



United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)



African Renewable Energies Network on Combating Desertification

(TPN5)



1. Challenges

In Africa the energy issues fell within a framework, which includes numerous other challenges facing the continent, notably: economic growth, poverty eradication, and the fight against desertification.

Indeed, in the African context, the nexus **Energy-Desertification-Poverty** may be addressed first and foremost in terms of water and wood fuel supply, processing and conservation of farming products, stock-breeding, as well as in terms of mechanisation of rural development.



ENDA-TM



ANER-

Thus, any attempt to improve access by African populations to energy services within a perspective of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought requires indeed an increased use of renewable energies.

The set up of the Thematic Network (TPN5) within the framework of the Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification belongs in the logical, which aim at contributing to the development of renewable energies in Africa.

2. FRAMEWORK

The defining of an orientation for the Regional Action Programme by the Pan-African Conference of Ouagadougou in 1997 rests on the set up of six thematic networks of which the network for renewable energies and eco-technologies (TPN5). As decided in Nairobi in 1999, when the National Agency for Renewable Energies (ANER, Tunisia) and the NGO “Environnement et Développement du Tiers Monde” (ENDA – TM) were designated as institutional Focal Points in charge of animating this network, the TPN5 was officially launched during the meeting of the African Ministerial meeting on Energy held in that same city on 8 May 2004.



Water supply to rural population by solar energy

3. MISSIONS

The TPN5 is a platform on renewable energies insofar as they relate to combating desertification and the eradication of poverty. It also serves as a framework for consultation and action, bringing together the institutions and organisations operating in the field of development of renewable energies and combating desertification with a view

to achieving better cooperation, consultation, coordination and harmonisation of the policies and strategies used for the promotion of such energies.

4. OBJECTIVES

Being focused on combating desertification, the objectives of TPN5 are as follows:

- To facilitate the exchange of information, data, experiences, know-how and local traditional practices for the promotion of renewable energies;
- To set up and operate an integrated information system, a data base on renewable energies, as well as the requisite conditions of their use;
- To ensure consistency and more efficient implementation of the programmes at both sub-regional and regional levels;
- To facilitate the transfer, acquisition and adapting of technologies, as well as a scientific and technical cooperation between the network members and other partners, while taking into consideration the gender aspect in these activities.

5. Action Programme of the Network

A five-year (2004-2009) action programme was developed and adopted during the African Ministerial meeting on Energy held in Nairobi (Kenya) in May 2004.

This programme revolves around the following major aspects:

- **Capacity building** in matter of identification of the needs and skills, as well as in matter of locating and enhancing the part of renewable energies in the production and distribution of electrical energy. The dissemination of best practices and the development of an African expertise guidebook (excellence centres, training institutes, know-how, technology, etc) and the organisation of targeted training;
- **Capitalisation of local, sub-regional and regional resources, and this through the identification of resources**, the use and promotion of available technologies, making African expertise available to the stakeholders, diversifying household fuels in order to reduce biomass consumption (biogas, LPG, etc.);
- **Exchange of information and of experience**, and this by setting up an information system on Energy/ Desertification, the establishment of data bases for users, the development of a Newsletter and the inter-country exchange of experts (mobility of experts at regional level);
- Mobilisation of financial resources within the existing financing facilities through the set up of a monitoring system on financing opportunities for renewable energies/desertification control from interested partners; identification and dissemination of the relevant financing mechanisms in the framework of the Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) to the benefit of the various network members; take advantage of existing opportunities in the context of programmes designed to strengthen synergy with sustainable development instruments ; and utilize financing available through public-private partnerships

- **Contribution to sub-regional and regional initiatives**, by updating relevant studies on renewable energies/ Desertification; analysis of past and present initiatives ; putting forward recommendations on the priorities to be undertaken, while defining the extent of involvement and participation in the development of the Renewable Energies/ Combating desertification projects selected in the framework of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD and of the Sub-Regional Action Programmes (PASR) to combat desertification.

6. NETWORK MEMBERS

The TPN5 network is composed of various public and private institutions and bodies specialised in the priorities areas selected, representatives of associations from the civil society, particularly active NGOs involved in the fight against desertification, as well as partners in development. This network constitutes a framework for bringing in contact the institutions or organisations with a view to a better coordination and harmonisation of policies and strategies in the context of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme in Africa.

7. ORGANISATION OF THE NETWORK

The organisation of the network is composed of a coordination board and an advisory body.

The coordination board is composed of two focal points:

- ANER- Tunisia (a governmental body);
- ENDA-TM (an international NGO).

The advisory body is composed as follows:

Seven representatives of the sub-regional organisations (UMA, SADC, IGAD, ECOWAS/CILSS, CEEAC/COMIFAC) and regional organisations (AU, ADB)

Five rotating country representatives, serving two-year terms (centres of excellence in new and renewable energy sources);

Five representatives of international organizations (UNEP/GEF, UNDP, ECA, IEPF, UNCCD Secretariat);

Two NGO representatives (rotating);

Two private-sector representatives (rotating);

One academic institution representative (rotating).

Monitoring mechanism :

The institutional Focal Points (ANER/ENDA) are required to submit on an annual basis a report on the occasion of the regional preparatory meeting for the official sessions of CCD (COP and CRIC).

FOCAL POINT

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