



Project Developer
Empower New Energy

Empower is a Norwegian start-up that invests in small and medium-scale renewable energy projects in Sub-Saharan Africa and raises long-term climate finance on a portfolio level



RUCANZOGERA SMALL HYDROPOWER PLANT

This project will pilot a new business model to deliver a 1.9 MW grid-connected hydropower plant and efficient irrigation for farmers in one of the poorest areas in Rwanda. Empower's model employs a portfolio ownership approach to deliver the benefits of Green Bonds and other financing instruments to small and medium-scale projects. The Triple Bottom Line model reduces costs and risks for local partners and enhances development impact. With EEP Africa financing, Empower will test and refine its model and tools to deliver high-grade technology, reduce costs, and maximise impact, with the goal of showing proof of concept and integrating lessons learned in future projects.

Total Project Budget
EUR 6 718 870

EEP Africa Financing
EUR 499 980

Project Partners
Malthe Winje
Travaux d'Ingenierie
Generale du Rwanda Ltd
(TIGER)

Type
Pilot project
On Grid

Project Code
RWA14286




Sector
Hydropower

Location
Rwanda



Outcome and Impact

The project will deliver the 1,9 MW (Tier 5) Rucanzogera hydropower plant, which will produce 9.2 GWh of electricity annually. This carbon neutral electricity will mitigate 5,000 tons of CO₂e. The project will create short-term jobs during construction and long-term jobs for plant operation and maintenance. It will increase local power capacity, enhancing energy access for an estimated 10,000 people and electrifying streets, schools and medical facilities. This will stimulate economic growth and facilitate socio-economic development.

EEP Africa is hosted and managed by the Nordic Development Fund (NDF). It is currently funded by Austria, Finland and NDF. Implementation support is provided by KPMG Finland.