USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

POWER AFRICA
Leveraging Partnerships to Increase
Access to Power in Sub-Saharan Africa

"POWER AFRICA" & PARTNER COUNTRY ENERGY IN THE NEWS

June 15 – June 28, 2014

Article Summaries & Full Clips

The following are articles written by third-party news outlets. The links to this information are provided for your convenience. The U.S. Agency for International Development does not endorse the views or positions stated by the authors of these articles and their media organizations.

IN THE NEWS: Featured "Power Africa" Articles

June 15 – June 28, 2014

POWER AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS

US investors flock to Africa to get in on the energy boom
June 17 | AFKInsider
Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the fastest-growing economic regions in the world, with the International Monetary Fund predicting continued growth as part of the continents economic transformation. Much of that transformation has to do with a fast-growing middle class, as well as vast agricultural and mineral resources, which is attracting investors and businesses from around the world. According to the U.S. Commerce Department, which is stepping up its involvement in sub-Saharan Africa, the region is now home to seven of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies.

Power Africa has achieved 75% of its goal
June 23 | Infrastructure news
The U.S. government is making significant progress on Power Africa's goal of adding more than 10 000 MW of efficient electricity generation capacity to Africa over the next five years. U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) Director Leocadia Zak highlighted the U.S. government's progress on the Power Africa initiative during the opening session of the Africa Energy Forum, which connects African leaders with global energy industry representatives in order to develop power infrastructure on the continent.

Foreign Aid Isn't Charity. It's an Investment
June 23*| Businessweek*
One of the few bright spots of bipartisanship on Capitol Hill of late has been in global development. The House recently passed a bill to support President Obama's Power Africa initiative, which is designed to boost access to electricity across six countries in the region. The U.S. still ranks near the bottom of the list among rich countries in terms of the generosity of its overseas development program, but these two pieces of legislation at least suggest that altruism and fellow feeling have not completely evaporated in Washington.

Senate Panel Backs Africa Electricity Bill
June 25 | Electric Co-op Today
A bill that would bring power to millions of people in Africa, a top NRECA legislative priority, has passed through a key Senate committee. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the Energize Africa Act of 2014 on June 24, sending it to the full Senate.

Senators Menendez and Corker Introduce Energize Africa Act
June 25 | Center For Global Development
Yesterday, Senators Menendez (D-NJ) and Corker (R-TN), the respective SFRC Chairman and Ranking Member, introduced the Energize Africa Act (S. 2508). Senators Coons, Isakson, Markey, and Johanns also co-sponsored the legislation. This bipartisan bill is thoughtful, comprehensive, and would give a significant boost to US efforts to promote growth and economic opportunity in the region. Here are three reasons why.

Power Africa
June 23 | Borgen Magazine
A post by Boren Magazine reviews the efforts of the Power Africa Initiative.

One Year On: President Obama's Power Africa Initiative
June 24 | SweetCrude Reports
A look back at Power Africa a year after President Barack Obama unveiled an ambitious plan to improve access to electricity across the continent. While the initiative may appear to be a generous increase in U.S. government aid to the continent, analysts suggest that it is perhaps more noteworthy as a change in the paradigm of how the United States assists developing nations.

AFRICA

A Spark of New Energy in Africa
June 24 | Earth Island Institute
In collaboration with researchers at the International Renewable Energy agency and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, two graduate students are working with officials from 22 countries in eastern and southern Africa to identify zones that are well-suited for development of electricity production from wind, solar, and geothermal energy.

Gambia: 'U.S. Happy to Partner With Gambia for Renewable Energy Development'
June 19 | The Daily Observer
The charge d'affaires of the United States Embassy in Banjul has stated that his country is very pleased to partner with The Gambia as it seeks to develop a renewable energy regulatory framework that encourages foreign investment and delivers reliable energy to businesses to support economic development.

Gambia: Third National Renewable Energy Dialogue Forum Wraps-Up
June 23 | The Daily Observer
A wrap up of the two-day Gambia National Renewable Energy Dialogue Forum, organised by the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA), in collaboration with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), brought together utility experts from USA, Kenya, ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency among others.

West Africa: Liberia, Others Have Renewable Energy Policies
June 26 | New Democrat
A representative from the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREE) has remarked that The Gambia, Cape Verde, Ghana, Liberia, Niger and Senegal have specific Renewable Energy (RE) policies in place.

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

POWER AFRICA
Leveraging Partnerships to Increase Access to Power in Sub-Saharan Africa

IN THE NEWS: Featured Partner Country Energy News

June 15 – June 28, 2014

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia Eyes Stakes in EAC Integration Projects
June 24 | The New Times
Trade and energy are key focuses of Ethiopia as officials attend the upcoming Heads of State summit on Northern Corridor Integration Projects where the leaders will assess the implementation of fast-tracking the process.

From Light Bulbs to Oil Lamps
June 21 | The Reporter
Dozens of residents of the town of Fitche, 110 km north of Addis Ababa in the Oromia Regional State, came to the fore due to grievances over electric power shortages and interruptions in what they said has changed their lifestyles and has made them switch their habits of using electric bulbs to using oil lamps.

GHANA

Electricity, Water Tariffs Go Up
June 26 | The Chronicle
The economic hardship confronting the country is expected to further compound following the announcement of a 12.09% and 6.1% increase in electricity and water tariffs by the Public Utility Regulatory Commission (PURC) yesterday.

FirstRand Unit to Fund $120 Million of Ghana's Kpone Power Plant
June 23 | Bloomberg
South Africa's FirstRand Ltd. (FSR) said its investment banking unit will finance as much as $120 million of Ghana's $820 million Kpone power plant as lenders seek to benefit from African infrastructure projects.

Ghana Buys Electricity From Ivory Coast to Keep TVs Running During 2014 FIFA World Cup
June 16 | ABC News
While the American fans are busy deciding which bar to go to or where to find the game online, fans in Ghana are stressing over whether there will be enough electricity to supply everyone's televisions.

Ghana has to ration electricity so that everyone can watch the World Cup
June 16 | Vox.com
Some countries take the World Cup very seriously. Ghana, for one, is rationing electricity just to make sure everyone can watch its soccer match against the United States on Monday.

KENYA

Charcoal Trade Poses Greater Risks Than Poaching
June 24 | Capital FM
A report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Interpol shows that trade in charcoal is a greater security threat than poaching.

Green Energy to Gain Big in Sh52 Billion EU Grant
June 20 | The Star
Renewable energy projects will get the lion's share of the Sh51.77 billion (€435 million) medium term grant that the government inked with European Commission yesterday in Nairobi. The grant is part of the Sh3.33 trillion (€28 billion) that the EC extended to 16 African countries for period between year 2014 and 2020 under the European Development Fund-African, Carribean and Pacific nations programme.

OPIC invests US$523 million in Lake Turkana Wind Power project
June 19 | African Review
OPIC is playing a key role in Power Africa initiative by supporting clean energy projects across sub-Saharan Africa. The US-based finance institution Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has agreed to an investment warranty of US$253mn to support the construction of the Lake Turkana Wind Power project (LTWP).

LIBERIA

['Prospects for Liberia's Energy Sector' - U.S. Dep. Sec. of State]
June 23 | Front Page Africa
The Unites States of America's visiting Deputy Secretary of State currently visiting Liberia, Ms. Heather Higginbottom says, while in the country, she held talks with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on the importance of developing Liberia's energy sector for the continued economic growth.

GOL, World Bank Break Grounds for Power Plant
June 19 | The NEWS
The Liberian Government and the World Bank Tuesday broke grounds for the construction of a 10 Megawatt Power Plant Project at the Liberia Electricity Corporation sub-office on the Bushrod Island, outside Monrovia.

LEC Wants Seven Million for Fuel
June 19 | The NEWS
The Management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) says it needs approximately US$7 million to enable it purchase heavy fuel oil for the supply of electricity across the country.

NIGERIA

American Investors to Build 400MW Plant in Bayelsa
June 16 | The Engineering Network
An American consortium, Team Africa, plans to add about 400MW of electricity to the national grid from a power plant to be constructed in Bayelsa State in the next 14 months.

FG Plans Renewable Energy for Rural Areas
June 24 | Vanguard
The Federal Government has disclosed that accelerated rural electrification will henceforth be driven by renewable energy because of its sustainability and environmental friendliness.

FG to Drive Rural Electrification With Renewable Energy
June 22 | Daily Independent
Minister of State Power, Mohammed Wakil says accelerated rural electrification will henceforth be driven by renewable energy because of its sustainability and environmental friendliness.

TANZANIA

Cabinet okays Tanesco reform
June 23 | DailyNews Online Edition
The Cabinet has approved the Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) reform strategy that seeks, among others, to unbundle the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) into three separate units responsible for power generation, transmission and distribution.

GE Power to Increase Tanzania's Supplies
June 15 | East Africa Business Week
GE Power & Water's Distributed Power has said it will increase Tanzania's installed power capacity by about 15%, significantly improving reliability and fuel efficiency.

IN THE NEWS - Full Clips

1. Power Africa | Borgen Magazine

Source URL: http://www.borgenmagazine.com/power-africa/
June 23, 2014
BY TED RAPPLEYE

MOUNTAIN LAKES, New Jersey — When The Borgen Project uses advocacy to get Congress to increase the international affairs budget, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) gets most of the money. The organization uses its funding to provide food aid and implement programs to bolster infrastructure worldwide. One such USAID[1] development initiative is Power Africa, a program designed to provide millions of people with electric power and fuel economic growth on the continent.

Electricity scarcity is a problem in Africa. As USAID reports, 600 million people, or almost 70 percent of Africans, do not have access to stable sources of electric power. Many people have to resort to wood and diesel-powered generators to cook and heat their homes, and these energy sources are dirty and pose serious health risks. Announced in 2013, the Power Africa plan aims to change this and provide 10,000 megawatts of clean energy to Africa.

Power Africa involves two primary strategies to increase Africa's electricity capacity. The first is to bolster central power grids and power plants by extracting more oil and natural gas, helping large cities. For rural areas away from the grid, the program's Beyond the Grid initiative entails providing decentralized solar and wind energy to individual communities that need it.

How does USAID implement Power Africa? The agency has formed partnerships with the governments of six African countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria and Liberia) along with energy companies like General Electric and international development agencies like the World Bank. Working together, governments and aid agencies can direct the private sector to expand electricity access and resource extraction.

Nevertheless, in the past, this cooperative relationship has helped the private sector more than the general public. When Power Africa was introduced and allocated $7 billion to fund energy expansion, less than 2 percent of the money supported off-grid energy. The rest allowed General Electric and other companies to invest more heavily in oil and gas, which is more profitable but does not benefit communities living away from central power grids. The International Energy Agency estimates that 60 percent of all new energy investment must be directed toward off-grid solutions to provide electricity for the world.

Reforms to Power Africa have recently been introduced. In June, U.S. Secretary of Energy, Ernest Moniz, introduced an additional $1 billion that would go exclusively to the Beyond the Grid initiative, not to grid expansion. The Electrify Africa Act[2], a bill that has just passed the House, would also allow USAID to better direct loans and projects to where they are most beneficial, not where they are most profitable. The extra funds will make renewable and decentralized energy available to millions of people.

Under these changes, Power Africa[3] is poised to provide electricity to many communities that need it, and it deserves public support. However, the problems with Power Africa's implementation serve as a cautionary tale. Advocacy should not end after plans to fight poverty are introduced, but instead, once those plans start, help people in need.

2. Foreign Aid Isn't Charity. It's an Investment | Businessweek

Source URL: http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-06-23/foreign-aid-isnt-charity-its-an-investment
By Charles Kenny[1] June 23, 2014

One of the few bright spots of bipartisanship on Capitol Hill of late has been in global development. The House recently passed a bill to support President Clinton's Power Africa initiative, which is designed to boost[2] access to electricity across six countries in the region. Both houses also managed to reauthorize PEPFAR—the President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief— which provides antiretrovirals to almost 7 million people[3] worldwide. The U.S. still ranks near the bottom of the list among rich countries in terms of the generosity of its overseas development program, but these two pieces of legislation at least suggest that altruism and fellow feeling have not completely evaporated in Washington.

Nonetheless, U.S. foreign assistance—and aid programs the world over—face a real challenge. What limited popular support foreign-aid programs enjoy is due mainly to charitable impulses and the warm glow of "doing something" in the face of crisis. Yet new research suggests that this approach to raising funds can do significant collateral damage to the efficiency of assistance we provide. It's time to view aid as an investment—like spending on roads and schools here in the U.S.—rather than an act of charity. In the long term, that will lead to more effective aid and possibly more assistance overall.

Economists Dean Karlan and Daniel Wood used fundraising letters from the charity Freedom from Hunger to test how information on the organization's work affected donations. They sent out some fundraising letters that discussed the program's impact both with a story about an individual beneficiary and as measured by a high-quality independent evaluation. They sent out other letters that only discussed the impact on an individual beneficiary.

You'd think that solid, quantitative evidence of impact—in this case that Freedom from Hunger's work with small entrepreneurs improved business practices and increased the reliability of their revenues—w*ould en*courage people to donate. But among recent small donors, the evaluation information actually reduced giving compared with an appeal based solely around anecdotes and stories.

The authors argue that small donors are motivated by what they call "warm glow"—the feeling of happiness that comes solely from giving. For those people, evidence of impact "turns off the emotional trigger for giving, or highlights uncertainty in aid effectiveness"—leading to lower donations. However, Karlan and Wood noted that large donors actually increased giving when presented with evidence of impact. The researchers suggest big donors are motivated by the happiness that comes from actually seeing a difference being made by their money.

Karlan and Wood's study illustrates a problem with foreign aid in general. As with charities, donor agencies often couch their appeal in terms of individual stories, with plenty of photos of smiling kids[5]. They're appealing to the "warm glow" small-donor crowd. That might seem to make sense, since aid is a tiny part of government spending. Annual Overseas Development Assistance provided by the U.S. adds up to about $100 per person—less than 1 percent of the federal budget. But treating aid like it's pennies in the charity box distracts us from thinking of aid as an investment. And as a result, the money we do spend on foreign aid has far less impact than it should.

When we think of charitable giving, all too often that comes with judgment: We need to help these people because of their failings. The thinking goes that poor people are poor and need help because they are lazy, or ill-educated, or their political leaders are incompetent or corrupt. And that leads us to guard our money against their failings—attaching lengthy conditions around who spends the money, how they spend it, and on what. The focus on the giving rather than the impact means aid agencies spend far more time making sure the money gets to where it's intended rather than making sure it achieves something when it arrives. The attention is on receipts, not results.

As a result, the World Bank spends far more on hiring procurement and financial management specialists, as well as investigators looking for fraud and corruption, than it does on evaluating if its projects actually achieve anything[7] when it comes to improving wealth, health, and wellbeing. Or look at the U.S. government auditor for Afghanistan, who has trashed a health project in that country, which helped it rack up the biggest gains in life expectancy anywhere in the world over the last 10 years, because the Afghan Ministry of Health didn't have satisfactory financial controls[8] (not that there was any actual e*vidence of wrongdoing).*

Kenny is a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development and author of The Upside of Down: Why the Rise of the Rest is Great for the West.

3. One Year On: President Obama's Power Africa Initiative | SweetCrude Reports

Source URL: http://sweetcrudereports.com/2014/06/24/one-year-in-president-obamas-power-africa-initiative/
Tuesday, June 24th, 2014

June 24, 2014 - Washington - During an eight-day trip to Africa, President Barack Obama unveiled an ambitious plan to improve access to electricity across the continent, a move the White House says is designed to lift Sub-Saharan Africa out of poverty and help the region develop a stable middle class.

While the initiative may appear to be a generous increase in U.S. government aid to the continent, analysts suggest that it is perhaps more noteworthy as a change in the paradigm of how the United States assists developing nations.

The plan, dubbed Power Africa, will be aimed at doubling access to electricity in the region, where some 85 per cent of the rural population continues to lack access to power. The hope is that vastly increasing this infrastructure will in turn strengthen African economies.

"The initiative seeks to address a major, major issue," John Campbell, a senior fellow for Africa policy studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, a think tank here, told IPS. "The absence of electrical power, among other things, makes it difficult to establish the kind of manufacturing that generates employment."

Power Africa was announced on the heels of an address given by President Obama at the University of Cape Town, in South Africa. The president, who has been criticised for actions that fail to live up to his impressive speeches and for largely ignoring Africa during his first term, called on the United States to "up [its] game when it comes to Africa".

Obama referenced Nelson Mandela's experience in captivity as analogous to Africa's continued suffering with poverty and underdevelopment.

"(J)ust as freedom cannot exist when people are imprisoned for their political views," he stated, "true opportunity cannot exist when people are imprisoned by sickness, or hunger, or darkness." The president also asserted that development assistance to the region would be in the United States' own interests, saying an enlarged middle class there would translate into "an enormous market for [U.S.] goods".

Assistance as insurance

Establishing reliable sources of electricity, the Obama administration believes, will be a key part of the effort to bolster that middle class.

An estimate endorsed by the administration states that it would take around 300 billion dollars to grant all Sub-Saharan Africans access to electricity by 2030. With Power Africa, the U.S. ensures the region will receive seven billion dollars over the next five years.
That sum will be split among six countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Tanzania and Nigeria). It will be used to exploit the region's large, newly discovered reserves of oil and gas, as well as its potential to develop renewable energy from geothermal, hydro, wind and solar sources.

But, as Campbell points out, the way the United States will raise the seven billion dollars represents a shift in how it provides aid to Africa, focusing more on private trade and investment rather than on direct government aid.

"The old model would have been a government aid agency providing U.S. taxpayer money to fund development projects," he says. "Here we will have the government partnering with private sources of money by guaranteeing against losses."

Essentially, Campbell explains, the United States will marshal seven billion dollars' worth of both money and material from private investors, who will then provide much of this by exporting manufactured goods intended to improve African infrastructure. These investors will be protected from losses by guarantees from Washington, which will play a role similar to that of an insurance provider.

4. Senate Panel Backs Africa Electricity Bill | Electric Co-op Today

Source URL: http://www.ect.coop/public-policy-watch/legislation/senate-foreign-relations-committee-backs-africa-electricity-bill/71361
By Steven Johnson | ECT Staff Writer
Published: June 25th, 2014

A bill that would bring power to millions of people in Africa, a top NRECA legislative priority, has passed through a key Senate committee.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the Energize Africa Act of 2014 on June 24, sending it to the full Senate.

NRECA CEO Jo Ann Emerson applauded the action as an important step to electrify sub-Saharan Africa, where about 70 percent of people lack access to electricity.
Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez, D-N.J., introduced the legislation, S. 2508, with ranking committee member Bob Corker, R-Tenn., and Sens. Chris Coons, D-Del., Edward Markey, D-Mass., Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., and Mike Johanns, R-Neb.

“Electric cooperatives appreciate the efforts of Chairman Menendez and ranking member Corker to move this bill quickly to a floor vote,” Emerson said. “The bipartisan support from the cosponsors—Sens. Coons, Isakson, Markey and Johanns—reflects an understanding that electrification can help grow these economies.

“The electrification programs the bill supports will assist with increasing agricultural productivity, create new jobs in micro and small enterprises, and improve the quality of life for rural communities, eventually reducing the need for foreign aid over the next five years,” she added. The legislation puts the United States on a course to help 50 million Africans with first-time access to electricity and add *20,000 megawatts to the grid by 2020. Eventually, nearly 600 million sub-Saharan Africans wou*ld benefit.

“U.S. leadership can help provide modern, clean, reliable, and affordable energy services to people lacking access to electricity, and this legislation will help jump start that effort. We must develop power solutions for people across Africa based on a comprehensive plan to attract private investment,” Menendez said.

“I thank the committee for advancing a bill that will leverage private investment to help millions of people improve their lives through first-time access to power,” Corker added. “By working with the private sector, these economic development projects can stand on their own and have a transformative impact without spending additional federal dollars.”

NRECA International says it is prepared to partner with the U.S. Agency for International Development on electrification projects.

The bill coordinates existing resources from many federal agencies and encourages an investment-based approach. That is designed so private sector partners and other financing agencies can prioritize loans, grants, and technical support that promote private investment in projects designed to increase electricity access and reliability.
The House passed a mostly similar bill on May 8[2] by a 297-117 vote, days after participants at the 2014 Legislat*ive Conference[3] met with elected officials and staffers in Washington, D.C., to* push for its adoption.

5. Senators Menendez and Corker Introduce Energize Africa Act | Center For Global Development

Source URL: http://www.cgdev.org/blog/senators-menendez-and-corker-introduce-energize-africa-act

June 20, 2014

By Ben Leo

We have been anxiously waiting for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) to introduce legislation that promotes electricity access in Sub-Saharan Africa. Yesterday, Senators Menendez (D-NJ) and Corker (R-TN), the respective SFRC Chairman and Ranking Member, introduced the Energize Africa Act (S. 2508). Senators Coons, Isakson, Markey, *and Johanns also co-sponsored the legislation. This bipartisan bill is thoughtful, comprehensive,* and would give a significant boost to US efforts to promote growth and economic opportunity in the region. Here are three reasons why.

(1) It would ensure that the Obama Administration develops a highly comprehensive multi-year strategy. To date, the Power Africa Initiative has been implemented on a transaction-by-transaction basis. That's been fine so far, but it's always been unclear how the disparate activities fit together and whether things will fizzle in 2016. Congress is seeking to change that. As with the Electrify Africa Act, the Obama Administration would have six months to submit a multi-year strategy. While the White House will have the pen on crafting the document, the Senate has provided a very detailed outline to work off (covering 24 separate components). The level of guidance may be a bit extreme, but it will force the Obama Admin*istration to outline a plan that considers all of the major factors required to achieve reliable and comme*rcially sustainable electricity access. This is essential for ensuring that Power Africa outlives the current administration.

(2) It provides the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) with new authorities, tools, and resources. OPIC is the cornerstone of President Obama's Power Africa Initiative. Yet, it remains highly constrained by outdated authorities and inadequate resources. My colleagues and I have argued that Congress should unleash OPIC. The Energize Africa Act takes several important steps in that direction, including:

* OPIC Reauthorization: The bill would reauthorize OPIC for five years (through 2019). By comparison, the House Electrify Africa Act contains a three-year reauthorization. The multi-year

reauthorization (hopefully of the five-year variety) will remove unnecessary uncertainty that discourages OPIC's private sector partners from entering into long-term deals.

* New Instruments and Tools: The bill would establish a five-year pilot for local currency guarantees to foreign financial institutions that facilitate lending for US investors' power projects. This will help to crowd in local capital in African countries, which may be sitting on the sidelines today. The Energize Africa bill would also encourage more joint ventures with African companies by lowering OPIC's US ownership requirement to a simple majority. In addition, it would allow OPIC to provide insurance, guarantees, or reinsurance spanning 30 years for renewable projects. (The current maximum timeframe is 20 years.)

* Additional Hiring Authority: OPIC would be allowed to hire up to 20 people on a limited-appointment basis. The average OPIC employee currently oversees roughly $75 million in portfolio exposure, which is a multiple higher than most peer institutions. This demonstrates both the efficiency of, and hard constraints placed on, existing OPIC staff. The bill also indicates that appropriations between 2015 and 2019 should *allow for hiring personnel and upgrading systems infrastructure. If enacted, these provisions would boost OPIC's capacity, allowing the agency* to do many more power deals and generate more revenue for US deficit reduction in the process.

(3) It calls for a study on the effectiveness of OPIC's existing authorities as well as the likely impact of new tools, such as direct investments. The Energize Africa Act provides OPIC with several important new authorities and tools. Yet this critical agency still remains constrained compared to many of its peer institutions. These institutions – such as the Netherlands' FMO and France's Proparco – offer the full spectrum of investment promotion services (financing, advisory services, direct investments, etc). The Energize Africa Act authorizes an independent study that will help to inform the ongoing debate about whether Congress should provide OPIC with further authorities down the road, including the ability to provide direct investments. This is another constructive step toward additional development finance reforms.

6. US investors flock to Africa to get in on the energy boom | AFKInsider

Source URL: http://afkinsider.com/60713/us-stepping-presence-sub-saharan-africa-energy-boom/

By D.A. Barber
June 17, 2014

"Workers at Olkaria Geothermal Power Plant, Kenya," photo: wikimediacommons
Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the fastest-growing economic regions in the world, with the International Monetary Fund predicting *continued growth as part of the continents* economic transformation.
Much of that transformation has to do with a fast-growing middle class, as well as vast agricultural and mineral resources, which is attracting investors and businesses from around the world. According to the U.S. Commerce Department, which is stepping up its involvement in sub-Saharan Africa, the region is now home to seven of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies.

In April 2014, the International Monetary Fund released its Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa[3], which notes that the strong growth of recent years in in the region looks set to continue, "accelerating from 4.9 percent last year to around 5.5 percent in 2014, underpinned by high levels of infrastructure and mining investment. Growth in the region's Low-Income Countries remains higher still at some 6.9 percent in 2014."

But, according to the report, the outlook is subject to some downside risks: "Some of the favorable factors that have supported growth in the region have started to weaken. In particular, the shift in the composition of global demand—and of growth in some large emerging markets—is causing commodity prices to weaken (particularly copper and iron ore). Tighter global financial conditions have also *raised the cost of financing for many* countries. Should these trends continue, they would likely act as a drag on growth in many countries in the region."

Nevertheless, the US Commerce Department's International Trade Administration is more than doubling its presence in Africa, opening its first offices in Angola, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Mozambique to support White House initiatives like Trade Africa and Power Africa.

The U.S. Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa
In 2012, President Obama launched the US Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa, noting that Africa holds the promise to be "the world's next major economic success story." The US government is working to help businesses be part of that success story by promoting US trade and investment through its Doing Business in Africa campaign.
Trade Africa was launched by President Obama in July 2013 as a partnership between the US and sub-Saharan Africa to increase trade and economic ties between Africa, the United States and other global markets.

During oral testimony on the 2014 Trade Agenda at a May 1 Senate Finance Committee, US Trade Representative Michael Froman noted they were "working to conclude a comprehensive review of the African Growth and Opportunities Act, which expires next year.

Froman further noted that "the core of the O*bama Adminis*tration's economic strategy is to create jobs, promote growth, and strengthen the middle class. Through our trade policy, we are contributing to that strategy by opening markets for Made-in-America exports, leveling the playing for American workers and businesses by raising standards and fully enforcing our trade laws and our trade rights."

The Focus on Energy
But much of this US strategy in the past few months has focused on energy development, particularly President Obama's June 2013 Power Africa initiative to double access to power in sub-Saharan Africa, starting with Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania.

With more than 600 million people in sub-Saharan Africa lacking *access to* electricity, the power development challenge is enormous. According to the International Energy Agency, sub-Saharan Africa needs more than $300 billion in investments to achieve universal electricity access by 2030 — far beyond the capacity of any single development program.

'What we think is likely to happen in Africa is that there will be a much more decentralized model and approach to energy generation," Shari Berenbach, President and CEO of the US African Development Foundation, told AFKInsider in an interview.

"And while the urban centers and large industry will likely be served by large power plants, we think that when it comes to rural communities and the broad areas of Africa, that there won't be any effort to really try and string transmission lines all across Africa the way it had happened in the U.S."

A U.S. Trade Mission to Ghana and Nigeria in May and the U.S.-Africa Energy Ministerial in early June were part of a U.S. effort to get more American energy companies on the African development bandwagon.

The U.S. Trade Mission to Ghana and Nigeria was led by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker to help African countries develop and manage their energy resources, as well as build power generation, transmission and distribution projects. One of the main goals was to "find partners for American companies, work to navigate regulatory hurdles and support the development that will help Africa thrive."

As a followup to that meeting, the U.S.-Africa *Energy Ministerial to Ethiopia in ear*ly June was also designed to promote American energy companies to African nations with the theme of "Catalyzing Sustainable Energy Growth in Africa."

On that meeting's agenda was accelerating development of clean energy sources and energy efficient technologies, review of best practices in oil and gas resource development, and progress reports on the President Obama's Power Africa Initiative.
And entries are now open through June 20 for the *second round of the Power Africa* Off-Grid Energy Challenge[4], sponsored by the US African Development Foundation, the US Agency for International Development and GE Africa to offer 18 grants of up to $100,000 e*ach.*

"Even though the operating environment could be challenging, Africa offers a huge growth opportunity," Patricia Obozuwa, Director of Corporate Communications for GE Africa told AFKInsider. "We believe in Africa's potential. GE's growth and investment plans are long-term – we have been here for over 100 years – we are here to *stay."*
*Sim*on Gosling, Director of EnergyNet which sponsored the third Annual Powering Africa conference in Mo*zambique last month, sa*ys businesses like GE are "transforming the sector, transforming the way they do their business and that all again is kind of tied to the whole Power Africa initiative."

"There's some really interesting stuff that is all coming on the back of this Power Africa initiative, so people are really riding that coat tail and there's really an infused vibe around," Gosling told AFKInsider in an interview.

All these developments came on the heels of an April U.S. Department of Commerce Power Africa B2B Summit in Miami as an effort to connect American companies with opportunities to provide energy services on the continent. That meeting included Nigeria's CEOs of Africa's major power companies, and r*epresentat*ives from the US Export-Import Bank and the US Agency for International Development.

But for the private sector, American investors work through the Washington-based Corporate Council for Africa to obtain pa*rtnerships with Afr*ican companies.

"We're the private sector coordinator for Power Africa. Just about every company that's engaged or interested in getting involved in power projects in Africa are members or close to our members, Corporate Council for Africa President Stephen Hayes told AFKInsider in an interview. "There is a high interest in energy overall, and that includes oil and gas, and Hydro and so forth."

During the World Economic Forum on Africa in May in Abuja, a ministerial meeting on the Africa Power Vision took place that included Ministers of Power and Finance from Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, Rwanda, and Ghana, as well as private sector entities that included the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, and the UN's Economic Commission for Africa. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, stated that there is a need for championing regional solutions to bring the Africa Power Vision to fruition. "The Power Africa Initiative is an enabler, and the Africa Power Vision, derived from Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa – PIDA – is focused on making projects more bankable and easier to sell," he said at the meeting.

Power Africa – and other trade activity in Africa over the last few months – is all leading up to the first U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington, DC on Aug. 5 and 6.

The Whitehouse Africa Summit[3] will give U.S. companies yet another opportunity to mingle with 47 invited African leaders to "build on the progress made since the President's trip to Africa last summer, advance the administration's focus on trade and investment in Africa, and highlight America's commitment to Africa's security, its democratic development, and its people."

At the summit, the Obama administration plans to focus on trade and private investment rather than public aid.

7. Power Africa has achieved 75% of its goal | Infrastructure news

Source URL: http://www.infrastructurene.ws/2014/06/23/power-africa-has-achieved-75-of-its-goal/
June 23, 2014

The U.S. government is making significant progress on Power Africa's goal of adding more than 10 000 MW of efficient electricity generation capacity to Africa over the next five years.

U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) Director Leocadia Zak highlighted the U.S. government's progress on the Power Africa initiative during the opening session of the Africa Energy Forum, which connects African leaders with global energy industry representatives in order to develop power infrastructure on the continent.

"To date, the initiative has already helped bring to financial close energy projects that will produce 2 800 MW of new power, and has secured commitments for another 5 000 MW – representing a total of almost 75% of its initial goal," said Zak.

Zak is leading a delegation of representatives from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the U.S. African Development Foundation. The delegates highlighted successes from the first year of the Power Africa initiative during a roundtable on Accessing the U.S. Government's Toolkit for Africa's Power Sector.

USTDA's participation at the Africa Energy Forum comes at the end of a month-long series of trips to western, eastern and southern Africa. During those visits, Zak signed grants for seven new energy activities in Nigeria, Tanzania and South Africa. Several of these projects are being funded under the U.S.-Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative, a U.S. government effort to catalyse private sector investment for clean energy projects in sub-Saharan Africa by supporting early-stage project development.

Renewable energy in SA
Earlier this month Zak signed grants for three renewable energy projects in South Africa.
Zak hosted a roundtable in Johannesburg for public and private sector stakeholders from the U.S. and South African solar power sectors. The event provided attendees the opportunity to share lessons learned from past efforts and to discuss both current challenges and future opportunities.

During the roundtable, Zak signed a grant agreement with Ample Solar for a project that will evaluate the use of Areva Solar's innovative technology at two concentrated solar power plants that Ample Solar is planning to build in the Northern Cape.

Zak later signed a grant to Basil Read Energy to assist their efforts to develop a run-of-river hydropower plant that would supply electricity for more than 75 000 households. The project, which Basil Read plans to submit as part of its bid in an upcoming round of South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Program, will help diversify the country's energy mix and reduce environmental emissions.

USTDA also finalised a grant agreement with Plessey, a leading South African telecommunications solutions provider, to fund a pilot project on U.S. fuel cell technology applications for use by the telecom industry in South Africa. The project will enable Oorja Protonics (Fremont, CA) to demonstrate the usage of methanol-powered fuel cells as the primary or secondary power supply at remote tele*com tower site*s that are currently powered by diesel fuel generators. The use of these cost-effective fuel cells, which are 40% more energy efficient than diesel generation, would significantly reduce carbon dioxide and other noxious emissions.

Each of these projects is being funded under the U.S.-Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative.

"USTDA remains committed to fostering sustainable economic growth in South Africa," said Zak. "These activities support South Africa's goal of meeting energy demands by increasing generation capacity from renewable energy sources."

AFRICA

8. A Spark of New Energy in Africa | Earth Island Institute

by Sasha Harris-Lovett[1] – June 24, 2014
http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/elist/eListRead/a_spark_of_new_energy_in_africa

Graduate students craft a plan for the future of Africa's power grid

Grace Wu and Ranjit Deshmukh grow vegetables in their garden, bicycle to school each day, and are rarely seen in clothes more formal than blue jeans and t-shirts. Though they seem to live a quiet life, these two graduate students from UC Berkeley are helping to design renewable energy systems employed on a continent-wide scale half a world away.

Last year, Wu designed a computer program to site solar and wind energy development in the western United States. Then she and Deshmukh refined the model to map renewable electricity potential in India. Now the International Renewable Energy Agency[3], an intergovernmental group that represents more than 100 countries across the globe, is contracting the pair as technical research partners for a new project to green Africa's power grid.

In collaboration with researchers at the agency and at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Wu and Deshmukh are working with officials from 22 countries in eastern and southern Africa to identify zones that are well-suited for development of electricity production from wind, solar, and geothermal energy. "This is part of a multi-step process that aims to increase the amount of renewable energy in the African grid," Wu says.

This isn't a typical academic project that languishes in the ivory tower. Stakeholders in the 22 different governments affiliated with the project "have the potential and the actual desire to implement the work we're doing," Wu says.

It's no surprise that African nations are looking to produce more power. Frequent electricity shortages stifle economic growth and limit quality of life. If the energy currently generated on the continent were equally distributed, it would only be enough to turn on one standard light bulb per person for a scant three hours a day. In many parts of eastern and southern Africa, hospitals and industries resort to using diesel generators during blackouts.

"Africa is in infrastructure dire straits," Wu says. "They don't have enough infrastructure for the kind of growth that they want to achieve."

Though most of Africa currently runs on coal, international organizations like the Inernational Renewable Energy Agency and the African Development Bank are encouraging the continent to use more renewable energy. In eastern and southern Africa, renewable energy currently makes up less than 2 percent of the power supply. With plentiful wind and sun, renewable energy could enable this region to produce more watts of electricity and be more self-sufficient in its power production. It would also lower greenhouse gas emissions and clean up local air quality.

Renewable energy sources also make economic sense. Wind power is already cost-competitive with fossil fuels in some parts of Africa, and solar continues to get cheaper as technologies improve. Low-carbon power generation is also eligible for funding from 'Power Africa', a $7 billion initiative led by the United States to increase electricity production in Sub-Saharan Africa, and from the 'Clean Development Mechanism,' which offers funds that richer regions, like the European Union, put towards renewable energy projects in poorer areas of the world to offset their own carbon emissions.

To make renewable electricity even more economically feasible, 22 countries in eastern and southern Africa are coming together to share resources by connecting their transmission lines. This initiative, known as the Africa Clean Energy Corridor[4], will allow strong winds or bright sunshine in different parts of the continent to benefit electricity production for the whole region.

Wu and Deshmukh are compiling data about renewable energy resources, transmission lines, land use, and demand for electricity from all the countries that will be part of the Africa Clean Energy Corridor. The data comes from disparate groups ranging from environmental agencies in Tanzania to utilities in Lesotho. Then the researchers input the data into their computer program to map out the best places to site renewable energy power plants. They're looking for places where the winds are strongest and the sun shines the most, as well as where it will be cheapest to build a power plant and extend transmission lines. Their method also accounts for protected natural areas and other land uses, to ensure that no development takes place in ecologically sensitive places or agriculturally valuable areas.

Deshmukh says that in addition to enabling economic growth by increasing electricity supplies, the project will also result in cleaner local air quality and less carbon dioxide emissions. "There will be less diesel consumption in all these areas," he says. "There will be cleaner energy, so climate change will be mitigated."

While many stakeholders laud Africa's desire to invest in renewable energy, others are concerned that these large-scale developments will not improve access to electricity for the majority of Africans who currently live without it. According to the African Development Bank[5], only one in four Africans have access to electricity. In rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa, the number is even starker: 90 percent of people living in the countryside must do without electricity.

To minimize costs, power plants are sited close to existing power lines in Wu and Deshmukh's model. Because of this, Wu and Deshmukh's project will only serve those who are already connected to the electrical grid. "This type of siting analysis does not ensure equitable energy access, or improve energy access for those who don't already have it," Wu says. "This is a project that benefits large load centers, which are mostly cities and industrial areas."

Even though this project won't immediately serve people who don't already have power lines going to their homes or businesses, Wu and Deshmukh are confident that this is a step in the right direction. There are two aspects to energy access, Deshmukh explains: producing the power, and then building wires to take the electricity to houses.

"Identifying zones and developing utility-scale renewable energy projects is just a step further, but not enough, to providing energy access in sub-Saharan Africa," he says.
Building power lines is expensive, and rural households don't tend to use enough electricity to make an investment in distribution cost-effective. In developed countries, government subsidies paid for

expanding the grid to the countryside to ensure that all citizens could have power to turn on lights, charge cell phones, and operate businesses. "Unless governments and the international community take it upon themselves to develop this transmission infrastructure (in Africa), they're not going to solve the energy access problem,"Deshmukh says.

Like the Johnny Appleseed of renewable energy, the team is planning to make their data and computer program code freely available to the countries they are working with, and hosting workshops to teach representatives from these countries how to use them. "They may either adopt our methodology or modify it," Deshmukh says. "But it will start a process, or further the process in some countries, to identify these high-potential renewable energy zones."

Although the International Renewable Energy Agency tasked Wu and Deshmukh with finding the cheapest, most efficient, and least environmentally damaging zones to build renewable energy power plants – not with expanding energy access – the duo is determined to make their work useful for improving electricity availability to people living in poor, rural areas. They're deliberately making the code versatile, so that it can be adapted as conditions change. Their intention is that countries in eastern and southern Africa will have the capacity to modify the computer program to include criteria that would increase access to electricity among the rural poor.

Perhaps more useful than the code itself, in Wu's opinion, is the data-gathering that they're doing for the project – getting and organizing figures from different countries about their renewable energy potential, electricity systems, and demographics. These types of data have never been brought together before for so many different countries in one easy-to-use format.

By sharing these resources, the pair is hopeful that other groups could use the data they've compiled and their computer program to not only increase clean power production across Africa, but also maximize energy access by bringing electricity to those who currently have none. "It could be used to target the most remote populations that would really benefit from off-grid renewable energy," Wu says.

Sasha Harris-Lovett
Sasha Harris-Lovett is a freelance environmental journalist and a graduate student in UC Berkeley's Energy and Resources Group.

9. Gambia: 'U.S. Happy to Partner With Gambia for Renewable Energy Development' | The Daily Observer

Source URL: http://allafrica.com/stories/201406191508.html
June 19, 2014

'U.S. Happy to Partner With Gambia for Renewable Energy Development' (Page 1 of 2)
The charge d'affaires of the United States Embassy in Banjul has stated that his country is very pleased to partner with The Gambia as it seeks to develop a renewable energy regulatory framework that encourages foreign investment and delivers reliable energy to businesses to support economic development.

Richard Yoneoka made the remarks Wednesday at a local hotel in Bijilo during the Third National Renewable Energy Forum organised by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) and National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

The US diplomat said this forum and the strong relationship that has developed between USAID, NARUG AND PURA, exemplifies what can be achieved when they work together. The aim of this partnership, he said, is to progressively build regulatory capacity through customised technical training and policy dialogues.

He applauded The Gambia's commitment to renewable energy development, citing the National Assembly's last December passing of the Renewable Energy Law, which effectively puts in place the legal and institutional framework to encourage the use of renewable energy resources.

"The law mandates the introduction of a feed-in tariff system and includes tax incentives for operators of facilities using renewable energy resources while great strides have been made already to achieve the goal of developing and modernising the country's electricity grid and associated regulatory framework," he indicated.

The diplomat acknowledged that the US continues to work with The Gambia day in and day out in the areas of education, health, agriculture, fisheries, military, law enforcement, sports and culture. He commended the results accomplished through this partnership.

"PURA has made tremendous contribution towards The Gambia's efforts to enhance energy security in the country and through support from the NARUC-USAID partnership; it has taken a leadership role in supporting renewable energy," he noted.

The diplomat stressed that as The Gambia continues to develop and seek investment in all sectors from tourism to education, from agriculture to technology, advancing a reliable and sustainable domestic energy supply is increasingly essential.

"In The Gambia, the work of US NGO "Power Up Gambia" has brought reliable electricity and water to healthcare facilities throughout the country with the mentoring of hospitals and clinics in Bansang, Somita and Bwiam which now benefit from reliable energy while providing life-saving services every day," he informed.

10. Gambia: Third National Renewable Energy Dialogue Forum Wraps-Up | The Daily Observer

Source URL: http://allafrica.com/stories/201406232386.html
By Lamin B. Darboe, 23 June 2014

The two-day Gambia National Renewable Energy Dialogue Forum, with the theme Policy for Small Scale Renewable Energy Regulation last Thursday wrapped-up, at a local hotel in Kololi.

The third edition of the forum, which was organised by the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA), in collaboration with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), brought together utility experts from USA, Kenya, ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency among others.

The forum's objectives, according to the organisers, are to assess the progress made on Renewable Energy (RE) Regulatory Framework, as well as promote national-level discussion on clean energy policy, including legal and regulatory frameworks, with particular focus on implementing the recently enacted RE law.

It is also meant to introduce The Gambia's first Feed-in Tariff (FiT) to the public, provide regulatory expertise in developing support schemes for renewable energy that promote investment, explore synergies between renewable energy and energy efficiency and energy conservation; and share international and regional best practices and lessons learned in clean energy regulation, especially the United States' experience.

In her closing remarks, the programme officer for NARUC, Larcus Pickett, thanked the US Agency for International Development and the US Embassy in The Gambia for their continuous support.

"It's no secret that implementation of renewable energy is a necessity to increasing access to electricity throughout The Gambia and contributing to economic growth within the country in all the regions," she added.The Gambia, she noted, is taking steps in implementing the policies that are needed to foster this development, such as the Renewable Energy law that includes the RE fund.

According to Pickett, great example of a huge step forward is the development of the draft licence framework with steps, roles and timelines, to streamline the licensing process. Although there are significant challenges ahead, she said, these national platforms provide an opportunity to strengthen communication between energy stakeholders and the implementation entities.

She informed the participants that there is a way forward and their engagement and ideas to address challenges have been and will continue to play an important role as The Gambia progresses in its RE development. As usual, she said, PURA has done tremendous job in co-hosting this forum, adding that NARUC has applauded them for their leadership in promoting renewable energy, thus their continuous stakeholder engagement and decision-making process for soliciting feedback on initiatives, such as the RE fund.

While giving "sincerest" thanks to those who came from far countries, she lauded them for gracing the occasion with their presence, in particular,Sara Kamins from California, Jay Griffin from Hawaii, Msafiri Mtepa from Tanzania and Hyacinth Alayo from Cape Verde, all of whom have shared their valuable knowledge on their experiences with the implementation of renewable energy polices. "We also appreciate all those that gave us case studies and provide us snapshot of their experiences with implementing renewable energy and we hope that we have all learned from these experiences and can pull from their lessons to create a pathway forward," she concluded.

11. West Africa: Liberia, Others Have Renewable Energy Policies | New Democrat

Source URL: http://allafrica.com/stories/201406261295.html
26 June 2014

A representative from the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREE) has remarked that The Gambia, Cape Verde, Ghana, Liberia, Niger and Senegal have specific Renewable Energy (RE) policies in place. Hyancinth Elayo, a Cape Verde national made the disclosure to delegates at the recently concluded 3rd National Renewable Energy (RE) dialogue forum. The two-day synergy with the theme; Policy for Small Scale Renewable Energy Regulation', which was jointly organized by PURA and NARUC, was held at a local hotel in Kololi last week.

He said 12 out of the 15 ECOWAS member states refer to Renewable Energy in their Energy Policies or Electricity bills, while three other member states in Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau and Togo do not address Renewable Energy in their Energy Policies or Electricity Bill.

According to Elayo, Guinea Bissau is however developing an Energy Master Plan, which will consider Renewable Energy as an option, while 8 Member States, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo do not have in place or at draft stage a specific Renewable Energy policy. "10 of the 15 ECOWAS member states except for Burkina Faso, Guinea Conakry, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and Togo have grid-connected Renewable Energy targets and all the ECOWAS member states that do not have established targets also do not have specific RE policies or laws in place," he informed delegates. He added that, except for Liberia, all the other ECOWAS member states have some schemes and/or incentives, to promote the adoption of Renewable Energy, while Burkina Faso and Cape Verde have payment of credits, based on Renewable Energy production. He noted that Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal have feed-in-tariffs in place, while The Gambia has feed-in-tariff at a draft stage.

According to him, Mali has a bio fuel obligation and Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal have competitive bidding funds and or public investment loans for development of Renewable Energy, adding that most of the ECOWAS member states have some sort of financial incentives, such as tax exemptions for import of RE equipment and/or tax breaks and/or reduced tax for RE investment or are in the process of creating them. Elayo added that all the 15 ECOWAS member states have some type of schemes or incentives to promote energy access, through Renewable Energy. He then noted that energy access in these countries is promoted either by tendering and grants, mostly through funds directed at rural electrification; Renewable Energy projects, or subsidies, and or by financial incentives for Renewable Energy equipment, such as tax exemptions for import of RE equipment and/or tax breaks and/or tax reduction for renewable energy investment or are in the process of being created. He said currently there are ECOWAS countries that do not have RE policies in place, while some current RE policies still require revision, if they are to achieve the desired objectives, thus the establishment of new RE policies/plans or revision current RE policies/plans would be best achieved, through the development of the National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAP) to national legislation.

Elayo said most of the policies and plans currently in place are not comparable - having different categories and units for measurements. He then stated that, it is necessary to harmonize energy policies and laws to ensure effective implementation, noting that ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy (EREP) contains a set of regional and national activities that must be implemented.

He further stated that, 'Action 2 of the EREP stipulates that each ECOWAS member state will develop NREAP and develop/revisit their National Renewable Energy Policies (NREPs). "Each member state will develop or confirm a set of national targets for renewable energy applications, according to their detailed resources assessment and their grid capacity to connect renewable energy over the time period," he added.
ECREEE according to Elayo, was mandated by the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of States and governments to ensure the implementation of the regional RE policy and to achieve the regional targets by 2020 and 2030, developed a Regional Implementation and Monitoring Framework for the Development, Adoption, Execution of the NREAPs and NREPs in the 15 ECOWAS member states.

PARTNER COUNTRIES

12. Ethiopia: Ethiopia Eyes Stakes in EAC Integration Projects | The New Times

Source URL: http://allafrica.com/stories/201406250682.html?viewall=1
By Eric Kabeera, 24 June 2014

Ethiopia will attend the upcoming Heads of State summit on Northern Corridor Integration Projects where the leaders will assess the implementation of fast-tracking the process.

According to Monique Mukaruliza, the national coordinator of the Northern Corridor Projects, Ethiopia will attend the Kigali meet as an observer.

"They will attend as observers and assess which proje
cts they want to join in the implementation process," Mukaruliza said yesterday.

The summit will also be attended by Jin-Yong Cai, the chief executive of International Finance Corporation, an institution that offers investment, advisory and asset management services to encourage private sector development in developing countries.
Jin-Yong is expected to make some commitments on the financing of the regional oil pipeline as well as the Mombasa-Kigali standard gauge railway line that is estimated to cost about $13.5 billion.

Mukaruliza said Rwanda had previously signed a power purchase deal with Ethiopia, adding that if the Addis Ababa government picks interest in the projects, it would be advantageous to the region's economies.
Integration ventures:

During the EAC infrastructure summit in Uganda in February, leaders of Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda agreed on projects to be fast-tracked, including a standard gauge railway between Kigali and Mombasa, a single customs territory, single tourist visa and use of national identity cards as travel documents. Others are the establishment of an oil pipeline as well as electricity generation.

Later, South Sudan and Burundi joined the move aimed at boosting the regional economic growth.

Derrick Kayombya, the managing director of Petrocom, a company that deals in transportation of petroleum products, said Ethiopia had a potential market for both the local and regional business community.

"Ethiopia has a big population where we can sell our products and this would benefit the business community in the region," he said.

According to 2014 United Nations statistics, Ethiopia has a population of more than 97 million with an annual growth rate of 3.02 per cent and is envisaged to increase to over 118 million by 2020 with a GDP of $51.87 billion.

Trade with Ethiopia:
Hannington Namara, the chief executive of Private Sector Federation, said Ethiopia has an advanced tanning industry where Rwandans export hides and skin, adding that if it becomes a member of the Northern Corridor Projects, it would help to broaden the market.

"They have cheaper energy and there is a lot we can export to their market. Their coming on board is good news," Namara said.

He said the region will also benefit from sharing knowledge services and labour.
Experts believe that if Addis Ababa becomes a member, it would create competiveness among the member states.

"The Heads of State should bring Ethiopia on board. When you look at Ethiopian commodity exchange, you notice that it has grown over time and there is a lot to learn," John Bosco Kalisa, the country programmes manager of Trademark East Africa, said.
Kalisa said Ethiopia's enormous energy resources would help boost regional energy production.

Under the Eastern Electricity Highway Project, several regional countries are set to benefit from Ethiopia's electricity power surplus of 2000MW.

In December 2012, the World Bank and the Ethiopian government signed a $243 million loan agreement for the financing of a section of Eastern Electricity High Way Project connecting Ethiopia's electrical grid with Kenya.

Rwanda would be able to import its share through Lessos in Kenya connecting to Tororo-Bujagari-Kawanda-Masaka-Mbarara Mirama up to Kigali.

13. Ethiopia: From Light Bulbs to Oil Lamps | The Reporter

Source URL: http://allafrica.com/stories/201406231652.html
By Tamiru Tsige
June 21, 2014

Dozens of residents of the town of Fitche, 110 km north of Addis Ababa in the Oromia Regional State, came to the fore due to grievances over electric power shortages and interruptions in what they said has changed their lifestyles and has made them switch their habits of using electric bulbs to using oil lamps.

Clergymen from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church were among the protesters who expressed the*ir suffering to the newly*-formed Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) officials at the headquarters located in Piassa in front of Charles De Gaulle Square.

Residents of the town told the officials that an estimated seven to eight thousand residents have been suffering power shortages for more than ten months. They also lamented that though they have been reporting to all government offices in Addis Ababa, their requests were given deaf ears.

Similarly, several residents in Addis Ababa and other major towns across the nation also keep complaining about the periodic power cuts. Several areas in the capital still remain in the dark whereby the public keeps growing.
(Compiled by Tamiru Tsige)

14. Ghana: Electricity, Water Tariffs Go Up | The Chronicle

Source URL: http://allafrica.com/stories/201406261603.html
By Stephen Odoi-Larbi, 26 June 2014

The economic hardship confronting the country is expected to further compound following the announcement of a 12.09% and 6.1% increase in electricity and water tariffs by the Public Utility Regulatory Commission (PURC) yesterday. The tariffs increase, according to the PURC, takes effect from July 1, 2014.

The regulating agency, after deliberating on implementation of the 3rd quarter Automatic Adjustment Formula arrived at an adjustment figure of 31.56% for electricity and 14.30%. But the Director of Public Affairs at the PURC, Nana Yaa Gyantuah, in an interaction with journalists, said the Commission decided not to pass on the current increase but rather implement the second quarter tariffs which were deferred due to the economic situation of the country.

"The Commission is certainly aware of the current challenges consumers are facing with the provision of electricity and water and that is why the Commission has decided to implement a much lower percentage which is the previous tariff for the second quarter for year 2014", noted Chairman of the PURC, Dr. Emmanuel K. Anna, in a statement released in Accra. He added: "The Commission wishes to emphasise that a tariff increase at this moment is only meant to maintain the strength of the existing electricity and water tariffs which have been affected in value by the Ghana Cedi to the United States Dollar Exchange rate."

The Automatic Adjustment Formula is a Tariff Mechanism that tracks and incorporates movements in key determining uncontrollable factors to reflect the cost of electricity and water every quarter. The increment in the tariffs, the Commission argued, was underpinned by the following variables; Ghana Cedi against the US Dollar Exchange Rate; Inflation; Price of Crude Oil and Natural Gas; Fuel Mix (Light Crude Oil and Natural Gas and Distillate Fuel); Generation Mix (Hydro and Thermal) and Power Purchase Cost.
The others include; Demand Forecast (Currently 12% per annum and still rising); Chemical Cost (Water); and Electricity Cost (Water). According to the Commission, without a marginal tariff increase, the current load shedding situation could not be sustained and the "situation might worsen". It said it would keenly monitor the current electricity and water situation with a view to ensuring that within the current challenges, the interest of all consumers would be protected.

The Public Utilities Regulatory Commission has announced a 6.1 percent increase in water tariff and 12 percent in the tariff for electricity. The hike is expected to take effect from July 1, 2014. The utilities regulator is expected to officially announce the increment today. Director of Public Affairs at the PURC, Nana Yaa Gyantuah early on told Joy News' Evans Mensah on Wednesday afternoon that an initial 31 percent hike in electricity and 14 per cent hike in water had been agreed at management level but said the proposal had been forwarded to the Board of the Commission for approval.

She told Evans Mensah the Board members were meeting to consider the new proposal, adding the public must "expect an increase" irrespective of whatever the decision the Board will take. After the crunch meeting, the Board members insisted that the second quarter proposal- 6.1 per cent for water and 12 per cent for electricity- which was held in abeyance as a result of the continued load shedding crisis should rather take effect instead of the third quarter proposal brought by management.

It would be recalled that the PURC failed to adjust tariffs in the second quarter which coincided wit*h a severe load shedding exercise. The commis*sion therefore decided to suspend the increment then. Pondering over the proposed third quarter increment, the Board concluded that instead of imposing the increment it would rather implement the second quarter increases.

15. Ghana: FirstRand Unit to Fund $120 Million of Ghana's Kpone Power Plant |Bloomberg

Source URL: http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-06-23/firstrand-unit-to-fund-120-million-of-ghana-s-kpone-power-plant.html
June 23, 2014

South Africa's FirstRand Ltd. (FSR) said its investment banking unit will finance as much as $120 million of Ghana's $820 million Kpone power plant as lenders seek to benefit from African infrastructure projects.

Rand Merchant Bank is also the lead arranger for about $400 million of commercial bank funding for the project, Michael Larbie, head of FirstRand in Nigeria, said by phone from Lagos today. Cenpower

Generation Co. and other sponsors are providing $250 million with about $200 million from development finance institutions, he said.

The 340-megawatt Kpone gas and oil plant will help Ghana, the world's second-largest cocoa producer, plug an electricity shortfall of about 200 megawatts. Larbie said demand to participate in the commercial bank tranche was two to three times oversubscribed and funding will close in about a month.

"There has been lots of interest in this project," said Larbie, declining to name the banks involved. "It's one of the biggest projects that we've lead arranged." FirstRand, based in Johannesburg, is South Africa's second-largest financial-services company.

To contact the reporter on this story: Renee Bonorchis in Johannesburg atrbonorchis@bloomberg.net
To contact the editors responsible for this story: Dale Crofts atdcrofts@bloomberg.net

16. Ghana: Ghana Buys Electricity From Ivory Coast to Keep TVs Running During 2014 FIFA World Cup | ABC News

Source URL: http://abcnews.go.com/Sports/ghana-buys-electricity-ivory-coast-tvs-running-world/story?id=24160866
June 16, 2014

The match between the U.S. and Ghana will be begin tonight at 6 p.m. Eastern Time and 10 p.m. in Accra, Ghana. While the American fans are busy deciding which bar to go to or where to find the game online, fans in Ghana are stressing over whether there will be enough electricity to supply everyone's televisions.

To ensure the broadcasting of World Cup won't be disrupted, Ghana has purchased 50 megawatts of electricity from its neighbor, Ivory Coast, according to a news release by Ghana's Public Utilities Regulatory Commission.

The commission is also appealing to the public to reserve energy by turning off power-consuming appliances such as freezers and air conditioners.

Due to low water levels at hydroelectric dams on the Volta River, which produces most of the country's electricity, Ghana has suffered power shortages th*is yea*r.
Ghana's current total installed generating capacity needs to be increased to 5,175 megawatts by 2023 to address the current power shortages and ensure an adequate supply of electricity, according to the Volta River Authority.

Sign up for occasional World Cup dispatches from Brazil delivered right to your phone -- including the best photos and limited highlights -- by "starring" this story in ABC News' phone app. Download ABC News for iPhone here[4] or ABC News for Android here[5].

17. Ghana: Ghana has to ration electricity so that everyone can watch the World Cup | Vox.com

Source URL: http://www.vox.com/2014/6/16/5814142/ghana-has-to-ration-electricity-just-so-everyone-can-watch-the-world

Updated by Brad Plumer
June 16, 2014, 11:20 a.m. ET @bradplumer
brad@vox.com

Some countries take the World Cup very seriously. Ghana, for one, is rationing electricity just to make sure everyone can watch its soccer match against the United States on Monday.

Ghana was already facing electricity shortages this year
Ghana was already facing electricity shortages this year due to low water levels at its hydroelectric dams on the Volta River. And with lots of households planning to watch the World Cup on TV today, the government had to take even more drastic steps to make sure the grid held up.

So Ghana is importing[5] 50 megawatts of power from the Ivory Coast, running its existing power plants at full blast, and slowing production at a massive aluminum plant to make sure there's enough electricity — and to avoid blackouts and shortages during a widely anticipated match.

Electricity access in Africa is a big problem
Rural Ghanian students study with the help of a kerosene lantern in the evening. Many villages in rural Ghana lack electrical infrastructure, making it difficult for students to study in the evenings.

Of course, this isn't just a story about Ghana's World Cup devotion. It's also a stark reminder that access to electricity is a hugely pressing concern throughout Africa.
590 million people in sub-saharan Africa lack access to electricity
Ghana is actually one of the better-off countries on this score — roughly 72 percent [6]of its population has access to electricity. In neighboring Ivory Coast, by contrast, it's 59 percent. In Tanzania, only 15 percent of people have reliable access to electricity.
Add it all up, and some 590 million people across sub-Saharan Africa don't have any power at all. Among other things, that's a major public-health issue: Without electricity, many households turn to wood stoves, whose indoor pollution now kills 4.3 million people per year[7] (worldwide), more than AIDS and malaria combined.

And even those who do have electricity don't have very much of it. As this chart[8] from Todd Moss of the Center for Global Development shows, the average refrigerator in the United States consumes more electricity each year than the average person in Ghana:
(chart) An American fridge uses more electricity than the average person in Ghana

What would it take for Africa to get more electricity?

So what would it take to change all this? A lot. There are roughly 1.2 billion people in the world who lack access to electricity — and 590 million people in Africa. And that number is actually expected to rise in the years ahead, as electrification rates aren't keeping up[9] with population growth.

Electrification rates aren't keeping up with population growth
One recent report[10] from the World Bank and International Energy Agency estimated that it would likely take between $120 billion and $160 billion per year in investment over and above existing levels to bring energy access to everyone by 2030.
The report also noted that regulations and institutions would have to change in many poorer countries — a task that's often even harder than just finding the money.
What's more, the definition of "energy access" being used here is relatively stingy. To get all of sub-Saharan Africa up to, say, South African levels of electricity use (about 4,800 kwH per year — or 16 times as much as Ghana), for instance, would require an even bigger push. One study[11] pegged that amount at 330 gigawatts of new capacity.
To put that in perspective, the Obama administration announced[12] a grand plan last year to bring about 10 gigawatts of new capacity to households in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania. Even if that plan succeeds, there's still a long, long ways to go.

18. Kenya: Charcoal Trade Poses Greater Risks Than Poaching | Capital FM

Source URL: http://allafrica.com/stories/201406250307.html?viewall=1
By Olive Burrows, 24 June 2014

Nairobi — A report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Interpol shows that trade in charcoal is a greater security threat than poaching.

The report, titled The Environmental Crime Crisis, established a direct link between the illegal charcoal trade and terrorism whereas it was unable to establish a direct link between poaching and terrorism despite the presence of what UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner said was anecdotal evidence.

The magnitude of the illegal charcoal trade, the report's Editor in Chief Christian Nellemann said, was especially disconcerting at a value of $1.9 billion in Africa annually.
"As has been reported by the group of experts to the UN Security Council, charcoal is the primary finance also for Al Shabaab, and the scale to give you an impression, the maximum in terms of ivory for threat financing we're dealing with four to ten million dollars annually, whereas when we speak about charcoal, we're talking of threat finance to the tune of $111 million and $289 million annually," Nellemann explained.

While the capture of Kismayu in Somalia from the Al Shabaab by the Kenya Defence Forces was hailed as a coup partly because of the disruption of their charcoal trade, Steiner said they were surprised to learn that it earned so many times more for criminal organisations than the illegal trade in wildlife.

"What people have discovered is an innocent tradition of providing people with fuel is a major economy. And what we underestimated because we never looked at is that once you start adding up the flows in charcoal and the quantities, you're talking about a lot of money for a lot of weapons for a lot of people to be paid to continue fighting," he said.
Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo have been identified as the major sources of charcoal and the Gulf as one of the biggest markets.

"Most importantly regarding charcoal and that is one of the chief messages of the report is that the scale of this has been totally been underestimated," Nellemann reiterated.

While the report was unable to directly link to the illegal trade in wildlife to terrorism, it was however able to directly link it to the conflict in the Central African Republic.
Interpol's Assistant Director Environmental Security Sub-Directorate, David Higgins, said for a direct link to be established between poaching and terrorism, the affected governments had to share information with one another and the agency.

"The government information and intelligence agencies are not connected and we're trying to create a platform for our countries to pool all the particular pieces of information together to assess the linkages between ivory and terrorism," he said.
But even in the absence of this link, Kenya's Attorney General Githu Muigai said it was clear from the report that international cartels had a hand in the illegal trade in wildlife and said it was time Kenya started tackling poaching in a manner similar to drug trafficking.

"It's a real war with gangs that sometimes have superior armoury, training. We need to think of the people involved in the wildlife trade the same way we think of the drug barons. We must through the book at them. They're racketeers, they're money launderers, behind them are lawyers, accountants and bankers and stock brokers, and so on. We must round all of them together," he told Capital FM News.

His sentiments were shared by Kenya's Chief Justice Willy Mutunga in a statement at the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).

"The link between illicit environmental activities such as poaching and logging on the one hand, and terrorism and conflict, on the other, removes these activities from the inane and narrow realm of crime to the unnerving arena of state and human security. In other words, we must begin to see environmental crimes, money laundering, and terrorism as crimes of interoperable nature that imperil our democracies and our stability as nations," he stated.

And to which end, Steiner said, UNEP was part of an inter-agency effort to track containers carrying ivory and other contraband to their owners; the kingpins who fund the environmental crime enterprises.

"Seizures are no longer something to celebrate. We have to start thinking like drug enforcement agencies. Let's track these containers and get to the speculators stockpiling this ivory aware that if we continue killing them at the rate we are, elephants will become part of legend and the value of ivory will be equal to that of a historical artefact," CITES Secretary General John Scanlon said in support.

19. Kenya: Green Energy to Gain Big in Sh52 Billion EU Grant | The Star

Source URL: http://allafrica.com/stories/201406230517.html

By Constant Munda, 20 June 2014

RENEWABLE energy projects will get the lion's share of the Sh51.77 billion (€435 million) medium term grant that the government inked with European Commission yesterday in Nairobi.

The grant is part of the Sh3.33 trillion (€28 billion) that the EC extended to 16 African countries for period between year 2014 and 2020 under the European Development Fund-African, Carribean and Pacific nations programme.

All the grants were signed in Nairobi by representatives of the respective governments.
Head of the EU delegation in Kenya Lodewijk Briet told a press conference after the signing ceremonies that the EU plans to focus "more and more on renewable energy and less and less on physical infrastructure".

He however said that the priority projects will be designed and developed by the government for approval by the EC.

National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich said the funds will benefit three broad areas of food security and disaster preparedness, sustainable infrastructure and institutional governance structures for better absorption of the funds.

"The development funds are expected to prioritise expansion of Nairobi's public transport infrastructure to fight congestion, increase food production and improve drought management systems and support stronger governance," the National Treasury said in a press statement that preceded the signing of the deal.
Rotich told journalists that his ministry will expedite preparation of finance documents for approval to ensure timely implementation of projects under the EDF-ACP programme.

The funds will be released as and when a project is approved. Rotich said the ministry has prepared Kenya external aid policy to facilitate harmonisation and coordination of separate donor funds touching on the same sector to realise better results. Briet supported implementation of the policy expected in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2014/15.

20. Kenya: OPIC invests US$523 million in Lake Turkana Wind Power project | African Review

Source URL: http://www.africanreview.com/energy-a-power/renewables/opic-invests-us-523-million-to-lake-turkana-wind-power-project
June 19, 2014

OPIC is playing a key role in Power Africa initiative by supporting clean energy projects across sub-Saharan Africa. (Image source: Mr Nixter/Flickr) The US-based finance institution Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has agreed to an investment warranty of US$253mn to support the construction of the Lake Turkana Wind Power project (LTWP)

Located in northern Kenya, LTWP is the largest wind power project in Africa, and this fund is, by far, the largest grant in favour of Kenya's endeavour to generate clean energy.

OPIC is among several finance institutions that are providing funds for the Lake Turkana Wind Power project. The African Development Bank (AfDB) has already approved a loan of over US$170mn for the development of the project, stated reports.

Elizabeth Littlefield, president of OPIC, said, "The project is historic; it highlights the US government's support for powering Africa and helping millions of people in Kenya to access cheap electricity for use in homes and industries.

OPIC is playing a key role in President Barack Obama's Power Africa initiative and has committed to provide US$1.5bn to develop energy projects throughout sub-Saharan Africa over the next five years."

The 310MW project will boost the country's installed capacity by 20 per cent, and serve more than 2.5mn Kenyans. It is also projected to reduce Kenya's annual expenditure of about US$177.4m on fuel imports.

The project covers 40,000 acres, and is expected to have 365 wind turbines, each with a capacity of 850 kW, the associated overhead electric grid collection system and a high voltage sub-station.

21. Liberia: 'Prospects for Liberia's Energy Sector' - U.S. Dep. Sec. of State | Front Page Africa

Source URL: http://allafrica.com/stories/201406231883.html

By Henry Karmo, June 23, 2014

Monrovia — The Unites States of America's visiting Deputy Secretary of State currently visiting Liberia, Ms. Heather Higginbottom says, while in the country, she held talks with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on the importance of developing Liberia's energy sector for the continued economic growth.

At a news briefing Friday, the U.S. official climaxed her week-long visit to Liberia, with a meeting with President Sirleaf during she discussed several other issues, including the upcoming African Leaders Summit in Washington, which will underscore President Obama's Strong commitment to Africa and the recent travel of Liberia's 15 YALI fellows to the United States as part of President Barrack Obama's Youth initiative.

Said Higginbottom: "I also commended President Sirleaf for her leadership of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the common African Position Commission. I reaffirmed that the United States welcomes the common African position, and I expressed support for Africa's leadership and participation, as we work together to pursue a successful post 2015 Development Agenda."

The Visiting US diplomat also told journalists that the relationship between the United States and Liberia is deep with a long history, and she was glad that she had the opportunity to see Liberia. She said the ties between the governments of Liberia and the U.S and Citizens of the two countries are strong and will continue to strengthen the partnership in the years ahead.

"I want to thank everyone again for extending such a warm welcome to me and for taking time to give me insight into some key issues facing Liberia as we move forward on their development agenda," Higginbottom added. Foreign Minister Augustine Ngafuan described the U.S. official's visit as successful and said it was a strong demonstration of the good relationship between Liberia and the U.S.

The Minister commended the U.S Deputy Secretary of State for accepting the challenge to come to Africa and Liberia, specifically to have sightseeing on the level of improvement in the country has made over the years.

Prior to her joining the State Department, Ms. Higginbottom served as Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), where she was the chief Operating officer of the OMB and a Principal architect of the federal budget from January 2009 to January 2011.

She also served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council. In that role, she advised the President on a range of education, immigration, and economic development issues, including helping to design the race to the top and promise Neighborhood programs.

The U.S Deputy Secretary of state began working for then Senator Obama in 2007, when she served as policy Director for President's Campaign and supervised all aspects of foreign and domestic policy development.

22. Liberia: GOL, World Bank Break Grounds for Power Plant | The NEWS

Source URL: http://allafrica.com/stories/201406191312.html
June 19, 2014

The Liberian Government and the World Bank Tuesday broke grounds for the construction of a 10 Megawatt Power Plant Project at the Liberia Electricity Corporation sub-office on the Bushrod Island, outside Monrovia.

The Country Manager of World Bank, Madam Inguna Dobraja said the power plant is part of the bank's support to Liberia's energy sector.

She said the power plant project is valued at US$225 million, and pointed out that the energy sector is key to national development.

She said the plant will help expand LEC services by providing reliable energy to the people of Liberia.

Madam Dobraja lauded the Management of LEC for the progress at its Bushrod Island sub-station.

For his part, LEC Deputy Chief Executive Director for Planning Joseph T. Mayah commended the World Bank for its corporation.

He said the power plant will essentially contribute to the provision of electricity to the people of Liberia.

The plant is being constructed through a grant aid from the people of Japan.

23. Liberia: LEC Wants Seven Million for Fuel | The NEWS

Source URL: http://allafrica.com/stories/201406191487.html
June 19, 2014
By Necus M. Andrews

The Management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) says it needs approximately US$7 million to enable it purchase heavy fuel oil for the supply of electricity across the country.

LEC Deputy Chief Executive Director for Planning Joseph T. Mayah said fuel delivery to various plants for power supply is a major challenge faced by the entity. Mr. Mayah said presently the LEC does not have such money to ensure the purchase of the fuel oil, and appealed to government to assist.

Mayah made the disclosure recently in Monrovia when President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf inspected works on three power supply projects ongoing at the LEC Central Office on Bushrod Island. They include project for the design, supply and installation of 10 MW duel fuel LFO. HFO Fired Thermal Generation plant, project for the rehabilitation of Monrovia power system and the government of Liberia 18 MW power plant project.
Funded by the governments of Japan, Liberia and the Word Bank, these plants would serve as backup for the Mount Coffee Power Plant which will be completed in 2015.
Mr. Mayah told President Sirleaf that the LEC as a public corporation, is capable of making arrangement for the purchase of fuel but wants some guarantee from government as was done prior to the war.

"Madam President, the LEC as we stand today does not have the resources to buy a 1st quarter fuel that cost US$7 million; we will need the assistance of government; we can make these arrangements as public corporation but we need some guarantees as was done before the war," Mayah told the Liberian leader.

In response, President Sirleaf told the LEC Management to act as a corporation by showing a business plan that indicates how much will be generated and how much will that business cost.

President Sirleaf said when the business plan is developed and government realized that the profit generated cannot meet the demand for fuel; there will be assistance from government.

"If we find out that as you growing and expanding, you cannot generate enough revenue to cover your cost then the government comes in with the subsidy, but we know exactly what that subsidy is. What we don't want is for public corporation to start crying saying we need US$7 million, we need US$5 million... NO.., give us your business plan for the next three years," the President noted.

24. Nigeria - American Investors to Build 400MW Plant in Bayelsa | The Engineering Network

Source URL: http://go.engineer-ng.net/forum/topics/american-investors-to-build-400mw-plant-in-bayelsa

An American consortium, Team Africa, plans to add about 400MW of electricity to the national grid[3] from a power plant to be constructed in Bayelsa State in the next 14 months.

Roy Yeferez, the leader of the American investors' delegation, which visited Ministry of Power, Chinedu Nebo[4], said that the investment, which is expected to boost the nation's power supply, was catalysed by the recent visit of the Minister of State, Power, Mohammed Wakil[5], to the United States.

He said during the recent Obama's Power Africa Initiative summit, Wakil had convinced the potential investors that Nigeria is the best investment destination in Africa, adding that his team had already identified a site in Bayelsa State where a plant will be built to generate 400mw electricity in the next 14 months.

Earlier, Wakil highlighted four key reasons why Nigeria has an investment edge to include the country's huge population of 170 million that translates to big purchasing power, a legal environment that encourages and protects investment and government's demonstrated political will to support investments in the sector.

25. Nigeria: FG Plans Renewable Energy for Rural Areas | Vanguard

Source URL: http://allafrica.com/stories/201406240114.html
June 24, 2014
By Chris Ochayi

The Federal Government has disclosed that accelerated rural electrification will henceforth be driven by renewable energy because of its sustainability and environmental friendliness.

The Minister of State for Power, Mr. Mohammed Wakil, made this disclosure at the opening of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rural Electrification Agency, REA, in Abuja.

He said the new approach to powering the rural area will involve a mix of wind, solar, biomass, hydro energy alongside the conventional source of power supply. Wakil said the renewed focus on rural electrification is a fallout of the completion of the power sector privatisation, which made it imperative for the administration to focus on rural areas where close to 70 percent of the populace are residing.

According to him, "now that privatisation is completed and we are addressing the teething problems, associated with post-privatisation, the administration is determined to focus on the rural areas where we have close to 70 percent of our people.

"As most of these areas are not connected to the national grid, renewable energy provides an alternative and this is what we have started doing. We have to provide for the majority of our people in the rural areas, in this regard, hence our focus on rural electrification through renewable energy. The Rural Electrification Agency is going to play crucial roles in this new focus and that is why it has to be repositioned to meet the aspirations of Mr. President and Nigerians in general," he said.

Describing renewable energy as a worldwide trend in energy provision, the minister recalled that a recent United Nations' Conference adopted this line of thought as a way to empower the under-served and under-empowered areas of the world, while at the same time saving the environment for the future generation.

Responding on behalf of the REA Board, its Chairman, Senator Jonathan Zwingina, commended decisions of the minister to strengthen the agency to meet the challenges of rural electrification through renewable energy sources.
According to him, the board and the management are united in realising the mandate of the agency under the supervision of the ministry, while commending the minister for the various initiatives designed to strengthen the operational efficiency of the agency.
"We promise to stand by the direction and goals of Mr. President as listed by the Minister. We share the vision of powering our rural areas through a mixture of conventional and renewable energy. We will re-rededicate ourselves to the realisation of this laudable agenda," he said.

26. Nigeria: FG to Drive Rural Electrification With Renewable Energy | Daily Independent

Source URL: http://allafrica.com/stories/201406231216.html
June 22, 2014
By Obas Esiedesa

Abuja — Minister of State Power, Mohammed Wakil says accelerated rural electrification will henceforth be driven by renewable energy because of its sustainability and environmental friendliness.

He said new approach to powering the rural area will involve a mix of wind, solar, biomass, hydro energy alongside the conventional source of power supply.
Speaking at the weekend at the opening of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), in Abuja, Wakil said the renewed focus on rural electrification was a

fallout of the completion of the power sector privatization which he said made it imperative for the administration to focus on rural areas where close to seventy percent of the populace are residing.

"Now that privatisation is completed and we are addressing the teething problems, associated with past-privatization, the administration is determined to focus on rural areas where we have close to seventy percent of our people.

"As most of these areas are not connected to the national grid, renewable energy provides an alternative and this is what we have started doing.

"We have to provide for the majority of our people in the rural areas, in this regard, hence our focus on rural electrification through renewable energy. The Rural Electrification Agency is going to play crucial roles in this new focus and that is why it has to be repositioned to meet the aspirations of Mr. President and Nigerians in general", the Minister said.

27. Tanzania: Cabinet okays Tanesco reform | DailyNews Online Edition

Source URL: http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/32861-cabinet-okays-tanesco-reform
June 23, 2014

CABINET has approved the Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) reform strategy that seeks, among others, to unbundle the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) into three separate units responsible for power generation, transmission and distribution.
The major industry reforms envisage to boost power generation and connectivity towards achievement of the middle-income economy by 2025.

Under the approved strategy, power generation is anticipated to increase from the current 1,583MW to at least 10,000MW by 2025 and increase electricity connection levels from 24 per cent to at least 50 per cent and access levels from 36 per cent to at least 75 per cent by 2025.

The strategy document that was availed to the ‘Daily News’ indicate that through the ESI reform strategy and roadmap, the ambitious plan would require 11.4 billion US dollars (over 18tri/-) between 2012 and 2017, which translates into 1.9 billion US dollars (over 3tri/-) annually.

Tanzania’s population is expected to grow to 69.5 million in 2025 from the present 45 million, while electricity demand growth rate is between 10 and 15 per cent per annum.
Reduction of system losses, both technical and non-technical, from 18 per cent in July 2015 to 16 per cent in June 2018, is also among activities lined up for implementation in the ambitious programme.

In the plan, the government plans to promote financial and commercial viability of the power sector as well as improving ESI’s governance and performance for quality service delivery.

“The aim is to create an ESI that further supports National Development Plans 2025, attract private investment to the sector and to ensure adequate, reliable, affordable and accessible electricity supply,” reads part of the document.

To implement the reforms during the fiscal year 2014/2015, a total of 565.71bn/- will be required to facilitate studies, human capital development as new skills to marshal the reforms will be needed. The amount will also be used to settle Tanesco arrears.
“The new companies should start with clean balance sheet come December 2017. The government, development partners and Tanesco would fund the ESI reforms implementation,” reads part of the document. The reforms are expected to be executed between this year and 2025.

It will start with immediate term (July 2014 – June 2015), short term (July 2015 – June 2018), medium term (July 2018 – June 2021) and long term (July 2021 – June 2025).
It is also expected that the distribution and generation entity of the power utility will be listed at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) by 2024. “Reform is essentially a process rather than a one-time event; the roadmap shall be reviewed from time to time.
“There is no one size fits all reform models, the proposed reform strategy is tailored to Tanzanian ESI needs. Concerted efforts from all stakeholders are required to make the reform a success,” the statement reads in part.

28. Tanzania: GE Power to Increase Tanzania's Supplies | East Africa Business Week

Source URL: http://allafrica.com/stories/201406170344.html

Dar es Salaam — GE Power & Water's Distributed Power has said it will increase Tanzania's installed power capacity by about 15%, significantly improving reliability and fuel efficiency.

GE will provide four aeroderivative gas turbines, two already delivered at site to Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor, Jacobsen Elektro AS for a new facility in Kinyerezi.

The new, 150-megawatt natural gas turbine power plant is owned by the local utility, Tanesco, and supports the Tanzania government's 'Big Results Now' (BRN) initiative.
The company said in a statement availed to East African Business Week in Dar es Salaam last week that with the addition of this project, GE units now will provide more than 30% of the total electric power in Tanzania.

"This project will help Tanzania reduce its dependence on expensive rental units and strengthen the reliability of its power supply," the Managing Director of the Jacobsen Elektro AS, Ole Kristian Ødegård said.

As the EPC contractor for this power plant, we are responsible for the complete turnkey project and choosing the best solution for Tanesco's needs he said adding that GE's flexibility and reliable technology were key reasons we chose them for this important project."

Ødegård said under the terms of the contract, GE will supply four of its LM6000-PF dual-fuel aeroderivative gas turbines, which will provide approximately 44.5 megawatts (MW) of power each at about 40% efficiency.

The new facility in Kinyerezi is expected to begin commercial operation in late 2014 or early 2015, Ødegård told East African Business Week.