

Can a smart management of hydropower help power West Africa?

A smart management of hydropower, combined with solar and wind energy, can provide the flexibility needed to power West Africa and at cheaper cost than using natural gas, according to a simulation model.

What is the West African renewable power database (warpd)?

The database of the present and future hydro, solar and wind power projects in West Africa developed for this work is named the West African Renewable Power Database (WARPD). It combines information from existing databases, scientific papers, technical project descriptions, newspaper articles and tender documents for future projects.

What percentage of West Africa's electricity is generated by hydropower?

Hydropower provides 20% of West Africa's electricity with the remainder mostly generated from natural gas and oil 30, and thus currently accounts for nearly all of its RE. In a few countries, hydropower dominates the generation mix (Fig. 1a).

What role does hydropower play in West Africa's national energy strategies?

Hydropower's established role and the diversification towards other renewables are both reflected in West African national energy strategies 32.

When will hydropower projects be completed in West Africa?

The key target dates for planned projects, for example, for starting construction or commissioning, are often unknown. Because West Africa's hydropower capacity is targeted 32,57 to reach 13.8-14.5 GW by 2030, many of the hydropower projects classified as planned in the WARPD database are likely to be completed by then.

What is West Africa's hydropower potential?

The projects classified as potential add another 12.7 GW, bringing the aggregate of existing, ongoing, planned and potential projects to 26.7 GW, consistent with independent estimates of West Africa's total attractive hydropower potential (25-30 GW) 58,59.



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