

## Energy infrastructure development A key pillar of Revised RISDP

**INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** – including in the energy sector – is one of the top priorities to be pursued under the revised SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

The Revised RISDP, which was presented to the SADC Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in August, identifies four main priorities to be pursued by the region from 2015-2020.

Priority A seeks to promote industrial development and market integration through, among other things, strengthening the productive competitiveness and supply side capacity of member states as well as improving movement of goods and facilitating financial market integration and monetary cooperation.

Priority B is on provision and improvement of infrastructure support for regional integration.

Energy is a critical area of this pillar of the Revised RISDP and considerable preparatory work has been done in this area to develop enabling policies, systems and processes that will greatly facilitate project preparation as well as help to attract private sector investments and further promote public-private partnerships.

Head of the SADC Directorate on Infrastructure and Service, Remigious Makumbe reiterated SADC's commitment to supporting the energy sector.

"The power sector remains key to the regional integration agenda and there is, therefore, a call for the ICPs (International Cooperating Partners) to align their programmes to the key regional priorities," Makumbe said in welcome remarks during a meeting of ICPs involved in the SADC energy sector that was held in September in Gaborone.

Priority D is on promotion of special programmes of regional dimension under clusters such as education and human resource development; health, HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases; food security and trans-boundary natural resources; environment; statistics; gender equality; and science, technology and innovation and research and development.

The above three priorities will be underpinned by Priority C on promotion of peace and security cooperation as a pre-requisite for achieving the regional integration agenda. □



### SADC strengthening Energy Division capacity

**THE SADC** Secretariat is in the process of strengthening capacity in the Energy Division.

The selection process of a new senior officer for the division, which had become necessary following the retirement of Senior Programme Officer and the imminent expiry of the contract of Programme Officer was well underway.

The Programme Officer was put on the payroll of the SADC Infrastructure and Services Directorate since funding from Norway ran out in June 2014. However, the contract is expected to run out at the end of the year.

The SADC Human Resources Department has since launched a region-wide recruitment exercise for a new Senior Programme Officer.

A short list has been established and it is hoped that the recruitment would be completed by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the Austrian government has seconded Wolfgang Moser to the SADC Secretariat where he has been Technical Adviser to the Energy Division since June.

His terms of reference include advising the Secretariat on general energy matters, the development of the Renewable Energy Strategy and Action Plan, establishment of the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, and support to International Cooperating Partners and the SADC Energy Thematic Group. □

# ETG Action Plan to be reviewed

**THE SADC** Energy Thematic Group has agreed to revisit its action plan to ensure that its targets are realistic and reflect the terms of reference (TORs) of members of the group.

The action plan aims to concretise SADC-International Cooperating Partner (ICP) commitments towards an effective partnership dialogue based on the principles of Windhoek Declaration, the SADC Strategy Development, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, the SADC Medium Term Strategy, the SADC Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Plan, and the SADC-ICP Partnership Statement.

A meeting of the ICPs held in September in Gaborone, Botswana agreed that implementation of the ETG Action Plan (ETGAP) should start immediately, prioritizing outcomes 4, 5 and 6 that, respectively, focus on:

- The establishment of a functional network platform for information sharing and knowledge dissemination;
- Monitoring of ETG members' activities and sharing of information on overall progress, including cross-border operations and deals; and
- An agreed and updated Action Plan for the ETG, specifying the short to medium-term activities and outputs.

It was agreed that a matrix would have to be developed in order to document and compile the results and outcomes achieved by the donors.

This new table would show if the projected outcomes of the ETGAP were indeed realistic. If this was the case, the ETGAP could be revised at a subsequent stage.

However, such a decision had to be based on concrete data, which had to be collected first.

Likewise, it will be crucial to collect data during the period in between ICP and ETG meetings.

It was agreed that the ICP Energy Support Reporting Form (Matrix) would be improved by adding another column to the toolbar so as to visualize results and indicators.

However, the ETGAP should be regarded as the primary source of information on the 8 agreed outcomes/results. □

## Thematic working groups proposed

**MEMBERS OF** the SADC Energy Thematic Group (ETG) have agreed to set up working groups to tackle specific thematic issues in-between the biannual ETG meetings.

There were proposals to start with specific groups to discuss issues regarding renewable energy and power as well as on transmission and power generation.

Another proposed working group would focus on information sharing where the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) and the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) would be expected to play leading roles.

It was agreed that the working groups would not physically meet, but would conduct the meetings electronically. □

## ADA supports Communicating Energy Project

**THE AUSTRIAN** Development Agency is supporting the project on Communicating Energy in Southern Africa that is being implemented by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) in partnership with the SADC Secretariat.

The purpose is to strengthen the knowledge base and the cross-border flow of information on the development of the energy sector in the 15 SADC Member States.

This includes tracking the development of hydro-electricity and other regional energy sources.

The project, which started in 2008 and has previously been supported by the Norwegian government, will be implemented for a further two-year period.

Key outputs of the project include production of *SADC Today* and *Southern African News Features*; information support to the SADC Energy Thematic Group; as well as production of the newly introduced *SADC Energy Monitor* and *SADC Energy Investment Year Book*. □





# Five countries bid to host SACREE

**AT LEAST** five countries are vying for the right to host the proposed SADC Regional Centre for Renewable and Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREE).

The SADC Energy Thematic Group held in Botswana in September heard that bids to host the SACREE have been received from Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. South Africa's bid is, however, subject to parliamentary approval.

Head of the SADC Directorate on Infrastructure and Services, Remigious Makumbe said establishment of SACREE, including the choice of the host country, was awaiting the holding of the annual SADC Energy Ministers meeting.

The SADC Energy Ministers meeting was scheduled for September, but was postponed after Malawi said it was not able to host the meeting due to various challenges. Mauritius has been approached to serve as alternative host.

The decision of the ministers would be forwarded to the SADC Council in February 2015, which would give final approval.

The establishment of SACREE is expected to increase the uptake of clean energy in southern Africa, enabling the region to address its energy challenges.

The proposed centre would, among other things, promote market-based adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and services in SADC member states.

The centre is expected to contribute substantially to the development of thriving regional renewable energy and energy efficiency markets through knowledge sharing and technical advice in the areas of policy and regulation, technology cooperation, capacity development, as well as investment promotion.

Various cooperating partners such as the Austrian Development Agency and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have pledged to provide financial support to the centre for the first three years. After that, the centre should be self-sustaining.

Establishment of the centre is expected to be carried out in three phases, the first of which involves the selection of a host country and establishment of the SACREE Secretariat.

The management team will be headed by an executive director appointed by the executive board and will consist of various levels of permanent staff to be complemented by consultants and seconded international staff as may be deemed necessary from time to time.

The Preparatory Phase, that was initially expected to run from January-October 2014, would also see the creation and inauguration of the SACREE executive board and technical committees. □



*SACREE governance structure*

The composition of the executive board and technical committee will be agreed upon by member states.

The First Operational Phase is expected to run from the end of 2014-2017 during which the centre will primarily focus on developing renewable energy programmes for the region and resource mobilisation.

The Second Operational Phase, from 2018-2021, will focus on activities to ensure sustainability of the centre after the exit of international cooperating partners such as UNIDO.

Establishment of the SACREE is expected to see a gradual increase in the uptake of cleaner energy sources that could result in reduced carbon emissions in line with the global trends towards clean and alternative energy sources.

According to the African Development Bank, the region has the potential to become a “gold mine” for renewable energy due to the abundant solar and wind resources that are now hugely sought after by international investors in their quest for clean energy.

For example, the overall hydropower potential in SADC countries is estimated at about 1,080 terawatt hours per year (TWh/year) but capacity being utilised at present is just under 31 TWh/year.

A terawatt is equal to one million megawatts.

The SADC region is also hugely endowed with watercourses such as the Congo and Zambezi, with the Inga Dam situated on the Congo River having the potential to produce about 40,000 MW of electricity, according to SAPP.

With regard to geothermal, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility estimate that about 4,000MW of electricity is available along the Rift Valley in the United Republic of Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique. □

# SADC Energy Ministers meeting deferred again

**THE ANNUAL SADC** Energy Ministers meeting has once again been deferred to a later date due to logistical challenges.

The meeting provides an opportunity for energy ministers to review the power situation in the region in an effort to ensure that supply and demand are evenly matched.

Traditionally held in March/April each year, the meeting was postponed to September to allow the host country, Malawi, to hold its general elections in May.

Malawi has indicated that it is unable to host the meeting a few months after the polls, which produced a new government.

In this regard, the SADC Secretariat is searching for an alternative host. Mauritius, being next country in alphabet order of 15-member regional body, has been approached to host the energy ministers meeting. However, there has been no reply received as yet.

Head of the SADC Directorate on Infrastructure and Services, Remigious Makumbe said a number of issues, including the establishment of a SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, will be discussed at the meeting.

Other issues on the agenda are the status of implementation of key decisions made at the last meeting held Lesotho in 2013 as well as some of the priority projects.

The decision of the Energy Ministers would be forwarded to the SADC Council scheduled for February 2015 for their final approval. □

## Events Diary

### October

6-8, Zimbabwe	International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Workshop
15-16, South Africa	Joint PSC/MSC Workshop on Transmission Pricing
21-22, South Africa	Energy Traders & System Controllers Forum
22-23, DRC	Energy Traders & System Controllers Forum
23-24, South Africa	Solar Indaba
28-29, DRC	Katanga Mining Week
29-30, Namibia	SAPP Telecommunications Working Group meeting
29-31, Kenya	Workshop for Energy Regulators: Energy Pricing, Reform and Transition
30, Angola	Z1ZABONA Management & Steering Committee Meeting
30-31, South Africa	8th Annual Powering Africa Finance Options Meeting
31, Angola	37th SAPP Executive Committee Meeting

### November

3-5, South Africa	WINDaba 2014
3-7, South Africa	21 <sup>st</sup> Africa Oil Week 2014
4-6, German	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Advanced Hydropower Generation and Pumped Storage Forum
6-7, Germany	International Conference on Solar Energy Technology in Development Cooperation
12, UK	Launch of World Energy Outlook 2014
12-13, South Africa	2014 Southern African Energy Efficiency Convention and Exhibition
13-14, Tanzania	Powering Africa
17-21, South Africa	EU Sponsored Workshop- Integration of Renewable Energy
20-21, Ethiopia	Powering Africa
24-25, UK	Africa Investment Exchange: Energy
20-22, Burkina Faso	Africa Solar 2014
29, Namibia	Telecommunications Working Group Meeting

### December

1, Zimbabwe	RERA Executive Committee Meeting
2, Zimbabwe	2nd RERA Forum of Commissioners/ Board Members
3-4, Zimbabwe	RERA Annual Conference
5, Zimbabwe	RERA Annual General Meeting
1-12, Peru	COP 20

### January

19-22, UAE	World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2015
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### February

17-18, South Africa	Africa Energy Indaba 2015
17-18, Netherlands	World Biomass Power Markets

## Time to harness solar energy, technologies

**ENERGY EXPERTS** will meet in early November for an international solar conference to discuss and share knowledge and experiences on how to boost the uptake of solar energy and technologies.

The International Conference on Solar Energy Technology in Development Cooperation will be held on 6-7 November in Frankfurt, Germany.

SADC and the rest of the African continent has huge potential for solar energy, as the continent is hugely endowed with sunshine throughout the year.

However, little has been done to harness the power. Solar power is a reliable and clean form of energy as it does not pollute the environment compared to other forms of energy. □