

GermanWatch Blogs

November 01, 2018

JOIN US IN A FEW HOURS!

Dear all,

Germanwatch and the High Atlas Foundation have the pleasure to invite you to a webinar on energy access, with a focus on Morocco and Africa more broadly. The webinar will be held on the 18th. September 2018 from 1 pm to 2 pm Central European Summer time on webex (12:00h Morocco time today). Please find the link:

<https://meetings.webex.com/collabs/meetings/join?uuid=M06B6TO9JK67WSODHEMAW0QAPI-A3XN>

Access to modern energy services is an essential prerequisite for human development. Without energy, it is challenging, if not impossible, to promote economic growth, overcome poverty and expand employment opportunities. This has been recognized by the international community, with the Sustainable Goal 7 on “access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”. Yet, more than 1 billion of people still do not have access to electricity today.

One of the continents where energy access is still lacking for many is Africa. But there are many positive stories as well: Morocco is one example of a country that is considered an energy transition pioneer. Despite the country’s well-known focus on large renewable energy projects, much progress has also been made on decentralized renewable energy access in some rural parts of Morocco.

In our discussions among NGOs, we frequently say that providing universal energy access should be a focus in the implementation of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI). But what exactly do we mean by that? What should be our key demands as NGOs? And what are some examples of concrete approaches that AREI could support? We would like to use this webinar to discuss these questions with you, based on an overview of current energy access definitions and debates and a case-study on energy access in Morocco.

The webinar will begin with 2 presentations of 15 minutes each:

– Marine Pouget, Germanwatch: Is energy access only a question of “on/off”? What about the quality and affordability of energy?

– Yossef Ben-Meir, High Atlas Foundation Morocco: An Moroccan perspective on energy access: status quo, challenges and opportunity with energy decentralisation in Morocco

After the presentations, a 30 minutes discussion with the participants will be organised.

We hope you can join us!

Best from Bonn and Marrakech,
Marine and Yossef

[February 08, 2019](#)

EXCURSION TO THE OURIKA VALLEY WITH PARTICIPANTS OF THE “KICKOFF CONFERENCE FOR DECENTRALIZATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN MOROCCO”

By Celina Böhmer and Kerstin Opfer

Last week the High Atlas Foundation in partnership with Germanwatch, a German NGO dedicated to global equity and people’s livelihoods, conducted a kick-off workshop in Marrakesh with important Moroccan stakeholders of energy and decentralization. This workshop marked the start of the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) for an African energy transition towards 100% renewables, with a special focus on Morocco as one of the Energy policy pioneers on the African continent. While Morocco is a leader in the expansion of renewable energies on the African continent, renewable projects in the Kingdom so far tend to be large-scale. These large-scale projects have to be complemented by decentralized small-scale installations to benefit local communities and to create development opportunities.

The workshop provided a forum for important project partners and stakeholders to get to know one-another, to share experiences and ideas related to current and emerging challenges, discuss opportunities of energy and decentralisation in Morocco, and plan the upcoming MSP, which aims to support and promote a decentralized approach to Moroccan energy transition. As part of the two-day workshop, the HAF team and participants visited community members of a village called Aghbalou in the Ourika Valley. Since 2016 HAF worked closely with the community from Aghbalou and utilised a multi-stakeholder approach, where HAF acted as a bridge between national and international civil society, who provided the necessary resources, the High Commission of Waters and Forests, who provided trees and land for the communities to plant on and harvest medicinal plants, and the local community.



First, we visited the “Do Tmkit” cooperative in Aghbalou. This cooperative, which consists of seven women, produces dried medicinal plants, different kinds of couscous, jam, and teas. They started their production in 2018 with merely 100 medicinal plants but had and still have big plans in mind. One of them is to produce essential oils for medicinal- and skin care purposes. Fifteen kg of berries collected from public land nearby could produce 1 liter of essential oil, which could be sold for 400-600 MAD. Because the berries are harvested from public land and the only costs involved is the workforce of the women, the potential profit for the cooperative is huge.

To make this dream reality the cooperative pursues a formalised partnership agreement with the High Commission of Waters and Forests. Currently, harvesting the berries and medicinal plants from publicly owned land is tolerated by the High Commission of Waters and Forests but an official partnership agreement is still missing. Through utilising close working relations, HAF will assist the cooperative to obtain this agreement and thereby enable them to take a big step forward towards their essential oil production. Another plan is to include men in the work because the cooperative wants to increase their production rate and the workforce provided by men would be invaluable to them. HAF’s project director Amina El Hajjami was very excited and surprised to hear about this plan as this is the first time that a women cooperative wants to work in collaboration with men, a sign of growing empowerment.





In the bright and open rooms of the cooperative, we had an interesting talk with Sakia, the women's cooperative leader. Dr Yossef Ben-Meir, HAF's president, Kerstin, HAF's operations manager and Celina Böhmer, anthropology student and volunteer with HAF, were very excited to hear about the cooperatives successes and admired their amazing work. Sakia said: "If we continue to work hard, we can improve our life and our children's lives considerably."

After a tea on the sunny terrace with intense discussions, we met farmers, who were able to plant trees on public land, which was provided by the High Commission of Waters and Forests. The farmers showed us carob saplings, some of them a few years old, some of them planted just recently. The carob trees were provided by the High Commission of Waters and Forests and by the High Atlas Foundation as part of the carbon credit program with PUR Project. In 2017 alone this tree and land donations enabled the farmers to plant 2800 carob trees. Carob trees have a life span of 150 years and one tree can provide approximately 100 kg of product, which can be sold for 12 MAD per kg. A formalised partnership agreement with the High Commission of Waters and Forests will allow communities to harvest the tree products and thereby increase their income and the income of future generations considerably. Simultaneously, the trees, which were planted strategically on eroding mountain slopes, prevent soil erosion and absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide, thereby reducing the effects of climate change.



The trees need to be watered by the farmers regularly. HAF provided them with pipes and electric pumps. The electricity is paid by the farmer association but they are now discussing to install a solar pump as this will be more cost effective in the long-term. For domestic use gas is the main energy source. Even though gas, which is subventioned by the government, is not expensive, gas is not always accessible for rural communities and it is not as clean as renewable energy. The discussion with the farmers showed that energy is closely connected to all areas of life and a renewable energy transition in Morocco is affecting everyone, even a small-scale farmer in a remote mountain village. Engaging everyone, from remote mountain communities to communities in big cities, will be crucial to achieve a successful decentralization of renewable energy.

This field visit provided a valuable opportunity for the energy experts to learn about challenges and needs of local communities related to energy and decentralization. They also experienced

hands-on and meaningful community engagement and cooperation with multiple stakeholders. Their lessons learned will help to inform the future projects of the MSP.

[February 11, 2019](#)

THE IMPORTANCE OF MULTI-STAKEHOLDER-PARTNERSHIPS IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

By Kerstin Opfer

Operations manager

High Atlas Foundation

Marrakech

We are living in a time, where humankind faces an unprecedented challenge – it is the warmest it has ever been on earth since human presence. The dangers of climate change are known since the 1980s but a lack of political will and societal awareness has inhibited the necessary vigorous change. Further, the people, who are the most affected by climate change are also the most vulnerable and the ones with the least decision making power. We are now at the pivotal point, where with every degree a cascade of tipping points and a “hothouse earth” will become more probable. To prevent this we need political will, a new kind of cooperation, innovative technologies, business models and engaged civil society. It is therefore crucial to learn and offer advice to decision-makers informed by the experience from stakeholders on the ground.

In the beginning of January, the High Atlas Foundation (HAF) in partnership with Germanwatch, a German NGO dedicated to North-South equity and the preservation of livelihoods, started a Multi-Stakeholder-Partnership (MSP) project for a Moroccan energy transition towards 100% renewables. This project is part of a bigger, African-wide programme called African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) that aims to “accelerate and scale up the harnessing of the continent’s huge renewable energy potential” and advocates for an implementation of the AREI that benefits local communities, improves energy access and is ambitious enough to realize the vision of powering Africa with 100% renewable energies.

While Morocco is a leader in the expansion of renewable energies on the African continent, renewable projects in the Kingdom so far tend to be large-scale. These large-scale projects have

to be complemented by decentralized small-scale installations to benefit local communities and to create development opportunities. The Moroccan component aims to support a decentralized approach to energy transition through creating MSP's at the regional, national and international level. The experiences that will be gathered on the ground from the implementation of such approaches will then inform recommendations for how national and international energy policy frameworks in Africa and Europe could be improved to enable and promote more decentralized management of renewables.

As part of this project, Mr Chemsedine Sidi-Baba, Chair of the Board of HAF-Morocco and Kerstin Opfer, HAF's Operations Manager, travelled to Germany and participated in the Germanwatch organized conference "Partnership for Transformation – MSP Conference". MSPs are long-term initiatives voluntarily undertaken by governments, the private sector, research, civil society and other major stakeholders, whose efforts are contributing to the implementation of a common goal. They are a key implementation principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. MSPs, however, are also highly complicated and often characterized by conflict, power games and individuals. Learning from the challenges and success stories of other MSPs therefore is crucial.



Poster presentation of the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership project for a Moroccan energy transition towards 100% renewables during the conference in Bonn, Germany. Picture: Konrad Brambach (Germanwatch)

Together with the project staff of four other MSP projects in India, Kenya, Kosovo and Ukraine, we identified through group discussions and workshops that a lack of ownership, trust, and commitment of key stakeholders is one of the main pitfalls associated with MSP failure. Often this is caused by the lack of an initiative's MSP design that fosters ownership and commitment and by ignoring power relations between the stakeholders. Neglecting important stakeholders, a focus on technical issues instead of building collaboration and dialogue, and a lack of taking into account existing rules, regulations, and procedures were other key issues associated with MSPs.

Creating collective impactful narratives that foster actions, developing a common frame of reference and mindset and fostering dialogue, respect, and mutual learning through networks of change, were identified as key success strategies. Furthermore, by sharing knowledge between stakeholders and empowering the civil society, who is often in a weak position due to a lack of power and resources, transparency, and equity is fostered, which increases MSP success. Through establishing institutional processes for engagement, all stakeholders are equally enabled to act as catalysts for change. Finally, through realizing that global change is not one historic moment and one big change but rather an everyday effort of a million small steps the MSP can grow—step-by-step—into a strong, long-term and joined effort towards a common mission.

Transformative changes are realized neither through a top-down nor a bottom-up process alone, but through a combination of both. Cooperative approaches of different actors such as political decision-makers, the private sector, researchers, and civil society are necessary. Transformative multi-stakeholder partnerships can coordinate the expectations of these actors and therefore enable changes that could not be achieved by individual actors. The conference in Germany has provided important lessons learned and thought-provoking impulses, which will guide the shaping of the MSP for a Moroccan energy transition towards 100% renewables.



Project partners from Kenya, India, Kosovo, Ukraine, Morocco and Germany during the “Partnership for Transformation – MSP Conference” in Bonn, Germany. Picture: Konrad Brambach (Germanwatch)

August 01, 2019

**HOW TO ACHIEVE A DECENTRALISED, PARTICIPATORY AND
PEOPLE-CENTRED ENERGY TRANSITION TOWARDS 100% RENEWABLES ON
THE AFRICAN CONTINENT?**

By Kerstin Opfer, High Atlas Foundation



Electricity and energy are two of the key challenges in Africa – 2/3 of Africa’s population still has no access to electricity. Additionally electricity demand is assumed to triple until 2030. Increased use of renewable energy (RE) can help address these challenges. Africa has a considerable and largely untapped potential of renewable energies. Tapping into this potential can help to increase investment as well as broaden electricity access. Additionally renewable energy can allow African countries to become climate leaders and become the first continent to propose a different model for energy and electricity issues through a participatory and people-centred approach. African nations’ energy policies are essential to achieving these goals.



The High Atlas Foundation, Germanwatch and Bread for the World organised a workshop on decentralised renewable energy in Africa during the UNFCCC Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany. This workshop aimed to build capacity for African actors and international organisations working on energy and/or in Africa. Attendees from Vietnam, India, Kenya, Zambia, Gabon, Germany and England identified access issues, unfavourable policies and structures and impacts on people's livelihoods and the environment as key challenges for a sustainable, participatory and people-centred energy transition on the African continent.

Access issues are centered around finance, data, technology, skills and quality. Funding for energy projects is often hard to access. Public funds are still too tight and the private sector is often reluctant to invest because of a lack of security and transparency in the energy sector and market. Consequently, often low quality hardware has been installed, which led to a negative perception of renewable energy and created e-waste. Furthermore, the lack of weather data providing information about the availability of resources as well as potential climate risks

environment. This is relevant on the regional as well as the continental level, where cooperation in the energy sector is missing.

Renewable energy projects often intersect with human rights and can have negative impacts on the environment. Renewable energy projects, especially the bigger ones, can for example induce water scarcities, displacement and other forms of land use conflicts as well as destroy important habitat for endangered wildlife. Furthermore, when planning a renewable energy transition workers employed in the fossil fuel industries need to be accounted for and good working conditions in the renewable energy sector need to be ensured.



Proposals to tackle these challenges were discussed, which led to the development of the following key recommendations for Africa and the world to achieve a decentralised, participatory and people-centred energy transition on the African continent:

1. Role of civil society: An empowered civil society is needed to lobby, support, and pressure institutions and stakeholders to facilitate capacity building, develop safeguards to protect people's rights and livelihoods as well as the environment, increase community participation and influence governments to include decentralised renewable energy projects in their NDCs to enhance ambition. Capacity building is necessary to a) facilitate scientific research in Africa on the local scale in order to solve the lack of data on social and environmental impacts of renewable energy and lack of weather data and b) to enable local communities to participate in decision-making processes and install and maintain decentralised RE technology.
2. Role of government: The government needs to enhance cooperation across sectors (e.g. energy and environment) and the continent as well as facilitate vertical and horizontal integration and collaboration of the individual government departments to enable the development and exchange of best practices for successful implementation of decentralized energy projects. Furthermore, the government needs to develop a safe and transparent policy environment to create certainty for all actors, attracting long-term investments.

Role of finance: Investment in the energy infrastructure and long-lasting, high-quality renewable energy technology is needed. To achieve this the development of national quality standards for RE technology is imperative. Furthermore, funding needs to be easily accessible for local communities. Finding green financing solutions through green bonds or the sale of carbon-credits could be an innovative way to solve the finance issue.



The considerable RE potential presents an enormous opportunity to tackle electricity access issues and the rising electricity demand on the African continent. Furthermore, promoting the use of decentralised, participatory and people-centred renewable energy can allow African countries to become the world's climate leaders and the first continent to propose a different model for energy and electricity issues. This workshop helped African and international actors to develop tools to advocate for such a new and innovative model. We thank all participants for their active contribution and Germwanwatch, Bread for the World and the High Atlas Foundation for organising the workshop.

August 27, 2019

A KICK-OFF FOR A DECENTRALIZED ENERGY TRANSITION

By Alissa Brenn

HAF intern and graduate student at Zurich University of Applied Sciences



The Kingdom of Morocco has set high goals: According to the country's energy strategy, 52% of its energy needs should be met through renewable means of energy production by 2030.

However, the ultimate goal in the age of climate change is to reach the transition to 100% renewable energies. How do we get there? This is one of the questions that participants of the Steering Committee Conference on Renewable Energies and Decentralization in Rabat discussed during their meeting in July.

The African continent's potential in terms of renewable energies is among the most promising in the world. At the same time, this potential remains largely untapped. The rising energy demand of the upcoming decades calls for solutions that make sustainable forms of energy production in Africa accessible and feasible. To this end, the High Atlas Foundation and Germanwatch have launched a project that aims at forming a multi-stakeholder partnership (MSP) for an African

energy transition towards 100% renewables. As part of this project, the focus country—Morocco—acts as a leader to advance renewable energies through decentralization. Morocco has set in place a considerable number of green energy initiatives, including the world’s largest solar power plant. Knowledge and expertise within the country are thus among the most profound within the continent. However, the majority of Moroccan programs are designed on a large-scale basis. In order to further advance the Moroccan energy transition, an additional alternative approach becomes necessary: By decentralizing the process, the subject gains acceptance within Moroccan society as it becomes an opportunity for development and an economically, socially, and environmentally beneficial source for local communities.



On July 23-24th, HAF and Germanwatch hosted a conference in Rabat, bringing together government officials, academics, civil society actors, and private sector representatives active in the field of renewable energies. Day 1 of the conference dealt with the current state of renewable energies and decentralization in Morocco and the link between the two. Participants engaged in panel discussions and had the chance to come together at a roundtable exploring ways to combine green energies and decentralization.

On the second day of the conference, the discussion focused on the role of the Steering Committee and possible actions that can be undertaken to further develop Morocco’s path towards green energies. The Steering Committee is a team of engaged and dedicated people, who carry momentum and drive the cause. They meet at various opportunities, exchange ideas, and receive inputs from interested and knowledgeable people. They are also able to make consensus

decisions. In order to build a multi-stakeholder partnership for an African energy transition towards 100% renewables, stakeholders first need to raise the energy for change and dialogue through exploring the context, taking existing initiatives and the people involved into account. This requires understanding the external context, the factors that will influence the dialogue, and the dynamics of the complex system in which the Stakeholder Dialogue will take place. To this end, conference participants identified organisations, enterprises, institutions, and individuals from the private sector, the public sector, research/academia, and civil society, who are important stakeholders in the field of decentralisation and energy, and should be part of the steering committee.



Different possible fields of action were established during these two days. The Steering Committee intends to form working groups in which these topics can be tackled:

- 1) Research, data, and status reports on green energy and decentralization
- 2) Awareness raising and inclusion of citizens in their country's energy policy
- 3) African cooperation: exchange of best practices with other African countries
- 4) Lobbying on the Moroccan legislative/regulatory framework
- 5) Creation of synergies between the actors and municipalities.

The conference marked an important and successful kick-off for a project that aims at finding a decentralized approach to renewable energy in Morocco. It brought together important stakeholders from various backgrounds who commit to collaborate in tackling the challenges related to green energy and decentralization.

September 11, 2019

**Multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSP) as a Facilitating Tool for the Process of NDCs in
The Arab Region**

By Imane Akhezzane

Project Manager

As a part of a multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSP) project on renewable energy in Morocco, the High Atlas Foundation (HAF) facilitated a conference of Climate Action Network – Arab World in Rabat on September 1st, under the topic: Current State of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Review in the Arab Region Towards Enhancement of the NDC through a Shared Scheme: MSP as a Facilitating Tool for the Process.

The conference was opened with an overview of NDCs review. During this first session, four representatives from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Jordan gave a short overview about the NDCs of their countries.



Then, the president of HAF, Dr. Yossef Ben-Meir facilitated the group's brainstorming about sustainable development in order to introduce the MSP approach. The participants interacted sharing different ideas based on their experience in the civil society engagement, notably:

- Sustainable development should be economic, social, political, cultural, historic, geographic and financial, no longer just emphasizing the environment.
- Sustainable development should protect the patrimony of the future generations.
- One of the most important things in sustainable development is education and every part of the society should be looked upon in a sustainable way.
- Sustainable development has four pillars: social equity, citizen economy, protection of the environment and democracy.



What's your goal, mission and what partners do you need to have achieve your objectives?

Dr. Yossef continued generating interaction by asking the audience about their global purpose, their mission and their role in order to have peace currently and in the future?

Each one of the participants answered this question based on her or his background. Some participants have as a main goal the development of their community and the enhancement of the quality life of their regions, while the principal goal of the others is to put the climate policy in the corps of the public policy, to make sure the authorities can make something viable economically, environmentally, and socially speaking in the region. Their role as a network is to make sure that the global reflection will take into consideration the needs of community at

regional level and try to see how to get the governments involved making these things happen.

Dr. Yossef asked the following questions: How do we affect policy in order to achieve quality of life and improve the environment for communities in regions? Is your purpose as an organization is to affect policy or to affect projects?

The majority of the participants target both policies and projects. They influence policies and build capacities of the other associations so they can implement projects.

“So we have two tracks, we move upon them both at the same time: we implement projects to enhance life and the environment and at the same time we promote policy reform and change.”

Dr. Yossef said. He also clarified that, it's often the project and the subsequent articles about them in the media that allow us to affect policies.

One of the audiences pointed out that we need to affect policies by bearing in mind that we are fighting for survival.

Then the facilitator concluded that we have to remind ourselves there is urgency, and he asked the participants if it's only urgent in regards to climate change or for another reason? Is sustainable development urgent in Morocco even if there is no climate change?

Moroccan participants stressed that sustainable development became urgent in Morocco even if there was no climate change. In fact, Dr. Yossef explained that decision makers know that we cannot take stability as a guarantee anymore. They know that there is a social urgency.

During this session, different experiences were discussed; the first one was the Egyptian case. A participant from Egypt spoke about his experience with a group of youth who worked on

creating an intergovernmental platform in which to deliver their voice to the decision makers. Dr. Yossef suggested that the platform is a Multi-Stakeholders Partnership, because this group of youth have engaged external partners to transmit their messages to the concerned stakeholder.

Afterward Dr. Yossef explained the case of Morocco. HAF has this twin objective of affecting policy to a practical initiative, and right now our steering committee is trying to find out where to do that clean energy project to affect national policy. Then he asked the audience if each of their organizations has this mission to both create a project also affecting policy?

A minority of participants has a mission affecting projects and not policies. Thus, Dr. Yossef advised them to start thinking about policy, informed by their project experience.

In this sense a CANAW member intervened, giving the example of his experience in Palestine, he said: *“If you want to guarantee sustainability you need to go to policy level, every project has a start date and end date while a policy continues.”* In Palestine, a group of youth worked on a project of nonviolence in school and they were sending proposals. The last time they got funding the donor asked them for a strong strategy that guaranteed sustainability and the only way to do it, was with the ministry which was difficult, but the outcome was that they were able to make a new policy built by the ministry for nonviolence in school. The negotiations with the ministry took four months.

Here, the facilitator asked the participants, what partners they need in order to affect both policy and project, what stakeholders do they have to invite and to talk with. He added that the organizations need to think about targeting specific stakeholders: agencies, ministries, municipalitiesetc. The next step is to target a person, for example in the municipality you can contact the mayor. The third step is to determine the channel, in other words, the way you

contact your potential partner, should it be a letter, an e-mail or face to face. The last thing Dr. Yossef referred to is the steering committee that decides who the organization should contact.

At the end of the first day of the CANAW General Assembly, three groups were formed to discuss the three main pillars of climate change namely: water, agriculture and energy. Each group had to come up with a multi-stakeholder partnership design using a participatory approach to achieve one or more goals in each area.



The three groups pointed out in their presentations the important role of governments in achieving the objectives set in each area. Moreover, they stressed that the responsibility for funding generally rests with the northern governments, hence the need to put pressure on States

to implement projects.

Therefore, the facilitator reacted by putting forward two main ideas or thoughts as he called them.

First, there is not one REDD+ project in Morocco and in the Arabic countries.

REDD+ project is monitoring the ground cover of a region, monitoring its growth, and the social benefits by replanting. Monitoring vegetation, forests and the benefits that they generate is required. Trees growing can become transferable into credits and then significant revenue can be generated that returns directly to the concerned region. Provinces in the Tetouane-Tangier region in Morocco can generate the most revenue relative to other regions. And we can do the same thing in the other regions of the kingdom. He closed this idea with the following question: Is Jordan selling carbon credits based on REDD+? “There is not”, the participants answered.

Dr. Yossef added: *“There is so much revenue potential here. It’s fine to think about securing finance through development assistance programs from northern countries. But do you know how much new funding can be created and secured within our own countries? The problem is that the regions do not yet have the monitor systems in place to the level of detail necessary – while incorporating local communities into this process – for forests and natural ground cover. Please detach from thoughts of dependency and obtaining your revenue requirements from governments and other countries. Identify and achieve your own self-generating revenue sources, which is essential for transformative change.”*

Then, he went straight to the second thought which consists of taking our own responsibility. If the government is not complying with our wish, we must also ask ourselves what it is about our

presentation and strategy, in our behavior, that is creating that response. We cannot always look to the government and blame it.

It's very hard to generate carbon credits, to create a REDD+ project, to generate your funds but we can't act in a dependent way. We have to think and act independently and in partnership.

In sum, the facilitation of HAF and the presentation of its president Dr. Yossef Ben-Meir about the MSP helped the participants to understand that each organization needs to know first the purpose of its existence, its goal and mission, and then it should start looking for partners who share the same vision and interest to achieve the assigned goals and objectives.

HAF would like to thank Germanwatch which supported its participation in CANAW conference.



November 04, 2019

SÉMINAIRE SUR LE PARTENARIAT MULTIPARTITE (PMP) POUR UNE DÉCENTRALISATION DES ÉNERGIES RENOUVELABLES AU MAROC

Rabat, les 4 et 5 novembre 2019 – La High Atlas Foundation (HAF) organise en partenariat avec GERMANWATCH le séminaire Partenariat Multipartite (PMP) pour une décentralisation des énergies renouvelables au Maroc et ce à Hôtel Ibis Rabat Agdal.

La journée du 04 novembre, sera consacrée au séminaire PMP, ce dernier sera une occasion pour les parties prenantes et les experts en décentralisation et énergies renouvelables de se rencontrer et de discuter des opportunités en matière d'énergie et de décentralisation au pays. Chose qui contribuera activement à l'avancement du projet de décentralisation des énergies renouvelables

au Maroc considéré comme leader de la politique énergétique en Afrique. Tandis que l'assemblée générale du comité de pilotage du projet PMP se tiendra le 05 novembre. Le but du séminaire est d'augmenter la visibilité du projet PMP, de mieux faire connaître son objectif s'agissant de l'établissement d'une compréhension commune des défis et des solutions pour une transition énergétique décentralisée réussie vers les énergies renouvelables dans le pays.

Quant à l'assemblée générale, son but est de mettre en place une démarche de travail pour le comité et un processus de prise de décision, ainsi que de générer une liste de recommandations de thèmes et territoires du projet.

[December 09, 2019](#)

MOROCCO'S DECENTRALIZED ENERGY TRANSITION TO RENEWABLE ENERGIES

Hajiba Boumamsar
HAF Project Assistant

On 4 and 5 November 2019, the High Atlas Foundation (HAF) organized a Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSP) workshop in collaboration with Germanwatch, a German NGO. The workshop aimed at developing a common understanding of the challenges and solutions for a decentralized energy transition towards 100% renewables in Morocco and all Africa.

This seminar is part of the MSP project for the energy transition towards 100% of renewable energies in Africa, which has two components: the first at the continental level, promoting the ambitious implementation of the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) in Power Shift Africa Partnership by building a multi-stakeholder partnership to support this initiative. The second component aims to highlight the benefits of decentralization of the renewable energy sector for sustainable development and the energy-water-food nexus. The second component will be implemented together with Moroccan communities.

The idea is to create a project based on the decentralization of renewable energies that will improve sustainable development in Morocco. The first steps of this project will begin in a village, still being identified by the MSP, and its impact will be evaluated with and on the local people. The idea is that the project will be replicated with other villages leading to advancing decentralization of renewable energies in the kingdom.



It was really great to attend this seminar. It was an opportunity to develop my ability to communicate with experts in many fields. I also had the opportunity to benefit from the experience of teachers and frameworks in renewable energies, its important role in developing the standard of living, and how projects of this nature can provide job opportunities for people with significantly diverse backgrounds.

I became aware of how to develop a project idea and how to manage it. In addition, what I learned from the seminar is the method of participatory and respectful dialogue between participants, and how they discuss their opinion publicly and personally. I learned a lot.

The good organization of everything, the arrangements, and the good division of tasks between the organizers greatly contributed to the success of the conference. The HAF team is characterized by a spirit of sharing. They are good leaders who have played a very important role in guiding and helping me to participate and contribute to the success of the seminar.

December [09, 2019](#)

**PRESENTING AT THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE AND SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY CONFERENCE 2019**

By Kerstin Opfer

HAF's Operations Manager

We are living in a time where humankind faces an unprecedented challenge – it is the warmest it has ever been on earth since human presence. The dangers of climate change are known since the 1980s but a lack of will and societal awareness has inhibited the necessary vigorous change. Further, the people, who are the most affected by climate change are also the most vulnerable and the ones with the least decision making power. We are now at a pivotal point, where with every degree a cascade of tipping points and a “hothouse earth” will become more probable. To prevent this we need political will, a new kind of cooperation, innovative technologies, business models and engaged civil society.

During the 7th edition of the International Renewable and Sustainable Energy Conference (IRSEC) 2019 in Agadir scientists, companies, policy makers and civil society organisations from all over the world gathered to discuss how to protect the environment and to combat climate change through innovation and development in the sector of clean and sustainable energy. In his opening words the Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, Mr Aziz Rabbah, emphasized the importance of networks and partnerships between universities and institutes nationally and internationally to create competency, share experiences and skills and

drive the renewable energy transition. Furthermore, the importance of an energy transition towards clean, renewable, and sustainable energy was highlighted as a key concern of today's society. Dr. Kawtar Hafidi, Associate Director of the Argonne National Laboratory in the U.S. invited the scientific community to discuss their research with this sense of urgency.



With this invitation in mind Kerstin Opfer, project manager at the High Atlas Foundation, presented a study on how to achieve a decentralised, participatory, and people-centred energy transition towards 100% renewables on the African continent. Electricity and energy are two of the key challenges in Africa – 2/3 of Africa's population still has no access to electricity. Additionally electricity demand is assumed to triple until 2030. This poses a real threat to Africa's development and the achievement of the SDG7 goal of ensuring "access to affordable,

reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all” until 2030. Solutions lie in the transition to renewable energy. Africa has a considerable and largely untapped potential of renewable energies. Many African countries have realized the urgency and set in place large, government-led projects to achieve a transition to renewable energy. A successful renewable energy transition, however, can only take place with the support of all those involved in the energy sector, starting with the consumer. Hence acknowledging the importance of participatory and decentralized approaches to complement large-scale installations is important.



The research study that was presented during the IRSEC 2019 first introduces key challenges of renewable energy in Africa, then suggests Morocco as potential laboratory to test decentralized, participatory, and people-centered approaches to renewable energy, and last but not least develops key recommendations for Africa, drawing on experiences with such approaches in

Morocco. One of the key findings of the study is that local resources together with effective community participation should be used to harness the full renewable energy potential on the African continent. Decentralized solutions can complement large-scale installations such as Noor Ouarzazate. Further, integrating environmental, developmental and energy policy can bring about intersecting benefits like poverty reduction, environmental protection and advancement in the agricultural sector. The development of such integrated energy policy frameworks that emphasise meaningful community participation as a way to achieve holistic and intersecting solutions should hence have priority.



Please contact kerstin@highatlasfoundation.org if you are interested in receiving the study.

August 12, 2020

100% RENEWABLE IS LOADING...

The Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) for an African energy transition towards “all-renewable” is a project that the High Atlas Foundation is working on alongside GermanWatch, a non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Bonn, Germany. GermanWatch seeks to influence public policy on trade, the environment, and relations between countries in the industrialized north and underdeveloped south while HAF supports Moroccan communities to take action in implementing human development initiatives and access green energy. The MSP is a diverse partnership between the economic and private sector, civil society organizations, public policy agencies, science and research institutions, and trade unions in order to lead a cooperative project for the welfare of the Moroccan society.

In order to introduce and check the progress of the Multi-stakeholder partnership, a webinar was held on July 20, 2020. Among the 15 participants were Gqiba Lulekwa who is an accredited Stakeholder Collaboration Facilitator at the Collective Leadership Institute (CLI), Kostiantyn Krynyskyi from Ecoaction, and also Dr. Yossef Ben-Meir, HAF President. The webinar lasted for two and a half hours. Lulekwa Gqiba presented the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership approach while answering questions from webinar participants.



Gqiba Lulekwa, an accredited Stakeholder Collaboration Facilitator at the Collective Leadership Institute (CLI)

The webinar highlighted the importance of the MSP, how it works, and its communication system. Presenters also stated the requirements for a functioning MSP (measures of success of the partnership) that are considered as factors of evaluation. However, this success cannot be achieved unless the steering team of the project shares a common goal and vision while executing effective communication among all the concerned parties. They also mentioned that a self-assessment of the steering team is essential in order to keep a healthy work environment while having discussions and making decisions.

In order to have a clearer vision of how the project should proceed, Kostiantyn Krynytskyi shared the Ukrainian experience with coal production and his work on the decentralization of energy. The key take-away of this experience was that local communities should be involved in the decision-making since they know more about their own problems, and their participation will encourage them to start thinking about finding solutions. Also, modeling best practices and examples are a way to help people become more aware and believe that there are always solutions and alternatives. Additionally, constantly searching for good partners is necessary for an effective and successful project.



Kostiantyn Krynytskyi, Ecoaction

At the end of the webinar, the participants showed their interest in supporting each other while focusing on achieving the steering committee's goals.