

HUÓSHUI GROUPED SMALL HYDROPOWER CHINA

Clean energy for South West China's
remote mountain communities



This project consists of multiple small-scale hydropower plants that generate renewable energy for rural South West China. By supplying clean hydroelectric power to the local grid, the project displaces greenhouse gas emissions, helping mitigate climate change and improving the lives of local people.

The Context

The powerful rivers of China's mountainous South West can be harnessed to generate electricity for its remote communities and the wider region, but hydroelectric power plants require substantial investment to set up. Prior to the project, local communities experienced poor living conditions. At a time when 80 percent of China's energy demands were met by coal-fired power stations, these communities had unreliable access to electricity and there was little regional investment.

The Project

Huóshui Grouped Small Hydropower comprises a group of 95 hydropower plants with a total combined capacity of 215.71 MW that provide Southwest and Central China with clean energy to help sustainably meet the country's mounting energy demands. The small-scale plants range in capacity from 0.1 to 14 MW, and supply nearly 770,000 MWh of renewable energy to the regional grid on average each year. Their 'run-of-river' design allows them to do so with minimal environmental impact. The cost of developing hydropower plants in remote locations is a significant barrier to construction, and this project would not be possible without the revenue generated by carbon credits.

The Benefits

Huóshui Grouped Small Hydropower helps diversify China's energy sector and provides local employment opportunities in power plant construction and operation, alleviating regional poverty. The project activities also fund social initiatives in cooperation with local organisations, including disaster relief funds and educational programs. Sustainable agricultural workshops create increased income opportunities for local farmers, while the reliable electricity supplied by the project gives remote communities better access to electrical appliances that ameliorate their daily life.

The project funds a school support program that provides books, pencils, dictionaries and fresh fruit, as well as other school supplies, to local students.



192 students

involved in educational programs, learning about environmental protection



240 women

employed by the project, representing 30% of total workers



770,000 MWh

of renewable energy generated on average annually



179 people

in surrounding villages partaking in agricultural training programs



769,396 tCO₂e

mitigated on average each year

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: Grouped Hydropower Plants in Chongqing, Yunnan, Sichuan and Guizhou Provinces, P.R. China
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