



AFRICAN  
SCHOOL OF  
REGULATION



# POLICY DIALOGUE ON RENEWABLE GENERATION AND REGIONAL POWER TRADE IN AFRICA

February 20, 21 and 22, Madrid, Spain

## DAY 2

# RENEWABLE GENERATION AND REGIONAL POWER TRADE IN AFRICA

## DAY 2 – FEBRUARY 21

### 9:30 to 11:00. Session 3. Deployment of network infrastructure with a regional perspective

- Transmission planning: Allocation of responsibilities in setting the criteria, decision making, enforcement and implementation.
- A regional approach to transmission cost allocation.

**11:00 to 11:30. Coffee break.**

**11:30 to 13:00. Session 4. Market rules for efficient operation. Dealing with security of supply concerns.**

- Issues with physical bilateral contracts. Addressing economic efficiency and security of supply.
- Approaches to regional market organisation

**13:00 to 14:30. Lunch.**

**14:30 to 16:00. Optional session on “Grids and Infrastructure: The backbone of renewable energy systems” within the SPIREC main program.**

**16:00 to 16:30. Coffee break.**



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# ASR Policy Dialogue Series

## RENEWABLE GENERATION AND REGIONAL POWER TRADE IN AFRICA

Session 3: Transmission planning & cost  
allocation in regional markets

February 20, 21 and 22. Madrid, Spain

# Topics for session 3

- How to **facilitate investment** in transmission from a **regional perspective**?
  - Clear **responsibility** in network planning & in **enforcing** the plans
  - Sound remuneration regulation can achieve **low investment risk**
- How is a sound approach to **transmission cost allocation** that
  - **does not discourage trade** unnecessarily?
  - **does not create opposition** to beneficial transmission projects unnecessarily?

**Regulation for regional trade must be guided by the “Single system paradigm”**

## **The “Single system paradigm”**

Design regional regulation so that the expected outcome is as close as possible to that of a sound regulation for *a single system of regional dimension.*







# SYSTÈME D'ÉCHANGES D'ÉNERGIE ÉLECTRIQUE OUEST AFRICAIN

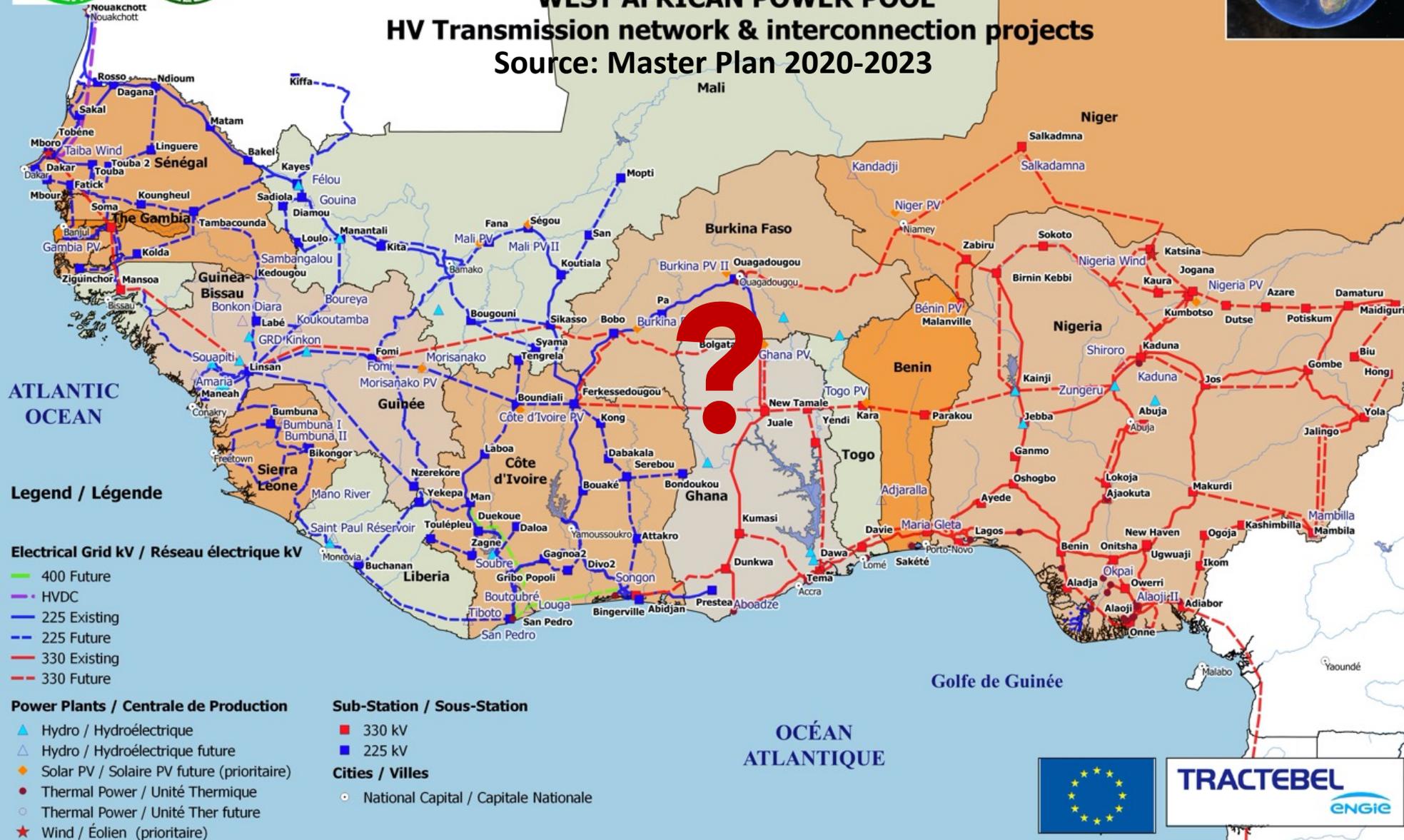
## Réseaux électriques HT & projets d'interconnexion



### WEST AFRICAN POWER POOL

#### HV Transmission network & interconnection projects

Source: Master Plan 2020-2023



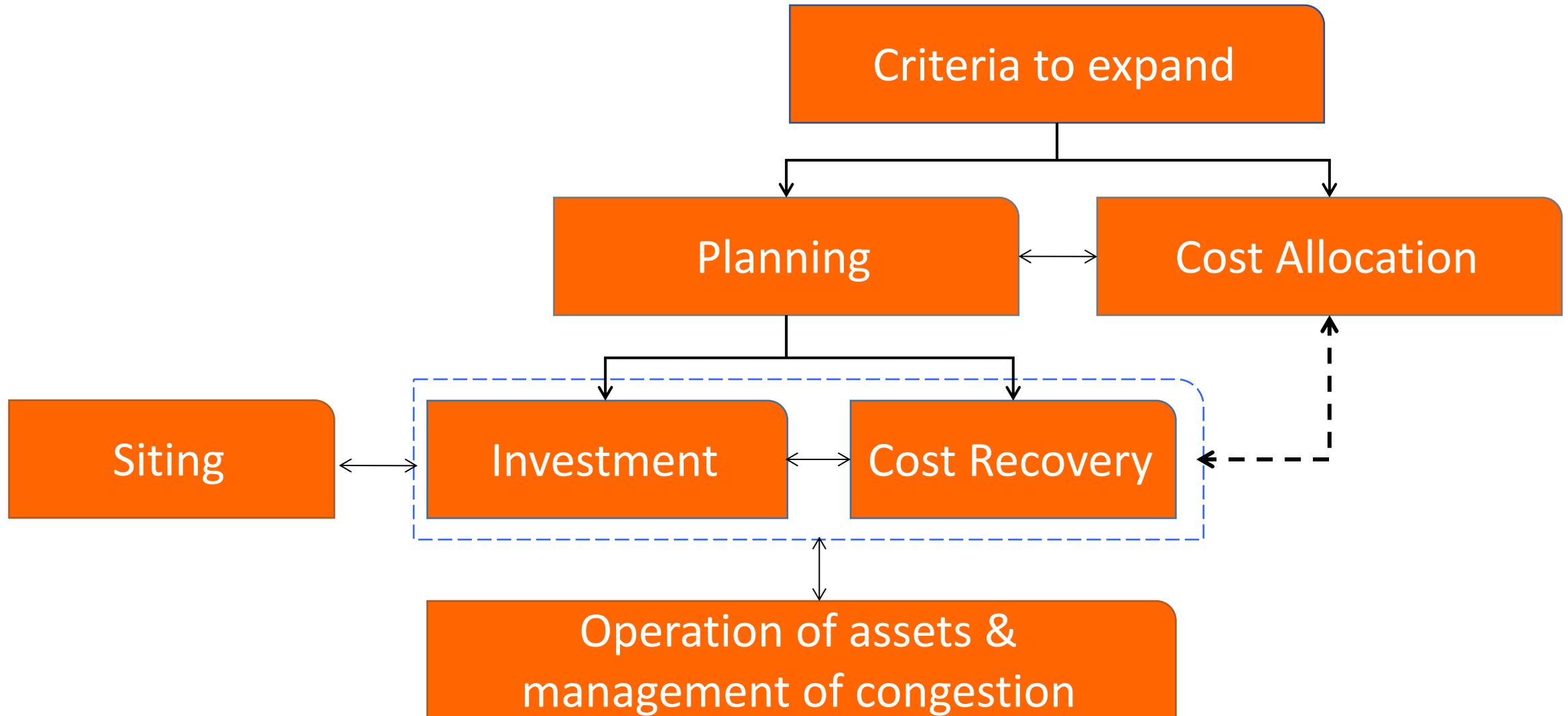
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# Trust & a regional vision of security of supply

- Generation plants of “regional size” are necessary to exploit economies of scale given the small electrical size of many SSA countries, the uneven location of the best resources & the variability of wind, solar & hydro. Thus
  - some countries must trust their security of supply to power plants located abroad
  - Some countries must build large power plants trusting that off-takers in other countries will honor their contracts, & commit to export power even under situations of national scarcity
- This level of trust, in particular relying on external energy sources to meet the national demand, appears impossible to obtain, thus jeopardizing a truly regional vision of security of electricity supply

# **The relationship between planning & cost allocation**

# This the scope of transmission regulation



# **Transmission investment & unnecessary regulatory risks**

# Please, let's avoid unnecessary risk in transmission remuneration

- Regulation must try to avoid unnecessary financial risks (*which have negative consequences on the cost of capital*) to a natural monopoly activity like transmission, subject to regulation
  - The next slide offers a list of actions – mostly with origin in flawed regulation – that create unnecessary risk (*therefore perfectly avoidable*) in the remuneration of the distribution activity

# Flawed regulation creates investment risks

These are frequent **unnecessary regulatory risks** in the remuneration method

- Revenues that depend on transactions or volume of utilization, instead of the actually incurred costs, or standards, or results of an auction
- Regulatory updates of the historical rate base, based on “replacement costs”, “market value”, or other creative methods
- Failure in ring fencing the transmission revenue requirement in the revenues obtained from the end customer tariffs
- Flawed cost allocation methods that lead to opposition to pay charges that are considered unfair
- Frequent re-calculation of transmission charges or changes in methodology
- Performance-based incentives that go beyond the equipment failure
- Uncertainty in remuneration beyond the economic life of the transmission asset

# **The best practices in transmission cost allocation**

# Cost allocation of regional transmission projects

- Avoid “**pancaking**” & charges associated to **commercial transactions**
- Agreement **among countries** for a **stable allocation to countries** of the cost of **major projects**
  - Try allocation to countries based on estimated benefits, otherwise...
  - ... **track sources and sinks** of actual or forecasted flows, minimizing the use of extra assumptions
- Tracking sources & sinks allows determining **inter-country compensations**.
  - After that, each country will allocate internally the modified transmission total cost following its own principles.

# The format of transmission charges

- Regardless of the method employed to determine the transmission network charge for centralized generators, it remains deciding **how to apply the charges. Errors to be avoided:**
  - **Do not apply volumetric charges** (\$/kWh) to generators, as this artificially modifies their variable cost & thus their dispatch merit order
  - **Do not apply flat capacity charges** (\$/installed kW capacity) to generators, as this may overcharge low utilization generators
  - Try to **apply lump sum annual charges** to generators that are not directly linked to actual recent production, to avoid the two previously described mistakes.

**Now, debate**

# Topics for discussion

- **How to remove the barriers to transmission investment?**
  - In enforcing the plans. In financing the planned infrastructures. No coincidence of regional plans with national priorities. No agreement on cost allocation. Too much risk in cost recovery.
- **Why resistance to adopt sound transmission cost allocation principles?**
  - Avoid “pancaking”. Avoid charging to commercial transactions. Allocate to beneficiaries or (proxy) based on actual physical flows.
  - Allocate cost of regional transmission projects to countries, which will decide how to charge internally.
  - Design the format of the charges to the end network users to avoid creating economic distortions.