



**SMART VILLAGES**

New thinking for off-grid communities worldwide

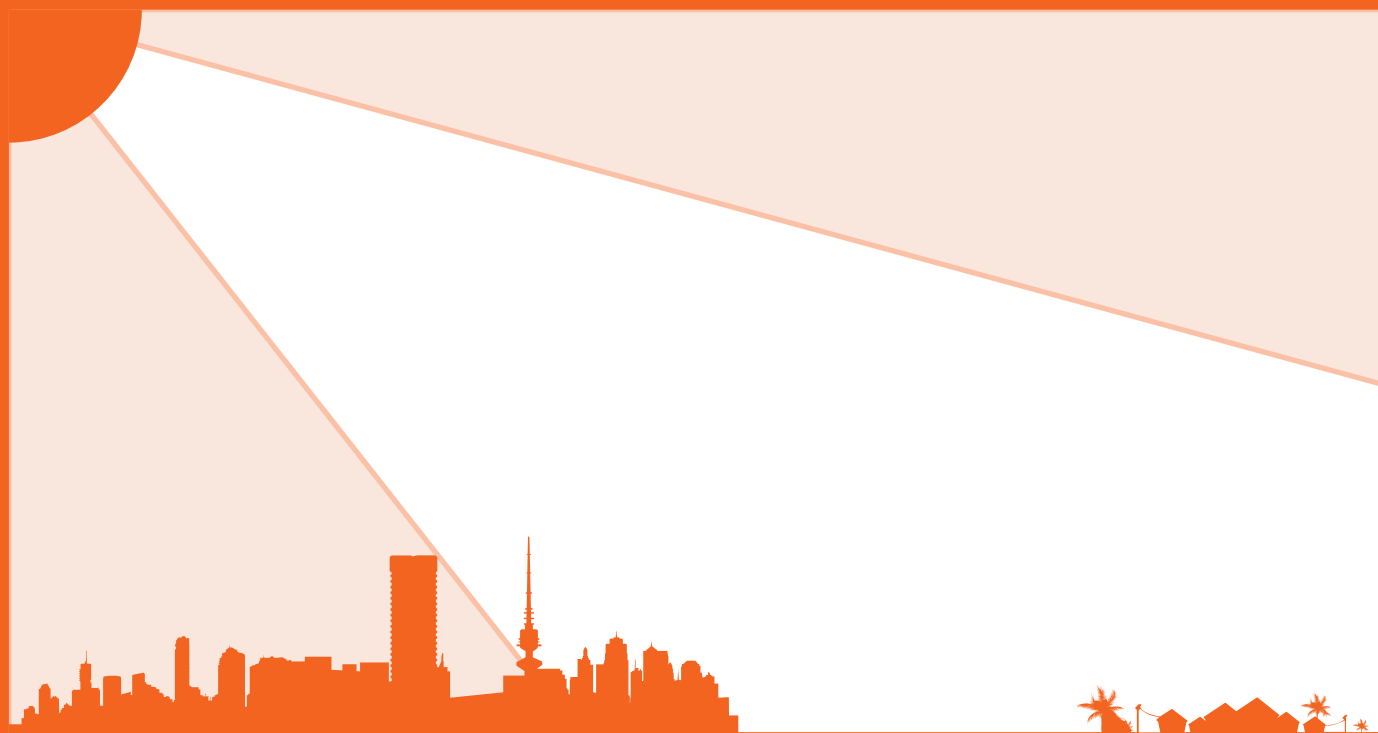
**SNV**

# Invitation

## Smart Villages, West Africa Regional Workshop

May 23 – May 25, 2016

Mensvic Grand Hotel, Lome Street, Accra, Ghana



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Dear Sir/Madam,

The **Smart Villages Initiative** in partnership with **SNV Ghana** is pleased to invite you to the inaugural Smart Villages regional workshop in West Africa.

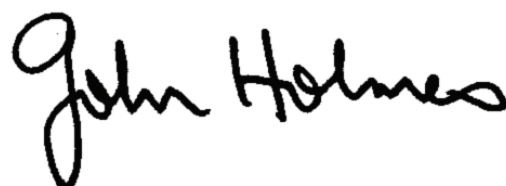
Over a period of three years, the Smart Villages Initiative is conducting workshops and follow-up engagement activities across East and West Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and Central and South America focusing on energy provision to off-grid rural areas and how that energy can catalyse development. The workshop marks the start of the Initiative's regional engagement in West Africa and aims to garner valuable insights on the off-grid energy situation in remote rural areas in the region.

It is envisaged that the workshop will provide relevant insights to guide the Smart Villages Initiative's subsequent country-level engagements in the West Africa.

**Venue:** Mensvic Grand Hotel, Lome Street, Accra, Ghana

**Date:** May 23 – May 25, 2016

Sincerely yours,



**Adriaan de Jager**  
Chief Executive  
SNV Ghana

**Dr. John Holmes**  
Co-leader  
Smart Villages Initiative

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## Provisional programme

### Monday, 23 May

- 0900 **Registration**
- 0930 **Welcome Address**
- 0945 **Introduction to the Smart Villages Initiative**
- 1045 **Workshop Objectives**
- 1100 **Tea Break**
- 1130 **Panel Session 1: Opportunities for improving energy access in West Africa:**
- 1230 **Q&A and Discussion on East Africa's experience of deploying off-grid energy solutions**
- 1300 **Lunch**
- 1415 **Entrepreneurs in the off-grid energy ecosystem in West Africa: Elevator Pitches**
- 1515 **Tea Break**
- 1545 **Plenary Session: Discussion on entrepreneurial case studies**
- 1645 **Recommendations from the day's session**

### Tuesday, 24 May

- 0915 **Panel Session 2: Supporting energy access in off-grid areas:  
The role of public, private and multi-lateral investment**
- 1100 **Tea Break**
- 1100 **Breakout Session 1:**
  - How can financing bottlenecks facing off-grid energy projects be alleviated?
  - What are the mechanisms through which co-ordination between different financing agencies at the local, national and multi-lateral can be improved for off-grid energy projects?
  - How can investment be promoted in the production and dissemination of improved cookstoves?
- 1230 **Report back to Plenary**
- 1300 **Lunch**
- 1400 **Panel Session 3: Linking improved energy access to increased opportunities for  
gainful employment**
- 1545 **Tea Break**
- 1615 **Plenary discussion:**
  - What are the framework conditions necessary for improved energy access to contribute to improved livelihoods and productivity increases in rural areas?
  - How can women gain from improved energy access?
  - What is the role of credit in promoting rural enterprises in these areas?
- 1730 **Recommendations from the day's session**
- 1900 **Formal Dinner**

### Wednesday, 25 May

- 0915 **Panel Session 4: Linking improved energy access to increased access to essential  
services (markets, health, education, democracy)**
  - 1015 **Breakout Session 2:**
    - How can improved energy access contribute to broad-based socio-economic growth in rural communities?
    - Can community ownership of off-grid energy access projects be improved and does it increase long-term economic sustainability of these projects?
    - What steps can be taken to increase local women's participation in the design and implementation of improved cookstove interventions?
  - 1200 **Report back to Plenary**
  - 1230 **Closing Remarks**
  - 1300 **Lunch**
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The **Smart Villages Initiative** aims to provide policymakers, donors, and development agencies concerned with rural energy access with new insights on the real barriers to energy access in villages in developing countries—technological, financial and political—and how they can be overcome. We have chosen to focus on remote off-grid villages, where local solutions (home- or institution-based systems and mini-grids) are both more realistic and cheaper than national grid extension. Our concern is to ensure that energy access results in development and the creation of ‘smart villages’ in which many of the benefits of life in modern societies are available to rural communities.



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