

**INTRODUCTION**

The **'Blue Economy'** is a concept that develops opportunities which come with the conservation and sustainable use of water and water resources for sustainable development. The concept of the Blue Economy provides for harnessing water resources to promote development and conceptualises Oceans, Rivers, Lakes, Floodplains and other water bodies as a development space were if well managed can lead to sustained economic growth, food security, job creation and sustainable livelihoods. The Blue Economy discussions came to the fore during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which took place in 2012 in Brazil.

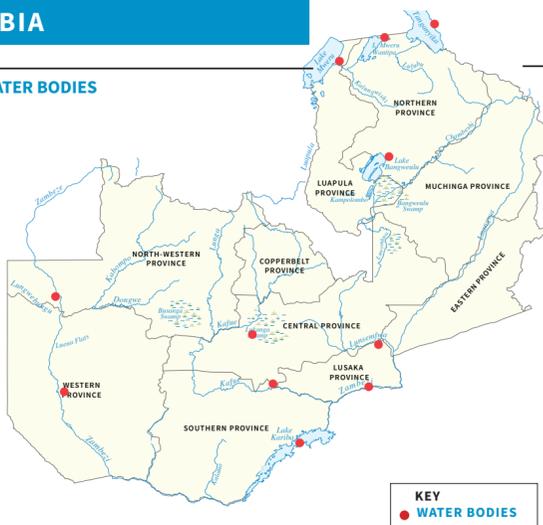
The Blue Economy concept encompasses resources which cut across various economic sectors such as capture fisheries, aquaculture, biotechnology, mining, energy, transport and trade.

TYPE OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES	BLUE ECONOMY SECTORS
 <p><b>Harvesting of living aquatic resources</b> (seafood, plant marine organisms and marine-biotechnological products)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fishing (inland, coastal, and deep seas)</li> <li>Aquaculture</li> <li>Mari-culture</li> <li>Pharmaceuticals, chemicals, cosmetics and genetic research</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Extraction of non-living resources and generation of new energy resources</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deep-sea and seabed mining</li> <li>Offshore oil and gas</li> <li>Renewable energy</li> <li>Marine salt harvesting</li> <li>Coastal mining of sand, gravel, and other construction materials</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Commerce and trade in and around the water bodies.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maritime transport and services</li> <li>Port Infrastructure shipbuilding and repairs</li> <li>River transport</li> <li>Tourism and recreation</li> </ul>

**MAP OF ZAMBIA**

**ZAMBIA'S MAJOR WATER BODIES**

- Mweru-Wantipa**  
Northern Province
- Lake Tanganyika**  
Northern Province
- Itzhi-Tezhi**  
Central Province
- Lake Bangweulu**  
Luapula Province
- Lake Mweru**  
Luapula Province
- Lukanga Swamps**  
Central Province
- Kafue River**  
Southern Province
- Zambezi River**  
Western Province
- Lake Kariba**  
Southern Province



Source: <https://www.ecologyandsociety.org/>

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# UNDERSTANDING THE BLUE ECONOMY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ZAMBIA

## INFOGRAPHIC

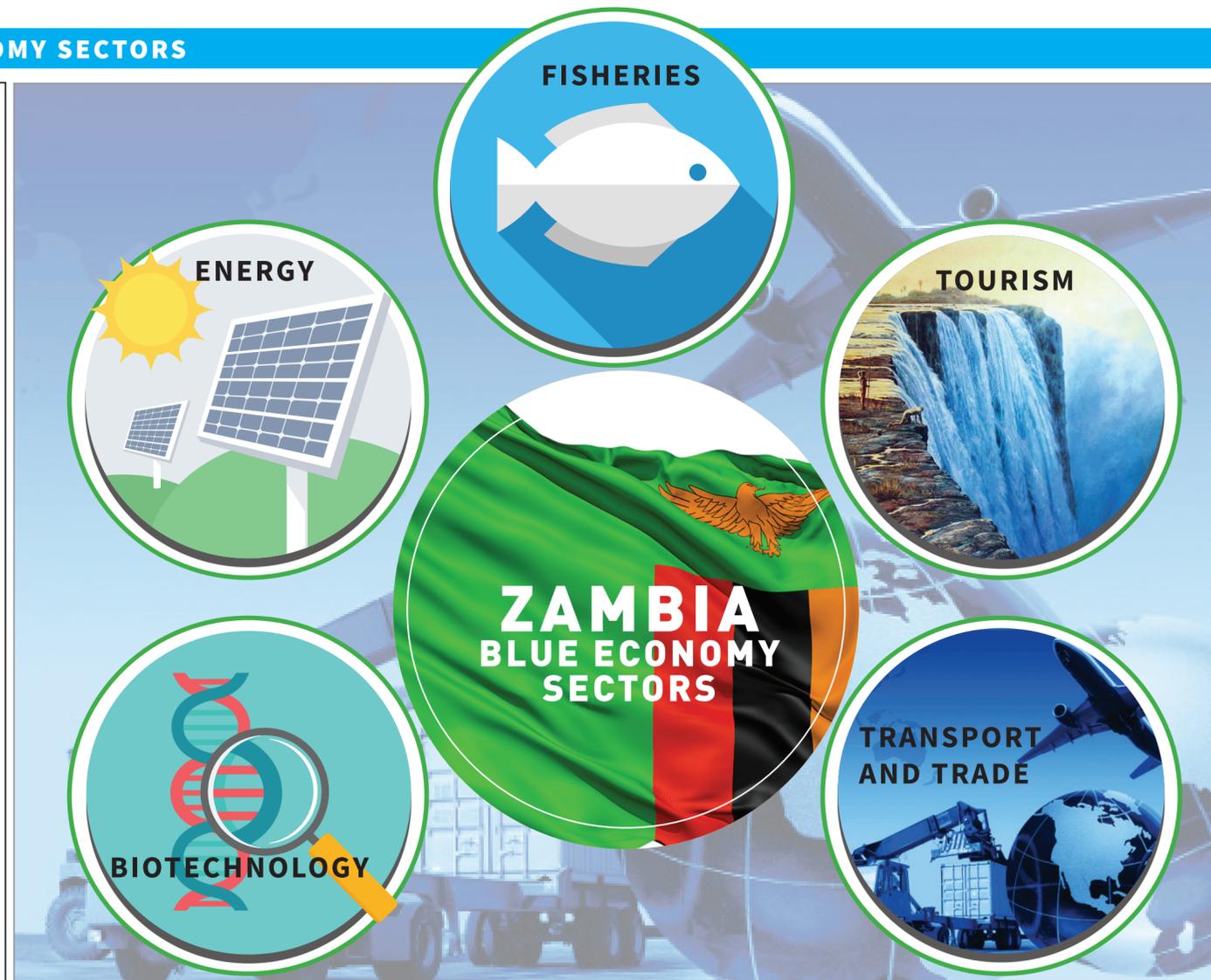
### ZAMBIA'S BLUE ECONOMY

With the abundant water resources, Zambia has an opportunity to utilize them for economic development. Zambia accounts for up to 40% of fresh waters in the SADC region and holds one of the three major lakes in East and Central Africa known as Lake Tanganyika and is the home of one of the major access points to the African interior through the Zambezi river. The Zambian Blue Economy is composed of fisheries (aquaculture and capture fisheries), tourism, transport, energy and biotechnology.

### ZAMBIA'S BLUE ECONOMY SECTORS

The Blue Economy in Zambia has potential to improve food security and income both at national and household level. There are several policies and governance frameworks that support the implementation of the Blue Economy Guidelines that Zambia can harness in order to foster sustainable development. These policies and governance frameworks that Zambia can leverage exist at international, regional and national level and include:

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**  
 Sustainable Development Goal (SGD) number 14 aims to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and other marine resources for sustainable development in all countries. The goal has set out a number of targets it aims to achieve, with target 14.7 being of great importance in achieving sustainable development through the Blue Economy.  
  
 Target 14.7- by 2030 increase the economic benefits to Small Island and Developing States (SIDS) and Less Developed Countries(LDCs) from the use of marine resources including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism. Zambia can use its abundance water resources and for the development of the aquaculture sector which would lead to increased household income and promote the fisheries value chain.
- 2050 Africa's Integrated Marine Strategy (2050 AIM Strategy)**  
  
 This strategy aims to foster increased wealth creation from Africa's oceans and seas by developing a sustainable thriving Blue Economy in a secure and environmentally sustainable manner. The strategy describes the Blue Economy as the **"New Frontier of African Renaissance"** by providing an opportunity through which both coastal and landlocked countries could yield mutual benefits for the provision of the efficient and coordinated services to each other and access to resources.
- Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP)**  
  
 Through the 7NDP, Zambia has set out to transform the country into a land linked country for the transportation of goods and people. It further aims to develop the country into a transport hub for the region because of its central position with eight neighbouring countries. In order to achieve this, the 7NDP has set out to develop Zambia's trade corridors and ports to enhance trade prospects for the country. Examples include; Nacala and Dar es salaam corridors which are both important catalysts in enhancing trade development in Zambia.



### RECOMMENDATIONS

- PMRC urges Government to work towards the implementation of the climate change adaptation and mitigation measures that prevent the adverse effects of climate change on the Blue Economy sectors such as Fisheries and Tourism. In addition there is need for the country to domesticate the international protocols on climate change such as Conference of Parties (COP 21) and Kyoto Protocol.
- PMRC recommends that Government through the model of ministerial tasks force, institute an **inter-ministerial a task force** that will develop guidelines Zambia can use to incorporate the Blue Economy guidelines into the implementation of the 7NDP.



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