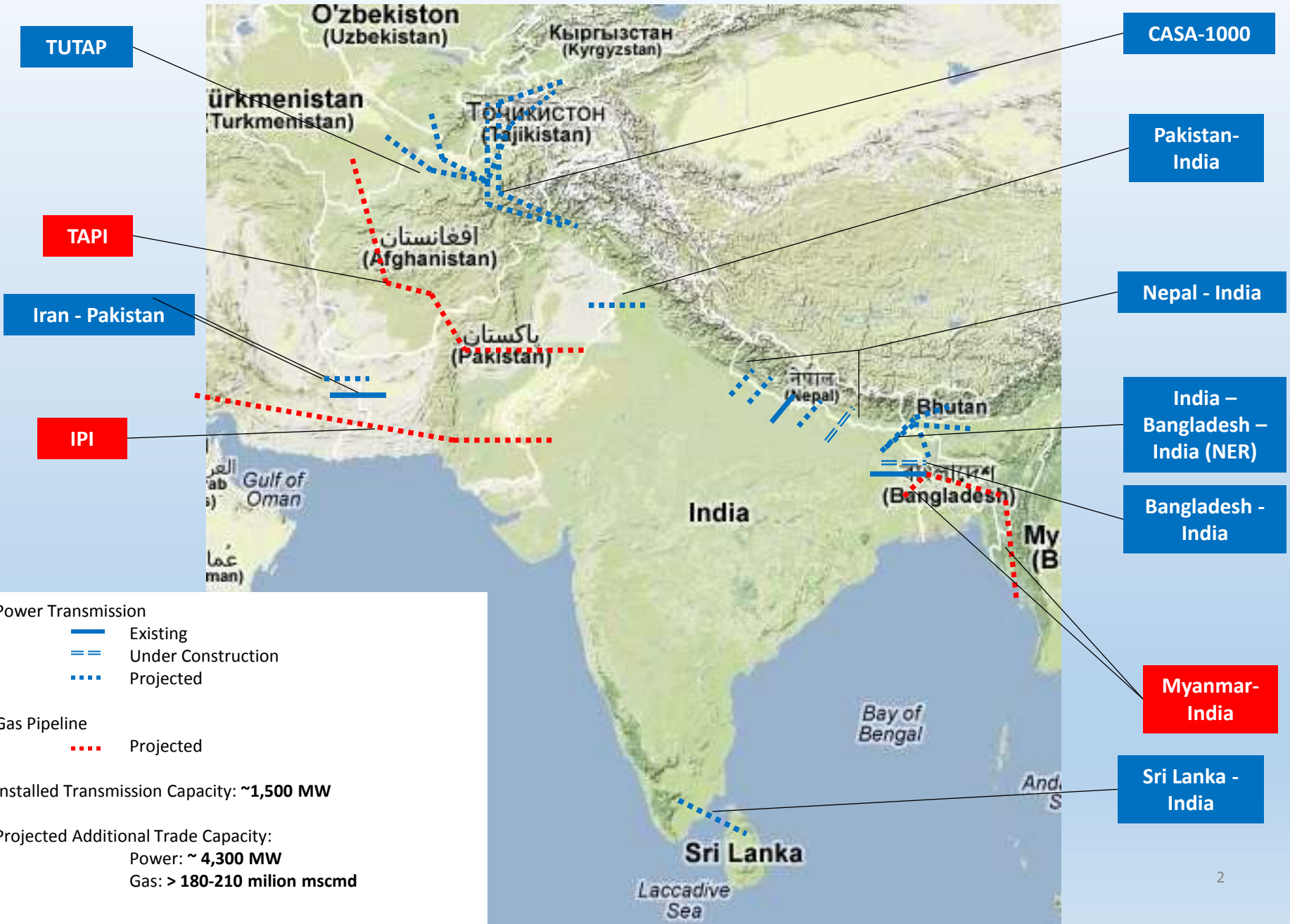


World Bank

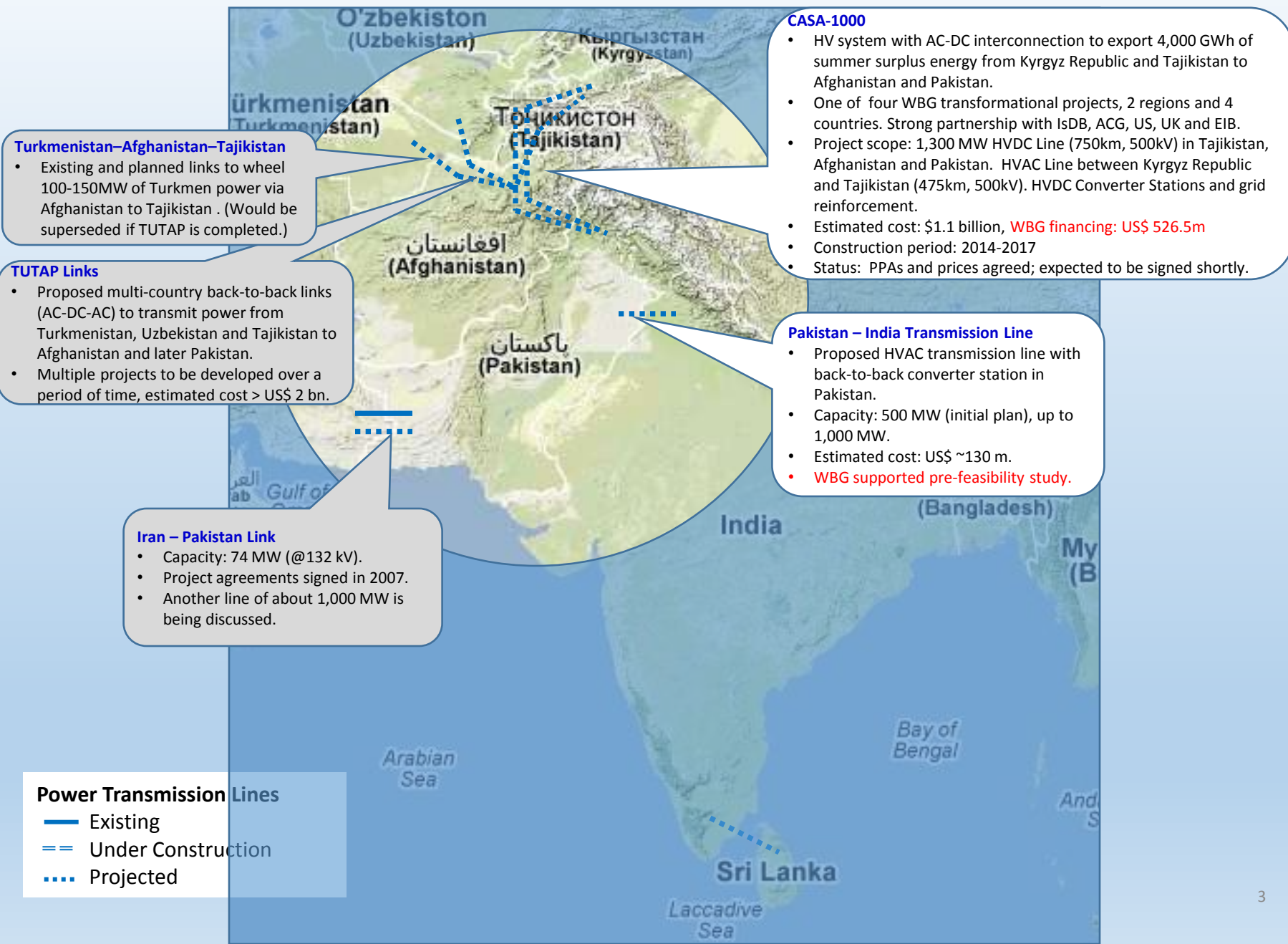
**Regional Interconnections in
South Asia**

**Anjum Ahmad
Senior Energy Specialist
World Bank, Islamabad**

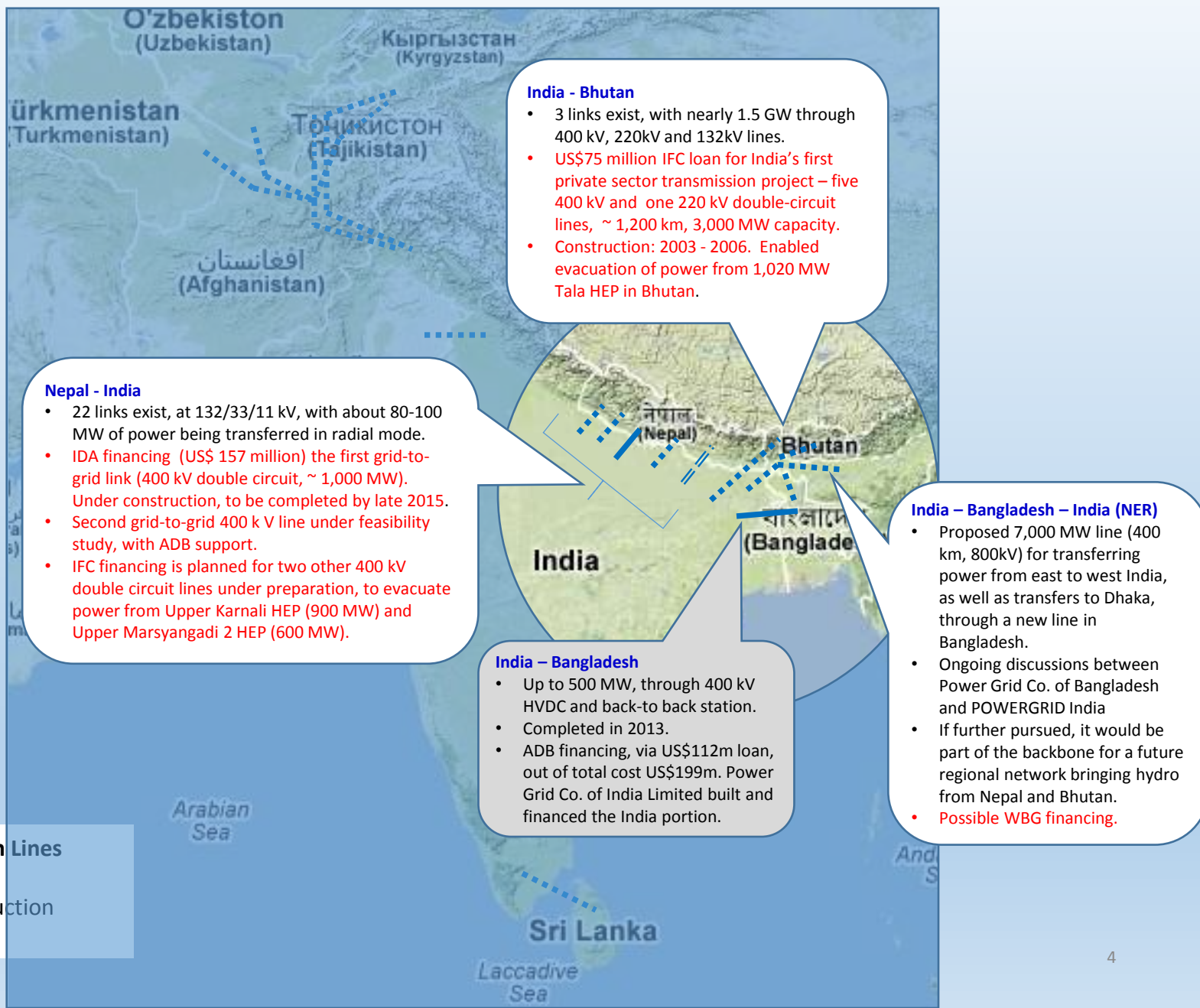
Regional integration in electricity and gas in South Asia



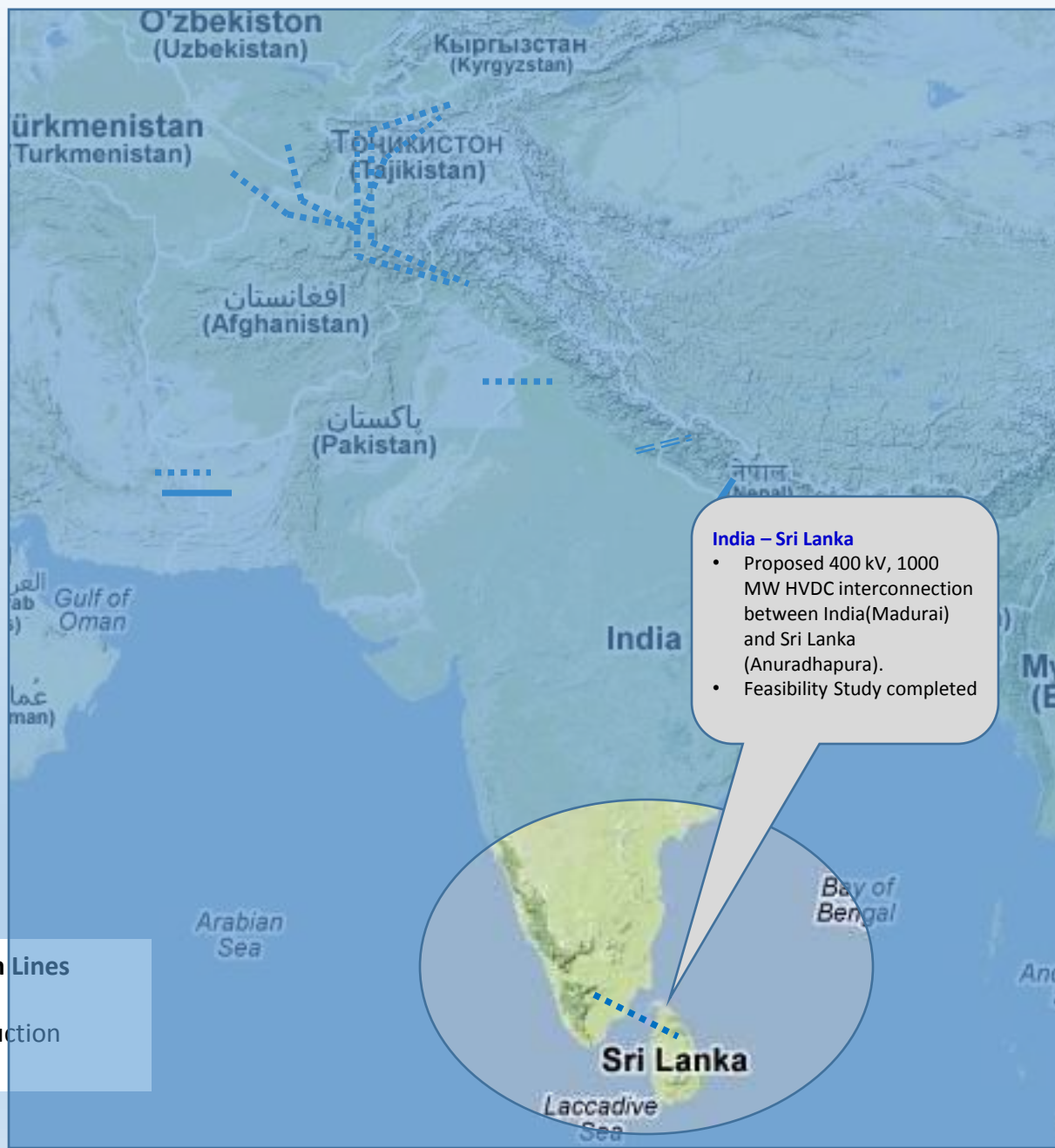
SAR: Existing and proposed electricity interconnections – West



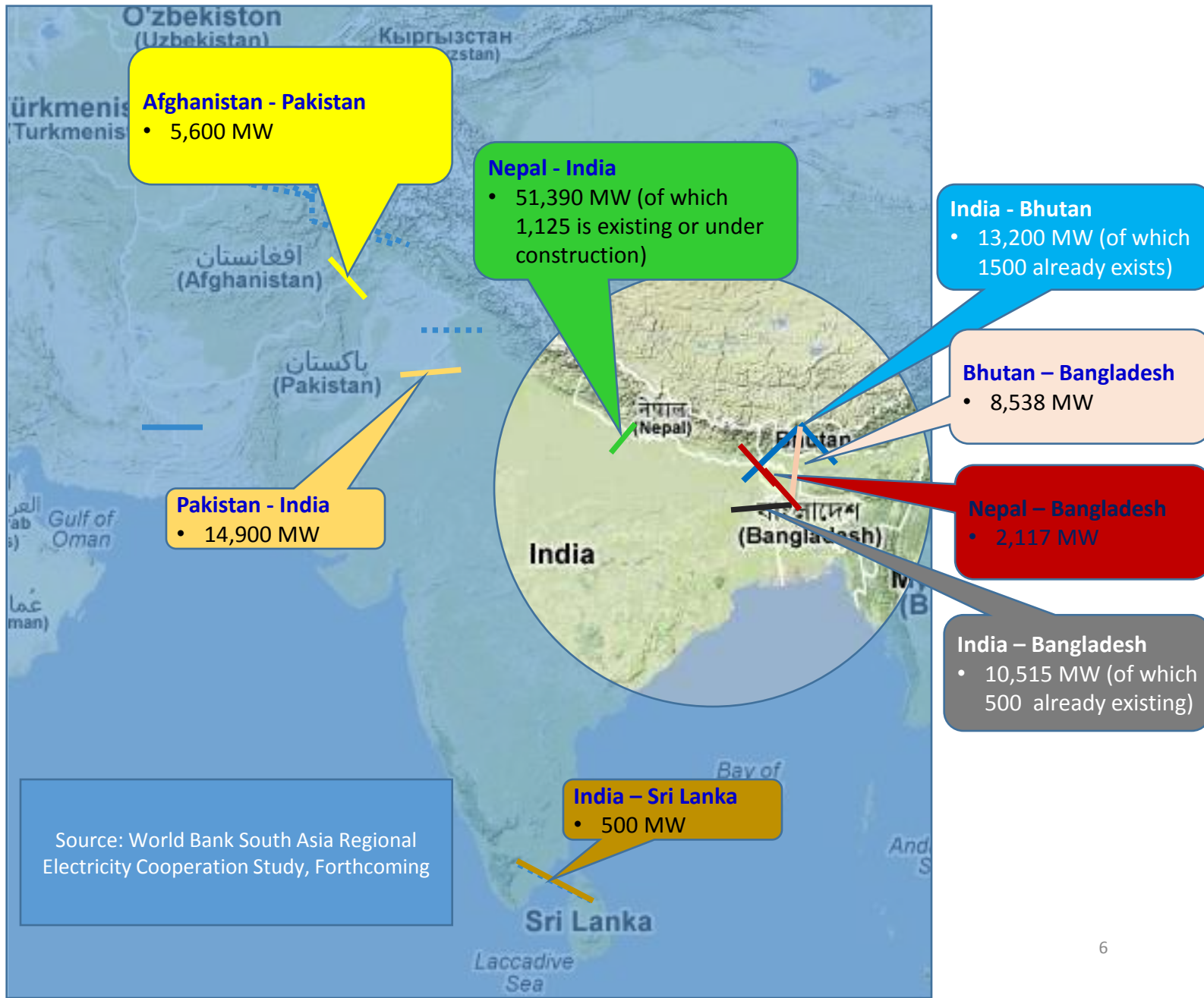
SAR: Existing and proposed interconnections – East



SAR: Existing and proposed interconnections – South



Projection of SAR Transmission Interconnection by 2040 (if there is full regional integration of electricity grids)



Regional cooperation leads to:

- Large reallocation of generation investment across countries and technologies (especially but not only for hydro)
- More than 105,000 MW of transmission capacity by 2040 to support unlimited cross-border power flows
- Over USD 226 Billion in net cost savings (over USD 114 Billion in present value at 5% discount rate)
- Fuel cost savings is the main source of benefits; these savings are more than five times the cost of additional investment

Barriers to cross-border cooperation and trade include:

- Lack of physical interconnection capacity
- Lack of regional regulatory infrastructure for prioritizing and coordinating increased interconnection
- Domestic sector policies that discourage increasing interconnection or power transactions using existing capacity
 - Pricing/revenue recovery; capital shortages
 - Risks to effective contract enforcement

Why domestic market performance is an important complement

- Bilateral arrangements with government involvement, PPAs with negotiated prices - good start for expanding cross-border trade
- But need domestic market reforms to overcome deep sector drawbacks that trade alone cannot remedy
- These reforms also can help facilitate growth in cross-border trade and investment, increase in efficiency (larger, more competitive market)

Role of SAARC

- SAARC Framework Agreement for Electricity Trade signed on Nov 27, 2014 in Kathmandu.
- Requires due diligence by each member country on whether they comply with various articles of the Framework. SAARC Energy Center can catalyze and monitor the progress on various agreements under the Framework.
- Examples:
 - Article 7: *“Member States may enable the transmission planning agencies of the Governments to plan the cross-border grid interconnections through bilateral/trilateral/mutual agreements between the concerned states.....”*
 - Article 5: *“Member States may share and update technical data and information on the electricity sector in an agreed template”*
 - Article 11: *“Member States shall enable the national grid operators to jointly develop coordinated procedures for the secure and reliable operation of the inter-connected grids”*
 - Article 14: *“Member States may enable and encourage knowledge sharing and joint research”*

Thank You