

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/africa-urged-to-manage-hydropower-and-water-issues-simultaneously-2009-07-28>

## HYDROPOWER

# Africa urged to manage hydropower and water issues simultaneously

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By: [Chanel Pringle](#)

28th July 2009

TEXT SIZE



The issue of hydropower and sustainable development could not be looked at in isolation and countries had to start managing hydropower, water and climate change at the same time, International Hydropower Association vice-president Dr **Terry Moss** said on Tuesday.

Moss told the Hydropower Africa conference in Johannesburg that Africa's goals in terms of water, energy, climate change and development challenges were converging.

He emphasised the importance of proper water resource management for the continent, saying that there was a growing appreciation of the link between hydropower and water management.

Further, Moss stated that while hydropower remained largely untapped in Africa, there was increasingly more focus on such projects.

The world's current hydropower production stood at about 2 889 TWh/y, while there was potential to boost this to 8 600 TWh/y.

Of this, Africa only produced about 7% of what it potentially could produce, compared with South America, which produced about 33% of its potential capacity, Europe with 75% and North America with 69%.

Edited by: [Mariaan Webb](#)

## HYDROPOWER

# Westcor to withdraw from Inga 3 hydropower project

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By: **Esmarie Swanepoel**

31st July 2009

TEXT SIZE



The Western Power Corridor (Westcor) chief executive Dr **Pat Naidoo** on Friday said that the joint-venture company would look at developing smaller projects in Angola and Namibia, as it planned to withdraw from the Inga 3 hydropower project on the Congo river.

Speaking at an event hosted by the South African Institute for Electrical Engineers, Naidoo said that one of Westcor's members, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), had decided to change its project mandate, in flight.

Westcor was established in 2003 as national power producers from the DRC, South Africa, Angola, Botswana and Namibia decided to explore renewable energy options in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. The Inga project was initially identified as the most significant hydropower project in Africa.

Naidoo noted that of the 5 000 MW which would have initially been provided by the Inga 3 project, about 3 000 MW would have gone to South Africa, 1 000 MW to the DRC and the remaining 1 000 MW would have been shared by the other project shareholders.

However, he said that the DRC had now decided to develop the project on its own. "The DRC government has said to us that they would like to take on the development of the Inga 3 on their own in order to cater for the supplies of principally, BHP Billiton's energy demand for its proposed smelter. So they would develop the power station themselves, which is very unlikely."

Although no official announcement has been made by the DRC, Naidoo said that it was clear from meetings with shareholders and affected parties that it was meeting with resistance in the DRC. "We are under no illusions."

Naidoo stated that as Westcor had no recourse to prevent the DRC from developing the project on its own, the matter would now be handed over to the SADC. He stated that an argument for the joint development of the Inga 3 project would be presented to the SADC at its meeting in August, after which the project would hopefully be reinstated.

"But if we cannot, then we will move on and do other schemes," Naidoo said.

Westcor has also requested a new mandate from its shareholders in which it would request permission from the SADC to approach Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia for concessions to explore the development of potential sites along the Zambezi and Intombi rivers in Southern Africa.

"These river systems are much more closer to us. We left them behind at the time [of the Inga development] because of the Zimbabwe issue, but we believe that Zimbabwe has made some progress and we can return to the Zambezi," Naidoo said.

Westcor would also look to develop the 6 000 MW Cuanza river hydropower project, in Angola, and the 1 600 MW lower Kunene river hydropower project, in Namibia.

However, Naidoo warned that all remaining African hydropower projects were relatively small, making them uneconomical. "We will investigate the other small ones, but you will find that in the economics of things, they do not

have the economics of sale to make the push.”

As Westcor only had a renewable mandate, it would not be able to participate in any nuclear or thermal coal projects, once all renewable energy resources have been investigated.

He noted that if the DRC did not come to the party regarding the Inga 3 project, and if other renewable projects were not identified before March 31, 2010, Westcor would disband.

“Our mandate is March 31 next year. If we are not moving by then, then we will close operations. We can’t incur costs because we are dealing with public money.”

Edited by: [Mariaan Webb](#)

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## HYDROPOWER

# New 250-MW Uganda hydropower plant to be operational mid-2011

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By: [Chanel Pringle](#)

28th July 2009

TEXT SIZE



A 250-MW hydropower plant being constructed in Uganda, Bujagali, was expected to support economic growth and reduce poverty in the country, while also reducing tariffs and tariff subsidies being paid by the Ugandan government.

Ugandan Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development acting commissioner for energy, **James Baanabe**, told the Hydropower Africa conference in Johannesburg on Tuesday, that levelled out tariffs for the project would amount to about \$0,6/kWh and about \$0,11/kWh during the repayment of loans for the project.

This would be much lower than the \$0,25/kWh to \$0,31/kWh cost of the thermal generation capacity the plant would replace.

Baanabe noted that this would allow the government to reduce the amount of money it spent on subsidising tariffs in the country.

Construction on the plant started in 2007 and was expected to take about 44 months to complete. The first of the five turbines at the plant would start providing power by mid-2011.

The civil works portion of the project, being undertaken by engineering, procurement and construction contractor Salini, of Italy, was about 35% completed, while the electromechanical works, being undertaken by Alstom as subcontractors, were progressing on schedule and about 60% completed.

Work has also started on rolling out the transmission line, reported Baanabe.

Baanabe said that the plant would cater for the high demand for power in Uganda, with demand growing at about 8% a year.

Further, the plant, along with other power projects in the country, would make it possible for Uganda to trade some of its power with its neighbours.

However, a large obstacle was the lack of interconnections in the region.

Some projects were under way to connect Uganda with Kenya, Tanzania and with Rwanda. It was also looking into constructing potential interconnections with Congo and Sudan, said Baanabe.

The developers of the project, Bujagali Energy Limited (BEL), would sell electricity to local power utility the Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL) through a 30-year power purchase agreement.

Payment by UETCL was being guaranteed through a government guarantee.

The project was being funded on a 75:25 debt to equity ratio, with several financial institutions providing funding.

This included: \$130-million from the International Finance Corporation, \$110-million from the African Development Bank, \$73-million from Proparco and Agence Française de Développement, \$45-million from DEG and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, £100-million from the European Investment Bank and \$115-million from commercial banks, including Absa and Standard Chartered.

Edited by: [Mariaan Webb](#)

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## HYDROPOWER

# Eskom's Ingula project delayed to early 2013

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By: [Chanel Pringle](#)

28th July 2009

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The commissioning of the first unit of Eskom's Ingula pumped-storage scheme, on the border between the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal, has now been delayed by between three and four months from its initial 2012 commissioning date.

Eskom corporate specialist for hydro **Frans Louwriener** told a conference on Tuesday that the first 333-MW unit of the nearly R17-billion project would only be commissioned by January 2013.

The other three units would be commissioned in April, July and the last one in October 2013, he said.

The first unit was initially expected to be commissioned by September 2012, while the remainder of the units would have been commissioned by 2013.

Earlier this month, Eskom had confirmed that its Medupi project, South Africa's first new coal power station to be built in more than two decades, was between four and six months behind its initial schedule.

The first 800-MW unit of the 4 800-MW Medupi power station had initially been expected to be operational by September 2011.

Edited by: [Mariaan Webb](#)

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