



# Eia for hydr-solar power ghana

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The Power Africa West Africa Energy Program (WAEP), funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), recently concluded a landmark event in Accra, Ghana, marking five years of transformative impact in the region's energy sector. Bringing together key stakeholders, including government officials and private sector entities, the event served as a platform to reflect on WAEP's accomplishments and glean insights from lessons learned.

Since its inception in 2019, WAEP has been instrumental in bolstering access to clean, affordable, and reliable grid-connected electricity across 23 countries in West and Central Africa. In Ghana, one of its focal points, WAEP collaborated with the Ministry of Energy to develop a cutting-edge data-driven inventory management system (IMS). This system has facilitated over 400,000 new electricity connections by providing real-time data on the availability and distribution of energy equipment.

A major highlight of WAEP's endeavors in Ghana is its support for the Bui Power Authority (BPA) in operationalizing the first phase of a groundbreaking 250 MW solar-hydro hybrid project. Spearheaded by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, this project, a first in West Africa, has effectively doubled Ghana's grid-connected solar energy capacity, while significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, WAEP's initiatives extend to capacity-building efforts, such as training and certifying wiring professionals in rural, low-income regions of northern Ghana. Through short-term certificate scholarship programs, 44 wiring technicians, including 10 women, graduated, marking an 80 per cent increase in certified women wiring technicians. This surge in skilled professionals has not only lowered wiring costs but also deterred the use of illegal electricity connections, thereby enhancing safety standards.

Grace Lang, USAID/Ghana Deputy Mission Director, commended the collaborative efforts between WAEP and the Northern Electricity Development Company (NEDCo) in improving revenue generation for the energy sector. Notably, a successful pilot project led to a 57 per cent reduction in collection losses in the Yendi district, underscoring the tangible impact of strategic partnerships.

Industry experts and program partners convened to discuss regional and global energy trends, emphasizing collaborative endeavors aimed at enhancing energy access and affordability across West Africa.

As Ghana's largest bilateral development partner, the United States reaffirms its commitment to fostering sustainable development. In 2023, USAID's bilateral development assistance of over \$140 million underscored its dedication to supporting economic growth, agriculture, health, education, and governance initiatives in the region.

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best teams and capabilities to deliver highly innovative and sustainable solutions.

In late 2020, President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, commissioned Ghana's first Hydro-Solar Hybrid power generating system. Now in 2023, the first floating solar PV array has been connected to the grid to generate 5MW per annum. This forms part of the first phase of a 250MW solar project, which is being implemented in phases of 50MW.

Bui Power Authority (BPA) identified the potential for solar resources in Ghana. They have been developing the expansion of this resource as part of the Government of Ghana's effort to increase the contribution of renewable energy in the energy mix by 10% by 2030.

Increasingly low water levels at the Bui Hydroelectric Dam are exasperated during the dry season, resulting in reduced ability to the run the hydropower plant during the evening. BPA decided to add a solar element to complement the existing plant to supplement the energy required to be operational all year round.

This first 50 MW solar plant has resulted in the doubling of Ghana's grid-connected solar energy and is expected to cut greenhouse gas emissions by more than 47,000 tons per year.

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