



CLIMATE CHANCE SUMMIT AFRICA

15th-17th September 2021

#SCCA



Summary - Energy Workshop

17.09.2021 - Climate Chance Summit Africa 2021

Co-pilots represented at the workshop: Grégoire Gailly (Geres), Anne Barre (WECF), Pierre-Olivier Veysset (Valorem), Djadji Touré (Valorem)

Other organisations represented: Anaïs Asselin (Pôle médée) et Madeleine Fauchier (FONDEM).

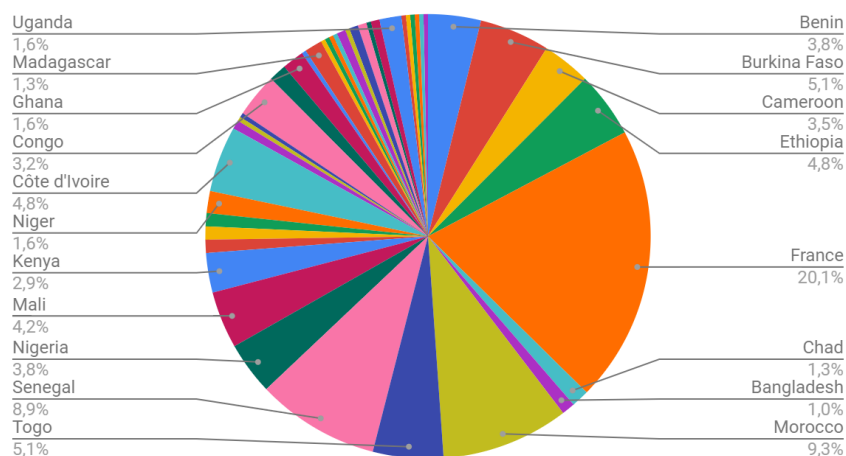
During the third [Climate Chance Summit Africa 2021](#), Climate Chance's African Coalition working on energy access and efficiency, organised an interactive workshop on energy access in Africa, with a special focus on capacity building of local actors and the role of local governments in creating an enabling legislative framework for energy projects.

Some key figures from the Climate Chance Africa Summit 2021:

- over **4000 registrations**
- over **2500 participants** representing **86 countries** (including 46 African countries)
- **130 speakers**
- **50 video pitches**

More than 300 people registered for the Energy Workshop and about **70 participants** logged in and actively participated in the session. A total of **38 new best practices** related to the energy sector were identified in Africa (and published on the [Climate Chance Cartography](#) /featured in the [Pitch Corner](#)).

Nombre de Country/Region Name





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The first part of the workshop was devoted to presentations by Geres and WECF. Grégoire Gailly recalled Geres' involvement in the coalition's dynamics since 2015, and how the NGO works on **supporting various actors**, especially local authorities in their energy-climate planning. He shared the observation of existing difficulties to articulate **national policies and local initiatives**.

Anne Barre emphasised in particular how the theme of **gender equality** and the **strengthening of women's participation** in the energy transition is essential for WECF because it would mean a strong potential to accelerate climate action while strengthening social justice and food security on the continent.

Two projects were pitched during the workshop:

The “CryoSolar” Initiative, presented by Pierre-Olivier Veysset, Valorem. Pitch video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWRQnB73URw&feature=emb_imp_woyt&ab_channel=AssociationClimateChance

Cryosolar® is a solution for producing cooling and electricity from renewable energy. This autonomous solar-powered cold room meets the challenges of preserving sensitive and perishable products (food, health, medical). With its innovative cold storage solution ("cold battery", a green technology patented by VALOREM), Cryosolar® guarantees reliable and continuous cold 24/7, even in the absence of sunlight.

“Cooperate sustainably”, an initiative presented by Anaïs Asselin, Pôle Médée. Pitch video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Oz8UFdVcEl&feature=emb_imp_woyt&ab_channel=AssociationClimateChance

The project to support the creation of a partner cluster, launched by Pôle Médée, was born with the ambition to support and finalise the creation of the Energy and Applications Cluster in Benin, to map the skills and needs of the energy sector in Benin and define a roadmap to structure and develop it, implement a sustainable framework for collaboration between the two networks to promote the development of infrastructure, training and R&D projects beneficial to both territories.

Key ideas from the breakout groups:

Groups 1 (FR) and 3 (ENG) - Capacity building and awareness raising of local actors and how to secure local expertise? :

- The local actors in the rural electrification sector represent a **wide diversity**:
 - local authorities
 - deconcentrated public services
 - private actors (micro-enterprises, SMEs, etc)
 - energy producers and suppliers (rural electrification operators)



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- civil society organisations (associations, youth/women's groups, religious/traditional organisations, etc.)
- The main problem is therefore the **structuring of the work between these different actors**. Examples of difficulties: articulating the mandates of local elected officials and the mandates of national agencies, reconciling national planning and local initiatives, involving certain local actors who have fewer human resources, informing communes about the roles and responsibilities of actors in the sector and the regulations on the one hand and about the potential of their territories on the other, identifying suitable skills, access to training for other economic actors...
- **Needs** in the face of these difficulties:
 - Local authorities lack the **technical skills** and need to **share experiences**, especially regarding engineering, project management, or **financial mechanisms** to access "climate smart" funding.
 - The private sector or producers lack professional training, **technical, commercial and entrepreneurial skills**
 - Consumers need capacity-building in all aspects of the energy sector and the roles and responsibilities of the actors involved and where they exist the support mechanisms All actors need capacity building on **impact and sustainability indicators** to help scale up

Group 2 (FR) - The role of local authorities in creating an enabling environment for the development of local energy industries:

- Same feedback as Group 1, local actors are extremely diverse (in size, skills, objectives) and this makes collaboration difficult.
- The issues surrounding the role of local authorities in Africa:
 - the importance of recognising the actions of local actors or understanding or even **knowledge of projects by local authorities**
 - the lack of financial, human and technical resources to understand the solutions proposed by local actors
 - the issue of appropriation of the technologies proposed or implemented
 - project governance (sometimes lack of participatory approach)
- The main needs of local authorities :
 - **transfer of skills** from the national to the territorial level, ensuring that local authorities understand the energy project
 - development of a **programme or strategy to frame the action** based on public consultations and in collaboration with all stakeholders
 - **networking** between the different energy actors, multi-stakeholder clusters are important and can help in accessing funding (via joint applications)
 - the importance of **education and technical training for women**, the effort to **recruit women** to technical positions and the **participation of women in political decisions**



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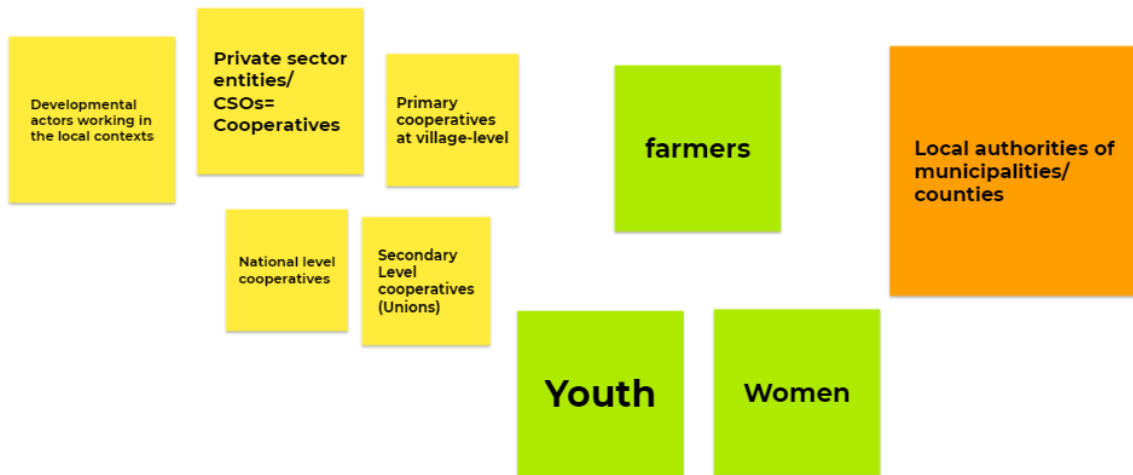
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- the **mobilisation of the media** to raise awareness and change behaviour and mentalities to improve the presence of women in the energy sector
- the establishment of **financial mechanisms** to enable women's enterprises to access financial resources for investments (e.g. via local banks)

- Who are the local actors?



- What are the difficulties encountered by these local actors in relation to access to energy projects or rural electrification?

