

**Project Proposal for the  
Creation of an Enabling Agency for the Expansion of Multifunctional Platforms in  
Rural West Africa**

*Fatma Denton  
ENDA-TM, Dakar*

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Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria, Canada  
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**Summary**

The project is proposing to create an *enabling agency* that would have three main objectives: to (1) co-ordinate, (2) manage, and (3) expand the Multifunctional Platform (MFP) Programme in West Africa. The MFP is an inexpensive, decentralised energy system that provides a wide range of energy services and income opportunities to the rural poor. It is a tried and tested technology used in countries mainly in West Africa in particular Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Guinea. The technology itself is very simple. The platform is mounted on small diesel engine. Different mechanical engines corresponding to different end use equipments such as grinding mills, oil presses, hullers, as well as alternators for electricity generation for lighting, battery charging, welding, carpentry, joinery and water pumping are attached to it.

The creation of an agency to manage entrepreneurial activities linked to the Multifunctional Platform has several benefits that are intricately related to sustainable development, the provision and improvement of energy services, economic security, rural development and, perhaps most importantly, gender equity. Women in rural Africa have over the years suffered from absence and severe deficit of energy especially household energy. They often have to rely on thei

