

Transition Pathways Towards Inclusive Climate Compatible Growth (TRAP-ZM)



About the Climate Compatible Growth programme

Climate Compatible Growth (CCG) is a research and technical support programme funded by the UK government and delivered through a consortium of universities, including University College London (UCL). It exists to support policies and investment in sustainable energy and transport systems to meet development priorities in the global South. In Africa, the programme operates in Zambia, Kenya and Ghana.

This Zambia-focused project (TRAP-ZM) is led by ZIPAR in Zambia and UCL in the UK. It builds on an existing collaboration between these organisations, capitalises on existing knowledge developed under this collaboration, and involves researchers based in both countries.

Project aims

Climate change in Zambia poses significant threats to economic stability, energy, water and food security, and livelihoods. Building on the *Greening the Recovery in Ghana and Zambia*¹ (GtR) project – a COVID recovery project which ran between 2020 and 2023 – TRAP-ZM aims to provide evidence in support of inclusive transition pathways to climate compatible growth in Zambia. It does this through three interconnected strands of research and capacity building, which are described below:

Energy modelling and scenario analysis

TRAP-ZM aims to support long-term energy planning in Zambia. To this end, this research strand focuses on collaborative model and scenario development to develop and embed modelling capacity. The starting point is the OSeMOSYS-Zambia² model, the scenario narratives and their in-model implementation which were developed under GtR. This will build on local knowledge and input to support analysis of energy futures in Zambia, drawing on qualitative scenarios to explore possible futures for action.

This analysis will broaden the future pathways analysis developed under GtR in two ways. First, it will refine the energy modelling of existing scenarios and consider new scenario variants that could be of interest. Second, it will undertake two additional pieces of work to examine a) the economic impacts and b) the land use implications of the transition pathways developed under GtR.

Policy pathways for climate compatible growth

Supporting transitions requires not only modelling, but also an understanding of the policy contexts and potential mixes of policy instruments that will underpin them. In this research, we will examine the decision-making contexts for inclusive transitions. Our first analysis will focus on the bankability of energy projects, and we will seek to understand the conditions under which such projects do or do not obtain financing as well as the policy options to address risk and uncertainties. Additional analyses will go forward in to 2023 and build on the project as a whole, but are as yet undefined. The objective

¹ <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/sustainable/research-projects/2021/oct/greening-recovery-ghana-and-zambia>

² OSeMOSYS is an open source modelling system for long-run integrated assessment and energy planning.

is to co-develop their specific focus through conversations with stakeholders and interested parties. This will ensure that they are tailored to local needs and are in line with national interests.

Capacity building in policy and decision-making

There is increasing demand in Zambia for people trained in technical fields, such as engineering, law and economics, to provide advice to policy makers and contribute towards advancing climate compatible growth. Developing such advice is not necessarily an easy skill to build and is rarely part of professional training in quantitative areas of expertise. The final strand of TRAP-ZM addresses this demand and will pilot a training on policy making processes and engagement, thus working to bridge the gap between qualitative and quantitative aspects of energy and policy analysis.

Next steps

The TRAP-ZM project runs from January 2023 to March 2024. Intended outputs include strengthened partnerships with relevant stakeholders, policy briefs, open access modelling tools, and academic publications. Throughout we will be working closely with the CCG programme as a whole, including our National Partners at the University of Zambia. Importantly, while the structure described above will shape the initial months of work on TRAP-ZM, future work will be shaped through conversations with stakeholders, informed by emerging needs and priorities.

Contact us

If you are interested in learning more about the project, and in informing its development, we would be grateful for the opportunity to meet. Please contact us using the details below:

In Zambia:

Ms Mulima Nyambe-Mubanga

Head of Emerging Themes, ZIPAR

mmubanga@zipar.org.zm

Dr Bernard Tembo

Independent Consultant

ben2great@yahoo.co.uk

In the UK:

Dr Steve Pye

Energy Institute

University College London

s.pye@ucl.ac.uk

Dr Julia Tomei

Institute for Sustainable Resources

University College London

j.tomei@ucl.ac.uk