Enhanced access to electricity for Southern Africa

“The Caprivi Interconnector inaugurated today will enhance electricity supply to NamPower’s customers and reinforce Namibia’s role in the regional electricity network.”

Paulinus Shilamba, NamPower
Managing Director

Context

The Northern part of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) has an abundance of hydro generation sources, while the Southern SAPP has mainly coal based generation opportunities. The Caprivi Interconnection Line is therefore a necessity to allow the Southern SAPP to use less coal. It is also critical to secure Namibia’s supply as Namibia depends mainly on South African supply capacity. Starting from the North-Eastern tip of Namibia, continuing along the Caprivi Strip, between Zambia and Botswana, and ending in central Namibia, the Caprivi Interconnection Line reinforces the electricity transmission interconnection between Zambia, Namibia and South Africa and provides a reliable route for electricity exports and imports.

Objectives

- To ensure the sustainability and security of energy supply in the SAPP region.

Impact

- A 300 MW High Voltage Direct Current transmission connection extending 950 km now interconnects Zambia and Namibia, ensuring the sustainability and security of energy supply in the Southern African Power Pool region.

- There is now greater competition among the energy sector in the Southern African Power Pool, and the people of Namibia benefit from cheaper and more reliable electricity.
"This project is a door-opener and an important milestone towards intensified co-operation between southern African countries in the energy sector. Joining forces will be required to cope with the energy crisis in Southern Africa. In a world that must reduce dependence upon limited and polluting fossil fuels, it provides greater opportunities for countries in the region that have considerable potential to develop and sell sustainable hydropower."

Klaus Gihr, KfW Head of Division for Energy and the Environment - Africa

"This project represents close European cooperation in supporting energy infrastructure essential for economic growth in southern Africa. The EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund helps implement the EU Strategy for Africa in key energy and other flagship infrastructure projects with regional benefits in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Caprivi Interconnector is the first project which received funding from the Trust in the form of a €15 million grant in interest subsidies and can serve as an excellent model for future investments of such a collaborative nature of European Development Finance Institutions."

Elisabeth Pape, EU Ambassador to Namibia

"The Caprivi Interconnector is an excellent example of Namibian-European co-operation and of harmonisation in the sense of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Three European development financing institutions – the European Investment Bank, the German Development Bank KfW, and the French AFD, each with a share of 35 million Euro and the Development Bank of Namibia with a share of 60 million NAD are co-operating with NamPower to finance a project of a scope that none of the partners would have been able to realise alone nor without the crucial support from the EU Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund."

Egon Kochanke, German Ambassador to Namibia