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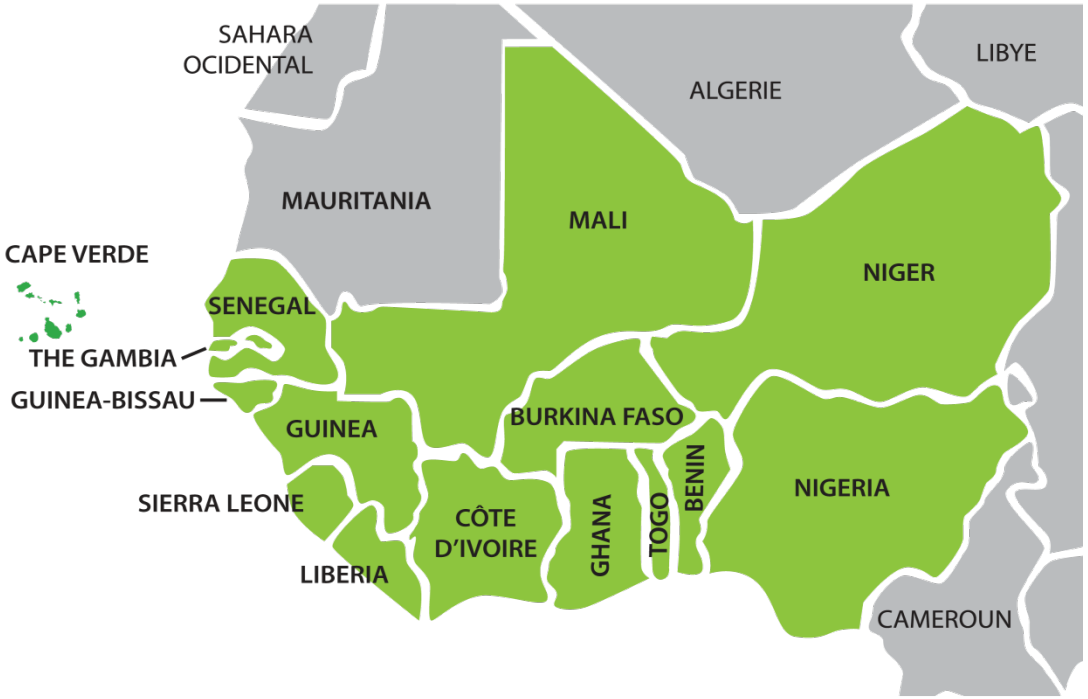
Contribution of a sustainable Wood Energy production approach to Forest Landscape Restauration (FLR) in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

Bah F. M. Saho
Principal rogram Officer, Renewable Energy, ECREEE

BACKGROUND: THE ECOWAS REGION

- *15 countries with a land area of 5 million m²*
- *Climate from semi-arid to humid tropical*
- *Population of with 300 million people*
- *60% of population lives in rural areas*
- *11 of the 15 countries are LDCS and HIPIC*
- *Almost 176 million people have no access to electricity (52%)*



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Background

Establishment of ECREEE

Poor Energy Access

Interrelated challenges of energy poverty, energy security and climate change mitigation and adaptation

Current Energy Situation

- **Low Access to modern energy service: The Region has one of the lowest access energy rate**
- **Energy security concerns**: High vulnerability to fossil fuel price volatility
- **Climate changes concerns:** increasing energy related GHG emissions
- **YET: Potential for renewable energy exists and energy efficiency can be employed**

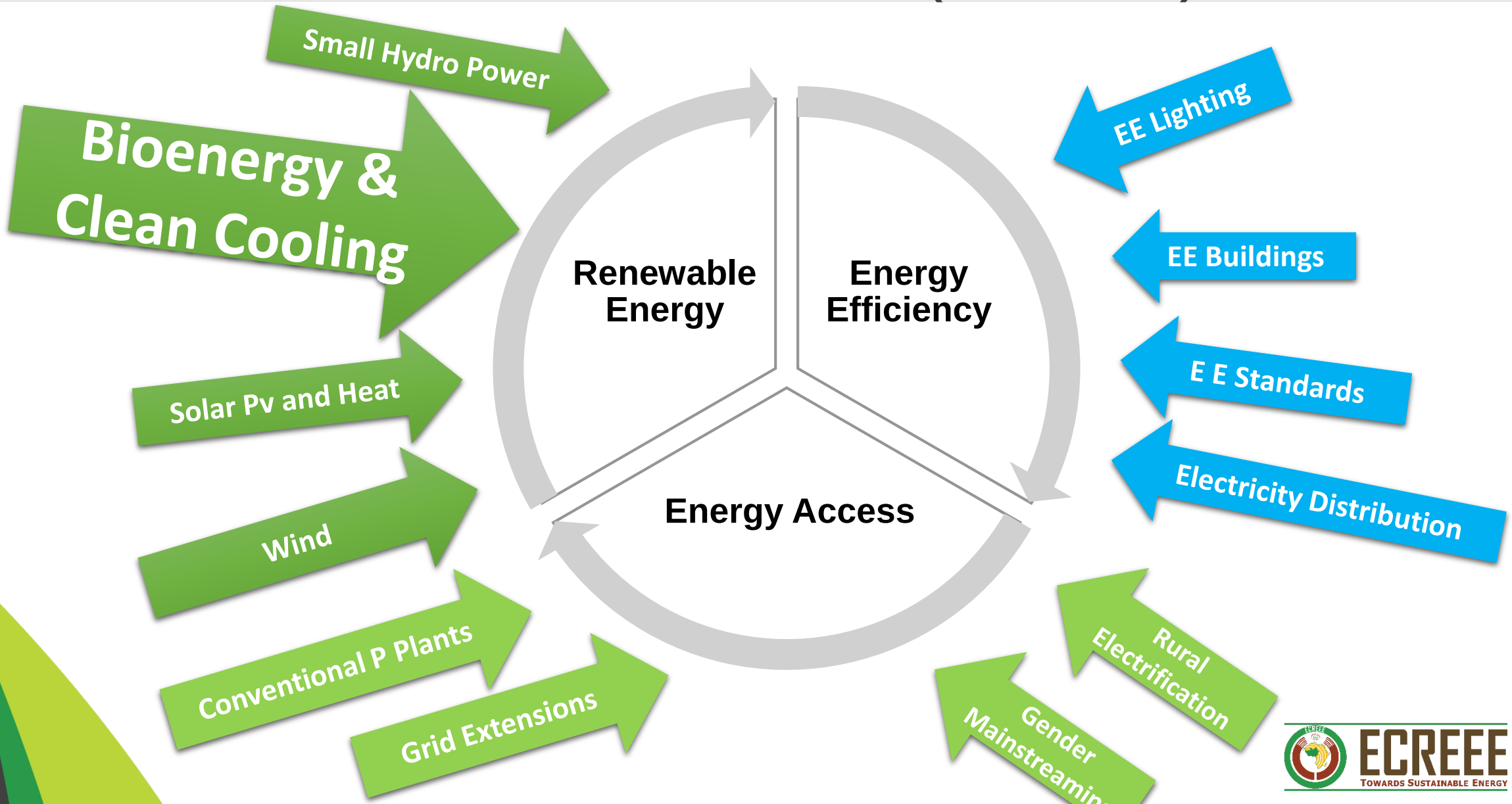
Overall objective

To contribute to the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of West Africa by improving access to modern, reliable and affordable energy services, energy security and reduction of energy related GHG emissions and climate change impacts on the energy systems

Specific objectives

Creation of favorable framework conditions and an enabling environment for RE&EE markets by supporting activities that mitigate existing barriers

REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE ENERGY CENTRE FOR SE4ALL INITIATIVE (SE4ALL)



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Challenges Wood Energy Utilization in Africa

- Traditional use of biomass, currently 80%+ of total energy consumed with over 80% households currently depending on woodfuels used in inefficient cookstoves,
- Has negative consequences on the forest, health of women & children, the environment and food security
- No effective and sustainable Forest policy mg't leading to
  - Increased live tree cutting & bush fires
  - Open forests, weak policy enforcement: "no ownership"
- Alternatives, improved and cleaner technologies have not competitive or widely used
- Lack of adequate information and knowledge on sustainable Bioenergy service options
- capacity building & technology transfer skills are inadequate

Interventions

ECOWAS Bioenergy Program

Objective

The overall objective of the ECOWAS Bioenergy Program is to harness the **BIOMASS Potential** that will increase access to sustainable energy services through the deployment of sustainability criteria in the **production, transformation and utilization** of the resources without compromising food security.

Assist the ECOWAS member states to **transition away** from the traditional use of Biomass to a modern and sustainable production, transformation and utilization of biomass resources for electricity generation, cooking and heating and transportation.

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s Sustainable Energy

Bioenergy Policy: Rationale, vision and objectives

Objectives

Promote a modern, sustainable and vibrant bioenergy sector in ECOWAS region by creating an enabling environment that can unlock the potential by removing the institutional, legal, financial, social, environmental and capacity gaps and barriers.

Addressing the needs and constraints of the governments, the private sector and the local communities in using existing resources such as household and agro processing wastes and residues.

Encourage the utilization of the Bioenergy resources to provide sustainable energy access to its population prior to any attempt to export the resources.

Interventions Activities conducted

- A REDD+ program & conducted a study on the state of the forest in the ECOWAS supported by the Austrian Min.of the Env. (AME);
- In April 20 15, held a Capacity building on Sustainable Forest Mgt in Niamey and a co-organized a Regional workshop on Sustainable Wood Energy Management (AG4) in Benin in May 2016;
- 5th Bioenergy Week held in the ECOWAS Region (June 2017 in Accra, Ghana) with specific presentations on wood energy mgt
- Alternatives: **WACCA** – West Africa Clean Cooking Program for sustainable, efficient, safe and affordable clean cooking solutions: stoves and alternative fuels (pellets/bioethanol/LGP/Biogas, etc)

Opportunities

Wood Energy

- Can be modernized and formalized to be used sustainably. Ghana has started the process;
- Green industry for improved stoves, alternative fuels and its marketing;
- Multi billion dollar industry that is awaiting to be exploited in a sustainable and efficient manner;
- The sustainable utilization of wood can lead to improved forest and environment enhancement;
- The rural communities and local populations have increased job opportunities and better livelihood from the the sustainable forest

Thank You! Merci!

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