



WTO: Trade in Environmental Goods as Catalyst for Implementing Sustainable Energy For All initiative in Africa”

Brief Introduction of the Swiss African Forum (SAF)

- ▶ Swiss African Forum (SAF) is an NGO founded in 2003 to cater mainly to the interest of the African diaspora and create a conducive atmosphere for the integration of Africans in Switzerland.
- ▶ SAF promotes peaceful living with our hosts and encourages Networking.
- ▶ We conduct several events each year ranging from sporting and cultural events.
- ▶ SAF engages in workshops and seminars, as well as dialogue on various themes of interest to the diaspora and the African continent.
- ▶ SAF is also engaged in various activities with other organisations .
- ▶ For more information go to: www.swissafricanforum.ch

Enhancing Energy Sustainability in Africa: Role of Government Agencies and International Organizations

- Africa is gifted with lots of natural resources including (water, solar petroleum) from which energy could be derived; yet, the continent is deprived of sustainable energy development. More than half of its population live without proper electricity, safe drinking water. This may be due to lack of awareness or consciousness among its peoples or lack of basic infrastructures in technologies.
- Government agencies and international entities have adopted various strategies in recent times in an effort to minimize the effects of energy crisis. However, much still needs to be done to further improve the energy system and enhance its sustainability in Africa.



Energy and Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction

- Energy is central to sustainable development and poverty reduction efforts.
- It affects all aspects of development -- social, economic, and environment.
- Livelihoods.
- Access to safe drinking water.
- Health.
- Population levels.
- Education.
(http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/focus_areas/sustainable-energy.html)

Efforts of International Organizations



Efforts of International Organizations: UNDP





Energy and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

UNDP: “None of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can be met without major improvement in the quality and quantity of energy services in developing countries”.

What should therefore be done in order to enhance and achieve sustainable energy development in Africa?

- **Awareness:** Keep citizens aware and conscious of the benefits of energy (Hydro, wind, solar energies); making accessibility to energy as a basic rights of citizens.
- **Link with inter-government agencies** (UNEP/UNDP/ILO/WHO..); Economics and politics are always intertwined.
- Involve international organizations in trade/ commerce (ITC/ WTO/UNDP/UNCTAD)
- Governments should facilitate enabling environment for Private investors



What should therefore be done in order to enhance and achieve sustainable energy development in Africa?

- Involve international organizations in trade/ commerce (ITC/ WTO/UND/UNCTAD).
- Give more chance to foreign direct investments (FDI).
- Make better use of the “free goods/externalities” and other natural resources by taxing business organizations.
- Private sectors should have more participation.

Conclusion

- ▶ If Africa would make better use of its energy sources, it could be the world's leading continent in the energy sector. And in order to catch up with development standard in basic necessities of life, Africa must cooperate and collaborate with regional organizations like: ECOWAS, SARDAC, NEMA, IOC; and with international organizations, like the WTO, ILO, WEF, ITC, UNDP. This would boost the continent's socioeconomic standard.
- ▶ TRANSPARENCY should be at the forefront in industrializing and commercialization of Africa's energy.

Recommendation



- Financing experts in the field to train Africans.
- Allocate more funds for the energy sector
- Governments should make the ministries of commerce, trade, or labor, their utmost priorities to enhance energy cooperation and sustainability with other entities (locally, regionally, internationally)
- Strengthening policy and institutional frameworks consistent with low-emission, climate-resilient development. This forms the basis of the strategy employed by UNDP.
- Mobilizing and expanding financing options aimed at achieving market transformation to catalyze public and private finance. This includes creating enabling policy and regulatory frameworks and removing barriers to energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable urban transport to better access the market.
- Developing effective approaches for scaling-up energy service delivery, through a combination of field-proven and innovative business models that are financially and institutionally sustainable.



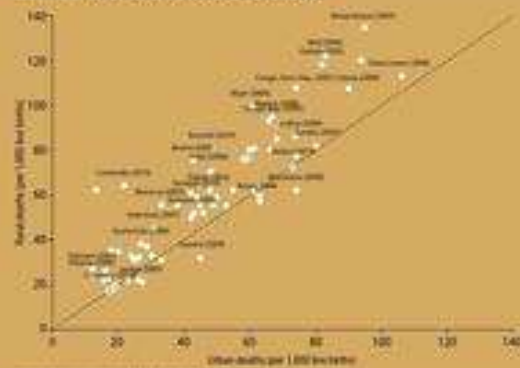
Acronyms and References

- ▶ ILO: International Labor Organization (<http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/lang-en/index.htm>)
- ▶ WTO: World Trade Organization (<http://www.weforum.org/>)
- ▶ WEF: World Economic Forum
- ▶ ECOWAS: Economics Community of West African States
- ▶ SARDAC: Southern Africa Research and Documentation Centre
- ▶ NEMA: National Environmental Management Authority
- ▶ IOC: Indian Ocean Commission
- ▶ UNCTAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- ▶ WHO: World Health Organization
- ▶ UNDP: United Nations Development Program (<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/overview.html>)

QUESTIONS?



FIGURE 45 Urban versus rural infant mortality gap



Source: Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS).