



SADC Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility Kick-off Meeting

27 April 2017 in Maseru, Lesotho

Concept Note

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) region experiences energy poverty manifesting through persistent power crisis and a lack of access to clean and affordable energy by the majority of its citizens. Despite the rapidly falling costs and increasing robustness of the technology as well as undisputed competitiveness in application in certain areas, renewable energy systems have not penetrated the SADC market with the necessary pace. The latent potential of private sector in addressing the energy poverty is still to be developed. However, sustainable energy entrepreneurs face numerous challenges that inhibit their potential ability to contribute to addressing the energy poverty. Some of the barriers faced by entrepreneurs include:

- Lack of enhanced business skills to manage the dynamic nature of sustainable energy
- Lack of funding, especially enterprise finance
- Lack of awareness of business opportunities in the niche markets
- Lack of institutional support that includes lack of favourable physical, legal, regulatory, and political environment enabling entrepreneurs and industry when adopting market driven forces to deliver solutions – “the enabling ecosystem.

SADC Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility.

In order to address some of the barriers and challenges experienced by the private sector, the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) are partnering to establish the **SADC Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility**. The objective of the Facility is to enhance and strengthen the capacity of small to medium entrepreneurs in assessing the business potentials of sustainable energy, develop viable business plans and loan requests, and managing and maintaining their businesses successfully. Furthermore, the Facility will also aim to increase the confidence of financial institutions in sustainable energy systems and create linkages between the entrepreneurs and financial institutions. The project will be implemented in the fifteen member countries¹ of the SADC region and builds on the Memorandum of Understanding between IRENA and the SACREEE, signed in January 2017.

The Government of Lesotho, supported by the UNDP office in Lesotho², has kindly offered to host the kick off meeting for the establishment of the **SADC Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility**.

The date of the Kick-off meeting is 27 April 2017 in Maseru, Lesotho.

¹ SADC member countries: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

² UNDP office in Lesotho will sponsor the venue and catering for the meeting as well as participation of local stakeholders, while IRENA will sponsor the participation of up to 10 delegates outside Lesotho by providing travel and full accommodation.

Kick-off Meeting 27 April 2017 Maseru, Lesotho

AGENDA

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:40	Welcoming remarks by Government of Lesotho, UNDP, IRENA , and SACREEE Introduction of attendees Group photo
09:40 – 10:00	Presentation on SACREEE
<i>10:00 – 10:30</i>	<i>Tea break</i>
10:30 – 10:50	NEPAD Presentation on the Gender and Renewable Energy Programme (NEPAD)
10:50 – 11:10	Presentation on IRENA and its activities in Africa (IRENA)
11.10 – 11:30	Entrepreneurship Support Facility – lessons learnt from West Africa (2iE)
11:30 – 12:30	Presentation of the Draft SADC Entrepreneurship Support Facility (SACREEE)
<i>12:30 – 13:30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:45	Discussion on proposed Facility and possible collaboration amongst partners on the Entrepreneurship Support Facility in SADC
15:45-16:15	Way-forward with the Facility and Closing Remarks – IRENA and SACREEE
<i>16:15-16:30</i>	<i>Tea break and adjournment</i>