

HYDROPOWER

Rwanda to more than double hydropower capacity over 5 years

By: **Chanel de Bruyn**

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Rwanda was planning to boost its hydropower generation capacity to 102 MW by 2015, Rwanda Ministry of Infrastructure head of hydropower **Emmanuel Kirenga** said at a hydropower conference in Johannesburg on Tuesday.

He noted that Rwanda currently had a hydropower generation capacity of 42 MW, which would increase to 60,6 MW by 2012.

A number of small hydropower project of between 1 MW and 10 MW would be commissioned by the end of this year, while the 28 MW Nyabaronga project would be commissioned in 2013.

Further, Rwanda would also benefit from its participation in three regional hydropower projects, including the 63 MW Rusumo project, which was a collaborative effort between Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania.

The 145 MW Rusizi III and 205 MW Rusizi IV project, being developed in collaboration between Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, would also boost the country's energy supply capabilities.

Kirenga noted that Rwanda had recently completed a hydropower atlas, which had identified a number of possible hydropower sites.

However, these had the potential to deliver less than 100 kW of electricity and Rwanda was now seeking ways to develop these micro projects in the most economically viable way, said Kirenga.

Meanwhile, Tanzania was also planning the development of many hydropower generation projects in the medium to long term, said Tanesco hydro generation technical manager **Lewanga Tesha**.

The country had the potential to produce up to 4,7 GW of electricity from hydropower, but currently produced only about 500 MW of electricity from hydro sources.

This, however, represented 53% of the country's total electricity generation capacity of 1 051 MW.

Only about 14% of citizens had access to electricity in Tanzania, with demand for electricity growing by between 10% and 15% a year.

There was, thus, plenty of demand and potential to develop more hydropower projects, said Tesha.

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/rwanda-to-more-than-double-hydropower-over-5-years-2010-08-17>