



## **Request For Proposals (RFP) for International Social Specialist Advisor**

Request for Proposals (RFP) for an International Social Specialist Advisor to provide advisory services for aspects related to Land Acquisition, Resettlement, Livelihood Restoration and Indigenous Peoples for sub projects in connection with a Public Private Partnership (PPP) with the Government of Burundi to accelerate the country's electrification through the refurbishment, expansion and densification of the national electricity distribution network.

**RFP issued: 15/03/2025**

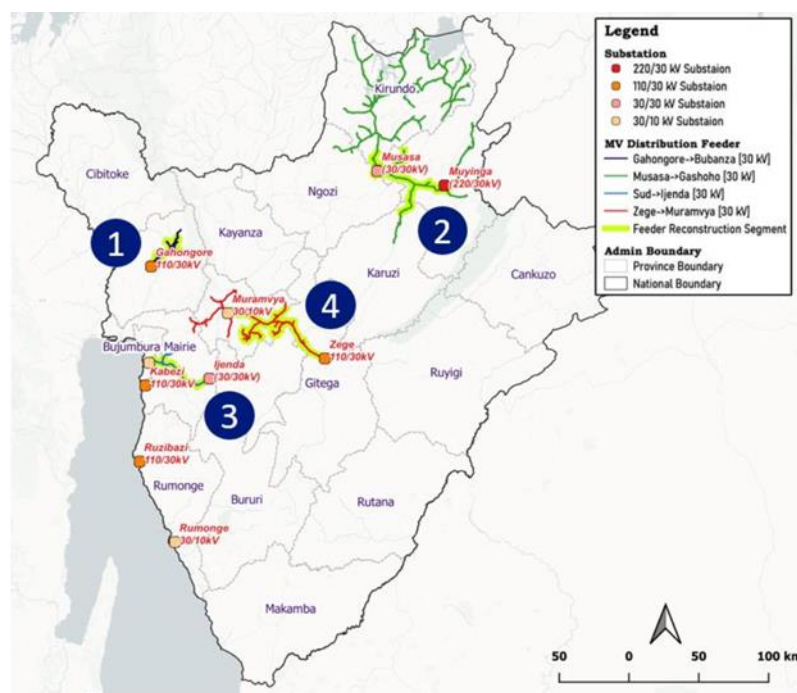


## 1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Anzana Electric Group (referred to herein as “Anzana”, formerly Virunga Power Holdings Limited) is a private renewable energy company focused on the development and operation of sustainable power generation and distribution projects in rural areas of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Anzana and the Government of Burundi (GoB) have embarked on an ambitious and potentially transformational Public Private Partnership (PPP) to rapidly extend the distribution grid to the largely unelectrified rural population of Burundi (the “Project”). Burundi has a significant energy generation pipeline, with an expected oversupply of ~200 MW once several multilateral and regional hydropower stations come online in the next years (Jiji-Mulembwe, Rusizi III, and others). Without energy distribution, these projects risk being underutilized in a country that has one of the lowest electrification rates in the world. The energy access rate in Burundi’s urban areas is relatively high, with 72.5% in the economic capital Bujumbura and 42.6% in other urban centers. In stark contrast, it falls to only 1.8% in rural areas where the great majority of the population (86%) lives, constituting a significant constraint to economic, social and human capital development. Burundi’s average annual electricity consumption per capita is ~25 kWh and remains one of the lowest in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the regional average stands at 480 kWh.

In this context, Anzana has focused its activities in Burundi on the setup of Weza Power (“Weza” or the “Company”, a new distribution service company focusing on the electrification gap in rural and peri urban areas. Construction during the preliminary pilot phase (until the end of 2025) will focus on four pilot areas with around 45,000 new connections serving approximately 300,000 people and numerous local businesses. In the following years, and after completion of the PPP negotiations, Weza Power’s grid will gradually expand across the entire country, serving at least 70% of the rural population. Existing or upcoming small-scale generation plants are planned to be embedded into the network as it reaches their areas of operation. The first phase of the Project involves expanding the distribution grid in four areas in Burundi (see map and table below for details), including refurbishing 215 km of existing transmission lines and constructing 726 km of new medium-voltage lines and 1,160 km of new low-voltage lines. It aims to connect approximately 42,000 households, 4,000 commercial customers, 37 schools, 67 hospitals, and 15 factories. Given the predominance of greenfield expansion, land acquisition and resettlement planning will be crucial.



	Feeder Name	Feeder Length	Segment for Reconstruction	Households	Demand, kW	MV Length, km	LV Length, km	
1	Gahongore-Bubanza	31.7	28.26	89%	9,195	3,390	171.50	274.40
2	Musasa-Gashoho	435.81	71.84	16%	10,863	3,976	189.54	303.26
3	Sud-Ijenda	34.3	29.04	85%	10,810	3,905	162.14	255.95
4	Zege-Muramvya	141.51	85.88	61%	10,782	4,041	203.69	325.90
All		643.32	215.02	33%	41,650	15,312	726.87	1,160

## 2. OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this RFP is to solicit proposals from qualified and experienced Social Specialist Advisors—either as independent consultants or as part of a consultancy firm—to provide strategic guidance and oversight on the social aspects of the Weza Power rural electrification project in Burundi. The appointed advisor will be responsible for ensuring the project’s compliance with relevant Lender Environmental and Social standards, including IFC Performance Standards 5 and 7 (PS5 and PS7) and World Bank Environmental and Social Standards 5 and 7 (ESS5 and ESS7). Specifically, the Social Specialist Advisor will be responsible for:

1. Providing expert advice and strategic direction throughout the development and implementation phases of the Project, particularly in relation to land acquisition, economic compensation, resettlement, and Indigenous Peoples.

2. Overseeing and ensuring that land acquisition, resettlement, and livelihood restoration processes align with national regulations and international best practices, and safeguard the rights of affected communities, including vulnerable groups and Indigenous Peoples where applicable.
3. Providing guidance and support for Weza Power and local consultants conducting Environmental and Social studies, including the preparation of Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Plans (LALRP), Resettlement Action Plans (RAP), and Indigenous Peoples Plans (where appropriate).
4. Ensuring the proper implementation of studies and plans in line with Burundian legal requirements, Lender standards, and the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), including the Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), and Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF).
5. Advising on engagement strategies with affected communities and stakeholders, particularly vulnerable groups, ensuring meaningful consultation processes and the development of appropriate mitigation measures.
6. Conducting thorough reviews and QA/QC of documents produced by local consultants, ensuring that studies, surveys, and reports meet the required quality standards and are in full compliance with both local and international environmental and social governance standards.
7. Supporting the integration of social considerations into the broader project development plan, effectively mitigating social risks while contributing to the success of the pilot phase.

The primary goal is to ensure the social sustainability of the Weza Power rural electrification project, in line with the expectations of lenders and stakeholders, and to maximize the long-term positive impact on the communities served.

### **3. RESETTLEMENT AND LAND ACQUISITION CONTEXT**

Economic displacement is a prevalent issue in Burundi, and each pilot project area will require at least a Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Plan (LALRP). While economic displacement will be the primary focus, some physical displacement is also anticipated. The extent of physical displacement and the number of affected households will determine the level of studies and plans required.

According to Weza Power's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), the following criteria and requirements apply:

- For subprojects involving fewer than 50 cases of physical displacement and/or fewer than five displacements within the same locality, accompanied by minor impacts on low-value cultural sites, a LALRP will be developed in compliance with IFC and World Bank (WB) standards.
- If physical displacement exceeds these thresholds, a full Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) will be required, prepared in accordance with international best practices.

Weza Power seeks an experienced International Social Specialist Advisor to oversee local consultant teams conducting Environmental and Social studies for the pilot phase, including Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA), LALRP, and RAP (where applicable), in line with the ESMF and the requirements set forth by the project's lenders.

### **4. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONTEXT**

The Batwa, historically recognized as one of the original peoples of Central Africa's forests, are considered by some organizations, including the World Bank, as Indigenous Peoples (IPs). In Burundi, the Batwa



communities are located within the sub-project's area of influence. However, the impacts of the Weza Power rural electrification project on Batwa communities—whether positive (as beneficiaries of electrification) or negative (such as land use restrictions due to powerline rights of way)—remain to be fully assessed during the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) for each of the four sub projects being developed in the pilot phase of this rural electrification program.

Although Batwa communities are acknowledged as Indigenous Peoples by international standards (IFC PS7 and World Bank ESS7), initial consultations conducted during the screening phase suggest that the Batwa in the subproject area do not meet all criteria typically associated with Indigenous Peoples, as outlined in the IFC PS7 and ESS7. Specifically, the Batwa do not have a collective attachment to land or natural resources in the project area, nor do they have distinct cultural, economic, social, or political institutions separate from the dominant society. They speak Kirundi, without a unique dialect, and do not maintain separate governance systems or rituals. Consequently, the Batwa do not fully align with the definition of Indigenous Peoples requiring the preparation of an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) or Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), as per IFC PS7.

While no Batwa households have been identified as potentially affected by the sub-project at the community level, the E&S studies will consider the specific needs of vulnerable groups, including the Batwa, to facilitate their access to electricity and mitigate any barriers to participation in the project.

It is important to note that Burundi's unique historical context, marked by complex ethnic relations and past inter-ethnic violence, necessitates a sensitive approach to development. In this context, it is vital to avoid creating disparities or tensions between different ethnic groups. The project aims to provide benefits to all communities, promoting social cohesion and reducing the risk of conflict, ensuring that no group, including the Batwa, is excluded from the project's benefits.

Noting the above, the international consultant that compiled the ESMF has recommended the following measures to be integrated into the project to ensure that the Batwa are appropriately considered:

- **Specific Engagement:** Batwa communities and their representatives will be specifically engaged during the ESIA process. This will ensure their concerns and potential benefits from the electrification project are adequately documented.
- **Adapted Grievance Mechanism:** A grievance mechanism tailored to the needs of Batwa communities to be established.
- **Land and Livelihood Considerations:** Special care will be taken to avoid impacts on Batwa agricultural plots, particularly during the finalization of powerline routes.
- **Vulnerability Considerations:** The ESIA and LALRPs will consider the Batwa's greater vulnerability, particularly in relation to economic displacement.

## **5. KEY ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SPECIALIST ADVISOR**

The International Social Specialist Advisor will play a critical role in supporting Weza Power as a technical expert, providing oversight and guidance to ensure the project's alignment with international best practices in land acquisition, compensation, and resettlement planning. The Advisor will work closely with Weza Power and local consultant teams to ensure that the project meets both local and international environmental and social standards, while safeguarding the rights and interests of affected communities.

## **6. REFERENCE FRAMEWORK**

The International Social Specialist Advisor will ensure that land acquisition, compensation, and resettlement planning comply with the following frameworks:

- Local, national, and international environmental and social legislation, including land acquisition and displacement regulations in Burundi.
- IFC Performance Standards (2012) and related guidance notes on land acquisition and resettlement.
- World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (ESS), particularly those concerning land acquisition and displacement.
- Lender-specific requirements, including policies on land acquisition and economic displacement from institutions such as FMO, EDFI, and BII.
- Weza Power's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) including the Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF).

## 7. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The selected Social Specialist Advisor will be responsible for:

- **Strategic Advisory Support:** Providing expert guidance throughout the project's development and implementation phases, with a focus on land acquisition, economic compensation, resettlement, and Indigenous Peoples considerations. They will ensure these processes comply with Burundian national regulations and international standards, including:
  - IFC Performance Standards (PS5 and PS7)
  - World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (ESS5 and ESS7)
  - Lender requirements from institutions such as FMO, EDFI, and BII
- **Technical Support for Local Consultants:** The Advisor will offer ongoing oversight, technical direction, and quality assurance to local consultants conducting Environmental and Social studies, including quality assurance on deliverables from the local consultant, including but not limited to:
  - Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Plans (LALRP)
  - Resettlement Action Plans (RAP)
  - Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPP) (where applicable)

The Advisor will ensure these studies adhere to the highest professional standards and reflect the project's specific needs.

- **Ensuring Compliance with the Reference Framework:** Ensuring the proper execution of social impact studies and plans in accordance with Burundian legal requirements, Lender standards, and the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). This includes adherence to the Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), and Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF).

They will work to ensure that social considerations are fully integrated into the project's overall development strategy.

- **Implementation Oversight:** Monitoring implementation of E&S studies and ensuring that all land acquisition and resettlement activities comply with the project's ESMF, including the Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), and Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF). The Advisor will also provide support to ensure that social considerations are integrated into the broader project development plan.



- **Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation:** The Advisor will provide strategic guidance on engaging with affected communities, ensuring that vulnerable groups, including Indigenous Peoples, are meaningfully consulted throughout the project. They will ensure that consultation processes are:
  - Inclusive and culturally appropriate
  - Compliant with lender and international best practices
  - Designed to build trust and community participation
  - While Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) is not currently anticipated based on preliminary E&S screening, the Advisor will be responsible for assessing and advising on any evolving FPIC requirements should they become applicable.
- **Quality Assurance for Local Studies:** Reviewing and providing strategic oversight for local consultants conducting social assessments and surveys, ensuring adherence to international environmental and social governance standards.
- **Capacity Building:** The Advisor will contribute to strengthening local expertise by assisting Weza Power in building the capacity of in-country teams and consultants. This will ensure that social risks are managed effectively and that E&S impact assessments meet internationally recognized standards.
- **Integration of Social Considerations in Project Planning:** Supporting Weza Power in embedding social risk management into broader project development plans, ensuring the successful mitigation of social risks while maximizing long-term community benefits.

## 8. CONSULTANT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Weza Power is inviting proposals from qualified consultants for the role of International Social Specialist Advisor. Interested consultants should submit the following:

- A technical proposal outlining the proposed approach to provide the necessary services according to the scope of work in this RFP. This should include an overview of methodologies for ensuring compliance with IFC Performance Standards, World Bank Environmental and Social Standards, and lender requirements.
- A detailed profile of the Independent International Social Specialist Advisor and/or the specialist consultant team, outlining relevant qualifications, expertise, and experience relevant to the scope or work. Consultants with over 15 years of specialized experience in economic and physical resettlement, as well as Indigenous Peoples' rights, will be given preference.
- CVs of key expert(s) proposed for the assignment, demonstrating their track record in delivering similar advisory services, particularly in East Africa and Burundi.
- Evidence of prior experience in similar projects, including case studies or examples of relevant assignments.
- Proposed fee structure, including hourly rates for the International Social Specialist Advisor and/or the specialist consultant team. If subcontracting is anticipated, proposals should specify the roles, responsibilities, and rates of any subcontracted resources.

All suppliers invited to participate to this tender are required to provide a set of documents and evidence to satisfy our KYC process and our prequalification process. Both processes are essential to ensure, transparency, risk mitigation and compliance with our investor's obligations. The KYC process helps us



understand the suppliers' strengths and weaknesses but also to verify the legitimacy, financial stability and regulatory compliance of all the potential suppliers, while the prequalification process allows us to ensure that suppliers are able to meet our requirements and are correctly structured to execute the scope of the work.

As part of the KYC process, Bidders must provide the following information:

- Presentation
- Valid business registration number
- Shareholding details and ultimate beneficial owners' declaration
- Proof of compliance with anti-corruption and anti-money laundering regulations
- Statement confirming that the Bidder has not been blacklisted by the World Bank or any other reputable financing organization
- Audited financial statement for the last 3 years
- Any relevant ISO certifications

## 9. FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT APPROACH

Given the nature of the project and the varying needs at different stages, the contract will be structured as a framework agreement. This approach allows for flexibility in engagement levels, recognizing that the level of effort required will fluctuate month to month based on:

- Project progress and the specific phase of implementation
- The complexity of land acquisition, resettlement, and social risk management activities at any given time
- The level of support required from the International Social Specialist Advisor

This framework will accommodate both consultancy firms and individual consultants. For firms, the agreement will outline resource allocation and hourly rates for key personnel, with task orders issued as needed. In the case of an individual consultant, an individual consulting contract will be established under similar flexible terms, ensuring that advisory services can be scaled up or down depending on project requirements.

The expected level of effort will vary over time, but consultants should anticipate an estimated commitment of 20 to 40 hours per week over the next two years. Actual hours will be determined based on project needs and agreed upon in advance through task orders or periodic reviews.

## 10. CLARIFICATIONS

Any queries concerning the RFP should be emailed as a Request for Clarification to [procurement@wezapower.com](mailto:procurement@wezapower.com) on or before the **20<sup>th</sup> of March 2025, 23:59 PM GMT+2**. Clarifications, if there are any, will be sent to all potential submitters.

## 11. SUBMISSION

The submission deadline is **30<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 23:59 GMT+2** Universal Coordinated Time. Submissions of proposals must be via email to the addresses below.

**Weza Power Procurement Department**  
**Email: [procurement@wezapower.com](mailto:procurement@wezapower.com)**



## 12. LEGAL

The submission of a proposal in response to this RFP shall not be treated as an acceptance; it being understood that this RFP does not constitute an offer of any kind. This RFP does not create any sort of legally binding relations, and Weza Power is under no obligation to select any entity for the Assignment, or for any future assignment or services.

All information contained in this RFP shall be considered as strictly confidential and shall be respected as such by all prospective Bidders and final contractors. The Bidders shall not disclose the content of this RFP or any information in relation to this RFP to anyone outside its organization, its owners and its consultants and any information exchanged during RFP process and the Assignment shall be treated confidentially under any applicable advocate-client privileges.

The Bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of its bid, and Weza Power shall not be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the RFP process.