

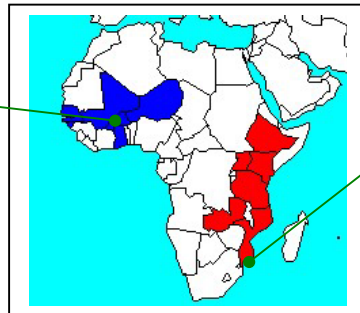
EUEI Facilitation Workshops and Policy Dialogues

The EU Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development (EUEI) aims to support improvements in access to sustainable energy services, to reduce poverty and meet the other Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At the EUEI 'Energy for Africa Event' (Nairobi, November 2003), representatives of 33 African governments, along with other stakeholders, recommended that the EUEI should focus on improving the access to energy services for rural areas.

The EUEI Facilitation Workshops and Policy Dialogues were initiated as a joint effort of the EU and African partners to transform the Nairobi recommendations into action at the national level. Through the two events, in West and Southern/Eastern Africa, financed by the Danish Government and the European Commission, the EUEI process is focussing on the implementation of concrete actions towards implementation of the Nairobi recommendations, involving a group of African countries. It is envisaged that additional countries will participate in subsequent stages.

West Africa

Burkina Faso (host)
The Gambia
Ghana
Guinea Bissau
Mali
Niger
Senegal



Southern and Eastern Africa

Mozambique (host)
Ethiopia
Kenya
Malawi
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia

Ouagadougou, 22-25 October 2004 - follow-up process initiated

The first of two EUEI Facilitation Workshops and Policy Dialogues took place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 22 to 25 October 2004. Delegations from seven West African countries worked in facilitated national groups to identify energy interventions to address rural development and poverty alleviation. The groups were joined on the final day by high-level decision makers who discussed their respective countries efforts to integrate energy into the poverty reduction process, and agreed on a final declaration from the dialogue. (See Box 1.)

Box 1: The Declaration from the Policy Dialogue at Ouagadougou included the following statements:

"We fully support the new proposal of the European Commission to create a Financial Energy Facility of 250 million Euros, which allows us to fulfil the commitments made at the World Summit for Sustainable Development and to assist the African countries in implementing the Nairobi recommendations."

"We commit ourselves to integrate the important energy issue into national strategies for poverty eradication to enhance the cooperation with the member states of the European Union and take energy into account as a priority sector eligible for funding under the framework of the 10th EDF."

The full declaration (in English, French and Portuguese) is available at:

<http://www.e4d.net/euei/Ouagadougou/Declaration/index.htm>

Following the Ouagadougou event, a process was initiated to consolidate the multi-sectoral approach and to further develop possible energy interventions. The Ouagadougou follow-up process is characterised as:

- a nationally driven process, facilitated by regional or national resource centres
- centered on the multi-sector national groups formed at the workshop, with the inclusion of other stakeholders
- led by the national focal points who headed the teams at the Ouagadougou event, typically Directors of Energy
- supported by the programme to hold national consultation meetings and workshops
- consolidating the multi-sector approach and developing further a small number of energy initiatives

Maputo, Mozambique, 12-15 April 2005

The second Facilitation Workshop and Policy Dialogue is scheduled for Maputo, Mozambique, from 12 to 15 April 2005. As in the first event, seven country teams will attend: Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Each country will be represented by about five professionals from relevant sectors – energy, agriculture, development planning, etc. – and will be joined by high-level decision makers on the final day for the Policy Dialogue.

Preparation meetings: Before coming to Maputo, each country will organise a preparatory meeting. The meetings will be ½ day events, based on a background paper prepared by an energy and poverty expert in the country. The background paper will highlight the role of energy in meeting poverty reduction goals, such as productive uses and income generation.

The objectives of the preparatory meetings are to:

- Brief policy makers and stakeholders on the Maputo workshop
- Prepare country teams adequately for participation at the Maputo workshop
- Brief country teams on the expected follow-up process after the Maputo workshop
- Ensure wide consultation with policymakers and stakeholders on energy priorities for meeting poverty reduction goals

Aims of the Facilitation Workshop: By bringing together a multi-sector group of professionals related to energy, rural development and poverty alleviation, the workshop will facilitate a productive discussion to determine how the Nairobi recommendations can be translated into real action in the countries. The national working groups at Maputo will:

- identify and elaborate a number of energy initiatives or actions from a multi-sector, rural poverty alleviation perspective, and
- decide on a work plan and process for the follow-up to Maputo

Aims of the National Policy Dialogue: The decision makers will take part in a round-table discussion where they will be invited to make statements regarding their national efforts towards integrating energy into the rural poverty reduction process, based on the deliberations of the Facilitation Workshop and the on-going activities in the respective countries. The underlying aim is to ensure that the recommendations of the country groups in the Facilitation Workshop are in line with the national context and priorities, thus encouraging national ownership of the process. The Policy Dialogue will also help maintain momentum in the process initiated at Nairobi in 2003.

Tentative Programme: The programme for the Facilitation Workshop will comprise both plenary and national working group sessions. Presentations in the plenary sessions will include linking energy access with the Millennium Development Goals and the Poverty Reduction Strategy process, illustrative examples of how energy innovations contribute to development, introductions to the methodology for working groups and subsequently presentation and discussion of working group results. Working group sessions will focus on identifying and elaborating energy interventions that address rural development, poverty alleviation and income generation from a multi-sector perspective.

Follow-up process: On return to their respective countries, the country teams will brief relevant stakeholders at national consultation meetings. The follow-up process aims to put the conclusions of the workshop into practice (a) by supporting the integration of energy into the poverty reduction process and (b) by further developing the proposals for energy interventions that may be submitted for funding, for example through the envisaged EU/ACP Energy Facility. Limited support for the follow-up process is available to cover especially the costs of national stakeholder consultations and meetings in the months following the Facilitation Workshop.

For further details on the EUEI Facilitation Workshops and Policy Dialogues in Africa, see www.e4d.net/euei or contact:

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