1. **Introduction and summarizing of the Meetings**

Under the framework of the ACP-EU project “Promoting Sustainable development through the use of Geospatial Data in West Africa” (ECOWREX 2), ECREEE, in collaboration with the University of Geneva (UNIGE), the Energy Centre KNUST, the Ministry of Energy Cabo Verde, and Noveltis S. A. S., jointly organized a 2 – day regional training workshop on Geographical Information System for Energy planning, from 11th – 12th August 2014, at the Des Almadies Hotel, in Dakar, Senegal.

The workshop brought together 24 participants from West Africa. The two day workshop was structured around i) Benefits of ECOWREX to member states ii) GIS training for advanced users on geospatial data and metadata collection and iii) raising awareness on the use of GIS for energy planning and rural electrification. The event capitalized on participants’ knowledge and experience through presentations from each member states about the status of the use of GIS for supporting energy planning and rural electrification.

Also, the project partners including NOVELTIS and KNUST presented similar experiences on the development of GIS applications for supporting energy planning, and renewable energy development. The Senegalese Agency for Rural Electrification (ASER) also contributed with a presentation about their experience in the implementation and use of GIS for energy planning in Senegal. Finally, Energy Commission of Ghana and the West African Power Pool also contributed with presentations about the data collection experience for energy planning.

2. **Objectives**

The workshop aimed to strengthen capacity within the member States, on how to collect data and the relevant metadata in the context of GIS, for supporting energy access. The specific objectives of the workshop includes: sharing experiences on energy planning based on GIS, introduce participants to the guidelines for data and meta-data collection and raise awareness on spatial data management and how it can help to improve energy access through effective planning.

3. **Outcome**

Participants realized the benefits that GIS technology offers for energy planning and rural electrification and the regional role of ECOWREX in West Africa. They profited from the wealth of knowledge and experiences presented, the presentations about GIS applications for energy planning from ASER in Senegal and the GEAR toolkit developed by the KNUST Centre in Ghana. Participants also expressed interested in the specialized training on geospatial data and metadata collection from UNIGE, the data requirements of ECOWREX 2 and how to collaborate with ECREEE in the data collection process.
The project partners presented in detail the data requirements for ECOWREX 2 and discuss the methodology to be used for data collection from member states. Participants came up with interesting ideas and suggestions. These discussions gave room for partners to organize and plan the next steps on the project, which is the data collection process.

For ECREEE, the event served to promote the activities of the Centre and make clear its role in capacity building and supporting member states. For ECOWREX, the event was really fruitful; participants realized the role of ECOWREX and understood how ECOWREX 2 can support them in energy planning and renewable energy development.

The participants were given the floor to present the situation of the rural electrification GIS planning in each member states, which is summarized in the following graphic:

This information has great interest to guide the future intervention with JRC in Rural electrification GIS planning.

Finally, participants expressed their willingness to collaborate with ECREEE for the data collection, and demanded that ECREEE should lead, a “GIS team” from each member states, to support the data collection process and in developing a complete SDI for energy planning and rural electrification.

Concrete outcomes:

- National media announced the workshop and informed about the use of GIS technologies for energy planning in the framework of ECOWREX.
- ECREEE gained direct contacts for the data collection process on ECOWREX.
Project partners discovered that some countries are advanced on the use of GIS for energy planning. Especially interesting were the presentations from Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Benin.

Participants manifested their interest in ECREEE for creating a capacity building programme on the use of GIS for energy planning and geospatial data and metadata collection.

Participants challenged ECREEE in leading and starting the process of supporting and creating a GIS team in each member state.

ASER and The Ghana Energy Commission showed willingness on collaborating with ECREEE and ECOWREX.

Collaboration between ECREEE and WAPP for energy planning has been strengthened.

4. Future prospects

ECREEE starts the data collection process for ECOWREX 2. Country missions to Senegal and Mali for studying their GIS model for energy planning will serve as great opportunity to help develop for a regional model for the ECOWREX 2 project.

Some participants nominated themselves as the direct contacts for the data collection process. Others asked to go through the authorities.

ECREEE proposes the final list of data requirements for the ECOWREX 2 project based on the discussion with participants.

An option of future collaboration on the ECOWREX objectives in general, and on the use of GIS for energy planning, is between ECREEE and the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC). With all information gathered during the workshop, ECREEE is preparing a 2 pages concept note for the JRC that will include also the status of the use of GIS for energy planning in each member state.

ECREEE could support member states with starting the process for creating a regional GIS team.

The regional GIS team / person: would be in regular communication with ECREEE, ECREEE could help them in initiating the data collection process and also could assist them in developing a GIS tool on energy planning (for those countries without GIS).

ECREEE could ensure that there are GIS experts and software available in all member states.

ECREEE could plan a capacity building programme on the use of GIS for energy planning, geospatial data and metadata collection.

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