United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

renforus
Renewable Energy Futures for UNESCO Sites

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Renewable Energy for Global Sustainability

Energy is increasingly at the core of global sustainability and climate change mitigation discussions. As energy demand continues to grow, the ability to address energy issues, including energy access, efficiency, and renewable energy sources, will be paramount in enabling development and climate change priorities to be met in a mutually reinforcing way.

The need to address energy supply as the main and critical driver of sustainable development and for reaching a global climate change deal was emphasised at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (RIO+20) and at the UN Climate Change Conference Doha 2012. This is also the objective of the "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative launched by the United Nations.

RENFORUS objectives

As part of the UNESCO overarching Climate Change Initiative that aims at enhancing and applying the climate change knowledge base for building green societies, the RENFORUS Initiative promotes the use of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites as field observatories on the sustainable use of renewable energy sources.

By drawing on decade-long experiences in World Heritage Sites to promote preservation of environmental and cultural assets, and in Biosphere Reserves to combine nature conservation objectives with sustainable development goals based on local community and private sector participation, the UNESCO Sites constitute a unique asset for exploring the role of renewable energy in reaching and promoting their important objectives.

The large number of UNESCO Sites around the world, in critical ecosystems ranging from small islands to mega cities, makes it possible to build and share a comprehensive knowledge base on good practices and policies on the use of environmentally sound energy technologies and their adaptation to specific contexts and needs. RENFORUS plays therefore a catalytic role in an essential international process to promote comprehensive, holistic approaches to energy, climate change and global sustainability.

RENFORUS in action

RENFORUS seeks to:

- Mobilize UNESCO sites for practical learning on renewable energy solutions and commitment to the efficient use of energy.
- Offer a platform for interaction between multiple stakeholders to bridge existing gaps for renewable energy deployment.
- Disseminate opportunities, advantages, and practical applications of renewable energy technologies in UNESCO Sites.
- Develop a system of consultations to identify opportunities, barriers and challenges related to renewable energy uses and policies.
- Identify good practices that could serve as study case and replicable at local and regional level.
- Promote capacity building and awareness-raising on the use and application of renewable energy systems targeting local communities.
- Promote the use of renewable energy systems for the electrification of public and local community facilities in the selected sites.
- Promote partnerships with multi stakeholders, including international organizations, networks, industry, NGOs and interested governments.

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Why join?

By joining RENFORUS, partners will have access to a tool for promoting networking and exchange of knowledge, information and best practices related to renewable energy and energy efficiency. A selected number of these practices will benefit from enhanced visibility through RENFORUS and will be promoted as models for replication nationally and internationally.

RENFORUS will also serve as a platform to consolidate partnership among its partners as well as with leading public and private stakeholders for renewable energy applications in UNESCO Sites.

Contacts:

Dr Osman Benchikh *
Programme Specialist in Charge of Energy and Renewable Energy
Coordinator of RENFORUS project
E-mail: o.benchikh@unesco.org

Cipriano Marín **
Assistant for RENFORUS project implementation
E-mail: c.marin@unescocan.org

Address: * UNESCO. 1, Rue Miollis. 75015 Paris – France
** Avda. Islas Canarias, 35 - 38007, Santa Cruz de Tenerife - Spain

Biosphere Reserves
World Heritage Sites

Models of excellence to foster the integration of renewable energy for global sustainability

RENEWABLE ENERGY FUTURES
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