REPORT BRIEF

GREENING THE RECOVERY IN ZAMBIA

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Introduction

This report sets out some results and recommendations from a two-year research project on Greening the Economic and Social Recovery in Ghana and Zambia. The project was carried out by research teams at the University of Ghana in Ghana, University College London in the UK, and the Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research in Zambia. The teams analysed stakeholder views on the options for a green recovery from the pandemic, co-developed future scenarios with these stakeholders, analysed the energy system implications using quantitative models, and developed recommendations for decision-makers. This report focuses on results and policy recommendations for Zambia.

Findings

Three potential pathways for greening the recovery in Zambia were co-developed with stakeholders, which were distinguished by their envisaged role for government. The first scenario, Centralised, gravitates towards policy approaches that reflect the government's stated interest in an export-led trade strategy, and for investment in large-scale infrastructure which leverages investment in public-private partnerships. The second scenario, Decentralised, reflects efforts to drive decentralisation of various government functions and places a greater emphasis on local solutions for local challenges. The Hybrid Scenario explores the potential for Centralised and Decentralised approaches to operate in tandem.

Conclusion

The energy system implications of these scenarios were modelled and revealed that, if other strategies such as energy efficiency and clean cooking strategies are implemented, then the Decentralised scenario has the potential to meet energy demands at lower cost and emissions. Under the centralised scenario, the consumption of fossil fuels, such as gas and coal, is expected to accelerate and drive growth in the transport and residential sectors. However, Zambia's potential for green transition will require the use of efficient and innovative technologies to limit resource depletion. Across all scenarios, significant investment is needed to provide access to clean energy and support energy sector development over the coming decades.
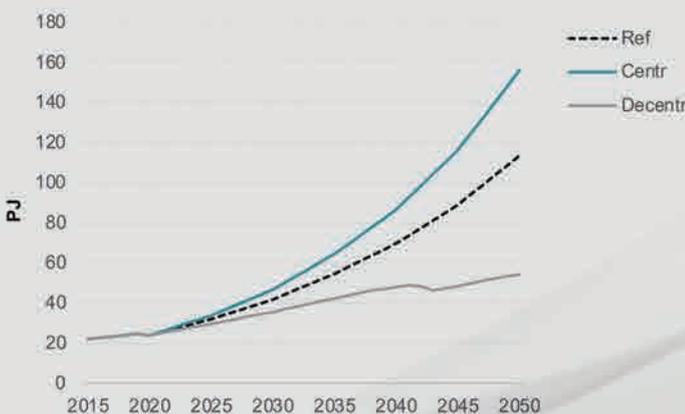
Policy Recommendations

To support a green recovery in Zambia, the report makes four recommendations for decision-makers:

- It is essential to coordinate across sectors in planning and preparedness to enhance resilience, and to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

- There is a need to devolve decision-making and planning as provided for under the Constitution.

- Attract green finance for making investments that will contribute to transitioning Zambia into a climate-resilient and inclusive green economy.

- There is a need to build human capacity, invest in skills, and support innovation in the green economy.

Figure 1. Electricity demand for mining and non-ferrous metals sector, 2015-2050