

Econoler

Econoler is an international consulting firm with 40 years of experience in the design, implementation, evaluation and financing of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and projects. Over the years, Econoler has contributed to developing and implementing about 4,000 projects in over 160 countries.

Gender and Clean Energy

Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Energy Projects

Econoler firmly believes that Goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whose aim of “ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” will be accomplished only if sustainable energy initiatives are developed and implemented with a gender-sensitive lens. Issues related to energy access and climate change impact women and men differently, generally to the disadvantage of women, and those inequalities are likely to be exacerbated by climate change. Hence, Econoler’s projects can contribute to improving the well-being of women and girls especially in developing countries. Through various projects, Econoler ensures specific inequality challenges in the energy sector are addressed and involves women in all aspects of the clean energy value chain, as consumers, suppliers, entrepreneurs and decision-makers.

Generating Information and Knowledge on Gender Inequalities in the Energy Sector

Important data gaps hinder the capacity of the international community to properly assess and address women’s specific energy needs and consumption patterns. Econoler is committed to generating knowledge and information as it gains experience in dealing with interactions between gender and energy. For instance, the firm is currently working on a research project for the International Development and Research Center (IDRC) to find out how and which energy efficiency policy decisions can help deliver energy justice to women in West Africa’s rural areas. Econoler also performs a gender-based assessment in the Pacific Region to understand what are the optimal actions the Pacific Community may implement to overcome the barriers that hinder women's participation in the clean energy value chain. The findings will be shared through specialized publications.

Developing and Delivering Gender-Responsive Capacity Building Programs

Econoler develops and delivers capacity building sessions tailored to improving women’s and girls’ technical and financial capacities in the sustainable energy sector. The firm also provides consultancy services to financial institutions, private companies, civil society and other stakeholders on developing internal social inclusion policies and procedures to assess the impacts of their projects on society and gender dynamics. For example, in Palestine, Econoler developed a gender -responsive Environmental and Social Management Systems (ESMS) for two local banks participating in the Agence française de développement SUNREF Program to increase their capacity to assess the environmental and social risks of projects, conduct due diligence, and adopt appropriate mitigation measures. Furthermore, for a Global Affairs Canada project in Haïti, Econoler performed an institutional gender analysis of a local company specialised in waste-to-energy. This assessment was then used to develop equality and diversity tools and design a gender awareness and capacity building program tailored to the company’s needs.



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Energy Access

Sustainable Energy Strategies to Promote Energy Justice for African Women Living in Rural Off-Grid Areas

This research project, commissioned by the International Development Research Center (IDRC) is aimed at determining how EE policy can improve the socio-economic and environmental conditions of women in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) using an interdisciplinary approach combining engineering, sociology, economy, gender, and health. Key outputs include:

- **Analyze the socio-economic and cultural contexts of each target country and how they affect gender equal energy access;**
- **Conduct a quantitative survey in Benin, Senegal and Togo to collect sex-disaggregated data on energy needs, energy consumption, and energy-related opportunities in rural areas, as well as defining the household decision-making process;**
- **Benchmark energy policies tailored to improving energy justice.**

This project is carried out in close collaboration with local partners, stakeholders and scholars. Energy research and the field of energy will benefit from this project through the formulation of new conceptual and empirical knowledge, while the SSA region will obtain information and know-how to increase energy justice, thereby improving the socio-economic situation especially of the most vulnerable groups.



Women's Economic Empowerment

Establishing the Pacific Energy and Gender Network

Given the ambitious clean energy targets of Pacific Island Countries (PICs), the region is undergoing a clean energy transition that will result in abundant economic benefits. There is increased interest in engaging women at every segment of the clean energy value chain as a way to not only economically empower these women, but also create a more inclusive business model to achieve SDG 7. The Pacific Community and the Canadian Trade and Investment Facility commissioned Econoler to lead the following activities:

- **Carry out a gender-based assessment of the clean energy sector in a representative sample of six PICs representing all sub-regions, namely Melanesia (Fiji and Solomon Islands), Polynesia (Samoa and Tuvalu) and Micronesia (Kiribati and the Republic of Marshall Islands);**
- **Develop a Pacific Energy and Gender Strategic Action Plan (PEGSAP) 2020-2030 to promote women's engagement in the clean energy value chain.**
- **Design supporting documents for the PEGSAP, namely a monitoring and evaluation plan, a cost-benefit analysis framework, a budget and a resource mobilisation plan.**

The initiative is highly welcomed in the region given that no specific work on gender and energy has been undertaken at the regional level since 2015. The approach promoted will enhance a policy development strategy that is sustainable, long-term and inclusive.



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