



ECOWAS
CEDEAO



ECREEE
Towards Sustainable Energy



ECOWAS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FORUM ESEF 2024

Towards a Just Energy Transition in West Africa

Parc des Expositions - Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

November 28 - 29, 2024

www.ecreee.org



Session 4 : Development of Clean Mini-Grids in West Africa

Background

Like most of Sub-Saharan Africa countries, those of West Africa region are struggling for access to electricity. In 2022, access to electricity rate is 57.4% of which the majority is living in urban area (74%) (ECREEE, 2024). These data highlight the deviation between the reality and the target fixed for universal access to electricity in 2030 (90%).

Nowadays, decentralized renewable electricity solutions especially clean mini-grids (CMG) are one of the suitable options to speed-up access to electricity in rural area. In 2022, 565 CMG are operational in West Africa region, the overall installed capacity is 51,9 MW (ECREEE, 2022).

Many projects/programmes are undergoing in the region. However actors are facing many challenges which are among others inexistent or inadequate policiy, Institutional and regulatory framework, limited capacities for resource mobilization as well catalytic funding, acute lack of human resources as well as capacity building and high tariff without subsidies, knowing that end-users have a low power purchase.

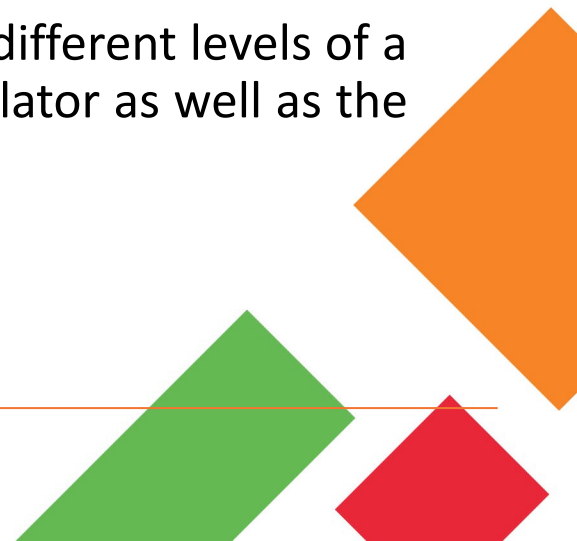


Session 4 : Development of Clean Mini-Grids in West Africa

Objectives:

Clean energy mini-grids are a form of integrated energy infrastructure with distributed energy generation resources and loads. They provide autonomous capability to satisfy electricity demand through local generation, mainly from renewable energy sources.¹ Renewable energy mini-grid systems can also include power storage appliances; smart meters and smart devices for control, management and measurement; and power conversion equipment. Mini-grids can be either isolated and fully autonomous or connected to the main grid (IRENA, 2016).

This session's objective is to hear from diverse professionals or experts involved at different levels of a CMG development project from donors via the rural electrification agency, the regulator as well as the no less negligible investment funds.



Session 4 : Development of Clean Mini-Grids in West Africa

Objectives/Overarching questions:

Mainly the discussion will be focused on:

Lessons learnt and suggestions as part of their respective experience in a CMG project in West Africa from the perspective of :

- ❑ A developer : Could you share with us the challenges you are facing in terms project design, development as well as fund raising?
- ❑ Rural Electrification Agency officer : What are the lessons you learnt from CMG policy and regulation development and their application for procurement processes, licensing/permitting?
- ❑ International organization officer (IRENA) : How do you support a region/countries for access to electricity especially through CMG?
- ❑ Promoter/Funds Mobilizer What are your requirements for funds mobilization? How do you support an applicant to this end?



Session 4 : Development of Clean Mini-Grids in West Africa

Welcome and Introduction by the Moderator (5 minutes)

Short presentation of the panelists by the Moderator (who is here?) (5 minutes)

Short Presentations / Inputs of each panelist (32 minutes in total)

- Panelist 1: 8 minutes
- Panelist 2: 8 minutes
- Panelist 3: 8 minutes
- Panelist 4: 8 minutes

Session is
foreseen
for about 1
or 1:30
hour

Short summary of the presentations by the Moderator and opening floor for discussion (5 minutes)

Moderation of interactive exchange between the panelists and the audience (15 minutes)

Closing & Thanking the panelists and the audience for their interest



Session 4 : Development of Clean Mini-Grids in West Africa

~~**Moderator:** Mr. Hary Andriantavy, Executive Secretary, African Association for Rural Electrification, Côte d'Ivoire~~

Panelists:

- Mr. Martial Batcho, Head of Mini-Grids Sub-Saharan Africa, Engie Energy Access, Benin and France
- Hon.Engr. Doris Uboh, Executive Director of the Rural Electrification Fund, Rural Electrification, Abuja, Nigeria
- Mr. Thierry Odou, Associate Analyst, IRENA, Bonn, Germany
- Dr Ibrahim Togola, Co-Funder and President, ACCESS SA, Bamako, Mali



Session 4 : Development of Clean Mini-Grids in West Africa Biography

Hary Andriantavy

Native to Madagascar and with a large international network in the field of access to electricity, Hary knows how the major strategic issues of African countries in the energy field for sustainable development.

Since 2016, he's worked for CLUB-ER or African Association for Rural Electrification – a panafrikan network in access to energy, based in Abidjan (Ivory Coast). Before joining CLUB-ER, he led the rural electrification agency in Madagascar from 2004 to 2012 and worked for the World Bank project from 2012 to 2015.



REZYL / ACCIDENT - BERLIN 2018 © G. Wehmann



Session 4 : Development of Clean Mini-Grids in West Africa

Biography



Martial Batcho

Martial Batcho is an energy professional with over 16 years of experience.

His expertise is focused on the development of photovoltaic systems and the optimisation of energy operations in sub-Saharan Africa.

He is currently the Head of Mini-Grids for Engie Energy Access in Benin with an assignment that covers strategic planning, profits and losses management, supervision of mini-grids construction, management of sales and relationships with stakeholders.



Session 4 : Development of Clean Mini-Grids in West Africa Biography



Doris Uboh

Hon.Engr. Doris Uboh is the Executive Director of the Rural Electrification Fund in the Rural Electrification Agency, and an experienced engineer and politician.

She is committed to transforming Nigeria's energy sector and enhancing rural quality of life. Her career is a combination of technical expertise, strategic leadership, and public service, enabling impactful energy solutions that drive economic growth and sustainability.

Her key focus areas include public-private partnerships, international collaborations, community engagement, innovation and technology, capacity building, and policy advocacy.



Session 4 : Development of Clean Mini-Grids in West Africa Biography

Thierry Odou



Thierry Odou is an Associate Analyst focusing on Off-grid Power Systems in the Energy Planning and Power Sector Transformation Team (EPPST) at IRENA's Innovation and Technology Center.

He is an experienced power and climate system modeler, having worked as a consultant and technical advisor for international organizations and firms, primarily on projects in Africa.

Thierry's expertise covers rural electrification project development, geospatial energy access planning, and climate impact studies



Session 4 : Development of Clean Mini-Grids in West Africa Biography

Dr Ibrahim Togola

Dr. Ibrahim Togola, Knight of the National Order of Mali and recipient of the prestigious Einstein SolarWorld Award, is a pioneer in renewable energy and sustainable development in Africa. As CEO of ACCESS SA, he led the development of 23 hybrid mini-grid projects for rural electrification, transforming communities through green energy. Co-founder of Mali Folkecenter Nyetaa.

Dr. Togola has empowered rural populations with renewable energy solutions and environmental protection initiatives. With a Ph.D. in renewable energy and leadership roles in global and regional energy associations, he collaborates with institutions like the ECREEE, EU, World Bank, IRENA, ADFD, WWEA, REN21 and UNDP to enhance access to modern energy services across Africa.

