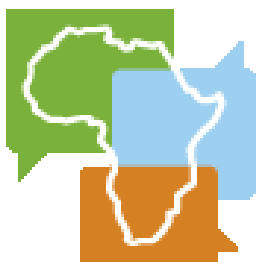


## UPDATE — OCTOBER 2009



### Africa Rural Connect Prize

Energy For Opportunity's idea of [Creating a Solar Revolution in West Africa](#) recently received second prize in the Peace Corps monthly Africa Rural Connect. EFO received prize money of US\$2,000 to go towards the implementation of its idea, and is now also in a further competition to win US\$20,000, which will be adjudicated in November. All of us at EFO would like to send out a big thanks to all of those who took the time to log into the Africa Rural Connect website and vote for our idea.



Currently EFO has a new idea up on the Africa Rural Connect page, called [Village Power—The Community Power Station](#) which builds on our previous idea with a specific implementation outline for one of EFO's key program areas. If you haven't already please use the above link to find out more information about the idea, and of course if you like it, endorse it, and help EFO to win more money to be used towards its projects.

### The Formal Establishment of EFO

While EFO's work is focused in West Africa its governance boards will operate from both Canada and Australia. EFO is currently in the process of registering for charity status in the two countries, while board of directors for both countries have been selected. EFO is also being registered as a Non-government Organisation (NGO) in Sierra Leone, and is now recognized as an NGO in the Bombali and Koinadugu districts where EFO is working. [Sierra Leone](#) is EFO's first country of focus, while programmes are also currently being developed with local NGO partners in [Mali](#) and [Benin](#). It is EFO's ambition in future to establish a strong presence across the entire West Africa region.

Dear All,  
Welcome to Energy For Opportunity's first organizational update. From time to time we will be publishing short updates to keep everybody informed of EFO's activities and progress. We thank for you for your early interest in EFO and look forward to sharing our work with you, while counting on your future support.

### EFO's First Formal Project

EFO and the US based organization [Inveneo](#) will team up to supply power and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure to two local Microfinance Institutes in Sierra Leone.

The project will partner with the Sierra Leone based HOPE Micro and the Association for Rural Development (ARD) and will result in ICT equipment and solar installations for their various offices. EFO will be directly responsible for two solar office installations in Makeni (a city in the north of the country), as well as installing back-up and other power equipment for offices in Freetown (Sierra Leone's capital city).

Students from the training solar programme at Freetown's Government Technical Institute will also be involved and will gain valuable practical experience from this project.



Map of West Africa