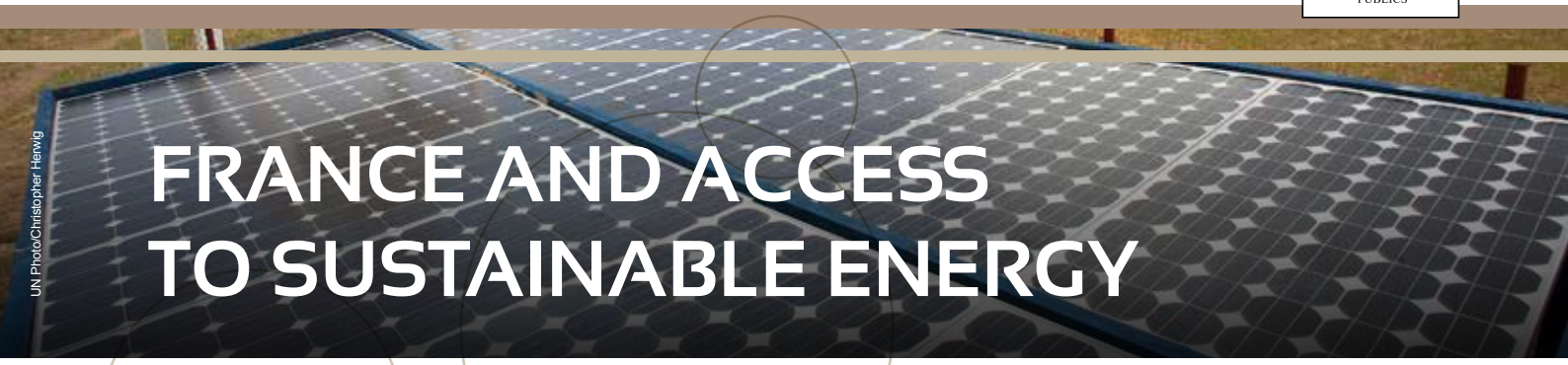
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HOW FRANCE'S DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS are meeting the challenge of climate change?



UN Photo/Christopher Herwig

FRANCE AND ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Objectives for 2030

Today more than 1.3 billion people in the world are without access to electricity, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and in Asia.
In 2011 the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL) designed to ensure by 2030 :
* **universal access to modern energy services;**
* **a doubling of the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency;**
* **a doubling in the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.**

In 2009, 7.1 billion euros were invested globally to extend the access to modern energy services, yet a total of 38.6 billion euros is required annually to ensure universal energy access by 2030.

Energy is central to sustainable, economic and social development. It plays a key role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as the future post-2015 agenda.
Development assistance in the energy sector is therefore crucial for combating the current situation of energy poverty which hinders socio-economic development in the poorest countries.

French development assistance priorities in the energy sector

French development assistance in the energy sector is implemented within the framework of global strategies to combat poverty, promote green growth and protect global public goods.
France supports an integrated and balanced approach to the three objectives of the SE4ALL Initiative.

Our action today revolves around four major objectives:
* **giving priority to renewable energy** and energy efficiency;
* **improving energy access** in rural and peri-urban areas;
* **securing and strengthening** energy systems;
* **building energy policy a**nd stakeholder capacity.

Action geared to combat climate change

French development assistance is closely linked to our action to combat climate change. The French Development Agency (AFD) has devoted 9.5 billion euros to the energy sector since 2007, of which 6.8 billion euros was assigned to conduct renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

New adequate resources

As part of its new strategy, the AFD has committed 2 billion euros to renewable energy and energy efficiency over the three-year period (2013-2016). The total investment in the energy sector will be maintained at around 2 billion euros annually.
The French Global Environment Facility (FGEF) has made sustainable energy in Africa a priority for 2013-2014. It will subsidize the development of innovative projects, including energy access projects, with co-financing worth 5 million euros.

New actors need to be mobilized

In order to achieve the current objectives, including the SE4ALL initiative, additional funding must be mobilized. Therefore, creating the conditions for involving the private sector alongside traditional aid is essential today, by establishing new financing mechanisms with a strong leverage effect and by pursuing proactive reform and policy.

Clearly defined lines of action

Strengthening regional energy integration in West Africa is a major policy focus of French cooperation programmes. Several transmission line and electric interconnection projects scheduled within the framework of the West African Power Pool (WAPP), as well as various renewable energy infrastructure projects have been financed by the AFD in recent years (more than 200 million euros were committed to fund the electric interconnection between Ghana and Burkina Faso).

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development has provided significant support for the development of energy access policy by financing a West African *White Paper for a Regional Policy geared towards increasing access to energy services* and initiating the MEPRED Project for the promotion of energy access in national programmes and strategies. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also developing energy efficiency programmes with the support of the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME).

Rural Electrification Programme in Morocco

Since 1996, France has helped Morocco develop its Global Rural Electrification Programme (PERG), a very ambitious and successful project: in 2009, Morocco achieved a rural electrification rate of 97% with an average rate of connected households in electrified villages of about 75%. French cooperation provided a total contribution of 240 million euros. The PERG has among other things made it possible to electrify homes located far away from the national electricity network by installing more than 50,000 solar kits.

Enhanced Action in the EU framework

Innovative co-financing instruments

The European Union (EU) is today one of the leading actors in energy sector development assistance.
The EU both finances local energy initiatives and develops innovative co-financing instruments combining loans and grants that allow for significant leverage effect. An example of such an instrument is the ACP-EU Energy Facility that targets projects for access to sustainable energy in rural and peri-urban areas in sub-Saharan African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Since the creation of the Energy Facility in 2006, its total commitment has amounted to 445 million euros. The Energy Facility has not only helped finance 140 projects thereby ensuring energy access of some 15 million people, but also developed a European platform for donor-funded investments in improved energy access.

In June 2012, the EU announced a contribution of 465 million euros under the SE4ALL Initiative earmarked exclusively for financing energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.
With a participation of about 19.55% in the European Development Fund (EDF), France is today the second largest contributor to the EDF.

Concerted political action

At political level, France is participating in the European Union Energy Initiative (EUEI) for poverty reduction that was launched at the 2002 Earth Summit in Johannesburg to promote improved integration of energy into poverty reduction strategies.

France is also an active member of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) launched in Lisbon in December 2007 and helps to implement its Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP) through the AFD.

Developing green energy in West Africa

As the main donor in the energy sector in Africa, the AFD has for several years provided significant support to promote the use of geothermal energy. By funding more than 230 million euros, France has developed the geothermal potential of the Olkaria site in Kenya, which is among the most important sites in Africa. Other geothermal projects are currently being implemented (Ethiopia, Djibouti) or studied. French cooperation agencies are also working on new mechanisms for financing renewable energy and energy efficiency, in partnership with commercial banks and via specific appropriation lines.

> Useful links

French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development
> www.diplomatie.gouv.fr

French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy
> www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr

French Development Agency
> www.afd.fr

French Environment and Energy Management Agency
> www.ademe.fr

European Union
> http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/energy/index_fr.htm

Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL)
> www.sustainableenergyforall.org

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