



Etalin Hydroelectric Project

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The Central Government has recommended a biodiversity study of the proposed **3,097 MW Etalin Hydroelectric Project** in **Arunachal Pradesh** by a credible international institute since the current environmental impact assessment was found to be “completely inadequate”.

- **Location**

- The Project is based on the **river Dibang**. It is proposed to be completed in **7 years**.

Dibang is a **tributary of the Brahmaputra river** which **flows** through the states of **Arunachal Pradesh** and **Assam**.

- It envisages **construction of two dams** over the **tributaries of Dibang: Dir and Tangon**.
- The Project falls under the “richest bio-geographical province of the Himalayan zone” and would be located at the junction of the Palaeartic, Indo-Chinese and Indo-Malayan bio-geographic regions.

- **Significance**

- The Project is in accordance with the Government’s push to establish **prior user rights on rivers that originate in China** and an effort to fast-track projects in the north-east.
- It is expected to be **one of the biggest hydropower projects in India** in terms of installed capacity.

- **Concerns**

- A total of 18 villages consisting of 285 families are expected to be affected by the proposed project.
- It would entail felling 2,80,677 trees and threatens the existence of globally-endangered mammal species.

Note:

- The **Biogeographic Zones** are the large distinctive units of **similar ecology**, biome representation, community and species, e.g., The Himalaya, The Western Ghats.

- **Palaeartic Zone** includes arctic and temperate Eurasia, and all islands surrounding the continent in the Arctic, in the sea of Japan, and the eastern half of the North Atlantic. It thus also includes the Macaronesian islands, Mediterranean North Africa and Arabia.
- The **Indo-Malayan Zone's** natural boundaries contain tropical Asia from the Balochistan mountains of Pakistan eastward to the Indian subcontinent south of the Himalayan crest, including the tropical southern fringe of China with Taiwan, the whole of SouthEast Asia, and the Philippines.

Source: TH