

# TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE IN ZAMBIA: BUILDING A RESILIENT FUTURE

*This case study shares Zambia’s story of transformational change toward a climate-resilient future, focusing on the role of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) in supporting this transformation between 2010 and 2019. The case describes the country context prior to the start of CIF’s Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) in Zambia, CIF’s strategy for supporting climate resilience, and the progress Zambia has made toward transformational change in climate resilience.*

## COUNTRY CONTEXT

The impacts of climate change can be devastating for a country like Zambia, which depends on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture and natural resources. The agricultural sector employs 70 percent of the population—primarily through rainfed, subsistence farming—and is critically important for poor rural households, national food security, and providing raw materials for the manufacturing industry. Over the past decade, Zambia has experienced extreme weather events with increasing severity and frequency, including seasonal floods, extreme temperatures, and droughts. Droughts in the 2018-2019 farming season left 2.3 million people in need of emergency food assistance. The southern area of the country used to be considered the breadbasket of the nation, but in recent years, with low and unpredictable rainfall, it has become the driest zone of the country with limited potential for crop production. During the summer of 2019 alone, severe power outages from drought and related dependence on hydropower resulted in significant impacts on businesses, health, food security, and overall welfare. Currently in 2020, as this case study is being finalized, the COVID-19 pandemic is further exacerbating food security challenges and underscoring the need for more resilient local agricultural production.

## CIF’S STRATEGY TO SUPPORT A CLIMATE-RESILIENT ZAMBIA

The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) has long recognized the deep connection between socio-economic development issues and the challenges posed by climate change, which disproportionately impact the poorest and the most vulnerable. For example, a 2011 government study warned that without strengthened resilience, climate change could further jeopardize food security and livelihoods and reduce Zambia’s GDP growth by US\$5 billion. In the last two decades, the GRZ has also undertaken decentralization reforms linked to broader governance and rural development agendas.



## QUICK FACTS

### PUBLICATION SERIES

Transformational Change Case Study

### PUBLICATION LAUNCH DATE

June 2020

### RELEVANT CIF PROGRAM

Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR)

### RELEVANT COUNTRIES

Zambia

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More information about the CIF’s Evaluation and Learning Initiative at: [climateinvestmentfunds.org/evaluation-and-learning](https://climateinvestmentfunds.org/evaluation-and-learning)



In 2010, the GRZ partnered with the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) to support a more climate-resilient future. With funding of over US\$90 million, CIF's Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) has supported Zambia's climate resilience through three strategic projects implemented by the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). A program cornerstone is collaboration between the national government and local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and communities—reflecting a change from a traditional top-down approach. Local projects focus on the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the Kafue and Barotse sub-basins located in the climate-sensitive southwest agro-ecological region of the country.

## PROGRESS TOWARD TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

CIF's overarching goal is to support countries such as Zambia in advancing transformational change toward low-carbon, climate-resilient development. Advancement along four dimensions of transformational change—relevance, systemic change, scale, and sustainability—demonstrates progress toward climate resilience goals. To realize lasting transformational change, all four dimensions must materialize over time, though typically they do not progress in a linear, sequential, or predictable manner.

On the whole, Zambia's efforts, with support from CIF/PPCR and others, have made substantial progress in advancing Zambia toward a climate-resilient future. **The PPCR approach, including the country-led design, well-targeted interventions, and mid-course adjustments, has been highly relevant to transformational change.** This has been evident in a programmatic approach intended to mainstream climate resilience in development planning, support strategic yet vulnerable sectors and regions, and integrate with the GRZ's wider goals and initiatives related to rural development, social protection, and decentralization.

**CIF/PPCR investments have supported substantial progress on systemic change.** This is evidenced by increases in integration of climate resilience in development plans at the national, provincial, district, and local/ward levels; a successfully-piloted community adaptation model that is leading to improvements in capacity and livelihood options for vulnerable groups; and completion of key climate-resilient infrastructure such as roads and canals. **Progress on the dimension of scale has also advanced,** as shown by increased budget allocations for climate resilience. For example, in 2018, the GRZ allocated US\$35.6 million (ZMK471.9 million) towards climate change interventions across many sectors, compared to just over US\$407,000 (ZMK5,399 million) in 2015, reflecting a leap in domestic funding commitments. Over 2,000 community sub-grant projects have been approved and initiated, and the approach is being replicated in other climate-affected regions. **Sustainability is the least advanced dimension thus far, as is the case in many contexts,** due to limited availability of domestic funding and the inherently long-term nature of sustainability.

## REFLECTIONS AND LOOKING AHEAD

Challenges remain, including ongoing needs to build local capacity, effectively engaging the private sector, and securing sustained domestic funding. Still, on the whole, **Zambia's progress toward building a resilient future since 2010, in partnership with CIF, is both substantial and exceptional,** reflecting leadership, commitment, and effective actions to build lasting resilience at all levels, from local to national. Zambia continues to serve as an example from which many others can learn. As the urgency and scale of the climate crisis progresses, the well-being of vulnerable populations across the globe depends on scaling-up similarly effective resilience efforts that advance systems-level, transformative change. Doing so is key to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and build toward a more prosperous and climate-resilient future.

## ZAMBIA'S PROGRESS ALONG DIMENSIONS OF TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

The TCLP's transformational change framework identifies four dimensions of transformational change—relevance, systemic change, scale, and sustainability—which together signal that transformational change is occurring and durable. This figure shows Zambia's progress toward transformational change in climate resilience along all four dimensions.

