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## COMMISSIONING OF SUBSTATIONS AND LINES IN PROGRESS



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## EDITORIAL

The time has come to take stock of the installations and commissioning. The Soma substation was inaugurated and commissioned on 23 October by President Adama Barrow, in the presence of the Senegalese and Bissau-Guinean Heads of State. The Brikama substation is ready to be commissioned. In Senegal, the Kaolack and Tambacounda substations will be commissioned by the end of 2021, while for Tanaff and Kédougou, the final adjustments are currently being carried out. Indeed, all that remains for the dream to come true is the work to connect to the 30 kv network.

In addition to the substations that are gradually being introduced, the lines are also well under way and all will soon be put at the disposal of the electricity companies in the various member countries. The Kaolack-Birkelane-Tambacounda sections are ready, as is the Soma-Birkelane line. This gives hope to the people. Soon, electricity shortage and cuts will be a thing of the past.

In Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, despite the delay, the work remains on track thanks to the personal involvement of the High Commissioner and the highest authorities in both countries. In Guinea, if all goes according to plan, the substations in Labé, Mali, Linsan, Boké and Kaléta will be operational, for the most part, by the end of this semester at the latest. In Guinea-Bissau, the Saltinho and Bissau substations have already been completed, while the Bambadinca and Mansoa substations are planned for May 2022.

We are therefore at a turning point in the implementation of this Energy Project which will draw thousands and thousands of Gambians, Senegalese, Guineans and Bissau-Guineans out of darkness. This is a good example to show that natural resources, instead of being a source of conflict, are first and foremost a vector of concord and symbiosis between peoples. This is an opportunity for us to express our deep appreciation for the unfailing commitment of the authorities of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, who have spared no effort to remove all obstacles in order to speed up the work.

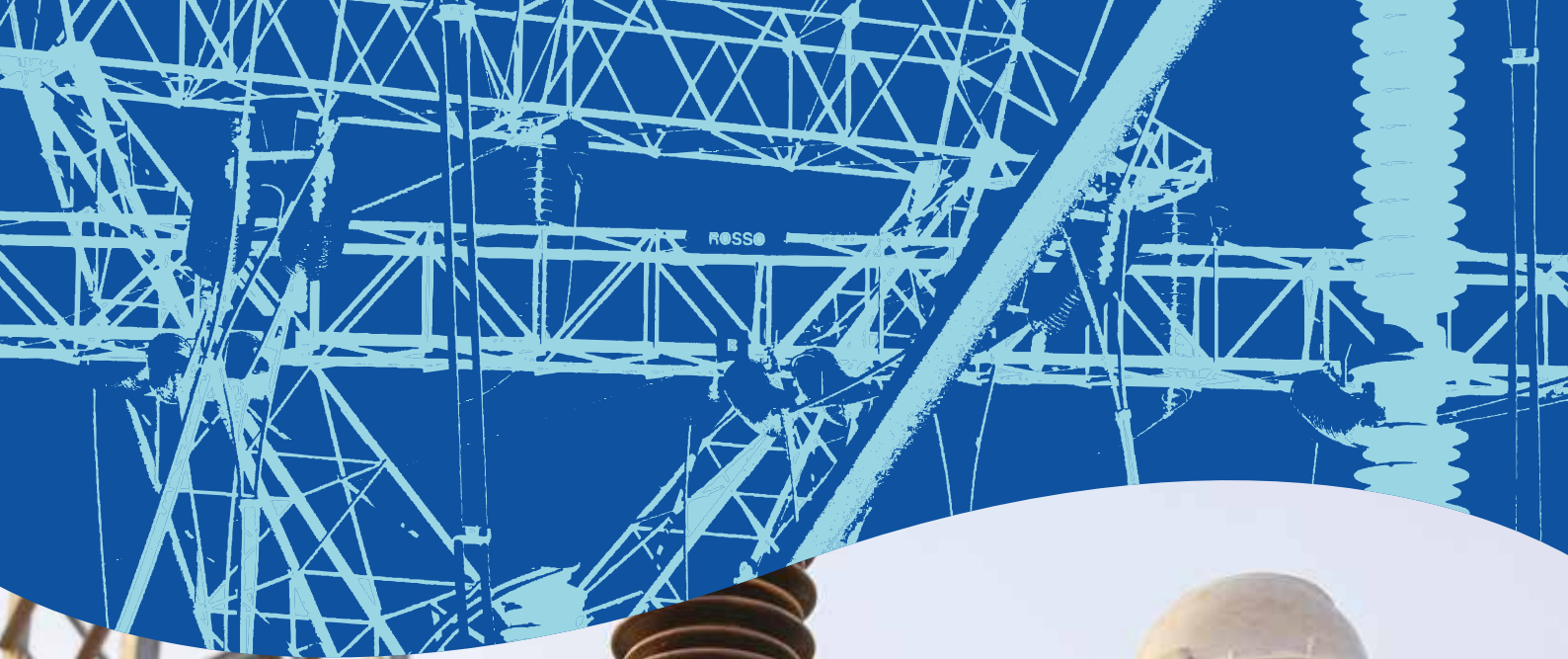
The same commitment was noted among all the Heads of State and Government of the Member States. It was in this same spirit that the Presidents of The Gambia, Senegal and Guinea-Bissau met last October to inaugurate the Soma substation. They have understood, to paraphrase Gambian President Adama Barrow, that the people of the OMVG deserve so much more. They deserve nothing less.

Enjoy your reading!



Elhadji Lansana Fofana  
OMVG High Commissioner





## OUR LATEST NEWS





## Inauguration of the Soma substation, a new step forward

Together, hand in hand, the Presidents of The Gambia, Senegal and Guinea-Bissau inaugurated last October the Soma transformation substation built within the framework of the OMVG (Organisation for the Development of the River Gambia) Energy Project.

Three years now since the commencement of work, the Gambian President Adama Barrow is pleased with the results. On 23 October 2021, speaking at the inauguration of the Soma transformation substation alongside his counterparts from Senegal and Guinea-Bissau, he said: "After years of hard work and patience, we are here to celebrate the success of this ground-breaking Project and to reap the rewards of our joint efforts and investments".

In the words of the current President of the OMVG, the Energy Project arouses great interest in the various member countries and should be presented as an example of integration in the entire West African sub-region and beyond. It should, he believes, serve as a reference and source of inspiration and emulation.

"I am also convinced that this Project will contribute to strengthening our relations and cementing the bonds of solidarity between our friendly countries," he added. For President Barrow, the Energy Project is also and above all a fine example of South-South cooperation and African integration.



Aerial view of the Soma transformer substation

## Soma, a choice for equity in energy access

After praising the international dimension and the integrative nature of the Project, President Adama Barrow stressed its vital interest for the people of The Gambia.

Soon, electricity shortage and cuts will be a thing of the past for many Gambians. Indeed, in the opinion of President Adama Barrow, the OMVG Energy Project is in line with the Gambia's energy policy, which is based on a sufficient power generation and universal access to electricity. In this drive to provide energy for all by 2025, the Gambian President says he is giving special attention to people in rural areas. Furthermore, he reassures the populations saying that "Soma and the surrounding localities will benefit from a regular supply of electricity distributed from the eponymous transformation substation".





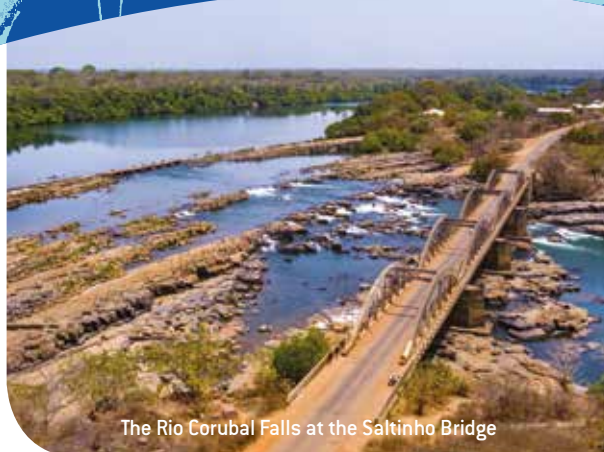


## River basins as bridges between peoples

On the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the Soma transformation substation, the Senegalese President, Macky Sall, emphasised the importance of river basins, which should serve as bridges between peoples, instead of keeping them at odds with each other.

River basins are a source of conflict in some regions and are an important lever in the development of OMVG member countries. According to President Macky Sall, the Energy Project shows once again how our countries' destinies are linked, as neighbours along the Gambia River and partners within the OMVG. He said that "the cross-border basins are often a source of conflict. This is not the case between us, Gambians, Bissau-Guineans, Guineans and Senegalese".

Thanks to the vision of our elders, President Sall added, "our countries understood very early on that the basins are a link between our peoples, factors of peace, progress and shared prosperity, through a rational exploitation of the many economic opportunities".



The Rio Corubal Falls at the Saltinho Bridge

According to him, this is a major achievement for the OMVG interconnected network. "With the already effective development of the Kaléta dam in Guinea, the forthcoming completion of the Sambangalou dam in Senegal and the construction of substations and interconnection lines, the OMVG continues to fulfil its vocation as a tool for development and integration at the service of its Member States," President Macky Sall is pleased to say.

Addressing warm congratulations to President Barrow, current President of the OMVG, to the High Commissioner and his collaborators, M. Macky Sall exclaimed "The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea and Senegal, let's move forward, together, hand in hand, all interconnected and enlightened. This is our common ambition for the progress and well-being of our populations".



## In Guinea, a contact visit...

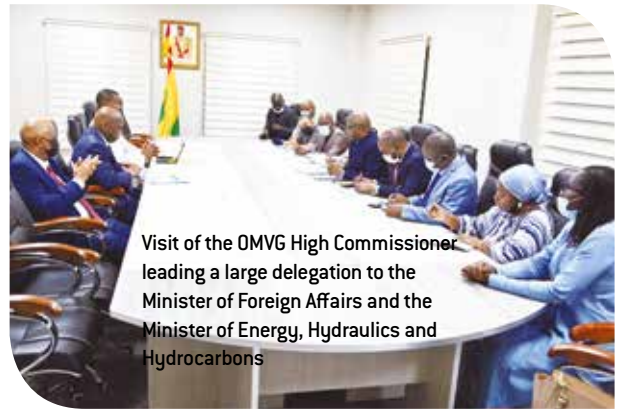
The OMVG High Commissioner, El Hadj Lansana Fofana, led an important delegation to the Republic of Guinea, from 12 to 19 December 2021, with a view to informing the new authorities of the Republic on the ambitious Projects of the Organisation.

At the head of a large delegation, the High Commissioner met with several authorities including the Prime Minister, the Minister of Energy, Hydraulics and Hydrocarbons, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, Integration and Guineans Abroad. The High Commissioner gave an update on the progress of the project before outlining the difficulties faced by the Project in Guinea.

In Guinea, the mountainous terrain and the deterioration of the Labé-Mali road, which complicate the transport of heavy equipment, have caused significant difficulties in terms of supply for aggregate needs.

Despite this unfavourable situation, the High Commissioner assured that the level of progress on the Boké substation is very appreciable and that it could be commissioned in the first half of 2022. According to him, the entire loop could be completed by December 2022 at the latest.

OMVG High Commissioner and his delegation meet with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea, Mr. Mohamed Beavogui, to present the Organisation and its Flagship Projects including the Energy Project (December 2021)



Visit of the OMVG High Commissioner leading a large delegation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Energy, Hydraulics and Hydrocarbons

## ... and the Satisfaction of Prime Minister Beavogui

The Guinean Prime Minister, Mohamed Beavogui, thanked the High Commissioner and his team for the progress made in the implementation of the Energy Project in Guinea. He recalled that the Republic of Guinea is a country with real hydroelectric potential, making it a highly important link in the OMVG interconnected system. Consequently, it encourages the development and diligent implementation of the remaining identified hydroelectric sites.

Following these audiences with certain members of the Government, the delegation, accompanied by the Minister in charge of Energy and Hydraulics, went to Boké to check on the progress of the transformation substation.

After commending the satisfactory level of execution, the Minister highlighted the opportunities offered by the Boké substation. EDG (Energie de Guinée) will be able to connect to this substation and supply the localities of Boké, Kolabounyi and Kamsar, which have long suffered from electricity shortages.







Visit of the Boké substation by H.E. Mr Ibrahima Abbé Sylla, Minister of Energy, Hydraulics and Hydrocarbons of Guinea and Mr Elhadji Lansana Fofana, OMVG High Commissioner, accompanied by their staff (December 2021)

## Access to energy, 148 Guinean localities will get out of the dark

As is the case with the other three Member States, Guinea will also benefit from the interconnection line. It is already envisaged to electrify 148 localities for a total amount of 205 million dollars, within the framework of the rural electrification programme implemented by OMVG and its partners, to connect the localities around the source substations and along the line.

## In Guinea-Bissau, the imperium of President Emballo

On December 2, 2021, President Umaro Sissoco Embaló visited the Energy Project's Bissau substation and reaffirmed his commitment and determination to speed up the works by clearing the covered surfaces.

The clearance of covered surfaces has long been a major obstacle in the implementation of the Energy Project in Guinea-Bissau. During his visit to the Bissau substation on 2 December 2021, President Umaro Sissoco Embaló made firm commitments in this regard. "The state owns the land," he said vigorously. "No one can therefore block the work, regardless of the legitimacy of their claims".

According to President Embaló, the works on the transformation substations of Salthingo, Bambandinca, Mansoa and Bissau are about 90% completed. The Head of State has given firm instructions to his government to do everything possible to ensure that the construction works can be completed in the best conditions. He also thanked the World Bank for having mobilised CFA francs 3 billion for the compensation of the affected populations.

Through the OMVG Energy Project, Guinea-Bissau's capital will receive 80 megawatts of electricity, compared to its current estimated needs of 30 MW. The work is expected to be completed between August and December 2022.



OMVG High Commissioner, leading a strong delegation, very honoured to welcome H.E. Umaro Sissoco Embaló, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, accompanied by members of his Government during the visit to Bissau substation (December 2021)



## WHERE DO OUR PROJECTS SITES STAND?



Tanaff interconnection line section (Sédhiou, Senegal)



## Substations and lines, key dates to remember

The year 2022 can be considered as decisive in the implementation of the Energy Project. Several batches of major lines and substations will be delivered and commissioned in the different countries. While the works in Guinea and Guinea-Bissau are experiencing some delay due to the rugged terrain and dense vegetation, those in Senegal and The Gambia are almost all completed and most of them have been commissioned.

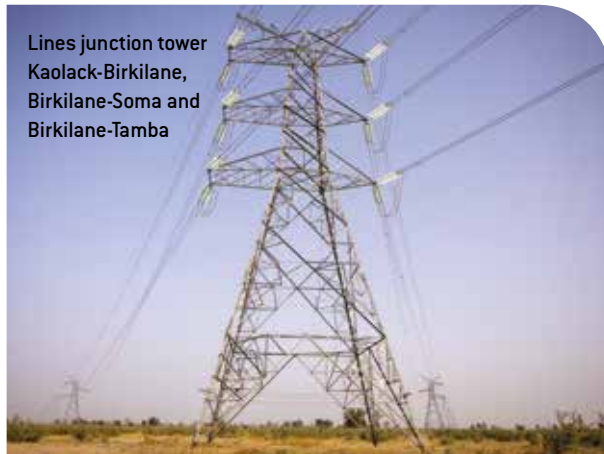
According to the established timetable, the Guinea batches of lines will be delivered by July 2022 at the latest. Meanwhile, the delivery of the Labé, Mali, Linsan and Boké substations and the Kaleta extension is due in April for Labé, July for Mali and Linsan, March for Boké and December for the Kaleta extension. The dispatching of Linsan, on the other hand, is planned for September. In Guinea-Bissau, if all blockages related to the clearance of sites coverage are lifted, all lines will be delivered by August 2022. The Saltinho and Bissau substations have been completed, while the delivery of Bambadinca and Mansoa substations is scheduled for May 2022.

## Final phase in The Gambia and Senegal

In The Gambia and Senegal, the works are well underway and are gradually being commissioned. For The Gambia, the Soma and Brikama substations are fully built. Soma was commissioned in October 2021, and everything is ready for Brikama.

In Senegal, the commissioning of the extension of the Kaolack substation and the Tambacounda substation has already taken place. The same applies to the Kaolack-Birkelane-Tambacounda and Soma-Birkelane lines. For the Tanaff and Kédougou substations, the only remaining work is to connect them to the 30 kV network.

Lines junction tower  
Kaolack-Birkilane,  
Birkilane-Soma and  
Birkilane-Tamba



### The first benefits of the Interconnection Line

While waiting to be supplied by Guinea through the Kaléta and Souapiti dams, Soma will receive 50 MW from SENELEC of Senegal.

With a capacity of 225/30 KV, the Soma transformation substation is one of the fifteen (15) substations of the Energy Project interconnection line. It will be powered from the Kaleta and Souapiti hydroelectric plants in Guinea. The Gambia will negotiate a contract with Senegal for the electricity supply of the Soma substation by SENELEC, while awaiting the completion of the interconnection line works for the transport of energy from Kaleta and Souapiti.

To this end, President Macky Sall welcomed the partnership between Senegal's SENELEC and Gambia's NAWEC. He also indicated that the two national companies will sign an electricity transfer contract for 50 MW. "I am also pleased with the effective cooperation between SENELEC and NAWEC in the field of electricity transfer through the connection points at the border posts of Keur Ayib and Karang, but also in terms of capacity building of human resources", he said.



# WITH THE COMMUNITIES

## Give PAPs more purchasing power!

In addition to providing them with electricity, the OMVG has initiated, through the Energy Project, Income Generating Activities (IGAs) for the populations, particularly for women impacted in the different countries.

The Organisation for the Development of the River Gambia places the safety and well-being of the population at the heart of the Energy Project. In addition to the substantial compensation granted to all people affected by the Project, the OMVG also ensures that they are provided with support through Income Generating Activities in all member countries. More than 8,000 women will benefit from income-generating activities such as market gardening, acquisition of fertilisers, cultivation of groundnuts and rice, small-scale trade, livestock breeding, fattening and poultry farming.



Formation des femmes sur la mise en œuvre des AGR



## IN NUMBERS

**8,000** beneficiaries of income-generating activities relating to market gardening, the acquisition of fertilisers, the cultivation of groundnuts and rice, small-scale trade, livestock breeding, fattening and poultry farming

## To the great delight of the breeders

Still under social safeguard measures, livestock vaccination campaigns are planned in all member countries to the great delight of livestock producers.

They have already taken place in Senegal and Guinea. Thousands of livestock have been vaccinated in Senegal, including 5051 cattle, 5160 sheep, 1034 goats, 1194 horses and 311 arsines. In the Republic of Guinea, 208,140 cattle, 27,467 sheep and 18,671 goats were vaccinated.

The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau are in the process of acquiring vaccines.



## A compensatory reforestation

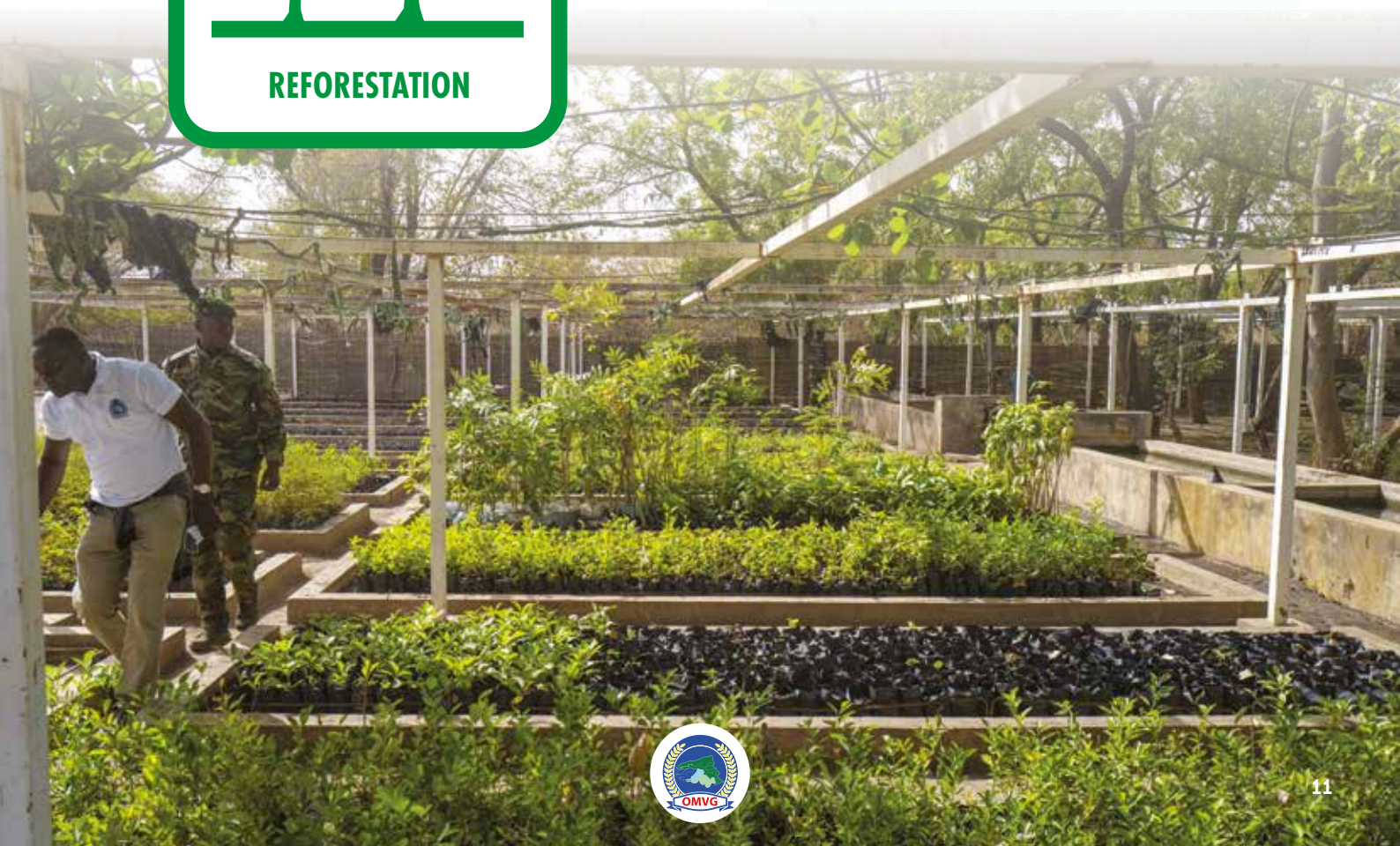
Environmental protection is not forgotten in the OMVG Energy Project. From Senegal to Guinea, including the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, reforestation programmes have been implemented in order to compensate for the deforestation caused by the works. In the Republic of Guinea, for example, the 167,000 trees felled were largely compensated for by another 200,000 planted. The Gambia was also found to have reforested 100,000 trees to replace the 25,651 trees that had been felled. In Senegal, on the other hand, the inventory shows that 100,000 plants were reforested to compensate for the 181,415 that were felled. As for Guinea Bissau, 102,500 trees have already been reforested, to compensate for the ongoing deforestation.



## IN NUMBERS

**402,500** plants  
(800 ha)

- 102,500 plants  
in The Gambia (100 ha)
- 200,000 plants  
en Guinea (200 ha)
- 100,000 plants  
in Bissau-Guinea (350 ha)
- 100,000 plants  
in Senegal (150 ha)





# FROM ONE WORK SITE TO ANOTHER

## Sambangalou, the last hurdles cleared

The negotiations have been long, but the end is not far off. In this year of 2022, the process of realising the Sambangalou hydroelectric development should accelerate. As early as November 2021, a crucial step was taken with the signing of the financing agreement with the State of Senegal. It took a tremendous amount of work to get to this stage. Subject to conditions precedent, the agreement provides for the first disbursement to take place in April 2022, so that work can begin next June.

The Sambangalou Hydroelectric Development (AHES) is the second component of the OMVG Energy Project. With an installed capacity of 128 MW, its construction, scheduled to last 42 months, has been entrusted to the Vinci Construction Grands Projets/Vinci Construction Terrassement/Andritz Hydro (Franco-German-Austrian) consortium at an estimated cost of around €388 million.



Computer generated image of the Sambangalou dam (Kédougou region)

## 1994 - 2022

**Completion of technical, economic,  
environmental and social studies,  
institutional studies, financial  
arrangement and contractualisation**

See you soon, with new information about the OMVG Energy Project in the next issue of your newsletter RESSOURCE



ORGANISATION  
POUR LA MISE EN VALEUR  
DU FLEUVE GAMBIE

GAMBIA RIVER BASIN  
DEVELOPMENT  
ORGANISATION

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