



Renewable Energy Factsheet

SNV, the Netherlands Development Organisation, is an international non-profit development organisation that provides capacity development services in 36 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. We help empower local communities, businesses and organisations to break the cycle of poverty by providing them with the tools, knowledge and connections they need to increase their incomes and gain access to basic services. We do this by providing advisory services, knowledge networking and supporting advocacy in the areas of agriculture; water, sanitation and hygiene; and renewable energy.

Facts about energy in Zambia

💡 Only 20% of the population has access to on-grid electricity; in rural areas, only 3.3% have access.

💡 80% of the population depends on biomass energy, mainly firewood and charcoal, for cooking, heating and lighting.



Renewable Energy in Zambia



Access to energy is a key factor to economic growth, however, energy poverty is a serious issue in Zambia. Anticipated population growth will increase demand for household energy, while investments to develop the energy sector are expected to fall short of needs. Although the Government of Zambia considers alternative renewable energy sources to be an important contributor to the national energy mix, their use has not been fully explored.

Wood fuel, although regarded as a renewable energy source, is unsustainably harvested. Zambia has the fifth highest deforestation rate in the world. Furthermore, open fires and inefficient stoves release high levels of black carbon and expose users—especially women and children—to the risks of indoor air pollution. Women also spend long hours collecting fuel wood, taking time away from other productive activities.

Attempts to develop the biofuel industry in Zambia are still being made, albeit at a slow pace. The potential for using other renewable energy sources, like solar and wind, have not been fully explored.

Challenges to improving access to renewable energy

- 💡 High level of deforestation and contribution to climate change
- 💡 Insufficient feedstock volumes and high biofuel production costs
- 💡 Low incomes and employment opportunities in rural areas
- 💡 Inadequate incentives and weak policy guidelines to support development of the RE sector

Our approach

SNV Zambia seeks to empower people to break the cycle of poverty and guide their own development by giving them the tools, knowledge, and connections they need to increase their incomes and gain access to basic services.

Along these lines, we use Local Capacity Builders (LCBs), in addition to our professionals, to provide advisory, knowledge brokering, and evidence-based advocacy services to local communities, businesses and organisations.



SNV has focused on promoting domestic biogas, improved cook stoves and biofuels (jatropha oil for lighting specially designed lamps) as a way of increasing access to energy for domestic use. Our aim is to develop innovative business models that address the need for sustainable, affordable, household energy, from production through to use. SNV is a member of the renewable Energy sub-committee of Zambia's Energy Sector Advisory Group (ESAG), whose objective is to influence policy incentives and support for the sector. Working at national and local level, our capacity development services are designed to improve interactions among diverse organisations and entities, and to help each party fulfil its responsibilities.

Who we work with

SNV cooperates with a wide range of stakeholders to implement its programmes in domestic biogas, improved cooking stoves, briquettes and jatropha lamp oil production. Stakeholders include the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Energy and Water Development, African Development Bank, SIDA, University of Zambia, District Councils, as well as NGOs like Caritas and American Peace Corps.

Our achievements to date

- 17 masons were trained in biogas technology in a pilot project prior to rolling out the project to the market.
- 229 people from 11 enterprises were trained in producing and selling portable and fixed charcoal and firewood stoves. 8,009 cookstoves were produced and 6,375 were sold to households, generating USD 16,500.
- A jatropha oil lamp was designed and research on the use of jatropha oil was concluded: sales of jatropha will benefit 2,849 people (40% women) producing biofuel crops, while 2000 households will benefit from using jatropha oil for lighting.

Where we work

With offices located in Lusaka and Kasama, SNV Zambia works mainly in the Northern, Muchinga, Luapula, Central, Lusaka, and Southern regions of the country.



For more information, please contact:

SNV

The Renewable Energy Sector Leader
PO Box 31771
Lusaka, Zambia
Phone: +260 211 255176
Email: cmongo@snvworld.org

Renewable Energy Advisor
SNV KASAMA
PO Box 410576
Kasama, Zambia
Phone: +260 214 222988