



## Sierra Leone: Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project (BHP)

The Bumbuna dam is a run-of-river hydropower complex, located in Sierra Leone on the upper reaches of the Seli (Rokel) River in the valleys of the Sula Mountains of the Tonkolili district, about 200 kilometers northeast of Freetown. The project was 85% complete when construction work was suspended in May 1997 due to the conflict raging in the country.

The current situation of the power supply in Sierra Leone is extremely severe. In Freetown the power supply can cover only a minor part of the demand. Electricity is available to Freetown customers only for a few hours every three to seven days. Most areas in the interior are wholly or largely without power supply. This situation negatively impacts not only the quality of life of Sierra Leone citizens, but also the competitiveness of small business and of national industry.

The objective of the Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project (BHP) is to provide adequate and reliable energy supply to the most densely populated Western Area, including the capital Freetown, and to meet the current energy demands at the lowest possible cost and in a sustainable manner.

The BHP project will provide a reliable supply of energy that would meet nearly the entire current electrical needs of the Western Area, including Freetown. Moreover the electricity generated by the project will service new towns, currently not connected to the power grid. The quality of life will improve as communities stop relying on noisy, polluting and expensive power generators.

An emission reductions purchase agreement has been signed for the NCDMF to buy 880,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent that will be generated by the project.



“*The peace achieved in Bumbuna is a sure sign that the people are ready for development. The project contractors and authorities will now have the opportunity to work in a peaceful atmosphere... This clearly shows the effectiveness of a bottom up and participatory approach to conflict resolution and development.*”

**Thomas Moore-Turay**  
Peace Process Facilitator of the Kalansogoia Chiefdom