EcoSecurities

The REACH-Zambia Programme

Non-Technical Summary for Stakeholder Engagement

What is REACH-Zambia?

REACH-Zambia (the Renewable Energy Access and Carbon Finance Programme) is a renewable energy programme that will bring clean, reliable electricity to communities in Zambia, starting in North-Western and Luapula Provinces, by building small run-of-river hydropower plants and a solar power plant connected to the national electricity network. It is developed under the Bilateral Framework Agreement for Climate Cooperation between Zambia and Sweden, under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, and the emission reductions will be certified under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS). It is developed with the approval and oversight of the Government of the Republic of Zambia.

Who is developing the programme?

The programme is coordinated by EcoSecurities, an international carbon and climate project developer, in partnership with Anzana Electric Group, an electricity company active in Zambia since 2019. It is developed with the support of the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (MGEE), and Anzana works closely with ZESCO and the Ministry of Energy.

What will be built, and when?

The first phase consists of run-of-river hydropower plants and one solar plant, together about 11.5 MW of new capacity. Run-of-river plants use the natural flow of the river and do not require large dams. Each plant is expected to operate for around 25 years. Supporting works include substations, connection lines and access roads.

Table 1: Proposed Power Plants and Installed Capacity.

Project	Type and size	Status (2026)
Chilongo Hydro (Luapula)	Hydropower, 6.0 MW	Feasibility completed; environmental assessment awaiting approval; financing being finalised
Chiyesu Hydro	Hydropower, 1,4 MW	Design being finalised; environmental assessment to follow
Lwakela Hydro	Hydropower, 1,4 MW	Land secured; feasibility and environmental studies starting
Mujila Hydro	Hydropower, 1,5 MW	Land secured; feasibility and environmental studies starting
Zengamina Solar (Ikelenge District)	Solar, 1.2 MW	Approvals complete; construction targeted from mid-2026

What benefits will communities see?

The programme is expected to improve the availability of the national grid and reduce reliance on diesel and coal. Other positive impacts include a Community Development Fund for local infrastructure and reduced local air pollution. The programme will create roughly 150–250 construction jobs and 20–50 longer-term jobs. At least 70% of non-technical jobs will be reserved for people from the local area, and the programme aims for at least 30% of the workforce to be women or young people. These benefits support the UN Sustainable Development Goals and are measured, independently verified and discussed with communities.

Table 2: Sustainable Development Goal Contribution.

SDG	How the programme contributes	Proposed monitoring indicators
13 — Climate action	Avoided greenhouse-gas emissions from displacing diesel and coal power	tCO_2e avoided per year (verified)
7 — Affordable & clean energy	~10.3 MW of new renewable capacity; improved access for surrounding communities	MW installed; MWh generated
8 — Decent work & economic growth	150–250 construction jobs; 20–50 long-term jobs	Jobs created (local / total), disaggregated by sex
9 — Build resilient infrastructure	By connecting new households to the grid	Number of new households connected to the grid

What negative impacts could the programme have, and how will they be managed?

During construction there may be dust, noise and increased traffic; clearing of some vegetation; temporary disturbance to riverbanks; safety risks; and the arrival of outside workers. During operation, run-of-river plants alter the flow of a stretch of river between intake and outfall, and care will be taken to protect fish, water users and downstream communities. Land use will respect existing land, cultural and customary rights. Each project will complete an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment approved by ZEMA before construction, and the programme will conduct an Environmental, Social and Governance risk assessment under the VCS safeguards. Your views on these impacts are a central purpose of this engagement.

Table 3: Risks and Mitigation Measures.

Safeguard area	Potential risk	Proposed mitigation
Human & customary rights	Restrictions on access to or use of land / water; effects on customary rights	Free, prior and informed consent; respect for existing and customary rights; grievance mechanism
Gender equality	Unequal benefit or participation	Gender-sensitive engagement; women's representation; disaggregated monitoring
Community health, safety & labour	Construction hazards; influx of outside workers	Health & safety plans; codes of conduct; local hiring
Land & tenure	Use of land for plants, lines and roads	Respect for tenure; fair process; ESIA; no forced resettlement
Water & biodiversity	Altered river flow between intake and outfall; effects on fish; vegetation clearing	Environmental-flow requirements; aquatic studies; monitoring; minimise footprint; rehabilitate
Cultural heritage	Disturbance of sites of cultural value	Screening; chance-find procedures
Environment (local)	Dust, noise, waste during construction	Mitigation in ESIA; ZEMA approval before construction; dust/noise and traffic controls
Transparency & anti-corruption	Mismanagement of benefit-sharing funds	Community Resource Board oversight; annual independent audit

How does the carbon finance work, and who benefits?

Because these plants generate electricity without burning fuel, they avoid greenhouse gas emissions. These avoided emissions are measured and independently verified under the VCS and — under the Zambia–Sweden cooperation under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement — transferred as Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes to Sweden, with the approval of the Zambian Government. The income makes the projects financially possible. A Community Development Fund will be developed and managed by a Community Resource Board of local traditional leaders and women's and youth representatives, prioritising local infrastructure such as solar boreholes and improvements to schools and clinics.

How will the engagement work?

A national meeting will be held in Lusaka on Tuesday, 06 October 2026, followed by community consultations in each district where the plants are located. These are open to everyone, and your views are recorded exactly as given. You may also send comments at any time through the channels below; all input is logged in a stakeholder input tracker and we report back on how it was taken into account. Later, when the project is listed with Verra, there will also be a 30-day public comment period on the Verra Registry website.

How can you raise questions, concerns or complaints?

A grievance redress mechanism operates for the life of the programme and a preliminary GRM (next page) has been developed for the project and will be further refined during the stakeholder consultation process.. At a minimum you may: write in the Continuous Input & Grievance book kept at an agreed location in each project area; speak to the Grievance Desk in your area; or use a complaint box at accessible locations. Complaints may be made anonymously, are acknowledged within 21 days, and raising one will never disadvantage you.

Have your say

Your views matter and can change the design of the programme. You may share your views, ask questions or request information, using one of the following means:

- Attend the meeting
- Contact EcoSecurities at lsc@ecosecurities.com or write to EcoSecurities, 25 Wilton Road, Victoria, London, SW1V 1LW or write to Anzana, 1st Floor, Block A4 Bishops Road, Kabulonga, Lusaka, Zambia.
- Call or Whatsapp +41 78 602 58 38

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Grievance Redress Mechanism — Information Sheet

The programme operates a grievance redress mechanism for its whole life, to address any concerns that arise during design and implementation. This sheet explains how to raise a comment or complaint, and what happens next. The mechanism is available in your local language, and you may use it at any time.

How to raise a comment or complaint (including anonymously)

- Write in the Continuous Input & Grievance book kept at an agreed location in each project area;
- Speak to the Grievance Desk / Community Liaison Officer (CLO) in your area — verbally or in writing;
- Use a complaint box placed at accessible locations (you may submit anonymously);
- Call +41 78 602 58 38, email lsc@ecosecurities.com, or write to EcoSecurities, 25 Wilton Road, Victoria, London, SW1V 1LW or write to Anzana, 1st Floor, Block A4 Bishops Road, Kabulonga, Lusaka, Zambia.

What happens to your complaint

Every grievance is acknowledged within 21 days (unless submitted anonymously), logged in a register, and its progress tracked through to resolution. Grievances are resolved using culturally appropriate, gender-sensitive and traditional conflict-resolution methods, within a reasonable time. The mechanism operates in three stages:

Stage	What happens
Stage 1 — Good faith	The complaint is addressed directly and resolved amicably and in good faith at community level, with the Grievance Desk.
Stage 2 — Mediation	If it cannot be resolved, the matter is referred to mediation by a neutral third party, which may include the local Chief or Headman for land or cultural-heritage disputes.
Stage 3 — Arbitration / courts	If still unresolved, the matter is referred to arbitration, where permitted by law, or the competent courts. This does not remove your right to approach a competent supranational body where applicable.

Your rights

You may complain anonymously. Information you ask to be kept private and confidential is protected, including where you choose to remain anonymous. You may appeal the outcome of a grievance. Retaliation, intimidation or harassment against anyone who raises a grievance, withholds consent, or speaks publicly about the programme is prohibited, and the programme will hold accountable anyone responsible for it. The grievance register is independently audited each year, and you will be kept informed of the action taken. In addition to this mechanism, you may use Verra's Grievance Redress Policy, available on the Verra website.