



A Source of Peace – Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia

Community-based power supply in remote rural areas

Context

Electricity supply in remote rural areas of Tajikistan has been deteriorating since the collapse of the Soviet Union. In particular, harsh winters bring with them unreliable power supplies adding to the suffering of rural communities. This situation not only limits the potential for developing the region’s economy and agriculture but, with its implications for the environment and health, it also decreases living standards. Dashti-Obburdon in the upper Serafshan valley is one such village where the situation is already forcing people to migrate to the cities.



The remote village of Dashti-Obburdon with a population of about 800 people

The expansion of reliable rural electrification is a way out of this situation. Unlike large-scale hydropower interventions, locally fitted mini hydro power stations (MHPS) are better suited for remote rural areas. The Government of Tajikistan has adopted a programme to significantly increase the

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number of mini and small hydro power stations by 2020. This project supports the implementation of this programme by piloting the construction of one MHPS and building the necessary local capacity for its operation and maintenance.

Objective

The purpose of this project is to increase reliable power supply in the remote rural community of Dashti-Obburdon by constructing a MHPS. Overcoming the lack of reliable electricity supply helps raise the standard of living and reduce the pressure on local inhabitants to migrate to the cities.

To meet this objective cross-sector capacity building in integrated water management is essential. This will focus in particular on water as a renewable energy source and on establishing a sound institutional framework for the construction and maintenance of the MHPS.



Dashti-Obburdon canyon

Measures

To meet the project's objective the following measures will be undertaken:

Firstly, the location for siting the MHPS will be identified using criteria to evaluate socio-economic and environmental suitability and technical feasibility. Next, the National Research Project Institute (Nurofar) will design the scheme and source necessary legal permits. After a thorough tender process, the winning bidder will build the power station.

During the plant's design and construction, the project will help the local community develop the skills and knowledge

required to operate and maintain the MHPS. To that end, it will also help set up a hydropower users association.



Planned site of the MHPS at Dashti-Obburdon river

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