 

**CONCEPT NOTE & AGENDA**

**GBEP Activity Group 4**

**ECOWAS Workshop on Sustainable Wood Energy Management**

**Cotonou, Benin**

Supported by:

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1. **Background**

ECREEE, with the support of the Austrian Ministry of Forestry, Water and the Environment, ADA and AECID and the Government of Niger organised the ECOWAS Capacity Building Workshop on Sustainable Management of Forest (SMF) with a focus on REDD+ 27-29 April 2015 in Niamey, Niger. The workshop provided information and enhanced the overall capacities of relevant actors within the forestry and wood energy value-chain.

At the end of the workshop, the conclusions and recommendations were reached and agreed by all the participants. The recommendations and conclusions can be read at (web link to be included in due time).

In the implementation of the workshop recommendations and conclusions, ECREEE is partnering with GBEP to further the cause of promoting sustainable wood energy management, within a logical collaboration, considering that GBEP already has an Activity Group under the Working Group on Capacity Building (WGCB) for Sustainable Bioenergy. The purpose of the workshop is to build synergies, share experiences within the two institutions’ expert groups and to promote modern and sustainable wood energy management by bringing out success stories in various parts of the world.

In December 2013 GBEP decided to establish within the WGCB for Sustainable Bioenergy, the Activity Group 4 “*Towards sustainable modern wood energy development”* under the leadership of FAO, UNEP and UNF/GACC. It was agreed to adopt a stepwise approach, with the following initial activities:

* Stock taking paper regarding successful initiatives on solid biomass development in developing countries.
* Webinar to present the stock taking paper and exchange lessons learned.
* Capacity building workshop on lessons learned on wood energy development.

During the November 2014 meeting of the GBEPWGCB, the session dedicated to the Activity Group 4 was opened by a presentation of the stocktaking paper “*Towards sustainable modern wood energy development*” by ECO Consult, which conducted the study generously funded by GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation). The paper was well received by the participants and it was felt necessary to undertake further discussions on the recommendations and the next steps. FAO, a co-leader of the AG4, guided the discussions through a webinar which focused on the recommendations of the report and how to address them.

One of the recommendations agreed during the webinar is to focus on the necessary efforts for increasing the formalization of the wood energy sector in developing countries and how to contribute to building a positive image for small scale wood energy, which is fundamental for creating an enabling environment surrounding this sector. In order to discuss in detail the aforementioned recommendations it was proposed to organize a workshop where success stories are exchanged between neighbouring countries and/or countries with similar contexts in order to facilitate the transfer of these experiences and replication of best practices.

1. **Rationale for the proposed workshop**

This event brings together experts on wood energy from government sector, environment and forestry, policy makers and representatives of the financial institutions, both public and private, and civil society organizations that work towards the replication of the strategies and procedures that have proven effective in developing country contexts and similar to those reported in the GBEP stocktaking paper.

Additional success stories on wood energy management within the ECOWAS and other regions as well as those compiled by the GBEP Secretariat through a template circulated among the AG4 members and webinar participants will be presented and discussed during the meeting.

This event will discuss the main aspects that have been singled out as key for the sustainable development of the sector in Africa and elsewhere:

* **Institutional, legal and regulatory framework:** Introduction of legal and regulatory mechanism to ensure sustainable production, transformation and use of wood energy;
* **Image change**: modifying the negative image of the wood energy sector (particularly small scale) is a precondition for stakeholder’s involvement in the structural change process and policy reform;
* **Sector’s formalization**: under multiple aspects, the formalization of the wood energy sector is fundamental for understanding the extent and magnitude of its dynamics;
* **Successful financial mechanisms and business plans for sustainable wood energy value chains:** in addition to national and international financing mechanisms to support woodfuel related projects, this workshop will discuss financial platforms (public, private, and/or PPPs) and connect local actors with resource persons in the various financial mechanisms to discuss how to i) shorten the application process to access funding; ii) find low alternative transaction costs for small and local projects to be executed; iii) identify a harmonized region-wide approach to financing large and medium-term programmes for sustainable wood energy management;
* **Promotion of wood energy value chain approach in existing wood energy, sustainable land management and forestry projects**.

Tentative Agenda

Day 1

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| **8.30 – 9.00**  30 min. | **Participants Registration** |
| **9.00 – 10.00**  1 h | **Opening session/Welcome Remarks**   * **Statement - Mahama Kappiah,** Executive Director of ECREEE   (15 min.)   * **Statement – Maria Michela Morese,** Executive Secretary of the Global Bioenergy Partnership   (15 min.)   * **Statement** – Representative of the Austrian Ministry of the Environment (15 min) * **Keynote Speech** - Rep of the Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature, Benin   (15 min.)   * **Opening Speech** – Minister of Energy, Benin   Video on sustainable forest management (10 mins)  **Group Photo** |
| **10.00- 10.30**  30 min. | * **Background** of the Work of Activity Group 4 and the proposed workshop (Rational, goals and objectives), Olivier Dubois, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Activity Group 4 Leader and Marco Colangeli, Programme Adviser (GBEP)   (15 min.)  ECOWAS Bioenergy Program and developments in the sustainable Biomass management activities, ECREEE  (15 min.) |
| **10.30 – 11.00**  . | **Coffee/Tea/Cocoa break** |
|  | **Session 1: Institutional Framework for Sustainable Wood Management cases**  *Moderator: Director General of Energy, Benin* |
| **11.00 – 13.00**  2 h. | * **Regional overview of the state of the Forest in the ECOWAS Region – Alassane NGOM, PREGEDE, Senegal**   (15 min.)   * **Country experiences with successful institutional frameworks that resulted in positive effects on the management of wood energy**   + 1. Country A) (10 min. TBD – possibly Rwanda)     2. Country B) (10 min. TBD – possibly Congo)     3. Country C) (10 min. TBD – possibly Niger)     4. Country D) (10 min. TBD – possibly Madagascar)     5. Country E) (10 min. TBD – other Togo/Senegal)     6. Country F) (10 min. TBD – other The Gambia/Ghana)     7. Country G) (10 min. TBC – Kenya – Cookswell, Teddy Kinyanjui) * **Discussion and Feedback**   (20 min) |
| **13.00 – 14.30**  1 h 30 min. | **Lunch Break** |
|  | **Session 2: Image Change**  *Moderator: TBD* |
| **14.30 – 16.00**  1 h 30 min | * **Options for an image change: how to profile wood energy as renewable, modern and profitable energy source? What is the role of the civil society?– TBA**   + Legal and regulatory experience on export of wood products, *Otu Danquah, Ghana (20 min)*   + Fiscal incentives: Trade in the wood energy value chain, *Representative from Niger-TBD (20 min)*   + Technologies for Sustainable utilization of wood energy options: Pyrolysis or gasification, modern and efficient cookstoves**,** *University of Udine, Italy and other representatives TBD (45 min – 3 x 15)* |
| **16.00 – 16.30**  15 min. | **Coffee/Tea/Cocoa break** |
| **16.30 – 17.30**  1 h | * **Discussion and feedback** |
| **17.15 – 17.30**  15 min |  |

Day 2

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| **9.00 – 9.15**  15 min. | **Recap of Day 1 by Oliver Dubois,** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Activity Group 4 Leader |
|  | **Session 3: Wood Energy Sector Formalization**  *Moderator: TBD* |
| **9.15 – 10.30**  1 h 15 min | * **Overview of effective systems for the formalization of wood energy sector;**   (30 min.)   * **Discussion and feedback**   (45 min.) |
| **10.30 – 11.00**  15 min. | **Coffee/Tea/Cocoa break** |
|  | **Session 4: Successful financial mechanisms and business plans for sustainable wood energy value chains**  *Moderator: TBD* |
| **11.00 – 13.00**  2 h. | * **Introduction to session –** TBA   (10 min.)   * **Presentation of existing financial mechanisms and opportunities – TBA**   **Guiding questions:**   * + - 1. **How to shorten the application-to-funding timeframe?**       2. **How to find low transaction costs alternatives for small, local project to be executed?**       3. **Are there mechanisms to mitigate the lack of a region-wide harmonized approach to financing large medium-term programmes for sustainable wood energy management?**   Representative of AfDB (20 min.)  Representative of World Bank (20 min.)  Representative of European Commission (20 min.)  Representative of the Green Climate Fund (20 min.)  Representative of PlanVivo (TBC) (20 min.)   * **Panel Discussion on financial opportunities – Moderator (TBA)**   (45 min. TBA) |
| **13.00 – 14.30**  1 h 30 min. | **Lunch Break** |
|  | **Session 5: Promotion of wood energy value chain approach**  *Moderator: TBD* |
| **14.30 – 16.00**  1 h 30 min | * **Rationale for the promotion of a comprehensive approach to regulating and managing wood energy value chains – TBA**   (45 min.)   * **Discussion and feedback**   (45 min.) |
| **16.00 – 16.30** | **Coffee/Tea/Cocoa break** |
|  | **Workshop Wrap-up and Closing Session**  **Chairperson:** Rep of the Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature, Benin |
| **16.30 – 17.00**  45 min. | * **Workshop Conclusions and Follow up actions**   Olivier Dubois, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Activity Group 4 Leader and Bah Saho **-** ECREEE  (20 min.)   * **Closing remarks**   **Maria Michela Morese,** Executive Secretary of the Global Bioenergy Partnership  (10 min.)   * **Workshop Closure**   Rep of the Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature, Benin  (15 min.) |