Early Warning System

WB-P178685

Ruzizi 3 Regional Hydropower Project

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Quick Facts

Countries	Burundi, Congo, Democratic Republic of, Rwanda
Financial Institutions	World Bank (WB)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	A
Voting Date	2025-05-07
Borrower	Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Burundi, Republic of Rwanda
Sectors	Energy, Hydropower
Investment Amount (USD)	$ 760.00 million
Project Cost (USD)	$ 195.00 million

Project Description

The Project Development Objective is to increase the supply of clean hydropower electricity to Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi by leveraging private capital.

The Ruzizi 3 HPP will have an installed generation capacity of 206 MW. The Ruzizi River forms a natural border between Burundi, DRC and Rwanda, flowing southwards from Lake Kivu into Lake Tanganyika. Ruzizi 3 will be located downstream of the existing Ruzizi 1 (29.2 MW) and Ruzizi 2 (43.8 MW) HPPs, commissioned respectively in 1958 and 1989. Ruzizi 1 HPP is located 3 km downstream of the outlet of Lake Kivu and controls the discharge from Lake Kivu. A fourth hydropower scheme, Ruzizi 4, is also planned in the future.

The environmental and social risk rating has been assessed as High (Category A) at this stage. The Project will follow the OP 4.03 as the project is a PPP and being implemented by the private sector.

The Ruzizi 3 HPP is configured to include the construction of a dam (51 meters high), a 3.8 km long headrace tunnel, a power station (206 MW installed capacity with an expected annual production of 1,140 GWh) and a 7 km long double circuit 220 kV transmission line to a substation at Kamanyola which is adjacent to the common border between the three countries. It includes a compact reservoir (approx. 46 hectares of inundated surface area) to provide regulation capacity and support the daily peak demand of the three countries. The scope of the Project also includes the following ancillary infrastructure: (i) permanent roads and access roads (9.6 km in DRC and 19.5 km in Rwanda), (ii) quarries and Borrow pit sites, and (iii) Spoil Disposal Areas. Associated Facilities that will help dispatching the electricity produced by Ruzizi 3 include:

• Kamanyola 220 kV Substation is situated in DRC and developed by EGL with financial support from KfW. A Feasibility Study, ESIA and RAP were prepared in 2014. These studies will be updated by appraisal to reflect recent developments in the Ruzizi III Project and align with the World Bank's Environemental and Social Standards.

• Kamanyola-Buhandahada 220 kV Transmission Line. It's situated in DRC and is being developed by EGL with financial support from the KfW. Pre-Feasibility studies for the 68.5 km line have been completed. However, the studies will need to be updated by appraisal to take into account changes made to the Ruzizi-III HPP, and align with the World Bank's Environemental and Social Standards.

• Kamanyola - Bujumbura 220 kV Transmission Line is developed in Burundi by REGIDESO with financial support from AfDB and KfW. Burundi line is already under construction and completion of works is expected in 2023.

• Kamanyola – Karongi 220 kV TL is developed by Rwanda Energy Group (REG) with financial support from the EIB. Feasibility studies are underway and ESIA is due by appraisal. • Kamanyola - Kibuye 220 kV TL is developed by Rwanda Energy Group (REG) with financial support from the EIB. A pre-feasibility study and ESIA were prepared in 2014. However, the feasibility study and ESIA will be updated by appraisal and a RAP prepared.

Investment Description

- World Bank (WB)

Private Actors Description

The Ruzizi 3 HPP is being developed as a public-private partnership (PPP) between the three Contracting States, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries for Energy (EGL) and a consortium of private developers, Industrial Promotion Services (IPS) of Kenya and Scatec (the Consortium). Ruzizi 3 Energy Limited (REL) is a special purpose vehicle company established to develop the Project. After Financial Close, it is expected that the three Contracting States will each have a stake of 10% in REL whereas the Consortium will own the remaining 70% stake.

Contact Information

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ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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Bank Documents

- Concept Environment and Social Review Summary [Original Source]
- Project Information Document [Original Source]