



RUPINGAZI



Location
Embu County, Kenya

PROJECT SUMMARY

Pre-construction development work on a partially completed run-of-river hydroelectric power plant in eastern Kenya is under way thanks to a US\$0.2m development loan provided by REPP.

The 6MW project is located on the Rupingazi River in a rural part of Embu County on the south-eastern slopes of Mount Kenya. It was halted in February 2018 after Kenyan-based project developers Kleen Hydro Limited were unable to raise additional financing to continue construction. At the time, it was one of the country's most advanced mini-hydro projects under development.

Building work is expected to start again in 2019, subject to the developers finalising the pre-construction development phase of the project and completion of a new funding agreement from REPP.

The project is expected to create 72 local jobs during construction and a further 10 operational positions once completed, and will improve clean energy access for more than 175,000 people.

The 200m² plant will utilise two high-efficiency 3MW Francis turbines and is located 2.5km from a 33/11kv substation. To connect the plant to the grid will require the upgrade and extension of an existing 11kV line that runs from the substation to a site 800m from the power station.

A 20-year power purchase agreement has been signed with offtaker Kenya Power.

The project's success will provide the sponsors with much-needed completion experience and help them attract senior debt for its other pipeline projects, while also demonstrating how – with REPP's assistance – local developers can build and operate small-scale schemes that support Kenya's renewable energy goals.

AT A GLANCE

Technology

Run-of-river
hydropower



Project type

Grid-connected,
greenfield

Offtaker

Kenya Power

KPIs



Greenhouse gas emissions
avoided: 17,534 tCO₂e per
year



People with improved
energy access: 175,200



Jobs created:
72 during construction, 10
during operation



Installed capacity:
6MW

FUNDING STRUCTURE

Contracted date

15 April 2018

Lending type

Development loan

REPP funding

US\$200,000