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# Virtual Workshop #5

“Action led by local actors to pursue the necessary energy transition in the current pandemic context in Africa.”

Moderated by **Romain Cruzet**, Director of Programmes, Climate Chance.

## **Panelists:**

- **Joel Nana**, Senior Project Coordinator, Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA)
- **Mame Bousso Faye**, Specialist in local approaches for sustainable development, Enda Energie
- **Stéphane Redon**, Founder, So Sen
- **Ndeye Rokhaya Sarr Diene**, Coordinator for the Local Climate and Energy plan, City of Dakar
- **Vincent Jacques Le Seigneur**, Director-General, Energies pour le Monde Foundation

Links for more information	
Climate Chance	Check out the work of the African coalitions here: <a href="https://www.climate-chance.org/en/get-involved/african-coalitions/">https://www.climate-chance.org/en/get-involved/african-coalitions/</a> and all necessary information on the virtual workshops here: <a href="https://www.climate-chance.org/en/get-involved/climate-chance-virtual-workshops/">https://www.climate-chance.org/en/get-involved/climate-chance-virtual-workshops/</a> If you have any questions, contact us at association@climate-chance.org
Sustainable Energy Africa	Find out more about SEA's activities here: <a href="http://www.sustainable.org.za/index.php">http://www.sustainable.org.za/index.php</a>
Enda Energie	Check out the website here: <a href="https://endaenergie.org/">https://endaenergie.org/</a>
Local Climate and Energy Plan for the City of Dakar	Check out the website here: <a href="https://www.climate-chance.org/en/best-practices/dakar-local-climate-energy-plan/">https://www.climate-chance.org/en/best-practices/dakar-local-climate-energy-plan/</a>



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### **Key-takeaways:**

For most African actors, there is a need not only to promote renewable energy to make the energy transition happen, but also to **improve access to energy itself**, all of which have been complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Several renewable energy projects have been delayed and are behind schedule. The importance of local networks of actors is once again highlighted, along with the limitations of macro-approaches.

Sustainable Energy Africa works at three levels with city and local authorities-- creating an evidence base, Climate Action Planning, and Project Implementation. Projects like the C40 South Africa Buildings Programme, and the Municipal Sustainable Energy Transition Support have seen considerable success, combining international funding and technical expertise to produce local results.

Enda Energie intensified its actions in supporting and working with local stakeholders and local authorities during the COVID-19 crisis. On the question of energy, the first step is to strengthen people's economic power, to allow them to have access to energy, and this entails supporting local producers and entrepreneurs.

So'SEN has identified basic infrastructural deficits in cities, and works with municipal authorities to implement projects and also acquire technical know-how, obtain financing, and continue maintaining projects at low costs. While public lighting is an essential need, the pandemic has brought to light other urgent needs, and the idea is to apply the experience and replicability of So'SEN's public lighting projects to other areas.

The City of Dakar is working urgently to expand its medical capacities, and overcome delays caused by the pandemic, and in doing so is simultaneously working on ensuring that these new expansions of public facilities (like the hospital) are built sustainably, and use renewable energy as much as possible.

The Energies pour le Monde foundation works on individual access to energy, community-level electrification, and lucrative electrification projects that cover their own costs. The pandemic has had a positive impact in that it has reiterated the importance of working with local actors, but on the other hand, it has also shown the need for higher income countries to provide better financing, and the flaws of co-financing models.

### **Romain Crouzet, Programmes Director at Climate Chance:**

To start off, an introduction to Climate Chance, which was formed in 2015, leading up to the COP21 in Paris. Climate Chance **gathers non-state actors in their diversity**, and aims to create more synergies between the 9 majors groups recognized by the UNFCCC: local governments, non-governmental organisations, researchers, companies/businesses,



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women's groups, indigenous people's groups, etc. We have our website, where we publish all information on local climate action, in both English and French. This portal gathers projects from in the field, identifies best practices, and particularly those from the African continent. Thus it creates access to information and data on climate change and related challenges at the regional/territorial level.

There is also the [Climate Chance Observatory](#), which analyses implemented climate action worldwide, and puts together yearly publications. At the beginning we started from the affirmation of the role of non-state actors, a certain advocacy finally, but after a while there was a need to explain the action concretely carried out. It is a very interesting publication that analyses different sectors, different countries, full of case studies.

Climate Chance organises [annual summits](#), gathering our various coalitions, each with their own roadmaps, to take stock of climate action. Unfortunately, this year as it is not possible to have the summit that was planned to take place in Kigali Rwanda, we decided - in spite of the current situation - to go ahead with this [Series of Virtual Workshops](#). Through the virtual workshops, we will continue to mobilise our coalitions and follow up on our roadmaps.

- The 1st round of Virtual Workshops aims to regain contact with members and co-pilots of all of the coalitions, and to present the changed situations due to the pandemic Covid-19
- The 2nd round in the fall, will focus on moving forward with the work defined in the roadmaps of the coalitions.

Our topic for today is access to renewable energy and energy efficiency in Africa, and connecting it all to the pandemic. 600 million people in Africa don't have access to energy, and with economic development and growth there will be higher demand for access to energy than in the past. In the current context, we see a reduction in fossil fuels and more attraction for renewable energy. We shall see what measures have been taken without sacrificing the progress made, with respect to sustainable energy and the COVID pandemic in Africa.

### **Joel Nana, SEA:**

I work with Sustainable Energy Africa, and I'll try to present the road to sustainable energy in African cities; it is not really linked to COVID, but there are some interesting projects. SEA is quite a little NGO, we have about 15 employees, and 20 years of experience since 2000, supporting cities to understand energy. We try to provide support in terms of technology, policy, administrative changes and so on. Access to clean, safe and affordable energy for households is also a priority.

We've been engaged with cities at three levels - we've been very strong in creating an evidence base; more recently, in Climate Action Planning; and also in Project Implementation, which is what I'll be focusing on today, by showcasing programmes taking sustainable energy forward in cities.



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This graph (refer presentation) shows the energy profile of cities in sub-Saharan Africa, we use these kind of evidence based graphs to help cities to plan, set objectives and work on those.

Coming to the specific projects, the first one is the C40 South Africa Buildings Programme. It is sponsored by C40, and is quite innovative and ambitious. It works with the four largest metropolitan cities in South Africa - Durban, Pretoria, Johannesburg and Capetown, who develop and draft policies for net zero buildings in building codes. There is quite a technical component, and we work with technical partners for this. This project has the potential to drive full sector transformation, which is especially important considering the major chunk of city emissions coming from the building sector.

From 2025, all new buildings in these cities are required to be net-zero. The Green Building Council recently released a guide, listing practical tips to do so. This is the first document of this type, and hopefully it will be useful.

The second project is the Municipal Sustainable Energy Transition Support (MSETS) . There is 900 MW of installed Rooftop solar PV capacity, which is huge compared to other cities in the region. These systems are connected to municipal distribution, unlike most cities in Sub Saharan Africa, here the cities sell energy;

**Romain Crouzet:**

Has there been a significant impact- how do you finance and mobilise such projects?

**Joel Nana:**

Well, for the first project, it is sponsored by C40, supported by South Africa's experience working with municipalities in Sub-Saharan Africa. The MSETS project is funded by GIZ, the German development agency. Both out of a need for it, and a recent drive for renewable energy in South Africa, we see the need to integrate it into the distribution system.

We've been able to mobilise city officials, and even more with the pandemic-- with virtual events we have more than double the usual number of participants.

**Mame Bousso FAYE, Enda Energie :**

The crisis has shown us the limitations of the macro approach, and the importance of exchanges with and working with non-state stakeholders and local communities. Enda is an NGO which specialises in helping local governments in Sub-Saharan Africa. We intervene on questions of access to energy, climate change, advocacy, desertification, technology transfer, etc.

The impact of the pandemic has been on our organisation, and civil society and all the stakeholders we work with; a lot of our projects are lagging behind, as people had to reduce



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their working time, had to stop visiting places, and all of this meant we fell behind in project implementation. The financial supporters have been very understanding.

Taking the example of another programme in the milk sector-- there was a lot of difficulty in the rainy season related to distribution. Others programmes too, there was a raw material supply issue; there was demand but it was difficult to supply. To evaluate the impact we need to analyse, and so far we've not had a long term analysis, we can only look at the short term.

For some emergency initiatives, we had to organise ourselves with various stakeholders and local authorities-- the funders were understanding-- we had to supply certain regions with masks and sanitisers, we did a radio awareness programme, etc. As we did this we realised the need to do it with local producers; for example, in one place, we provided help and finance to women making soaps. The idea is not just working with municipalities, but finding a mechanism to face the pandemic, and that's when we came to the programme for access to energy.

But before getting there, we need to reinforce the economic power of people, through production. In Senegal, the state worked mainly through formal structures; but 90% are non-formal, and we want to help them and see how access to energy can improve their work and skills- for example, the women making soaps, how can they use renewable energy? In the short term we need to look at social distancing and in the long term, at resilience.

To conclude, the COVID crisis has shown the limitation of macro approaches, Climate Chance and other organisations could try to document the community approaches, the ingenuity of local actors, creative solutions. Local authorities need to be involved in risk taking in climate planning.

### **Stéphane Redon, So'Sen :**

So'Sen is an NGO that assists municipalities with the installation of public lighting. It is a project that is integrated into issues of energy efficiency and access to energy. The structures of public lighting are heavy, so many communities are not equipped for this. It is estimated that in African cities, on average, only 8% of the population have lighting. So there is a real infrastructure deficit. Lighting improves security (less violence and accidents), allows the development of economic and social activity at night, and creates jobs.

We support local authorities to acquire technical know-how, obtain financing, and find solutions to finance maintenance costs.

The objective is not only to show that the technology exists, but also to think about financing tools that would make it possible to have a sustainable solution. In this way, the situation is assessed well upstream to find a balance between the need and the capacity to manage the infrastructure. Then, we try to find an adapted solution, and therefore often this involves solar lighting, to make the most of the solar resource that is very present in Africa, and because it is often difficult to access a reliable electricity grid. Finally, we help local authorities to make this solution last. This often involves converting financing into 10-year lighting service contracts to guarantee long-term service.



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Our project is mainly in Uganda, particularly in the city of Kampala. We attach great importance to its replicability. The project is financed by the French government and involves French companies and local partners. We are taking advantage of this project to increase the capacity of the premises. Our overall methodology is to show through this initiative that there are steps to go through to make a good project: the preliminary audit, involvement of local communities, project planning (3 months), the installation phase (6 months), and finally a monitoring phase to verify that the project is well on its way to sustainability. We try to have quick and sustainable results to show that it is possible.

We propose solutions so that communities have their own financing, for example through tax collections or the installation of advertising.

About the impact of the covid: for us, public lighting is a first brick in the city's needs. The covid has brought new needs. We are therefore trying to see how we can capitalize on our experience to support local authorities in services other than lighting, for example on renewable energies, or on access to energy on the outskirts of cities (in slums, for example), or on the subject of waste.

The covid has made our projects complicated because visits to the sites at night were made impossible because of curfews. Projects had to be reprogrammed to take into account the interruption of administrations. We are trying to solicit more and more local partners since foreign experts cannot return to Uganda.

#### **Ndeye Rokhaya Sarr DIENE, City of Dakar :**

I am the climate plan manager in Dakar. Dakar has the ambition to be a sustainable city committed to resilience. Recently, we carried out an energy efficiency project in a medical center. This center provides about 800 consultations per month but has only 7 beds. We are therefore financing the bioclimatic construction of two 20-bed blocks, a treatment room and a waiting area. We are using bio-sourced materials, and we are going to insulate the roofs. We are going to install low energy consumption equipment and use solar energy. So this project combines energy efficiency and resilience to a possible future pandemic.

Dakar is also carrying out solar-powered public lighting projects.

We have also received funding from the European Union for the installation of solar panels on 4 administrative buildings in Dakar, but this project has been postponed due to COVID.

#### **Vincent Jacques Le Seigneur, Fondation Energies pour le Monde :**

Our foundation has been involved in rural electrification in Africa for 30 years. Since the beginning, we have brought electricity to 1 million people.

We have 3 objectives:



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- electrification for individuals: typically a few lamps and a television.
- community electrification: public lighting for example, we work in particular with So'Sen, which Stéphane has just mentioned.
- lucrative electrification projects: these are the projects that we are focusing on at the moment, projects that allow development, income and therefore cover the project costs.

The covid has brought good and bad news for us.

The good news is that our model of relying on local actors is the right one. Not being able to go there anymore didn't stop things for us, so the covid has reinforced us in this model. We have also carried out awareness-raising actions on barrier gestures. In addition, the donors were very understanding. They accepted all the amendments that allowed us to postpone the programs for a few months.

On the bad news side: I was appalled by the negligence of the French public authorities. The answers we are giving to Africa are unworthy of a country as rich as ours. I have a specific example. There was a call for projects at the beginning of the summer by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 442 projects were received in a few days, representing a total of 231 million euros. They only financed 10 of them. This is unacceptable, it is not at all up to the challenge that awaits us. The covid is going to bring dramatic subjects to Africa, unprecedented economic and social crises, and the public authorities need to take the plunge on this subject. Moreover, the difficulty we have and that our programs must be co-financed. So when I find a million euros somewhere in the public sector, I have to find another million in the private sector. These co-financing rules are completely absurd.

**Romain Crouzet:** With Climate Chance we are also here to create resilient networks, with local actors. Donors are understanding for us too for the moment, 2021 may be more complicated. One of our coalitions has produced some recommendations to facilitate access to funding for non-state actors, because it's true that private actors sometimes make it difficult.