Electricity sierra leone

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The current electricity supply is challenged by generation capacity and seasonal variation and is disseminated using inadequate and aging transmission and distribution networks. It is delivered at a very high cost with Sierra Leone having one of the highest electricity tariffs in the sub-region. There are numerous waterfalls for hydropower and abundant sunlight for solar power generation with an estimated hydro project potential of more than 1000MW, while solar opportunities are above 240 MW. The major hydropower facility, Bumbuna Dam, with a peak of 50MW during the rainy season, has a reduced output of 8MW in the dry season.

Other initiatives undertaken by the government include the establishment of a Rural Renewable Energy Project to support increased access to rural energy resources, a Rural Electricity Board and Rural Electricity Fund to promote and make electrification widely available in all regions, and a Renewable Energy Empowerment Project to develop a knowledge base of existing renewable energy policies. Additionally, the C?te d"Ivoire-Liberia-Sierra Leone-Guinea (CLSG) interconnector project, under the West African Power Pool (WAPP) program, aims to provide an increased supply of electricity to these countries to meet the growing demand and will create an incentive for hydropower potentials that exist in Sierra Leone.

U.S. investors interested in engaging in the energy sector in Sierra Leone can also seek support through Power Africa. Power Africa is a market-driven, U.S. Government-led public-private partnership aiming to double access to electricity insub-SaharanAfrica. It offers tools and resources toprivate sector entities tofacilitate doing business insub-SaharanAfrica"s power sector. The Electrify Africa Act of 2015Institutionalized Power Africa. Learn more about the fullPower Africa toolboxor otheropportunities offered by Power Africa.

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Power Africa supported Sierra Leone in 2015 with a $44.4 million four-year threshold program through the United States Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). The program addressed: strengthening the regulatory infrastructure; restructuring the water sector; streamlining the electricity sector; guiding the development of a roadmap for the implementation of reforms to enhance financial sustainability; and improved operational efficiency.

Consumer demand remains unmet. Electricity generation presents a future opportunity for U.S. investors, particularly in the supply of hydropower and solar energy as independent power producers to the Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority for commercial and residential consumption. The WAPP CLSG interconnector project also offers opportunities for investors.

The expected increase in agriculture and hence increased crop production will be a valuable source of materials for biomass, an alternative source of energy. Wind energy could be effective in coastal areas but, increased generation should be accompanied by the construction of transmission and distribution lines. While the government is looking for support from multilateral development partners, potential private sector investors can invest through public-private partnerships in the transmission and distribution capacity.