

**GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building
for Sustainable Bioenergy****ACTIVITY GROUP 5*****The Global Renewable Energy Atlas – Biomass Component*****Background on The Global Renewable Energy Atlas**

Doubling of the share of renewable energy globally and ensuring universal energy access requires identifying the most appropriate technologies and available resources for each national, regional, and local circumstance. This identification requires an assessment of local resources and conditions. The rapid deployment of investments in energy infrastructure and access projects will require accurate information, transparent decision-making, and detailed planning. Each of these steps requires a detailed assessment of the potential for each renewable energy resource throughout the world.

A large technical and knowledge gap exists between nations having access to the necessary funding, technologies, and expertise to evaluate their national potentials and those that do not currently possess those abilities. The Global Renewable Energy Atlas initiative, operated by IRENA, aims at gathering the best institutes, datasets and methods to develop a single open-source internet-based platform, designed from the recommendations of the end-users, and developed by a large international partnership.

The initiative started with the development of the Global Solar and Wind Atlas, developed in 2011 and 2012, in partnership with the multilateral Solar and Wind working group of the Clean Energy Ministerial. At the time of writing, twelve countries are directly involved in the initiative, and are committing man-power and datasets to the programme, by involving their national institutes.

The mandate of IRENA should address all renewable energy resources, and the initiative would expand into a Global Renewable Energy Atlas by including bioenergy, geothermal energy, and hydropower in 2013 and 2014, and marine energies in 2015.

The partnership strategy does not duplicate the work or efforts of existing stakeholder networks and initiatives, including the work of relevant members. The strategy is to build on existing partnerships. Similarly to the Solar and Wind component, which is operated in partnership with the Clean Energy Ministerial, the technical groups should be jointly operated with existing networks or organizations.

For bioenergy, it is proposed to create an activity group within the GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building (WGCB), co-led and operated by IRENA and the GBEP Secretariat and in cooperation with GBEP Partners and Observers and any other relevant partners.

Outcomes

The outcome of this programme is a single joint platform providing free and open access to the most advanced datasets and tools, to help countries willing to initiate the assessment of their renewable potentials.

The Internet-based platform is designed to raise awareness of technology opportunities, to limit the financial risk for countries willing to investigate their technical potentials further, and for companies willing to invest in a new market. To this end, it provides high quality resource maps from leading technical institutes worldwide, and simplified models for evaluating the technical information. The dataset is enriched by more detailed national atlases that are validated against measurement campaigns.

The ambition for this platform is to become a repository for high quality renewable energy resource data and a catalyst to trigger planning, policy development and attract investors in emerging and new renewable energy markets.

Focus of the Activity Group

The Activity Group would identify the datasets and databases that would be relevant for integration to the Global Renewable Energy Atlas.

The determination of bioenergy potential is a complex process, requiring large amounts of information, critical expertise, and ground-based analysis. The Group would advise on the methods and instruments which could realistically be integrated into the Global Atlas interface in order to provide relevant support to countries willing to initiate their own national assessment. Those methods and instruments would be carefully selected in order to provide quality information, based on quality-controlled datasets, and taking into account the technical limits of geospatial analysis for advising policy-makers.

The Activity Group would contribute to overall objectives of the Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy, by providing a platform primarily for *identifying and disseminating information about existing tools and resources available from both the public and private sources and facilitating appropriate linkages between them.*

The Activity Group would in addition identify opportunities for the Global Renewable Energy Atlas to share information, stimulate discussion, and identify opportunities for cooperation on sustainable bioenergy development and deployment.

Governance

The Activity Group will report to the GBEP Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB). It would also act as the bioenergy technical group of the Global Renewable Energy Atlas. The activities and the outcomes of the Activity Group would also be reported to the Steering Committee of the Global Renewable Energy Atlas by its leader, IRENA.

GBEP and the Steering Committee of the Global Renewable Energy Atlas have an overlapping membership, which would enable efficient interactions between both initiatives. In addition, the GBEP Secretariat would be invited as observer to the Steering Committee of the Global Renewable Energy Atlas.

The GBEP Steering Committee and the Steering Committee of the Global Renewable Energy Atlas are the main governance bodies of the initiative. The latter is comprised of countries and organizations committed to contributing to the process in terms of providing data and / or supplying expertise. The Steering Committee meets on a regular basis, during the main IRENA events. The Steering Committee reviews the development of the initiative, and advises on its implementation. In addition, the Steering Committee brings added-value to the process, and adds content to the initiative by monitoring and/or enabling the coordination of the national

initiatives, enriched by regular exchanges of information.

Implementation Strategy - 2013

The Activity Group will be a pluri-annual activity. In 2013, the Activity would be organized as follows:

1. Presentation of the proposal for the Activity Group, November 2012.
2. Announcement of the Activity Group during the IRENA Assembly, January 2013.
3. Mobilization of GBEP Partners and Observers and constitution of the Activity Group, Q1 – Q2 2013.
4. First working session of the Activity Group, definition of the work programme, Q2 2013
5. First work programme for the Activity Group, Q3 2013.
6. Implementation phase starting, Q4 2013/ Q1 2014.

Participants

Leader	IRENA
Proposed partners	GBEP Partners and Observers, FAO (FAOSTAT), EEA (CORINE), IIASA (GGI, GAEZ), IICA, the United States (DOE, USDA, NREL, USGS-IGBP), Sweden (Chalmers University), the Netherlands (RIVM-IMAGE, Utrecht University), IEA, World Bank, IDB?

Estimated Budget - 2013

Administrative Cost – IRENA contribution¹	
1. Planning Activities	In kind contribution from IRENA: 2 man.months. External support financed by IRENA: 1 man.month
2. Travel	On case by case basis through the IRENA Global Atlas budget
Project Activity Cost	
1. Workshops	1 workshop in 2013 financed by IRENA, est. USD 15,000
2. Partners costs	For 2013 (planning phase), the effort is financed in kind by the contributing partners.

In cooperation and with the support of:



¹ Preliminary figures upon acceptance of the IRENA work programme and budget by the IRENA Assembly for 2013.