The International Tracking Standard Foundation

Founder of I-REC

COUNTRY ASSESSMENT REPORT

BURUNDI

Date: 11th November 2025

Contents

1.1 Country Assessment Report: Burundi

Country Name	Burundi
Introduction	Burundi is a small, densely populated landlocked country in East Africa with a population of approximately 13.5 million people and one of the lowest per capita incomes globally. The country faces severe energy challenges, with only 11.6% of the population having access to electricity as of 2023—among the lowest rates in Sub-Saharan Africa—and a stark disparity between urban areas (62-64%) and rural regions (2-3%). Despite these constraints, Burundi has achieved remarkable progress in recent years, tripling its installed electricity generation capacity driven primarily by hydropower development although the energy sector continues to grapple with significant challenges including a persistent supply-demand gap, heavy seasonal dependence on hydropower that leads to frequent outages during dry periods, limited technical capacity, and the need for significant investment to achieve national electrification goals. The passage of a new electricity legislation in 2024, establishing an independent regulator, signals a growing government commitment to sector reform, transparency, and private sector participation.

1.2 Electrical Generation and Demand

Current Generation Capacity and Mix

As of 2025, Burundi's total installed generation capacity has increased to approximately 166.29 MW, up from just 47.35 MW in 2020, representing more than a threefold increase within five years. The commissioning of the Jiji-Mulembwe hydroelectric plants in June 2025 added a combined 49.5 MW to the national grid.

Table 1: Burundi Electricity Generation Capacity by Technology (2025)

Technology	Installed Capacity (MW)	Percentage of Total	Key Facilities
Hydropower	~110 MW	66%	Rwegura (18 MW), Mugere (8 MW), Jiji (32.5 MW), Mulembwe (17 MW), Ruvyironza (1.28 MW), Gikonge (0.85 MW), and other small hydro plants
Solar PV	~17-20 MW	10-12%	Mubuga (7.5 MW), Vugizo, Buhiga, and multiple smaller installations
Thermal (Diesel)	~25-30 MW	15-18%	REGIDESO thermal backup plants
Biomass/Bagasse	~5-8 MW	3-5%	SOSUMO sugar industry cogeneration
Imports	~15.5 MW	Supplementary	Ruzizi I (3.5 MW), Ruzizi II (12 MW) from DRC
Total	**~166 MW**	**100%**	

Sources: Government of Burundi, World Bank, REPP

Electricity Demand and Consumption Patterns

Current Consumption: In 2024, Burundi's total electricity production was approximately 384 GWh, representing about 86% of the country's consumption needs with consumption estimated at 440GWh, highlighting a persistent energy deficit of approximately 60-100 GWh annually that necessitates imports and results in frequent load shedding.

Access Rates: Burundi's electricity access rate stood at just 11.6% in 2023, among the lowest globally and some reports indicate that this has increased from 11.6% to about 26% over the last five years, though rural areas remain severely underserved, with access dropping to a mere 2% in rural areas compared to approximately 62-64% in urban centres.

Table 2: Electricity Consumption by Sector (Latest Available Data)

Sector	Consumption (GWh/year)	Percentage of Total	Notes
Households	~230-250 GWh	51-57%	Primarily in Bujumbura and urban areas
Commercial/Medium Customers	~175-185 GWh	40-42%	Businesses, offices, hotels
Public Services	~25-30 GWh	6%	Schools, hospitals, government buildings
Industrial	~5-10 GWh	1-2%	Limited industrial base
Exports	~0-5 GWh	<1%	Minimal to none
Total Consumption	**~440-445 GWh**	**100%**	
Transmission Losses	~16 GWh	3.6%	Distribution inefficiencies

Sources: (USAID, 2016), (Ministry of Infrastructure, 2012), (CIA World Factbook, 2022)

Energy Deficit and Grid Reliability

The supply deficit varies seasonally, ranging from approximately 12.9 MW during the wet season to 23.5 MW during the dry season when hydropower output is reduced. Even grid-connected populations face power cuts daily during the dry season. The average daily availability of electricity from the national grid is approximately 8 hours, severely constraining economic activity and forcing businesses to invest in expensive diesel backup generators.

1.3 Electrical Interconnection and Import/Export

Table 3: Burundi Electricity Import-Export Profile (2019-2024)

Parameter	Volume	Percentage of Consumption	Sources
Annual Imports	~100-120 GWh	22-27%	Ruzizi I & II (DRC), Rusumo Falls (Regional)
Annual Exports	0 GWh	0%	None
Net Import Dependency	~100-120 GWh	22-27%	Net importer
Domestic Production	~384 GWh	73-78%	Hydropower, solar, thermal
Total Consumption	~440-445 GWh	100%	-

Sources: World Energy (2024), CIA World Factbook (2022), Electrica (2016)

Additional information

Transmission Infrastructure: The Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania 'Rusumo network' consists of 372km of 220 kV Overhead Transmission Lines (OHTLs). The transmission line for Burundi is 160 km and runs from Rusumo to Muyinga and onwards to Gitega. Burundi operates several cross-border transmission connections:

- Two 110 kV transmission lines from DRC to Bujumbura
- 220 kV line from Rusumo Falls to Gitega (commissioned 2024)
- Interconnections at 30 kV for distribution-level cross-border supply

Regional Power Pool Membership

Burundi is a founding member of the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) and is also part of the Rwanda-Burundi-East DRC synchronized network, one of four synchronized networks

currently operating within the EAPP region. The EAPP serves as a regional institution coordinating cross-border power trade and grid interconnection among Eastern African nations. REGIDESO of Burundi is the member utility representing the country in the EAPP.

Table 4: Burundi's Regional Power Integration Framework

Organization	Membership Status	Role	Regional Utilities
Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP)	Founding member	Cross-border power trade coordination	REGIDESO (Burundi), SNEL (DRC), REG (Rwanda), SINELAC (Regional)
Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL)	Member	Energy cooperation framework	REGIDESO, SNEL, REG
East African Community (EAC)	Member	Regional integration and energy policy harmonization	National utilities
Synchronized Network	Rwanda-Burundi-East DRC Cluster	Operational grid synchronization	REGIDESO, SNEL, REG, SINELAC

Source: (Eastern Africa Power Pool, 2025)

Planned Interconnection Projects
Ruzizi III Hydropower Project
Ruzizi III is a 147 MW hydropower regional project between Burundi, DRC and Rwanda, to be developed as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP), with potential capacity increase to up to 230 MW following additional geological studies. The project powerhouse is situated 131 km upstream from Lake Tanganyika, and located 10 km downstream from the existing Ruzizi II plant. The project involves:

- Construction of a run-of-river dam on the Ruzizi River
- 147-230 MW power plant with three turbines
- 220 kV transmission lines to Kamanyola substation

Each of the three contracting states (Burundi, DRC, and Rwanda) will have a stake of 10% with an equal off-take share in the project, through CEPGL's energy affiliate Energie des Grands Lacs (EGL).

Other Regional Interconnection Initiatives
In 2022, construction work began on the Kigoma-Butare-Ngozi-Gitega High Voltage Power Line to connect the electricity grid of Rwanda and Burundi, strengthening the bilateral electricity trade capacity between the two countries.

1.4 Market Structure

Market Structure and Organization
Burundi's electricity sector operates as a vertically integrated state monopoly with limited but evolving opportunities for private sector participation. Despite reforms undertaken in 2000 and 2015 to liberalize and reorganize the electricity sector, REGIDESO remains the public company in charge of production and distribution of electricity, with the sector remaining mainly a natural monopoly of the state.

Table 5: Key Market Participants and Roles

Entity	Type	Role & Responsibilities	Established
REGIDESO (Régie de Production et de Distribution de l'Eau et de l'Électricité)	State-owned utility	Vertically integrated monopoly: generation (94% of installed capacity), transmission, distribution, and retail supply; single buyer of IPP-generated electricity	1962
The **Ministry of Mineral Resources, Energy, Industry, Commerce and Tourism**	Government ministry	Policy formulation, sector planning, supervision of state enterprises	-

AREEN (Autorité de Régulation des secteurs de l'Eau potable et de l'Énergie)	Independent regulatory authority	Technical and economic regulation, licensing, tariff approval, contract enforcement	2014 (reorganized 2018)
ABER (Agence Burundaise de l'Électrification Rurale)	Rural electrification agency	Implementation and management of rural electrification infrastructure, mini-grids	2011
SINELAC (Société Internationale des Pays des Grands Lacs)	Regional joint venture	Operation of Ruzizi II hydropower plant; electricity supply to REGIDESO	1976
Independent Power Producers (IPPs)	Private sector	Limited participation; first grid-connected IPP (Mubuga Solar 7.5 MW) commissioned 202. Recently, companies like Anzana Electric Group (through Weza Power, a PPP) are actively engaged in expanding electrification	Emerging

Sources: (African Development Bank (2019), REGIDESO, (2025))

Degree of Market Liberalization
The Electricity Act of 2000 separated water and electricity public services. Generation, transmission, and distribution activities were unbundled into a vertically integrated utility where generation and transmission were liberalized while distribution and retail were attributed as a concession to REGIDESO. The Electricity Law of April 2015 granted REGIDESO a monopoly on transmission, distribution and supply of electricity for 25 years from the law's entry into force. REGIDESO is also the single buyer of IPP-generated electricity, establishing a single-buyer model for the market.

Generation Licensing Framework:
The electricity law permits private generation of electricity, subject to certain conditions:

- **Concession regime:** Hydropower projects larger than 1 MW
- **Authorization regime:** Projects exceeding 500 kW (requires authorization from Ministry of Energy)
- **Declaration regime:** Projects less than 500 kW (simple declaration required)
- **PPP contracts:** Required for all projects on state-owned land

Selling surplus electricity to the grid is allowed under certain conditions. Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity for own use are also allowed. Direct sales of electricity to third parties is not permitted, except in exceptional circumstances deemed in the general interest.

Electricity Trading and Sales Arrangements
Trading Model: Burundi currently operates under a single-buyer model with no competitive wholesale market:

1. **Domestic Generation:** REGIDESO owns and operates most generation facilities directly
2. **IPP Power Purchase:** IPPs sell electricity exclusively to REGIDESO under Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)
3. **Import Arrangements:** Regional imports occur through bilateral and trilateral arrangements.
4. **Retail Supply:** REGIDESO has a monopoly on retail distribution with regulated tariffs approved by AREEN
5. **No Wholesale Market:** No competitive spot market or power pool for domestic trading

NOTE: ***REGIDESO's dual role as buyer and distributor may require future clarification on attribute ownership under PPAs.***

Existing Environmental Attribute and Certificate Systems
Current Status - No Existing Systems. As of October 2025, Burundi did not have an operational environmental attribute tracking or renewable energy certificate system.

1.5 Responsible Government Department

Burundi's electricity sector operates under a multi-tiered institutional framework involving policy-making ministries, regulatory authorities, and operational agencies. The framework has evolved through successive reforms in 2000, 2015, and most recently 2024, aimed at improving sector governance and attracting private investment.

Institutional Framework

Table 6: Institutional Framework for Electricity and Environmental Regulation

Institution	Type	Primary Responsibilities	Relevance to I-REC Implementation
Ministère de l'Hydraulique, de l'Énergie et des Mines (MINHEM)	Policy Ministry	• National energy policy formulation and implementation • Energy sector planning and coordination • Supervision of state-owned enterprises (REGIDESO) • Management of water, energy, and mining infrastructure • - Regional and international energy partnerships	Policy framework development; potential sponsor for I-REC adoption; coordination with development partners
AREEN (Autorité de Régulation des secteurs de l'Eau potable et de l'Énergie)	Independent Regulatory Authority	• Technical and economic regulation of electricity and water sectors • Issuance of generation licenses and permits • Approval of electricity and water tariffs • Enforcement of contractual provisions and specifications • Monitoring and regulation of sector operators • - Promotion of competition in the sector	Potential regulatory oversight of certificate systems; licensing authority for renewable energy facilities
Direction Générale de l'Energie (DGEE)	Directorate under MINHEM	• Preparation of sector policy and legislative texts • Planning and coordination of sector activities • Definition of sector priorities • Formulation of investment programs • Tariff policy preparation • - Oversight of REGIDESO operations	Technical policy support; coordination of renewable energy initiatives; potential administrative support for certificate tracking
REGIDESO (Régie de Production et de Distribution de l'Eau et de l'Électricité)	State-Owned Utility	• Electricity transmission network operation, distribution and retail supply • Single buyer of IPP electricity • - Water production and distribution	**Key data provider** for generation metering; device registration; operational coordination for certificate issuance
ABER (Agence Burundaise de l'Électrification Rurale)	Rural Electrification Agency	• Implementation of rural electrification programs • Development and management of mini-grids • Coordination of off-grid renewable energy projects • - Operation of isolated electricity systems	Registration of rural renewable energy facilities; mini-grid certificate tracking
Ministère de l'Environnement	Environmental Ministry	• Environmental policy and regulation • Environmental impact assessments • Climate change mitigation and adaptation • - International environmental agreements (Paris Agreement, NDCs)	Coordination on renewable energy environmental benefits; alignment with NDC commitments; carbon accounting

Regulatory Framework

Legislative Foundation:

1. **Law N° 1/014 of 2000:** Defines the principles, forms and conditions for private enterprise intervention in the electricity sector. According to the law, the energy sector remains a public service under the

responsibility of the state but opens its doors to Burundian public and private investors, selected through an invitation to tender with specific criteria.

2. **Electricity Law of April, 2015:** Grants REGIDESO the monopoly of transmission, distribution and supply of electricity for 25 years from the law's entry into force. The law also established the framework for private generation under concession, authorization, and declaration regimes.
3. **Electricity Law of March 2024:** The new electricity law emphasizes the need for an independent regulatory authority to oversee the electricity sector, representing a critical step in making the system more transparent and accountable to inspire investor confidence and protect consumers.

Supporting Decrees:
Key implementing decrees include:

- Decree No. 100/130 of June 2016 reorganizing the transmission, distribution and marketing of electricity
- Decree No. 100/132 of June 2016 on the procedure for the development of an energy production plant for exclusive and commercial use
- Decree No. 100/131 of June 2016 relating to the production, import and export of electricity

Environmental and Climate Governance
Burundi is a signatory to:

- **Paris Agreement:** Committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions as part of national climate strategy
- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):** Climate mitigation and adaptation commitments
- **UN Sustainable Development Goals:** Including SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action)

The Ministry of Environment coordinates environmental aspects of renewable energy certificate systems, particularly regarding carbon accounting, climate finance, and international reporting obligations under the Paris Agreement.

1.6 Existing / Planned Legislation

Burundi's legislative framework for the electricity sector has evolved through successive reforms, most recently in 2024. While existing legislation does not explicitly address environmental attribute certificates or I-REC(E), the regulatory framework provides a foundation that could either support or require adaptation for certificate system implementation.

Existing Legislation

Table 7: Key Legislation Affecting Environmental Attribute Implementation

Legislation	Year	Relevant Provisions	Impact on I-REC(E)	Status
Law N° 1/014	2000	Liberalization of electricity sector; framework for private investment	Created legal basis for private generators who could participate in I-REC system	Active but partially implemented
Electricity Law	April 2015	25-year monopoly for REGIDESO on transmission/distribution; licensing framework for generation (concession, authorization, declaration regimes); permits selling surplus electricity to the grid	Establishes licensing framework necessary for device registration; the single-buyer model may simplify initial implementation	Active
Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Act (Law No. 1/14	April 2015	Law No. 1/19 of July 2019 modified the 2015 PPP Law. The law establishes a framework for ownership rights and responsibilities in public-private projects.	PPP contracts would need to explicitly address whether environmental attributes belong to the private developer, the government, or shared between parties based on equity stakes.	Active

Decree No. 100/131	June 2016	Production, import and export of electricity regulation	Governs cross-border electricity trade; implications for imported renewable energy attributes	Active
Electricity Law	March 2024	Emphasis on independent regulatory authority; transparency and accountability measures; private sector participation	Positive signal for I-REC implementation; strengthens AREEN's independence needed for credible certificate issuance	Recently enacted; implementation ongoing

Legislative Gaps and Ambiguities

Table 8: Legislative Gaps Affecting I-REC Implementation

Gap/Ambiguity	Description	Mitigation Requirement
No recognition of environmental attributes	Legislation does not define or recognize environmental attributes as separable from electricity	Ministerial decree or regulation explicitly recognizing environmental attributes and their legal status
Attribute ownership rights	Unclear who owns environmental attributes (generator, REGIDESO as single buyer, or separable)	Legal clarification on attribute ownership, particularly in PPA arrangements.
Cross-border attribute allocation	No framework for allocating attributes from shared regional facilities	Regional agreements on attribute allocation; I-REC device registration protocols for shared facilities
Metering and data requirements	Licensing does not mandate I-REC-level metering and reporting	Updated licensing conditions requiring specific metering standards for renewable facilities
Certificate trading framework	No legal framework for buying/selling/retiring environmental certificates	Regulations establishing certificate trading rules, registry requirements, and redemption procedures
Bundled vs unbundled sales	Unclear if unbundled attribute sales violate REGIDESO's monopoly	Clarification that environmental attribute trading distinct from electricity sales
Taxation treatment	No clarity on tax treatment of certificate transactions	Tax guidance on certificate sales (VAT, income tax implications)

The current legislative framework presents no explicit barriers to I-REC implementation but contains significant gaps/ambiguities that require resolution through supplementary regulations. The 2024 electricity law reforms create a favourable momentum for introducing environmental attribute provisions during the implementation phase.

1.7 Environmental and Renewable Electricity Legislation

Burundi's legislative and policy framework for electricity and the environment is evolving, with a strong focus on attracting private investment and expanding access, particularly in rural areas. Key aspects include:

Environmental, Climate and Renewable Energy Policies
Table 9: Environmental, Climate, and Renewable Energy Policy Framework

Policy/Document	Year	Key Provisions	Targets/Timelines	Relevance to I-REC
Vision Burundi 2025	2011 (approved)	Long-term sustainable development vision; environmental protection and rational management; renewable energy promotion; micro and mini renewable plants focus	25% electrification rate by 2025; reduce wood burning in households	Establishes renewable energy policy foundation; supports certificate-based mechanisms for tracking renewable deployment
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) - Updated	October 2021	Unconditional 3.04% emissions reduction by 2030; conditional 12.61% with international support; covers energy, agriculture, water, health, ecosystems; monitoring framework	3.04% (unconditional) to 12.61% (conditional) emissions reduction by 2030	Direct relevance: NDC implementation requires tracking renewable energy deployment; I-REC provides MRV mechanism
National Development Plan (NDP)	2018-2027	Energy mix diversification; reduce reliance on hydropower; expansion interconnection with neighbors; renewable energy investment	Universal electricity access by 2030	Supports renewable energy tracking for investment monitoring and reporting
COMPACT National Energy Plan	2025	Aligned with World Bank Mission 300; grid expansion and decentralized solar	70% electrification, 40% clean cooking by 2030; eventual 100% access (80% grid, 20% solar) with 99% renewable generation	Strong I-REC driver: Ambitious renewable targets require robust tracking and verification systems
Decentralized Rural Electrification Strategy	2015	Framework for rural electrification through mini-grids and off-grid solutions	Contribute to Vision 2025 targets	Mini-grid renewable generation tracking
National Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change	2013	Climate change mitigation and adaptation framework	Implementation ongoing	Climate reporting integration with I-REC data
National Forest Policy	2012	Forest conservation and reforestation	Environmental sustainability	Indirect: reduces biomass pressure, supports energy transition

Environmental Protection and Renewable Energy Legislation
Burundi currently lacks a standalone renewable energy law or comprehensive renewable energy policy legislation. Renewable energy development is governed through:

- General electricity sector laws (2000, 2015, 2024)
- PPP framework (2015, amended 2019)
- Vision documents and strategic plans
- Project-specific concessions and authorizations

While specific environmental legislation exists, it does not explicitly address renewable energy certificates or environmental attributes tracking for electricity. Environmental regulation focuses on:

- Environmental impact assessments for energy projects
- Forest protection and reforestation
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation (through NDC framework)

No laws or regulations specifically require disclosure or verification of renewable electricity usage, creating both opportunity and need for voluntary mechanisms like I-REC**.**

NOTE: REGIDESO's dual role as buyer and distributor may require future clarification on attribute ownership under PPAs.

Policy Restrictions or Barriers

No Explicit Restrictions Identified:

- No policies prohibiting renewable energy certificate systems
- No restrictions on environmental attribute tracking
- No prohibition on voluntary sustainability reporting mechanisms

Disclosure and Verification Requirements

Burundi currently has no legislation requiring disclosure of renewable electricity usage by companies or utilities, verification of renewable energy claims, carbon footprint reporting for businesses, renewable energy procurement targets for public or private entities or sustainability reporting standards. Any renewable energy disclosure or verification in Burundi would be because of:

- Voluntary - driven by corporate sustainability commitments (e.g., RE100, CDP, SBTi)
- International reporting - for companies with global operations reporting under international standards
- Development partner requirements - projects funded by international institutions
- Export market requirements - companies exporting to markets with sustainability requirements

The absence of mandatory disclosure therefore creates opportunity for I-REC to establish voluntary standard that could inform future mandatory frameworks.

1.8 Existing/Planned Certificate or Support Systems

The absence of operational frameworks, programs, or regulations specifically governing environmental attribute ownership, use, or transfer for electricity generation creates both opportunities and challenges for I-REC(E) implementation. The country currently lacks formal renewable energy support mechanisms that could create attribute ownership complications.

- No Feed-in Tariffs (FiTs) are established
- Renewable Energy Subsidies are limited and can be project-specific. However, there are tax exemptions, duty waivers for renewable energy equipment.
- Net Metering/Self-Consumption Schemes are not established
- Renewable Energy Auctions/Competitive Procurement are not implemented
- Green Bonds/Climate Finance are project-specific. In such cases, climate finance agreements may have restrictions on environmental attribute ownership.

Burundi has no existing or planned certificate registry or tracking system. There are no regulatory restrictions on registry platform selection, standard adoption (I-REC vs other systems), international registry integration, registry operator selection or data sharing protocols.

1.9 Extent of Engagement with Government

Energy Peace Partners (EPP) has been working with Anzana Electric Group, a private developer and Marubeni Corporation, an environmental attribute certificate advisory and broker working on several projects across Africa to engage the government of Burundi in obtaining a letter of no objection to facilitate the establishment of the I-REC(E) in the country.

The key contacts for the collaborators from each team are below.

[redacted]

On the government side, the key officials that have supported this collaboration are.

- [redacted], Director in charge of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency at REGIDESO
  - LinkedIn profile: [redacted]
- [redacted], Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines of Burundi
  - [redacted]

1.10 Expected Response from Government

Following the commissioning of the Jiji- Mulembwe hydroelectric plants in June 2025, which added a combined 49.5 MW to the national grid, helped create additional momentum with the authorities and contributed to accelerating the discussions that led to the issuance of a letter of no objection.

On the 24th of October 2025, with the support and assistance from the Anzana Electric Group and Marubeni Corporation teams, Energy Peace Partners received a letter of no-objection from the Burundian authorities signed by the Minister of Mineral Resources, Energy, Industry, Trade and Tourism, [redacted], and the Permanent Secretary, [redacted]. Through this letter, the government of Burundi has confirmed its support for the introduction of the I-REC(E) as a means of promoting transparency, stimulating private sector participation and mobilizing additional financing for renewable energy projects, particularly those that bring tangible benefits to communities and vulnerable populations.

The Ministry has requested that Energy Peace Partners keep it informed of the progress made and of any official representation that may be required as part of this authorization process. A technical focal point will be designated within the Ministry to ensure proper implementation and provide any necessary clarification.

1.11 Proposed Restrictions

Our research found no restrictions that would prevent the establishment of an Energy Attribute Certificate (EAC) system in Burundi or the issuance of I-RECs, P-RECs, and any other EAC standards. However, there are several points to note that could have an impact on the local growth of the I-REC(E) market, including.

- **Nascent Regulatory Capacity:** While efforts are underway to strengthen regulatory institutions, their capacity to fully implement and oversee complex international certification schemes like I-RECs may still be developing.
- **Data Collection and Verification Infrastructure:** Effective I-REC issuance requires robust and transparent data collection on renewable electricity generation, often involving independent verification. Burundi's infrastructure for such detailed and consistent data management across numerous, potentially decentralized, renewable energy projects may need further development.
- **Market Awareness and Participation:** Local market participants (generators, consumers) may not be fully aware of I-RECs or their benefits, leading to limited domestic demand or engagement.
- **Grid Stability and Reliability:** While not a direct restriction on I-REC issuance, an unreliable grid could impact investor confidence in large-scale renewable projects, indirectly affecting the supply of I-RECs.
- **Financing and Investment Challenges:** Despite policy efforts, securing the significant investment needed for energy infrastructure development remains a challenge, which could slow down the growth of renewable energy projects that would generate I-RECs.
- **Lack of Specific I-REC Legislation:** While the general framework supports renewable energy and private investment, there is no explicit legislation in Burundi that specifically recognizes, regulates, or

facilitates I-REC certification. This means that a formal legal basis for I-RECs may need to be established to ensure their full acceptance and enforceability within the national context.

- **Centralized vs. Decentralized Control:** While the new electricity bill liberalizes distribution, the historical dominance of REGIDESO and the ongoing need for coordination between various government entities could present complexities in establishing a fully open and transparent I-REC market.
- **Financial Viability and Investment Climate:** Despite efforts to attract investment, challenges like foreign currency risk and the overall economic context can impact the financial viability of renewable energy projects and, consequently, the demand for and supply of I-RECs.

1.12 Any Other Relevant Information

Despite the progress made in the last couple of years, the renewable energy sector in Burundi still faces significant challenges and market risks driven by further risks including political instability, incomplete regulatory structures, weak governance and structural economic issues. The country experienced significant disruption during the 2015 political crisis, which substantially impacted economic activity and foreign investment (World Bank, 2018). The IMF documents that donor aid fell from 8.9% of GDP in 2014 to 2.4% in 2016, with budget support withdrawn (IMF, 2022). This financing volatility affects energy infrastructure projects requiring multi-year development horizons. Here is an analysis of these additional risks.

- Research indicates that REGIDESO faces system losses of up to 24%, attributed to ageing infrastructure and commercial losses with some equipment dating from before independence in 1962. The African Development Bank notes the region faces "insufficient generation capacity, high costs, and comparatively high distribution losses" (EAPP, 2023).
- Burundi ranks 187th of 193 countries on UNDP's Human Development Index (0.439) and has Africa's lowest GNI per capita at $230 (UNDP, 2024; World Bank, 2024). This limits domestic capital and creates utility revenue constraints. The IMF notes challenges including "limited export diversification and restricted capital market access" (IMF, 2022). With 80% employed in agriculture, the economy remains vulnerable to climate shocks (IOM, 2024).

The implementation roadmap for I-REC(E) should therefore include robust contingency planning for data system continuity, sustained capacity building for institutions facing technical constraints, and clear protocols for environmental attribute tracking in regional electricity trade. Importantly, transparent environmental attribute certification through I-REC serves as a valuable tool for de-risking investments and attracting climate finance, thus making credible certification particularly important for enhancing renewable energy project bankability in the country.

1.13 Authors

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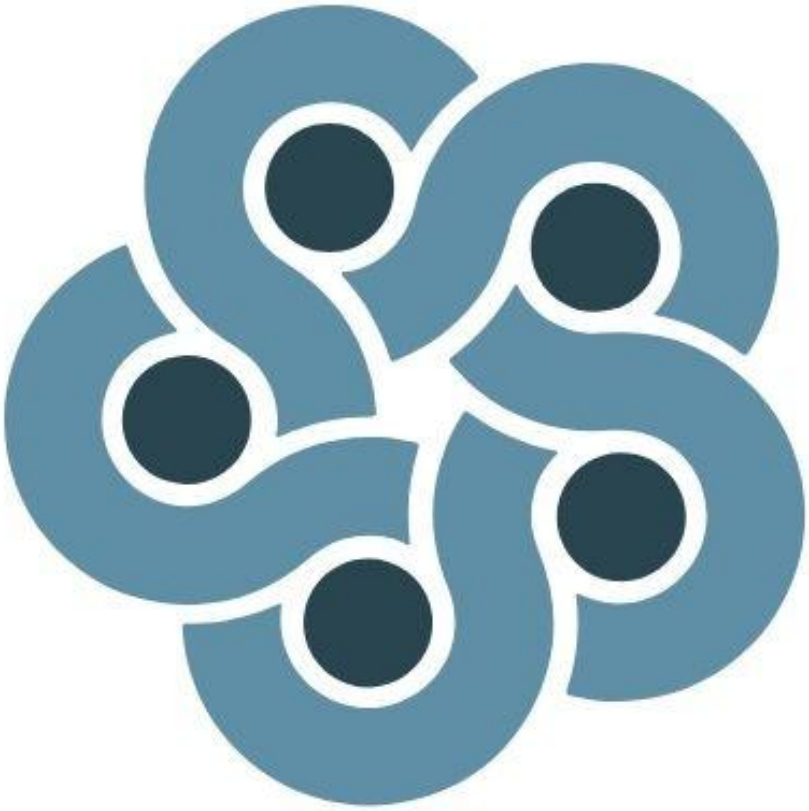
DATE	25	11	2025



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