

## **Kenya : Removal of barriers a boost to hydropower projects**

Investment in small hydro power projects in Africa will increase if tariff and non-tariff barriers are removed. This according to renowned hydro power consultant with the Investment Climate Facility for Africa (ICF) Leonard Kassana will boost investor confidence.

Following a feasibility study for small hydropower projects (SHPs) with the Greening the Tea Industry in East Africa Project in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Malawi, Mr Kassana says feed-in tariffs should be attractive for developers and business licenses and environmental impact assessment (EIA) authorizations should be streamlined. The findings are contained in a report on feasibility studies conducted on eight small hydropower sites in the 5 countries. "Three small hydropower plants are in an advanced stage for implementation. Financial closures, tendering and construction contracts are being finalized for 2.8 MW Gura SHP (Kenya), 0.85 MW Tagabi (Kenya), 4.5 MW Giciye SHP (Rwanda)," says Kassana. "Technical capacity building is a key in SHP development and this was an important component", he adds.Ltd.

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