



Capacity Building for Renewable Energy Targets in Arab countries &

Improving Resource Assessment Practice in North Africa: A Solution to Streamline Early Stage Solar and Wind Market Planning

February 9, 2022, 12:00 – 17:30 GST

Background

IRENA, with the Arab Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) and other key Arab regional partners, engaged in the design and development of the Pan-Arab Clean Energy Initiative (PACE). PACE is one of the initiatives included in the **Roadmap of Actions for the implementation of the Pan-Arab Sustainable Energy Strategy 2014-2030**, <https://irena.org/mena/Pan-Arab-Clean-Energy-Initiative>, that aims to integrate a greater share of renewable energy into power systems in the region.

In the implementation of the PACE initiative, an extensive consultative process was undertaken, following which, several limitations preventing the deployment of large-scale for solar and wind projects in the region were highlighted and an action plan, with specific activities, was conceived to address them. These included capacity building activities to strengthen the enabling policy and regulatory frameworks to create an environment more conducive to an accelerated renewables development, including organizing workshops to share best practices in the design and implementation of RE Targets to support the development of a clear strategy complemented by specific policies and measures; coupled with capacity building activities on resource assessment and the use zoning maps to plan for national RE market development and project planning.

In this regard, IRENA proposes to combine these two, interlinked and complementary topics, RE Targets setting and resource assessment, into one capacity building workshop.

The two sessions dedicated to **Capacity Building for Renewable Energy Targets in Arab countries** will highlight IRENA's analysis on the role of renewable energy targets in the energy transition, serving as the quantitative goal that transcribes ambition into action. The sessions will introduce design elements of targets to allow for their adaptation to country-specific renewable energy resources, macro-economic conditions, and objectives. Renewable energy targets can take a wide range of forms and are often embedded into integrated sector-level resource plans, national renewable energy action plans, or broader national development plans.

The sessions dedicated to **Improving Resource Assessment Practice in North Africa: A Solution to Streamline Early Stage Solar and Wind Market Planning** will help deliver the second phase of the Zoning project for Arab countries, by focusing on the technical aspects of the zoning assessment methodology and results. Through its Resource Assessment and Zoning activities, IRENA proposes to provide preliminary support by using its zoning analysis service which leverages on a multi-criteria decision-making methodology to aggregate and cluster the best areas suitable for utility scale solar PV and wind power development. These areas are assessed by combining renewable resource (solar or wind) data with technical (electrical grid network, slope), and socio-environmental (protected areas, land features and population growth) information, using a weighted linear combination approach.

The results disclose country specific theoretical installable capacities for solar and wind generating plants and reveal the most promising zones for potential investment in “site specific” resource assessments and measurement campaigns. With these encouraging results, IRENA intends to develop a solid informational base that facilitates countries' project planning activities from initial stages to operational levels.



Content Overview

The capacity building workshop will be realized as a one-day online workshop, with the agenda detailed below. The first half will be dedicated to the RE Targets topic for all Arab countries, whereas the second half will be dedicated to the Resource Assessment and Zoning theme, in the context of the North Africa countries. Both topics will include a combination of informative presentations, country interventions to share experiences, case study analyses, interactive exercises and question and answer (Q&A) discussion sessions.

Agenda

Topic 1 - Capacity Building for Renewable Energy Targets in Arab countries	
12:00 – 12:30 Gulf Standard Time	Opening remarks and welcome Rabia Ferroukhi, Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC) Jamila Matar, Head of Energy Department, LAS General Secretariat, Energy Department Jauad Al Kharraz, Executive Director, Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)
12:30 -13:15 GST	Global trends in NDCs, Renewable Energy Targets and Net-zero targets (20 mins) Ute Collier, Deputy Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC) Data collection and analysis for calculating baselines and/or projections (20 mins) Arvydas Lebedys, Senior Programme Officer - Statistics, KPFC (TBC) Interventions from countries (5 mins)
13:15 – 14:00 GST	Key design features of renewable energy targets: drivers and statistical basis (20 mins) Arslan Khalid, IRENA Consultant Key design features of renewable energy targets: scope, characteristics and implementation (20 mins) Diala Hawila, Programme Officer, Policy Advice, IRENA Interventions from countries (5 mins)
14:00 – 14:15	Break



Topic 2 - Improving Resource Assessment Practice in North Africa: A Solution to Streamline Early Stage Solar and Wind Market Planning

14:15 – 14:30	IRENA's resource assessment overview: Imen Gherboudj, Programme Officer, Resource assessment, KPFC <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support tools and services• Q&A session
14:30 – 16:15	RE Resource Assessment for project planning Imen Gherboudj, Programme Officer, Resource assessment, KPFC; Mohammed Nababa, Associate Programme Officer, KPFC <ol style="list-style-type: none">A. Basics of resource assessmentB. Renewable and ancillary datasets – sources and trade-offsC. Zoning analysisD. Spatial analysis for project planningE. Calculation of generation profiles resultsF. Q&A sessionG. Results of zoningH. Q&A session
16:15 – 16:30	Break
16:30 – 17:00	Moderated country experiences sharing in spatial planning
17:00 – 17:15	Closing remarks: Binu Parthan, Head of Regions