



Summary note: Energy+ International Civil Society Consultation held at the Windsor Atlantica Hotel, Rio de Janeiro, 20th June 2012

The purpose of the consultation was to facilitate civil society involvement in the on-going development of the International Energy and Climate Initiative (Energy+) that was launched by the UN Secretary General and the Norwegian prime minister in October 2011.

After a brief welcome and introduction by Ambassador Ole Andreas Lindeman of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Energy+ initiative was presented by Terje Kronen, also of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (see attached powerpoint).

Andrew Preston of the Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment emphasised the critical role of civil society in ensuring that the initiative meets its goals and outlined potential areas for involvement.

Key messages from the discussion included the following:

Focus areas/key issues for Energy+

- Energy+ should have a clear focus on **increasing access** for the poor.
- An **agreed standard** on what “energy access” means should be developed as part of a baseline; quality of energy services provided is important.
- In working for increased **energy efficiency**, Energy+ should not necessarily exclude non-renewables (e.g. moving from traditional cookstoves to LPG cookstoves)
- In the implementation (“energising”) phase, the example of rural **electrification cooperatives** in the United States could be a model for other parts of the world. These were facilitated by cheap credits and investments in capacity building, and play a huge role in the rural US today.
- **Transparency** is crucial to the success of the initiative – there should be no doubts about the money flow
- The initiative should consider supporting **capacity-building** for NGOs specialising in energy access
- The temptation to focus on on-grid solutions should be resisted. International Energy Agency (IEA) says that 50% of new investment should be **off-grid**.
- **Success criteria** must be developed that can be evaluated. The number of technologies in place is not necessarily a good criterion. The “best technology” is the one actually being used – and used over time. Evaluations should have a long-term as well as shorter-term perspective.
- Energy+ should avoid working solely with ministries of energy, but seek to involve other ministries (environment, social development, etc.) in partnerships to promote **integration** of energy access with livelihood improvements and environmental concerns. Without this, the initiative will not be sustainable.
- NGO participation should be a **pre-condition/condition** of any partnership agreement. This should be explicit so as to help open up political space in countries with limited room for civil society participation. If the role of NGOs is not addressed structurally in the initiative, it may not be realised.

The potential role of NGOs in Energy+

- NGOs can have an important role as **facilitators**. Greenpeace India shared their experience in Bihar, creating political space for the state government to make a break with centralised grid extension and instead concentrate on a bottom-up approach.
- NGOs can have an important role in **securing community buy-in**.
- Central government may not always be aware of **needs at local level** – here NGOs can play a role, ensuring that the bottom-up approach is well-implemented
- NGOs may have **access to data** (statistics) which government lacks, especially in remote rural areas. Energy+ should make use of this competence.
- NGOs can also act as an **alternative voice to official statistics**, which may be misleading
- NGOs have an important watchdog role, including tracking of money flows and ensuring transparency

- NGOs and government can **analyse** energy systems together in the readiness phase. In the case of dairy markets, the question of what prevents small-scale dairy producers from engaging in the market was asked. This approach could also be applied to the energy sector.
- NGOs can help **develop indicators** for success that go beyond access and reduction of emissions (for example, in terms of livelihood improvement), and place Energy+ in a broader national/international development dialogue
- NGOs can be used for **pilot projects** that can compare results.

List of participants

Name	Affiliation	E-mail
Justin Guay	Sierra Club (USA)	Justin.Guay@sierraclub.org
Maryse Labriet	Helio (France)	maryse.labriet@enerisconsultants.com
Mahlet Eyassu	Forum for Environment (Ethiopia)	ffe@ethionet.et mahleteyassu@gmail.com
Erik Lunde	Zero (Norway)	erik@zero.no
Ingrid Næss-Holm	Norwegian Church Aid	inh@nca.no
Andrew Preston	Norwegian Forum for Development and the Environment	andrew.preston@forumfor.no
Isaiah Kipyegon Toroitich	ACT Alliance	ikt@actalliance.org
Dag Arne Høystad	Friends of the Earth Norway	dah@naturvern.no
Terje Kronen	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway	terje.kronen@gmail.com
Ole Andreas Lindeman	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway	oal@mfa.no
Habtemariam Abate	Sustainable Land Use Forum – SLUF (Ethiopia)	habtea2001@gmail.com
Simon Trace	Practical Action (UK)	Simon.trace@practicalaction.org.uk
Voahirana Randriambola	WWF (Madagascar)	vrandriambola@wwf.panda.org
Mandla Mbongeni Hadebe	Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA (Southern Africa)	mandla@ejn.org.za
Carl Pope	Alliance for Renewable Energy	carl.pope@insidestraightstrategies.com
Negash Teklu Gebremichael	Population Health Environment (PHE) Integration in Ethiopia	pheethiopia@gmail.com
Asrat Yirgu	Christian Aid (Ethiopia)	asratyirgu@gmail.com