



# AREI

Africa Renewable Energy Initiative



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The Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) is a transformative, Africa-owned and Africa-led inclusive effort to accelerate and scale up the harnessing of the continent's huge renewable energy potential. Under the mandate of the African Union, and endorsed by African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), the Initiative is set to achieve at least **10 GW** of new and additional renewable energy generation capacity by 2020, and mobilize the African potential to generate at least **300 GW** by 2030.

The AREI is firmly anchored in the context of sustainable development and climate change. It shows how low to zero carbon development strategies can be achieved in African countries through climate finance and means of implementation according to the principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It recognizes the critical importance of rapid expansion of energy access for enhanced well-being, economic development and the fulfilment of all Sustainable Development Goals.

### GOALS

The overall goals of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative are to:

- help achieve sustainable development, enhanced well-being, and sound economic development by ensuring **universal access** to sufficient amounts of clean, appropriate and affordable energy.
- help African countries leapfrog to **renewable energy systems** that support their low-carbon development strategies while enhancing economic and energy security.

### IMPLEMENTATION PHASES

**The immediate establishment phase (2016-2017):** Formal initiation of the AREI activities, including resource mobilisation, establishment of the governance and management structure and identification of initial Phase I programmes and projects.

**Phase I (2017-2020):** In cooperation with bilateral and global partners, assessments, preparations and critical enabling activities at the continental African level as well as in a number of pioneering countries. Achievement of at least 10 GW new and additional generation capacity.

**Phase II (2020-2030):** Ambitious, full-scale roll-out of nationally determined policies, programmes and incentives as initiated under Phase I. Continuous project identifications, assessments and revisions for further scaling up to at least 300 GW new and additional generation capacity of renewable energy.

**Universal  
access for all  
AFRICANS  
by 2030**

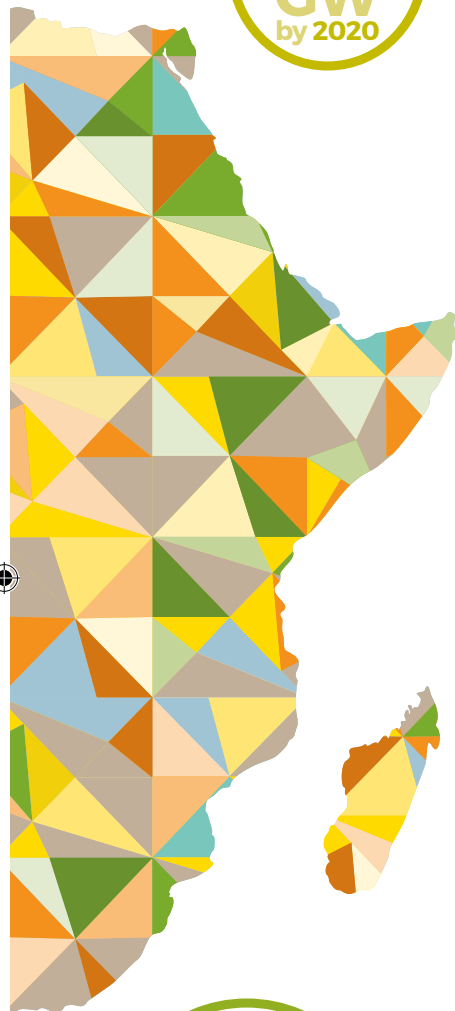
2016

2020

2030



**10  
GW  
by 2020**



**300  
GW  
by 2030**

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The AREI shall be guided by the following principles:

- Contributing to achieving sustainable development in Africa by scaling up and accelerating the deployment and funding of renewable energy in Africa.
- Addressing the entire African continent and benefitting all African countries.
- Boosting intra-regional and international cooperation and promoting and supporting only those activities and projects that are agreed by all countries concerned and impacted.
- Promoting all kinds of renewable energy technologies – in particular solar; wind; pico-, micro-, small- and medium-scale hydro; modern biomass; geothermal; and marine – provided they are socially and environmentally appropriate, gender-sensitive and in line with these guiding principles.
- Promoting the full range of renewable electricity applications, from grid-connected to mini-grids to small stand-alone systems, as well as other forms of energy, with particular consideration being paid to applications that meet the needs of poor people.

## STRATEGIC FOCUS AND WORK AREAS

The AREI Action plan identifies specific activities under five Core Work Areas and four Cross-cutting Work Areas, all of which complement and build on work by other relevant stakeholders. These range from helping interested governments strengthen policy, regulatory, support and incentives frameworks to providing project development and support that ends with the financing of renewable energy projects. A detailed Action Plan describes these nine elements in detail.

## GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The AREI is led by Africans and strongly anchored in existing African political and decision-making processes. A Board of Directors at Heads of State level will mobilize political support, provide strategic oversight and vision, ensure African leadership and ownership of the Initiative, and oversee the implementation of the project pipeline and the annual work plan. The Board will be supported by a Technical Committee with experts from multiple stakeholders and an Independent Delivery Unit (IDU) that will undertake concrete work and coordinate with other actors and initiatives. The African Development Bank will serve as Trustee for the initiative and host for the IDU.







## TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

The AREI recognizes that the scale of African energy challenges is enormous, but so are the opportunities. Transformational change is both needed and possible, and must be stimulated by truly collaborative international efforts and goodwill. By fostering partnerships, bringing together existing initiatives, and mobilizing new international support for secure, distributed and people-oriented energy systems of the future, the Initiative will help African countries gain access to cleaner energy to drive their development and prosperity.

## LEAPFROGGING TO THE ENERGY SYSTEMS OF THE FUTURE

The AREI envisions smart, distributed energy systems that can handle a mix of renewable energy generation. With a highly diversified ownership base compared to that of conventional, centralized energy systems, a vast number of households, communities, cooperatives, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as larger companies, become both producers and consumers of electricity. This will enable Africa to leapfrog to the energy systems of the future.

## CORE WORK AREAS

- Mapping of renewable energy policies, regulations, experiences and programmes
- Strengthening of policy, regulatory and support frameworks
- Capacity mobilization and building
- Mobilization of finance for incentives and investment
- Project development and support

## CROSS-CUTTING WORK AREAS

- Socio-economic and environmental assessments of renewable energy technologies
- Multi-stakeholder engagement
- Wider context monitoring and assessment
- Communications and outreach

## ENERGY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

The Initiative highlights the fact that as well as ensuring appropriate electricity access for households and families, access needs to be sufficient to also drive the productive sectors in both local and national contexts for job creation, economic development and increased resilience. This includes addressing the needs of small-scale farming and micro, small- and medium-scale enterprises in terms of both quantity and quality of access, and entails a vision of electricity access beyond the bare minimum requirements for households.

## PEOPLE-CENTRED ENERGY

For poor people, increased access to energy means a potential for improved livelihoods. The Initiative will therefore promote unprecedented efforts to reach populations currently off national grids. It will plan for expanded access to electricity for social services as African societies develop social security provisions and other means of improving welfare for their populations over the coming decades.

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