





PRESS RELEASE

THE SADC REGION VALIDATES A REGIONAL PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States have refined and validated a regional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (REEESAP) for the period 2016 to 2030, which aims to increase energy access and security, support industrialisation, empower lives and enhance environmental sustainability.

The SADC Secretariat in collaboration with the European Union's Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for the "Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL)", organized a two-day workshop from 5 to 6 October 2016 in Johannesburg. About forty (40) representatives from SADC Member States (Ministries or Departments responsible for Energy), SADC implementing agencies (SAPP, RERA, SACREEE), Regional Economic Communities (COMESA), as well as International Cooperating Partners and SADC, deliberated to fine-tune a regional roadmap for a swift transition toward sustainable energy.

The SADC Region plans to harness its abundant renewable energy resources and energy efficiency opportunities to meet its energy challenges, such as an insufficient access to modern energy services (43% overall and only 10% in rural areas), an ongoing energy deficit since 2007, heavy reliance on fossil fuels and traditional biomass, and a pressing need to mitigate climate change. Its growing population, rapid urbanisation and economic growth have seen energy demand soaring and will deepen the energy deficit, unless new and renewable energy systems are rapidly introduced into the energy mix. Renewables already account for 23.5% of electricity generation in the SADC region and could rise to 60% under favourable policy scenarios, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

In his introductory remarks, Mr Moses Ntshemle, representing the SADC Secretariat on behalf of the SADC's Director of Infrastructure and Services, highlighted the importance given to sustainable energy at regional level, as manifested by the outcome of the SADC Joint Ministerial Workshop on Energy and Water held last June in Gaborone and the theme of the 36th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government, titled "Resource Mobilisation for Investment in Sustainable Energy Infrastructure for an Inclusive SADC Industrialisation for the Prosperity of the Region".

The workshop was chaired by Mr Henry D. Shongwe, from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy of Swaziland, who further commented on the industrialisation strategy in the region, saying that it cannot be accomplished without developing sustainable energy infrastructure as an enabler. Therefore, this strategy and action plan can assist SADC Member States in fulfilling this dream.

Mr Terry Cook, from the EU Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for the "Sustainable Energy for All" Initiative (SE4ALL) which is supporting the REEESAP development process, encouraged Member States and other stakeholders to tap into this Facility for technical assistance.

SADC Ministers responsible for Energy at their 34th Meeting held in South Africa in 2015, made a Decision regarding development of a regional framework for RE and EE. In response to this, the SADC Secretariat has since April 2016 conducted a broad consultative process, through two workshops, that included key energy stakeholders (public and private sectors, academia, ICPs and NGOs). This participatory approach has been crucial to provide the most up-to-date and comprehensive overview of the renewable energy and energy efficiency situation, opportunities and challenges in the region, and prioritize regional strategic interventions to unlock the RE and EE potential, spur investment and boost the market take-off of these technologies.

Aligned with other regional and global initiatives and objectives, the REEESAP is an important landmark in forging a regional coherent commitment, by creating conducive environments, setting ambitious regional and national targets and proposing strategic interventions to achieve them. Guidelines, as well as a Communication Plan have been developed to assist Member States in designing and implementing their own action plans, using REEESAP as a regional framework to articulate their path towards accelerating the uptake of RE/EE and attract investments.

Through a coordinated approach, the SADC Region is well positioned to give a strong impetus to the RE and EE manufacturing and deployment, hence contributing to its Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063), and help the region leapfrog into a sustainable energy future.

The REEESAP will be presented to the SADC Ministers responsible for Energy at their next meeting, scheduled for June 2017, for consideration and approval.

It is expected that the recently established SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) will play a key role in implementing the REEESAP, harmonizing and coordinating efforts with other initiatives, thus turning the vision and targets into concrete action and reality.

Johannesburg, South Africa
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Ma République Malinkha
 SADC ENERGY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Energy at a glance in the SADC Region

42%	62%	62%	21.5%
Renewable energy capacity in the SADC region	Renewable energy capacity in the SADC region	Renewable energy capacity in the SADC region	Renewable energy capacity in the SADC region

Other key figures and trends

- Renewable energy capacity in the SADC region
- Renewable energy capacity in the SADC region
- Renewable energy capacity in the SADC region

ROADMAP FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE

Action plans have been framed along the following strategic interventions:

- Strengthen national and regional institutions to adopt and implement RE/EE projects, notably existing SADC agencies expected to implement the REEFESAP and institutions catering for RE/EE, particularly off-grid systems or attracting private sector participation.
- Create national frameworks to ensure an enabling environment for RE/EE investments. As Member States are required to implement REEFESAP by 2019, they need to set up National Action Plans, Integrated Resource Plans with clear set targets, Independent Power Producers (IPP) frameworks to attract investments and cost-reflective tariffs for both grid and off-grid systems.
- Adopt appropriate regulation and standardization frameworks for RE/EE projects and investments, such as the quality standards for RE/EE, standardised Power Purchase Agreements, regulation of grid losses and energy auditing standards.
- Attract private sector participation in investments for RE and EE, through transparent and flexible investment regimes and better access to funding opportunities through prior project preparation and market assessment.
- Build capacity to design, develop, build, implement and maintain RE/EE projects, notably in creating skills for JEP development, formulation of IPP frameworks, project development, accessing project financing, technology development and energy auditing.

SADC, A GAME CHANGER

ABOUT SADC AND THE EU TAF FOR THE SE4ALL INITIATIVE

Member States Development Community (MDC)

EU Technical Assistance Facility for the "Sustainable Energy for All" Initiative





Regional Information Centre for SADC Strategy SADC Validation Workshop on SADC