

Hydroneo to lead the development of a hydroelectric power plant on the Mpanda river, in Burundi to increase the country's annual power production by 10%.

Paris, France – May 26th, 2021: The Republic of Burundi is partnering with developer Mpanda Hydro Power, an [Hydroneo East Africa](#) subsidiary, for the construction of a 10.2MW hydropower project in Bubanza province (Burundi).

Government owned, the project construction started in 2011 and was initially a 35m high dam with a reservoir covering more than 100ha. The work stopped in 2015 due to budgetary constraints, with an estimated 20% completion rate. In 2019, A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry in charge of Energy and the company Mpanda Hydro Power (Hydroneo) to resize the project, mitigate its environmental impact, and resume development and construction of the power plant. The Public Private Partnership (PPP) contract as well as the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) were finalized and executed in May 2021.

Hydroneo carried out additional studies to limit the environmental impact of the project, in particular on the adjacent protected natural parc of Kibira. Following deeper analysis, Hydroneo settled on a run-of-river plant that greatly reduces the flooded area to less than 5ha.

The provisional budget for this project is US\$ 43.5 million. To gather the necessary funds, Mpanda Hydro Power is working closely with the UK government-funded [Renewable Energy Performance Platform](#) (REPP), managed by [Camco Clean Energy](#). To structure the financial side of the deal, the developer chose the international financial advisory boutique [Finergreen](#). Together, they managed to sign a US\$ 1 million development loan to fund development activities until the financial closing of the project, expected in 2022.¹

“The Mpanda project embodies our key values at Hydroneo: building clean energy projects with strong social contributions and a positive environmental impact. It was designed to help bring the National Development Plan of Burundi to life with the construction of health and education facilities. It is a first step in our long-term partnership with the Government of Burundi. We are thrilled to join forces with REPP and our local partners to serve the ever-growing needs of Burundi’s families and businesses.” said Samuel ZEKRI, CEO of Hydroneo.

Improving energy supply and access remains one of the top priorities of the Government of Burundi, and partnering with the private sector to develop the energy sector is a way to sustainably improve access to electricity for the Burundian population. The Mpanda plant is expected to increase the country's annual power production by 10%.

¹ The US\$1m development loan is in subject to satisfaction of final conditions precedent

About Hydroneo

HYDRONEO East Africa develops, constructs and operates small and medium hydro power plants in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. Founded in 2012, the company holds a portfolio of 14 projects for a total capacity of 110 MW. With a team of 20+ people spread over 3 offices in Nairobi, Kigali and Paris, HYDRONEO has chosen to internalize all required engineering skills for an agile project execution.

<https://www.hydroneo.com>

About REPP

The Renewable Energy Performance Platform (REPP), managed by Camco Clean Energy, works to mobilise private sector development activity – and investment – in small to medium-sized projects (typically up to 25MW). It is supported with £148m funding from the UK's International Climate Finance through the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and to date, has agreed contracts with 28 renewable energy projects across 16 countries, employing seven different technologies, from SHS and PV mini-grids to biomass and run-of-river hydro.

<https://repp.energy>

About Camco Clean Energy

Camco Clean Energy is a specialist fund manager focused on renewable energy, climate finance and impact in emerging markets. It offers practical financing solutions to lead the clean energy transition, pairing the conscience of a development bank with the agility of a small private company. Camco manages REPP and in November 2020 was approved to become an Accredited Entity of the Green Climate Fund. The company has offices in Accra, Helsinki, Johannesburg, London, Nairobi and Toronto.

<https://www.camco.energy/>

About Finergreen

Finergreen is an international financial advisory boutique specialized in the renewable energy sector (Solar, Wind, Hydro, Biomass and Storage). Founded in 2013, the company has completed EUR 2,5 billion of transactions over more than 10 GW of assets. With a team of 60+ people based in Paris, Madrid, Budapest, Dubai, Singapore, Mexico, Sao Paulo, Abidjan and Nairobi, the company operates through 3 main segments: Mergers & Acquisitions, Project Finance and Strategic Advisory. For more information about Finergreen please visit:

www.finergreen.com