



IMPROVES-RE
IMPROVING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
IMPACT OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Global situation

The project IMPROVES-RE contractually started in April 1, 2005, but effectively the activities started after the kick-off meeting which was held at IED, Francheville, France on May 19, and 20, 2005 wherein the European partners were present.

Following this meeting, a kick-off mission was organized in the four countries concerned, marking the effective start date of the activities in each of the countries. This relative time lag between the official project launch and country kick-off meetings has since been caught up with, as this first progress report will illustrate. Only the training activity on Geographical Information Systems, envisaged within the framework of the first semester was shifted to the second six-month period to hold account of the advance of the process of data-collection in the various countries.

1.2 Content of report

The report makes a synthetic point on the activities carried out during the first semester. It covers in particular:

- Project Coordination:
 - Consortium kick-off meeting
 - Countries kick-off missions and establishing a framework for collaboration between the institutional partners and the subcontractors,
 - establishing the national project team in each country
- Review the institutional framework and the current rural electrification planning approaches in each of the countries,
- Data-collection for the development of the Geographical Information System in each of the countries,
- Training on rural electrification planning approaches
- Development of the project web-site

This report is completed by the following deliverables:

- D1: report of the workshop of Bamako on planning
- D2: institutional frameworks and current approaches of rural electrification planning in the four countries
- D3: report on the multisector data for the installation of a Geographical Information System

2 WP 6.2 : TRAINING SESSION IN BAMAKO (MALI) – D1

The workshop was held in Bamako from the 27th to 29th July, 2005. The core of the programme IMPROVES-RE is the development of an alternative approach to rural electrification planning with better social and economic impacts. So, the training was aimed at:

- Defining the existing planning practices, with the joint objective of sharing experiences across regions and acting as a training module,
- An introduction to the alternative model which will be developed within the framework of IMPROVES-RE,
- A brainstorming session on the selection criteria of the pilot zones which will be the subject of project development in each of the countries.

The debates were built around the following axes:

- Re-examined methods of national planning,
- Limits of conventional planning,
- Internal Rate of Return (IRR) and multisector dimension,
- Multicriterion Analysis to reinforce multisector synergies.

The workshop profited from the participation of the three European partners (IED, ETC and RISOE), of the country partners representing national structures in charge of rural planning¹ and the five African subcontractors².

3 WP 1.1: REVIEW OF CONTEXT – D2

In each of the countries concerned by the project “IMPROVES-RE”, the review of the current approach used for rural electrification and in particular the economic assumptions behind the models used: technical options and their costs (network extension, isolated systems, renewable energies, etc.), adoption or not of standards simplified for costs reduction, promotion of practices and technologies as regards energy efficiency, etc.

The objective of this deliverable is to analyse the actual situation and how these various approaches hold account of the socio-economic impacts affected by rural electrification.

The examination of the institutional framework makes it possible to identify the principal actors of the rural electrification sector, by highlighting those which:

- (i) can have a role to play in the financing or the management of the local electrification system,

¹ DGE et FDE (Burkina Faso), AER (Cameroun), AMADER (Mali), DE-ENR (Niger)

² EDENE (Burkina Faso), EED (Cameroun), ICD (Mali), CEH-Sidi (Niger), SOPIE- Business Unit (Côte d'Ivoire)

- (ii) are responsible for the investments and the management of the local infrastructures,
- (iii) and can mainly draw benefit from the improved electricity services, such as small businesses, schools, health centers, Community buildings, telecommunication services, etc.

These various elements, institutional frameworks and approaches to planning, were presented at Bamako by the African institutional partners of IMPROVES-RE. The Consortium also supplemented this analysis, due to their active role in the majority of the countries concerned, within the framework of rural electrification strategy, planning or project feasibility studies.

4 WP 1.3: MULTI-SECTOR DATA GIS – D3

This deliverable, which also acts as methodological note, went further than what was initially planned. The report presents ways on how to develop alternative models for rural electrification planning, before fixing the minimal framework of multisector data to collect. Thus, in addition to the identification of the minimal data needed and the presentation on how this data collection is progressing in each country, this deliverable also provides:

- The progress report of the establishment of the multisector national teams
- The theoretical elements of the planning model which will be developed within the framework of IMPROVES-RE
- The choice of the pilot zones and the proposals of the Consortium

5 WP 6.2: TRAINING SESSION IN FRANCHEVILLE (FRANCE) – D4

Taking into account the progress obtained to date in the field data-collection task, this training session has been shifted to the next six-month period. It is programmed to take place at IED, Francheville (France) from the 28th November to 2nd December, 2005.

The objectives of the training session are:

- To give a basic training on GIS and the software MANIFOLD
- To allow people that already have a knowledge of GIS to consolidate their knowledge and to respond to their questions relating to MANIFOLD.

A point will be made at the beginning of workshop on the progress report of the alphanumeric and geographical data-collection in the four countries. A Training manual will be given to each participant at the beginning of the workshop.

It is anticipated that more participants than initially scheduled will participate to this training session.

6 WP7 : DISSEMINATION – D14

The structure of the web-site was defined during this first six-month period. Concisely, the web-site will cover :

- Presentation of the project (context, objectives, results awaited, principal activities)
- Presentation of the project partners:
 - European Consortium
 - African institutional Partners
 - African subcontractors
- Agenda: programmed transverse activities (dynamic, regularly updated)
- Country activity: principal activities realized in each country, agenda in the country (dynamic, regularly updated)
- Newsletter: newsletter of the project and other articles (dynamic, regularly updated)
- Libraries: references in relation to the subject, deliverables, useful links (dynamics, regularly updated)

The development and the launching of the online web-site is aimed to be completed by October 31, 2005. The domain name was already reserved and the site will be accessible to the address www.improves-re.com.

The activities pertaining to “publications” are deferred to the second semester.

7 WP 8 : COORDINATION

7.1 Kick-off meeting in Francheville

The first meeting of the European consortium was held in Francheville between the 19th to 20th May, 2005. The main issues discussed during this meeting included:

- Presentation of partners: relevant experiences for the project – in the four countries and rural electrification sector
- Presentation and discussion of the project framework
- Presentation of the Project Work packages
- Presentation and discussion of project implementation in each country
- Elaboration of the detailed planning for the next six months
- Strategy and actions for co-financing
- Discussion of the Consortium agreement

7.2 Kick off missions in countries

Kick-off missions were organized in the four countries in June 2005 for:

- The establishment of a framework for collaboration with the institutional partners and the African subcontractors,
- The presentation of the project to the delegations of the European Commission,
- The identification of the principal local actors and research for co-financing opportunities.

7.3 Financial issues

As of 20 October 2005, the advance payment has not yet been received from the European Commission although the bank guarantee and the request for payment has been submitted to the EC on July 5th.

This situation generates heavy financial pressure on the SME members of the Consortium.

7.4 Cross-sectoral partnerships

In each country, IMPROVES-RE envisages the organization of a one day workshop to present the project to the multisector actors and those in charge of the production and analysis of socio-economic and geographical data, to give way to a sustainable multisectorial partnership.

Certain countries have already undertaken the task of establishing multisectorial Committees. The project will be based as far as possible on the existing structures, and help to reinforce them. It is the case:

- in Mali, a meeting with the multisectorial Committee was held in Bamako as a prelude to the workshop held on the 26th July, 2005
- in Burkina Faso, a meeting with the multisectorial Committee is planned for November 08, 2005
- in Niger, a meeting with the multisectorial Committee is planned for the 23rd and 24th November, 2005

In the absence of formalized structures (or in the event of difficulty in mobilizing them), a framework for collaboration - and particularly for data exchange - will be set up by the project with the support of the local subcontractors, with objective of evolving towards a more institutional device. It will be probably the case in Cameroon where a meeting with the range of multisectorial actors is programmed for December 13, 2005.

7.5 Next events and missions

The next events and missions are fixed as follows:

- IED Mission in Cameroon from 24th October to 6th November, 2005: to finalize the data-collection and the consolidation of the data, and to start the preparation of the workshop to be held on the 13th December, 2005
- Mission of IED and ETC in Burkina Faso from the 6th to 10th November, 2005: to finalize the data-collection and consolidation and to animate the meeting with the multisectorial Committee to be held on the 8th November, 2005
- Mission of the SOPIE in Bamako from the 7th to 17th November to finalize the data collection and consolidation.
- Multisector Workshop in Niamey from the 23rd to 24th November, 2005. This workshop is coordinated with another project co-financed by COOPENER, the MEPRED project and joint presentation / discussions will be organised.
- Training on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) at IED, Francheville (France) from the 28th November to 2nd December, 2005
- Consortium meeting to be held on the 2nd December 02 at IED, Francheville.

The field work in the selected pilot areas will start in December 2005.