

Maputo energy transition

(The authors work as climate finance advisors for the Enabel, the Belgian development agency, seconded to the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Mozambique. They wrote this article in a personal capacity. The information in it does not necessarily reflect the position of Enabel or the Government of Mozambique).

On November 6th 2022, the 27th global conference on climate change will kick off in Sharm Al-Sheikh, Egypt. An estimated 30,000 world leaders and delegates, including 90 heads of state, will spend the coming two weeks discussing and updating each other on how global temperatures can be kept well below 2°C, and as close to 1.5°C as possible. One of the key discussion points will be the work programme to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade with the aim to as soon as possible close the emission gaps to keep the 1.5°C in reach.

Coal already constitutes the country's second largest export product representing 18% of export earnings and new investments are being announced for the expansion of the Maputo's coal terminal to deal with the worldwide increase in the demand for South African coal, part of which is using Maputo port as a conduit. When combusted, Mozambique's coal reserves would equal 650 years of the country's current annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Finally, based on the large gas discoveries over the past decade (representing up to 1.2% of global reserves), Mozambique may emerge as one of the largest LNG exporters in the world. Over the last years, large consortia led by Total Energies, Exxon Mobil and ENI have started preparing for scaling up the gas exploration in the northern region of the country, which, when the right measures are put in place, some people argue can provide a critical energy transition fuel for both the region and the world.

Presidente da República discursa Sessão Plenária da Cimeira das Nações Unidas sobre Mudanças Climáticas, COP 28, que decorre em Dubai, Emirados Árabes Unidos

Maputo, 4 Dec (AIM) - Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi launched on Saturday, in Dubai, the Energy Transition Strategy for 2023-2030, an initiative intended to place the country at the forefront of climate innovation, as well as making it an attractive investment destination.

"The Strategy's mission is to leverage Mozambique's abundant renewable and natural resources to accelerate the implementation of a low-carbon development path", Nyusi explained, speaking at the panel entitled "Unlocking Investment Opportunities in Mozambique's Energy."

According to Nyusi, over 75 percent of the energy consumed in the country is hydroelectric (which he regarded as clean and renewable), and only a third is produced by thermal power stations.

"In fact, Mozambique plays a key role in the energy transition in the region and the world in supplying southern Africa's energy needs, which will contribute to regional decarbonization", the President said.

Nyusi cited the Zambezi River as an example, which has the potential to produce 18,000 Megawatts, constituting a resource with immeasurable economic potential for low-carbon development at national and regional level.

Two power stations could be installed at Mphanda Nkuwa, with a total generating capacity of 2,400 megawatts. A second power station at Cahora Bassa would add 1,245 megawatts. Hydroelectric projects planned at Lupata, Boroma and Chemba could generate 1,440 megawatts.

Nyusi also believed that Mozambique's strategic position is reinforced by the existing electricity transmission lines and those under construction from the Zambezi Valley to South Africa and Zimbabwe.

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