



Stories that Matter | March 2024

East Africa

Region Looks to Tanzania's Mega Project to Plug Regional Electricity Gap

East Africa's electricity supply is set for a boost once the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project goes online. At the 16th meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers on Energy recently held in Arusha, the ministers said the 2,115MW, USD 2.9 billion project across the Rufiji River will be a game-changer in the region. The project is part of Tanzania's power master plan that aims to interconnect the Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia grids. "Energy plays a critical role in industrial development and investment promotion...and this project is a milestone that will reduce the deficit of electricity not only in Tanzania but in the entire region," said Shaib Hassan Kaduara, Minister of Water, Energy and Minerals of Zanzibar.

According to the International Energy Agency, more than 800 million people – 11 percent of the world's population – live without reliable electricity. Some 600 million live in Sub-Saharan Africa, and about 82 million live in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. At the sectoral meeting, partner states reported that investments in wind and solar energy infrastructure were also underway, from Burundi's solar mini-grids to Kenya's wind and solar projects aimed at increasing renewable energy contributions to the national grids.

Source: The East African