



Power to change

ZARENA

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 - 2025



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ISSUE 2
Dec 2025

ZARENA newsletter

MESSAGE FROM ZARENA CHAIRMAN

As we continue to steer the renewable energy agenda forward, this second issue of our newsletter arrives at a defining moment in Zambia's transition toward sustainable and inclusive energy systems. Guided by our vision "to position Zambia as a regional hub for renewable energy knowledge sharing, promoting sustainable and accessible energy for all," ZARENA remains unwavering in its commitment to shaping a resilient, innovative, and people-centered energy future.

The past year has been characterised by purposeful action across our core pillars, which continue to anchor our efforts as we pursue a well-coordinated, inclusive, and high-performing renewable energy ecosystem. This issue highlights the momentum gained through expanded capacity-building programmes, key policy engagements, technical working groups, and community-based initiatives.

A key milestone is the continued progress of the Solar for Climate Resilience and Productive Use (S4CRPU) Project in Kazungula. This initiative demonstrates the transformative power of empowerment,

strategic partnerships, and community ownership in advancing Zambia's goal of universal electricity access by 2030.

As the sector evolves, ZARENA remains committed to ensuring its Strategic Plan stays responsive to emerging opportunities, technologies, and national development priorities. I encourage all members and partners to stay actively engaged as we strengthen Zambia's leadership in renewable energy knowledge, innovation, and sustainable development.



Prof. Joseph Mutale
Chairman, ZARENA

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MESSAGE FROM GRC CO-ORDINATOR

ZARENA's role within the Global Renewables Centre (GRC) network continues to grow in impact, relevance, and strategic importance. The GRC, an initiative under the Scottish Government Programme hosted by the University of Strathclyde, promotes knowledge exchange between Scotland and its international development partner countries. ZARENA works alongside the Renewable Energy Industry Association of Malawi (REIAMA) and Energy Private Developers (EPD) in Rwanda as key implementing partners in Africa.

As the national focal point for Zambia, ZARENA connects community-level needs with national policy priorities and the broader regional and international renewable energy agenda. Built on principles of capacity building, knowledge sharing, research, and evidence-based action, the GRC provides a platform where ZARENA plays a catalytic role.

Through technical working groups and strong stakeholder partnerships, we ensure that insights and lessons from Zambia inform GRC programmes and contribute to global learning across the network.

By bringing together communities, academia, government, and industry, ZARENA helps advance renewable energy solutions that are inclusive, gender-responsive, and scalable. Our continued collaboration strengthens Zambia's contribution to innovation, resilience, and the global renewable energy transition.

As the GRC Co-ordinator, I am proud of the progress we continue to achieve together. ZARENA's involvement strengthens the GRC's ability to deliver impact, advance innovation, and build resilient renewable energy systems that benefit households and communities across Africa.



Mr Damien Frame
GRC Co-ordinator



The Zambia Renewable Energy Association (ZARENA), officially commissioned the Solar for Climate Resilience and Productive Use Project- **S4CRPU** on the 20 May 2025 in two communities of Chief Sekute's Chieftom in Kazungula district of Southern Province.

Designed to benefit over 200 households in Sichombe and Chilimabana communities is being implemented in collaboration with the Scottish Government's Global Renewables Centre(GRC), the project features a solar-powered irrigation system equipped with a water tank for enhanced agricultural productivity and climate resilience.

Beyond irrigation, the initiative included training in crop management, sustainable business practices, and system maintenance, giving farmers practical experience and the skills to sustain year-round production.

"The project is a testament to what technological advancement, innovation, collaboration, and community ownership can achieve in our pursuit of sustainable and climate-resilient solutions." - Dr. Chilala Kakoma-Bowa, on behalf of ZARENA Board Chairman Prof. Joseph Mutale.

During the commissioning, **Senior Chief Sekute** praised the project as a transformative solution to long-standing food insecurity caused by dependence on rain-fed agriculture, while Kazungula District Commissioner **Elias Siamibila** , encouraged communities to safeguard and maximize the project's benefits.

For more details on the project's planning and technical analysis, the full Kazungula Feasibility Study is available .

**SCAN / CLICK
HERE**
To access feasibility study



Solar-powered irrigation system installed under the S4CRPU Project in Kazungula



CAPACITY-BUILDING

BUILDING SKILLS UNDER THE S4CRPU PROJECT



Capacity building sits at the heart of the (S4CRPU) Project, ensuring that communities in Sichombe and Chilimbana not only access solar-powered irrigation but also gain the knowledge and practical skills to sustain year-round agricultural production. Working closely with the **Ministry of Agriculture** through the DACO office in Kazungula, farmers received extensive training in crop management for beans, maize, rape, and groundnuts. These sessions introduced climate-smart techniques, soil health practices, pest management, in readiness for the new solar-powered system.

Alongside the agricultural training, ZARENA collaborated with the **Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise** to support the formation and registration of the community cooperative. Through these engagements, farmers learned the fundamentals of cooperative governance, leadership roles, financial record-keeping, and business planning. This training equipped the community to operate as a structured, member-owned enterprise capable of managing resources, accessing markets, and sustaining the project's long-term economic impact.

To strengthen technical self-reliance, the project also delivered a hands-on training on the operation and maintenance of the solar pumping and drip irrigation system from Davis & Shirliff— the private-sector partner responsible for installing the system, farmers were trained in practical skills such as solar panel maintenance, system calibration, filter cleaning, and valve regulation. This technical coaching ensures that farmers can maintain the infrastructure independently and address minor issues without external intervention.



MoSMEs representative Mr Owen Kawila facilitating a training in one of the rural communities(chilimbana)

100+
individuals sensitized
on Renewable energy

45.8%
Female representation
in Steering Committee

200+
Households benefiting
from system

24
Individuals TOT trained in Solar maintenance,
crop and irrigation management



ZARENA MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

EMPOWERING MINDS, ADVANCING RENEWABLE ENERGY IN ZAMBIA

The Zambia Renewable Energy Association (ZARENA), with support from the Global Renewable Centre (GRC) and the Scottish Government, successfully concluded its first-ever Mentorship Programme under the theme **“Empowering Minds, Advancing Renewable Energy in Zambia.”** on May 10, 2025.

The three-month Programme created a platform for young professionals to learn, connect, and grow under the guidance of experienced mentors in the renewable energy sector.



ZARENA Chairman, **Prof Joseph Mutale** emphasised the programmes broader vision: *“Through this mentorship journey, we have witnessed the nurturing of creative ideas, the exchange of knowledge and the development of problem-solvers who will champion innovation within our energy sector.”*

Also speaking at the event was EIZ president **Eng. Wesley Kaluba**, in his keynote address, highlighted the value of structured mentorship, stating, *“every young engineer deserves a mentor—someone who will not only helps sharpen their technical skills, but also provides encouragement, perspective and accountability.”*

The inaugural cohort comprised 20 mentors and 40 mentees, including experts from Zambia, Scotland, and Germany.

Participants engaged in a structured Programme featuring a Kick-Off, Mid-Check-In, and Graduation Ceremony, while maintaining flexible one-on-one mentorship sessions.

MEANING IMPACT AND RESULTS

included the notable success story of **Umoyo Solar Farms Limited**, co-founded by a mentor-mentee pair.

41% Female participants

59% Male Participants

100% Mentor endorsement



The Mentorship Programme stands as a milestone in ZARENA’s mission to develop Zambia’s renewable energy talent through knowledge sharing. It’s success sets the stage for future cohorts and continued impact across the sector.

ZARENA encourages professionals and students to look out for the next Mentorship Cohort, a platform for learning, growth, and collaboration in sustainable energy.

COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS

ZARENA HOSTS CHINA DELEGATION TO FOSTER RENEWABLE ENERGY COLLABORATION

On 2 April 2025, a collaborative meeting held at ZARENA's Head Office in Lusaka brought together key renewable energy stakeholders from Zambia and China to explore new frontiers in research and innovation.

The delegation included representatives from the **Beijing University of Chemical Technology (BUCT)**, the **China Renewable Energy Society (CRES)**, and the **Centre for Energy in Engineering, Zambia**. The meeting focused on fostering strategic collaboration in renewable energy, sustainable technologies, and academic exchange.

During this engagement, a Letter of Intent was officially signed between ZARENA, BUCT, and CRES, marking the beginning of a strong partnership aimed at advancing joint research, student and faculty exchange, capacity-building programs, and technical knowledge sharing.

This milestone meeting laid the groundwork for a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will guide collaborative projects in areas such as:

- Renewable energy innovation and technology transfer
- Joint academic research and publications
- Workshops, webinars, and professional exchange programs
- Development of blended learning modules on sustainability and circular economy solutions

The visit underscored ZARENA's commitment to bridging global partnerships that support Zambia's transition toward a sustainable energy future. Through this alliance, ZARENA continues to position Zambia as a hub for renewable energy cooperation, research, and capacity development.

We look forward to the continued growth of these collaborations and the lasting impact they will have on the renewable energy landscape in Zambia and beyond!



Signing of letter of INTENT between Zambia Renewable Energy association (ZARENA), Beijing University of Chemical Technology(BUCT) and Chinese Renewable Energy Society(CRES)

STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS

SHAPING ZAMBIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKFORCE

ZARENA proudly joined the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** and key national stakeholders for the Energy Sector Background Foresight and Technical Meetings, held in March 2025, as part of the Skills Development for Increased Employability Programme (SDEP), an EU-funded initiative driving Zambia's skills transformation.



The meetings brought together representatives from government, academia, the private sector, and development partners to validate Zambia's Energy Sector Skills Strategy, a roadmap to strengthen the country's green workforce and align skills training with emerging renewable energy opportunities.

During the March 2025 meeting in Kabwe, a Taskforce Team was formally established to spearhead implementation of the sector strategy and ZARENA was appointed as one of the core members of this national body. The Taskforce will guide curriculum development, skills prioritization, and the formation of a Sector Skills Body (SSB) for the energy industry.

Building on these outcomes, the Energy Sector Skills Strategy Taskforce will focus on:

- Reviewing and prioritizing energy-related curricula, including programs that promote female participation and inclusivity for persons with disabilities.
- Developing an implementation plan for sector-driven skills development and apprenticeships.
- Establishing governance structures and an action plan for the Energy Sector Skills Body (SSB).



ZARENA Representatives Ms.Cynthia Chibwe and Eng.Dylan Chewe pose for picture.



Through its participation, ZARENA continues to champion skills development and workforce readiness in Zambia's renewable energy transition, contributing technical insights and private sector perspectives to ensure training aligns with industry needs.

This collaboration marks a major step toward building a skilled, inclusive workforce that will power Zambia's green economy and support sustainable growth.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF WOMEN IN ENERGY, AFRICA

POWERING WOMEN, POWERING AFRICA!

On Wednesday, 3 April 2025, ZARENA proudly participated in the **Women in Energy Conference**, hosted by the World Bank at the InterContinental Hotel in Lusaka. The event brought together leaders and professionals driving gender equality and inclusion within Africa's energy sector.

ZARENA was represented by strategy and Implementation Lead **Dr. Chilala Kakoma Bowa**, who shared a powerful reflection that resonated deeply with the conference's theme, "If we want to light up Africa sustainably, we must start by powering the women who hold up half the sky."

Her words underscored a vital truth that energy transition is not only about infrastructure, but about inclusion, innovation, and impact.

At ZARENA, empowering women in energy and STEM is not an afterthought, it is woven into the very fabric of our mission. Guided by the World Bank's Women in Energy Network (WEN) and its gender-smart strategies, ZARENA continues to transform the renewable energy landscape from male-dominated to people-powered, ensuring women in all their diversity are part of the solution.

Through the **Global Renewable Centre (GRC)**, ZARENA continues to champion gender mainstreaming and social inclusion as central pillars of sustainable energy development. These efforts remain strongly aligned with the World Bank's vision for a just and equitable energy transition



ZARENA actions Toward Gender Empowerment

- **Mentorship Cohorts:** Connecting female STEM students and early-career professionals with industry mentors in engineering, agriculture, and renewable energy.
- **Technical Training:** Partnering with TEVETA to deliver hands-on short courses that build women's skills in renewable energy and vocational trades.
- **Entrepreneurship Support:** Working with the Ministry of Energy's ZGEN Programme to empower women-led clean-energy startups and community enterprises.

The Women in Energy Conference was more than an event. It was a movement. As Dr. Bowa emphasized, women are not just beneficiaries of the energy transition, they are the architects of transformation.



"If we want energy access to be truly transformative, we cannot do it without women, not just as beneficiaries, but as builders, engineers, and decision-makers."

DR. CHILALA KAKOMA-BOWA
STRATEGY & IMPLEMENTATION LEAD

DRIVING ZAMBIA'S CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

ZARENA MODERATES A SESSION AT RENPOWER 2025

At the RENPOWER 2025 Conference, ZARENA proudly took centre stage, moderating a high-level session on **“Solar Surge & Clean Energy Horizons – Advancing 1,000 MW of Solar while Exploring Wind and Green Hydrogen.”** The session brought together sector leaders, investors, and policymakers to discuss Zambia’s bold renewable energy trajectory and the innovations positioning the country as a clean-energy frontrunner in the region.

Representing ZARENA, **Dr.Chilala Kakoma-Bowa**, Strategy and Implementation Lead underscored the critical role of green hydrogen, wind power, and Zambia’s unique natural assets in supporting the nation’s path toward achieving its 1,000 MW solar target.

The session highlighted several transformative developments shaping Zambia’s renewable energy landscape:

- 48-Hour Solar Project Approval Process:
- A major breakthrough enabling faster deployment and increasing investor confidence in utility-scale and distributed solar projects.
- Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):
- Stakeholders emphasized that PPPs will be central to scaling both large-scale solar parks and mini-grid solutions across rural communities.
- 254 GW Floating Solar Potential:
- Zambia’s theoretical floating solar capacity driven by its vast water bodies positions the country as a future leader in innovative solar deployment.
- Lessons from the 100 MW, \$100M PV Project:
- The recently commissioned project stands as a benchmark for financing, construction speed, and operational excellence.



ZARENA remains committed to amplifying key sector discussions, ensuring that Zambia’s energy transition is both inclusive and climate-smart.

Our participation at RENPOWER 2025 reaffirmed our dedication to advancing evidence-based dialogue, fostering investment, and strengthening partnerships that accelerate renewable energy growth.

As Zambia pushes toward ambitious solar, wind, and green hydrogen goals, ZARENA is proud to stand at the forefront advocating for a future powered by innovation, sustainability, and opportunity.



EMBRACE SOFTWARE TOOLS

ZARENA BUILDS CAPACITY IN SYSTEM DESIGN AND HYBRID OPTIMIZATION



As part of its mission to strengthen Zambia's renewable energy capacity, the Zambia Renewable Energy Association (ZARENA) hosted a Training Seminar on System Design and HOMER Pro on 28 March 2025 at its headquarters in Kalundu, Lusaka.

The session attracted 17 participants including engineers, energy planners, and entrepreneurs — who enhanced their skills in hybrid system optimization through practical case studies, group design challenges, and live demonstrations.

This initiative directly supports Zambia's 8th National Development Plan and Vision 2030, both of which emphasize sustainable, affordable, and inclusive energy access

The training focused on equipping participants with skills to:

- Understand Zambia's renewable energy landscape and evolving hybrid systems.
- Compare manual sizing methods versus software-based optimization.
- Integrate HOMER Pro into everyday design and analysis workflows.
- Strengthen peer learning networks for ongoing technical exchange.

Facilitated by **Eng. Dylan Chewe**, the one-day seminar combined theory with hands-on exercises, including a group design challenge comparing manual system sizing with HOMER Pro optimization outputs.



Dr. Chilala Kakoma-Bowa facilitating a session



Students in the HOMER Pro session at the ZARENA offices



ZARENA management Team handing out certificates to participants

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COLLABORATION IN ENERGY ACCESS

ZARENA HOSTS UGANDA'S UECCC DELEGATION ON A BENCHMARKING MISSION

The Zambia Renewable Energy Association (ZARENA) was honored to host a high-level delegation from the **Uganda Energy Credit Capitalisation Company (UECCC)**, led by **Mr. Jimmy Ojera**, during their benchmarking visit to Zambia. The mission focused on understanding Zambia's progress in expanding rural electrification through mini-grid development, a cornerstone of the nation's strategy to achieve universal energy access by 2030.

Mini-grids continue to play a vital role in powering remote communities and driving rural transformation. Their success in Zambia has made the country a regional reference point for sustainable, decentralised energy solutions

ZARENA was particularly inspired by UECCC's innovative financing mechanisms, which are designed to break affordability barriers for solar home systems, productive-use energy (PUE) technologies, and clean cooking solutions. These financing models continue to play a significant role in accelerating renewable energy deployment in Uganda.

In return, ZARENA shared its work in capacity building, PUE innovations, and community-led approaches, emphasising the importance of skills development and stakeholder collaboration in sustaining renewable energy projects. The discussions reinforced the power of peer-to-peer learning in advancing Africa's energy future.

The benchmarking visit proceeded to the **Rural Electrification Authority (REA)** offices, where the delegation was warmly received by Acting CEO **Eng. Alex Mbumba** and the REA technical team. This engagement provided a valuable platform for shared reflection on REA's mini-grid rollout in Zambia.

The exchanges offered valuable insights into scalable models for rural clean energy delivery..

ZARENA extends its sincere appreciation to UECCC for choosing Zambia as a learning destination.

We look forward to building stronger partnerships that advance clean, inclusive, and affordable energy across the continent, ensuring no community is left behind.



ZARENA, UECCC and REA Team pose for photo at REA headquarters



ZARENA and UECCC teams engage in a collaborative discussion at the ZARENA offices, exchanging insights on advancing mini-grid solutions and expanding rural energy access.

ZARENA MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

EMPOWERING MINDS, ADVANCING RENEWABLE ENERGY IN ZAMBIA

ZARENA proudly celebrated the successful completion of its Mentorship Programme Cohort 2, marking a significant milestone in the Association’s commitment to developing Zambia’s renewable energy workforce. A total of 77 participants comprising 51 mentees and 26 mentors graduated after three months of structured mentorship, industry exposure, and professional development. This second cohort reflects remarkable growth from cohort 1, underscoring the increasing demand for mentorship and capacity-building initiatives within Zambia’s renewable energy sector.



Graduates pose for photo with Eng.Alex Mbumba (REA CEO),Eng.Wesley Kaluba (EIZ President) and Doc chilila kakoma Bowa(ZARENA ED)



Eng.Wesley Kaluba (EIZ President) giving remarks at the graduation ceremony



Prof.Joseph Mutale(ZARENA Chairman) giving remarks at the graduation ceremony

The graduation ceremony, held on 29 November 2025 under the theme **“Empowering Minds: Advancing Renewable Energy in Zambia,”** brought together key stakeholders and industry leaders who delivered insightful and inspiring messages.

MEANING IMPACT AND RESULTS

71% Male participants

29% Female Participants

100% Mentor endorsement

“Sustained mentorship pathways are essential in strengthening innovation, ethical leadership, and technical excellence, preparing young engineers for the evolving demands of Zambia’s energy landscape.”

— Eng Wesley Kaluba, President, Engineering Institution of Zambia(EIZ)

“Through this mentorship journey, we have witnessed the nurturing of creative ideas, the exchange of knowledge, and the development of problem-solvers who will champion innovation within our energy sector.”

— Prof.Joseph Mutale, Chairman, ZARENA

“Young professionals must continue to strengthen their technical capacity, actively seek mentorship, and lead with purpose as they contribute to Zambia’s energy transformation.” — Eng.Alex Mbumba, CEO, Rural Electrification Authority(REA)

“To the graduates, I encourage you to stay curious, committed, and motivated by the impact you can have. There are many high-growth opportunity areas where you can make a difference.”

— Damien Frame, Programme Manager, Global Renewables Centre

Sign up Cohort 3



Become a **MENTOR**

Become a **MENTEE**



Prof.Joseph Mutale(ZARENA Chairman), Eng.Wesley Kaluba (EIZ President) and Eng.Alex Mbumba (REA CEO),singing the national anthem at ZARENA mentorship graduation.



Mentees give mentorship testimonials at the graduation ceremony



mentors and mentees pose for photos after receiving certificates at event held on 29.11.2025

POWER AND ELEC ZAMBIA 2025

STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

ZARENA proudly contributed as **Strategic Partner** in the opening of the inaugural **POWER & ELEC Zambia 2026**, an international exhibition and conference held from 5th to 7th November 2025 at the Lusaka International Convention Centre, Ciela Resort, Lusaka.

Held under the theme **“Powering Zambia’s Renewable Future-Connecting Energy, Industrialization, Sustainability and Growth,”** the event brought together global and local stakeholders to accelerate innovation and collaboration across the energy sector.

The event was organized by EXHIBITIONS & TRADE SERVICES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED (**ETSIPL**) India, with support from the Ministry of Energy Zambia, and marked the expansion of the Power & Elec series into Central and Southern Africa.

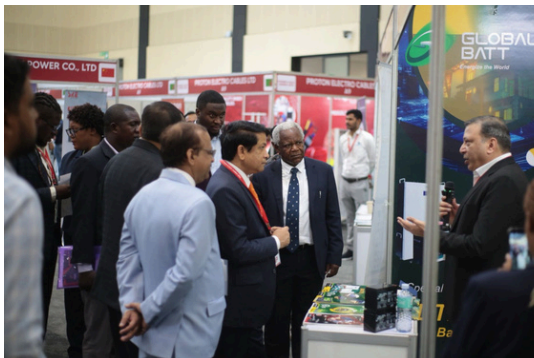
With over 100 exhibitors and delegates from countries including Zambia, India, China, South Africa, Tanzania, and the UAE, the conference showcased cutting-edge technologies in renewable energy, power generation, electrical systems, batteries, and telecommunications

As a Strategic Partner, ZARENA played a pivotal role in shaping dialogue, fostering partnerships, and promoting knowledge exchange to advance Zambia’s clean energy transition. The Association’s involvement reinforced its commitment to positioning Zambia as a hub for renewable energy innovation and collaboration.

The event was supported by key industry players, including Title Sponsor HANCHU ESS and Gold Sponsor AG Energies, further highlighting the growing investment and interest in Zambia’s energy sector.



ZARENA Chairman, Prof Joseph Mutale, receiving Guest of Honour His Excellency Alok Ranjan Jha, High Commissioner of India to Zambia at CIELA



Distinguished guests and stakeholders go through Exhibition stands



Official opening of the inauguration POWER & ELEC 2025 with the India Pavilion, alongside distinguished guests and sector leaders.



Power&Elec 2025 [highlights](#)

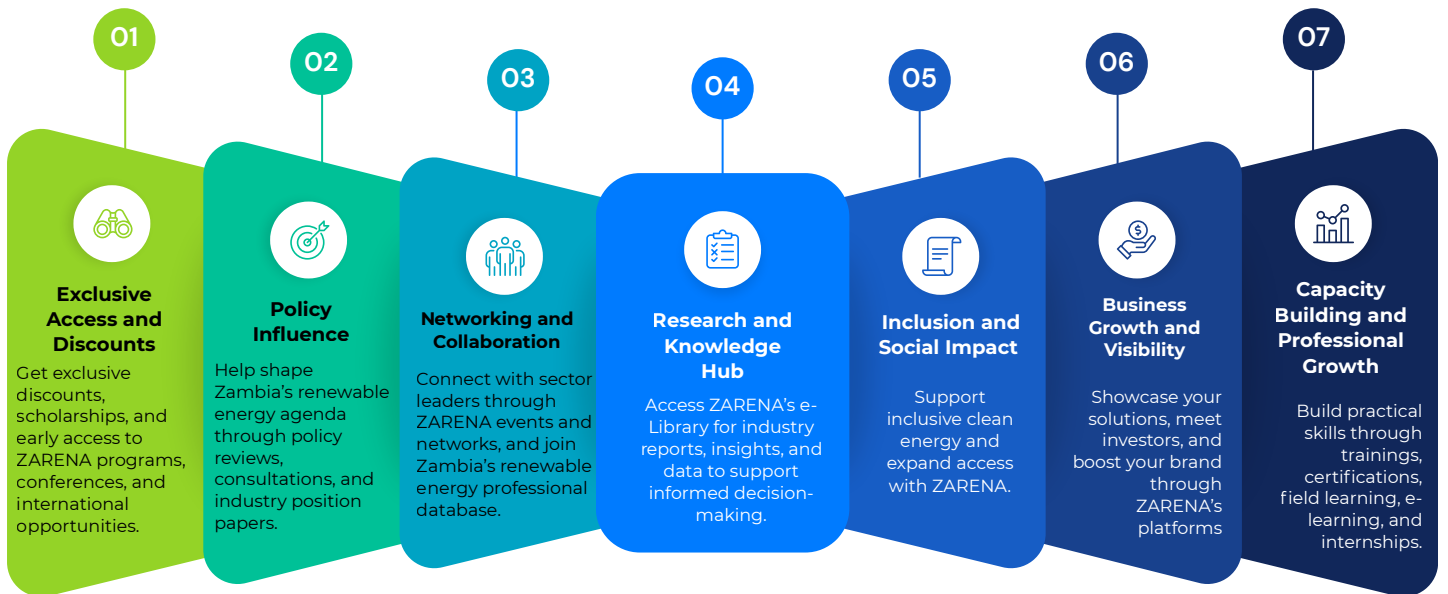
Sign up for Power&Elec [2026](#)

JOIN THE CLEAN ENERGY MOVEMENT



ZARENA MEMBERSHIP

The Zambia Renewable Energy Association (ZARENA) is a membership lead organisation dedicated to promoting renewable energy adoption, policy advocacy, capacity building and knowledge sharing. Being a member of ZARENA provides a platform for individuals and companies to gain access to a network of professionals and activities that drive the transition to sustainable energy solutions. Membership offers a strategic opportunity to contribute to Zambia's energy sector while accessing tangible professional, institutional, and community benefits.

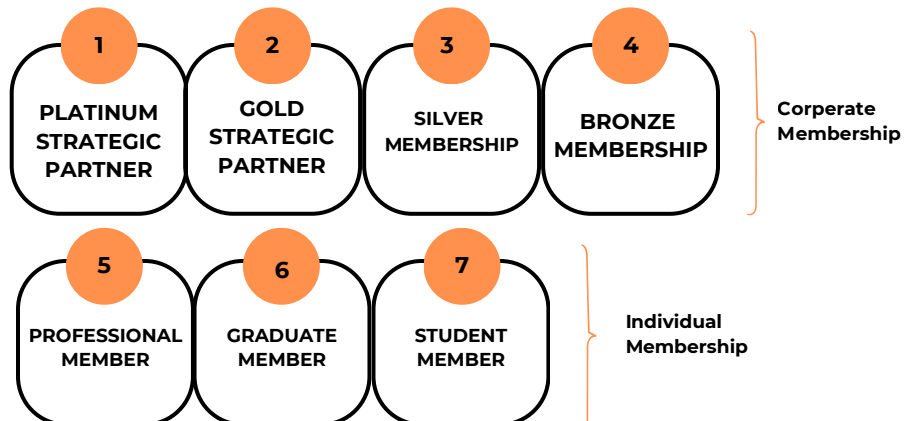


ZARENA MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES



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➔ Sign Up for Membership through the [link here](#)



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