

## Action Plan for the Promotion of Access to Energy in the CEMAC Region

### Background

The Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale – CEMAC) is an organisation of Central African states established by Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon to promote economic integration among countries that share a common currency, the CFA franc.

In 2003, the CEMAC Secretariat and a European partner started preparations for an energy project under COOPENER, a European Commission programme for the promotion of policies, technologies and best practices in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

During the project preparation phase, several meetings of the ambassadors of the CEMAC member states revealed difficulties with the initial implementation plans.

The initiative was eventually taken up by the EU Energy Initiative - Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF), which funded an Interministerial Workshop on Sustainable Energy for Rural Development in July 2005, in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. The workshop, hosted by the CEMAC Secretariat, brought together a number of Ministers of Energy and other high-ranking officials from Central Africa.

It resulted in the Brazzaville Declaration, which commits CEMAC member countries to integrate energy access as a focal area in poverty reduction strategies. The participants also mandated the CEMAC Secretariat to steer the development of a Regional Action Plan to Promote Access to Energy in Central Africa. Upon a request from the Secretariat, EUEI PDF funded a project to translate the recommendations into action.

Region	CEMAC
Project Partner	CEMAC and IED
Project Manager	Ray Holland
Term	July 2005 – May 2006

### Strategy Actions

On behalf of the CEMAC Secretariat, EUEI PDF supported a study on an action plan for energising regional integration in CEMAC.

The study, which involved consultations with the ministries of energy, private sector actors, and NGOs in all CEMAC countries culminated in a report detailing eleven strategic actions for scaling up access to energy services in the region.

The action plan to be implemented from 2007-2011 includes:

- ▶ Capacity building to ensure that energy planning is oriented towards rural and peri-urban needs
- ▶ Coordinated hydropower development in the sub-region
- ▶ Policies promoting the use of agriculture and forest industrial residues in generating electricity
- ▶ Creation of show-case areas with improved access to modern energy services in rural areas of each member state
- ▶ Low-cost grid intensification in peri-urban areas
- ▶ Integrated regional promotion of solar energy
- ▶ Promotion of improved stoves and modern cooking fuels such as Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)
- ▶ Work towards a concerted development of the petroleum sector
- ▶ Elaboration of a CEMAC Energy Charter
- ▶ Creating an Energy Access Observatory for the sub-region
- ▶ Facilitating the transfer of technologies among member countries



Capacity building in energy planning was oriented towards the needs of rural and peri-urban population.

The ministries of energy, private sector actors and NGOs from all CEMAC countries were consulted as part of the study.

The Brazzaville Declaration committed CEMAC member countries to integrate energy access as a focal area in poverty reduction strategies.



Each action has been costed and detailed in a report presented to the CEMAC Heads of State summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in March 2006. The action plan was subsequently discussed and adopted by the newly created Permanent Commission on Energy and Mining (COPEM) in Douala in April 2006. The estimated budget for its implementation stands at CFA 150 billion (EUR 236 million) over five years.

### The Way Forward

- ▶ The approval of the action plan by CEMAC Heads of State provided the political will to integrate energy access
- ▶ The EUEI PDF-funded workshop also recommended the creation of a Multi-Sectoral Working Group on Access to Energy within each member country which would collaborate with COPEM
- ▶ The implementation of the action plan will be managed by a technical unit
- ▶ The March 2006 report has generated and reinforced political momentum for integrating access to energy in national strategies for poverty reduction and growth in CEMAC
- ▶ The Regional Action Plan to Promote Access to Energy in Central Africa provides a basis for the alignment of external assistance to the energy sector
- ▶ Electric utilities in CEMAC member countries successfully applied to the first EUEI Energy Facility for EUR 12 million support to increased peri-urban electrification

For more information,  
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