



## Objections to Etalin Hydroelectric Project

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### Why in News

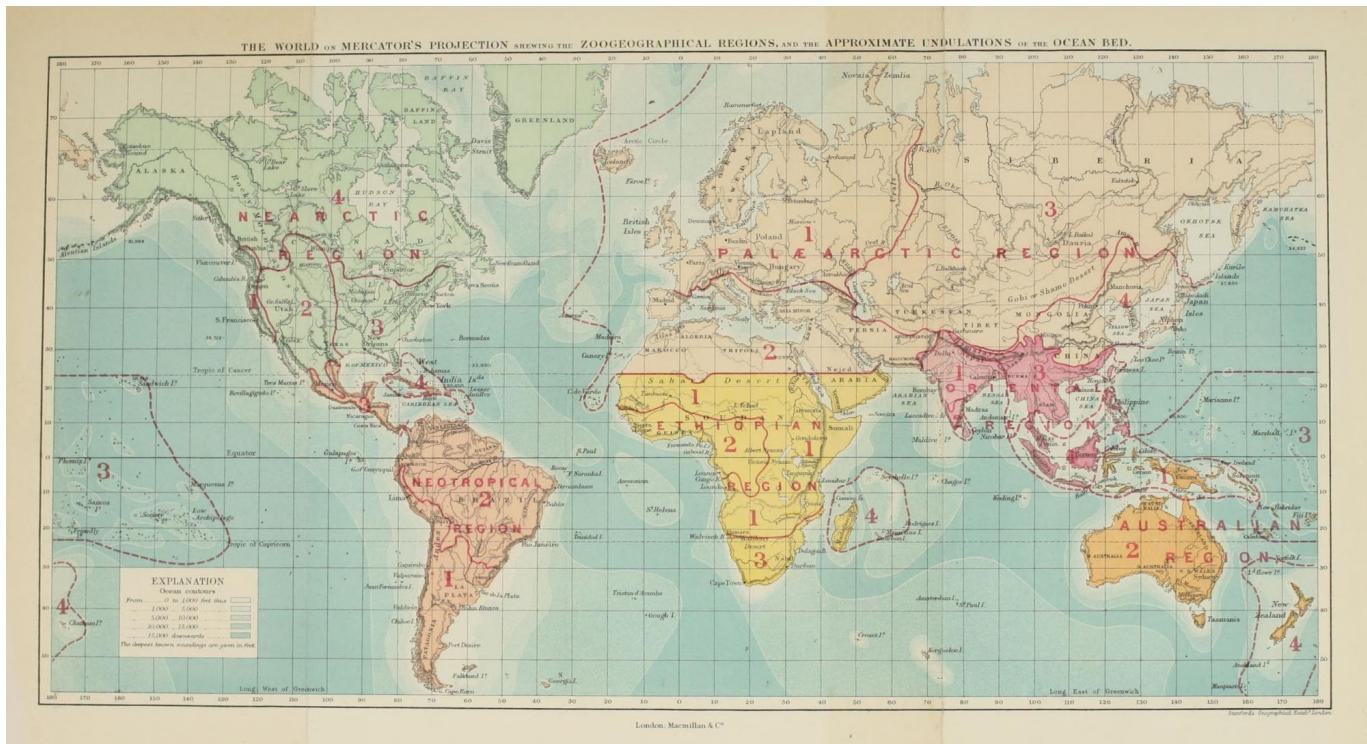
**National Board of Wildlife** **Etalin Hydroelectric Project** **Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh**. Recently, some conservationists and former members of the (NBWL) have sought rejection of approval for the in the

### Key Points

- **Dibang completed in 7 years.**  
**tributary of the Brahmaputra** Dibang is a river which flows through the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.  
The Project is based on the river and is proposed to be
- **envisages construction of two dams** **DirTangon**. It over the tributaries of Dibang: and
- **under the richest bio-geographical province of the Himalayan zone** **biogeographic** The Project falls and would be located at the junction of major zones like Palaearctic Zone and Indo-Malayan Zone.
- **one of the biggest hydropower projects in India** **installed capacity**. It is expected to be in terms of

### Biogeographic Regions

- These are the large distinctive units of similar ecology, biome representation, community and species.
- **six biogeographic regions** **Paleartic** **Nearctic** **Neotropical** **Ethiopian/Afrotropic** **Oriental/Indo-Malayan** **Australian** **Currently, eight are recognised** **Oceania** **Antarctica**. Originally, were identified: (Europe and Asia), (North America), (Mexico, Central and South America), (Africa), (Southeast Asia, Indonesia) and (Australia and New Guinea). since the addition of (Polynesia, Fiji and Micronesia) and



## Palaearctic Zone

- This 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 also includes the Macaronesian islands, Mediterranean North Africa and Arabia.

## Indo-Malayan Zone

Its 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.

## Background

- **Forest Advisory Committee**  
**Ministry of Environment Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**clear 2.7 lakh trees** The (FAC) of the (MoEFCC) highlighted that the project will in subtropical evergreen broad-leaved forest and subtropical rainforests.
- **may be allowed subject to the condition**  
**Wildlife Institute of India** According to a sub-committee of FAC, the project that the financial outlay of Wildlife Conservation Plan be deposited to the Forest Department by user agency on the basis of a study done by the (WII).
- **transferred the project**  
**Power Ministry**. However, there were protests by green groups due to which MoEFCC to the Union

## Criticism

- **ignored established tenets of forest conservation and related legal issues** Conservationists highlighted that the FAC sub-committee while recommending the proposal.

- **ignored the threat of forest fragmentation.**

**Forest fragmentation** results from ill-planned intrusion of developmental projects into contiguous landscapes with natural forests and threatens rare floral and faunal species in a biodiversity hotspot.

FAC

- **site inspection report was also questioned for leaving out key details**[\*\*Wildlife Protection Act.\*\*](#)

**1972 schedules of the** FAC's like number of grids across an altitudinal range inspected and the status of vegetation there, direct and indirect signs of wild animals listed in the various and overall appreciation of the ecological value of the area.

- **Environment Impact Assessmentinadequacy of the report**

Wildlife officials ignored observations which include the threat to 25 globally endangered mammal and bird species in the area to be affected.

The one on Etalin was also highlighted.

- **mitigation measuresinadequate and insufficient.** The proposed like setting up butterfly and reptile parks are

**Source: TH**