

Bhutan Energy Interconnection with Cuba



Overview

India and Bhutan review hydropower projects, cross-border power trade, and renewable energy cooperation.

Key Takeaways

There is currently no known energy interconnection or electricity trade between Bhutan and Cuba; Bhutan's international energy cooperation is primarily focused on India. Bhutan's Energy Partnerships

Bhutan's energy sector is dominated by hydropower, which forms the backbone of its economy and export revenue. The country has developed a strong bilateral energy partnership with India, centered on the construction and operation of major hydroelectric projects such as the Punatsangchhu-I (1200 MW) and Punatsangchhu-II (1020 MW) projects, as well as the Mangdechhu (720 MW) and Chhukha (336 MW) plants. These projects not only supply Bhutan's domestic electricity needs but also enable significant cross-border electricity trade with India, providing a stable revenue stream for Bhutan and supporting India's clean energy transition.

Cross-Border Electricity Trade with India



Bhutan and India have formalized their energy cooperation through Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and Power Sale Agreements (PSAs), which allow Bhutan to export surplus hydropower to India and import electricity during lean seasons when river flows are low . The agreements cover multiple plants, including the Nikachhu and Basochhu hydropower stations, and ensure seamless electricity exchange, grid stability, and long-term tariff predictability . Transmission infrastructure is being upgraded to support these exports, with high-voltage corridors linking Bhutan's hydropower plants to India's grid .

Absence of Bhutan-Cuba Energy Links

There is no evidence or official record of any energy interconnection, trade agreement, or cooperative project between Bhutan and Cuba. Bhutan's energy strategy and international partnerships are currently regionally focused, primarily with India, due to geographic proximity, shared river systems, and historical cooperation in hydropower development . Any potential energy collaboration with distant countries like Cuba would face significant logistical, technical, and economic challenges, making such interconnections highly unlikely at present.

Conclusion

While Bhutan is actively expanding its hydropower capacity and cross-border electricity trade with India, there is no known energy interconnection with Cuba. Bhutan's international energy engagement remains concentrated on regional partnerships that leverage its hydropower resources for economic development and energy security .

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Central Electricity Authority National Transmission Grid Master Plan (NTGMP) for Bhutan corresponding to 2020 & 2030

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A top Indian government official said, "India is open to permit transit of electricity from Nepal or Bhutan to countries

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Table 1: South Asian energy production by the private sector in MW in 2019 Source: Compiled from the respective

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