

Annual Report 2015



>500
contributors

PROVIDING
HIGH QUALITY
INFORMATION

Annual
Reporting
on Renewables:
10 YEARS of
excellence

SAIREC

REN21

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Message from REN21 | 2015

This year's REN21 *Renewables 2015 Global Status Report* (GSR) marks the 10th edition of REN21's flagship publication. Over the past decade the GSR has expanded in scope and depth with its thematic and regional coverage and the refinement of data collection. It benefits from a multi-stakeholder community of over 500 experts. Ten years on, the GSR has established itself as the world's most frequently-referenced report on the global renewable energy market, industry and policy landscape.

In addition to its ten-year anniversary, this year's report included several new additions. Marking the importance of energy efficiency in increasing renewable energy uptake, GSR 2015 dedicated a full section to this "twin pillar" of renewable energy. A section on the role of renewables for climate change adaptation was also included in anticipation of the climate talks in Paris, December 2015. The report was launched at the Vienna Energy Forum 19 June in Vienna, Austria and received broad media coverage.

Over the course of the year, the two regional reports, *SADC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report* and the *UNECE Renewables Status Report* offered insight into regional developments, illustrating the continued penetration of renewables in both developing and emerging regions.

The highlight of 2015 was the South African International Renewable Energy Conference (SAIREC). Over 3,600 delegates from 82 countries converged on Cape Town to debate, learn and network. Parallel sessions, side events, an exhibition and 35 site visits provided ample opportunity for delegates to exchange ideas, meet new people and renew old acquaintances. Co-organised by the Republic of South Africa, Department of Energy, SANEDI and REN21, SAIREC demonstrated that Africa is the business destination for the renewable energy sector and lived up to the conference tag line, RE-Energising Africa.

REN21 ended the year with a multi-partner collaboration at the climate talks in Paris. For the first time at any UN climate conference, renewable energy solutions were showcased to governments, media and the public in a series of high profile events, collectively known as the "Renewable Energy Track". These events demonstrated that renewable energy deployment is the fastest, cleanest, most reliable and most economically beneficial way to meet our climate goals. REN21 along with the European Commission, the Syndicat des Energies Renouvelables (SER), IRENA and the United Arab Emirates, hosted a series of events, clustered around the Lima-Paris Action Agenda days, linking them under a common logo and the tag line, RE-Energising the Future.



Arthouros Zervos
Chair



Christine Lins
Executive Secretary

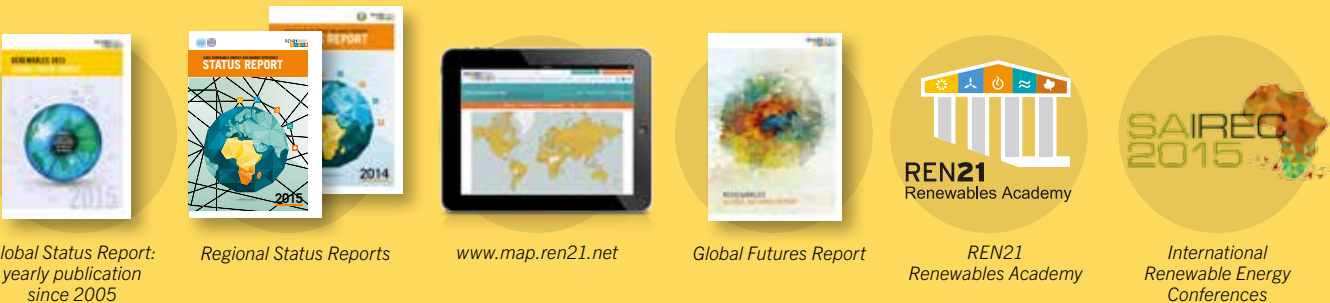
We end 2015 with the hope that the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris climate talks will help spur the world into action. Thankfully with the implementation of increasingly ambitious targets and innovative policies, renewables can continue to surpass expectations and create a clean energy future for all.

Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century Product Page

REN21 is the global renewable energy policy multi-stakeholder network that connects a wide range of key actors. REN21's goal is to facilitate knowledge exchange, policy development, and joint action towards a rapid global transition to renewable energy.

REN21 brings together governments, nongovernmental organisations, research and academic institutions, international organisations, and industry to learn from one another and build on successes that advance renewable energy. To assist policy decision making, REN21 provides high-quality information, catalyses discussion and debate, and supports the development of thematic networks.

REN21 facilitates the collection of comprehensive and timely information on renewable energy. This information reflects diverse viewpoints from both private and public sector actors, serving to dispel myths about renewable energy and to catalyse policy change. It does this through six product lines.



RENEWABLES GLOBAL STATUS REPORT (GSR)

First released in 2005, REN21's *Renewables Global Status Report* (GSR) has grown to become a truly collaborative effort, drawing on an international network of over 500 authors, contributors, and reviewers. Today it is the most frequently referenced report on renewable energy market, industry, and policy trends.

REGIONAL STATUS REPORTS

These reports detail the renewable energy developments of a particular region; their production also supports regional data collection processes and informed decision making.

RENEWABLES INTERACTIVE MAP

The Renewables Interactive Map is a research tool for tracking the development of renewable energy worldwide. It complements the perspectives and findings of REN21's Global and Regional Status Reports by providing continually updated market and policy information as well as offering detailed, exportable country profiles.

GLOBAL FUTURE REPORTS (GFR)

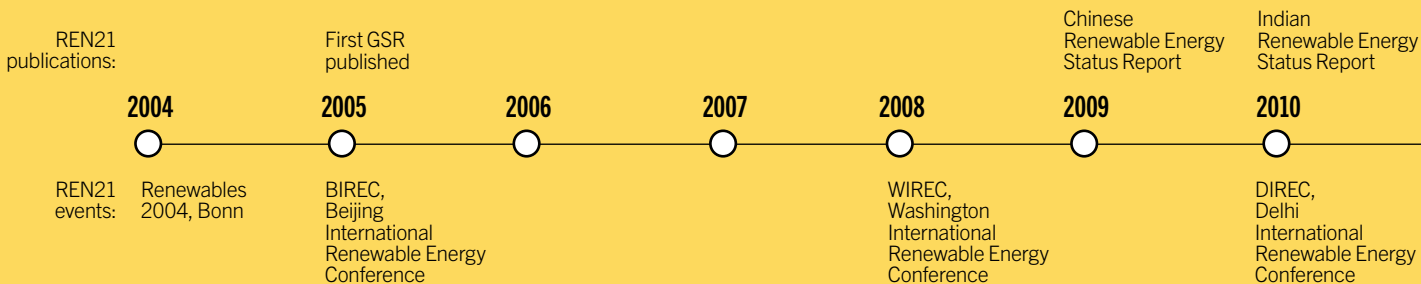
REN21 produces reports that illustrate the credible possibilities for the future of renewables within particular thematic areas.

RENEWABLES ACADEMY

The REN21 Renewables Academy provides an opportunity for lively exchange among the growing community of REN21 contributors. It offers a venue to brainstorm on future-orientated policy solutions and allows participants to actively contribute on issues central to a renewable energy transition. The next REN21 Renewables Academy will take place in Bonn, autumn 2016.

INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCES (IRECs)

The International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC) is a high-level political conference series. Dedicated exclusively to the renewable energy sector, the biennial IREC is hosted by a national government and convened by REN21. SAIREC 2015 was held in South Africa, 4 – 7 October 2015.



REN21 Members



By November 2015, REN21 counted 54 organisations and governments as its members.

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

- Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE)
- American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE)
- Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association (CREIA)
- Clean Energy Council (CEC)
- European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF)
- Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)
- Indian Renewable Energy Federation (IREF)
- International Geothermal Association (IGA)
- International Hydropower Association (IHA)
- Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean (RES4MED)
- World Bioenergy Association (WBA)
- World Wind Energy Association (WWEA)

MEMBERS AT LARGE

- Michael Eckhart
- Mohamed El-Ashry
- David Hales
- Kristy Hamilton
- Peter Rae

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)
- European Commission (EC)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- International Energy Agency (IEA)
- International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
- World Bank

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

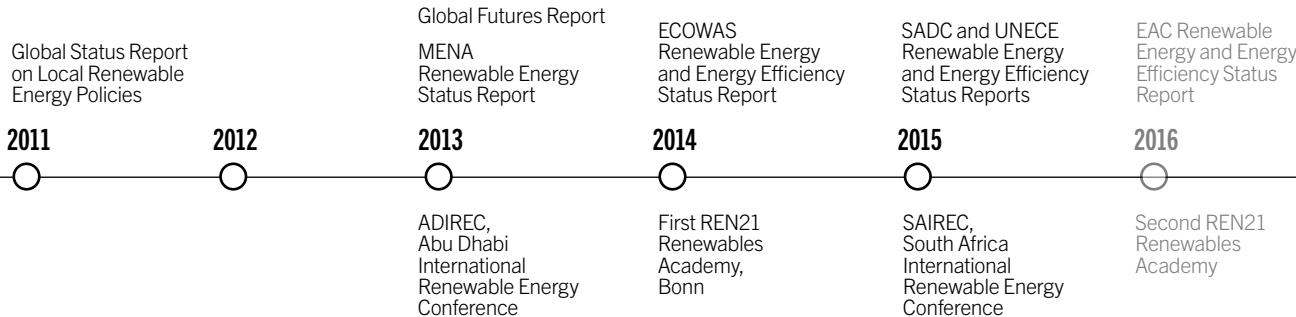
- Brazil
- Denmark
- Germany
- India
- Norway
- Spain
- South Africa
- United Arab Emirates
- United States of America

NGOS

- Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE)
- Greenpeace International
- HELIO International (HELIO)
- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia
- Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP)
- Japan Renewable Energy Foundation (JREF)
- Mali Folkecenter / Citizens United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability (CURES)
- Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)
- World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE)
- World Future Council (WFC)
- World Resources Institute (WRI)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

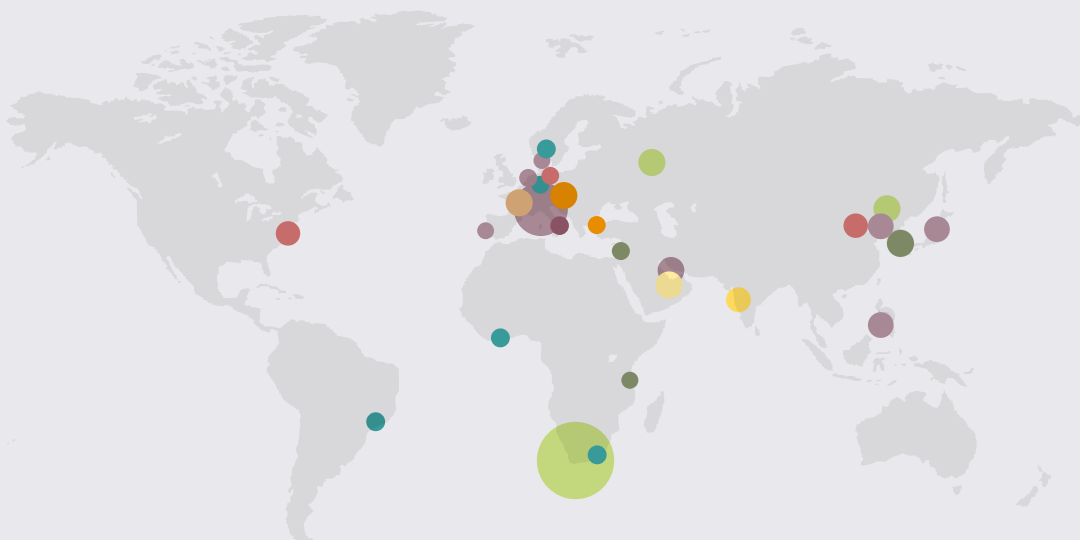
SCIENCE AND ACADEMIA

- Fundacion Bariloche
- International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
- International Solar Energy Society (ISES)
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI)
- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)



REN21 ACTIVITIES

Key milestones and events in 2015



JANUARY

- Attendance at IRENA Assembly and World Future Energy Summit, Abu Dhabi/United Arab Emirates
- Start of 1 Gigaton Coalition work

FEBRUARY

- Regional outreach at 15th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (TERI), New Delhi/India

MARCH

- Participation at EUFORES 15th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Vienna/Austria
- Presentation at Intercontinental Wind Power Congress (GWEC), Istanbul/Turkey

APRIL

- Keynote at Althesys IREX launch, Rome/Italy
- Data collection for the inaugural report of the 1 Gigaton Coalition

MAY

- Presentations at:
 - International Hydropower Association Congress (IHA), Beijing/China
 - 2nd SE4All Forum, New York/USA
 - 9th German-African Energy Forum, Hamburg/Germany

JUNE

- Launch of GSR 2015 at Vienna Energy Forum, Vienna/Austria
- Regional outreach of GSR 2015 at:
 - Embassy of Austria in Beijing and at Eco Forum Global, Guiyang/China
 - First Conference on Energy for Development in the CPLP, Cascais/Portugal
 - Japan Renewable Energy Foundation (JREF) and Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP) symposium, Tokyo/Japan
- Participation at Climate Knowledge Brokers Group, Copenhagen/Denmark
- Preview of *Renewables 2015 Global Status Report* (GSR 2015) at:
 - IRENA Council, Abu Dhabi/United Arab Emirates
 - Asia Clean Energy Forum (ADB), Manila/Philippines

JULY

- NREL and REN21 host GSR 2015 webinars across the globe

AUGUST

- Finalisation of *SADC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report*

SEPTEMBER

- Keynote at Brazil Windpower, Rio de Janeiro/Brazil
- Keynote at INTPOW Renewable Energy Forum Oslo/Norway
- GSR 2015 release at European Commission, Brussels/Belgium
- NREL and REN21 host GSR 2015 webinars across the globe
- Regional outreach GSR 2015, Pretoria/South Africa
- Presentation on data collection in ECOWAS and SADC region, Abidjan/Cote d'Ivoire

OCTOBER

- Hosting of SAIREC, Cape Town/South Africa
- Launch of *SADC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report*, Cape Town/South Africa
- REN21 General Assembly and Steering Committee Meeting, Stellenbosch/South Africa
- Sneak preview of *UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report*, Yerevan/Armenia and Moscow/Russia

NOVEMBER

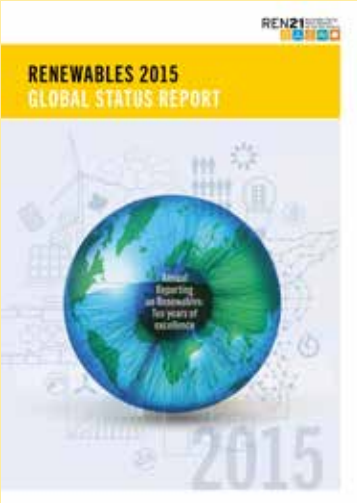
- Keynote at ISES Solar World Congress 2015, Daegu/South Korea
- Parliamentarian training on data collection, Nairobi/Kenya
- Finalisation of *UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report*
- Keynote at World Wind Energy Conference, Jerusalem/Israel

DECEMBER

- Launch of *UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report*, Paris/France
- REN21 co-hosts Renewable Energy Track days at climate talks (COP 21), Paris/France

PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY INFORMATION ON RENEWABLES

Good decisions are based on reliable information



REN21 RENEWABLES 2015 GLOBAL STATUS REPORT

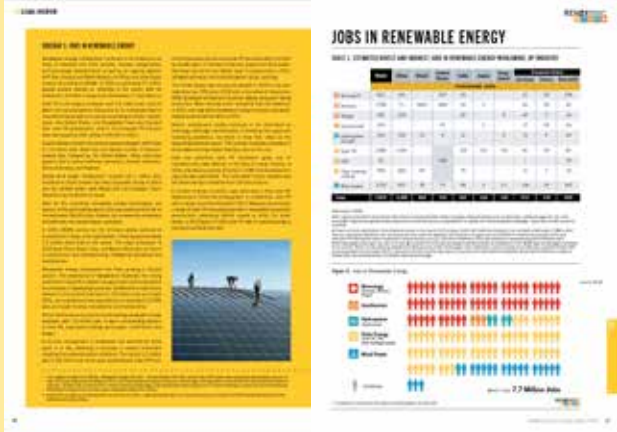
The *Renewables 2015 Global Status Report* (GSR 2015) marked its tenth year of production. Its evolution from a 35-page report to one that currently stands at over 250 pages reflects both the breadth and depth of renewable energy development over the past decade. Its evolution into the world's most frequently-referenced report on the global renewable energy market, industry and policy landscape is in large part thanks to REN21's robust, dynamic, international community of renewable energy experts.

Several additions were made to the 2015 report. Marking the importance of energy efficiency in increasing renewable energy uptake, the GSR 2015 dedicated a full section to this "twin pillar" of renewable energy. A section on the role of renewables for climate change adaptation was also included in anticipation of the climate talks in Paris, December 2015. The 2015 report also demonstrates that the penetration and use of renewables are increasing as is the combination of renewables and energy efficiency. However the share of renewables in the overall energy mix is still under 20%. This needs to change if access to clean, modern renewable energy services for all is to be assured by 2030.

Building on positive feedback from last year's new section "Key Findings for Policymakers", *Key Findings 2015* contained an expanded policymaker's section, detailing the evolving policy landscape and noting the continuing focus on adapting existing policies to keep pace with rapidly changing costs and circumstances. The section also cited a number of recent trends including: the merging of components from different policy mechanisms; growing linkages between the electricity, heat, and transport sectors; and the development of innovative mechanisms to integrate rising shares of renewables into the energy mix.

The *Renewables 2015 Global Status Report* was launched 18 June, 2015 in Vienna as part of the Vienna Energy Forum (VEF). The **GSR 2015 launch** consisted of six events that were held over a three day period: an exclusive, sneak preview; an international webinar; the hosting of a VEF opening session; presentations at two high-level panel discussions; and a REN21-led side event. Over the course of the VEF 1,300 hard copies of the 2015 report were distributed.

Additional **regional outreach events** were held in Manila, Philippines at the Asia Clean Energy Forum, in Beijing, China at the Embassy of Austria, at the Eco Forum Global in Guiyang, China, in Cascais, Portugal at the First Conference on Energy for Development in the CPLP at a joint symposium organised by Japan Renewable Energy Foundation and Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies in Tokyo, Japan and in Brussels, Belgium at the European Commission.

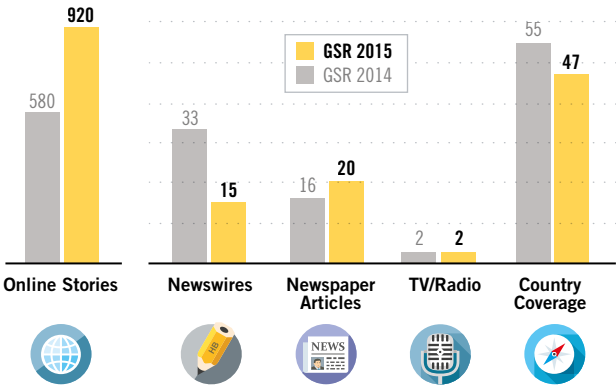


Newspaper coverage (print) soared in 2015; over 20 newspapers carried articles on the GSR 2015 including the China Daily (both China and Hong Kong versions) and the Daily Herald (USA). Fifteen newswires carried stories, among them the Associated Press (USA), Deutsche Welle (Germany) and the Belga news services (Belgium, France, Netherlands). At least 15 international new services covered the story, along with the BBC World Service Radio and CNBC Arabia TV. This year particular effort was paid to increasing coverage via social media. Using "multiplier" organisations such as The Tree, REN21's presence on Twitter rose significantly. A series of interviews were also given to radio, TV and newspaper journalists and included the BBC World Service (radio), CNBC Arabia (TV) and Associated Press (the world's oldest and largest news gathering organisation).

GSR press releases were produced in the following languages:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- English
- French
- German
- Greek
- Japanese
- Portuguese
- Spanish

Articles on the GSR appeared in 17 different languages, including Hungarian, Russian and Vietnamese.



Analysis of the **web statistics** from the first three weeks of the GSR 2015 launch (18 June – 8 July) showed that just over 119,000 people consulted the website, almost double the number of users compared to the same three week period, following the 2014 launch (63,000). On 18 June the Global Status Report web page had over 3,325 views; 21,575 people consulted the GSR webpage over the three week period, 18 June – 8 July.

In advance of the 2015 launch the REN21 website, as well as the Renewables Interactive Map, were completely revamped. The new website provides an updated and clean interface, with the REN21 products clustered by its six product lines. The new Renewables Interactive Map uses an intuitive and dynamic interface that allows the REN21 network to compile and share detailed information on the status of renewable energy. The new structure allows REN21 data to be easily accessed, shared, and downloaded, facilitating its use by network members and collaboration with other renewables practitioners. The new Map structure allows REN21's data to be incorporated into other information portals. It also allows for building data linkages with other organisations. For example, the REN21 map now appears on IRENA's Resource. →

VIENNA LAUNCH EVENTS: AN OVERVIEW

In the early evening of 17 June at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, a sneak preview of the GSR 2015 was held. The event was opened by Ambassador Konrad Max Scharinger followed by comments from Tania Rödiger-Vorwerk, Deputy Director-General, BMZ, Germany. REN21 Chair Arthouros Zervos provided opening remarks with Christine Lins presenting key findings from the soon-to-be launched GSR 2015.

Two high-level panels served as opportunities to present key elements of the GSR 2015 as did the Opening Session "Programme Implementation, Future Path" moderated by REN21 Steering Committee member Irene Giner-Reichl. A VEF side event and webinar, co-hosted by NREL's Clean Energy Solution Center, rounded out the series of launch events.



By the end of 2015, the new database contained over 5,500 unique data lines, each of which contain dozens of data points, sourced directly from GSR 2014 and GSR 2015, the ECOWAS, SADC and UNECE reports. Three hundred and ten viewers consulted the REN21 Interactive Map on the day of the launch. Three weeks later this number was 2,400; by year's end over 20,000 users had accessed and downloaded data from the Map.

Over the course of 2015 the GSR 2015 was mentioned in over 920 on-line stories across 47 countries in and 17 different languages. The GSR webpages were consulted over 98,870 times.

Printed GSR 2015 Key Findings distributed (EN, FR, SP)	5,950
On-line press stories	920
Countries covered	47
Number of languages	17
Downloads of the GSR 2015 (Full report and Key Findings)	53,130
Readers of the GSR 2015 e-paper and Key Findings e-paper	8,775

In view of the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris December 2015, an additional effort was made to increase French language coverage; numerous French press outlets and network organisations were contacted. A French language version of the press release and the *Key Findings 2015* were prepared in French. A Spanish version was also produced in addition to the normally published English version. Hard copies of all three languages versions were also printed. A Chinese language *Key Findings 2015* was produced for the events in Beijing. A Persian version has also been published. Both versions are available electronically on the REN21 website, as are verisons in English, French and Spanish.

Regular information on the GSR can be found on:



TWEET STATISTICS:
BY YEAR'S END

- launch announcement was retweeted over 115 times
- more than 415 original tweets were created by individual users and organisations.
- an announcement by Climate Reality on the GSR 2015 launch was retweeted 92 times amongst its following of just under half a million users

LEADING THE REPORTING ON RENEWABLES:
TEN YEARS OF COUNTING

The REN21 Renewables Global Status Report (GSR) provides an annual look at the tremendous advances in renewable energy markets, policy frameworks and industries globally. Each report uses formal and informal data to provide the most up-to-date information available. Reliable, timely and regularly updated data on renewables energy are essential as they are used for establishing baselines for decision makers; for demonstrating the increasing role that renewables play in the energy sector; and illustrating that the renewable energy transition is a reality.

This year's GSR marks ten years of REN21 reporting. Over the past decade the GSR has expanded in scope and depth with its thematic and regional coverage and the refinement of data collection. The GSR is the product of systematic data collection resulting in thousands of data points, the use of hundreds of documents, and personal communication with experts from around the world. It benefits from a multi-stakeholder community of over 500 experts.

Ten years on, the GSR has established itself as the world's most frequently-referenced report on the global renewable energy market, industry and policy landscape.



REN21
Publications



SADC RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY STATUS REPORT

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) region has enormous renewable energy resources that can serve as a strong basis for improved energy access within the region and across Africa as a whole. In 2015, REN21 documented the current status of renewables in the region in its *SADC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report*. With the financial support of UNIDO and OFID, the report provides a comprehensive overview of the status of renewable energy and energy efficiency markets, industry, policy and regulatory frameworks, and investment activities in the region. It draws on information from national and regional sources to present the most up-to-date summary of sustainable energy in the region.

The work was carried out by the REN21 Secretariat with the support of a reporting team. Similar in structure to the 2014 *ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report*, information for the SADC report was collected through an extensive data collection process that used both formal and informal data. The SADC report covers 15 countries: Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The report was launched at the South Africa International Renewable Energy Conference (SAIREC) at a joint side event co-hosted with UNIDO. Delegates to SAIREC each received a copy of the report in their delegate bag. The report is available for download on the REN21 website along with a series of infographics.



UNECE RENEWABLES ENERGY STATUS REPORT

This report looks at a subset of countries and their current status of renewable energy deployment within the region's 56-member countries of Western, Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Israel, Turkey, and North America. The 17 countries selected for this first UNECE report are Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

While the UNECE region is fairly well-developed in terms of development and adoption of strategic planning documents in the area of renewable energy, there is considerable potential for renewable energy uptake. The lack of data in the UNECE region is the main challenge in assessing the baseline situa-

tion for renewable energy. This report documents the current status of renewable energy in the region as a contribution to filling current data gaps. A complementary "dashboard" on the REN21 Interactive Map allows for the visualisation of all the data collected over the course of the report's development. The work was carried out by REN21 in co-operation with the UNECE and with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). The report was launched at the Paris climate talks (COP21) in December.

DEVELOPING NETWORKS AND EXPANDING OUTREACH EFFORTS

REN21 worked with experts and other networks around the world to promote renewables and build-up networks

SAIREC

Held in Cape Town 4 – 7 October, the South African International Renewable Energy Conference (SAIREC) attracted more than 3,600 delegates from 82 countries. It included 24 conference sessions featuring more than 150 speakers, 41 side events, 35 technical site visits and 56 exhibitors, providing extensive opportunities for delegates to discuss, learn and network.

SAIREC provided a platform to address energy security and access. Under the theme of RE-Energising Africa, SAIREC demonstrated why Africa is the business destination for the renewable energy sector. It also provided Africa with a unique opportunity to showcase its nascent yet promising renewable energy industry and gain experience from best practices as adopted in countries at the forefront of renewable energy deployment.

A smart phone conference "app" provided delegates with detailed information on the conference, including participant's list, speaker bios and the ability to pose questions during the high level events. A daily News Bulletin offered delegates a summary of the previous day's events.

The event closed with the presentation of the conference declaration.

CONFERENCE DECLARATION: A SUMMARY

At the closing of SAIREC delegates adopted a declaration expressing their conviction that the increased deployment of renewable energy will have a direct impact on improved global energy access, increased energy security, mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change and sustainable economic development.

The delegates, including cabinet ministers, government delegations, and representatives from the private sector, non-governmental organisations, academia, business, industry and international organisations declared to upscale and mainstream renewables in order to achieve a global energy transition.

Delegates stated that in order to make the global transition to renewable energy happen rapidly there must be concerted efforts across the renewable energy chain at the local, national and regional levels.

Participants considered the UN's Sustainable Development Goals on sustainable and modern energy for all—with its three targets on access, renewables and energy efficiency—to constitute a solid guiding framework for their deliberations and future cooperation with special focus on RE-Energising Africa. Participants also recognised the importance of renewable energy in global endeavours to mitigate climate

"The outcomes of this conference will strengthen our strategies, commitments and cooperation."



"There has been a lot of interest and support from organisations and companies represented and people here have been giving great feedback."

"I've been very happy with the sessions I've attended thus far. I came here looking for potential partners, innovative ideas and projects to invest in."



"The scale of the challenge requires that all approaches, including grid and off-grid solutions be taken into account."



change and the contribution renewables can make in keeping human-induced, global warming beneath the agreed two degree Celsius ceiling. The declaration also stated that countries will be emphasising the growing role of renewables in their national efforts to reduce emissions at the 21st Conference of the Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris in December. The full declaration can be downloaded from REN21's website.

THANK YOU! Funding for SAIREC was provided by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ).

The Austrian Development Agency provided travel support for delegates from developing countries.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

School children were recognised for the role that they play in bringing the positive impact of renewable energy to life through a RE-Energising Africa Art Competition. Over 420 artwork submissions were received from primary school children from communities where renewable energy projects have been built. The winners and their schools received monetary prizes from the Energy Minister, Ms. Tina Joemat-Pettersson at SAIREC's welcome reception.



"SAIREC 2015 gives us an opportunity to share the lessons of our country's quest to harness and transform our abundant renewable sources into energy and to chart a way forward with all like-minded countries to further advance renewable energy uptake both at home, on the continent, and around the world."

Tina Joemat-Pettersson
South African Energy Minister



SAIREC 2015

was hosted by the Republic of South Africa, Department of Energy and the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) and supported by the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st century (REN21).

SAIREC was the sixth meeting in the series of International Renewable Energy Conferences (IRECs) building upon successful outcomes in Abu Dhabi in 2013 (ADIREC), New Delhi in 2010 (DIREC), Washington in 2008 (WIREC), Beijing in 2005 (BIREC), and the founding conference held in Bonn in 2004 (renewables2004).



SPREADING THE WORD

In 2015 REN21 released its newly designed **REN21 Website** to better showcase its activities. In addition, REN21's latest iteration of the newly revamped Renewables Interactive Map allows improved user access to the large quantity of data collected for the *Renewables Global Status Report*.

As part of its ongoing data collaboration with other data providers the REN21 the **Renewables Interactive Map** is now accessible from IRENA's RSource portal.

The software on which the new Map has been built allows for both the compilation and sharing of detailed information on the status of renewable energy policies, technologies and investment trends across the world. The Map's information is sourced directly from REN21's annual *Renewables Global Status Report* and the vast network of contributors, representing the timeliest information about renewable energy. The addition of region-specific "dashboards" allows users to examine in-depth the renewable energy developments of a particular region.

REN21 presented the new portal to a diverse range of practitioners during the the Climate Knowledge Brokers Group (CKB) 2015 workshop in the UN City in Copenhagen. REN21 is actively supporting the CKB which is an emerging alliance of leading global, regional and national knowledge brokers specialising in climate and development.

REN21 carried out a diverse range of outreach activities to raise awareness of REN21 products and services. Six thematic **webinars** on the GSR 2015 were held. Four **newsletters**, detailing the activities of the Secretariat and the REN21 network were produced. Over the course of 2015, REN21's newsletter readership increased by 30% over 2014 numbers and surpassed the 15,000 subscriber mark. The Secretariat continues to complemented REN21's outreach efforts with regular posting on LinkedIn and Facebook as well as on Twitter.

By the end of 2015 visits to the REN21 website increased over 2014 numbers with more than 492,000 individual users and 790,000 page views. Pages that were consulted the most continue to be the Global Futures Report and the Global Status Report pages with an increasing number of users consulting the section on the regional status reports.

REN21 continued to receive support from Google, in the form of USD 120,000 free advertising, to promote its activities on-line. Over the course of the year REN21 ads have been clicked on over 234,500 times. The active promotion of REN21 products via the Google ad words has led to a 600% visitor increase on the REN21 website over 2014 numbers. The success rate for Google ads also determines a possible grant increase, which REN21 is on track to meet.



DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS



REN21 continued to expand its cooperation with other organisations. Based on the successful launch of the *ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report*, **UNIDO** and REN21 agreed to cooperate on developing two flagship publications in anticipation of newly created UNIDO regional centres for renewable energy and energy efficiency in the Southern Africa (SADC) and East Africa (EAC) regions. As noted earlier in the annual report, REN21 also cooperated with **UNECE** on a regional status report.



In 2015 REN21 became a partner in **IRENA's** Coalition for Action, a multi-stakeholder network. The Coalition is comprised of organisations from around the world, which share the common aim of supporting the deployment of renewable energy worldwide for realising a sustainable future. In addition, REN21 continued its collaboration on data exchange including supporting RSource, IRENA's information portal for renewable energy data, statistics and country profiles.

REN21 and **UNEP** continued its close collaboration. REN21 provided data to, and reviewed UNEP's Clean Energy Voyage II publication. UNEP continues to support the REN21 Secretariat by providing space and logistical support. REN21 contributed to UNEP's 1 Gigaton Coalition by collecting data on the status of energy efficiency in 82 non-Annex 1 countries and 4 BRICs (excluding Russia). Data from REN21's policy database as well as the GSR 2105 were also used. The resulting publication reports on GHG emission reductions resulting from renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives and programmes that are not accounted for in the UNEP Emission Gap Report. The report was launched at COP21, December, 2015. REN21 also continued to hold observer status at UNEP.



REN21 strengthened its collaboration with the **IEA** on data exchange to ensure consistency between the IEA's *Medium-Term Renewable Energy Market Report 2015* and the REN21 *Renewables 2015 Global Status Report*. Furthermore, REN21 became a member of the Renewables Industry Advisory Board of the IEA (RIAB).



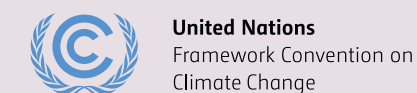
REN21 continued to be part of the consortium preparing the 2015 edition of the **SE4All** Tracking Framework. REN21 also actively participated at the 2nd SE4All Forum in New York, USA.



REN21 collaborated with the **World Bank** on its Readiness for Investment in Sustainable Energy (RISE) and Status of Energy Access (SEAR) reports. Over the course of the year, the Secretariat also worked with the World Bank to produce renewable energy metrics for energy access household surveys.



Additional partnerships were formed with the **Covenant of Mayors**. REN21 also joined efforts with the **Paris Process on Mobility and Climate** (PPMC) in the lead up to COP21. Cooperation efforts focused on raising the profile of renewables in the transport sector.



In 2015 REN21 was granted observer status by the **UNFCCC**.

CATALYSING DISCUSSION AND DEBATE:
REN21 cooperated with other organisations to host debates focused on a global renewable energy transition

MAKING THE CASE FOR RENEWABLES

REN21 cooperated with other organisations to host debates focused on a global renewable energy transition.

Over the course of 2015 REN21 staff presented the status of renewables and identified new experts to complement the contributors’ network. Collectively staff participated in more than 30 high-level events, engaging with a wide variety of participants on the status of renewables and the role of policy in ensuring renewable uptake.

Over 50 presentations were given, highlighting key findings of different REN21 reports and included new outreach opportunities in Armenia, Israel, Portugal, Russia, and Uganda. Events in Cote d’Ivoire, Hamburg, and Kenya allowed REN21 to highlight the central role of data collection for good decision making.

Leading panel discussions in Austria, China, Japan, Philippines and the United Arab Emirates served to place renewables and energy efficiency as twin pillars of a robust energy policy.

The hosting of side events at the Vienna Energy Forum, SAIREC and COP21 provided additional opportunities to highlight the central role of renewables in increasing energy access and renewables as part of the Solution Agenda for climate change.



UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE (COP 2015)

For the first time at any UN climate conference, renewable energy solutions were showcased to governments, media and the public. In a series of high profile events—that took place primarily from 4 – 7 December—the “Renewable Energy Track” demonstrated that renewable energy deployment is the fastest, cleanest, most reliable and most economically beneficial way to meet our climate goals. Coined Re-Energising the Future, the series of events was coordinated by a partnership consisting of the European Commission (EC), the French organisation Syndicat des Energies Renouvelables (SER), REN21, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates.



REN21 EVENTS:

- **100% Renewable Energy for All:** Solutions for combating climate change held jointly with REN21 partners World Future Council (WFC) and Greenpeace
- **Societal Benefits of Renewable:** with closing remarks from the German Government
- **RE-Energising the Future:** a high-level day coordinated by the EC/SER/REN21/IRENA/UAE partnership
- **Good Data for Good Decision-Making:** The need for regional cooperation with opening remarks from the Austrian Government

REN21 also co-hosted a publication stand during the climate talks.



REN21
Accounts



Grants in 2014 were secured from the German and United Arab Emirate governments, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

	2013*	2014
NON-PROFIT BUSINESS		
Non-taxable income		
1. Membership fees	0	0
2. Grants	762,629.35	1,144,983.62
		1,144,983.62
Non-taxable expenses		
1. In-house consultants (within the Secretariat)	244,507.00	261,682.06
2. Wages and Salaries	73,289.54	185,592.29
3. Travel expenses	37,871.21	59,069.08
4. Miscellaneous other expenses		
Consulting Costs	197,776.93	469,767.33
Costs for events	0	80,798.20
Advertising and printing costs	21,655.95	46,823.13
Legal and tax consulting fees	15,022.10	11,214.50
Office supplies and telephone	1,746.12	6,102.49
Contributions and insurance	1,192.48	2,584.39
Incidental monetary transaction costs	894.49	1,940.41
Other expenses	7,839.52	14,297.06
		1,135,870.94
Profit/loss	160,834.01	9,112.68
Fund management		
Tax-free income	1.22	1.39
Organizations profit		
Allocation of reserves for use in following year	–	– 9,114.07
	– 160,835.23	
Profit/loss carried forward	0.00	0.00

* REN21 was established as a legal entity in early 2013 and was operational by July 2013. Before that period, the REN21 Secretariat was co-hosted by GIZ and UNEP; 2013 accounts therefore represent only a partial picture of REN21’s operating expenses over the course of that year.

REN21

Future Outlook

2016 PERSPECTIVE

Continuing its tradition of convening stakeholder groups, 2016 will see REN21 hosting its 2nd Renewables Academy. Held biennially in Bonn, this event brings together REN21's diverse and vibrant network to debate and collectively develop new approaches in a creative and informal setting. Content and approach will be developed in the New Year so as to continue the lively exchanges that were so successful at the 2014 Academy.

In parallel, REN21 will continue to develop its regional report series with the launching of the *EAC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report* and begin work on a similar status report for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). A Global Futures Report looking at the macro-economics of a 100% renewables future is also envisaged.

The Secretariat will continue to develop its new Renewables Interactive Map, adding specific "dashboards" to allow uses to look in detail at a particular region of the world.

REN21 will advance its work with IEA, IRENA, SE4all and other partners to strengthen synergies and to convey coordinated key messages to foster global renewable energy uptake.

In its continuing efforts to improve the *Renewables Global Status Report*, 2016 will see REN21 working to enhance its data collection efforts on distributed renewables so as to provide better information on this renewable energy market segment, including: strengthening existing and establish strategic partnerships with energy access players; being more rigorous in involving and collaborating more closely with renewable energy industry associations and/organisations on the topic of distributed renewables; reinforcing the links between renewable energy and energy efficiency; and reaching out to on-the-ground practitioners to reflect grassroots activities.

Data collection on the renewable energy heating and cooling and for the transport sectors will also be bolstered. Increased efforts will be applied to improve REN21's data validation process through a progressive process in close collaboration with the authors and the regional coordinating contributors. The Latin America and Caribbean region will be the starting point for this work.

In anticipation of IREC 2017 (to be held in Latin America), preparations will begin on formalising the relationship between REN21 and the host country.



REN21

Secretariat



REN21's Secretariat, based at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Paris, France, implements the strategy agreed by REN21's global multi-stakeholder network. The Secretariat staff facilitates the collection of comprehensive and timely information on renewable energy which is then made publically available through REN21's publications, presentations, discussions and debates.

In 2015 the REN21's Secretariat was strengthened with the hiring of a renewable energy analyst. REN21 interns continued to provide a valuable supporting role.



Christine Lins
Executive Secretary



Rana Adib
Research Coordinator



Martin Hullin
Project Manager



Hannah Murdock
Renewable Energy Analyst



Laura E. Williamson
Communication & Outreach Manager

Irina Gaubinger
Senior Expert SAIREC (June – October 2015)

Aarth Saraph
Consultant (March – September 2015)

Daniele Kielmanowicz, Intern (September 2015 – February 2016)

Shweta Miriam Koshy, Intern (September 2015 – February 2016)

Lea Ranalder, Intern (May – August 2014)

Ayla Reith, Intern (until February 2015)

Aarth Saraph, Intern (until February 2015)

Alana Valero, Intern (March – August 2015)

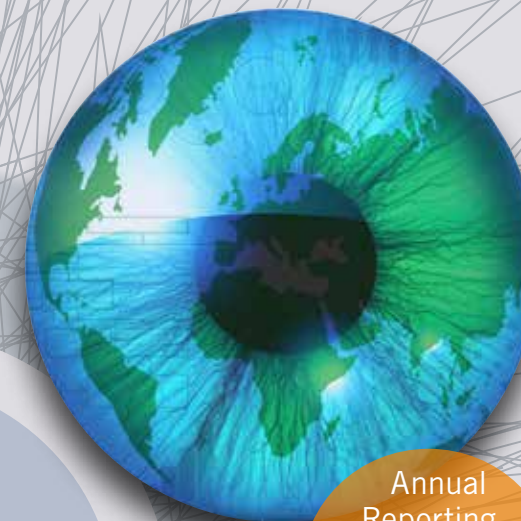
2015



>500
contributors



PROVIDING
HIGH QUALITY
INFORMATION



Annual
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excellence

Annual Report 2015

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SAIREC

