



Senegal/Mali/Mauritania: OMVS-Felou Regional Hydropower Project

In 1972, the riparian countries of the Senegal River Basin established a robust legal and institutional framework—the Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Sénégal (OMVS)—to ensure multi-purpose water resources development, including electricity supply. The primary beneficiaries are about 1.5 million people who presently reside in the river’s catchments, 50% of whom live in Senegal, 20% in Mauritania and 30% in Mali. A special purpose company—Société de Gestion de l’Energie de Manantali (SOGEM)—which is also jointly owned by the OMVS riparian countries runs a unique sub-regional power system. The OMVS Power System is comprised of a 200 megawatt hydroelectric plant at the foot of the Manantali dam in Mali, a 1,000 kilometer long system of 225 kilovolt transmission lines and sub-stations that deliver electricity to consumers in Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

Under the OMVS Second Generation Hydropower Program, a 59 megawatt run-of-river hydroelectric plant is to be installed on the Senegal River about 200 kilometers downstream of the Manantali Dam at Felou, a site with an existing weir that is only 15 kilometers away from the Kayes sub-station of the OMVS power system. Estimated project investment is \$1.6 million per megawatt installed, yielding an average electricity production cost of \$0.05 per kilowatt hour—that is, a cost lower than the current weighted-average cost of grid electricity supply in each of the OMVS riparian countries. The Spanish Carbon Fund intends to purchase greenhouse gas emission reductions amounting to 650,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent that the project will generate.



“*The Felou project will allow the three benefiting countries to have a hydropower project to generate clean and renewable energy. This hydro energy will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, developing local communities in a sustainable way and developing rural economies in the region.*”

Mohamed Salem Ould MERZOUG
OMVS' High Commissioner

