INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES

UCL

Greening the Recovery in Ghana and Zambia

Climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, action is needed to reduce global carbon emissions to net-zero by the middle of this century. Whilst Covid-19 has led to temporary reductions in emissions, the wider economic and social impacts of the pandemic risk slowing down or derailing action on climate change.

This project focuses on the opportunities for integrating economic recovery and climate change policies in Ghana and Zambia. Both countries have been affected significantly by the pandemic. Reported numbers of infections and deaths are low when compared to rates in many developed economies. However, the economic impacts have been severe – for example, due to lower demand for commodities they export such oil and copper.

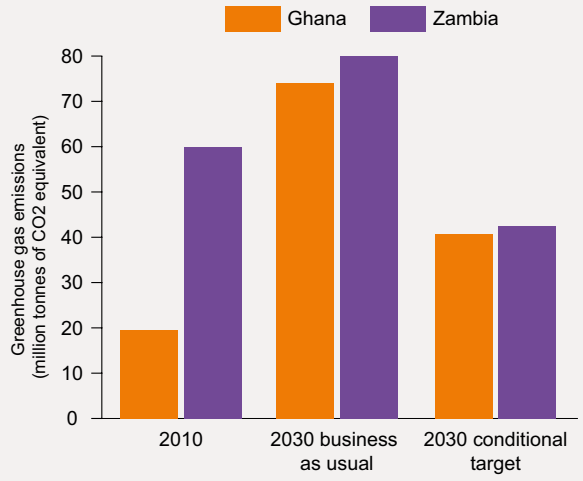
ZIPAR Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis & Research

ISSER University of Ghana Knowledge for Development

The research team from the UK, Ghana and Zambia is working with governments and other stakeholders to develop detailed plans for a low carbon recovery. This includes revisions to Ghana and Zambia's national climate change strategies, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The emissions targets included in their first NDCs, submitted in 2015/16, are summarised below. They include more ambitious conditional targets that depend on international assistance.

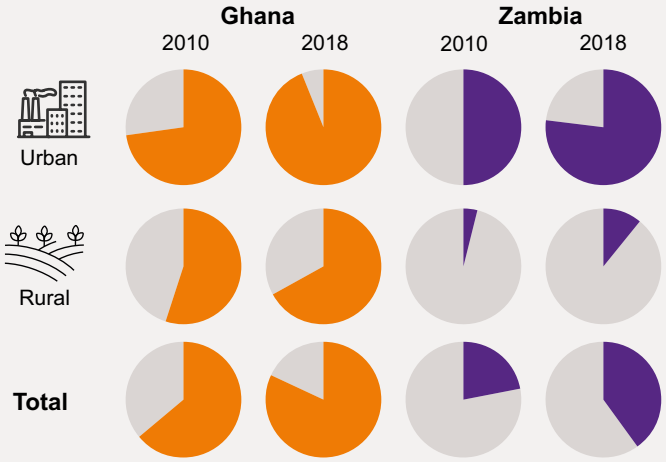
The research will explore how both countries could go even further, and what policy options and investments could deliver them. This includes options for meeting growing energy demand from low carbon sources rather than fossil fuels, and the extent to which these plans could also help to achieve universal access to electricity.

Emissions targets from first NDCs



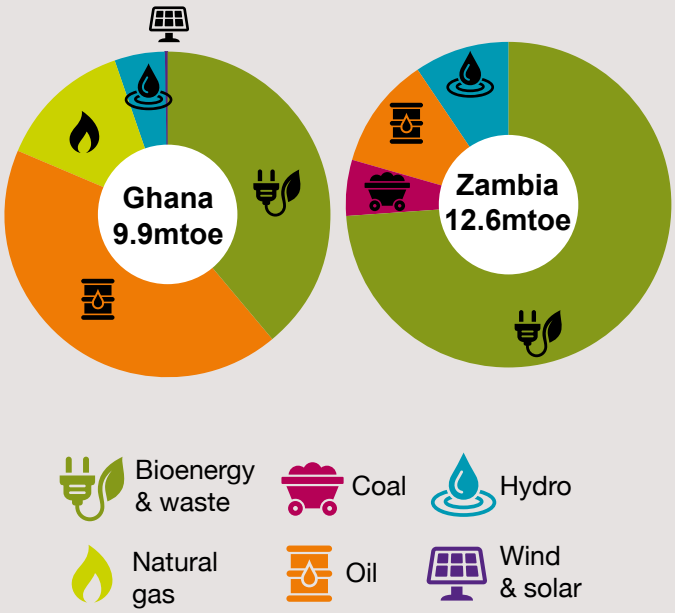
Source: Ghana and Zambia NDCs

Access to electricity



Source: World Bank data

Primary energy mix (2018)



Source: IEA country profiles; mtoe = million tonnes of oil equivalent

The project is using a participatory scenario methodology that combines stakeholder engagement, narratives about the future, energy modelling and policy analysis. This has four main elements:

1.	Mapping the policy and societal landscape to understand how this has changed due to Covid-19, and to examine policies and plans that are already being developed.
2.	Developing participatory scenarios with stakeholders that explore plausible pathways for a clean, resilient recovery.
3.	Quantifying these scenarios using open-source models of energy systems and land use, and using the results to refine the scenario narratives.
4.	Developing policy responses and supporting their implementation. This will include policies to support energy access, job creation and support investment in low carbon technologies and nature based solutions.

The project includes continuous engagement with policy and other stakeholders to maximise tangible impacts on decision-making. Longer-term impacts will be enhanced through training courses in Ghana and Zambia, and an online short course.

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