

**Meeting of SREP Pilot Countries
May 28-30, 2013 – Bandos Island, Maldives**

Progress Updates from Countries without Endorsed Investment Plans

Country/regional pilot: Liberia

<i>Please describe any advances made in the following areas, arising from your SREP programming process since the last meeting of SREP pilots.</i>	
Stakeholder engagement (e.g., CSOs, private sector, development partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint SREP Technical Mission (MDB Team) visited Liberia on February 4 – 15, 2013 to meet with government representatives and stakeholders in continuation of preparatory activities for development of the Investment Plan. • Consultations and discussions were held with government ministries and agencies, Civil Society, NGOs, private sector, plantations, development partners, and local banks. • There were also field visits to some pilot project sites in rural areas. • A revised timeline for the preparation of the investment plan was agreed.
Institutional arrangements and government coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sector ministry (Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy) has officially designated the Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (RREA) as focal point of the SREP ; • RREA will coordinate SREP activities including the preparation of the investment plan with the Ministry; • The RREA is being supported by a multi-sectoral working group (government, civil society, NGOs, private sector, donors, etc.) to ensure alignment of the investment plan with the government’s development objectives.
Analytical work and technical studies	<p>The following analytical work and technical studies done in the past have been very useful to the preparation of the Investment Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Assessment of Renewable Energy Options for Liberia: Solar, Wind, and Biomass Energy Resources Report, Winrock, USAID • Liberia and Energy Access: Willingness To Pay Analysis, World Bank • Southeastern energy needs assessment for Grand Gedeh and River Gee Counties, RREA • Options for the Development of Liberia’s Energy Sector, World Bank,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Energy Policy an Agenda for Action and Economic and Social Development, Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy • Assessment of Biomass Resources in Liberia. A. Milbrandt, USAID • Simplified Power System Master, Plan - A Primer for Decision-making, Norconsult, Norad, • Electric Supply in Liberia, Geoscience Srl, European Development Fund • An Assessment of Energy Option for Liberia, USAID • Report on Basic Studies on Hydro-Electric Power Development in the Republic of Liberia, JICA • Increasing Clean Energy Access in Rural Liberia: Feasibility Analysis and Action Plan for A Gender-Inclusive, Enterprise-Centered Approach, Daphne Foundation • Renewable Off-Grid Power & Lighting Market Development in Liberia: Market Opportunities for Solar Portable Lights, RREA • Pre-feasibility study on the Development of Power in the Liberian Rural Areas, DECON
Capacity building	There is a need to make capacity building a key component of the Investment Plan given the low capacity on the ground.
Financing	Financing of ongoing renewable energy projects have been led by bilateral and multilateral donors (World bank, USAID, Norway, EU, African Development Bank).
Procurement and recruiting	The government with technical assistance from the MDBs lead by the World Bank has recruited one International Consultant and one National Consultant to lead the preparation of the Investment Plan.
Other	There are several donor supported programs which require consolidation in a program to ensure coordination and maximum development impact. Additionally, a new Energy Law is being drafted for the sector.

Please describe any challenges encountered in the following areas, arising from your SREP programming process since the last meeting of SREP pilots.

Political issues	Delay in passage of RREA Legislation into law by the National Legislature despite efforts by the RREA to get the Bill passed.
Stakeholder engagement (e.g., CSOs, private sector, development partners)	Although the stakeholders have been responsive by participating in the consultation activities, it has been quite a challenge in reaching all stakeholders across the country.

Institutional arrangements and government coordination	No significant challenges so far.
Stakeholder capacity (e.g., government, private sector, CSOs)	Limited capacity of local stakeholders in addressing technical renewable energy issues for investment plan development.
Data availability	Lack of central repository for data. Limited data available are scattered at various institution and are tailored to their respective activities and needs.
Financing	Limited financial resources from the government. Lack of legal and regulatory framework to attract private investment.
Procurement and recruiting	A major challenge is limited technical expertise in the sector, which poses a challenge it procurement.

Please provide any additional information you wish to share on impacts or lessons learned from the SREP programming process.

- The SREP programming process has created a platform for stakeholders to meet, discuss and agree on energy access issues, technology options and investment requirements.
- It has created awareness amongst stakeholders about the need for coordination and programmatic approach to addressing energy access and the capacity required
- It has motivated the private sectors, especial commercial banks to consider financing renewable energy investments.

Monitoring energy access:

What indicators and monitoring systems are being used at the national or sector level to monitor energy access?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaggregated energy resources and technology options in the energy supply mix; • Access rate from current baseline level (number of education, health, public buildings, etc.) with access to energy, especially electricity • Number of households, small businesses and other commercial entities with access to energy, especially electricity. • Number of jobs created ore persons employed in the energy sector from the current level. • Number of persons trained (disaggregated by sex) in the energy sector from the current • Number of new businesses (energy enterprises or service companies) established.
Would these existing monitoring systems capture the impacts of SREP investments in energy access, and, if yes, how?	Yes. The existing monitoring systems will capture the impacts of SREP investments by using baseline information at the roll-out of the Investment Plan to determine its impact over a period of time (consistent with the IP time horizon).

What is your government's experience working with social enterprises for delivery of energy access in rural areas?

The government has little experience with social enterprise delivery of energy access in rural areas. However, that government has been working with NGOs to deliver renewable energy technologies to rural areas.

What activities undertaken in your country have been successful at scaling up renewable energy access in rural areas?

The following activities have been successful at scaling up renewable energy access in rural areas:

- A 60-kW micro-hydro power system including associated transmission and distribution network.
- Two hydropower plants (15kW micro-hydro & 1MW mini-hydro power) being financed by USAID
- Lighting Lives in Liberia (LLL) involving the commercial supply of solar lighting products (lanterns) on large scale;
- Ongoing nationwide electrification of 205 rural health clinics with solar PV.

What activities undertaken in your country have not been successful at scaling up renewable energy access in rural areas?

- Biomass Energy due to lack of technical capacity.
- Solar PV, especially for street (public lighting) has not been successful due to theft.