

Renewables Readiness Assessment for Panama

Le Meridien Panama, 22 May 2018, Panama City, Panama

BACKGROUND

The Government of Panama has begun to mobilise the energy sector in the direction of renewable energy, with an ambitious goal of renewables supplying 70% the national energy mix by the year 2050. Progress has already been achieved: in 2016, installed wind and solar power capacity reached 270 MW and 90 MW, respectively. While these trends provide a positive outlook for renewable energy development in the country, various challenges related to variable renewable energy policy, regulation and grid integration still exist.

To support Panama's renewable energy uptake, the National Energy Secretariat (SNE) and IRENA initiated a Renewable Readiness Assessment (RRA) in 2016. The RRA is a country-led, multi-stakeholder process to assess the key conditions for renewable energy development in a specific country, as well as recommendations to improve readiness and overcome barriers to deployment. Following a technical consultation workshop in October 2016 and a validation meeting in June 2017 with key stakeholders from Panama's public and private sector, the final RRA report has been developed. By incorporating the recommendations in the report, Panama can rapidly improve its renewable energy outlook and help put itself on a path to achieve its 2050 target.

OBJECTIVES

Launch of the RRA report with the participation of high-level officials from Panama, government agencies, industry, and development and regional partners.

- Thematic discussions on the emerging challenges related to renewable energy development in Panama; and on potential follow-up activities building on the recommendations of the RRA report.

English – Spanish interpretation will be available for all participants and audience

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08:30 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	<p>High-level Opening Session</p> <p><i>Introductory remarks by Dr. Victor Urrutia, Secretary of Energy, SNE</i></p> <p><i>Introductory remarks by Gurbuz Gonul, Acting Director Country Support and Partnerships Division, IRENA</i></p>
10:00 – 10:20	Launch ceremony of the Panama RRA report
10:20 – 10:40	Coffee break & Family Photo
10:40 – 11:20	<p>Presentation of the Panama RRA report</p> <p><i>An overview of the RRA process in Panama and the main recommendations of the report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory Remarks: Fernando Diaz, Director of Electricity, SNE, Panama • Presentation: Chris Marshall, Associate Programme Officer, IRENA • Moderator: Fernando Diaz, SNE • Q&A
11:20 – 12:30	<p>Panel Session: Future Renewable Energy Deployment in Panama</p> <p><i>The emerging challenges for renewables deployment in Panama; coordination among partners and Panama for possible RRA follow-up actions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Gurbuz Gonul, IRENA • Panellists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marta Bernal, Engineer, SNE, Panama 2. Daniel Pereira, Manager of Business Planning, ETESA, Panama 3. Ana Lucía Alfaro Murillo, Coordinator, GIZ Energy Programs for Costa Rica and Panama 4. Fernando de Sisternes, Energy Specialist, World Bank 5. Hugo Ventura, Chief, Energy & Natural Resources Unit, ECLAC 6. Edgardo Sandoval, Director of International Cooperation, SICA
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Regional Renewable Energy Support in Central America</p> <p><i>Overviews of GIZ's new program on renewables and energy efficiency in Central America and ECLAC's ongoing energy strategy 2030 for Central America, and their connection to the implementation of the RRA recommendations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scene-setting presentation: Edgardo Sandoval, SICA • Presentation: Hugo Ventura, ECLAC • Presentation: Tanja Faller, Principal Advisor, GIZ Energy Programs Central America • Moderator: Vanessa Interiano, Senior Adviser, IRENA • Q&A
15:00 – 15:10	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p><i>Gurbuz Gonul, IRENA</i></p> <p><i>Fernando Diaz, SNE</i></p>