

AIDE-MEMOIRE

Sustainable Energy Forum 2018 19 – 21 March

Kigali Serena Hotel
Rwanda

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1. BACKGROUND

The East African Community (EAC) partner states, comprising Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, are endowed with vast renewable energy resources that offer significant opportunities for sustainable energy production and use to stimulate economic growth and quality of life improvements. Among the partners states, the overall business and regulatory environment for sustainable energy – renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access – is improving, and the East Africa region is making significant progress in the pace of electrification, with the number of people without access declining by 14% since 2012. Within the EAC, the advancement of new off-grid solar technologies and business models is leading the global community in approaches to deliver electricity to those without, building on the region’s vibrant mobile distribution and money networks.

While these are positive indications and offer a strong foundation for growth of sustainable energy deployment and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreement targets, the continuing population growth and rapid urbanization in the region are magnifying the challenges facing energy systems, and the consequent environmental challenges which result. These problems can be traced back to historical energy policies, high reliance on solid biomass for cooking and heating, low electrification rates, particularly in rural and remote areas, and increasing demands for transportation fuels.

A key priority of the East African Community (EAC), with respect to energy, is to recognize this context of its current energy situation and enable Partner states to build sustainable solutions through its endowed renewable energy resources and its growing base of off-grid energy solutions. The EAC seeks to scale the deployment of renewable energy, both centralized and decentralized solutions, to advance the adoption of energy conservation and energy efficiency practices, and to enable access of its populations to clean cooking fuels and technologies. Towards that objective, the *East African Regional Strategy on Scaling Up Access to Modern Energy Services* was introduced in 2006, followed in 2015 by a five-year implementation plan developed by the Secretariat. It is in this context that the East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) was established in 2016.

The Sustainable Energy Forum for East Africa has been established to provide a convening to effectively address the existing energy challenges within the EAC region, and to serve as a vehicle to discuss opportunities and solutions to remove existing barriers to achieving reliable, affordable and sustainable energy services for all. The first Sustainable Energy Forum 2018 will bring together relevant national, regional and international stakeholders to discuss and identify strategies to harmonize energy policies in the region, upscale financing of sustainable energy deployment, exchange knowledge and experiences, and to forge effective partnerships that will enable Partner states to achieve SDG 7 targets. Furthermore, this Forum will consider specific issues pertaining to the region, such as sustainable cities and geothermal, as well as gender mainstreaming in energy access.

1.1 Forum Co-organizers

[United Nations Industrial Development Organization \(UNIDO\)](#)

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as a specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability, is determined to take its part in facilitating the successful implementation of the SDGs. UNIDO's mandate is to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) to achieve shared prosperity and environmental sustainability around the world. The concept of ISID is also included in the SDGs, namely Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

[EACREEE](#)

The East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) is a regional platform for cooperation among development partners for effective and efficient coordination and implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7: "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all". The EACREEE was inspired by the successful model of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) based in Praia, Cape Verde. The EACREEE was officially launched in June 2016 at Makerere University Kampala, in Uganda. On behalf of the EAC, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is supporting the establishment and first operational phase of the centre with support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

EACREEE focuses on creating an enabling environment for renewable energy and energy efficiency markets and investments. The EACREEE's objective is to contribute to:

- Increased access to modern, affordable and reliable energy services;
- Energy security; and
- Mitigation of negative effects from Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

[EAC Secretariat](#)

The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat, with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania, is a regional inter-governmental organization founded in 1967, comprising six Partner States: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The region is home to 150 million citizens, out of which only 22% live in urban areas. It is the second largest single regional market in Africa and economically one of the fastest growing regions in Sub-

Saharan Africa. In 2014, the partner states witnessed a combined average growth in GDP of 6.2%. Due to the significance of this growth, there lies huge potential in sustainable development.

The work of the EAC is guided by its treaty, which in turn established the community. Signed on 30 November 1999 and enforced on 7 July 2000, the initial ratification included the three original member states: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Rwanda and Burundi became a full member on 1 July 2007 followed, more recently, by the Republic of South Sudan on 15 August 2016.

[Austrian Development Agency \(ADA\)](#)

The Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) supports countries in Africa, Asia, South Eastern and Eastern Europe as well as the Caribbean in their sustainable development. The Foreign Ministry (FMEIA) plans ADC strategies and programmes. The Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the operational unit of ADC, implements these together with public institutions, non-governmental organizations and enterprises.

[Sustainable Energy for All \(SEforALL\)](#)

2. Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) is a nonprofit organization working with leaders in government, the private sector and civil society to drive further, faster action toward achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7, which calls for universal access to sustainable energy by 2030, and the Paris Climate Agreement, which calls for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit climate warming to below 2 degrees Celsius. **OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

The purpose of the Sustainable Energy Forum 2018 is to facilitate a high-level multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable energy in the EAC region. The Forum will bring together policy makers, experts, civil society and private sector representatives and development partners to share best practices, identify opportunities and challenges, and find solutions to the energy challenges in East Africa. In addition, the Forum seeks to strengthen the regional network and provide a platform for knowledge- and experience sharing.

The Sustainable Energy Forum 2018 shall provide the key ingredients for successfully scaling-up renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access interventions, due to effective knowledge management and capacity building, ensuring that all stakeholders can take informed decisions on the design and implementation of sustainable energy policies, finance, projects, and institutional capacities that will accelerate universal access to energy in the EAC region.

3. FORUM LOGISTICS

3.1 Date and Venue of the Forum

Sustainable Energy Forum for East Africa, 19th to 21st March 2018

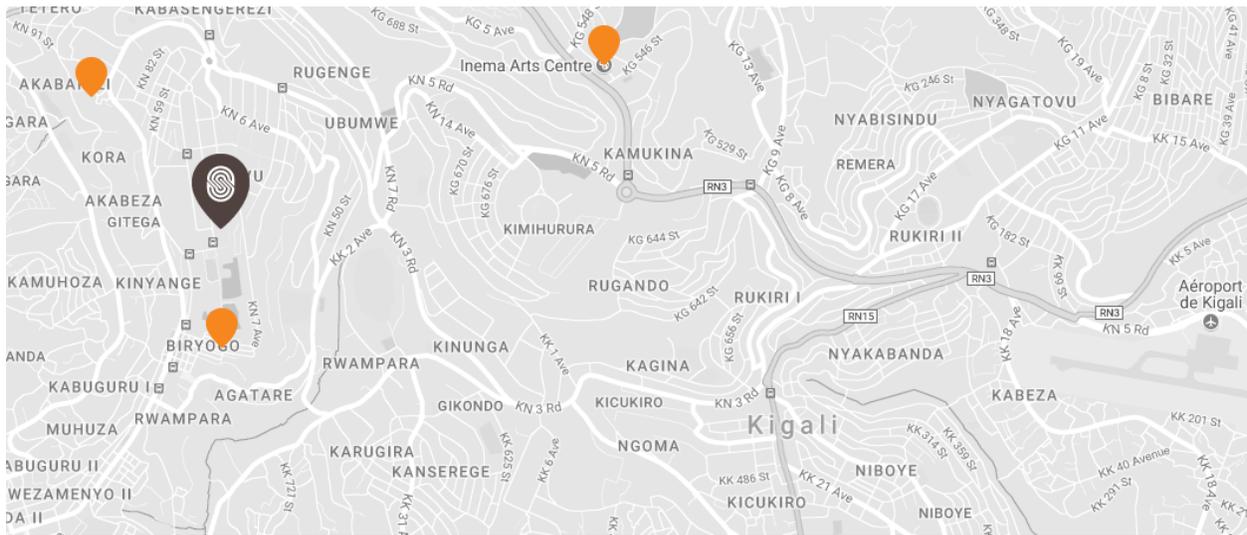
Kigali Serena Hotel

KN 3 Avenue, Nyarugenge District,

Kigali, Rwanda

Tel: + [250 788 184 500](tel:250788184500)

Website: <http://www.serenahotels.com/serenakigali/en/default.html>



For directions and a map of the venue please refer to the website above. A map of Kigali is attached in Annex III, which includes the route from Kigali International Airport to the Serena Hotel.

3.2 Registration

The [Sustainable Energy Forum, 2018](#) will be held at the Kigali Serena Hotel, Rwanda. All participants are requested to register online at <https://sef-ea2018.b2match.io> in order to gain access to the premise. Participants need to present their registration confirmation as a print-out or in electronic form on their electronic devices and an identify card to gain access to the Kigali Serena Hotel. **TIP:** Make sure to register with the name as it appears in the passport.

The Forum badges will be issued at the entrance of the Forum venue, starting at 08:30 on each Forum day at the Serena Hotel.

3.3 Forum Fee

No Forum fee will be charged to participants.

3.4 Forum Language

The Forum's working language for the Plenaries will be in English only.

3.5 Financial Arrangements

General participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs

3.6 Visas

Before leaving their home country, participants should complete all formalities regarding entry and transit visas that they may require for the journey to Kigali, Rwanda. In the absence of a Rwandan Embassy/Consulate in the home country, participants are advised to submit the Visa Application to any available in the country, taking into consideration that the time required to obtain a visa is 3 weeks.

More information with regard to Embassies and Consulates is available at: [Foreign Ministry Rwanda](#). No provision can be made for participants to obtain such visas on arrival at Kigali Airport in Rwanda.

3.7 Accommodation

Participants are advised to make a timely reservation for a hotel room for their stay in Kigali. Participants of the Sustainable Energy Forum 2018 are eligible to a special rate in selected hotels. When making a reservation in one of the selected hotels, please inform the hotel that you are attending the Sustainable Energy Forum 2018 and are entitled to the special UNIDO rate. A list of hotels is attached in **Annex I**.

4. CORRESPONDENCE AND INQUIRIES

Correspondence and inquiries related to the Forum should be addressed to:

Sustainable Energy Forum for East Africa Secretariat

EACREEE

CEDAT Building, Makerere University

P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, UGANDA

Email: info@eacreee.org

Website: <http://www.eacreee.org>

Michael Ahimbisibwe

Executive Director

Tel: +256 752 996 710

Email: m.ahimbisibwe@eacreee.org with copy to: s.rahman@unido.org

5. TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

The latest programme can be found at: <https://sef-ea2018.b2match.io>

ANNEX I: LIST OF HOTELS IN KIGALI

Kigali Serena Hotel

Address: KN 3 Avenue, Kigali, Rwanda

Tel: +250 788 184 500, Fax: +250 252 597 101

Booking Website: <http://www.serenahotels.com/serenakigali/default-en.html>

Standard room: From USD 179, including breakfast

Rates are per room, per night, incl. services and taxes

Kigali Radisson Blu

[10 minute] drive to Serena Hotel

Address: KG 2 Roundabout, Kigali, Rwanda

Tel: +250 252 252 252

Email: info.kigali@radissonblu.com

Standard room: From USD 350, including breakfast

Rates are per room, per night, incl. services and taxes

Kigali Marriott Hotel

[3 minutes] walk to Serena Hotel

Address: KN 3 Avenue, Kigali, Rwanda

Tel: +250 222 111 111, Fax: +250 222 111 555

Book website: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/kglmc-kigali-marriott-hotel/>

Standard room: From USD 230, including breakfast

Rates are per room, per night, incl. services and taxes

Kigali Hotel Des Mille Collines

[10 minute] walk to Serena Hotel

Address: 2KN 6th Avenue

Tel: +250 788 192 530

Book website: <https://www.millecollines.rw/> Email: info@millecollines.rw

Standard room: From USD 163, including breakfast

Rates are per room, per night, incl. services and taxes

Legend:



..... Hotels which offer special UN/UNIDO rates for 2017

- Subject to direct reservation with hotels
- All rates include taxes, services and breakfast, unless otherwise indicated.
- All rates are subject to change



ANNEX II: MAP OF KIGALI

A scheduled Airport Shuttle Service can be taken from the Airport to the venue, with a fee of 40 USD (one way). The estimated taxi fare for the route is 30 USD (one way).

