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***IMPROVING ENERGY ACCESS. THE POSSIBLE
CONTRIBUTION OF RETs TO POVERTY ALLEVIATION.***

**The Role of Renewables in Enhancing Electricity Access for
the Poor in Brazil**

*CentroClima/COPPE, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and
CENBIO/IEE, University of São Paulo, Brazil*

Abstract

The most significant prospects to increasing energy access in isolated systems includes the use of renewable energy sources. As mentioned in Chapter 4, renewable energy sources, such as PV (photovoltaic), biomass, mini hydro, and others, can be provided with the help of local resources to isolated communities. This can guarantee supply (as local resources are used), have much lower environmental impacts, and make for energy independence, among other advantages (Goldemberg 2002).

In 1993, the Brazilian electric sector initiated a restructuring process by unbundling the generation, transmission, and distribution components of the existing companies some years ago. This ultimately led to the privatization of most of the service distribution assets and some of the service generation assets. However, little attention was paid in the process to the expansion of the services to low-income and rural areas.

This paper presents a general overview of the Brazilian electricity situation, identifies the main barriers and the current policies.

Then the paper shows the RET available in the country, the potential of each source and points the more adequate option to improve energy access either in interconnected and isolated systems.