

Biomass Energy Sector Planning Guide

Background

Worldwide, an estimated 2.6 billion people depend on traditional biomass for cooking, of which 95% live in Sub-Sahara Africa and developing Asia. In some developing countries biomass accounts for more than 90% of primary energy consumption. While this proportion may decline, it is unlikely that absolute consumption of biomass in developing countries will decrease in the coming decades due to continuous population growth and urbanisation. Urbanisation is associated with a transition from firewood use to charcoal use, resulting in lower overall efficiencies and therefore higher primary consumption. In spite of government policies aimed at substitution in many countries due to affordability and availability, biomass fuel will remain in high demand especially in the rural areas, ahead of alternative and more expensive fuels, such as kerosene, LPG or electricity.

Managing and regulating the biomass sector is characterised by several challenges. The inter-sectoral nature links the biomass energy to forestry, agriculture, other industry and rural development, requiring a cross-sectoral approach – which can reveal conflicts of interests when designing the regulatory framework. Furthermore, biomass energy tends to be centred in rural areas, where it provides income and fuel to households. This means, however, that regulation and its enforcement have low priority and the biomass sector is managed in an informal and sometimes even illegal way. On the other hand, if used efficiently and obtained from well-managed sources, biomass can be an inexpensive, reliable and clean source of energy for nearly 40% of the global population, who is still dependent on traditional biomass for cooking, as well as provide income to the rural population.

Activity	Thematic Study
Project Partner	GIZ Programme Poverty-oriented basic energy services (HERA)
Project Manager	Ina de Visser
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Objectives

The Biomass Energy Sector Planning Guide, based on experiences in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Nepal, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Sierra Leone, recognises the importance of governance of the biomass energy sector and aims at providing a methodology for developing more efficient cross-sectoral management structures. The Guide outlines the steps for gradual improvement in the biomass energy sector governance, ideally leading to a fully-implemented strategy.

It is designed for stakeholders in government institutions to develop efficient and coordinated processes to manage the biomass energy sector. Such institutions include ministries and government agencies responsible for energy, forestry, gender, lands, environmental protection, rural development and agriculture. It can be also used by civil society and donors as a tool for raising awareness of the biomass sector within government and prompting action to improve its management. Even though it is based on experiences in Africa, the Guide's relevance can outreach beyond African borders and its methodology can be applied in all countries where biomass is the main fuel for households and small enterprises.

The Biomass Energy Sector Planning Guide is available [online](#) and in hard copies in both English and French.





Approach

The brief introduction chapter focusing on the importance, key factors and challenges of solid biomass energy sector governance is followed by the Guide itself in the form of comprehensive six-stage guidelines for developing a biomass energy strategy.

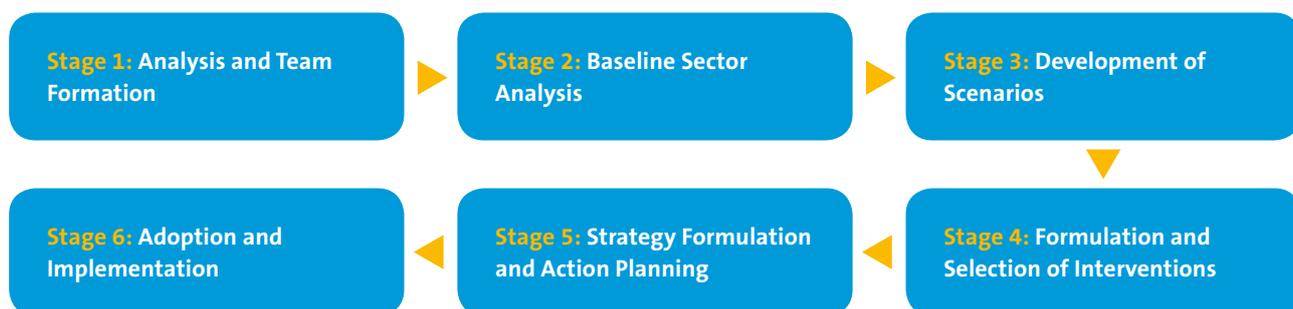
Each stage has its own objectives and outputs. In the preparation stage, the responsible stakeholders for sector governance improvement, preliminary objectives and provisional project outline are identified.

An initial needs analysis should provide guidance to the roll-out of subsequent stages towards the desired outcome. Each stage builds on the outputs of earlier stages.

Depending of the specific conditions in and the needs of the country, the process can be terminated at the end of each stage. A fully implemented strategy is not necessarily the right output for every country and the scope and set up of this guide has been therefore adapted to facilitate other outputs as well. Some of these outputs include: general assessment of political vision for the biomass sector; analysis for key challenges in national biomass sector governance and a list of potential intervention options.

Based on national objectives, available time and budget, the desired final output should be decided upon. It is important that the decisions directing the development of the strategy are made collaboratively and are jointly agreed on by stakeholders from different sectors.

The figure below outlines the six stages for the development of a biomass energy sector strategy:



Pictures:
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Project Partner:



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