

Executive Summary

This report presents the findings from the study conducted on People's NDCs? Experiences of civil society involvement in national climate plans – the case of Zambia. The study was commissioned to determine how participatory and inclusive the NDCs process was and associated implications for exclusion of civil society and other stakeholders. It had two primary objectives: first, to get a more detailed picture of how participatory and inclusive NDCs were in a representative sample for Zambia; and second, to determine if lack of participation by civil society and other stakeholders was a widespread problem in the way NDCs were prepared, and to understand the associated implications for exclusion. Accordingly, the study assessed Zambia's initial NDC submission in 2016 and its subsequent revision in 2021.

The study findings indicate that the first NDC process in Zambia lacked wider participation and inclusivity. Some stakeholders and sub-sectors such as Livestock, Infrastructure, Health, Transport, and the private sector, were excluded from the consultation process. Therefore, the study has concluded that Zambia's first NDCs did not comprehensively address mitigation and adaptation measures for the excluded sectors. Furthermore, the views and contributions of the private sector and civil society, which are essential in shaping effective climate strategies, were not adequately incorporated.

On the other hand, the study has shown that the process leading to the revised NDCs of 2021 reflects a positive shift toward greater inclusivity and participation compared to the first NDCs. However, challenges still exist in securing the full participation of non-state institutions, grassroots stakeholders such as farmers, and women's rights organizations. Despite these challenges, the NDC process of 2021 was guided by a well-planned stage by stage process, engaged a wide array of stakeholders, and promoted transparency and equity. Therefore, Zambia should be commended for adopting a comprehensive approach to NDC development, which aligns with global climate standards.

The study underscores the importance of further enhancing the involvement of underrepresented groups, particularly farmers and women's rights organizations, in future climate planning efforts. Their inclusion is vital for achieving climate justice and ensuring that mitigation and adaptation measures address the needs of the most vulnerable populations. The study acknowledges the participatory process undertaken in updating the 2021 NDCs, which positions it as a reflection of the collective aspirations and concerns of the people, emphasizing its role as the "people's NDCs." This inclusive approach should be continued and expanded upon to create a more resilient and sustainable future for Zambia in the face of climate change.

Please Note:

FULL REPORT IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.