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## Elevator Pitch

High-level Luncheon Event “Mission Transforming Island Lives! The Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres for Small Island Developing States”



### Organization: ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE):



ECOWAS CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY  
AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY



The Ouagadougou Declaration, adopted at the ECOWAS Conference for Peace and Security on 12 November 2007 in Burkina Faso, articulated the need to establish a regional center to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. At the conference, the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs and UNIDO pledged support for the creation of such a specialized ECOWAS agency. In 2008 the 61st Session of ECOWAS Council of Ministers adopted the regulation C/REG.23/11/08 and gave the ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) a legal basis. The ECREEE Secretariat was formally inaugurated by H.E. José Maria Neves, Prime Minister of Cape Verde, and the President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. James Gbeho, at its headquarters in Praia, Cabo Verde, on 6 July 2010. ECREEE is supported by a broad range of partners, incl. the Governments of Austria and Spain, UNIDO, USAID, the European Union, GIZ and the World Bank. Based on a signed MOU, ECREEE acts as focal point for the African SIDS Cabo Verde, Guiné-Bissau and São Tomé & Príncipe under the SIDS DOCK umbrella since 2015.

### South-South Sustainable Energy Investment Program for the Lusophone SIDS Cabo Verde, Guiné-Bissau and São Tomé & Príncipe

#### Challenges to be addressed

Under the SIDS DOCK umbrella, ECREEE has the honour of representing three SIDS, encompassing Cabo Verde, Guiné-Bissau with its Bijagos Archipelago and, although not a member state of ECOWAS, São Tomé & Príncipe. All three SIDS share similar challenges when it comes to the high import dependency from fossil fuels for electricity generation and transport. This dependence contributes to their difficult fiscal situation and leads to high energy costs for families and key island industries (e.g. fishery, tourism, agriculture, water supply and desalination). Following the diesel track implies, less jobs, less opportunities for the youth and less resources to adapt to climate change. A rapid transformation towards renewable energy and energy efficiency is required. All three countries, have adopted ambitious plans when it comes to the introduction of renewable energy and energy efficiency by 2030. However, despite some individual progress, further efforts are required to address the manifold barriers and risks (e.g. policy and regulation, qualification certification, knowledge and awareness, technical, access to finance) hindering investments in the sector. Since all three SIDS share a similar cultural background and the Portuguese language, there is a lot to learn from each on “how to walk” the Lusophone way of the energy transformation.



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## Project Objectives, outcomes/outputs, budget and key partners

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At the Guinea Bissau Sustainable Energy International Conference, held from 6 to 7 December 2018 in Bissau, ECREEE and UNIDO pledged support for the development of a comprehensive program to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency in the African SIDS Cabo Verde, Guiné-Bissau and São Tomé & Príncipe. The program is based on previous interventions and aims to create an enabling environment for renewable energy and energy efficiency investments. It has adopted a holistic approach and combines interventions in the areas of policy and regulation, (pre-)investment support, technology demonstration, as well as capacity building. The program will facilitate strong south-south cooperation on common issues and solutions between the three SIDS.

For example, under the program ECREEE and UNIDO support Guinea Bissau and São Tomé & Príncipe in the development and implementation of National Action Plans for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. In São Tomé & Príncipe energy efficiency standards for lighting and appliances are under development. To operationalize the established targets, National Sustainable Energy Investment Plans (NSEIPs) are developed. For example, the NSEIP for Guinea Bissau includes a concrete pipeline of priority projects with an estimated investment volume of around 700 million USD. In São Tomé & Príncipe a similar plan will mainly focus on small-scale hydropower and solar PV.

Moreover, the program provides key pre-investment support for a number of projects and is “pitching” them to interested investors and financiers. The projects cover technology areas such as medium-scale grid-connected solar PV, solar PV hybrid mini-grid systems, medium-scale hydropower, PV stand-alone and bioelectricity systems for rural electrification and productive uses in the fishery and agricultural sectors. Up to now, more than USD 100 million of funding commitments have been mobilized. For example, Guinea Bissau is on the way to become a hub for testing and demonstration of renewable energy hybrid mini-grid systems. Examples are in Bambadinca (312 kWp), Bissora (500 kWp), Contubuel (100 kWp), Bubaque (650 kWp), Bolama (360 kWp), Gabu (1 MWp) and Canchungo (1 MWp). The hydropower project Saltinho (20 MW) is under development. In Cabo Verde, the program addresses the water, food and climate change adaptation challenges by introducing renewable energy solutions in relevant processes and productive uses. A comprehensive pipeline of projects in the areas of water desalination, pumping and irrigation is waiting for implementation.

The program will also strengthen the qualification and certification frameworks for sustainable energy services and products by providing capacity building to key stakeholders in all three SIDS. In this context, a Portuguese-speaking network of local capacity building institutions is under establishment (e.g. CERMI).

For the implementation of the program, ECREEE, UNIDO and the respective Governments seek to mobilize USD 1 billion of investment by 2030. Private sector and international partners are invited to the support the Lusophone energy transformation.

## Expected transformative impact (200 words max.)

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The increased use of renewable energy and energy efficiency is an important tool to improve the competitiveness and productivity of key island industries (generation and distribution of power and energy



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services, construction, fisheries and agro-processing, tourism, transport, waste management, as well as water/desalination). The program is assisting Cabo Verde, Guiné-Bissau and São Tomé & Príncipe in the development and implementation of a coherent vision and road-map on how to achieve SDG-7 by 2030. For instance, Guinea-Bissau aims at a 50% renewable energy penetration in the grid peak demand in 2030. Through energy efficiency measures, the total electricity demand in 2030 will be 13% lower than in the base scenario. In the policy scenario, around 80% of the population will have access to electricity services and 75% access to modern cooking technologies. Around 9% of the population will be served by renewable energy-based hybrid mini-grids and stand-alone systems.

With a RE penetration rate of approximately 20%, the Cabo Verdean Government has recently approved the Electricity Sector Master Plan, which should be based on a least-cost approach anchored by private sector investment. Solar, Wind and the innovative introduction of large scale battery systems should enable the accomplishment of the ambitious plan, which should allow the country to reach 54% RE penetration by 2030. São Tomé & Príncipe aims at 50% renewable energy electricity penetration by 2025.

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