EVALUATION OF THE HYDROPOWER GENERATION POTENTIAL OF A DAM USING OPTIMIZATION TECHNIQUES: APPLICATION TO DOMA DAM, NASSARAWA, IN NORTH CENTRAL NIGERIA

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Abstract

Optimization models have been developed to maximize annual energy generation from the Doma dam, subject to the constraint of releases for irrigation, ecological purposes, the water supply, the maximum yield from the reservoir and reservoir storage. The model was solved with LINGO software for various mean annual inflow exceedence probabilities. Two scenarios of hydropower retrofitting were considered. Scenario 1, with the reservoir inflows at 50%, 75%, and 90% probabilities of exceedence, gives the total annual hydropower as 0.531 MW, 0.450 MW and 0.291 MW, respectively. The corresponding values for scenario 2 were 0.615 MW, 0.507 MW, and 0.346 MW respectively. The study also considered increasing the reservoir's live storage to 32.63Mm³ by taking part of the flood storage so that the maximum draft increases to 7 Mm³. With this upper limit of storage and draft with reservoir inflows of 50%, 75% and 90% probabilities of exceedence, the hydropower generated increased to 0.609 MW, 0.540 MW, and 0.347 MW respectively for the scenario 1 arrangement, while those of scenario 2 increased to 0.699 MW, 0.579MW and 0.406 MW respectively. The results indicate that the Doma Dam is suitable for the production of hydroelectric power and that its generation potential is between 0.61 MW and 0.70 MW.

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Key words

- Doma River dam,
- optimization,
- integration of hydropower turbine,
- power generation,
- retrofitting.

1 INTRODUCTION

An adequate power supply is a vital prerequisite for a nation's development because it plays an indispensable role in its socio-economic and industrial development. Over time Nigeria is developing as a country whose economic development largely depends on energy; the energy sector contributed about 11.78% to the gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter of 2014 (NBS, 2010). Access to electricity as a basic form of energy supply to the population is crucial for development. It is estimated that only about 10 percent of rural dwellers and about 40 percent of urban families have access to

electricity and are effectively lacking a power supply over 60 percent of the time (NBS 2010, Kennedy – Darling et al., 2008). The extent of this problem is underlined by the fact that Nigeria is the largest purchaser of standby electricity generators in the world (Braithwaite and Okeke, 2010).

The demand for electricity in Nigeria far outstrips the supply, which is epileptic in nature (Kareem et al., 2014). Currently, Nigeria's electricity generation capacity is within a range of 3.5GW to 4.5GW, which is far short of the estimated long-term power demands of 25GW required to sustain economic growth and development (Adejumobi and Adebisi, 2011). Presently, Nigeria has 16 power

generating plants, which supply electrical energy to the national grid. Of the 16 generating plants, 3 are hydroelectricity and 13 are thermal (gas/steam). At present, Nigeria has an installed electricity generation capacity for supply to the national grid of 12,522MW, with an available capacity of only approximately 4,500 MW (Latham and Watkins, 2016). Seven of the sixteen generation stations are over 20 years old, and the average daily power generation is below 2,700MW, which is far below the peak load forecast of 8,876MW (Sambo et al., 2009).

Nigeria has considerable potential hydropower sources exemplified by her large and small rivers and streams distributed all over the country with potential sites for hydropower schemes which can serve the urban and rural populations (Okoro, 2006). Hydropower currently accounts for about 32% of the total installed commercial electric power capacity with an overall large-scale potential (exploitable) in excess of 11,000MW (enough to solely power the current electricity demand in the country) (Zarma, 2006). For many years, the hydroelectricity supply in Nigeria has come from the Kanji, Jebba and Shiroro dams with capacities of 760MW, 578.4MW and 600MW (Sambo et al., 2009), respectively. Utilizing the hydropower potential of the rivers in Nigeria will not only meet the increasing energy demands of the country but also accelerate the development of these areas in terms of their social infrastructure. Nigeria still has 278 undeveloped sites for small hydropower production, with a total capacity of 734MW (UNIDO, 2012). An acceptable 60% utilization of the hydropower potential in Nigeria will increase power generation to around 12GW, a figure that will stabilize electric power in Nigeria and increase industrial activity in the country (Manohar and Adeyanju 2009).

Arunkumar and Jothiprakash (2012) optimized the operations of the Koyna reservoir in India by maximizing the hydropower production; this was subject to the condition of satisfying the irrigation demands using a non-linear programming model. The hydropower production from the reservoir was analyzed for three dependable inflow conditions, representing wet, normal and dry years. For each dependable inflow condition, various scenarios were analyzed based on the constraints on the releases, and the results were compared. A study conducted (Salami and Sule, 2012) on the optimal water management modeling of the Kainji and Jebba hydropower systems on the River Niger in Nigeria has shown that an optimal energy of 5995.60 GWH can be generated, which is about 41% higher than the average energy generation of 4261.12 GWH obtained according to the historical records at the power plants. Nigeria is blessed with a number of rivers and streams, which are either seasonal or perennial; the Rivers Niger and Benue with several tributaries constitute the Nigerian river system, which offers some potential renewable sources of energy for large economically viable hydropower development; other major rivers include the Kaduna, Sokoto, Hadejia, Yobe, Gongola, Ogun, Osun, Imo, Cross River, etc. (Sule, 2003). The integration of hydropower turbines into the Doma dam is thus a small step further in the utilization of the enormous water resources of the nation. The main aim of this study is to evaluate the hydropower generation potential of the Doma dam using optimization techniques.

The location of the study area is presented in Fig. 1, while the main features of the dam are presented in Tab. 1.

Tab. 1 Details of the Doma Dam

S/NO	ITEM	DETAILS
1	General	
	Name of parent river	River Ohina (tributary of River Mada)
	Catchment area of the parent river at the Doma Dam site	179.94 km ²
	Hydrological zone	IV
	Purpose	Irrigation
	Other uses	Water Supply
	Net irrigable area	1,000 Hectares
2	Dam	
	Type of Dam	Earthfill
	Available head	15.7m
	Maximum Height of Dam	28.5m (above the lowest point of the river)
	Length of dam crest	520m
	Width of dam at its foundation	160m
	Width of dam at the crest	18m
	Reservoir surface area (at N.W.L)	2.2km ²
	Reservoir capacity (at N.W.L)	37.5Mm ³
	Live Storage	30Mm ³
	Dead Storage	7.5Mm ³
	Live Storage Elevation	132m.a.s.l
	Dead Storage Elevation	116.3m.a.s.l
3	Spillway	
	Type of Spillway	Morning Glory and Open Channel
	Spillway Design Flood	63m ³ /s

Source: Lower Benue River Basin Development Authority, Makurdi (2015)

Fig. 1 Map of Nasarawa State Showing the Doma Local Government Area and satellite imagery of the reservoir Source: Yaro and Ebuga (2013).

2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Data Collection

The data collected for this study include hydrological and meteorological data, a layout map of the project area, topographic maps, the monthly irrigation water requirements, the monthly water supply for domestic needs and livestock, and the monthly water for ecological releases. The data are presented in Tab. 2.

2.2 Estimation of the hydropower potential using an optimization model

Optimization methods are basic tools which are useful in reservoir management studies. The problem of optimal reservoir operations consists of obtaining optimal releases, reservoir storage, and downstream reach-routed flows based on the forecasted inflows. In formulating the models, the time step can be hourly, daily, weekly, monthly or yearly. When hydropower operations are coupled with flood control or other uses, daily and hourly time steps are more appropriate. However, when the available data for the analysis are not in an appropriate form, as is the case with the system of interest, then

Tab. 2 Water requirements and reservoir inflow data

Month	Irrigation (Mm ³)	Water Supply (Mm ³)	Ecological Release (Mm ³)	Monthly Reservoir Inflow (Mm ³)	Direct Rainfall Over Reservoir (Mm ³)	Evaporation (Mm ³)
January	2.786	0.833	0.450	0.654	0.004	0.211
February	2.598	0.833	0.450	0.464	0.005	0.196
March	1.281	0.833	0.450	0.518	0.049	0.236
April	0.292	0.833	0.450	1.500	0.172	0.205
May	1.163	0.833	0.450	5.020	0.34	0.192
June	0.906	0.833	0.450	7.397	0.477	0.165
July	0.548	0.833	0.450	13.580	0.448	0.137
August	0.496	0.833	0.450	23.604	0.62	0.141
September	0.188	0.833	0.450	34.552	0.485	0.145
October	0.102	0.833	0.450	24.177	0.214	0.153
November	0.529	0.833	0.450	11.409	0.017	0.199
December	2.221	0.833	0.450	1.210	0.001	0.205
Annual Total	13.110	9.996	5.400	124.086	2.832	2.185

Source: Lower Benue River Basin Development Authority, Makurdi (2015)

larger time steps must be used. In this study, the objective function and constraints are formulated to derive the operational policies for the reservoir with monthly time steps. For modeling the optimization, the following tasks were carried out: determination of the reservoir yield capacity, estimation of the various probabilities of exceedence of the reservoir inflow, establishment of a relationship between the generating head and reservoir storage, development of an optimization model for the two possible arrangements, and the solution of the model by considering some scenarios.

2.2.1 Reservoir Yield Capacity Analysis

The primary purpose of a reservoir is to provide a means of regulating surface water flows so that water can be withdrawn from it in an appropriate quantity and at a time to meet specified needs. The capacity of the reservoir and the water withdrawal strategy determine the extent of the storage for later use. The yield of a reservoir is the amount of water available for use, given the stream flow characteristics and the capacity. The yield determined using the sequent peak procedure, which gives the storage at any time, is presented in equation (1), Locks et al., (2005)

$$K_t = \begin{cases} R_t - Q_t + K_{t-1}; & \text{if } +ve \\ 0; & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where: Q_t is the inflow volume;
 R_t is the required release,
 K_{t-1} is the storage capacity required at the beginning of a time period

By setting $K_0 = 0$, then K_t is calculated for the period of record. The required storage is the maximum of all K_t 's to meet the specified release R_t . The procedure is repeated for various release values, and the results are used to obtain the storage yield function presented in Figure 2.

Fig. 2 Storage-Yield function for the Doma reservoir

The maximum monthly yield from the reservoir with a live storage of 30Mm³ was obtained as 6.56Mm³. Thus, the upper limit of the possible optimized total release is 6.56Mm³. The corresponding value of the total releases for live storage of 25Mm³ and 35Mm³ were also determined to be 5.73Mm³ and 7.40Mm³ respectively (Adunkpe, 2016).

2.2.2 Estimation of the reservoir inflow of various probabilities of exceedence

The reservoir inflow is fitted to a normal probability distribution based on the monthly mean and standard deviation of the historical data. The normal models obtained for the months of January to December are in the form presented in equation (2).

$$Q = \hat{Q} + \sigma K \quad (2)$$

where

Q = flow of a particular month (Mm³), $\hat{Q}$ = Mean flow (Mm³)
 σ = Standard deviation (Mm³) and K is a constant, depending on the probability

The predicted reservoir inflows of 50%, 75%, and 90%, and the probabilities of exceedence are presented in Tab. 3.

Tab. 3 Reservoir inflows of different reliabilities

Month	Probability of exceedence (Reliability of flow)		
	50%	75%	90%
Jan	0.654	0.408	0.185
Feb	0.464	0.284	0.121
Mar	0.518	0.295	0.093
Apr	1.500	0.689	0.045
May	5.020	3.177	1.511
Jun	7.397	4.655	2.177
Jul	13.580	7.466	1.940
Aug	23.604	14.292	5.877
Sept	34.552	21.176	9.088
Oct	24.177	16.826	10.183
Nov	11.409	5.763	0.660
Dec	1.210	0.646	0.137

2.2.3 Generating head as a function of the reservoir's storage

The elevation and storage data from the topographical map of the Doma reservoir's impounding area and the assumed tail race elevation were used to obtain the relationship between the head and reservoir storage. The tail race elevation was deducted from the reservoir elevation in order to obtain a generating head. The plot of the generating head against the reservoir storage gave equation (3) along with the coefficient of determination (R^2). (Adunkpe, 2016).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Linear Relationship:} & \quad H = 2.008S + 5.495 \\ \text{Coefficient of Determination } (R^2): & \quad 0.91 \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

2.3 Formulation of problem of reservoir operations

2.3.1 System and description of problem

The main features of the reservoir system can be briefly summarized as follows:

- The Doma reservoir has a catchment area of 179.94 Km² and a live storage capacity of 30 Mm³.
- The purposes of this reservoir system are irrigation, the water supply and ecological releases
- The hydropower is proposed as an additional scheme. (i.e., integration of a hydropower turbine for energy generation). Energy production requires water to drive the turbine and can be released to serve the purposes the reservoir was designed for. However, in this case hydropower is to be integrated in two different arrangements as presented in Figs. 3 and 4 respectively.

2.3.2 Development of a long-range operational guide for the Doma dam

The linear programming technique is one of the most widely used mathematical programming techniques in water resources planning

and management due to its convenience, particularly in the optimal allocation of scarce resources for various purposes. It has the advantage of being well defined and easy to understand with a readily applicable algorithm; numerous generalized computer programs are available for solving linear programming problems. A model with a monthly time step can be said to describe a long-range operational problem. The historical monthly reservoir inflow was fitted with normal probability distributions in order to predict reservoir inflows of different reliabilities. The stream flow sequences obtained were used to derive the reservoir's operational and management decisions. The optimal monthly releases from the reservoir were determined subject to the available storage using the yield-storage function which had been developed.

The objective function was the maximization of energy, while the reservoir characteristics, the irrigation requirements, the water supply, ecological needs and the non – negative of the hydropower releases are included in the constraints.

2.3.2.1 System and problem description for scenario 1

In this scenario, the Doma reservoir is located at site 1; the irrigation, water supply scheme, hydropower system and ecological release are located at sites 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively. The release allocated for the hydropower in this scenario is independent of releases for other uses. This arrangement is portrayed in Fig. 2. However, in this case the hydropower is to be integrated so that a separate release of water is allocated for the hydropower plant.

Fig. 2 System Diagram of the study basin for scenario 1

Objective Function

The objective function, along with the constraints, constitutes the linear programming formulation. The objective function of this optimization process is the maximization of the total annual energy generation TE ,

$$TE = \text{Max} \sum_{t=1}^{T=12} (E_t) \quad (4)$$

The total annual energy generation is a summation of the twelve monthly energy generations E_t and E_p , which are calculated as:

$$E_t = 2.73HP_t H_t e \text{ (MWH)} \quad (5)$$

where

HP_t = Release for hydropower generation (Mm^3)

H_t = Generating head (m)

e = Efficiency of plant

t, T = Monthly period $t = 1, 2, \dots, T = 12$

Model Constraints

The maximization of the total annual energy generation is subject to the following constraints:

1. Constraints on releases (yield) from the reservoir

Upper limit (Monthly maximum yield from storage-yield analysis)

$$TR_t = WR_t + ER_t + IR_t + HP_t \leq 6.56 \quad (6)$$

$t = 1, 2, \dots, T = 12$

Lower limit (Ecological demand, minimum releases)

$$TR_t = WR_t + ER_t + IR_t + HP_t \geq 0.45 \quad (7)$$

$t = 1, 2, \dots, T = 12$

where

TR_t = Total monthly releases (Mm^3) from the reservoir, which should not surpass the monthly maximum yield, and must be greater than the ecological needs.

WR_t = Monthly water supply for municipal use (Mm^3)

ER_t = Monthly ecological releases (Mm^3)

IR_t = Monthly irrigation release (Mm^3)

HP_t = Monthly release for hydropower generation

2. Water supply constraint

The water release for municipal use from the reservoir should be enough to meet the allocation for this purpose.

$$WR_t \geq W_t \quad (8)$$

$t = 1, 2, \dots, T = 12$

where W_t = Monthly water supply demand (Mm^3)

3. Ecological release constraint

The release for ecological requirements should be sufficient to meet the ecological demands

$$ER_t \geq EC_t \quad (9)$$

$t = 1, 2, \dots, T = 12$

where EC_t = Monthly ecological demand (Mm^3)

4. Irrigation release constraint

The release for irrigation released during a particular month from the reservoir should be enough to meet the crop water requirement. It should also be greater than minimum irrigation required.

$$IR_t \geq I_t \quad (10)$$

$t = 1, 2, \dots, T = 12$

where I_t = Monthly irrigation demand (Mm^3)

5. Non- negative constraint for hydropower release

The amount of water discharged for hydropower generation should be non-negative

$$HP_t \geq 0 \quad (11)$$

$t = 1, 2, \dots, T = 12$

where HP_t = Monthly hydropower release (Mm^3)

6. Reservoir storage capacity constraint

The available water in the reservoir should not exceed the reservoir's life storage capacity but must be greater than the dead storage capacity (Mm^3) for the whole time period. The live storage in the reservoir should be less than or equal to the maximum capacity for all the time periods.

$$S_t \leq 30 \quad (12)$$

$t = 1, 2, \dots, T = 12$

$$S_t \geq 7.5 \quad (13)$$

$t = 1, 2, \dots, T = 12$

where S_t = reservoir storage (Mm^3) during release

7. Continuity of the mass balance constraint

The mass balance between the inflow into the reservoir and the releases from the reservoir make up the continuity constraints. These constraints relate to the total releases, the reservoir storage, inflows into the reservoir, overflows and the evaporation losses for all the time periods. The reservoir storage continuity relationship is expressed as:

$$S_{t+1} = S_t + Q_t - TR_t - X_t - G_t \quad (14)$$

$t = 1, 2, \dots, T = 12$

where

S_{t+1} = final reservoir storage at the end of the month (Mm^3)

S_t = initial reservoir storage at the beginning of the month (Mm^3)

Q_t = monthly reservoir inflow (Mm^3)

TR_t = total monthly releases (Mm^3)

X_t = monthly evaporation losses (Mm^3)

G_t = monthly overflow if available

This is the general optimization model's formulation in scenario 1. The monthly model is fully established and solved using LINGO 15.0. The model's solutions were determined in two categories. The results of the optimization showing the energy output are presented in Tab. 4.

Tab. 4 Summary of the hydropower potential (scenario 1)

Upper limit Release (Mm^3)	Storage (Mm^3)	Hydropower for flows of different reliabilities (MWH)		
		50%	75%	90%
6.56	30.00	4650.21	3939.70	2545.18
7.00	32.63	5337.32	4415.51	3036.11

2.3.2.2 System and description of problem for scenario 2

In this scenario, hydropower is to be integrated as indicated in Fig. 3, so that the whole of the available flow is used to turn the turbine, after which diversion for various other uses can be performed. This is the optimum arrangement since the turbine only needs water for turning purposes and can be completely released for other users. This arrangement must be incorporated in the main design at the inception of the project for effective implementation.

Objective function

The objective function is the maximization of the total annual energy generation z , as presented in equations (4) and (5). This has also been adopted, and the constraints for scenario 2 are given as follows:

Model constraints

The constraints in equations (8) – (14) are also applicable in this scenario, but the constraints on the upper and lower releases change

Fig. 3 System Diagram of the study basin for scenario 2

due to the complimentary releases added and presented in equations (15) and (16) respectively. Also, there is a need to incorporate a constraint on releases (equilibrium) from the reservoir as presented in equation (17).

Upper Limit (Monthly maximum yield from the storage-yield analysis)

$$TR_t = WR_t + IR_t + C_t + HP_t \leq 6.561 \quad (15)$$

Lower Limit (Ecological demands, minimum releases)

$$TR_t = WR_t + IR_t + C_t + HP_t \geq 0.45 \quad (16)$$

Constraints on release (equilibrium) from the reservoir

$$C_t + HP_t \geq ER_t \quad (17)$$

where

C_t = Complimentary releases (Mm^3)

Other terms are as previously described.

The results of the optimization model for scenario 2 are presented in Tab 5.

Tab. 5 Summary of hydropower potential (Scenario 2)

Upper limit Release (Mm^3)	Storage (Mm^3)	Hydropower for flows of different reliabilities (MWH)		
		50%	75%	90%
6.56	30.00	5389.13	4439.37	3032.01
7.00	32.63	6122.50	5070	3560.16

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Water resources of the Doma dam

The information obtained revealed that the Doma dam has a catchment area of 179.94 km^2 with a maximum reservoir capacity of 37.5 Mm^3 at a normal water level with a surface area of 2.20 km^2 . The dam has live storage and dead storage of 30 Mm^3 and 7.5 Mm^3 respectively. Detailed information on the dam was presented in Tab. 1. The information on the reservoir capacity revealed that the dam has more than the required storage for the primary purposes.

The water requirements for various purposes and river flow data as obtained from the Lower Benue River Basin Development Authority, Markurdi (LBRBRDA), are presented in Table 2. The information in Tab. 2 revealed a total irrigation requirement of 13.11 Mm^3 ; the total water required for the water supply is about 10.00 Mm^3 and the total reservoir inflow of 124.09 Mm^3 . A difference of about 0.65 Mm^3 was observed between the direct rainfall and evaporation over the reservoir, which implies an annual water surplus of 0.65 Mm^3 on the surface of the reservoir.

3.2 Optimization modeling

Optimization modeling was adopted to ascertain the hydropower energy that can be obtained after considering the releases of sufficient water for the primary uses. In carrying out the optimization modeling, the following were determined:

- The reservoir yield capacity of the dam was determined to be 6.56 Mm^3 . This implies that the maximum monthly draft of 6.56 Mm^3 can be sustained by the reservoir of 30 Mm^3 live storage as built (Scenario 1), while the draft of 7.0 Mm^3 can be sustained by the reservoir of 32.63 Mm^3 capacity (Scenario 2).
- The monthly reservoir inflows with exceedence probabilities of 50%, 75%, and 90% were determined and presented in Tab. 3.
- The relationship between the generating head and reservoir storage was established since the generating head depends on the storage in the reservoir. This was adopted in the energy equation's formulation.

The optimization model has a maximization of hydropower generation as the objective function, while the reservoir's characteristics and other purposes are included in the constraints. The model formulated was solved using LINGO software. The model solution of the hydropower potential for various reservoir inflows of 50%, 75% and 90% are presented in Tables 4 and 5 for Scenarios 1 and 2 respectively.

3.3 Power generation for the scenarios

3.3.1 Scenario 1

The following inferences were drawn from the study based on scenario 1.

- The study establishes that the monthly maximum draft is 6.56 Mm^3 with a live storage of 30 Mm^3 , while it is 7.0 Mm^3 with a storage capacity of 32.63 Mm^3 .

- The hydropower energy obtained with the upper limit of the release of 6.56 Mm³ and the live storage of 30 Mm³ under reservoir inflows of 50%, 75%, and 90% probabilities of exceedence is 4650.21 MWH (0.53 MW), 3939.70 MWH (0.45 MW), and 2545.18 MWH (0.29 MW) respectively.
- The hydropower energy obtained with the upper limit of the release of 7.0 Mm³ and the storage capacity of 32.63 Mm³ under reservoir inflows of 50%, 75%, and 90% probabilities of exceedence is 5337.32 MWH (0.61 MW), 4415.51 MWH (0.51), and 3036.11 MWH (0.35 MW) respectively.

3.3.2 Scenario 2

The following inferences were drawn from the study based on scenario 2.

- The hydropower energy obtained with the upper limit of the release of 6.56 Mm³ and the live storage of 30 Mm³ under reservoir inflows of 50%, 75%, and 90% probabilities of exceedence is 5389.13 MWH (0.62 MW), 4439.37 MWH (0.51 MW) and 3032.01 MWH (0.35 MW) respectively.
- The hydropower energy obtained with the upper limit of the release of 7.0 Mm³ and the live storage of 32.63 Mm³ under reservoir inflow of 50%, 75%, and 90% probabilities of exceedence is 6122.50 MWH (0.70 MW), 5070.00 MWH (0.58 MW), and 3560.16 MWH (0.41 MW) respectively

The trend is that the greater the probability of exceedence (reliability), the smaller the reservoir inflow and the smaller the hydropower energy that can be generated.

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Conclusions

It can be concluded that the optimal energy generation potential of the Doma dam is 5337.32 MWH (0.61MW) and 6122.50 MWH (0.70 MW) for scenarios 1 and 2 respectively. Thus the Doma dam is suitable for the production of hydroelectric power. The hydropower generated would enhance the quality of life of the people living in the Doma community and improve the Doma irrigation scheme. This will eventually lead to a reduction in poverty since jobs will be available as small-scale industries spring up.

4.2 Recommendation

Based on the outcome of the study it is recommended that the site be found suitable for a small hydropower scheme and that three turbines of 300 KW (0.30 MW) capacities each can be installed at the Doma dam for hydropower generation.

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