

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UPDATED ECOWAS ENERGY POLICY



The last ECOWAS Energy Policy was published in 1982; since then, several significant economic, social, political and technological changes have taken place at the global, African and ECOWAS levels.

To adapt to these changes, **Member States are periodically updating their energy objectives, policies, as well as their regulatory and institutional framework.** At the regional level, several sub-sectoral policies have been adopted in the energy sector, specialised agencies have been created and operational, and several strategic studies have been carried out.

Also, the importance of enhanced regional cooperation and a harmonised approach between Member States has been demonstrated and is recognised by all stakeholders.

Given the above and anticipating continued global and regional changes over the next 30 years, the ECOWAS Directorate for Energy and Mines has taken steps to update the 1982 Regional Energy Policy.

The Regional Energy Policy is ambitious and transformative:

Ambitious because it aims at providing universal access to modern and clean energy (electricity, natural gas, butane for cooking, biogas, etc.) at a reasonable cost for 810 million people (forecast for 2050) in the 15 countries of West Africa. It also aims to triple final energy consumption (with a small increase in greenhouse gas emissions) and to increase final energy consumption per capita by 30-40%.

Transformative because it aims at an energy mix based on renewable energies available in the ECOWAS region (hydroelectricity, solar, wind and other renewable energies, and in the future green hydrogen), on natural gas, on a significant improvement in energy efficiency, and on a very significant reduction of wood fuels (wood and charcoal) in the energy balance of the Member States.

ECOWAS Vision for the energy sector

A Community with access to modern, affordable, reliable and sustainable energy services for improved living standards and socio-economic development

This vision is fully in line with the ECOWAS Revised Treaty, the Sustainable Development Goals, international agreements on Climate Change (in particular the 2015 Paris Agreement signed by Member States), Vision 2050 of ECOWAS, Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as the various national, regional and international commitments of ECOWAS and its Member States.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:

IMPROVE THE GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE ENERGY SECTOR

Governance brings together the policies, measures, legal rules, institutions, information and stakeholder participation mechanisms that ensure the proper functioning and control of the activities to be carried out to achieve an objective. Good governance is based on four fundamental principles: accountability, transparency, the rule of law and participation. Governance, transparency of energy sector activities, improvement and continuous upgrading of skills are **essential** for improving the performance of energy sector entities. ECOWAS, through its specialised structures and Member States, should accelerate the implementation of programmes to improve governance and transparency in the energy sector.

Expected Results

1. Policy frameworks and sector strategies, as well as legal and regulatory frameworks in the electricity sub-sector are improved;
2. National and regional regulatory frameworks for the electricity sub-sector are improved and strengthened;
3. The methods of setting electricity tariffs and selling petroleum products to the general public are improved;
4. Environmental and social management of energy projects is improved;
5. The gender, equality and equity dimension is fully integrated in the energy sector;
6. Information, communication and access to reliable data and indicators improved and harmonised;
7. A framework for continuous strengthening and updating of regional and national skills designed and implemented;
8. Research and Development is promoted;

Priority Actions

- 1.1 Improve sector policy frameworks and strategies, as well as legal and regulatory frameworks in the electricity sub-sector
- 1.2 Improve and strengthen national and regional regulatory frameworks for the electricity
- 1.3 Improving the way electricity tariffs are set and the way consumer petroleum products
- 1.4 Improving the environmental and social management of investment projects
- 1.5 Fully integrate gender, equality and equity into energy sector activities
- 1.6 Improve and harmonise information, communication and access to reliable data and indicators
- 1.7 Design and implement a framework for the continuous strengthening and updating of regional and national skills
- 1.8 Promote Research and Development

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:

ENSURE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO ADEQUATE, AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ELECTRICITY SERVICES

Universal access is a major challenge in the region, as **almost half of the population still does not have access to electricity services**. The situation in ECOWAS in terms of quality of service, costs and prices of electricity is mixed. **This requires actions adapted to each national situation**. Furthermore, the **significant differences between the situations in urbanised and peri-urban areas and those in rural areas** call for differentiated actions, which are possible thanks to renewable energies and the private sector's interest.

Expected Results

1. Implementation of rural electrification programmes strengthened;
2. More funding mobilised;

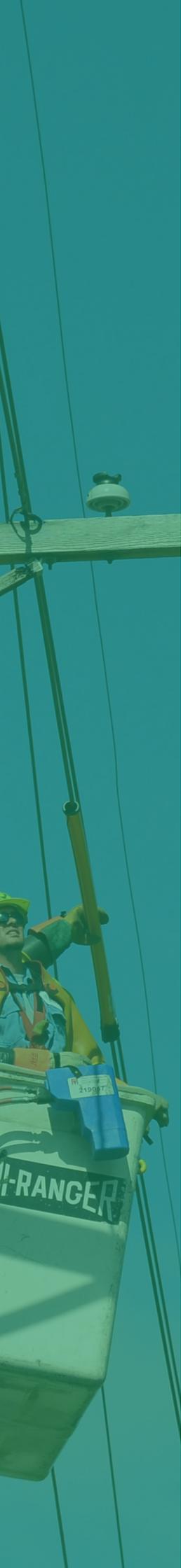
Priority Actions



Strengthen the implementation of rural electrification programmes.



Increasing the mobilisation of funding



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:

IMPROVE THE SECURITY, RELIABILITY AND QUALITY OF THE ENERGY SUPPLY

Improving the security, reliability and quality of energy supply is linked heavily to the development of the regional electricity market, the availability of electricity and gas interconnections, the availability of quality oil products in all Member States.

Expected Results

1. Regional electricity interconnections and the regional electricity market are operational;
2. Regional gas interconnections are developed and oil reception, storage and transport infrastructures are modernised and strengthened;
3. The quality of petroleum products is improved;
4. Stability of electricity networks is improved;

Priority Actions

- 3.1 Accelerate regional electricity interconnections and further develop the regional electricity market
- 3.2 Develop regional gas interconnections and infrastructure for the reception, storage and transport of oil products.storage and transport of oil products
- 3.3 Further implementation of harmonised motor fuel specifications
- 3.4 Integration of batteries into electricity grids to ensure grid stability

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4:

DIVERSIFY THE ENERGY MIX THROUGH GREATER INTEGRATION OF RENEWABLES, NATURAL GAS, NUCLEAR AND ALL OTHER FORMS OF CLEAN ENERGY INCLUDING HYDROGEN

The two main sources of GHG emissions in the ECOWAS region are electricity generation from liquid fossil fuels (liquid hydrocarbon thermal power plants) and the use of liquid hydrocarbons in transport. Within the energy transition framework and the Paris Agreements on Climate Change objectives, Member States have committed themselves through their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to promote green energy in their energy mix. At the regional level, sectoral policies have also focused on extending renewable energy and diversifying energy sources.

Expected Results:

1. More renewable energy infrastructure for access to distributed energy services is built;
2. The use of natural gas for transport and industry is popularised;
3. Nuclear energy has been successfully introduced in to the national and regional electricity generation mix;
4. Promote all other forms of clean energy including hydrogen;

Priority Actions

- 4.1 Increase the provision of renewable energy infrastructure for access to energy services
- 4.2 Support the development of natural gas infrastructure for transport and industry
- 4.3 Support the introduction of nuclear into the electricity generation mix
- 4.4 Promote all other forms of clean energy, including hydrogen

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5:

PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION

Energy efficiency, while offering an essential and inexpensive opportunity, plays only a modest role in the implementation of policies and strategies of ECOWAS member states. ECOWAS has developed an energy efficiency policy, the performance of which is monitored by ECREEE.

This policy has been translated into national action plans at the level of the member states, the implementation of which varies from country to country.

Expected Results

1. Technical and non-technical losses in transmission and distribution are reduced;
2. Regionally agreed minimum efficiency standards are implemented and energy audits are carried out in Member States;
3. The market for efficient biomass energy production and consumption equipment is established and understood by all actors;

Priority Actions

- 5.1** Continue efforts to reduce technical and non-technical losses in the electricity value chain
- 5.2** Accelerate the implementation of regionally agreed minimum efficiency standards and energy audits
- 5.3** Promote efficient biomass energy production and consumption facilities



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6:

INCREASE PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO MODERN AND CLEAN ENERGY FOR COOKING

Member States have set very **ambitious targets for access to clean energy for cooking and for the substitution of solid biomass energy**. This substitution towards modern fuels (LPG, biogas, electricity) and clean energies has significant **positive impacts in terms of curbing deforestation** (through less pressure on the resource), **climate change and also on the health of populations** (children and women in particular).

Expected Results

1. LPG provision infrastructure is strengthened and fuel is popularised;
2. The use of clean alternative fuels to charcoal and firewood and excluding LPG for cooking has increased;

Priority Actions



6.1 Assist in the implementation of LPG programs



6.2 Support the implementation of improved cookstove programs, particularly by the private sector and NGOs