

# RIFT VALLEY NEWS



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## Rift Valley Energy expands operations in Tanzania



The upper Luisenga River, where weir construction on Luisenga Hydro Project will take place

Following the success of our Mwenga Hydro development, which has seen the provision of 4MW of power delivered to an expanding network of over 3,000 rural customers within remote communities hitherto without electricity, Rift Valley Energy (RVE) is embarking upon three further generation developments in Tanzania.

These developments offer increased power generation throughout the year, by means of a wind and hydro generation mix, enabling RVE to service growing electricity demand long term.

**The Mwenga Wind Project** is a renewable energy infrastructure project in the Iringa District of Southern Tanzania. It is situated near Usokami village which is within the Kihansi basin. With the growth of the Mwenga hydro rural distribution network (now servicing over 20 communities) there will be a shortfall between power supply and

demand during the dry season. Given the dry season is when the wind blows the strongest there is a clear opportunity to fill the gap with wind generation.

The project is expected to deliver a projected output of +/- 2.55MW (final turbine selection dependant) with an average capacity factor of above 40%. Ultimately, this will allow for growth of RVE's rural network and semi-industrial customer base locally.



The surrounds of the lower Luisenga river, where the power generator will be housed

**The Luisenga Hydro Project** is a renewable energy infrastructure project, also in the Iringa district of Southern Tanzania. The need for renewable power generation in this area has stemmed from Unilever Tea Tanzania's desire to go green, in line with Unilever's global sustainability commitments.

The project will consist of a run of the river hydro generation unit which is expected to deliver a maximum output of 2.5MW, with an average capacity factor of 55.9%.

It is expected to provide 50% of its output to Unilever's tea operations, supplying to tea factories as well as several irrigation points and staff houses. The remaining 50% of its energy output will be sold to RVE's rural power distribution business (Rural Power Distribution Limited – RPDL), where it will supply villages and hamlets within the Mwenga distribution network.

**Luponde Hydro** is the third development, that consists of two separate hydro generation facilities, that will total 2.9 MW when complete. Both are located in Njombe region of Tanzania. The larger is Igola Hydro, a 2MW plant on the Lufuo river near Igola village. Luhololo Hydro is a smaller capacity 0.9MW plant on the Mwiha river, near Luhololo Village



Work underway on the Luhololo weir

The project seeks to supply power to a range of commercial and domestic customers in this remote area, including the Luponde tea factory and a number of small-scale businesses within nearby villages. Automatic island mode capability will be built in to reduce impact of TANESCO outages.

The project has secured an AECF grant to assist development.



The recently completed Luhololo weir



Wind turbines similar to those to be used at Mwenga