



IFC and World Bank's Lighting Africa Welcomes Support, Additional Funding from US Government

Lighting Africa, a World Bank and IFC program aimed at providing safe and affordable off-grid lighting to millions of people in Africa, today welcomes support from a new US government initiative that is providing funds to clean energy technology programs in developing countries.

The mention of Lighting Africa as one of the beneficiaries of the US \$100 million Climate REDI (Renewables and Efficient Deployment Initiative) fund acknowledges the program's important role in supporting the off-grid market in Africa and around the world. The fund has not yet earmarked a specific amount for IFC and Lighting Africa.

The Climate REDI fund, announced on 14 December at the Copenhagen climate conference by U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu, will help Lighting Africa increase its activities within and outside Africa and expand the market for off-grid lighting products to millions of low-income consumers.

Patrick Avato, Lighting Africa's Global Program Manager, said, "We are excited about the opportunity this brings for IFC and the World Bank to increase our impact in the sustainable energy sector. In particular, the funds will further strengthen our activities on quality assurance, consumer education and advisory and financing support to the industry, which will greatly improve the quality of sustainable energy solutions available in emerging markets".

The Climate REDI fund is expected to provide funding for a number of clean energy initiatives and to launch a renewable energy program under the World Bank's Strategic Climate initiative.

The Climate REDI fund will coordinate closely with programs that promote clean energy technologies in developing countries, according to a press release announcing its launch. To promote solar and LED programs, the Climate REDI fund is supporting the Lighting Africa initiative, TERI's Lighting a Billion Lives program, and the U.S. Department of Energy's Lumina Project.

In the spirit of the Lighting Africa approach to support the development of a commercially sustainable market for off-grid lighting products, it is expected that the Climate REDI initiative will promote clean energy technologies using the following methods:

1. Quality assurance to guard developing country consumers against sub-standard renewable energy products;
2. Minimum efficiency standards to remove the lowest efficiency appliances from the market;
3. Labeling to guide consumers to quality-assured and high-efficiency products;
4. Support for scale up of early-stage low-carbon products, to bring down costs and remove barriers to deployment and to catalyze investment by the private sector;
5. Information sharing that enables all energy stakeholders to access state-of-the art information on technology and best practices.