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Local Electricity Access Program - LEAP

Connecting People to Overcome Energy Poverty

Introductory Information on the Local Electricity Access Program LEAP?

The Local Electricity Access Program (LEAP) is a multi-stakeholder initiative working for decentralized electricity access mainly in rural Africa, by strengthening the enabling environment for investment through stronger local governance. LEAP has arisen from Kofi Annan's *Africa Progress Panel* in 2017 in its flagship report on Energy, which pointed out that because of lacking electricity indoor cooking alone causes the premature death of four million people worldwide per year; with about 600,000 dying prematurely for this reason in Africa alone. With its strong commitment to and experience in multi-stakeholder governance *HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform*, Berlin is carrying LEAP forward with strong partners from government, private sector and civil society.

LEAP has been exploring with actors in various African countries their interest in its effort to strengthen local governance. We are delighted that the Government of Senegal through its Ministry for Petroleum and Energy has expressed a lively interest to include LEAP in its outstanding program of *Energy for ALL*. In Senegal we are exploring the formation of a MSG composed of Government, Business and Civil Society representatives.

Contacts with potential investors (inside and outside Senegal) have been established, local CSOs are being invited, government officials and the influential mayor of the village Ndiop are participating (in fact, a concrete pilot investment is at an advanced stage of preparation). Supportive conversations with representatives of development agencies have been established (e.g. World Bank, GIZ, AfDB, USAID, UN ECA).

It is proposed that the structure of LEAP will follow the model of other multi-stakeholder initiatives (e.g. EITI and FiTI):

1. At the international level a nascent Advisory Group (AG) has started to meet regularly in Berlin. It is expected to be substantially converted into a multi-stakeholder Global Board (GB) at the launch of LEAP. The AG would further develop the concept of LEAP and guide the national Multi-Stakeholder Groups (MSG); it would probably have 12 to 18 members. (The present members are listed below).
2. In participating countries a national Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) would be established to further develop the national concept of LEAP, observe and deliberate about elements of governance that may obstruct or discourage local investment; it will prepare regular reports about the relevant aspects of local governance. In countries with more than one local LEAP initiative, the MSGs guide the Local Multi-Stakeholder Group (LMSG).
3. At the local level Local Multi-Stakeholder Groups (LMSG) composed of local Government, Business and Civil Society representatives will observe and deliberate about elements of governance that may obstruct or discourage local investment.

A lean LEAP Secretariat will be established at the *HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform* (with separate accounts and work plans). Presently it is led by Daphne Buellesbach, CEO of the Governance Platform, with the support of Christine Nowak, Office Manager (all with a small allocation of time).

Advisory Group

- **Daphne Büllesbach** (HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform gGmbH) is Managing Director of the Governance Platform and LEAP Secretariat.
- **Peter Conze** (HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform gGmbH) is Chair of the Supervisory Board.
- **Prof. Dr. Peter Eigen** (HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform) is the founder and former Chair of Transparency International (TI).
- **Timon Herzog (GRIPS-Energy GmbH)** is CEO of GRIPS-Energy.
- **Sylvia Niewiem** (*Siemens Energy*) is a Senior Manager and Blockchain initiator at Siemens Energy.
- **Tanja Romahn** (*Siemens Energy*) is a business economist and project manager at Siemens Energy.
- **Gabriele Schwarz** (Bonergie) is Conseil Patronal des Énergies Renouvelables du Sénégal » (COPERES) and convenor of LEAP MSG Senegal