



# TAF Newsletter #15 | October 2018

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The EU's Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for Sustainable Energy

## What's new: Field facts and findings

### Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and Energy Labelling for the African Continent

A two-day Technical Seminar brings together continental and regional actors of the African Union (AU) to discuss Guidelines for Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and Labelling at the continental level, and prepare the development of national roadmaps for selected countries.



### Solar PVs, a bright spot for Thailand's RE market

The TAF has been called upon to assess the capacity and potential of the renewable energy (RE) market in Thailand and identify, if needed, the right instruments to support private sector RE investments for the country. Blended finance for rooftop solar PV projects could be an option.



### Burkina Faso: An interactive tool for Rural Electrification

Burkina Faso has been engaged in major reforms on rural electrification for several years. The country is now using TAF technical assistance in developing an online interactive tool for planning the implementation of energy access.



## What's next: Upcoming missions

- Identification of EU Support on Sustainable Energy in Central Asia
- Ukraine: 9<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development
- Stocktaking Mission in Myanmar

## What we do: The EU's Technical Assistance Facility for Sustainable Energy

Focus on: East & Southern Africa

## Who's who: Meet the team

*'The EU's Technical Assistance Facility for Sustainable Energy' newsletter covers items of news from all the countries of operation of the EU TAF: East & Southern Africa, West & Central Africa, East & South Neighbourhood, Asia & Central Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific.*

*If there is a particular topic that you would like to see covered in future newsletters, please write to us. We welcome your feedback!*

*With our best wishes,*

*The TAF teams*

# What's new: Field facts and findings

## Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and Energy Labelling for the African Continent



More than 20 representatives from the African Union Commission, the European Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Bodies, Regional Centres for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, private sector players, international organisations and development partners (e.g. UNECA, U4E) gathered in Cairo, Egypt, from 10 to 11 October 2018, for stakeholder consultations.

**A two-day Technical Seminar brings together continental and regional actors of the African Union (AU) to discuss Guidelines for Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and Labelling at the continental level, and prepare the development of national roadmaps for selected countries.**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Technical Meeting on 'Guidelines for Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS), Energy Labelling and Eco-Design at the Continental Level' was organised on October 10-12, 2018 in Cairo, Egypt, by the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with the European Union, the EU TAF, and with support from the Government of Egypt and the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE).

The aim of the meeting was to discuss experiences and lessons learnt from Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and Labelling initiatives in Africa and to contribute to drafting the Guidelines for MEPS and Energy Labels.

The meeting facilitated stakeholder consultations, dialogue and validation of the Project Implementation Plan and helped developing a draft layout of Guidelines for MEPS and Labels for selected appliances in Africa, and preparing the development of national roadmaps for the implementation of MEPS and Labelling Programmes.

The EU is leading world-wide on energy efficiency. The Energy Efficient Product Policy in the European Union – Ecodesign and Energy labelling – has contributed significantly to the reduction of energy consumption and has increased the competition on the European energy market with large environmental benefits.

“Energy efficiency is a core priority at the heart of the EU's Energy Union Strategy, and our new EU 2030 target of 32.5% will translate into more efficient buildings, industries and transport. It will also create jobs, reduce energy bills, help tackle energy poverty and improve air quality. And within energy efficiency, energy labelling and eco-design are central components for us Europeans, ones which bring significant energy savings and foster innovation in the repair and recycling of products.”

- Mr Dominique Ristori, Director-General for Energy, European Commission, in his address to the Cairo Technical Meeting stakeholders





# What's new: Field facts and findings

## Solar PVs, a bright spot for Thailand's RE market

**The TAF has been called upon to assess the capacity and potential of the renewable energy (RE) market in Thailand and identify, if needed, the right instruments to support private sector RE investments for the country. Blended finance for rooftop solar PV projects could be an option.**

The TAF team undertook a Field Mission to obtain first-hand information on Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) investment and financing opportunities in Thailand. The team interviewed Thailand's energy stakeholders including relevant government agencies, Thai commercial banks, RE and EE private sector players, power generation technical experts, international donors and NGOs.

### RE in Thailand's Energy Sector

Thailand's electrification rate is at nearly 100%, with the exception of remote villages in border areas next to Myanmar and 200 small islands that depend on diesel generators as the source of electricity supplied by the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA). Thailand has adopted the Enhanced Single Buyer (ESB) model in which the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) is the key power generator and buyer of privately produced power as well as the sole operator of national transmission network.

The Ministry of Energy (MoEN) has been promoting the production of electricity from RE since 1989 by encouraging EGAT to purchase electricity from co-generation power plant of the Small Power Producers (SPPs) that used residues in agricultural sector as feed stock to produce electricity and heat. Thailand's energy policy-makers are currently revising the 2015 Power Development Plan which will increase the percentage of RE in the country's energy mix from the current 35% to 40% by 2036.

### Excess Power

Thailand is currently experiencing excess power supply where the reserve margin could be as high as 55%, compared with the internationally accepted margin of only 15%. As a result, purchase of electricity generated from Renewable Energy sources has been suspended for 5 years (2018-2023).

### The bright spot

Amidst these challenges in Thailand's solar energy and RE sector in general, one bright spot remains: the rooftop solar PV market for self-consumption, which continues

to grow. The rooftop solar PV for self-consumption sub-sector is attracting investors as more commercial and industrial electricity users realise the benefits of having their own solar system which provide cheaper electricity than the grid.



Rooftop solar PV on industrial and commercial buildings

These users are owners of factories, commercial buildings and some residences in Bangkok and the Eastern seaboard of Thailand.

### The Asia Investment Facility (AIF) bridging financing for the solar PV market

The result of the TAF's assessment of blended finance, such as Asia Investment Facility (AIF), showed that this could be an option to provide bridging finance for rooftop solar developers to build their portfolio.

AIF provides Asian countries with possibility to fund investments where funding cannot (yet) be obtained in the financial market. In Thailand's case, non-recourse project finance for rooftop solar projects is not yet available as these projects are too small (around 500kWh-1MW) for project finance. Most are financed by corporate loans which limits the ability of medium-sized rooftop solar developers to develop several projects. A solution being considered by developers and some Thai commercial banks is to bundle rooftop solar projects to build a portfolio large enough for project financing (at least 10 MW).

Rooftop solar projects meet AIF's objective, which is to promote green economy with a priority focus on climate change and 'green' investments. In addition, they also meet AIF's expected results: better energy infrastructure, SMEs growth –as many rooftop solar developers in Thailand are SMEs, and improvement in employment in the context of climate change and 'green' investments.

Discussions are under way with policy stakeholders, EU IFIs and the EU development banks.



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## Burkina Faso: An interactive tool for Rural Electrification

Burkina Faso has been engaged in major reforms on rural electrification for several years. The country is now using TAF technical assistance in developing an online interactive tool for planning the implementation of energy access.



2nd Steering Committee, October 2018

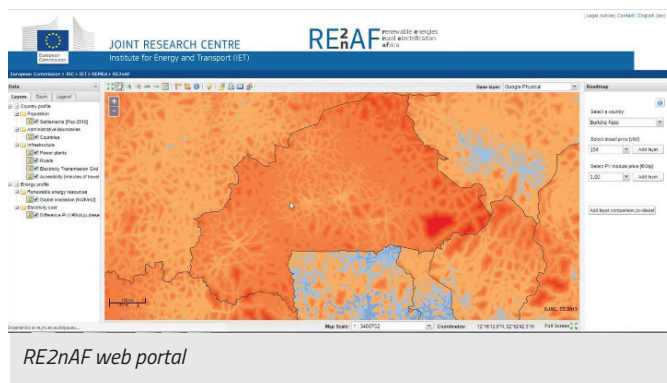
The TAF team is developing an online interactive tool that aims to design the specifications of the enhanced rural electrification in Burkina Faso. Thanks to this tool developed with the Joint Research Centre Delegation (DG JRC) and based on the previous works done by it (RE2NAF), the Burkina Faso Rural Electrification Agency (ABER) should be able to easily plan and implement rural electrification around the country.

The JRC has first used its tool RE2NAF to produce a study for Burkina Faso showing the potential of applying the technology to rural electrification. Discover the RE2nAF web portal: <http://re.jrc.ec.europa.eu/re2naf.html>

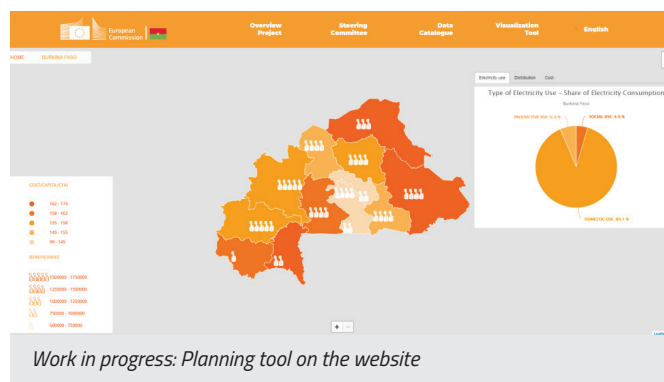
National stakeholders and the Delegation of the European Union to Burkina Faso discovered the potential to transform this tool, in order to become the baseline for an interactive and modern web tool adapted to the planning needs of rural Africa.

The TAF team attended a kick-off meeting in April 2018 to brainstorm on the web portal. Two months later, the final mock-ups of the website were validated at the first Steering Committee.

In October 2018, the first version of the website was presented and discussed during the second Steering Committee.



RE2nAF web portal



Work in progress: Planning tool on the website



# What's next: Upcoming missions

## Identification of EU Support on Sustainable Energy in Central Asia

A TAF Team has been mobilised, aiming to identify a possible EU Support on Sustainable Energy in Central Asia, recommending possible actions to be implemented at regional level for the period 2019-2022. The specific objective of this assignment will be to provide in-depth assessment and analysis of the current Sustainable Energy situation in Central Asia, and to propose concrete recommendations on future EU regional initiatives to foster SE deployment as well as to enhance regional cooperation.

The TAF Expert Team shall perform in each of the 5 Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) a transversal and sectoral precise in-depth policy assessment and analysis of the current Sustainable Energy situation. At the end of the assignment, the TAF Team should make clear proposals and recommendations on the scope, content and implementation modalities of such EU regional initiative.

## Ukraine: 9<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development

The EU TAF will be actively involved in the organisation of two sessions at an international conference on Sustainable Energy, taking place 12<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Kyiv, Ukraine. The team will provide support for the preparation and organization on energy efficiency and renewable policies and energy investments sessions to be organised by DGs DEVCO and NEAR, and UNECE. In addition, the discussions shall address the impact of small-scale renewables and energy efficiency on fighting energy poverty. The event will bring together around 100 officials and experts from this target region. They will discuss about the ways to promote renewable energy investments and energy efficiency on fighting energy poverty in this diverse region.

The energy patterns of the Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia region remain influenced by the Soviet legacy of central planning and energy supply side focus, almost three decades after the break-up of the Soviet Union. In this context, the international conference represent a good opportunity to discuss about the region to further exploit its significant energy efficiency potential and develop its renewable energy sources beyond large hydropower, providing secure, affordable and sustainable energy, investment opportunities as well as socio-economic diversification and development.

## Stocktaking Mission in Myanmar

Energy is a key issue in Myanmar, as the population lives mainly in rural areas. Finding alternative energy resources is a constant need.

The EU TAF will organise a stocktaking mission to assess market potential for renewable Energy projects and funding opportunities for private sector investments in Myanmar. Its objective is to assess the capacity and potential of the renewable energy market in Myanmar and identify the right instruments to fully support private sector.

The mission will also provide a clear understanding of Myanmar renewable energy market capacity and potential: MW of capacity across different technologies, connections in place and planned, needs for additional and more reliable access in MWh to households and businesses.



# What we do: The EU's Technical Assistance Facility for Sustainable Energy

The 'EU's Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for Sustainable Energy' assists partner countries in fine-tuning their energy policies and regulatory framework that allow for increased investments in the energy sector. The TAF supports countries which are committed to reaching Sustainable Energy objectives, and in particular those who selected energy not only as one of the priority areas of their national policy agenda but also as focal sector in their bilateral cooperation with the EU for the period of 2014-2020.

Through targeted expert missions to the partner countries, five types of technical assistance packages ('Activity Areas') are delivered:

Policy and reforms; Capacity building; Investment projects planning; Mobilising funds and partnerships; Industrial and technology cooperation.

Supporting the **#EU's vision** and strategies at national and regional level

Provision of **#high quality** technical assistance at Partner Country and Region

**#Low lead times** from ToR preparation to assignment launch

Efficient and **#effective management** of each mission

**#Control mechanism** and QA for coherent deliverables

## Overview of TAF support:

Since its launch in 2013, the TAF has provided technical assistance for some 240 missions in Sub-Saharan Africa.

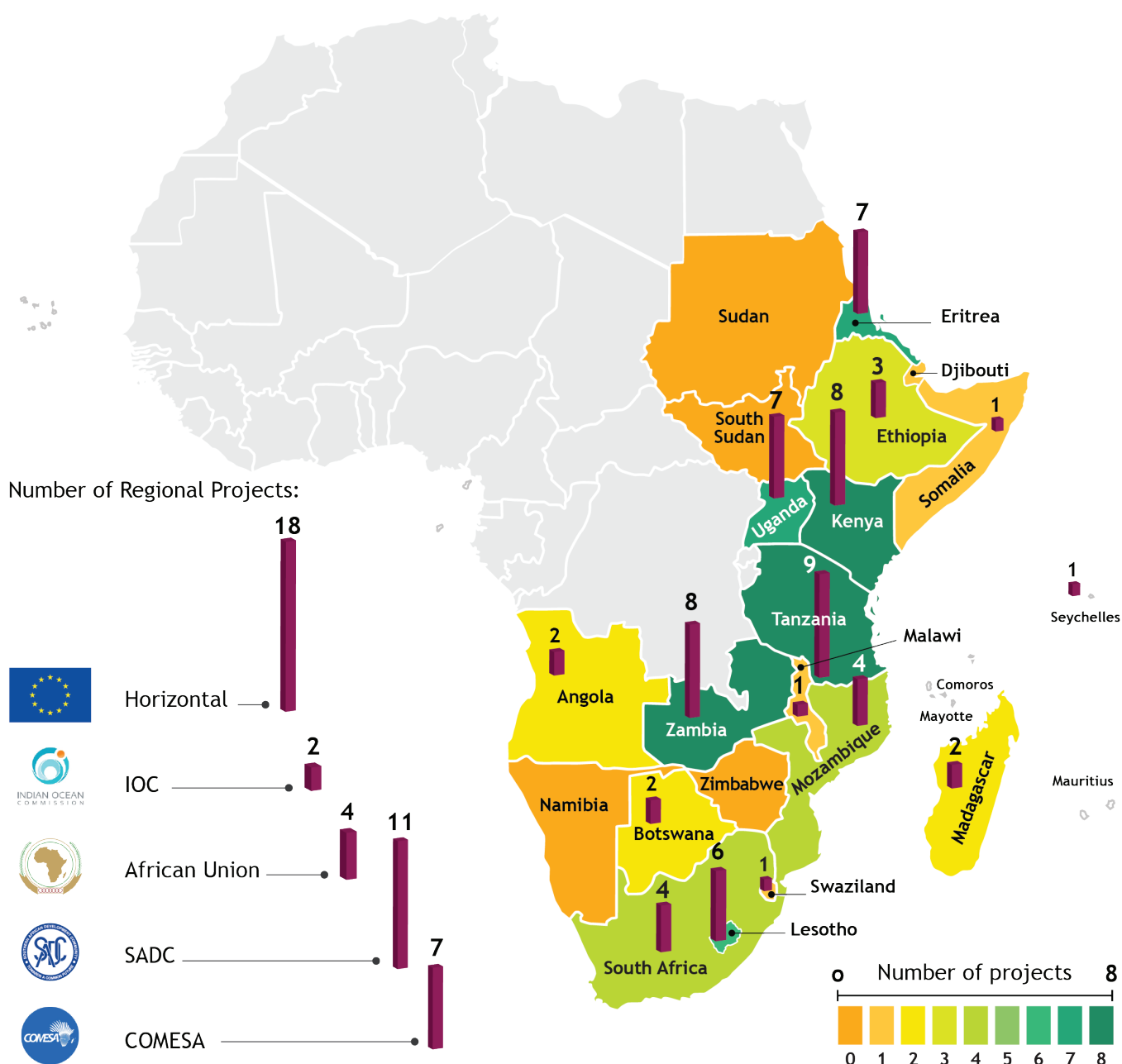
A year after the Sub-Saharan Africa TAF launch, TAF operations were extended to also accommodate regions beyond Sub-Saharan Africa, and to date over 30 technical teams have been deployed by the TAF 'Rest of the World' Facility – ranging from the East and South Neighbourhood and Asia to Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.



# What we do: The EU's Technical Assistance Facility for Sustainable Energy

## Focus on:

East & Southern Africa



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# Who's who: Meet the team

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## DISCLAIMER

This newsletter update has been drafted by the EU's Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for Sustainable Energy. The aim is to update EU Delegations regarding news and findings from the TAF missions and areas of assistance. The data has been collected from various sources by the TAF Experts in the context of the ongoing TAF missions, and is not exclusive. Please feel free to contact us with any feedback on the information provided, or other areas of support you would like to be informed of.



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