



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

MINISTÉRIO PARA A COORDENAÇÃO DA ACÇÃO AMBIENTAL

GABINETE DO MINISTRO

Summary of Best Practices on Sustainable Energy in Support of the Ministerial Consultations of the Ninth Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

Dubai, 7-9 February, 2006

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

A. Improving Policies and Management in the Energy Sector

The Government of Mozambique, whilst engaged in combating extreme poverty in the country, it is deeply committed with sustainable development.

In terms of electricity generation, Mozambique holds the largest hydropower stations in Africa, Cahora-Bassa, ranking first throughout the continent, with a total output power of 2075 MW.

There is still enough potential for another hydropower station downstream Cahora-Bassa, with a projected output power of 1300 MW.

Up and down the country, there are a number of smaller scale dams with potential to generate considerable amounts of electricity.

There are other sources of energy which can be used as such or for electricity generation.

Within this group, it is worth listing the recently commissioned natural gas exploitation project in Temane, with the deposits confirmed to be 1 TCF

(One Trillion Cubic Feet) and the other deposits awaiting exploitation in Pande, confirmed to be 2.7 TCF. Both fields are located in the southern province of Inhambane.

Yet, another huge potential source of energy is awaiting exploitation in the central province of Tete, where the ongoing exploration works indicate the occurrence of deposits estimated at 2.4 billion tones of coal confirmed of being economically feasible for exploitation.

If coal is to be used as a source of energy, then appropriate technological measures will be deployed in order to prevent pollution of the environment.

Despite the available potential, only 5.2.% of the approximately 4 million households in the country have access to electricity and the remainder depend on other sources of energy, especially biomass.

Approximately 80% of Mozambique's population live in the rural areas and in most cases, the only source of energy is biomass. Even those living in peri-urban areas not many can afford sources of energy other than charcoal or firewood.

B. Improving Access to Energy for the Underserved in Developing Countries

The challenge for the Government of Mozambique, as per the policy statement within the five year action plan (2005 – 2009) is the electrification of the rural areas through the expansion of the national power grid, with a target figure of 80 thousand new connections to the households.

Other sources of energy, particularly renewable ones are being sought. Indeed the use of biomass has been pinpointed as the main cause of deforestation, especially in areas surrounding big towns and along development corridors.

One of the major constraints is of course the cost of the energy provided and for this reason, whilst it is not appropriate to bring down the electricity bill, the government is busy setting up and putting in place schemes which allow the low income population groups to have access to electricity, according to what they can afford.

To this end, in 1995 a new meter system was introduced and today, 116 thousand households are connected to electricity through this system.

C. Promoting Renewable Sources of Energy

Whilst striving for the improvement of energy distribution throughout the country, the government is fully aware of the environmental implications of certain sources of energy.

To start with, Mozambique is part to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol and therefore the country abides by the rules therein.

In this respect, promoting the use of renewable sources of energy, means cutting down, if not now, in the future, dependence on sources of energy like natural gas and coal, whose combustion contributes to the formation of CO₂ in the atmosphere, a major concern in global warming management.

Initiatives are underway, primarily in the remote rural areas to promote the use of solar energy, especially in water supply systems. Currently, the major constraint is the cost of the solar power equipment, particularly the running costs.

D. Promoting Energy Efficiency on Either the Supply or Demand Sides

Energy efficiency on the supply side is part of the government strategy to make sure that the available energy is fully tapped. To this end, a number of transmission power lines are being upgraded to avoid the loss of energy during transmission from one place to another. On the demand side, the newly introduced meter system is a major contribution in energy saving since the households are becoming more concerned about cutting down energy spending. On the other hand, the government encourages the use of improved stoves in peri-urban areas.

E. Demonstrating New Approaches to the Financing of Cleaner Energy

It is part of the government five year action plan to make considerable investments on renewable sources of energy which are basically clean.

Efforts are underway to make natural gas available for cooking purposes to a considerable number of households.

Incentive measures are being introduced by the government aiming at encouraging motorists to use lead free petrol.

F. Reducing the Environmental Impact of Energy Service Provision

The government encourages the plantation of trees on a permanent basis to make up for the trees felled for biomass both for household consumption and for the tobacco industry.

Maputo, 14th December, 2005