



## **ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)**

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### **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

## **Project Coordinator**

### **ECREEE Desert-to-Power Initiative Projects**

#### **1. PROJECTS BACKGROUND**

The Sahel region has significant solar energy potential but faces challenges such as inadequate generation capacity, heavy reliance on fossil fuels, significant energy access deficit, poor infrastructure, and weak policy and regulatory frameworks.

The African Development Bank's flagship Desert-to-Power (DtP) initiative is complementing national and other regional efforts at addressing energy sector challenges in the Sahel. The initiative aims to harness the solar potential of the 11 Sahelian countries to deploy 10 GW of solar photovoltaic (PV) by 2030 and provide access to electricity to around 250 million people who currently lack it, through a combination of on-grid and off-grid solutions. The first phase of the DtP program will benefit Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal.

#### **a) West Africa Regional Energy Program (WAREP)-Phase 1**

The West Africa Regional Energy Program (WAREP) seeks to catalyze growth in access to electricity by addressing primarily financial barriers to private sector-led distributed power generation and mini-grid development from renewable energy in the Member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It is a component of the African Development Bank's flagship renewable energy and economic development initiative known as the "Desert to Power" (DtP) program and will be implemented by the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE). A second component of the DtP is the "Regional Interconnection component which will be implemented by the West African Power Pool (WAPP).

The DtP program aims to accelerate socio-economic development through the deployment of solar technologies at scale in the 11 countries of the Sahel region -- Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sudan. The first phase of the DtP program will benefit Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal.

Even though West Africa has become the new hub for the private sector mini-grid development through the launch of multiple ECOWAS Member States programs, a solid harmonized framework is needed to attract strong and experienced EPC technical players who can partner with local players. Within the regional context, opportunities for mini-grid development in the ECOWAS region are vast,

with around 184 million people with no access to electricity and only 3% of the population served by decentralized energy services which translates to only five million inhabitants. In the institutional policy context, significant regulatory frameworks have focused on grid expansion and connecting the region through the WAPP. Despite the increased focus of ECOWAS Member States' national energy policies on renewable energy solutions and off-grid solutions as the least cost option, regional targets are yet to be translated into concrete actions in the form of specific national programs, financial incentives, standards, quality systems, concession agreements, and similar schemes.

Specifically, the WAREP is financing the preparatory phase that incorporates site identification, selection and corresponding feasibility studies, resource assessment, technology selection, assessment of the demand centers, and business model based on the system design installation and commissioning. Country COVID-19 response strategies will be incorporated in the WAREP with a view to the electrification of rural health centers by developing mini-grids that support the COVID-19 vaccination rollout strategies that require electrified cold rooms for ambient storage.

WAREP aims to accelerate the development of decentralized energy solutions and support an ECOWAS regional certification training program and information dissemination. The components of the Program include (i) decentralized energy solutions to develop an actionable regional mini-grid program; (ii) support of a regional capacity building and certification program targeting mass training of technicians and craftsmen and relevant stakeholders (iii) support of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in the quality control and supervision of the program, including the activities and operating costs for the PIU.

#### **b) Regional Technical Assistance Program for the Sahel (ReTAPS)**

The Regional Technical Assistance Project covers Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal and is a core component of the African Development Bank's Desert to Power (DtP) Initiative. It aims to provide technical assistance to create an enabling environment for solar power projects in the Sahel while unlocking private sector investments in both the on-grid and mini-grid space. Its specific goals are to:

- Strengthen the regional environment for regulating and operating regional renewable energy projects.
- Provide advisory services to assist the Sahel regional countries in the preparation, negotiations construction, and supervision of projects.
- Incentivize private sector investment in solar projects across the region.

Overall, the proposed operation consists of **five components**. The **first** component will provide support for the preparation of studies and provision of technical assistance for on-grid and decentralized solar projects. The **second** component will focus on implementing actions for catalyzing private sector investments in the region. The **third** component will cover the development of a comprehensive capacity-building program and its implementation in collaboration with other partners. The **fourth** component will aim to support the development and implementation of the mini-grid strategy across all coverage countries. The **fifth** component covers

the project management aspects. This focus stems from consultations with national stakeholders of the Desert to Power taskforce, who expressed the need for a structured regional technical assistance project to streamline ongoing efforts and promote cross-learning among countries.

ECREEE intends to hire a **Project Coordinator** for the Project Implementation Unit.

The proposed scope of work will include the following activities:

- i. Overall and day-to-day supervision of projects implementation;
- ii. Planning, coordinating all the activities assuring timely and economically effective implementation;
- iii. Supervision of PIU staff and evaluation of their staff performance,
- iv. Planning, coordinating, and actively participating in the procurement and implementation of consultancy services for the following activities:
  - ✓ DtP WAREP
    - clean mini-grid feasibility studies;
    - development of modules and training of trainers on designing installing and inspection of clean mini-grids,
    - training of developers, and promoters, and of clean mini-grids projects at the national level,
    - Other related activities.
  - ✓ DtP ReTAPS
    - Support for preparation studies and technical assistance for decentralized solar projects;
    - Mainstreaming Independent Power Producer Procurement Support and Matchmaking Events for Senegal;
    - Country support for the development of national Mini Grid Strategies; and
    - Demand-driven support for the implementation of key regulatory activities emerging from the national strategies.
    - Other related activities;
- v. Overseeing the assessment of needs for technical assistance and participating in the process of design, and delivery of such assistance as needed;
- vi. Ensuring regular monitoring of project activities;
- vii. Leading the preparation and updating of implementation plans, operational manuals, disbursement schedules, etc.,
- viii. Transmission of periodic withdrawal requests and expenditure reports as well as activity reports to AfDB in line with the Protocol of Agreement and other relevant documentation;
- ix. Liaising with and maintaining continuous communication with the AfDB;
- x. Participation in other related activities may be assigned by the Director of Programs or the Executive Director.

**The criteria for shortlisting are as follows:**

- i. At least a Master's degree in Engineering, Economics, Finance, Business Administration, or similar areas with a strong focus on sustainable energy and:

- ii. At least ten (10) years post-qualification experience in managing or providing technical advisory services to sustainable energy projects;
- iii. At least five (5) years of specific experience in managing or providing technical advisory services to Mini-Grid projects in Africa,
- iv. At least seven (7) years of work experience in the sustainable energy sector in West Africa;
- v. Experience in participating in similar donor-funded projects and experience in working in Multilateral Donor's funded projects would be an advantage.

**The following documents** should be submitted as the package of the expression of interest:

- a) Cover letter;
- b) CV and
- c) Certificates of educational qualifications.

ECREE will shortlist and select candidates in accordance with the "Procurement framework for operations financed by the Bank Group", October 2015 edition, which is available on the website of the Bank at: <http://www.afdb.org>. The Terms of Reference for the position will be provided to only the shortlisted candidates who will also be invited to interviews.

#### **Submission**

Prospective consultants should submit their expressions of interest through [warep@ecreee.org](mailto:warep@ecreee.org) **only**, indicating the subject: "**Project Coordinator, ECREEE DTP Projects PIU**". The deadline is **December 20, 2024 (23:59 hrs (GMT-1, Cabo Verde Time))**.

**Further information/clarification** can be obtained at the following email addresses: [adeoliveira@ecreee.org](mailto:adeoliveira@ecreee.org) and [gkouhie@ecreee.org](mailto:gkouhie@ecreee.org). Candidates are advised **not to copy these two email addresses** when submitting their applications.