



The EU's Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for Sustainable Energy

Newsletter #9 | March 2018

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the European Union

Stories of success, practices that foster change and are being taken to scale, where innovation and cooperation in policy, finance, and technology are bringing results - and benefiting the people of Africa.

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Cuba: Sustainable Energy Forum 2018

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Tanzania: Strategising for Energy Efficiency

Tanzania is preparing its 20-year Energy Efficiency Strategy, for the domains of industry, buildings, and transport. A consultation workshop brought together stakeholders to discuss the scope and process of developing this Strategy.

Guinea Conakry: New Hydro Plants Under Preparation

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'The EU's Technical Assistance Facility for Sustainable Energy' newsletter covers items of news from all the countries of operation of the EU TAF: East & Southern Africa, West & Central Africa, East & South Neighbourhood, Asia & Central Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

If there is a particular topic that you would like to see covered in future newsletters, please write to us. We welcome your feedback!

With our best wishes,

The TAF teams

What's new: Field facts and findings

Niger: Hybrid Power Plant in Agadez

Activity areas: Mobilising funds and partnerships; Technical support in programming and preparation of projects

In the northern Niger city of Agadez, the injection of 13MW of solar power will boost the hybrid power plant capacity to supply electricity to some 200,000 people.

The TAF West/Central Africa was entrusted with the design, feasibility and environmental and social impact studies for a hybrid power plant in the strategic town of Agadez, 1,000 km North-East of the Capital City Niamey.

The city of Agadez is in an 'energy island', which is not connected to the main grid. The hybrid power plant will combine three energy sources: solar, diesel as well the energy coming from a nearby coal power plant that has traditionally served the city. The power plant combines three energy sources for the first time in Africa with 4.5 MW coal, 6 MW Diesel and 13 MWp Photovoltaic. The new component is the injection of 13MW of solar power.

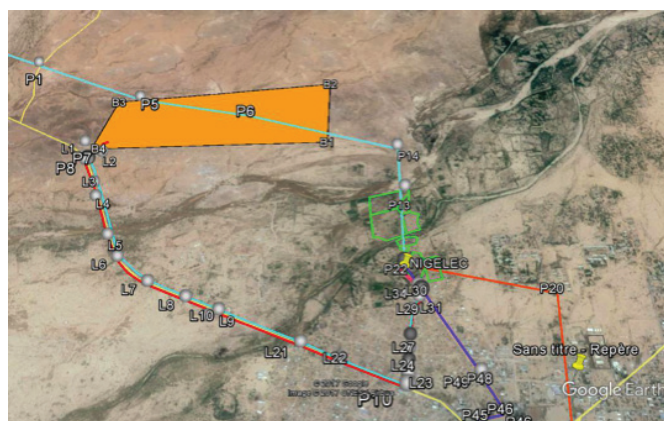
The design was based on the existing coal supply guaranteed above 4.5 MW (base), and an expected peak-load of 11 MW by 2021. It was also based on least cost energy supply approach and social tariffs.

The pre-feasibility and feasibility studies were prepared by the TAF team in a record time. The TAF drafted the environmental study and took all necessary steps for its validation by the central and local authorities.

Apart from power generation, the project also supports the rehabilitation and reinforcement of the existing distribution grid in the city of Agadez, and the electrification of a neighbouring village at a few kilometers from the power plant site.

The plant will supply electricity to some 200,000 people, day and night. The plant will also ensure continued supply to public institutions – from health centres and schools to police and municipality buildings, as well as public companies' offices established in Agadez. The project has been taken on by the French Agency for Development (AFD), and will be co-financed by the EU's Africa Investment Facility.

The national utility company '*Société Nigerienne l'Electricité (Nigelec)*' has invited prequalification applications by 28 February for the design, supply and installation of equipment, and commissioning of the hybrid power plant on a turn-key Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis. The contract also requires the operation and maintenance of the project for two years before its transfer to Nigelec.



The location proposed is at half a kilometre (0.5) from the N52 road direction Arlit



Consultation by TAF with local public and authorities



What's new: Field facts and findings

Cuba: Sustainable Energy Forum 2018

Activity area: Mobilising funds and partnerships

The European Union has an important role to play in opening the path for needed foreign investments in sustainable energy in Cuba. The EU and the Ministry of Energy and Mines jointly organised the 'Cuba Sustainable Energy Forum 2018'.

The Cuba Sustainable Energy Forum 2018 was held in La Havana, Cuba on 30 and 31 January in the context of the first International Fair of Renewable Energies in Cuba. This Forum brought together over 200 participants from Cuba and other 19 countries.

The Forum had two main objectives: for the Cuban authorities, to present their new energy and foreign investment policies along with the portfolio of investment opportunities in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Cuba; for the EU, to showcase technologies and lessons learnt from the European experience and present the range of available financing instruments in Cuba.



The Cuba Sustainable Energy Forum 2018 was attended by high level officials from the Cuban government and the European Union: Mr. Ramiro Valdéz Menendez, Cuban Vice President and Mr. Stefano Manservigi, Director General of DEVCO, the European Commission.

Cuba's Renewable energy sector is ready for an investment push

Cuba is calling foreign investors to take a serious look at the investment opportunities on offer –including renewable energy project opportunities in wind, solar PV, hydro and biomass. The Forum focused on the Cuban energy sector landscape, the regulatory and enabling environment, investment incentives and opportunities. Energy technologies and their investment drivers were also vividly discussed. By the time the Forum ended, the Union Eléctrica de Cuba, the Cuban utility, signed agreements for two wind farms totalling 200MW of power generations.

Investments flows supported with blending and funding instruments

The EU and some of its Member States (Italy, France and Spain) presented a wide range of opportunities for access to financing support for renewable energy investments. The EU sent a strong message that it is ready to support investment in the Cuban energy sector through EU innovative funding instruments such as blending. The EU's 18 Million Euro cooperation agreement and the long-term commitment of the EU to support Cuba's clean energy roadmap were highlighted.

The TAF team of experts supported the technical development of the programme and worked with Fira Barcellona to facilitate business-to-business (B2B) sessions. Those sessions were meant to establish investment leads and contacts between Cuban counterparts and EU companies.

For more information about the Forum, please visit: <http://www.cuba-sustainableenergyforum2017.eu/>



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What's new: Field facts and findings

Tanzania: Strategising for Energy Efficiency

Activity areas: Capacity building in policy and regulatory framework; Technical support in programming and preparation of projects

Tanzania is preparing its 20-year Energy Efficiency Strategy, for the domains of industry, buildings, and transport. A consultation workshop brought together stakeholders to discuss the scope and process of developing this Strategy.

The EU Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Tanzania in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy is facilitating the development of a National Energy Efficiency (EE) Strategy. The purpose of the 20-year EE Strategy is to set up market-friendly tools that will ensure steady growth of the national economy, and a more energy efficient lifestyle –with limited, if any, budgetary support.

The TAF team is coordinating the consultation process, to start developing a realistic and effective strategy

The TAF team is providing support to develop the EE Strategy on the solid basis of a realistic assessment of the current status of the economy with the emerging national industry (to a large extent in rural areas), fast-growing transport and building construction sector, the need to preserve forest resources, but still under conditions of a very low level of household income.

The Stakeholders Workshop, focused on the 'Preparation of Energy Efficiency Strategy for Tanzania', was held in Dar es Salaam on 25 January 2018, bringing together more than 50 stakeholders, ranging from national institutions and specialised agencies to international development partners, who provided their insights and inputs.

The workshop aimed at raising awareness of the importance of energy efficiency with topics including advantages and challenges of energy efficiency, and the importance of the Energy Efficiency Strategy in achieving the overall goals of the 2015 National Energy Policy – which features a significantly strengthened emphasis on promotion of energy efficiency.



“Only if energy efficiency policies, strategies and actions are put in place, will efforts by the Government to provide enough and reliable energy, particularly electricity, be enough to allow for the country's socio-economic transformation.”

Acting Assistant Commissioner (New & Renewable Energy) Ministry of Energy, Eng. Styden Rwebangila.

Background

In Tanzania, the energy balance is dominated by biomass use (charcoal and firewood) and its contribution to the total national energy consumption is about 90 percent. Petroleum products contribute about 8 percent of the total energy consumed, while electricity accounts for 1.5 percent and 0.5 percent from solar, coal, wind and other sources. Energy efficiency can play a significant role in reducing energy demand; energy cost and improves energy security.

The EU is a long standing partner supporting the energy sector in Tanzania. Energy Efficiency is one of its priority areas with already ongoing support. A Financing Agreement will be signed shortly with the Government of Tanzania to support the implementation of a 4-year Energy Efficiency Programme, amounting to 8 million Euros.



What's new: Field facts and findings

Guinea Conakry: New Hydro Plants Under Preparation

Activity area: Technical support in programming and preparation of projects

Against the backdrop of a remarkably low access to energy rate in rural Guinea, small hydropower sites in 6 locations are in the pipeline. The TAF has prepared the pre-feasibility studies.

Access to electricity in Guinea is improving in urban areas, where it reached around three quarter of the population, but it is still almost absent in rural areas – with some 96% of the rural population without access to energy. Guinea is endowed with the best hydropower potential in West Africa -which remains largely untapped.

In response, the Guinean government has identified small dam sites in the four natural regions of the country which would substantially boost access to electricity for populations and actors in isolated localities.

It is in this perspective that the Ministry of Energy and Hydraulics through the National Energy Directorate sought the support of the French Development Agency (AFD) and the European Union through the TAF, in order to finance feasibility studies and prepare investments in these facilities. The EU and France signed a Joint Declaration on sustainable energy cooperation with Guinea only in June 2017.

During an official launch event, the studies were presented to stakeholders in order to determine their potential, as well as the estimated costs.

The Pre-feasibility studies of 6 small hydropower schemes for rural electrification were presented to local and regional stakeholders, after several months' of technical work on the ground. The 6 small hydropower schemes for rural electrification are located in the Foko micro-dams in Kindia (Lower Guinea); Kambali and Bagata in Tougué (Middle Guinea); Tinkisso 2 in Dabola (Upper Guinea); Palan and Lokoua in the prefecture of Beyla (Guinée Forestière).

Each site involves the construction of a dam, a hydroelectric generating station, and medium and low-voltage networks for the electrification of neighbouring populations. Possibilities of connection to the national transmission network have also been analysed for export of surplus capacity and import during the dry season, to guarantee the power supply to these rural populations.

Background

Guinea has considerable renewable energy resources, particularly for hydroelectricity for which around 4740 MW of potential has been detected. The energy demand in Guinea is projected to rise considerably and – according to government forecast – additional capacity between 535 and 1838 MW would be necessary by 2025.



On behalf of the EU, Ambassador Gerardus Gielen opened the session at the Pre-Feasibility Studies Launch event, together with Ms Patricia Aubras, Director of AFD in Guinea and the Guinean Minister for Energy and Hydraulics, Dr. Cheick Taliby Sylla. (December 7, 2017).



What's next: Upcoming missions

Lebanon: Country Fiche on Sustainable Energy



An in-depth assessment and analysis of the Sustainable Energy sector policies and regulatory framework in Lebanon is foreseen under a new TAF assignment, in the form of a detailed Country Fiche on Sustainable Energy. Specific emphasis will be placed on three sub-sector policies: Energy Efficiency (EE), Renewable Energy (RE), and Sustainable Energy Investment and Financing. The Country Fiche will pave the way for a possible future EU programme in support to the Green Economy, focusing on renewable energy, among other components.

Angola: Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) model for Renewable Energy projects



A new TAF assignment will assist in the development of a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) model for Angola. In coordination with the relevant Ministry and other concerned stakeholders, the TAF team will analyse the legal, institutional, regulatory, and administrative framework, benchmark with international best practices on PPAs in similar markets of sub-Saharan Africa, and prepare the PPA model along with its proposed modalities of implementation.

SADC: Industrial Energy Efficiency Programme



Over the past months, the TAF team conducted a scoping study aimed at assessing the potential for energy efficiency in all Southern African Development Community - SADC Member States, focusing on in the industrial sector- particularly the manufacturing subsector. This confirmed the rationale for a SADC-wide Industrial Efficiency Programme. Having performed the preliminary ground work, the next step is to now design and develop the SADC Industrial Energy Efficiency Programme-SIEEP, which will be implemented by SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency within in the Southern African region (SACREEE).

Papua New Guinea: Sustainable Energy in Rural Entrepreneurship



The EU is supporting the PNG to establish strong and efficient value chain enablers, focusing on support services, infrastructure, policy and regulatory environment, through the use of renewable energy systems by rural entrepreneurs. Current support focuses on supporting the vanilla, cocoa and fishery value chains in the Sepik region, which features strong agro-ecological potential.

The TAF team will explore the possibility of a concerted support from various Development Partners to ensure that renewable energy for economic activities is available in a sustainable, reliable and affordable manner. Renewable Energy opportunities will be profiled by value chain fiches for each of the sectors. The report will contribute to the Sustainable Energy section of the EU's Action Document for Papua New Guinea.



What we do: The EU's Technical Assistance Facility for Sustainable Energy

The 'EU's Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for Sustainable Energy' assists partner countries in fine-tuning their energy policies and regulatory framework that allow for increased investments in the energy sector. The TAF supports countries which are committed to reaching Sustainable Energy objectives, and in particular those who selected energy not only as one of the priority areas of their national policy agenda but also as focal sector in their bilateral cooperation with the EU for the period of 2014-2020.

Through targeted expert missions to the partner countries, five types of technical assistance packages ('Activity Areas') are delivered:

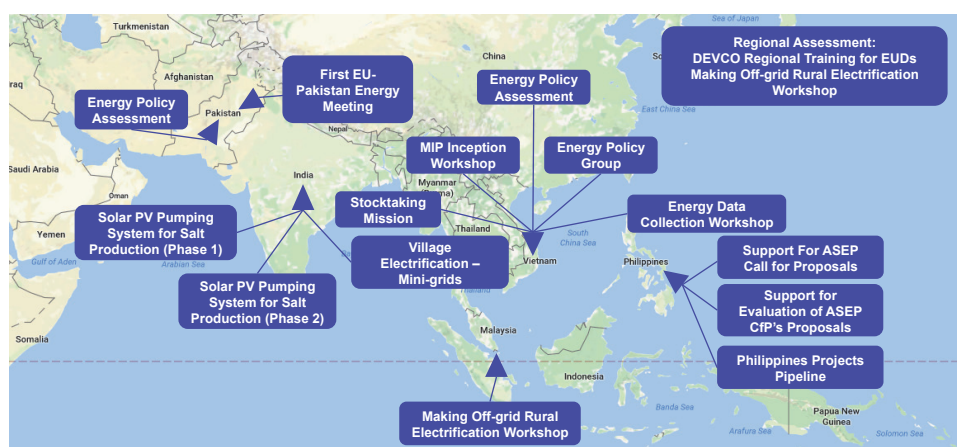
Policy and reforms; Capacity building; Investment projects planning; Mobilising funds and partnerships; Industrial and technology cooperation.

Overview of TAF support:

Since its launch in 2013, the TAF has provided technical assistance for some 220 missions in Sub-Saharan Africa.

A year after the Sub-Saharan Africa TAF launch, TAF operations were extended to also accommodate regions beyond Sub-Saharan Africa, and to date over 30 technical teams have been deployed by the TAF 'Rest of the World' Facility – ranging from the East and South Neighbourhood and Asia to Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

Focus on: Asia



Supporting the **#EU's vision** and strategies at national and regional level

Provision of **#high quality** technical assistance at Partner Country and Region

Institutional **#memory** through a core Key Expert team

#Low lead times from ToR preparation to assignment launch

Efficient and **#effective management** of each mission

#Control mechanism and QA for coherent deliverables



Who's who: Meet the team

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DISCLAIMER

This newsletter update has been drafted by the EU's Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for Sustainable Energy. The aim is to update EU Delegations regarding news and findings from the TAF missions and areas of assistance. The data has been collected from various sources by the TAF Experts in the context of the ongoing TAF missions, and is not exclusive. Please feel free to contact us with any feedback on the information provided, or other areas of support you would like to be informed of.



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