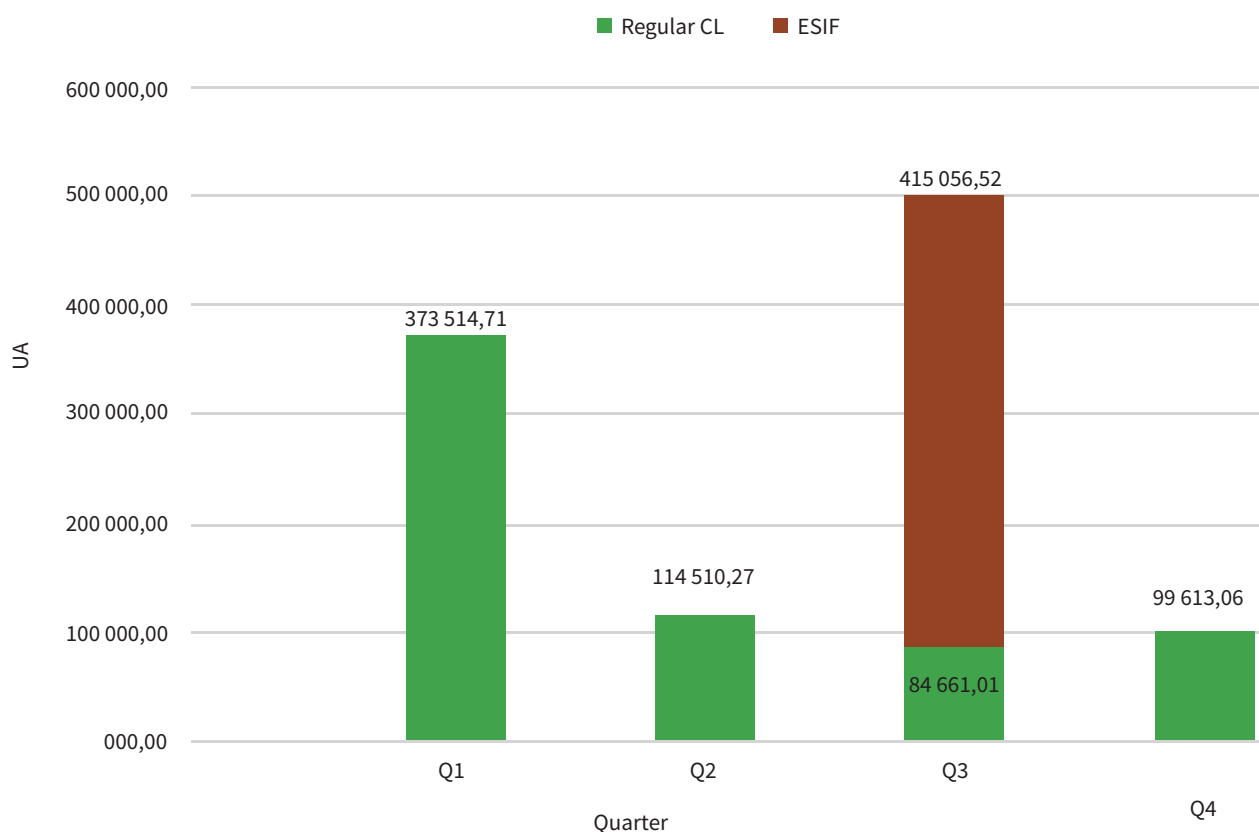
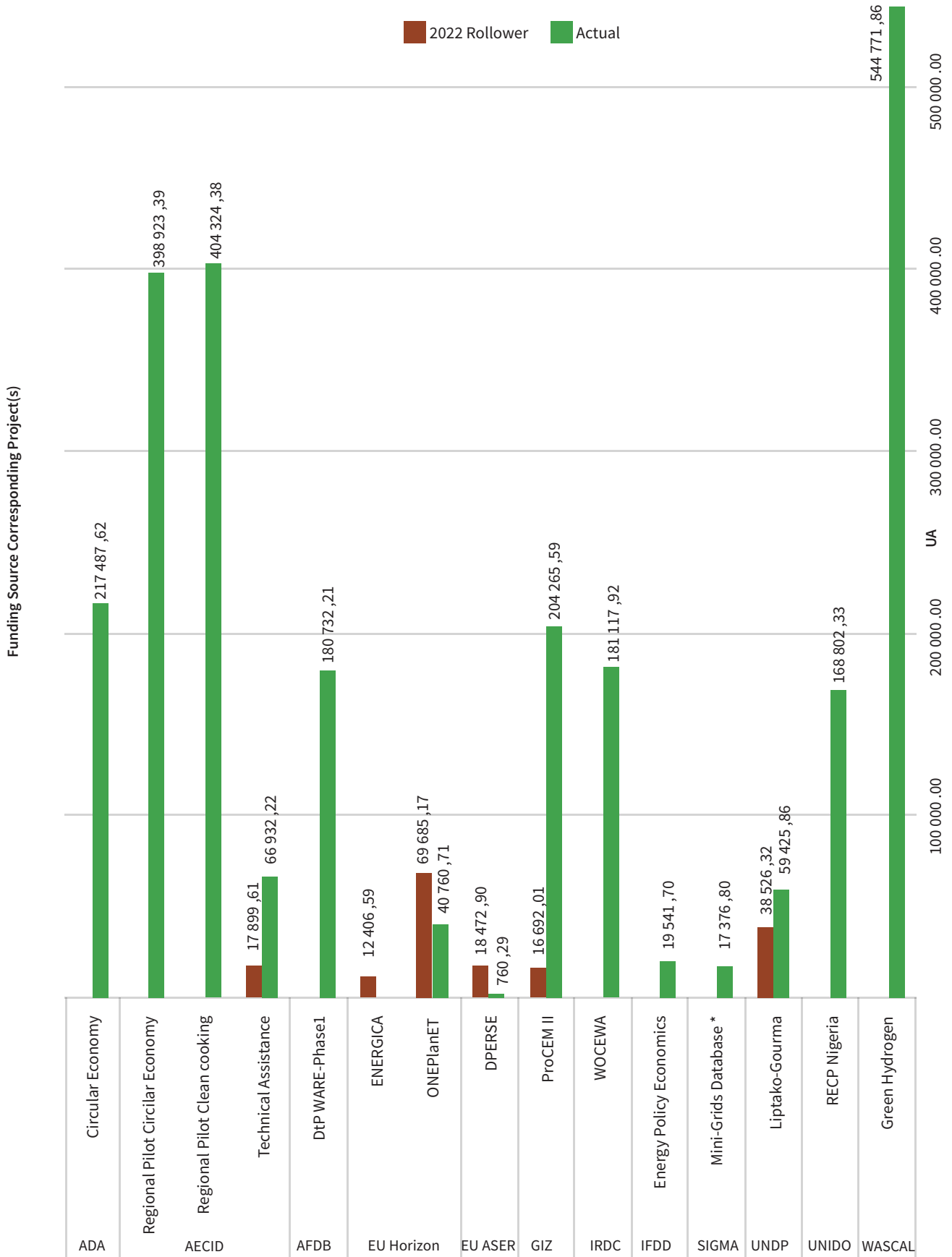


Figure 2: Community Levy (CL) Funds Received from Q1 to Q4, 2023

On the other hand, the total funds mobilized from 12 external sources was **UA 2,679,045.58**. This comprised actual funds received in 2023 (**UA 2,505,362.98**) and amounts rolled over from 2022 (**UA 173,682.60**). Figure 3 illustrates a comparison of these two streams of inflows.

Figure 3: External Funds Sources, Projects, and Amounts Mobilized



*For Nigeria, Senegal, Kenya, and Tanzania

6.2 SUMMARY OF BUDGET EXECUTION

As of the end of the year, 62.3 percent of funds received had been executed. A comparison of the budgets and consumption levels per the two primary funding sources as of the end of the fourth quarter is shown in Table 3.

Table 2: A Comparison of Funding and Expenditure in 2023

Funding Source	2023 Approved Budget (UA)	Funds Available for Execution as of 31st Dec. 2023 (UA)	Variance (UA)	Year-To-Date Rate of Funds Mobilized %	Execution as of 31st Dec. 2023 (UA)	Budget Execution Rate %	Funds Received Execution Rate %
Community Levy	1,194,004.00	1,087,355.57	106,648.43	91.07%	796,391.71	66.70%	73.24%
External Funds	3,949,283.76	2,679,045.58	1,270,238.18	67.84%	1,550,215.04	39.25%	57.86%
Total	5,143,287.76	3,766,401.15	1,376,886.61	73.23%	2,346,606.75	45.62%	62.30%



7.0 PARTNERSHIPS

The achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals requires strong partnerships. Different sectors and actors need to work together in an integrated manner by pooling financial resources, knowledge and expertise⁶. In the spirit of this cause, ECREEE continues to partner with organizations whose aims include the SDG 7—access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all — and other related SDGs. In this section, activities implemented in 2023 or expected to commence in 2024 and beyond through technical and funding partnerships are highlighted.

7.1 TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE CENTRAL AFRICA CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

ECREEE hosted a delegation from the Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for Central Africa (CEREEAC), a new member of the Global Network of Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC), in June 2023. Consultations between the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Commission and the UNIDO program management highlighted the need for an expert group meeting with a sister GN-SEC Centre to enable the incoming managers and technical experts of the CEREEAC Start-up Unit to learn from the best experiences of centres, which are in a more advanced stage of institutional build-up.

The purpose of the study tour, therefore, included the following:

- 1) To learn the organizational framework of ECREEE for developing renewable energy and energy efficiency strategies for CEREEAC;
- 2) To discuss the key priorities and the day-to-day management of the Centre (implementation of programs and projects, administrative and financial procedures, communications and public relations, cooperation with partners, constraints, opportunities, and prospects / roadmap);
- 3) To identify new funding opportunities through the development of joint programs;
- 4) To exchange case studies, best practices, failures, and lessons learned from processes, programs, and projects in various regions and
- 5) To better understand the benefits, opportunities, costs, and associated risks of sub-regional cooperation/integration processes in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

⁶<https://sdgs.un.org/topics/multi-stakeholder-partnerships>



7.2 PARTNER-FUNDED CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

Funding partners are central to ECREEE’s success. Below are highlights of interventions in progress as of 2023 as well as those whose implementation is expected to commence in 2024.

Table 3: Current and Prospective Projects and corresponding Funding Partners

Partner	Current Project	Goal	Prospects
1. African Development Bank (AfDB)	Desert-to-Power West African Regional Energy Program (DtP WAREP)-Phase 1	Accelerated regional-scale development of solar generation, transmission, and decentralized energy projects across the Sahel Region.	ECREEE has been considered an executing agency for another project under the Desert-to-Power Initiative, i.e., the Regional Technical Assistance Project for the Sahel (ReTAPS).
2. African Legal Support Facility (of AFDB)	Capacity Building selected technical staff of ECREEE, WAPP, ERERA, and ECOWAS Energy Directorate on the technical, financial, legal, and environmental aspects of RE projects.	Sustainable and systematic capacity development of key actors for the effective development of the West Africa Clean Energy Corridor Program.	N/A. ECREEE will continue to play its role as the executing agency responsible for coordination and execution of the project.

3 Austrian Development Agency	Piloting of Circular Economy through the Water-Energy and Food Nexus in West Africa” Phase 1	Scoping Exercise to establish the Baseline and to identify value chains for intervention	Funding support for the first phase of the project will continue. Phase 2 is expected to commence in 2025.
4. European Union (Horizon Europe)	<p>a) Energy Access and Green Transition Collaboratively Demonstrated in Urban and Rural Areas in Africa (ENERGICA)</p> <p>b) Open-source NEXus modelling tools for Planning Sustainable Energy Transition in Africa (ONEPlanET)</p>	<p>Improved access to modern energy services and energy security through the promotion and development of renewable energy resources</p> <p>A common Nexus modelling framework developed to simulate and evaluate pathways to define a more sustainable future in Africa by deploying renewable energy infrastructure. In this way, it will be possible to stimulate a green energy transition in the continent and decarbonize existing energy plants</p>	<p>The EU will provide funding support for “Advancing sustainable AGRiculture through off-grid energy and COOLing solutions in Africa (AGRICOOOL)” -- a new research project focused on reducing food loss and waste.</p> <p>reducing the use of fossil-fuel powered generators to improve the quality of life for African communities and industries</p>
5. Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)	<p>a) Transition to a Clean Energy Circular Economy through the Optimization of High Energy Intensity Value Chains in High Impact Sectors</p> <p>b) Water and Energy Project for the Increase of Food Security and Socio-economic Development</p>	<p>Improved livelihoods for women and young people (below age 36) who actively use energy for productive purposes across the agricultural, commercial, and industrial value chains.</p> <p>Increased income for the base-of-the-pyramid women and men involved in food production in participating Member States’ rural and urban areas</p>	<p>Preparatory tasks are in progress. Actual activity implementation is expected to begin in January 2024.</p> <p>Same as above.</p>

6. German International Development Cooperation (GIZ)	Promoting a Climate-Friendly Electricity Market in the ECOWAS Region and Energy Storage (Pro-CEM-II)	Improved supportive framework conditions for grid-connected renewable energies (REs) and battery energy storage systems (BESS) at regional or national levels	The project's closing date has been extended from December 2024 to December 2025.
7. German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMFM) via the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)	Green Hydrogen Project	Green hydrogen potential harnessed, and the ECOWAS region positioned as one of the most competitive producers and suppliers of green hydrogen and its derivatives while addressing all member states' socio-economic growth and sustainable development	With the endorsement of the Green Hydrogen Policy by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers and the subsequent development and validation of a strategy and action plan, WASCAL will support ECREEE's efforts to build the capacity of stakeholders in the energy sector in 2024 to develop Green Hydrogen projects.
8. International Development Research Centre, Canada	N/A	N/A	The Centre will fund a new project called "Women and Clean Energy in West Africa (WOCEWA)" aimed at supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in West Africa's energy sector, transforming them into vehicles that empower women and address gender barriers through their business operations.
9. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Industrial Energy Efficiency and Resource Efficient Cleaner Production in Nigeria (IEE RECP)	Improved industrial energy efficiency and resource-efficient cleaner production in the ECOWAS Member States	The organization Intends to support promotion of investments in small to medium scale renewable energy technologies in Guinea Bissau. A set of renewable energy projects with a total electricity capacity of 2.5 MW are expected to be installed.

10. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	N/A	N/A	USAID intends to continue to support the regions efforts to achieve universal access to sustainable energy through new intervention in 2024
11. World Bank	Technical support in quality assurance under ROGEAP	To increase access to electricity for households, businesses and public institutions using modern and autonomous solar technology through a harmonized regional approach	ECEEE will build the capacities of national stakeholders in quality standards and test methods for off-grid solar pico-PV and solar home systems (SHS) up to 350Wp. This ROGEAP activity is designed to protect consumers from poor-quality products and promote their confidence.



8.0 CHALLENGES, PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR 2024

8.1 CHALLENGES AND PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The budget for the ECREEE administration has proven to be inadequate. This has negatively impacted on the quality of the employee workstations/tools (especially IT equipment) and employee motivation. Although some project-related positions have been filled, there is still room for shoring up the staff strength to ensure it is commensurate with the workload. ECREEE has been working to address these issues in 2024 and beyond.

8.2 LOOKING AHEAD: OVERVIEW OF 2024 WORKPLAN

8.2.1 PLANNED PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The basis for the programs and activities scheduled to be implemented in 2024 was a combination of factors, including i). ECREEE objectives as stipulated in its “Implementing Regulation on the Organization and Functioning”; ii) regional policies (e.g., RE, EE, Bioenergy, Gender mainstreaming policies); iii) Strategic Outcomes and Interventions outlined in the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, iv) Commitment to Agreements with Funding and Technical Partners, and v) the Commission “4X4 Strategic Objectives” and other Guidelines of stipulated in 2024 Budget Circular.

Policy Thrust of the ECOWAS Commission

The current Administration of the Commission’s mandate commenced in July 2022. The new management has identified the following four strategic objectives for the four-year term (2023-2027) of the current administration of the ECOWAS Commission:

- a) Enhanced Peace and Security;
- b) Deeper Economic, Trade, and Social Integration;
- c) Good political and Corporate Governance; and
- d) Inclusive and Sustainable Development.

To attain these strategic objectives, management has identified two key enablers-- Capable Institutions and Equitable Partnerships. These strategic objectives and enablers remain the thrust of the budgets and work programs for 2023-2027.

As was in the case of the last four years, institutions and agencies were advised to maintain zero increase in the budgets to be funded from the Community Levy.

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ECREEE’s Response to the Policy Thrust and Guidelines

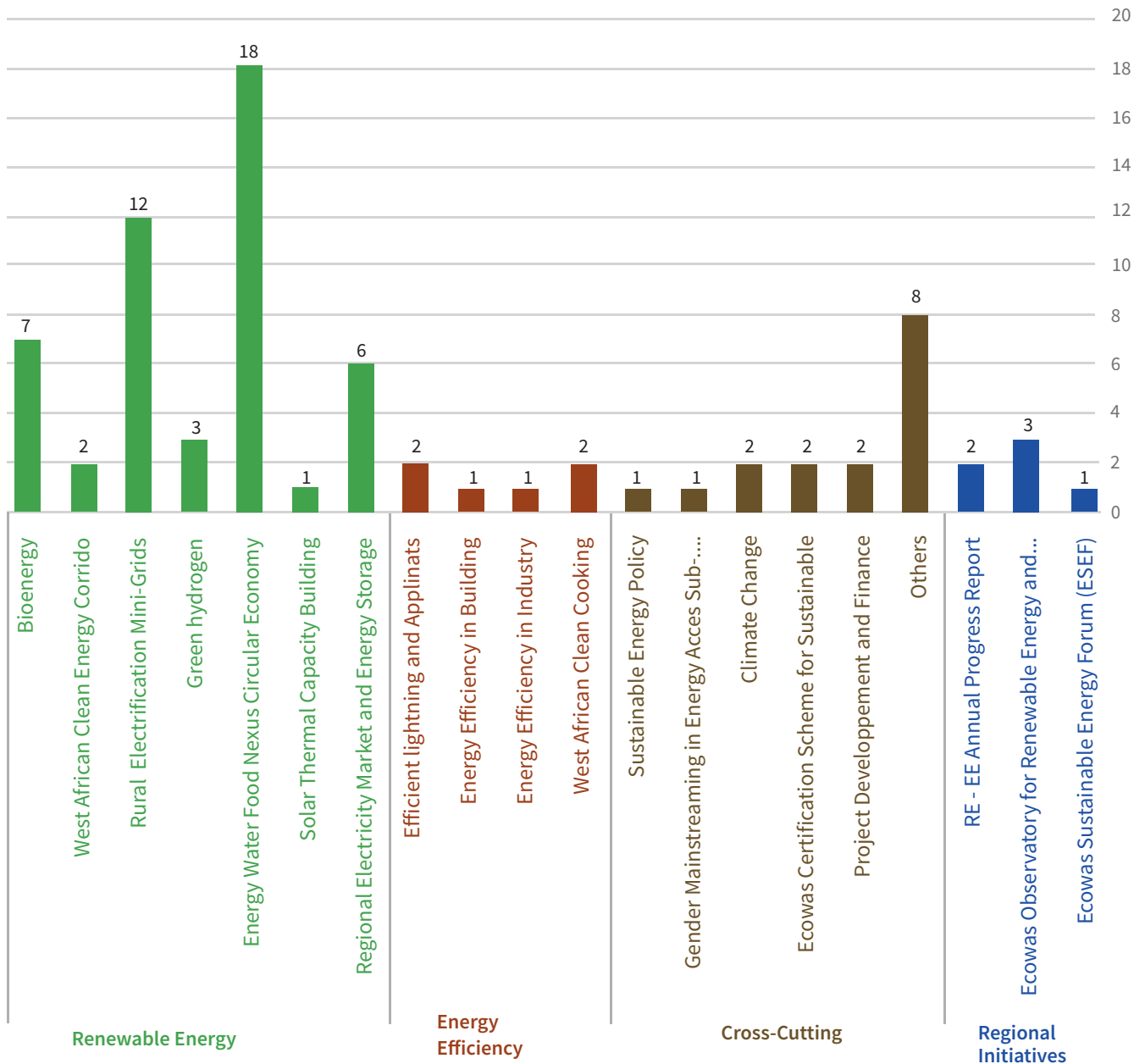
ECREEE adhered to the cost-containment parameters and results-based management principles. This year, however, ECREEE requested additional funding for its programs and administration, advancing a solid justification for it.

Seventy-seven (77) activities have been scheduled for 2024, the majority (64%) of which are within the Renewable Energy portfolio. The distribution per the four Thematic areas is depicted in Table 5. Figure 4 shows the sub-programs per thematic area and the planned number of activities.

Table 4: Numbers of Programs, Projects, and Activities by Thematic Area

Thematic Area	Number of Programs	Number of Projects	Activities	
			Number	Percentage
Renewable Energy Programs	7	14	49	64%
Energy Efficiency Programs	4	5	6	8%
Cross-Cutting Programs	6	10	16	20%
Regional Initiatives	3	3	6	8%
Total	20	32	77	100%

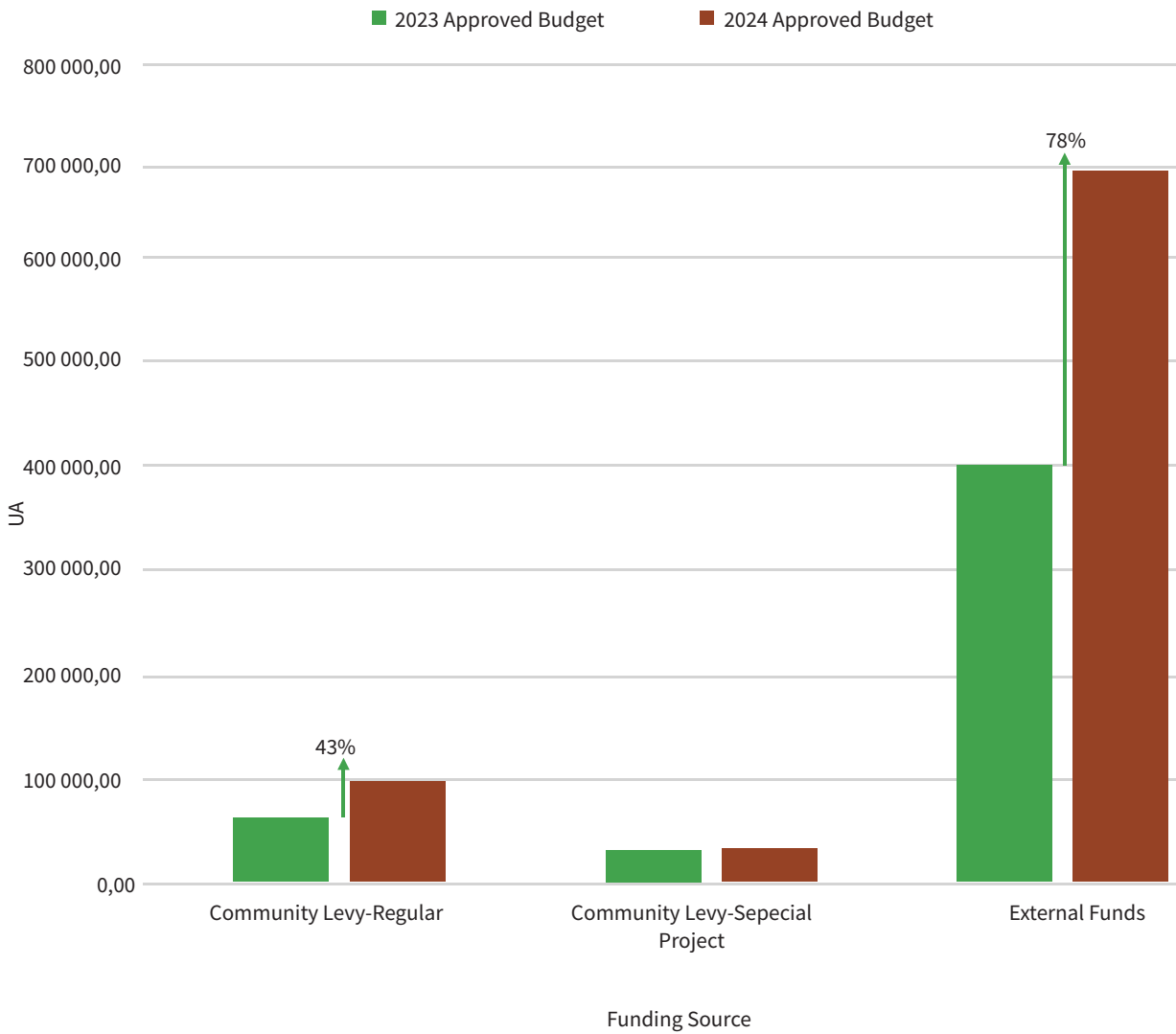
Figure 4: Thematic Areas, Sub-Programs, and Number of Activities



8.2.3 BUDGET

ECOWAS Community Levy Funded budget increased by 43% due to a special request for increased counterpart funding from ECOWAS to match donor-funded projects and to cater for new office relocation expenses (Reference Figure 6).

Figure 5: Comparison of 2023 and 2024 Budgets in UA





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