An analysis of the progress of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals in Zambia

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1. Introduction

This study has been undertaken as part of a continental effort by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) to investigate the progress of African countries in implementation of the Paris agreement and the SDGs. As observed by PACJA, Africa has in the last decade experienced weather related events including high temperature, floods and droughts, with damaging consequences, which clearly point to a changing climate. Another serious observations is that the weather-related disasters have affected health, livelihoods, productivity, water availability and overall security of people, resulting into conflicts and unprecedented levels of displacement and migration, while mostly affecting women, children and the aged.

Following years of discourse on climate change, the Paris Agreement (demonstrating unprecedented global action) was signed to chart a way forward to address climate change. This global pact was billed to commence implementation in 2020 by way of individual countries Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which indicate the targets in emission reductions and specific strategies for implementation. Both the Paris Agreement and NDC recognize the critical role of sub-national and national level stakeholder actions including non-state actors in turning around the negative consequences brought about by or expected from a changing global climate. Climate change presents the biggest threat to sustainable development meaning that many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) may not be achieved because of climate change. Therefore enhanced climate action can reinforce progress on the SGDs. As observed by the Paris Agreement and SGDs are supposed to be implemented alongside each other but may not be so in practice.

As observed by PACJA it is critical to gather data on the progress of countries on SDGs and Paris agreement and assess the extent to which countries align the two processes so as to generate baseline that will be useful in pushing for consideration of these two important processes in Post COVID19 reconstruction process. In this regard, PACJA commissioned a study aimed at analyzing the progress of African countries in implementation of the Paris agreement and the SDGs. The study we also seek to find out how the integration of these frameworks is happening at the national level, in terms of reporting on progress, coordination mechanisms between the departments, and even policy coherence.

This particular study focuses on Zambia and attempts to analyse the country’s implementation of both the Paris and the SGDs while examining how the two are integrated as part of the overall national development processes. The recommendations from these studies will be used for inputs into climate change and SDGs processes at the continental and national levels.

1.1 Methodology

The national development context as is the case world over is championed by the government. The government therefore has primary responsibility for defining policies and systems that promote the achievement of the SDGs and climate goals. The study methodology was principally desk based. It therefore examined relevant government development and climate frameworks for analysis. Additional documents were examined for verification. The principle documents thus included the following:
a. The Vision 2030 Vision—The country’s long term development strategy concluding at the same time as the SDGs
b. The Seventh National Development Plan (2017-2021), the current five year development framework;
c. The National Climate Change Policy
d. Zambia’s Intended Nationally Determined Contribution to the 2015 Agreement on Climate Change (Zambia’s NDC)

With these key documents, the study then explored the connections between the country development agenda and the climate priorities as follows:

a. Paris Agreements connection to the Sustainable Development Goals
b. The Seventh National Development Plans connection to the Nationally Determined Contribution
c. The Seventh National Developments connection to the Sustainable Development Goals
d. Coordination mechanisms for the country’s development agendas

Regarding the effects of COVID-19 on implementation of SDGs and Paris Agreement, the study similarly used existing documents to discern the impacts. These included:

c. 2020 Presidential Speech. Speech by His Excellency, The President of the Republic of Zambia Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu on the Ceremonial Opening of the Fifth Session of the Twelfth Assembly delivered on Friday, 11th September 2020;
d. 2021 Budget Address by Honourable Dr. Bwalya K.E. Ng’andu, MP, Minister of Finance, Delivered to the National Assembly on Friday, 25th September, 2020
e. United Nations COVID Emergency Appeal-Zambia; May-September 2020
g. The Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on the Zambian Economy 2020-Policy Resource Monitoring Centre

1.2 The Paris Agreement on Climate Change

An agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement deals with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its main aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. In addition, the agreement aims to increase the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change, and at making finance flows consistent with a low GHG emissions and climate-resilient pathway. To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate mobilization and provision of financial resources, a new technology framework and enhanced capacity-building is to be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives. The Agreement also provides for an enhanced transparency framework for action and support.
The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to propose their efforts to meet the obligations of the Paris Agreement in what are termed “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead.

The Paris Agreement, adopted through Decision 1/CP.21, addresses fundamental areas necessary to combat climate change. Some of these include:

- **Long-term temperature goal** (Art. 2) - strengthening the global response to climate change in addition to limiting global temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius, while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees.
- **Global peaking and ‘climate neutrality’** (Art. 4) - the urgency of limiting global temperature rise to 2 degrees while recognizing peaking will take longer for developing country Parties, as the globe seeks to balance anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHGs;
- **Mitigation** (Art. 4) - binding commitments by all Parties to prepare, communicate and maintain a nationally determined contribution (NDC) and to pursue domestic measures to achieve them.
- **Sinks and reservoirs** (Art. 5) - encourages Parties to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of GHGs, including forests.
- **Voluntary cooperation/Market- and non-market-based approaches** (Art. 6) - recognizes the possibility of voluntary cooperation among Parties for any cooperation that involves internationally transferal of mitigation outcomes and a mechanism to contribute to the mitigation of GHG emissions and support sustainable development, and defines a framework for non-market approaches to sustainable development.
- **Adaptation** (Art. 7) - establishes a global goal on adaptation – of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change in the context of the temperature goal of the Agreement.
- **Loss and damage** (Art. 8) – recognizes the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage.
- **Finance, technology and capacity-building support** (Art. 9, 10 and 11) - reaffirms the obligations of developed countries to support the efforts of developing country Parties to build clean, climate-resilient futures and the provision of resources to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation including the strengthening of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) the financial mechanism for the Agreement.
- **Climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information** (Art 12) is also to be enhanced under the Agreement.

### 1.3 The Sustainable Development Goals

About five (5) years ago, member’s states of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals are anchored on the
The five (5) pillars of People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity and Partnership, all aimed at guaranteeing growth, social inclusion while protecting the environment.\(^1\)

The seventeen (17) goals (and targets) are integrated, indivisible and global in nature (See Appendix X for a complete list). They are universally applicable, and taking into account different national circumstances in terms of level of development and implementation capacity. The targets are essentially aspirational, with each Government setting its own national priorities and targets. Each government also decides how these aspirations are incorporated into the national development framework.

There is recognition that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The SDGs are rooted in the many United Nation processes on sustainable development key of which include Agenda 21 of the Earth Summit of 1992, the Millennium Declaration which heralded Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). All these global efforts have prioritized sustainable development as the only way to a secure future for global populations.

Sustainable development has been defined in many ways, but the most frequently quoted definition is from Our Common Future, also known as the Brundtland Report: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"\(^2\). Consequently three essential aspects of sustainable development-economic, environment and social sustainability are recognised and the key principle is that of integration of decision making\(^3\). The SDGs are very much in tune with integration as a way to realizing sustainability. This may however be a challenging feat in view of the many potential complications integration may present. The SDG goals are multidimensional, raising the issue of how to balance objectives and how to judge success or failure. For example, what if non-polluting energy sources are more expensive, thus increasing the burden on the poor, for whom they represent a larger proportion of daily expenditure? Which goal will take precedence? These are real challenges that need serious considerations.

### 1.3 Zambia’s policy and institutional framework for sustainable development

Sustainable development policy is framed by three key documents, the Constitution of 1991 (as Amendment by Act No 2 of 2016), the 2023 National Long-term Vision and the national development plan, the current being the Seventh National Development Plan (7th NDP). The Constitution recognizes sustainable development as national value and is provided for under Article 8 sub-section (f). The 2030

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1. Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa, Official Launch Sustainable Sub Regional Centre for Southern Africa 7th August 2019, Lusaka
Vision aims to trajectory the country to middle income status where the majority of the population is lifted out of poverty.

Building on the achievements and lessons learnt from previous plans, the Seventh National Development Plan, covering the period 2017-2021, aims to “create a diversified and resilient economy for sustained growth and socioeconomic transformation driven, among others, by agriculture”\(^4\). The Plan’s key outcomes are economic diversification and job creation; reduction of poverty and vulnerability; reduced developmental inequalities; enhanced human development; and the creation of a conducive governance environment for a diversified and inclusive economy.\(^5\)

**2.0 Integration of the Paris Agreement into the SDGs process and reporting**

The success of the Paris Agreement will for the larger part be attributed to, and will depend on, how effectively countries implement their NDCs. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) communicate to the world national priorities, circumstances and capabilities to combat climate change and limit future climate risks under the global framework of the Paris Agreement that drives collective action toward a zero-carbon, climate-resilient future. NDCs therefore promote mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development activities for that matter.

The NDC is therefore the main tool for implementing the Paris Agreement for Zambia. First submitted as Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) in 2015 were converted to NDCs upon Zambia ratification the Paris Agreement in 2016. Zambia’s NDC includes both mitigation and adaptation components based on her national circumstances. The mitigations sectors Energy, Agriculture, Waste, Land-use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF). Adaptations actions are linked to the areas of mitigations and include the productions systems (agriculture, wildlife and water); in strategic infrastructure and health and in capacity building, research, technology transfer and finance.\(^6\) The Zambian NDC is ambitious, however its extent and magnitude of contribution of GHG reduction will depend on the availability of resources from domestic efforts with limited international support. Climate change is recognized as an urgent issue due to the major threat it poses to Zambia’s sustainable development pathway. How then are climate actions contained in Zambia’s NDCs connected to the 17 SDGs whose prime focus is to achieve sustainable development?

**2.1 Seventh National Development Plans connection to Nationally Determined Contributions**

The concept of policy coherence is defined as matching of policies, processes and institutions at all government and governance levels to avoid contradictions and conflicts in policy making.\(^7\) As noted in earlier sections to this report, the NDC, Zambia’s 7th National Development Plan (2017-2021) integrates national goals set through Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. In 2017 Zambia further bolstered climate

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\(^5\) Ibid

\(^6\) Government of the Republic of Zambia, 2015 Zambia’s Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the 2015 Agreement on Climate Change

\(^7\) Dzebo, A; Janetschek, H Brandi C., Lacobuta, G. (2019) Connections between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, The case for policy coherence, Swedish Environment Institute
change as a national priority with the launch of the National Climate Change Policy, which provides a framework for coordinating climate change programmes to advance Zambia’s Vision 2030. The Climate Change policy measures are intended to achieve coherence between successive National Development Plans and all climate change programmes.

An assessment revealed that mitigation and adaptation measures in the NDC are aligned with the 7NDP as shown in Table X below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7NDP</th>
<th>NDC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal:</strong> diversified and resilient economy for sustained growth and socio-economic transformation</td>
<td><strong>Aspiration:</strong> Development of a low carbon and climate-resilient development pathway through reduction of GHG emissions and enhancing resilience of its population, ecosystems, infrastructure, productive and health systems.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Strategic objectives/Outcomes</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mitigation and adaptation priority actions</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ❖ **To diversify and make economic growth inclusive**  
  (Economic diversification and job creation) | **Mitigation actions:**  
  • Sustainable Forest Management  
  • Sustainable Agriculture  
  • Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency  
  **Adaptation actions:**  
  • Guaranteed food security through diversification and promotion of Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices for crop, livestock and fisheries production including conservation of germ plasm for land races and their wild relatives  
  • Develop a National Wildlife Adaptation Strategy and ensure its implementation through supportive policies, local community, civil society and private sector participation  
  • Protection and conservation of water catchment areas and enhanced investment in water capture, storage and transfer (linked to agriculture, energy, ecological, industrial and domestic use purposes) in selected watersheds |
|  
  • Diversified and export-oriented agriculture sector  
  • Diversified and export-oriented mining sector  
  • A diversified tourism sector  
  • Improved energy production and distribution for sustainable development  
  • Improved access to domestic, regional and international markets  
  • Improved transport systems and infrastructure  
  • Improved water resources development and management  
  • Enhanced information and communication technology  
  • Enhanced decent job opportunities in the economy |  

| ❖ **To reduce poverty and vulnerability**  
  • Enhanced welfare and livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable | **Mitigation actions:**  
  • Sustainable Forest Management  
  • Sustainable Agriculture  
  • Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency  
  **Adaptation actions:**  
  • Guaranteed food security through diversification and promotion of Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices for crop, livestock and fisheries production including conservation of germ plasm for land races and their wild relatives |
| ❖ **To reduce developmental inequalities** | **Mitigation measures** |
- Reduced inequalities
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
  - Adaptation actions:
  - Guaranteed food security through diversification and promotion of Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices for crop, livestock and fisheries production including conservation of germ plasm for land races and their wild relatives

- To enhance human development
  - Improved health and health-related services
  - Improved education and skills development
  - Improved access to water supply and sanitation

  - Mitigation actions:
  - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
  - Adaptation actions
  - Protection and conservation of water catchment areas and enhanced investment in water capture, storage and transfer (linked to agriculture, energy, ecological, industrial and domestic use purposes) in selected watersheds

- To create a conducive governance environment for a diversified and inclusive economy.
  - Improved policy environment
  - Improved transparency and accountability
  - An inclusive democratic system of governance
  - Improved service delivery
  - Improved rule of law, human rights and constitutionalism
  - Enhanced national values, principles and ethics

  - Adaptation actions:
  - Develop a National Wildlife Adaptation Strategy and ensure its implementation through supportive policies, local community, civil society and private sector participation

2.2 Seventh National Development Plans connection to the SDGs

The 7NDP not only creates an environment for the domestication of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AU Agenda 2063 and other international, regional, multilateral and bilateral development strategies but also provides the specific nodes of interface with the SDGs by way of five (5) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as shown in Figure1 below.

Figure 1: Integrated approach to the 7NDP and link to SDGs
A mapping exercise using the Rapid Integrated Assessment method to assess 7NDP and SDG alignment by Government found that 86% of SDG targets to the 7NDP with 75% of these full aligned and 11% partially aligned\(^8\) as shown in Table X below.

Table X: Alignment of 7NDP Key Result Areas to SDG Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Pillar 1</th>
<th>Strategic Pillar 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic Diversification and Job Creation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Poverty and Vulnerability Reduction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal No 2: Zero Hunger-End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</td>
<td>Goal No 1: No poverty-End poverty in all its forms everywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal No 3: Good health and well-being- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</td>
<td>Goal No 2: Zero Hunger-End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal No 5: Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</td>
<td>Goal No 3: Good health and well-being- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal No 6: Clean water and sanitation-Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</td>
<td>Goal No 4: Quality education-Ensure quality and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal No 7: Affordable and Clean Energy-Ensure access to affordable reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</td>
<td>Goal No 5: Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal No 8: Decent work and economic growth-promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, full productive employment and decent work for all</td>
<td>Goal No 6: Clean water and sanitation-Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal No 9: Industry innovation and infrastructure-promote resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</td>
<td>Goal No 10: Reduced inequalities-Reduce inequality and within and among countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal No 10: Reduced inequalities-Reduce inequality and within and among countries</td>
<td>Goal No 11: Sustainable cities and communities-making cities and human cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal No 15: Life on Land-Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt</td>
<td>Goal No 12: Responsible production and production patterns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Goal No 13: Climate Action-Take urgent action to combat Climate Change and its impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Goal No 15: Life on Land-Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Goal No 8: Decent work and economic growth - promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, full productive employment and decent work for all
Goal No 10: Reduced inequalities - Reduce inequality and within and among countries
Goal No 13: Climate Action - Take urgent action to combat Climate Change and its impact

Goal No 11: Sustainable cities and communities - making cities and human cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal No 5: Gender Equality - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal No 10: Reduced inequalities - Reduce inequality and within and among countries
Goal No 11: Sustainable cities and communities - making cities and human cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal No 13: Climate Action - Take urgent action to combat Climate Change and its impact
Goal No 16: Peace Justice and strong institutions - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal No 17: Strengthen partnerships for the Goals - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Strategic Pillar
Creating a Conducive Governance Environment for a Diversified Economy

2.3 Paris Agreement (Nationally determined contributions) connection to the SDGs

The multi-sectoral approach is viewed as an important ingredient for the successful implementation of projects and programmes through an established institutional framework. Table X shows connection between the NDC priority areas and the SDGs.

Table X: NDC & SDG areas of connection (Mitigation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NDC Priority Areas</th>
<th>SDGs target closely connected to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable forest management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Forest enhancement including natural regeneration afforestation/reforestation</td>
<td>Target 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes. Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally. Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sustainable charcoal production to include improved kilns</td>
<td>Target 7.3: By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improved cooking devices to include improved biomass stoves, use of ethanol and LPG stoves, and switch to electric stoves</td>
<td>Target 7.3: By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Participatory forest management (CFM, JFM, PFM)</td>
<td>Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally Target 16.2: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Forest fire management</td>
<td>Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

**Sustainable Agriculture**

- Conservation/ Smart agriculture

  **Target 2.1:** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

  **Target 2.3:** By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

  **Target 2.4:** By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

- Rural biogas plants

  **Target 7.1:** By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

- Rural biomass electricity generating facilities

  **Target 7.1:** By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

**Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**

- Fuel switch (diesel/HFO to biodiesel)

  **Target 7.1:** By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

- Fuel switch (coal to biomass)

- Switch from existing isolated diesel to mini-hydro

- Introduce and increase blending of bio-fuels with fossil fuels and where possible substitution with bio-fuels

- Off grid RE to non-electrified rural – P.V and wind

- On grid expansion program to support economic growth and grid extension through inter-basin water transfer

- Grid extension to non-electrified rural areas

**Table X: NDC & SDG areas of connection (Adaptation)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NDC priority action areas</th>
<th>SDGs target closely connected to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adaptation of strategic productive systems (agriculture, wildlife, water</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • Guaranteed food security through diversification and promotion of Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices for crop, livestock and fisheries production including conservation of germ-plasm for land races and their wild relatives | **Target 1.1:** By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day.  
**Target 1.2:** By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions. |
**Target 2.1:** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

**Target 2.3:** By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

**Target 2.4:** By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 15: Life on Land</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 8.9:</strong> By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 12.2:</strong> By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 12.9b:</strong> Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 13.1</strong> Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 13.2:</strong> Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 15.9:</strong> By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protection and conservation of water catchment areas and enhanced investment in water capture, storage and transfer (linked to agriculture, energy, ecological, industrial and domestic use purposes) in selected watershed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 6.1:</strong> By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 6.3:</strong> By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 6.5:</strong> By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 6.6:</strong> By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 6.7a:</strong> Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 6.7b:</strong> Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adaptation of strategic infrastructure and health systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop a National Wildlife Adaptation Strategy and ensure its implementation through supportive policies, local community, civil society and private sector participation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Institutionalize integrated land use planning compatible with sustainable management of natural resources and infrastructure development** | **Target 9.1:** Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all  
**Target 11.3:** By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.  
**Target 13.1:** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries. |
| --- | --- |
| **Mainstream climate change in the National Health Policy, Environmental Health (EH) Policy, and Water and Sanitation Policy** | **Target 13.2:** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.  
**Target 13.3:** Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.  
**Target 13b:** Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities |
| **Enhance decentralized climate information services for early warning and long-term projections on the effects of climate change to support sustainable management of the production systems, infrastructure development and public health.** | **Target 13.1:** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.  
Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.  
**Target:** 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and dry lands, in line with obligations under international agreements.  
**Target 17.16:** Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.  
**Target 17.17:** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resources strategies of partnerships |
| **Capacity building in Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (SFA), Renewable Energy Technologies (RET), and Early Warning Systems (EWS), Change management and climate change planning.** | **Target 6.4:** By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity. |
| **Water technologies for savings, recycling, irrigation and sustainable management for household, agriculture and industrial purposes.** |**Table**
**Target 6.5:** By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

**Target 6b:** Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

| Development of an insurance market against climate change induced risks related to agriculture and infrastructure | **Target 13.1:** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
**Target 13.2:** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. |
| --- | --- |

| Mainstream climate change adaptation into country development plans and strategies. | **Target 13.1:** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
**Target 13.2:** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.
**Target 13b:** Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities. |
| --- | --- |

Analysis of the NDC-SDG connections showed (some stronger than other) that proposed activities in Zambia’s NDCs mostly cover eleven (11) SDGs and include the following:

i) **SDG 1:** Eradicate poverty-

   - High poverty levels continue to hinder effective adaptation actions by the majority of the population; the poor also more impacted by climate change effects.

ii) **SDG 2:** No hunger-

   - Sustainable and climate-smart agriculture not only seen as a key solution to mitigating temperature rise but also a strategy for adaption in view of the majority populations dependency on small scale agriculture for a livelihood

iii) **SDG 15:** Life on land-

   - The role of land based ecosystems especially forest management and land use in in reducing GHGs from land use change and adaptation.

iv) **SDG 13:** Climate Action-

   - The need for devising and implementing overarching climate policy for guidance for other sectors

v) **SDG 6:** Clean water and sanitation-

   - Focusing on water efficiency and water ecosystem management the back bone for the productive sectors

vi) **SDG 7:** Affordable and clean energy-

   - Relates to measures to expand the energy mix; movement away from biomass as an energy source for the majority of the population.

vii) **SDG 11:** Sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) relates to climate activities focused on urban planning and public transport.

viii) **SDG 12:** Responsible consumption and production-

   - Ensuring the production is shifting away from inefficient means of production to low carbon and raising efficiency in production

ix) **SDG 17:** Partnerships for goals (SDG 17) highlights the importance of providing financial support, technology transfer, and capacity building for those countries that need it the most - particularly the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small-Island Developing States (SIDS).

x) **SDG 8:** Decent work and economic growth-

   - Taking opportunity of wildlife conservation and management a strategy to climate change adaptation through sustainable tourism activities

xi) **SDG 9:** Industry, innovation and infrastructure-

   - Linked to building resilient infrastructure, especially roads which are the main means of moving goods internally and externally
2.4 Coordination mechanisms

As the linking framework for the NDCs and the SGDs, the 7th National Development Plan (7NDP) follows a multi-sectoral and inter-linked approach to sustainable national development. This means that all consequential developmental issues-sectoral or crosscutting from both the NDC and the SGDs are addressed under the plan through an integrated approach.

For efficiency it makes sense that the coordination mechanisms for NDC and the SDG should be aligned if not integrated under national development planning and implementation mechanisms, because both the NDC and SGD address national development issues. For example it is estimated that the impact of climate change will cost Zambia approximately 0.4 percent of annual economic growth and that without action, rainfall variability alone could lead to losses of 0.9 percent of GDP growth over the next decade, thereby keeping a significant section of Zambia’s population below the poverty line⁹ which in turn will constrain achievement of SDG targets.

The highest coordination body for sustainable development purposes is the National Development Coordinating Committee (NDCC) within which a working groups or Cluster Advisory Groups (CAGs). The Ministry of Development Planning (MDP), acts as secretariat and facilitator of the NDP formulation and coordination. The NDCC is therefore an apex advisory body responsible for: (a) advising the Cabinet on coordination of national development; and (b) formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans. The Provincial Development Coordinating Committees (PDCCs), District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCCs) and the Ward Development Committees (WDCs) are operational at the local levels. Embedded in the NDCC, the PDCCs and DDCCs are SDGs Sub-Committees with the responsibility of ensuring inclusive partnership and capacity building; availability of data and strategic information; and conducting of periodic monitoring. In reality NDCCs, PDDCCs and DDCCs deal with issues of sustainable development so, the distinction of an SDG subcommittee is unnecessary.

The integrated approach in planning and implementation of sustainable development concerns presupposes efficient synergy and communication between and among levels (national to the ward) and participating stakeholders (sector to subsector). The rational for strong coordination mechanisms is that physical resources span across district and provincial boundaries and so should management processes.

A dilemma emerging from the review of coordination arrangement is that although the solutions to sustainable development concerns are relatively well known and understood, its complex and multi-sectoral nature has made coordinated implementation across sectors and administrative difficult. Though the 7NDP has pursued and integrated approach, resource flows and evaluations remain sector specific. There are good reasons for the sectoral structure of government, but this tends to shape political space for working on different issues, and is insufficiently flexible to effectively address complex problems that do not fit neatly into the structure, with climate issues and SDGs being some of those issues.

The top-down nature of planning and financing processes in most government structures brings up issues around over-centralisation, and fragmentation into silo structures. An important dimension of this is that attempts to bring various government departments or ministries to work closely together must be seen in a financial context where the fiscal control and oversight of the Treasury have to be adhered to. These

arrangements do not easily allow for a ‘blurring of funds’ or alignment of plans for joint projects or initiatives. The disconnect between the current sector-based budgeting process and the cluster approach has negatively impacted the implementation of cluster-identified projects; neither is there a clear Cluster-based accountability framework.

A review of coordination mechanisms of the 7NDP10 found that integrated coordination was more rooted in subnational structures than at national level. Coordination challenges at the subnational level include:

i) The lack of orientation, limited training, and knowledge of the 7NDP (which NDC and SDG issues) among Ward Development Committees members has adversely affected coordination of activities at the local level. The lack of human resources and capacity for climate change and SDG programming can constraint implementation of even the most strategic and well-resourced programmes; Staff at the local level often do not possess the knowledge and skills needed to design and implement adequate interventions in various sectors;

ii) Slow implementation of the Decentralisation Policy has hindered effective operationalisation of coordination structures at the sub-district levels;

iii) The performance of DDCCs and PDCCs is hampered by irregularity of meetings, resource limitations and competing demands for members’ time while reporting at this level is of limited use at national level.

3.0 An outline of the effects of COVID 19 in implementation of SDGs

The United Nations Secretary General report11 stated that world leaders recognized that the first four years of SDG implementation had included important progress, but that, overall, the world was not on track to deliver its commitments to sustainable development by 2030. The United Nations acknowledges that perhaps even more concerning, however, have been the impacts and implications of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on all 17 Goals. What began as a health crisis has now become the challenging human and economic crisis that has driven the country into a recession not seen in the last 22 years.

The coronavirus has spread to all member countries and confirmed global coronavirus cases stood at 33,578,961, with a global death toll of 1,006,963 and 24,898,730 recoveries12. The effects of the pandemic and the measures taken to mitigate its impact have overwhelmed health systems globally, caused businesses and factories to shut down and had a severe impact on the global livelihoods.13

The success of any global, or national plan for that matter is conditional on the prevailing and projected socio-economic circumstances. It is therefore acknowledged that expected plan outcomes arise from the fulfilment of set conditions that the economy will grow at some predetermined rate and enable the implementation of projects, which together contribute toward attainment of set global and national goals.

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11 United Nations Economic and Social Council, Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, High-level segment: ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, 2020 session


The World Bank projects that every region of the globe is subject to substantial growth downgrades. East Asia and the Pacific will grow by a negligible 0.5%. South Asia will contract by 2.7%, Sub-Saharan Africa by 2.8%, Middle East and North Africa by 4.2%, Europe and Central Asia by 4.7%, and Latin America by 7.2%. These slumps are expected to reverse years of progress toward development goals and push tens of millions of people back into extreme poverty\(^\text{14}\). Developing economies such as Zambia will be knocked from multiple quarters including pressure on weak health care systems, loss of trade and tourism, dwindling remittances, subdued capital flows, and tight financial conditions amid mounting debt. Several of pressures are being felt currently. The COVID19 effects are contingent on the increasing number of COVID19 cases and consequent measures to control infections which now resulted in low economic performance and rising national debt.

The number of reported cases continued to increase since the first case was reported on 18th March 2020. As of 29\(^\text{th}\) September 2020 Zambia had recorded 14,641 confirmed cases, 332 death and 13,821 recoveries\(^\text{15}\). In Zambia the virus is spread mainly by way of community transmission. In view of rising cases Government instituted control measures on 26\(^\text{th}\) March 2020 which included:

i) Screening of all travelers to Zambia and 14 day quarantine of those testing positive (with or without symptoms a designated location);
ii) Government suspension of nonessential foreign travel, particularly, to countries with confirmed cases of COVID-19;
iii) a mandatory limit to 50 persons for conferences and social gatherings subject to compliance with public health authority guidelines;
iv) Take-away and delivery basis for eateries and restaurants;
v) Closure of all bars, night clubs, cinemas, gyms and casinos;
vii) Minimized visits to places such as shopping malls or social visits;
viii) Reduced work hours/congestion for employees at work places.

### 3. Effects of COVID-19 on 7NDP pillars and SDGs targets

COVID 19 measures though very necessary has contracted supply and value chains, dampened demand for goods and commodities and generally resulted in low economic performance. Many individual have lost means of livelihoods. From an impressive average growth rate of 6.9 percent between 2005 and 2014, the GDP growth rate slowed to an average of 3.7 percent during the 2015-2018 period. In the 2020 budget address on the 25\(^\text{th}\) September 2020, the Minister of Finance projects a negative 4.2 real GDP growth, the first recession since 1998\(^\text{16}\). Execution of the budget (revenues and grants) fell by 7.7 percent as a result of under performance of the economy. Similarly total expenditure by Government was 27.2 percent below the target due to curtailed revenues and lower disbursements on foreign financed projects\(^\text{17}\).


\(^{15}\)https://covid19.who.int/table accessed 29th September 2020

\(^{16}\)2021 Budget Address by Honorable Dr. Bwalya Ng’andu

K.E. Ng’andu, MP, Minister of Finance, Delivered to The National Assembly on Friday, 25\(^\text{th}\) September, 2020.

\(^{17}\)Ibid
Before the Covid19 problem, the economy already in decline. COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic has exacerbated Zambia’s macroeconomic vulnerabilities and productivity and growth are eroding away. Businesses are closing as the private sector lays-off workers due to low consumption demand and subdued economic activity, signalling Zambia’s inability to withstand strong exogenous shocks like the Covid19 pandemic. The supply chain breakdown in major trading partners such as China and South Africa is negatively affecting domestic production and consumption.

All sectors of the economy experienced negative growth especially for tourism, construction, wholesale and retail trade, and manufacturing. Disruptions in international air transport have had an adverse effect on tourist arrivals. Some hotels and lodges have reported significant reductions in bed occupancy rates, to less than 20 percent from an average of 50 percent for the same period last year. Virtually no international arrivals were registered since March 2020, similarly COVID19 warnings to limit unnecessary local travel also subdued local travel.

In the mining sector, copper prices have declined by 23 percent to US$4,754 per metric tonne as at 25th March, 2020 from US$6,165 per metric tonne in January 2020 in turn impacting estimated foreign exchange earnings for the country. Electricity rationing further contributed to the contraction of overall economic activity, while under trade COVID-19 has disrupted international trade in terms of both volumes and commodity prices. Collections of trade taxes are expected to be lower than projected in the first quarter of the year and most likely also into the second half of the year.

The agricultural sector on the other hand registered positive growth in view of the favourable weather conditions and early distribution of farming inputs in the 2019/2020 agriculture season which boosted crop production. However the emergence of swarms of locusts in the western part of Zambia threatens to deepen food insecurity brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic in this area. Other sectors which have shown growth are the information and communications technology sectors driven by demand for data services and mobile money transactions in the wake the COVID10 pandemic.

In the light of the current performance of economy fiscal revenues under the 2020 budget are projected to be lower on account of the slowdown in economic activity. Collections under Value Added Tax (VAT), Customs Duties, Income Tax and Mineral Royalty are expected to decline. In February 2020, revenue and grants collections were recorded at K4.6 billion, which was 4 percent below the target. Collection from mining company tax and overall VAT were below target by 32 and 13 percent, respectively. Revenue collected in March 2020, stood at K2.7 billion against the target of K4.5 billion.

The depreciation of the Kwacha against major currencies is resulting in higher debt servicing than programmed. As at 1st October the exchange rate to the United States dollar (USD) stood at ZMW 20.06 down from an average of K14.05 at end-December 2019. This represents a depreciation of approximately 41.9 percent. The depreciation largely reflects supply constraints and increased demand

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20 Policy Monitoring and Research Centre. 2020 The impact of CoronaVirus (COVID19) on the Zambian Economy - Infographic
for foreign exchange, particularly the importation of agricultural inputs, health related supplies and procurement of petroleum products.\(^{21}\)

Table xx below shows impacts of COVID19 on 7NDP strategic pillars which embrace SGD targets. The table reports on achievements of the 7NDP result areas while also highlighting current impacts of COVID19 in the last 9 months of the 2020.

\(^{21}\) K.E. Ng’andu, MP, Minister of Finance, Delivered to The National Assembly on Friday, 25\(^{th}\) September, 2020
Table x below shows impacts of COVID19 on SDG targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7NDP Strategic Pillars progress (2016-2020)</th>
<th>Relevant SGD Goals</th>
<th>Positive and Negative COVID 19 Impacts 2020</th>
<th>Measures taken to mitigate COVID-19 and medium term impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pillar 1: Economic Diversification and Job Creation-Key drivers and enablers; Base year 2016</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Crop Production: 21% increase in maize production; 32% increase in seed production; 10% increase in fish production</td>
<td>• Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;</td>
<td>Positive impacts:</td>
<td>• COVID-19 Bond proceeds used to stimulate economic activity through the dismantling of arrears, payment of Value Added Tax refunds and liquidation of outstanding pension arrears.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mining: contribution of 14% to GDP; 74.4% contributions to export earnings</td>
<td>• Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;</td>
<td>• mainly driven by increased demand for data services and mobile money transactions</td>
<td>• Farmer Input Support Programme beneficiaries adopt climate smart agriculture technologies and practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tourism: 2.5% contribution to GDP</td>
<td>• Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;</td>
<td>• Businesses in the energy sector more resilient in maintaining operations</td>
<td>Various tax relief measures for businesses e.g. suspension of duties on targeted imports and exports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Energy: increase in MW production of electricity from 2800MW to 3000MW; only 160MW contributed by solar so far; 810MW deficit</td>
<td>• Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;</td>
<td>Negative impacts:</td>
<td>• Debt restructuring with Paris Club and other donors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Trade: negative trade balance</td>
<td>• Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</td>
<td>• Contraction of economic activity from disruptions in supply chains and containment measures-tourism, construction, wholesale, retail trade and manufacturing severely impacted;</td>
<td>• Promotion of business continuity-working remotely and support for local producers and domestic value chains of consumer goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Manufacturing: grew by an average of 3.2% between 2016 and 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>• 71% of businesses were partially closed; 14% of businesses totally closed and only 15% maintained normal operations across sectors;</td>
<td>• Government mobilization of funding from various local and international stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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22 Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, June 2020 The Impact of COVID19 on the fight against Inequality
### Pillar 2: Poverty and Vulnerability Reduction - Key drivers and enablers; Base year 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multi-dimensional Poverty Headcount</th>
<th>Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;</th>
<th>Negative impacts:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>reduced from 50% in 2014 to 44% in 2018</td>
<td>Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;</td>
<td>Convergence of floods/droughts and the COVID19 pandemic affected 90,202 households in 23 districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural poverty - declined from 69% to 59%;</td>
<td>Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;</td>
<td>Additional 258,000 vulnerable impacted through loss of incomes food insecurity resulting from effects of COVID19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban poverty - declined from 25% to 18%;</td>
<td>Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.7 million people benefiting social protection programmes - benefitting from Social Cash Transfer, Food Security Pack, Emergency Cash Transfer Scheme and Supporting Women Livelihoods Programme</td>
<td>No 11: Sustainable cities and communities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 13: Climate Action</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Pillar 3: Reducing Developmental Inequalities - Key drivers and enablers; Base year 2016

<p>| Rural households access to electricity increased from 4.4% in 2015 to 8.1% in 2019 | Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; | Loss or reductions in household incomes due to the pandemic’s negative impact on employment |
| 12 grid extension projects completed out of the 25 under implementation; | Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; | Increased prices of goods and services. |
| Rural households access to safe and clean drinking water improved from 47% in 2014 to 58% in 2018 | Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; | Further increase of vulnerabilities in households due to lack of water to maintain required of sanitations levels; |
| Access to improved sanitation facilities increased from 19% in 2014 to 37% in 2018 | | Households with income challenges failing to keep up with paying for water supply |
| | | Revenue losses for water utilities |
| | Moratoriums on water service cut-offs as responses to the COVID 19 crisis; | |
| | Issue a commencement order for the Electricity Act No. 11 of 2019 which regulates generation, transmission, distribution and the supply of electricity so as to enhance the security and reliability of supply of electricity. | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillar 4: Enhancing human development- Key drivers and enablers; Base year 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;  
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries;  
- Goal No 13: Climate Action |

| Pillar 5: Conducive Governance Environment for Diversified and Inclusive  
Policy and Legislative Frameworks: |
| --- |
| - National Employment and Labour Market Policy; National Legal Aid Policy;  
- National Trade Policy;  
- Local Government Act;  
- Public Finance Management Act; Employment Code Act;  
- Statutory Instrument No. 48 of 2020-resilience and viability of the labour market and businesses in view of the COVID-19 pandemic  
- Decentralisation Reforms: formation of 1,326 Ward Development Committees across the country, against the targeted 1,624  
- media environment –expansion radio stations from 88 in 2016 to 126 2020;  
- 94 integrity committees in places of work compared to 48 in 2016 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Negative Impacts:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Loss of learning time as 4.4 million children and adolescents and higher learning institutions closed to curb spread;  
- Strained health care system  
- Accelerated rise in youth unemployment |

| Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;  
Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;  
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls  
Goal No 10: Reduced inequalities;  
Goal No 11: Sustainable cities and communities;  
Goal No 13: Climate Action |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postponement of 2020 Census of Population and Housing</th>
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| - Initial closure of all institutions of learning  
- Partial opening of examination grades for primary and secondary schools  
- Opening of all institutions of learning with under strict COVID19 mitigation measures  
- Realignment of the 2020 Budget to provide additional resources the health sector for COVID19 emergency response  
- Setting up an Epidemic Preparedness Fund under the Ministry of Health amounting to K57 million;  
- Cabinet approval of COVID-19 Contingency and Response Plan with budget of K659 million under the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit;  
- Public awareness promoting community collaboration and outreach encouraging citizen and adherence to measures to restrict movement and spread in key high-risk areas in the country;  
- Conduct policy and programme interventions to address the development impacts of COVID-19 in order to safeguard the progress made towards the achievement of SDGs (e.g. livelihoods, and employment |
5. The roles of Civil Society Organisations in Zambia in catalyzing the Paris Agreement and SDGs.

The Paris Agreement and SDGs commit the government to climate action and sustainable development respectively. Realistically, the government can achieve neither on its own. Both processes require the participation of all stakeholders including civil society including local communities. The role of Zambian CSOs in both processes may be appreciated from several perspectives.

CSOs function as a practical link between society and the government, facilitating a relationship between the state and the citizens. Now this relationship may be of added value to the Paris Agreement and SDGs processes in the following key ways supported by strong collaboration between environment and development civil society organisations working together as coalitions:

i) CSOs have valuable experiences and lessons in strengthening the voice of the vulnerable. Both achievements of the Paris Agreement and SGDs needed to be evident at the local level and among the vulnerable. Past CSO efforts in terms of practical engagement, creating opportunities, spaces and platforms for engaging with communities in order to dialogues for catalyzing the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.

ii) CSOs also have valuable experiences in holding government accountable for the transparent and objective assessment of their decisions and actions, especially when working as coalitions. The dissemination of information-legal provisions and public expenditures towards such an area of strength. While vocal, CSOs may lack the actual tools (monitoring and evaluation frameworks) for generating credible evidence for holding government and risk not being taken seriously.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

As can be observed from the above analyses, the COVID-19 pandemic and the actions with which the global governments and the Zambian government have responded to have had a serious impact on the national sustainability agenda. While the full extent of the pandemic and its impacts cannot yet be assessed, there is an evident risk that the pandemic will jeopardize the achievement of the 7th National Development Plan and integrated climate and SDG priorities. In view of the serious economic downturn evidenced and projected to continue into 2021, government priority has been to stabilize the economy as best as possible. Measures have thus focused on short to medium term actions intended to:

i) Addressing debt repayments

ii) Implementing economic stimulus and support packages to keep individuals, businesses, and the economy afloat; Stalling further decline in poverty levels;

iii) Secure access to food for vulnerable communities affected by floods and droughts;

iv) Controlling the spread of the COVID19 virus

v) Ensuring learners continue with programmes, especially examination classes

vi) Ensuring the availability of clean water in especially in urban locations with high populations density

Because of the urgency the above actions measures to address climate change and indeed conservation of natural resource threaten to move down on the list of political priorities. Falling state revenues and debt repayment requirements, especially if the country is unable to seek debt relief assistance currently
sought from multilateral and commercial arrangements, may limit the fiscal space and overall spending. The budget for environmental protection has increased by 0.2% over the 2020. However this is no guarantee this budget outlay will be available.

The 7th National Development Plan acknowledges without apology the peoples voices on development. It is the considered aim of government in this regard to promote citizens participation in the development process. Inadequate participation is viewed as a hindrance to realisation of the both the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. This presents an opportunity for CSO to localize the Paris Agreement and SDGs goals by strengthening the voice of the poorest and most marginalised citizens and ensuring that the areas of deprivation do not fall between the cracks. CSOs can spur on localization of both the Paris Agreement and SDGs by:

i) Raise awareness by creating opportunities, spaces and platforms for engaging with community groups on the Paris Agreement and SDGs to promote dialogues and develop strong relationships; Raising awareness and sensitizing citizens about the Paris Agreement and SDGs remains a critical precursor to their engagement and collective participation;

ii) Documentation of CSOs interventions and challenges faced for integration into the national reports for both processes focusing on “those left behind”; this will raise the profile of organisations who participate in this.

iii) Hold the government accountable by deliberate and proactive participation in development and planning processes at national level by CSO alliances and networks, and at local level by community based organisations. The entails holding duty bearers accountable through tracking budget and expenditures for intended beneficiaries and highlighting examples where this was happening ineffectively; CSOs can disseminate information on legal provisions, public expenditure allocations, governance and accountability mechanisms;

iv) Undertake advocacy activities in areas that evidence indicates that people and communities at large are being left behind

v) Building CSO capacity for in monitoring the implementation of Paris Agreement (through priorities of the NDC) and the SDGs
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