



# Etalin Hydropower Project

**Source: IE**

The **Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has granted **in-principle forest clearance** for the **3,097 MW Etalin run-of-the-river hydropower project**.

- **Location:** Etalin Hydropower Project is located in the **Dibang Valley**, Arunachal Pradesh, which is part of the **Eastern Himalaya Global Biodiversity Hotspot**, one of 36 such hotspots worldwide.
- **Rivers:** The project involves two gravity dams, one on the **Dri River** and another on the **Talo (Tangon) River**, both **tributaries of the Dibang River** (tributary of **Brahmaputra**).
- **Environmental Impact:**
  - **Deforestation:** The project will require the felling of **270,000 trees** and the **diversion of over 1,100 hectares** of unclassified forest land.
    - It has faced persistent **opposition** from the **indigenous Idu Mishmi community**.
  - **Biodiversity:** The region is home to **6 globally threatened mammal species**, 3 of which are **endangered**, and **3 are vulnerable**. It also harbors about **56% of India's bird species**, including **3 rare, restricted-range endemic bird species**.
    - The area hosts species like **tigers, leopards, snow leopards, black bears, musk deer, and Mishmi takin**.

**Run-of-the-River (ROR) Hydropower Project:** It is a type of hydroelectric power generation project that utilizes the natural flow and elevation drop of a river to produce electricity, without the need for a large dam or major water storage reservoir.

**FAC:**

- **FAC** is a **statutory body** under MoEFCC, constituted under the **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**.
  - It examines proposals for **diversion of forest land for non-forest uses** like mining, industrial projects, and townships, and **advises the government** on granting **forest clearances**. Its role is **advisory** in nature.

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