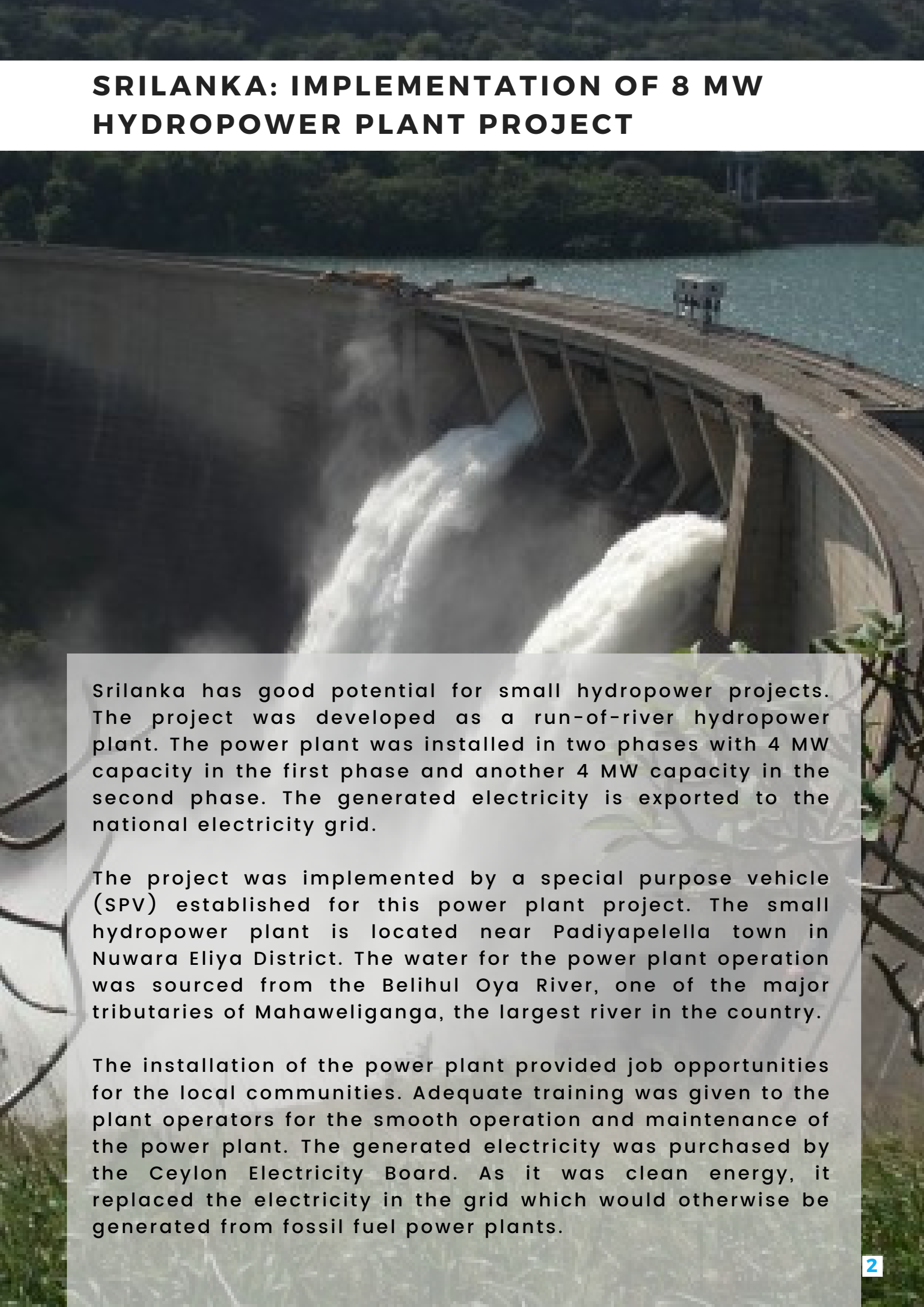




SRILANKA: IMPLEMENTATION OF 8 MW HYDROPOWER PLANT PROJECT

CASE STUDY/INSIGHT

SRILANKA: IMPLEMENTATION OF 8 MW HYDROPOWER PLANT PROJECT

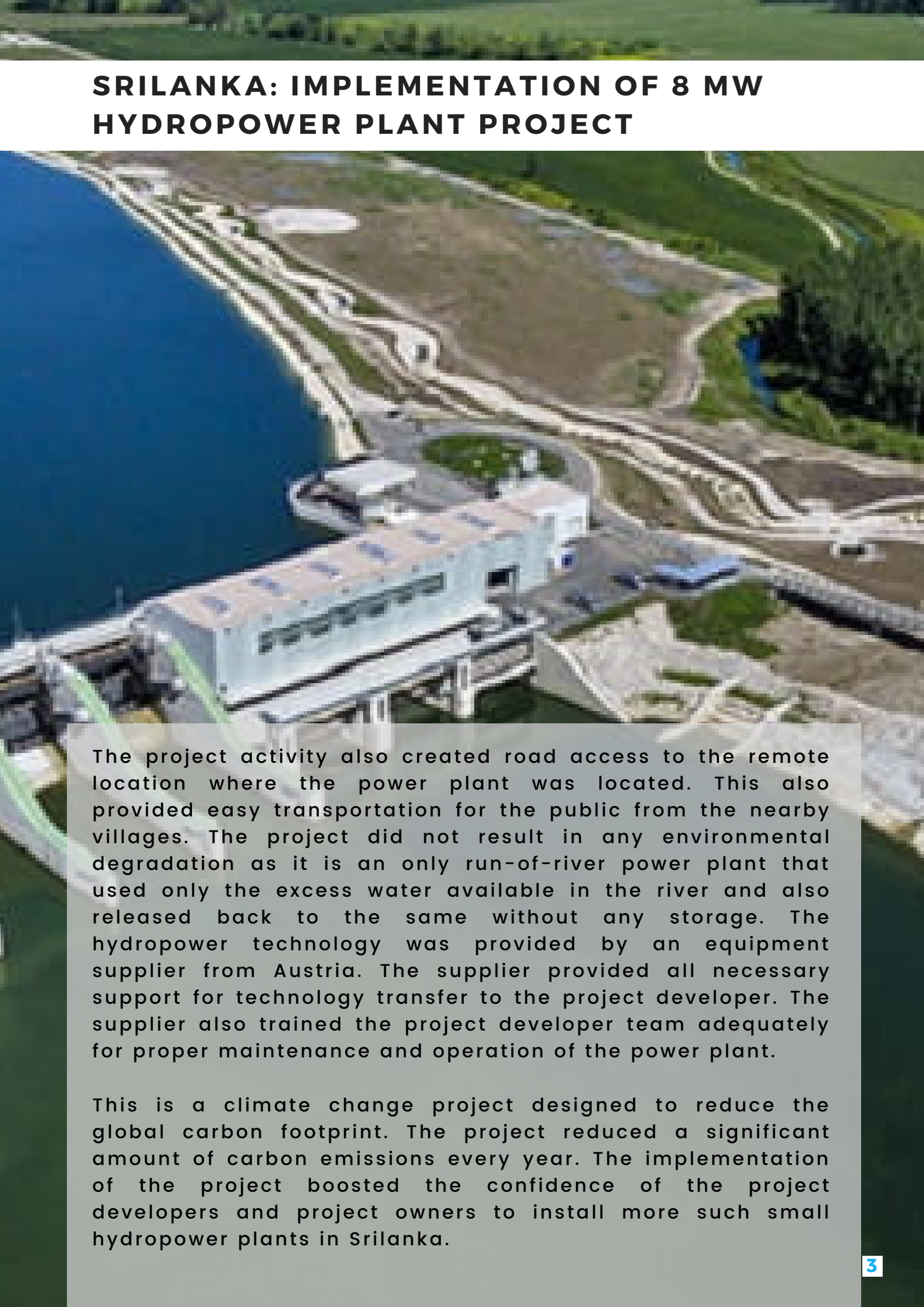


Srilanka has good potential for small hydropower projects. The project was developed as a run-of-river hydropower plant. The power plant was installed in two phases with 4 MW capacity in the first phase and another 4 MW capacity in the second phase. The generated electricity is exported to the national electricity grid.

The project was implemented by a special purpose vehicle (SPV) established for this power plant project. The small hydropower plant is located near Padiyapelella town in Nuwara Eliya District. The water for the power plant operation was sourced from the Belihul Oya River, one of the major tributaries of Mahaweliganga, the largest river in the country.

The installation of the power plant provided job opportunities for the local communities. Adequate training was given to the plant operators for the smooth operation and maintenance of the power plant. The generated electricity was purchased by the Ceylon Electricity Board. As it was clean energy, it replaced the electricity in the grid which would otherwise be generated from fossil fuel power plants.

SRILANKA: IMPLEMENTATION OF 8 MW HYDROPOWER PLANT PROJECT



The project activity also created road access to the remote location where the power plant was located. This also provided easy transportation for the public from the nearby villages. The project did not result in any environmental degradation as it is an only run-of-river power plant that used only the excess water available in the river and also released back to the same without any storage. The hydropower technology was provided by an equipment supplier from Austria. The supplier provided all necessary support for technology transfer to the project developer. The supplier also trained the project developer team adequately for proper maintenance and operation of the power plant.

This is a climate change project designed to reduce the global carbon footprint. The project reduced a significant amount of carbon emissions every year. The implementation of the project boosted the confidence of the project developers and project owners to install more such small hydropower plants in Sri Lanka.