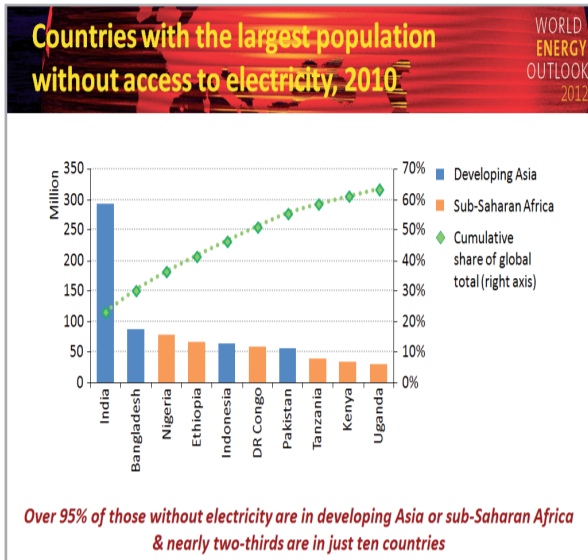


# Financial and human resources to harness renewable energy

There is no other way - we must unite to make renewable energy a reality for all by Sustainable Energy Access Forum (SEAF) - East and Southern Africa



Eastern Africa faces unique energy challenges; five of the ten electricity poorest countries in the world are found here. They are Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. The majority of the population in these five countries use firewood and charcoal for their cooking needs. Moreover, the lighting of homes and businesses is dependent on kerosene-powered hurricane and tin lamps.

## What is SEAF?

There is therefore need for a united effort that can share lessons and coordinate the required technical, financial and human resources to harness renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities. It is upon this basis that the Sustainable Energy Access Forum (SEAF) for East and Southern Africa was formed. SEAF is a consortium that utilizes the principle of Public Private Partnership (PPP) and which brings together a myriad of organizations to address the challenges of access to modern energy services in East and Southern Africa.

This SEAF currently includes World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Practical Action, Bare Foot Power, GVEP International (the Global Village Partnership), SNV Netherlands, Tanzania Renewable Energy Association (TAREA) and is expected to grow to include more civil society, private sector as well as government agencies involved in sustainable energy access initiatives across the region.

This forum believes that once renew-

able energy solutions are provided with sufficient policy, technological and institutional support frameworks, East and Southern Africa can secure a sustainable pathway towards access to modern energy services for all. For this to happen, the region has to address some key barriers that include limited financing, lack of consumer awareness, poor technology and ineffective policies.

SEAF believes that more financing for renewable energy should be provided and at the same time fossil-fuel subsidies should be done away with. The national governments, regional government, civil society, individuals and the private sector should champion consumer awareness on sustainable energy. Finally and most importantly, technology transfer and innovations should be encouraged to ultimately aid in the provision of renewable energy services for the poor. We need renewable energy now

The East and Southern Africa region is endowed with vast renewable energy resources. The potential of these resources includes geothermal, solar, wind and hydropower. There has been marked growth in the development and promotion of renewable energy solutions in the region.

Key drivers have spurred this growth in renewable energy solutions such as the population growth in Sub-Sahara Africa that far outpaces grid connection, thus implying an increasing off-grid population. In addition, the declining access to cheap fuel-wood is driving more communities to search for alternative low cost solutions by way of more energy-efficient cooking appliances. The phenom-

enon that is the rapidly increasing mobile phone subscriber population in Africa is another key driver, which emphasizes the need for better and cheaper mobile phone charging options. Finally, the large and growing expenditure on non-renewable fuels for lighting (due in part to rising fuel costs) has forced many governments to seek new and lasting solutions to their energy needs.

## Our SEAF Commitments for 2014

Together the partners cooperating under SEAF have committed to deliver the following solutions to sustainable energy access in East and Southern Africa in 2014:

### 1) Enable at least 1.7 million people across Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya to access modern energy services

(WWF: will enable at least 12,000 new households in the Kasese Clean Energy Champion District of Uganda to access clean lighting and/or clean cooking solutions. Barefoot Power: will enable 100,000 homes in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to access solar lighting. GVEP: will enable 1.6 million people to access modern energy services);

### 2) Provide USD\$ 6.5 million to enable growth and expansion of sustainable energy enterprises

(GVEP: will provide at least USD\$6.5 million to enable growth and expansion of the supported sustainable energy enterprises through guaranteed and non-guaranteed bank loans, equity and grants);

### 3) Reach over 8 million people across Eastern Africa with information and knowledge on sustainable energy and renewable energy solutions

(Barefoot Power: has committed to reach 500,000 with solar energy messages. TAREA: has committed to reach 6 million people in Tanzania. WWF: estimates to reach at least 2 million people across the region. Practical Action: will hold 12 media briefings and produce 4 documentaries as part of campaigns and advocacy on universal access to energy);

## 6 WINNERS OF SOLAR PRODUCTS!

Do you have a personal commitment on renewable energy you wish to share? Then let us know by texting as follows; "I [your name] commits to .....by end of 2014". Example "I MELISA COMMIT TO START USING SOLAR LIGHTING BY END OF 2014" Send your commitment by SMS to +25679-0508743 before 29th February, 2014. Six (6) lucky winners from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania (2 each) stand a chance of winning these fabulous solar products (lighting and phone charging) courtesy of Barefoot Power. Follow [www.panda.org/syp](http://www.panda.org/syp) to register your Renewable Energy pledge



### 4) Provide improved knowledge, business and technical advisory services to 740 micro, small and medium energy enterprises; over 50 district local government staff, and 100 CSOs

(WWF: will empower at least 100 CSOs on sustainable energy. TAREA: will train 56 district local government personnel on renewable energy in 28 districts. GVEP: to provide 450 micro, small and medium energy enterprises with advisory and mentoring services in business and technical aspects in Uganda, Tanzania Kenya and Rwanda. Practical Action: will develop an energy map showing actors and technologies to identify energy access gaps in Kenya. Practical Action: to support 340 SMEs on renewable energy targeting urban and peri urban households and establish an Energy Guarantee Fund to support financial access to the SMEs);

### 5) Create at least 1,300 employment opportunities and support 200 youth entrepreneurs

(Barefoot Power: will train and support 200 youth entrepreneurs. GVEP: will create at least 1,155 employment opportunities in the supported sustainable energy enterprises);

### 6) Collaborate and coordinate their resources as well as activities towards a common agenda on sustain-

able energy (WWF: will facilitate the activities at least 2 national level partnerships amongst government, civil society and private sector actors on sustainable energy in at least 2 countries);

### 7) Provide awareness and sensitization to 400 members of parliament in Tanzania and the review the Kenya Energy Bill and Energy Policy, as well as the EAC Energy Access Strategy

(TAREA: to sensitize 400 members of parliament and related officers on the importance of the renewable energy policy and net metering scheme. WWF: to coordinate partners in the review of the Kenya Energy Bill and Energy Policy as well as the EAC Energy Access Strategy. Practical Action: to hold consultative forum with EAC Energy Unit, to advocate for CSOs engagement in planning and delivery of energy access in the region);

### 8) Increase national and regional attention to the gender equality dimensions of energy access and sustainable energy development

(Practical Action: to build capacity of at least 50 energy project planners and implementers to mainstream gender in energy delivery in Kenya. This will reach indirectly over 5 million people.)



## CONTACT

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