



GLOBAL GEOTHERMAL ALLIANCE ACTION PLAN

May 2016

Background

A global partnership between geothermal stakeholders has come together under the Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA) to enhance dialogue, cooperation and coordination through international, regional and national actions related to the different phases of geothermal energy deployment. The Alliance draws upon an in-depth understanding of the technical, regulatory, policy and financial risks associated with geothermal energy by many of its members and seeks to share their common interest with others in addressing the challenges to promote wider penetration of geothermal energy in the global energy mix.

Proposed GGA actions

The following scope of priority actions developed in line with the [GGA Joint Communiqué](#) endorsed by all members and partners of the GGA and upon which all members and partners have affirmed, provides the broader framework for specific GGA activities to be identified and annexed to this Action Plan. The GGA intends to attach due attention to unlocking specific geothermal projects that are facing policy, legal, regulatory, fiscal, funding or capacity building challenges, with priority given to the most mature projects or countries with transformative potential that would result in high impact on the energy mix, the access rate to energy and the economy of the country.

Action 1 - Resource and Market Assessment: Identification and mapping, where relevant, at the regional level, of:

- 1) Resources for development (e.g. enrichment of the geothermal datasets in the IRENA Global Atlas);
- 2) Existing and potential geothermal market status and near term projects in the pipeline.

Action 2 - Needs and Obstacles Assessment: Scoping of the needs for assistance to countries with transformative potential, including, where pilot projects¹ have been identified and retained by the GGA (based on Action 1). The GGA action should primarily contribute to the removal of obstacles in their implementation, which can be of a policy, regulatory, funding or capacity building nature.

Action 3 - Enabling Frameworks: Supporting the development of effective enabling frameworks and associated mechanisms to achieve national objectives for geothermal energy deployment, in coordination with the existing governmental, donor and industry programmes, through the following tasks:

- 1) Assisting with the establishment of necessary policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks and development of relevant legal, fiscal and capacity building activities;
- 2) Providing timely information, raising awareness and proposing improvements of risk mitigation funds or targeted financing mechanisms;
- 3) Mapping the needs for training and capacity building, where possible at a regional level, and identifying available instruments to overcome possible gaps and develop regional or country specific initiatives to address them.

¹ Geothermal energy projects at different stages of development

- 4) Facilitating access of projects to financing and risk mitigation instruments, including, through IRENA's Sustainable Energy Marketplace and supporting project development tools (such as, IRENA's Project Navigator), with specific facets dedicated to geothermal heating and cooling and to geothermal electricity.

Action 4 - Global Geothermal Network: Establishing and improving a robust global network of geothermal experts building upon existing networks. Such a network should also ensure a coordinated representation of the GGA at energy and climate related key events. Promoting geothermal energy's role in supporting decarbonisation strategies in the countries and helping move forward with the implementation of their climate plans, including, Intended Nationally Determined Contribution's (INDC).

Activities and projects selection criteria

Proposals for GGA activities received from the GGA constituency and the projects that seek GGA support will go through a screening process taking into account the following criteria:

- **National Commitments:** For projects that are seeking support (Action 2), clear indication of the interest of the Government or regional organisation in technical assistance and/or support for access to financing in the context of the objectives of the GGA²;
- **Near-term Impacts:** The likelihood that supported measures will contribute to a near term improvement of framework conditions for the active development of markets for geothermal energyservices;
- **Long-term Sustainability:** The likelihood that the GGA assistance will lead to sustained impacts on fostering geothermal energy deployment;
- **Complementarity:** The potential for GGA to complement relevant activities of other bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors and development partners, including activities by IRENA;
- **Replicability:** The potential for GGA activities to be replicated in other regions or countries;
- **Projects in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** will be given special attention.

Implementation modalities

This Action Plan is developed by GGA members, in consultation with GGA partners, as laid down by the GGA Joint Communique. GGA member countries and partners are not required to contribute a membership fee. IRENA will provide essential coordination and facilitation support to the GGA, as per the IRENA Work Programme. GGA members may support IRENA on this function by providing, if required, staffing either through loan of national experts or through voluntary contributions. GGA members and partners intend to bear the costs associated with GGA coordination activities, such as meetings of the committee governing the GGA. In this regard, GGA members and partners endeavour to select logistical options that lessen the financial burden (e.g. the meetings of the

² The overall objective of the Global Geothermal Alliance, as stated in its joint communique released on 7 December 2015 at UNFCCC COP21, is the following one: "The Alliance will contribute to the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) target to double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030, through the promotion of collaborative actions supporting accelerated deployment of geothermal energy. In this regard, the Alliance calls on governments, the industry and other stakeholders to support efforts towards achieving the deployment of realisable geothermal energy potential through a fivefold growth in the global installed capacity of geothermal power generation and more than two-fold growth in geothermal heating compared to the 2014 levels by 2030 as shown by the IRENA REmap 2030 analysis."

committee governing the GGA may not necessarily be held in the country of the committee chair, they can be held through electronic meeting place or can be co-located with relevant events, such as, the IRENA Assembly or other events which members may be attending).

For the proposals for national and regional activities received based on this Action Plan, which meet the selection criteria set above, members and partners express interest to support and fund the activities in question. Such proposed activities should be discussed, further developed, where necessary supplemented by thematic studies, and eventually implemented through dedicated smaller groups of committed members and partners. Implementation framework for a specific activity should be developed on a case by case basis among interested members and partners. The GGA activities are expected to focus on key issues impeding the development of geothermal resources e.g. policy and regulatory frameworks, in particular, concerning the creation of enabling framework for public and private sector participation, development of and access to adequate financial and risk mitigation mechanisms.

IRENA may also lead or contribute to regional or country specific geothermal activities, depending on staff and funding resources made available to IRENA by the GGA members and/or partners and/or other donors and in accordance with IRENA's Work Programme. GGA activities led or contributed by IRENA are expected to be funded through voluntary contributions to IRENA. The resources received should be earmarked to support the implementation of specific GGA actions to allow a transparent reporting of expenses to the various donors.

Activity-oriented voluntary contributions should be sought from GGA member countries and partner institutions like international financial institutions (IFIs), intergovernmental organizations, and other initiatives, or from private companies. The breadth and depth of the GGA's constituency should allow for a timely recognition of emerging topics and for a rapid response to address them. Hence, GGA's management methods will need to be flexible. IRENA may facilitate the selection process of projects that seek support from GGA (as per Action 2 above) in consultations with the GGA constituency.