ACSEA

Africa Renewable Energy Initiative For Africa:
African Civil Society Organizations Perspective

AFRICA COALITION FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND ACCESS

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La situation actuelle

Le continent africain et sa population souffrent d'un grave problème d'accès à l'énergie. En effet, la majorité de la population africaine – environ 622 millions sur les 922 millions d'habitants – n'a toujours pas accès à l'énergie (REN21, 2015). Bien que le continent africain dispose d'abondantes ressources pour le développement des énergies renouvelables, ce potentiel ne s'est pas encore réalisé. De fait, le mix électrique africain est dominé par le recours aux combustibles fossiles, en particulier le pétrole, le charbon et le gaz ; ainsi que des grandes centrales hydro-électriques [1]. Au vu de la demande croissante en électricité et de la nécessité de s'engager pour un développement bas-carbone, le développement de nouvelles capacités électriques basées sur les énergies renouvelables pourrait respecter le double challenge de faire face aux changements climatiques et permettre un développement durable.

L'Initiative Africaine pour les Energies Renouvelables (IAER) se distingue des autres initiatives car elle est conduite par et pour le continent africain. En effet, cette initiative est sous mandat de l'Union Africaine (UA) et est approuvée par le Comité des chefs d'État et de gouvernements africains sur les changements climatiques (CAHOSCC). L'initiative a deux objectifs principaux : permettre l'accès universel à une énergie propre, adaptée et abordable, tout en aidant les pays africains à améliorer leur production d'énergies renouvelables. L'IAER a été lancée officiellement à la COP21 en décembre 2015, et est actuellement dans sa première phase d'action (2017-2020). Durant cette phase, des projets concrets doivent être mis en œuvre afin d'atteindre d'ici 2020 une augmentation minimale de la capacité de production issue des énergies renouvelables de 10 GW, puis de 300 GW d'ici 2030 (IAER, 2016a). Un des enjeux centraux de 2017 est aussi la participation des organisations de la société civile (OSC) africaines au sein des processus de l'IAER pour permettre une meilleure mobilisation, tout en diffusant les concepts et informations auprès des populations locales.

Le sondage présenté dans cette étude a été élaboré par PACJA (Pan African Climate Justice Alliance) et par AC-SEA (African Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access), avec la coopération du CAN (Climate Action Network), du Réseau Climat & Développement (RC&D), de Pain pour le Monde et Germanwatch. Il a pour objectif de permettre aux OSC africaines d'exprimer leurs points de vue et leurs demandes sur l'IAER. Ce sondage a été mis en ligne et accessible d'octobre 2016 à décembre 2016, en langue anglaise et française [2]. En tout, 29 réponses ont été recueillies, dont 25 exploitables, ce qui relativise la représentativité des résultats [3].

Les conclusions de ce sondage peuvent être utilisées comme apports pour renforcer le cadre d'action de l'IAER, mais servent aussi à façonner le mode de financement des activités et des projets de l'IAER pour les pays et les institutions bailleurs. Enfin, ces conclusions peuvent aider la société civile internationale à soutenir le travail de la société civile africaine concernant cette initiative.

Analyse synthétique des résultats

Cette section analyse les réponses de 25 participants issus de 17 pays africains. Le profil des répondants est assez homogène : ils travaillent tous sur les problématiques environnementales. Leurs échelles d'action privilégiées sont le national (21) et le local (19) et il s'agit de participants ayant tous travaillé pour des ONG. L'ensemble des participants sont déjà sensibilisés ou experts des questions énergétiques, puisqu'ils se disent tous avoir au moins un « niveau moyen » de compétences dans ce domaine. En ce qui concerne les initiatives déjà existantes sur les énergies renouvelables, il est intéressant de noter une certaine défiance des répondants vis-à-vis des initiatives globales jugées moins appropriées aux contextes nationaux et moins efficaces que les initiatives locales.

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1) Il doit cependant être remarqué qu'il y a de grandes différences régionales dans l'accès et la consommation d'énergie.
2) Le sondage était anonyme. Les participants pouvaient choisir de laisser leur adresse mail.
3) 4 participants n'ont pas complètement rempli le sondage, et ne sont donc pas inclus dans l'analyse.

Une diversité de projets plébiscités pour augmenter la production d'électricité et améliorer l'efficacité énergétique

Les répondants ont identifié les enjeux énergétiques les plus importants qui ressortaient de leurs expériences. Ils priorisent « l'accès à l'électricité pour les régions rurales », « les impacts sociaux et environnementaux de l'actuel système électrique » ; « le prix de l'électricité pour les ménages » et enfin la « fiabilité du système électrique actuel ». De ces problèmes identifiés, ils ont déduit des projets à mettre en œuvre par l'IAER. Les grands secteurs d'intervention à privilégier seraient donc la « production d'électricité » et « l'amélioration de l'efficience énergétique ». Quant aux technologies de production énergétique, les participants s'accordent pour dire que tous les systèmes basés sur les énergies renouvelables sont au moins « importants », avec un accent mis sur le solaire et les petits projets de 5 MW, qu'il s'agisse du solaire, de l'éolien ou de l'hydro-électrique. Les projets qui récoltent le moins de soutien sont l'énergie marine, la géothermie et les grands projets hydro-électriques (supérieurs à 100 MW).

Un large consensus autour des critères proposés par l'AREI

Une partie importante du sondage porte sur l'évaluation des différents critères proposés par l'IAER. Sur *la sélection des propositions* de projet, les participants priorisent particulièrement « l'implication des parties prenantes », « l'accès à l'énergie » et « l'équité ». En ce qui concerne la sélection des projets, les participants accordent une plus grande importance à l'engagement des parties prenantes et de la société civile, au potentiel de production d'électricité, à la création d'emplois locaux, à l'acceptation sociale, aux impacts sur les écosystèmes locaux, aux prix abordables et aux impacts sur l'utilisation des terres. Dans la continuité, l'IAER propose des critères afin d'assurer l'équilibre entre les différents projets : pour les participants, l'important est de tenir compte dans la sélection des « programmes et projets qui portent en premier lieu sur l'accès directs à l'énergie », puis de leur « soutien principal aux institutions et pays africains », de « la mise en œuvre de différentes sources d'énergie renouvelables respectant les conditions spécifiques nationales », et le fait que « aucun pays ne doit être écarté » des projets.

→ De manière générale, il existe une forte approbation de l'ensemble des critères proposés, qui sont tous au moins jugés « importants » par les participants.

Favoriser une gouvernance inclusive pour les acteurs non-étatiques

Lorsqu'il est question de la gouvernance de l'IAER, les participants s'accordent tous pour mettre en avant l'importance de l'inclusion des OSC africaines dans le cadre de ce processus, soit à travers l'obtention de sièges au sein des comités de pilotage de l'initiative en tant qu'observateur, voire d'un droit de vote. Ainsi, l'inclusion des OSC africaines est un facteur de succès pour l'initiative, et son exclusion est vue comme un danger.
Afin de permettre cette inclusion et l'appropriation du projet par tous les acteurs non-étatiques, les OSC africaines proposent de favoriser le renforcement de capacités, la sensibilisation, mais aussi le plaidoyer institutionnel et les campagnes auprès des institutions nationales et internationales. Enfin, les OSC des pays du Nord devraient continuer à financer les OSC africaines, à favoriser le transfert de compétences et le partage d'informations et à assurer le relai des revendications de la société civile africaine, tout en la supportant logistiquement.

→ De manière générale, on observe l'importance d'inclure toutes les parties prenantes et la société civile africaine tout au long du processus des projets de l'IAER, mais aussi au sein de sa gouvernance.

Les opportunités d'engagement

Il existe plusieurs opportunités pour que la société civile africaine s'engage dans l'IAER.

A l'échelle locale, la société civile africaine devrait :

• Faire du plaidoyer pour que les projets tiennent compte des impacts sociaux et environnementaux, et plus généralement, permettre l'appropriation par les populations locales des projets d'énergies renouvelables.
• Informer et sensibiliser les populations locales des impacts et du potentiel des projets d'énergies renouvelables.
• Informer et sensibiliser les personnes chargées de la mise en œuvre des projets des conditions de vie et de la situation des populations locales, et faire du plaidoyer pour permettre un bénéfice local.
• Assurer l'acceptation des projets par les communautés locales.

A l'échelle nationale, la société civile africaine peut :
- Informer les gouvernements nationaux de l'initiative, de son potentiel et des énergies renouvelables en général
- Faire du plaidoyer pour la mise en œuvre de lois favorisant le développement des énergies renouvelables, la régulation, et un environnement favorable au développement de l'initiative sur le long terme.

A l'échelle du continent africain, la société civile africaine peut :

- Accroitre la visibilité de l'IAER lors d'évènements clés comme le sommet de l'Union Africaine, la CMAE (Conférence des Ministres Africains pour l'Environnement)…
- Organiser des campagnes mobilisant fortement les acteurs participant au processus de décision de l'IAER
- Influencer les Parlements africains pour qu'ils questionnent et interrogent les investissements liés à l'IAER dans leur pays afin d'assurer la transparence et la redevabilité, mais aussi pour leur permettre de rencontrer les populations locales afin de comprendre leurs besoins.
- Assurer que le processus reste une initiative menée par et pour les Africains, en s'alliant avec les représentants des populations à tous les niveaux afin que les intérêts étrangers ne détournent pas l'initiative.

A l'échelle internationale/globale, la société civile africaine peut :

- Collaborer avec la société civile issue des pays du Nord, notamment des pays bailleurs, pour s'assurer de la transparence et de la redevabilité des projets financés.
- Mettre en œuvre des campagnes et des études communes sur l'IAER, et sur les énergies renouvelables de manière plus générale, pour permettre un plaidoyer informé.

Au sein de IAER, la société civile africaine peut :

- Fournir une présence active en étant garant de la protection des intérêts sociaux et environnementaux
- Du fait de leur indépendance, surveiller les projets de telle sorte qu'ils respectent une certaine diversité, qu'ils prennent en compte les différentes échelles, les différents types d'énergies renouvelables, l'équilibre géographique et les besoins spécifiques des communautés locales. En plus de cela, la société civile non-africaine issue notamment des pays bailleurs, doit surveiller les engagements financiers.

Conclusions et recommandations

IAER devrait assurer la transparence et la redevabilité de l'initiative, ce qui inclut :

- La mise en œuvre d'une liste de programmes et de projets en cours d'élaboration et de réalisation sur le site officiel de IAER. A moyen terme, cela devrait impliquer :

  - La diffusion des documents concernant l'éligibilité au financement des projets/programmes, compilées aux critères de sélection
  - Un accès facile à tous les documents portant sur les programmes/projets, les études d'impacts sociaux et environnementaux, les descriptions des projets, les documents présentant les processus de consultation des parties prenantes.
  - L'accès aux informations sur les financements reçus par les gouvernements pour les programmes/projets et une explication de pourquoi ces financements sont « nouveaux et additionnels », comme demandé par IAER.

- La mise à disposition d'un agenda facile d'accès et détaillé sur les conférences, les ateliers et autres évènements importants portant sur l'IAER. Plus spécifiquement, il devrait y avoir un agenda permettant de connaître les dates de rencontre entre les officiels de l'IAER et les représentants de la société civile.
- L'inclusion de la société civile africaine dans les comités de pilotage de l'IAER en lui assurant des sièges, par exemple au minimum 1 siège avec le statut d'observateur dans le Conseil d'administration ainsi qu'1 siège au sein du comité technique.

De plus, les pays bailleurs devraient :

- Diffuser une liste détaillée des projets envisagés pour le financement dans le cadre de l'IAER, accompagnée d'une explication sur pourquoi et comment ces projets sont sélectionnés, et d'un rapport traçant les financements fournis à IAER.

Preface – Current situation

The African continent and its population suffer from severe energy poverty. The International Energy Agency estimates that the total grid-based power generation capacity in 2012 was only about 158 GW, which is less than total installed capacity in Germany alone (IEA, 2014; ISE, 2016). Consequently, the majority of the African population – approximately 622 million out of 922 million people living on the continent – still lacks access to energy (REN21, 2015). Although the African continent has abundant Renewable Energy (RE) resources, the potential for the generation of clean and sustainable electricity has not been realized yet. Hence, next to the traditional use of solid biomass, the African electricity mix is still dominated by fossil fuels, especially oil, coal, and gas, as well as large hydro power plants [4]. In the light of the increasing electricity demand and, at the same time, the need to choose a low-carbon development pathway, electricity generation based on REs could achieve a multiple-win situation on and for the African continent with respect to the twin challenges of climate change and sustainable development.

The Africa Renewable Energy Initiative – People-centered development based on renewables

The Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) aims towards the implementation of 10 GW of new and additional RE generation capacity by 2020 and at least 300 GW by 2030 (AREI, 2016a). This ambitious effort could pave the way for a low-carbon development pathway for all African countries and, therefore, represent a landmark initiative to tackle dangerous anthropogenic climate change. In addition, the initiative is embedded in the context of sustainable development meaning that – in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 – energy access is understood as a precondition for enhanced human well-being and economic development as a whole. Additionally, the initiative represents a continent-wide effort to combat anthropogenic climate change congruent with SDG 13. While numerous initiatives exist that aim towards an advancement of electricity based on renewable energy sources and/or energy access on the African continent, a special and distinguishing feature of AREI is that it is Africa-owned and Africa-led, strongly anchored in African political and decision-making

processes: The initiative was developed under the mandate of the African Union (AU) and endorsed by the Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC).

In order to achieve its two main goals – universal access to clean, appropriate, and affordable energy as well as helping African countries to leapfrog towards renewable energy systems – AREI works according to a number of guiding principles. These guiding principles reflect the transformative people-centered approach of the initiative aiming at the whole African continent with a particular focus on the needs of poor people. AREI wants to promote all kinds of renewable energy technologies (solar; wind; pico-, micro-, small-, and medium-scale hydro; modern biomass; geothermal; and marine), given that they are socially and environmentally appropriate, i.e., coherent with sound safeguards and criteria. It also wants to promote the full range of RE-based applications, i.e. grid-connected systems, mini-grids, but also small stand-alone systems (AREI, 2016b).

Shaping AREI – Chances for civil societal engagement

AREI was officially launched at the COP21 in December 2015. The young initiative is currently in transition from its immediate establishment phase to action phase I (2017 to 2020) during which concrete enabling activities as well project implementation will take place aiming at 10 GW of new and additional RE generation capacity (AREI, 2016a). So far, an interim Independent Delivery Unit (IDU) hosted at the African Development Bank and headed by Prof. Youba Sokona has been established and different high-level AREI stakeholder events have taken place. Furthermore, the initiative outlined its evaluation methodology (criteria and procedures) for projects and programs, initiated its mapping work for existing RE initiatives and developed a first preliminary assessment of RE-based projects for its project pipeline (AREI, 2017). A key feature of the initiative is multi-stakeholder participation and engagement, which should – according to the AREI progress report – be significantly scaled up during 2017. The initiative explicitly mentions and wants to build on the experience of the civil society, both African and international, in order to accomplish two

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4) It should be noted, however, that electricity access and consumption rates as well as the electricity mix and installed capacities show strong regional differences. For example, in most Northern African states electricity access is not a problem anymore, while in East Africa only 23% of the population has access to electricity (IRENA, 2015).

objectives: a) mobilize support, build public pressure; and b) spread awareness and design, conceptualize, and inform policies and programs on the ground. As both the timeframe for the implementation of first projects within AREI is tight and donor countries, such as France, already have submitted possible projects that could be realized under AREI [5] and have committed financially to the initiative, this may be a good, but timely, opportunity for African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to shape the initiative's processes, regulatory formalities, as well as potential projects.

The online survey

The survey was developed by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and the African Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access (ASCEA) in cooperation with Climate Action Network (CAN), Réseau Climat & Développement, Bread for the World, and Germanwatch. Its goal was to elicit African Civil Society Organisations' (CSOs) viewpoints and demands with regard to the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and surrounding activities. The survey was designed as a web-based survey and was online from the beginning of October 2016 to the end of December 2016 [6]. The survey highlighted some issues concerning AREI that were considered important to discuss from a development policy and civil society perspective. These issues originated not only from discussions, workshops, and interviews between African and international CSOs, but also from official documents (e.g., the AREI framework, the AREI action plan and criteria, the Report presented by Ségolène Royal, etc.).

Consequently, the survey consisted of five parts:
1.) Background questions about the participants and other energy related initiatives besides AREI,
2.) Questions with regard to proposal selection and prioritization criteria for policy development projects and programs/incentives,
3.) Questions regarding criteria for direct project support for individual RE projects,
4.) Questions concerned with the overall balance of projects and activities, and

5.) Questions dealing with the governing structure of AREI and the way forward. Overall, 29 responses were received from which 25 could be used for this report.

Results

Background information about participants

The first part of the survey dealt with general questions about the participants and their background.

Country of origin	Number of participants
Angola	1
Benin	1
Cameroon	3
Chad	1
Kenya	1
Morocco	2
Mauritius	2
Niger	1
Nigeria	1
Senegal	1
Swaziland	1
Tanzania	1
Togo	2
Tunisia	3
Uganda	2
Zambia	1
Zimbabwe	1
sum	**25**
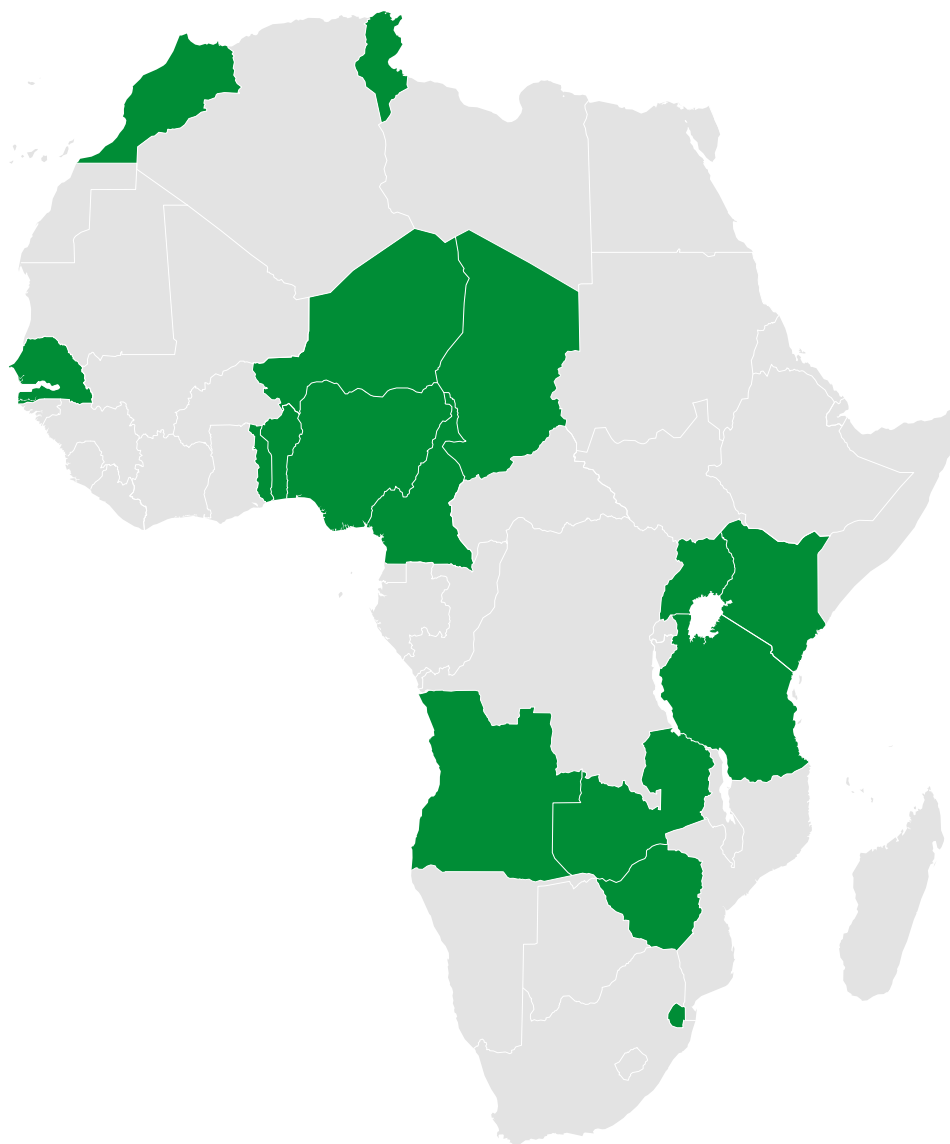
Figure 1: Countries of origin of participants

The participants came from 17 different African countries (Q1 [8]; see fig. 1), while for 21 of them their country of origin is also their focus country of work (Q2). The other four participants stated that, for example, they work on the whole African continent, in all French-speaking countries, or in specific African countries besides their home country (Q3). When asked for the main focus of the organization for which they work (Q4), all participants selected environmental issues followed by energy and development issues as the three top ranks, while HIV and Human Rights as well as climate change were mentioned as "other issues" (see fig. 2).

Concerning the level of work of their organization (Q5), most participants selected the national level (i.e., in the capital and big urban centers throughout the whole country) followed by the sub-national and local level (i.e., in rural areas, in specific provinces), and the regional level (i.e., in the participants' country and neighboring countries). Only 9 participants stated that they work at the global level (i.e., world-wide, in global policy spaces) (see fig. 3). Additionally, all participants have had an NGO background (Q6).

Organizational background – main focus of organizations
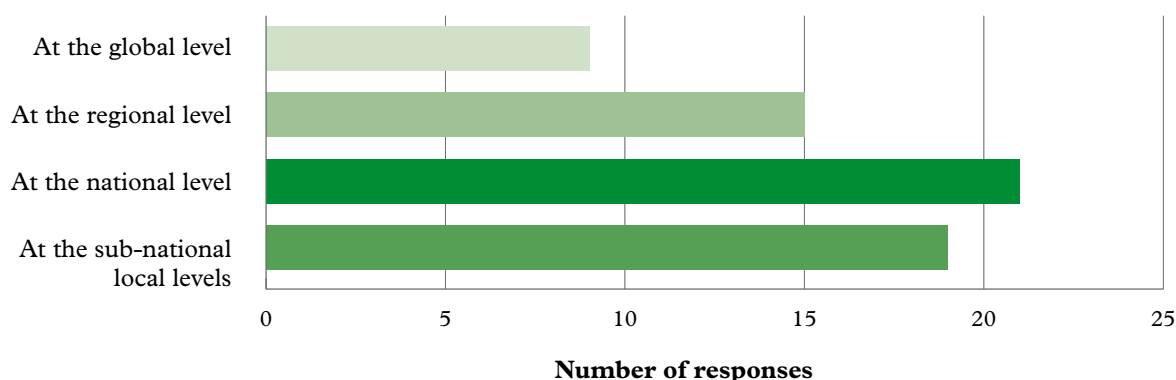(more than one answer possible)
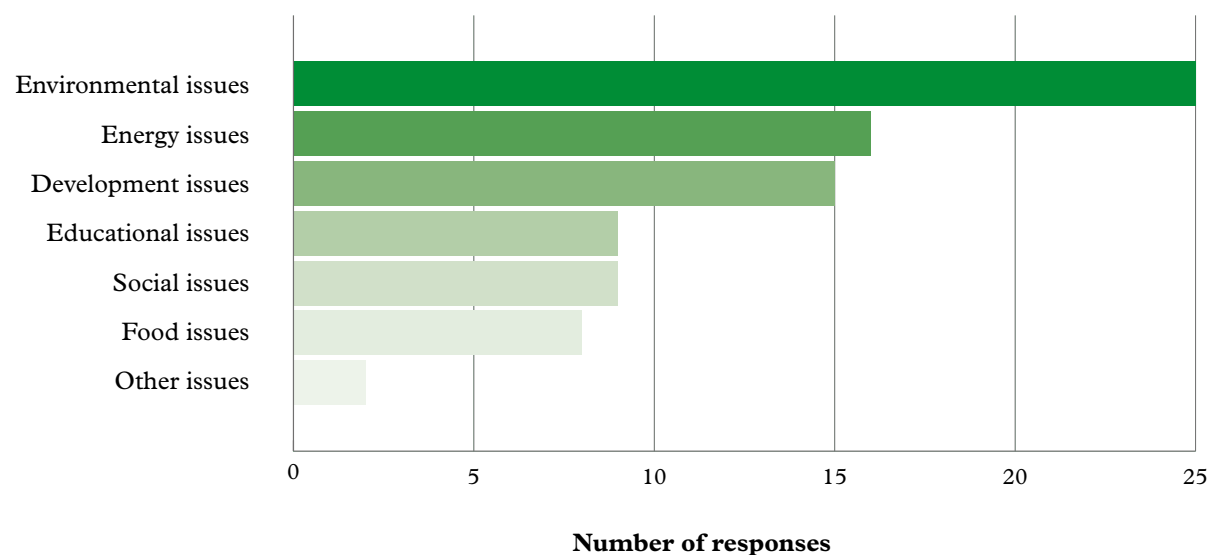
**Figure 2:** Result for Q1: "Please name the country you are based in!"

8) See Annex 1 for a complete list of all questions. Questions are also stated in the text or below figures, where appropriate.

Level of work (more than one answer possible)

Figure 3: Result for Q5: "Please describe the level(s) at which your organization works!"

Level of experience in energy related topics
(self-assessment of participants)
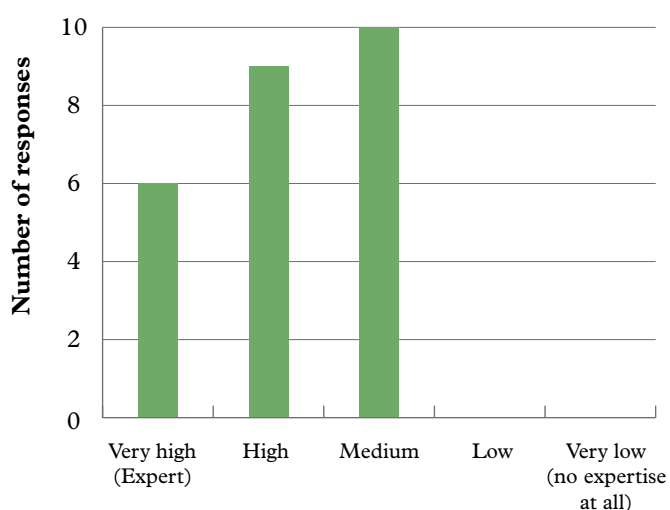
Figure 4: Result for Q7: "Please indicate your level of experience in energy related topics"

Question number 7 was designed as a self-evaluation of the participants' level of experience in energy related topics (see fig. 4). Combined most of the participants evaluated their experience in energy related topics as high or very high, while ten participants believe they have medium experience; no one selected a low or very low experience. When asked about the most severe energy related challenges in their focus countries, "electricity access for rural regions" received the highest average rating[9], followed by "social and environmental impacts of the current electricity system" and "electricity prices of households". In contrast, "electricity access in urban regions" was only rated as "somehow severe" (see fig. 5). Other challenges mentioned by the participants included unreliable generation of hydro power plants because of droughts (Morocco), non-existing or unclear policy in terms of energy distribution (Angola), access to clean and renewable technologies (materials, solar panels, etc.), customs clearance laws (Cameroon), as well as participation in energy decision making as a whole (Benin).

9) Participants could rate a preset of challenges from "very severe" (5 points), "severe" (4 points), "somehow severe" (3 points), "not severe" (2 points) to "not severe at all" (1 point), but could also state "other challenges". There was no limitation on how many of the challenges could be rated with, e.g., "very severe". Hence, in principle all challenges could be rated as "very severe". The average of all ratings was calculated for the analysis of the results.

Energy related challenges in focus countries
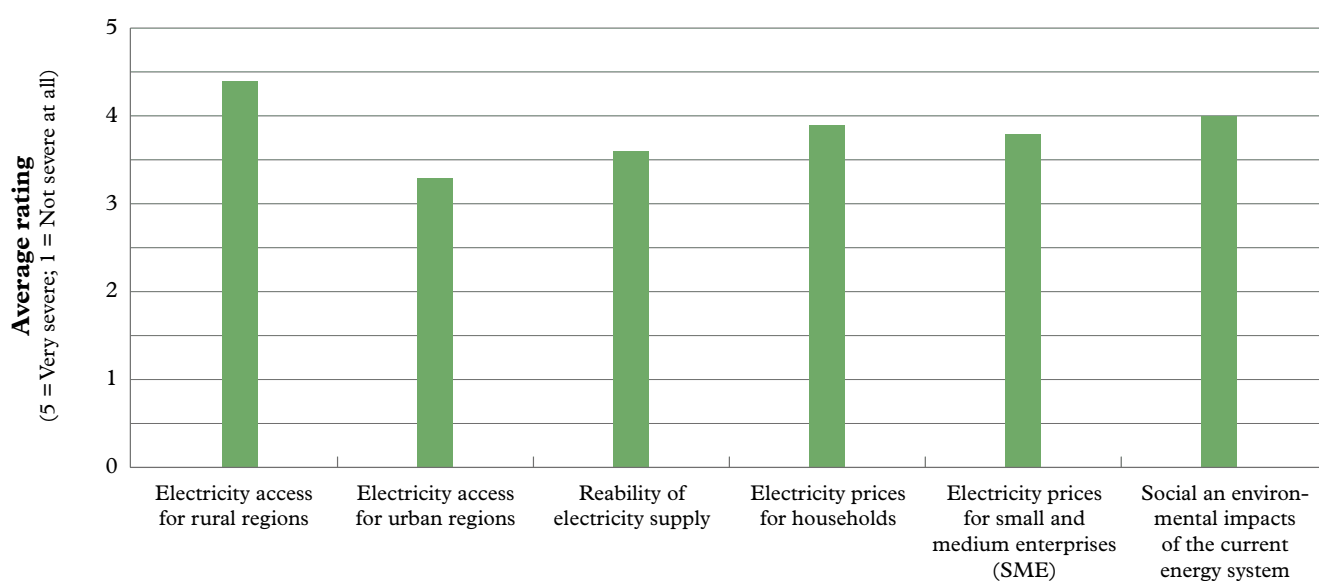
Figure 5: Result for Q9: "What is/are the most severe energy related challenge(s) in your focus countries?"

Furthermore, most of the participants (22 out of 25) were already aware of the AREI before this survey (Q8).

The following questions [10](Q10 – Q16) were about other energy related initiatives besides the AREI.

Out of all participants 13 knew other energy related initiatives besides the AREI (Q10 and Q11; see tab. 1) and six of them have already been engaged with these initiatives in different ways (Q12 and Q13). When participants were asked whether or not they believe if these initiatives contribute in a meaningful way to tackle Africa's energy challenges (Q14), a mixed picture evolved: seven participants thought this statement is not true, while six thought that the initiatives they mentioned tackle Africa's energy challenges meaningfully. It is interesting to note that participants attributed especially broader continent-wide initiatives, i.e. the SE4All, the Borloo initiative, as well as the Power Africa initiative, as not successful, whereas initiatives with a more

Energy related initiative:
• Sustainable Energy 4 All (5)
• Energies pour L'Afrique (Borloo initiative) (2)
• Power Africa
• International Solar Alliance
• Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves
• Uganda Renewable Energy CSOs Network
• Moroccan Solar Plan
• Community development and organisation programme (PODC)
• ECREE, IRENA

Table 1: Other energy related initiatives stated by the participants

10) A flowchart in the Annex provides an overview for the sequence of questions Q10 to Q16, as it may be difficult to comprehend this sequence of questions and associated answers.

narrow focus (or even more localized) were seen as more meaningful (e.g., Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves in Cameroon, the PODC, the Uganda Renewable Energy CSO Network, and the Moroccan Solar Plan). When asked for the reasoning for their judgement (Q15), participants stated that some initiatives are too global, too much influenced from the outside or too fragmented and not mainstreamed in national policies and, hence, not meaningful. Finally, the open-ended question 16 asked for the potential relationship between other energy related initiatives mentioned and the AREI. Participants mentioned especially a synergetic relationship between existing initiatives and the AREI. For example, the AREI could build upon knowledge and information already gained and, therefore, could strengthen each other.

Proposal selection and prioritization criteria for Policy Development Projects and Programmes/Incentives

The AREI presented a number of proposal selection/prioritization criteria and accompanied indicator for selecting potential Policy Development Projects and Programmes/Incentives that could be realized under AREI. Policy Development Projects according to AREI can include different types of projects [11]. Therefore, question 17 asked for an evaluation of these criteria from the side of the participants [12] (see fig. 6).

The top three criteria that were rated as "very important" are stakeholder involvement, energy access, and equity, while the three criteria that received the lowest rating were

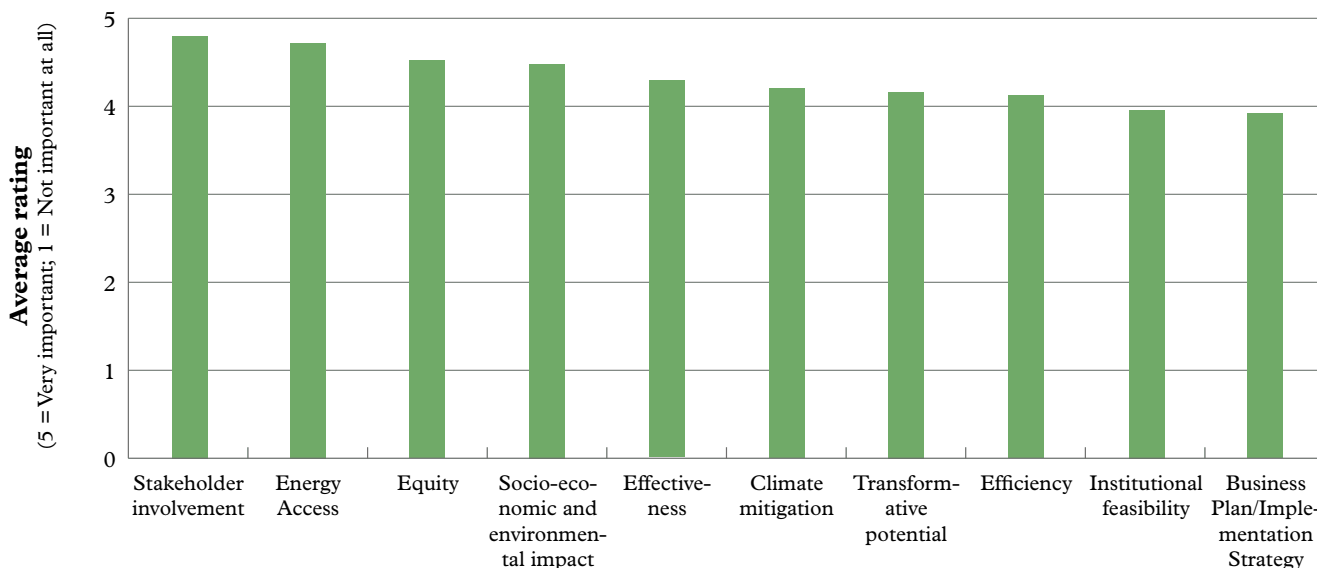**Important/unimportant proposal selection criteria under AREI**

Figure 6: Result for Q17: "What are the important/unimportant proposal selection/prioritization criteria under AREI?"

11) Types of projects include: economic instruments; regulatory and legal instruments; capacity building; information and education; public funding of meaningful technology research, development, and deployment; environmental impact, technology and risk assessments, social and environmental safeguards, and public participation; and coordination of on-going/planned RE projects.
12) For all questions where participants were asked to rate, e.g., criteria or other issues, participants could rate the criteria/issues from "very important" (5 points), "important" (4 points), "somehow important" (3 points), "not important" (2 points), to "not important at all" (1 point). There was no limitation on how many of the criteria/issues could be rated, e.g., "very important". Hence, in principle all criteria/issues could be rated as "very important". For the analysis of the results the average of all ratings was calculated.

efficiency, institutional feasibility, and business plan/implementation strategy. However, the three criteria at the bottom are still rated as "important". Only two participants mentioned climate adaption and progress made as additional criteria (Q18).

Projects and criteria to be considered for funding under AREI

Besides Policy Development Projects, the AREI will also be involved in direct project support for individual RE-related projects. Project proposals will be evaluated and selected by the AREI Delivery Unit according to a number of specific criteria. Consequently, questions 19 asked for an evaluation of the general types of projects that could be realized under the AREI (see fig. 7).

The project types "production of electricity" and "improving energy efficiency" received on average a "very impor-

tant" rating, while the two project types related to grid expansion received a rating as "important".

Moreover, question 20 asked for an evaluation of RE-based electricity generation projects that could be realized under AREI (see fig. 8). Small-scale solar projects were rated as the most important type of projects, being the only type of projects to receive a "very important" rating on average. At the bottom of the rating are large-scale hydro [13], geothermal, and marine projects, whereas marine projects were the only type of electricity generation projects to receive a "somewhat important" rating on average. Participants also commented on this question and stated that it is important to realize projects that reach remote and isolated rural areas. Furthermore, a participant coming from a small island state mentioned that for his country it is important to take into account the limited resource potential and, hence, realizing especially wind, marine/wave projects. Another participant mentioned that it is also important to take into account the impacts of climate change when planning RE projects, e.g.,

Important/unimportant types of projects under AREI

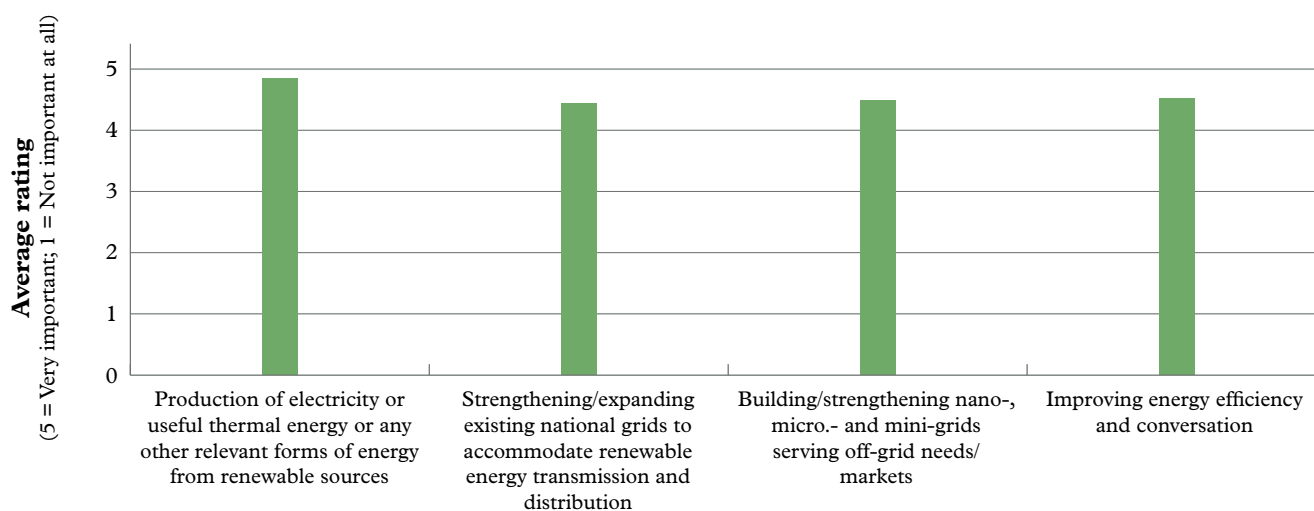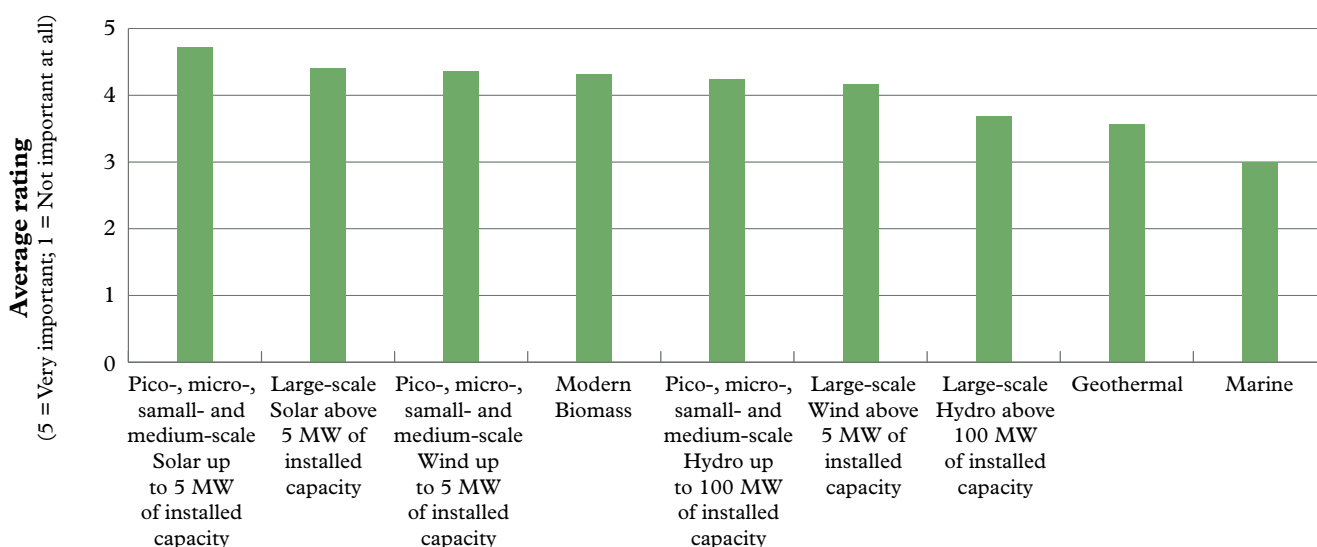**Figure 7:** Result for Q19: "What are the main important/unimportant types of projects that should be realized under AREI?"

13) According to official AREI documents, large-scale hydro is excluded from the list of potential projects. However, the authors found it to be useful to include this type of project as France, as a donor country, has included this kind of power plant as an proposed project under AREI.

Important/unimportant types of electricity generation projects under AREI

Figure 8: Result for Q20: "What are the main important/unimportant types of electricity generation projects that should be realized under AREI?" The definition of the size (small-scale vs large-scale) of a RE-based project has ultimately been determined by AREI.

in the case of hydro projects which might be impacted by climate change.

The next question (21) then asked for an evaluation of the proposed prioritization criteria for RE-based projects under AREI (see fig. 9).

On average, the top criterion as rated by the participants was "engagement of local stakeholders and civil society". The criteria "potential to deliver electricity", "local job creation", "demonstration of social acceptance", "impacts on local ecosystems", "affordability to the majority of the

consumers", and "impacts on land tenure and other land use impacts" all received a rating of "very important" on average. All other criteria were evaluated as "important" on average with "synergy with similar activities", "potential to leverage funds", and "risk mitigation measures" at the bottom. One participant commented on the criteria and stated that reaching local energy needs should be the top priority of projects under AREI. When asked for additional criteria (Q22), only one participant stated RE projects should not be set up in culturally and spiritually sensitive sites or World Heritage sites.

Important/unimportant criteria for prioritization of projects under AREI
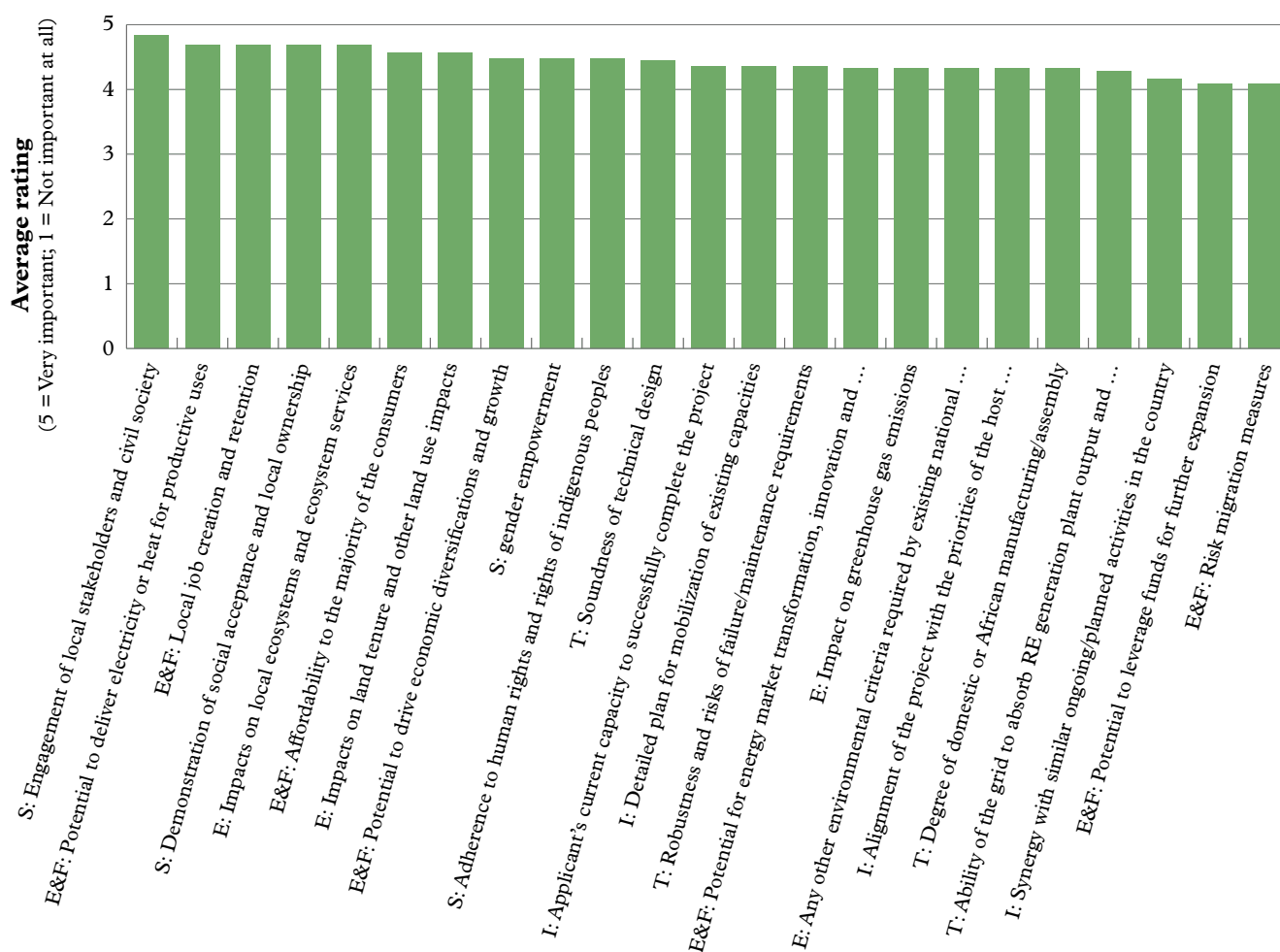
Figure 9: Result for Q21: "What are the main important/unimportant criteria for prioritization of projects under AREI?" (E&F = Economic and financial; S = Social; E = Environmental; I = Institutional; T = Technical; as categorized by AREI)

Ensuring overall balance of projects and activities

As many different types of projects across the whole African continent can be realized under AREI, the initiative wants to balance its project portfolio and activities, e.g., with regard to types of projects, installation size, and ownership structure. Therefore, question 22 asked for an indication of the level of agreement with the so-called balance criteria (see fig. 10).

The result for question 22 can be described as relatively equal. Overall, there was high agreement with the balance criteria. There was even a "strong agreement" for the four

balance criteria "Directly energy access oriented projects and programmes", "Predominately African countries and institutions receiving support", "Diversity of renewable energy technologies with due respect to specific national circumstances", and "No country left behind". Comments from two participants were received for this question. One participant highlighted an equal treatment of all countries, while the other participant, in contrast, emphasized a focus on regional economic blocks, such as, SADC, ECOWAS, EAC, and COMESA, so that they continue with the promotion of investments in the RE sector. No participant strongly disagreed with any of the criteria (Q23).

Agreement/disagreement with balance criteria under AREI
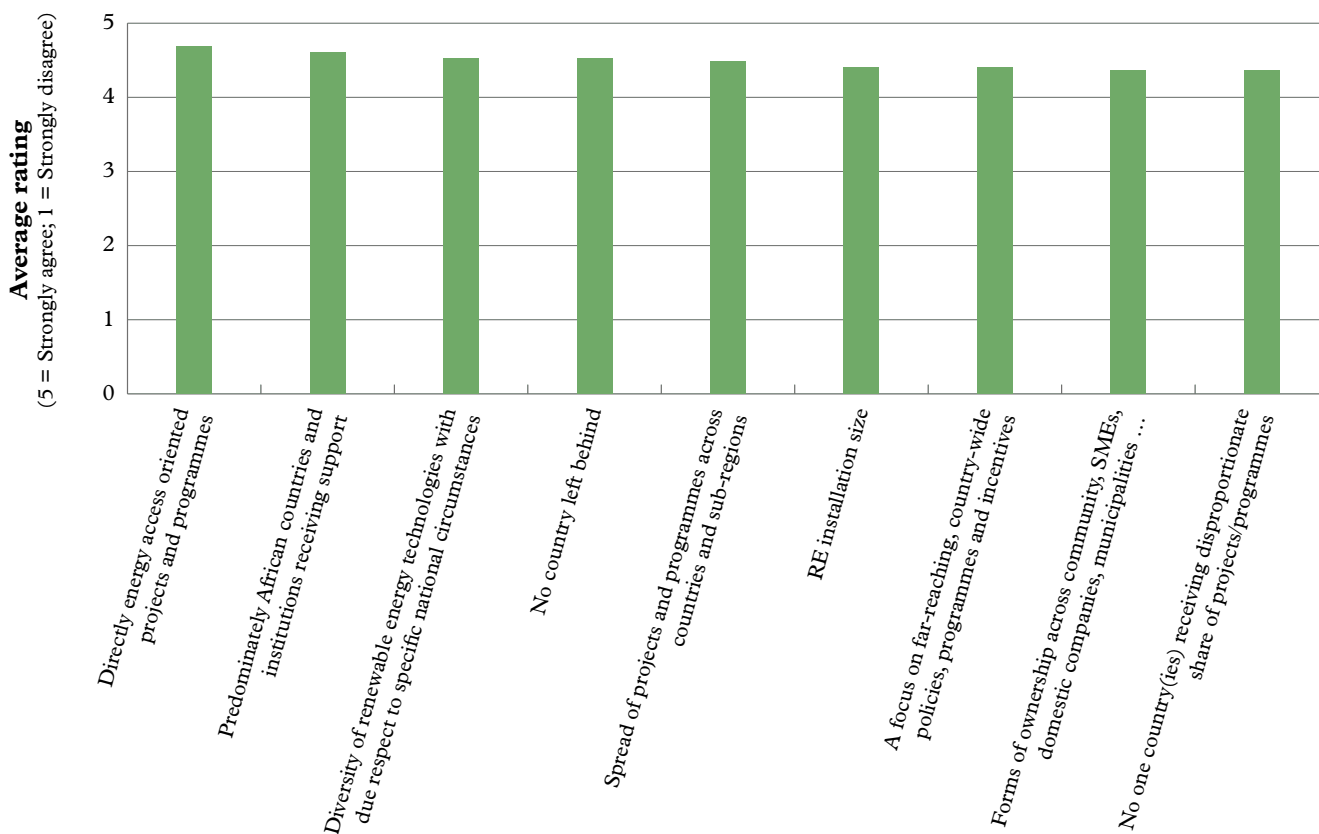

Figure 10: Result for Q22: "How should projects and activities be balanced under AREI? Please indicate whether or not you agree/disagree with the balance criteria mentioned below!"

Governing structure and way forward

In official documents the AREI highlights the importance of African and international CSOs support for a successful implementation of the initiative and achieving its goals.

As one can see from fig. 11, there was overall high agreement with the proposed statements: 21 participants even strongly agreed with statement 25a, while 19 participants strongly agreed with statement 25b. No participant disagreed or strongly disagreed with any of the statements. The

African CSOs should have a number of seats in the AREI Steering Committee (Q25a)

African CSOs should have voting power in the AREI Steering Committee (Q25b)
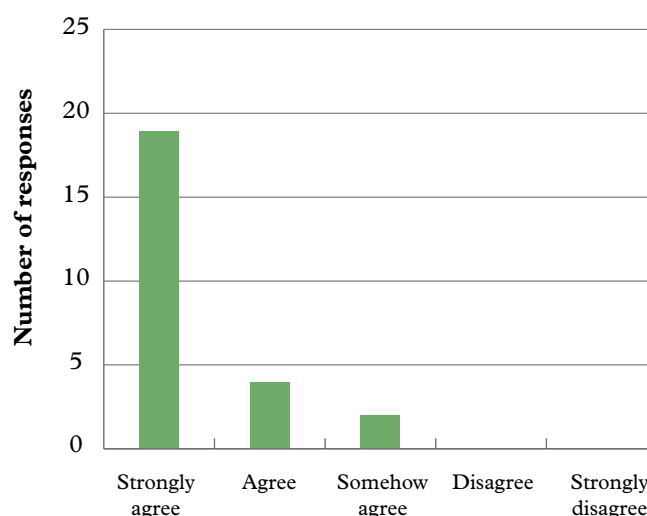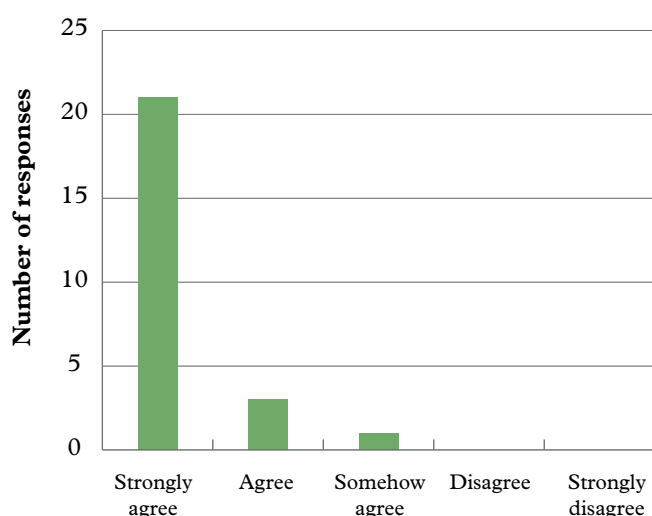
Figure 11: Results for Q25: "Do you agree/disagree with the statements?"

The last part of the survey was, therefore, dedicated to questions concerning CSO involvement within the AREI. Question 25a and b asked for the particpant's agreement/disagreement with the statement "To ensure a strong role of the African civil society within AREI, African CSOs should have a number of seats as well as voting rights in the AREI Steering Committee" (see fig. 11).

open ended questions 26 to 29 asked for critical factors that could hinder the success of the AREI (Q26) and in contrast success factors (Q27), as well as issues/topics where African CSOs (Q28) and northern/international CSOs (Q29) should focus their work. The answers are summarized in tab. 2 below.

Potential **critical** factors mentioned (Q26):	Potential **success** factors mentioned (Q27):
• Exclusion of CSOs/communities from planning and implementation of projects • No participation from African CSOs/communities in decision-making process (e.g., lack of participation of African CSOs in steering committee) • Projects not socially embedded (without consideration of the rights of local communities) • Projects may be too large (negative social and environmental impacts) • Lack of transparency • Political background of some countries (political instability, lack of democracy, rule of law) • Lack of enabling environment for REs in some countries (no policies, no institutional set-up) • Lack of funding/financial resources	• Involvement of local people/stakeholders in project implementation; participatory approaches; local ownership • Training, capacity building, empowerment, awareness raising of rural communities (particularly of youth & women) • Down-up processes instead of top-down • Social embedded projects • Political will and public participation • Synergies with other initiatives • Alignment with country priorities • Funding and technology transfer
Potential topics/issues for **African** CSOs (Q28):	Potential topics/issues for **Northern** CSOs (Q29):
• Capacity building for NGOs • Awareness raising for local population/ensuring participation of local population • Advocacy/lobbying of international institutions and governments to ensure transparency, but also equity • Ensuring positive social and environmental impacts of projects • Choosing eligible projects	• (Financing) capacity building for African NGOs; exchanging and sharing experience • Capacity building on technology transfer and local manufacture of RE components • Ensuring voices of Southern NGOs are heard in the AREI policy process • Research/informing policies and actions in developing countries

Table 2: Summary of answers for Q26 to 29

Northern CSOs should bring the positions of African CSO to the attention of nothern states
(Q30a)
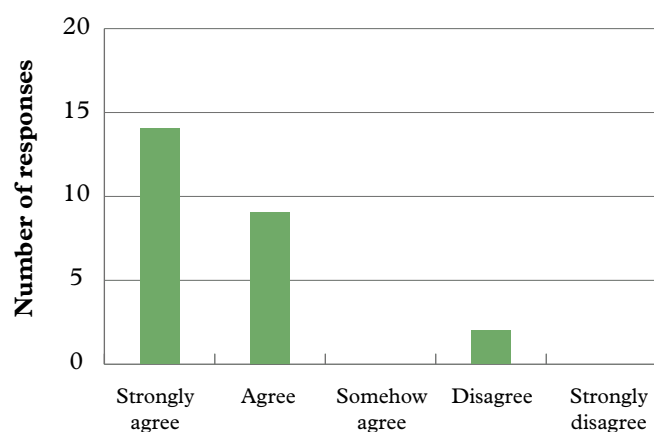
Northern CSOs should support African CSOs financially, logistically and capacity-wise
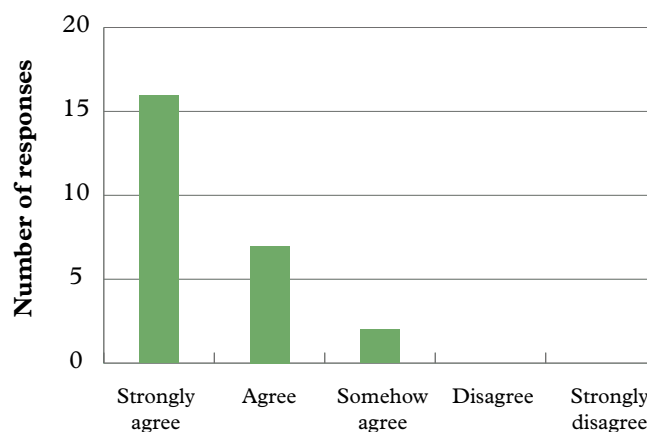(Q30b)

Figure 12: Results for Q30: "Do you agree/disagree with the statements?"

Finally, question 30a and b asked again for the agreement/disagreement with a statement. However, this time the statement was related to the potential support of northern/international CSOs for African CSOs (see fig. 12).

While the agreement with the two statements was in general high, it was not as high as for questions 25a and b. Two participants disagreed with statement 30a and only 14 participants strongly agreed with the statement. Sixteen participants strongly agreed with statement 30b and no participants disagreed with the statement.

Concluding remarks on the results of the survey

The 25 participants with an NGO background coming from 17 different African countries that have good experience in energy-related projects found the proposed criteria for programs as well as RE-related projects in general to be comprehensive and important. This can be stated as no criterion was evaluated as unimportant and only few additional criteria have been proposed. Participants evaluated electricity access in rural areas as the most severe energy-related challenge in their target countries and, consequently, production of electricity as the most important type of

AREI projects. Small-scale solar projects are viewed as the most important type of RE projects followed by large-scale solar, small-wind, modern biomass, small-hydro, and large-scale wind projects. However, participants highlighted that the preference for types of RE projects is also a question of resource availability and that impacts of climate change, especially for hydro projects, must be taken into account. Additionally, large-scale hydro projects were rated relatively low by the participants. On several occasions of the survey it became apparent that stakeholder involvement and CSO engagement as well as local benefits, e.g., energy access and jobs, and the acceptance, social embeddedness and socio-environmental impacts of projects are main important factors for the participants. The participants agree that an inclusion of African CSOs within AREI structures and processes would be beneficial and would like to gain support from northern/international CSO. Moreover, participants think that an exclusion of local communities, but also CSOs in general, from AREI-related projects or a lack of transparency could endanger the success of initiative. Participants see their role especially with regard to capacity building, awareness raising, and advocacy to ensure positive impacts of AREI-related projects, while northern CSOs could support them to do so, but also make their voices heard in the AREI policy process.

Opportunities for engagement

There exist several opportunities for African/northern CSOs to engage within AREI.

On the local-level African CSOs could advocate project implementation with regard to the following areas:

- The social and environmental impacts or, more general, the social embeddedness of RE projects
- Making local communities aware of the potentials and impacts of RE projects and the AREI as a whole
- Making project implementers aware of the livelihood situation of local communities and lobby for local benefits
- Given that projects are social and environmental sound, this approach could ensure acceptance of projects among local communities.

On the national-level African CSOs could:

- Make national governments aware of the initiative, its potentials, and REs in general
- Lobby for sound RE laws, regulations, and enabling environments and, by doing so, ensuring long-term support for Res

On the continental level African CSOs could:

- Raise the profile of AREI at all continental events like AMCEN, AU Summits and CCDA to make sure special attention is paid to it in the deliberations;
- Organise special campaigns/initiatives to have the critical mass of stakeholders engaged in AREI decission making at all levels;
- Engage the African Parliamentarians to interogate all AREI related investments in their countries to ensure transparency and accountability and that it meets the real needs of the people on the ground;
- Ensure the process remains an African led initiative by allying with peoples representatives at all levels so as to avoid hijack by foreign interests.

On international/global level African CSOs could:

- Collaborate with Nothern CSOs especially those from the funding countries, to make sure that there is transparency and accountability on the projects those funds are used for.
- Carry out joint campaigns and studies on AREI in particular and RE in general so as carry out informed advocacy.

Within AREI, African CSOs could:

- Provide a kind of "feedback-loop" and input for social and environmental safeguards
- Due to their independence, monitor progress with regard to programs and projects concerning the need to implement a diversity of projects, taking into account scale, type of RE, geographical balance and specific needs of local communities. Additionally, non-African CSOs, especially from donor countries, should also monitor the initiative, e.g., with regard to financial commitments made.

Conclusions and recommendations [14]

The AREI should ensure transparency and accountability in the initiative. This includes:

- A transparent list of programs and projects currently in the planning/implementation phase, e.g., on the official AREI website. In the mid-term this should also include:

  - Reasoning why specific programs/projects have been found eligible under AREI, i.e., how programs/projects correlate and comply with the AREI criteria
  - Easy available access to any program/project-related documents, e.g., social and environmental impact assessments, project descriptions, documents related to on-the-ground stakeholder consultation processes, etc.
  - Information about governmental funds received for the programs/projects and reasoning why they are "new and additional" as demanded by the AREI

- An easy available and detailed schedule of AREI-related conferences, workshops, or other important events. More specifically this should also include a projectable schedule about meetings between AREI officials as well as CSO representatives.
- Provide African CSOs with seat(s) in AREI's steering committees, such as, one seat with at least observer status within the AREI board as well as a seat within the technical committee.

Furthermore, donor countries should:

- Give a detailed list of projects suggested for AREI as well as reasoning why and how these projects relate to the AREI criteria and a traceable account of funds provide for AREI.

The outcomes of this survey can be used as inputs for enhancing the AREI framework itself, but also for donor countries and financing institutions to shape activities and projects related to AREI. Lastly, the outcomes can help international CSOs support the work of African CSOs concerning the initiative.

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14) The recommendations allow for some room, which is important given the relatively small size of the crowd which responded to the survey.

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Annex

Complete list of questions

Number	Question
1	Please name the country you are based in!
2	Is the country you are based in also the focus country of your work?
3	If no, what is / are the focus country / countries of your work?
4	What is the main focus of your organization? (more than one answer possible)
5	Please describe the level(s) at which your organization works! (more than one answer possible)
6	Please select the kind of organization you work for!
7	Please indicate your level of experience in energy related topics
8	Before this survey, were you aware of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI)?
9	What is / are the most severe energy related challenge(s) in your focus countries?
10	Do you know any other energy related initiatives (besides AREI) that are active in your focus country / countries of work?
11	Please name the other initiative(s) beside the AREI you know!
12	Have you been engaged in the(se) initiatives?
13	If yes, how have you been engaged? (more than one answer possible)
14	Do you think that the(se) initiative(s) contribute in a meaningful way to tackle Africa's energy challenges?
15	Please state your reasons for your answer above!
16	How do you see the potential relationship between these initiatives and AREI?
17	What are the important / unimportant proposal selection/prioritization criteria under AREI? Please evaluate the proposal selection/prioritization criteria and indicators for Policy Development Projects according to their importance!
18	Would you propose any additional criteria?
19	What are the main important / unimportant types of projects that should be realized under AREI? Please evaluate the following types of projects that could be realized under AREI according to their importance!
20	What are the main important / unimportant types of electricity generation projects that should be realized under AREI? Please evaluate the following types of electricity generation projects that could be realized under AREI according to their importance!
21	What are the main important / unimportant criteria for prioritization of projects under AREI? Please evaluate the following project prioritization criteria according to their importance!
22	Would you propose any additional criteria?
23	How should projects and activities be balanced under AREI? Please indicate whether or not you agree / disagree with the balance criteria mentioned below!

24	If you STRONGLY DISAGREE with a statement above, please state your reasons!
25	To ensure a strong role of the African civil society within AREI, African CSOs should have a number of seats as well as voting rights in the AREI Steering Committee. Do you agree / disagree with the statements below?
25a	African CSOs should have a number of seats in the AREI Steering Committee
25b	African CSOs should have voting power in the AREI Steering Committee
26	What are the most important critical factors that could endanger the success of AREI?
27	What are factors that could make AREI a success story?
28	What are the main important topics / issues related to AREI, African CSOs should focus their work on?
29	What are the main important topics / issues related to AREI, northern / international CSOs should focus their work on?
30	Do you agree / disagree with the statements below?
30a	Northern CSOs should bring the positions / viewpoints of African CSOs to the attention of northern states' (e.g., Germany, France) ministries and international donors
30b	Northern CSOs should support African CSOs financially, logistically and capacity-wise

Flowchart for questions Q10 – Q16

Q10: Do you know any other energy related initiatives (besides AREI) that are active in your focus country/countries of work?

No

Yes

Q11: Please name the other initiative(s) beside the AREI you know!

Q12: Have you been engaged in the(se) initiatives?

No

Yes

Q13: If yes, how have you been engaged? (more than one answer possible)

Q14: Do you think that the(se) initiative(s) contribute in a meaningful way to tackle Africa's energy challenges?

No

Yes

Q15: Please state your reasons for your answer above!

Q16: How do you see the potential relationship between these initiatives and AREI?

Contacts