

NEWSLETTER

CLIMATE CHECK



TOP NEWS FOR THE QUARTER

ZAMBIA LAUNCHES STRATEGIC PLAN TO EMPOWER WOMEN IN CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

On 20th February 2025, Zambia's Vice President, Mrs. Mutale Nalumango, launched the Strategic Plan for Women, Leaders for Climate Action (WLCA). The initiative seeks to empower women to take on leadership roles in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

"This plan aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 13 on climate action and Goal 5 on gender equality," Mrs. Nalumango stated.

Source: Ministry of Green Economy and Environment

- Climate change is leading to more frequent and intense heat waves, droughts, floods, and storms, which can disrupt supply chains and impact food and water security.
- Changes in temperature, rainfall patterns, and pest infestations can affect crop yields, leading to higher food prices and potential shortages, particularly for certain food groups.

TOPICAL CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES CONSUMERS SHOULD KNOW

YOUTH-LED CAMPAIGN TACKLES FOOD WASTE IN LUSAKA MARKETS

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BY MARY MUTALE

In a bid to address persistent food waste challenges in Lusaka's Mtendere and Kalingalinga markets, a group of youths has launched a campaign that is transforming market practices and shifting community attitudes towards food preservation.

The initiative follows a targeted training on food waste management, supported by CUTS International and the Lusaka City Council under the Youth Climate Action Fund. The training equipped young people with practical knowledge on the causes, consequences, and sustainable solutions to food waste, with a focus on traditional preservation techniques such as drying, salting, and proper storage.

Armed with this knowledge, the youths mobilised and led a market awareness campaign aimed at educating vendors and shoppers. The campaign has seen marketeers become more engaged after witnessing the economic benefits of reducing spoilage.

Youth-led demonstrations encouraged butchers to adopt salting and smoking methods to preserve meat, especially during frequent power outages. Additionally, the campaign fostered stronger collaboration between youth groups, vendors, and local authorities, leading to the formation of food waste management committees.

The campaign's success also sparked dialogue with policymakers on integrating food waste management strategies into market regulations.

The broader goal of the project is to examine food waste issues and explore effective prevention and management strategies. Specific objectives include investigating the link between food waste and sustainable preservation methods, assessing youth participation in food waste management efforts, and analysing the effectiveness of current sanitary storage systems and preservation practices in reducing spoilage.

The campaign not only offers sustainable solutions to food waste but also demonstrates the power of youth-led action in promoting climate resilience and responsible consumption.

STRENGTHENING PEER LEARNING BETWEEN GRASSROOTS WOMEN IN LUANGWA

By Kondwani Thindwa

In the heart of Zambia, grassroots women's groups are leading the charge toward sustainable community development. Through a unique exchange programme, the Katondwe Alliance of Women (KAW) and the Kanyama Women's Federation have come together to share knowledge and innovative practices, transforming environmental challenges into opportunities for growth.

Mutual capacity strengthening is a key strategic area under the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) programme. The VCA alliance embraces this to enhance cross-pollination of the wealth of knowledge and experiences within the VCA community of grassroots movements, partners and alliance members. Panos Institute Southern Africa and the Zambia Institute for Independent Media Alliance (ZIIMA) visited the Katondwe Alliance of Women (KAW), a grassroots community supported by the Zambia Alliance of Women, a local partner under Akina Mama wa Afrika. The visit facilitated a dialogue meeting at Katondwe Mission in Luangwa district to document and share some of the stories of change related to gender and climate justice.

Kanyama Women's Federation shares their testimony of the positive impacts of their group's saving scheme as an alternative livelihood to the visiting community from Katondwe. Picture Credit: Kondwani Thindwa.

The site visit, which shed light on the intersectionality of gender and climate change, provided a platform for KAW to showcase their local climate initiative and, in exchange, learn of model initiatives such as the Kanyama Green Innovation project that could add value to their interventions and contribute to the positive transformation of the community. The meeting also provided the alliance engaged in riverbed gardening along the Luangwa River to share challenges and possible interventions that could enhance their knowledge around climate change mitigation and adaptation.

"We have seen and heard of what our colleagues are doing in making the most out of domestic waste to produce organic fertilisers and engage in sack gardening...we would do well to have a hands-on learning experience and see for ourselves the works of our colleagues in Kanyama and see how we could adopt some of their strategies here in Katondwe" – Mary Banda.

For more details: <https://buff.ly/vvb10Bk>



ZTIP TO BOOST ENERGY ACCESS, EASE DROUGHT-INDUCED POWER STRAINS

BY NANCY MWAPE



The Zambia-Tanzania Interconnector Project (ZTIP) is set to significantly strengthen Zambia's electricity supply, offering a lifeline to the economy hard-hit by drought-induced power shortages.

With a total investment of \$292 million, ZTIP aims to connect Zambia to the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) via Tanzania, creating the link between the EAPP and the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP). This connection will open up cross-border electricity trade and reduce Zambia's reliance on hydropower, which currently accounts for about 80% of the country's electricity generation.

However, recurring droughts—exacerbated by climate change—have drastically affected water levels at key hydropower stations, leading to frequent power cuts. This has disrupted industrial production, reduced business output, and severely impacted agriculture, particularly for farmers dependent on rain-fed and irrigation systems.

ZTIP is expected to improve this situation by enhancing the resilience of Zambia's power grid. "This project addresses one of the core challenges in Zambia's energy sector—its financial and environmental vulnerabilities," said Achim Fock, World Bank Country Manager for Zambia. "Through ZTIP, we will boost transmission capacity between Zambia and Tanzania, linking East and Southern Africa, and stabilizing power supply during times of hydropower shortages."

The project will also expand electricity access in rural areas, facilitating agricultural productivity, improving health and education services, and supporting small business growth.

ZTIP is part of the World Bank's Regional Energy Transmission, Trade, and Decarbonization-Southern Africa-Multiphase Programmatic Approach (RETRADE-SA MPA), which supports increased power trade, climate resilience, and the shift to low-carbon energy in the SAPP.

Financing includes \$245 million from the International Development Association (IDA), \$17 million from the UK Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) through the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), and \$30 million from the European Union (EU).

"The ZTIP transmission line will transform Africa's energy markets," said Yadviga Semikolenova, Energy Practice Manager for Eastern and Southern Africa. "It completes the last piece of the puzzle connecting Cape Town to Cairo, and for Zambia, it provides critical infrastructure to withstand climate shocks and expand clean energy generation."

The project will reinforce Zambia's transmission backbone with a 330-kilovolt line to support planned generation projects and reduce Zesco's exposure to future drought-related supply constraints.

By integrating regional energy markets and diversifying its electricity mix, Zambia is taking a strategic step toward securing reliable power, safeguarding agricultural productivity, and building a climate-resilient economy.

MY STORY: ATTENDING THE WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY PANEL

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BY CHILELEKO HAMUKALE

When I first walked into the venue for the World Consumer Rights Day panel discussion, I wasn't sure what to expect. The theme, "A Just Transition for Sustainable Lifestyles," sounded important but broad. I quickly realized this event was going to be more than just talk. It was a meeting of minds, ideas, and genuine concern for the everyday consumer.

Representatives from institutions like the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC), Bank of Zambia (BoZ), Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA), Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), as well as corporates like Trade Kings and Green Giraffe Zambia, each shared their role in supporting consumer welfare.

What stood out to me most was how connected these efforts are. CCPC is actively educating communities and schools about consumer rights. The BoZ ensures fairness in the banking system, and ZICTA promotes access to affordable, quality digital services. On the business side, Trade Kings highlighted their commitment to offering safe, affordable products, while Green Giraffe Zambia is creating nutritious snacks using local ingredients to support both health and the local economy.

Civil society, represented by Consumer Unity and Trust Society, reminded us that advocacy, education, and legal support are key to ensuring consumers aren't left behind in development.

During the question and answer session, real concerns were raised from pricing in essential sectors to the need for eco-friendly practices. Some key recommendations included regulating prices fairly, holding businesses accountable, and ensuring consumers can access redress for poor services or products.

The event closed with a strong message: we must all work together government, businesses, and consumers to ensure that the move toward sustainability is inclusive and fair.

I left feeling inspired by the discussions and the genuine commitment from everyone involved. It was a reminder that real change begins with open conversations and shared responsibility.





INCREASED EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS:

Climate change is leading to more frequent and intense heat waves, droughts, floods, and storms, which can disrupt supply chains and impact food and water security

TOPICAL CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES CONSUMERS SHOULD KNOW:

IMPACTS ON HEALTH:

Climate change can worsen air quality, increase the risk of heat-related illnesses, and lead to the spread of vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue fever.

RISING FOOD PRICES AND AVAILABILITY:

Changes in temperature, rainfall patterns, and pest infestations can affect crop yields, leading to higher food prices and potential shortages, particularly for certain food groups.



We sincerely thank you, our valued partners, for your continued support this quarter. The stories were compiled, edited, and the newsletter designed by Nancy Mwape.