



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ADVISORY FACILITY

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INITIATIVES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Fast and Flexible Support to Sustainable Energy Opportunities

As concern grows about the consequences of today's global patterns of energy use, governments, NGOs, and the private sector are rethinking their energy strategies. The term Sustainable Energy is increasingly used to describe energy systems that are compatible with the broader concepts of sustainable development.

Change – never easy – is often made more complicated by rapidly shifting financial, economic, and political contexts in developing countries. Outside assistance is sometimes critical, and *a small, targeted intervention at just the right time can mean the difference between success and failure*. UNEP's Sustainable Energy Advisory Facility – or SEAF – is designed to make that difference with swift and flexible assistance that spurs the development and application of sustainable energy policies, strategies, and technologies.

Inform, Strengthen, and Assist

Funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) -- on the basis of a decision of the German Federal Parliament -- as a pilot effort in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries, SEAF will provide information and technical support for sustainable energy activities. SEAF will strengthen the capability of institutions to analyze and implement sustainable energy approaches, and assist organizations and institutions to quantify and disseminate the results of their sustainable energy activities. SEAF hopes to demonstrate that the transition to sustainable energy systems does not necessarily require complex mechanisms or approaches. SEAF gives UNEP and its partners the ability to meet very specific country needs regarding a broad range of sustainable energy topics, and to do so in a manner that draws on other work and catalyzes other resources.

Specific Services Offered

SEAF can help organisations and institutions:

Integrate energy sector programmes into overall sustainable development strategies

To avoid the pitfalls of poorly integrated sustainable energy policies, SEAF will help partners focus on the basic principles of sustainable development. SEAF provides partners with targeted interventions that:

- identify critical factors affecting the adoption of sustainable energy policies and technologies,
- reinforce the policy links between different sectors such as energy and water, and
- promote actions that leverage greater sustainable energy development.

Evaluate alternative energy choices in relation to key social, economic and environmental sustainability issues

SEAF helps policymakers establish the criteria, make measurements and apply the tools they need to evaluate alternative energy choices. By supporting the use of System Dynamics and other



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relevant tools, SEAF extends the ability of beneficiaries and partners to simulate alternative scenarios and sustainable energy transition paths.

Promote synergies among sustainable energy projects and programmes

SEAF helps partners develop linkages between sustainable energy projects by harnessing timely opportunities to exchange information, gather and analyse feedback, and build consensus on policy interventions and frameworks.

Strengthen local capabilities to assess and select environmentally sound technologies

SEAF helps partners fill 'knowledge gaps' with the most current and relevant information. SEAF also helps partners assess and choose the best technology for their projects or applications.

Support both the completion and continuity of sustainable energy projects

Even the best planned projects sometimes encounter unforeseen problems that require additional support. With quick and timely assistance, SEAF can help partners overcome inflexible institutional procedures that may delay or kill projects. SEAF can plug unforeseen gaps and take advantage of 'leveraging' opportunities unanticipated when a specific project was formulated.

SEAF also helps partners continue sustainable energy projects after they are officially completed or the external support is finished. In this area, SEAF provides support for the transition of projects to local institutions and facilitates links to international development agencies.

Institutional Structure

SEAF is implemented jointly by the UNEP Risø Center (URC), UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) and the UNEP Energy Branch. Regional institutions in the identified pilot countries will begin to identify national priorities and prospective SEAF interventions. Other interested countries, national and international institutions are welcome to contact SEAF for information and possible support.

Contacts:

<p>Jorge Rogat UNEP Risø Centre Risø National Laboratory for Sustainable Energy Building 142, P.O. Box 49, DK-4000 Roskilde, Denmark jorge.rogat@risoe.dk Tel: +45 4677 5133 Fax +45 4632 1999</p>	<p>Marco Pinzon Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber Panama City, Panama marco.pinzon@pnuma.org Tel: (507) 305-3154 Fax: (507) 305 3105</p>	<p>Lawrence Agbemabiese Energy Branch, UNEP DTIE 15, rue de Milan 75441 Paris CEDEX France lagbemabiese@unep.fr Tel: +33144373003 Fax: +33144371474</p>
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Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

15, rue de Milan, 75441 Paris Cedex 09, France

Tel : +33 (0) 1.44.37.14.29 Fax : +33 (0) 1.44.37.14.74 E-mail : unep.tie@unep.fr

www.uneptie.org