



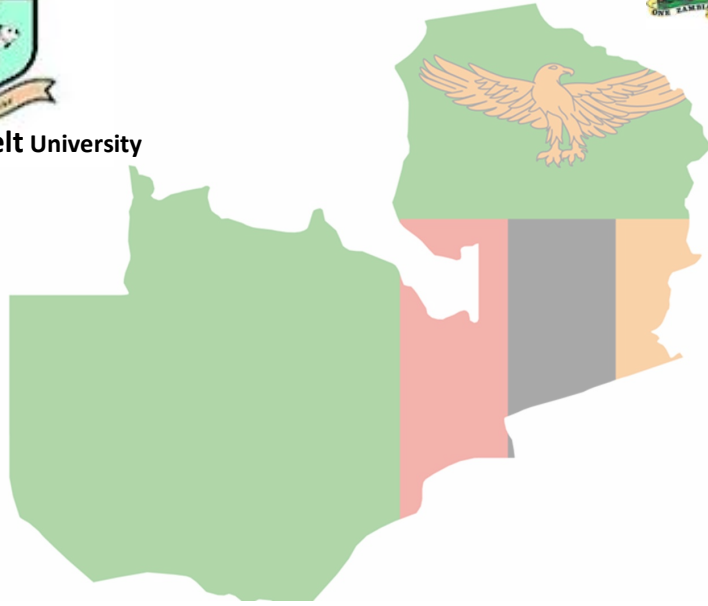
The Copperbelt University



Ministry of Mines  
and  
Minerals Development



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office



# UNRMS Zambia Pilot Project

Towards sustainable management of  
critical raw materials in Zambia



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WEEK  
2024



University  
of Exeter

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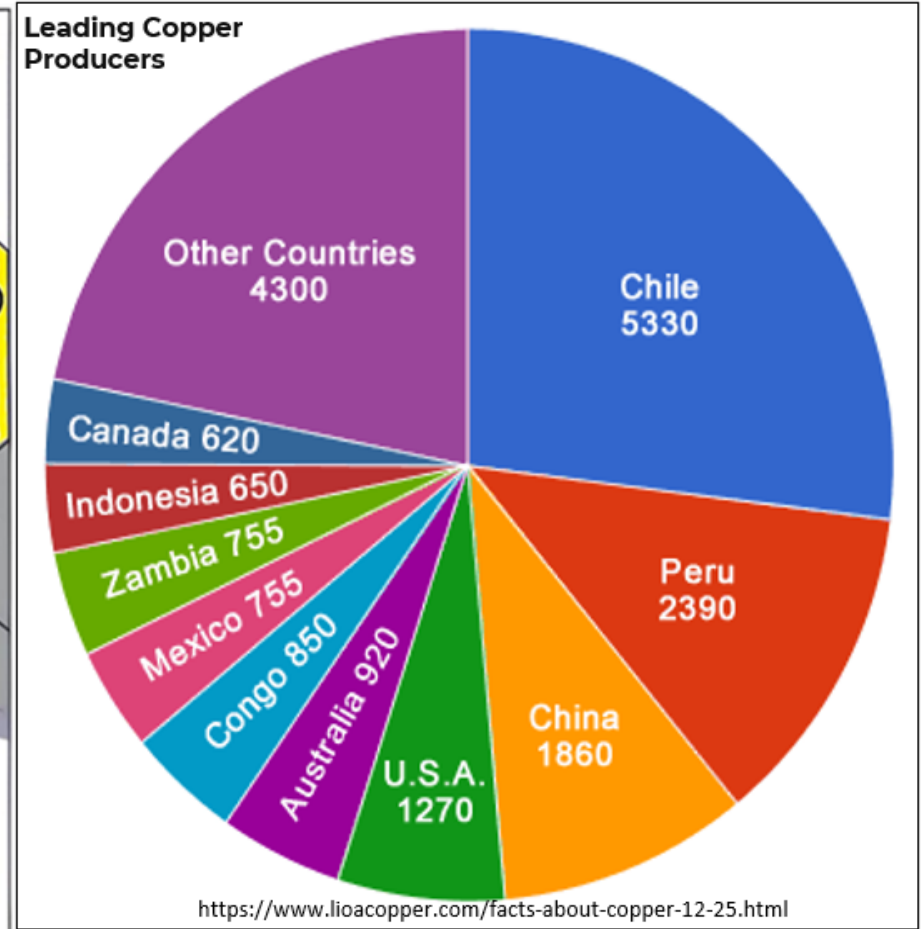
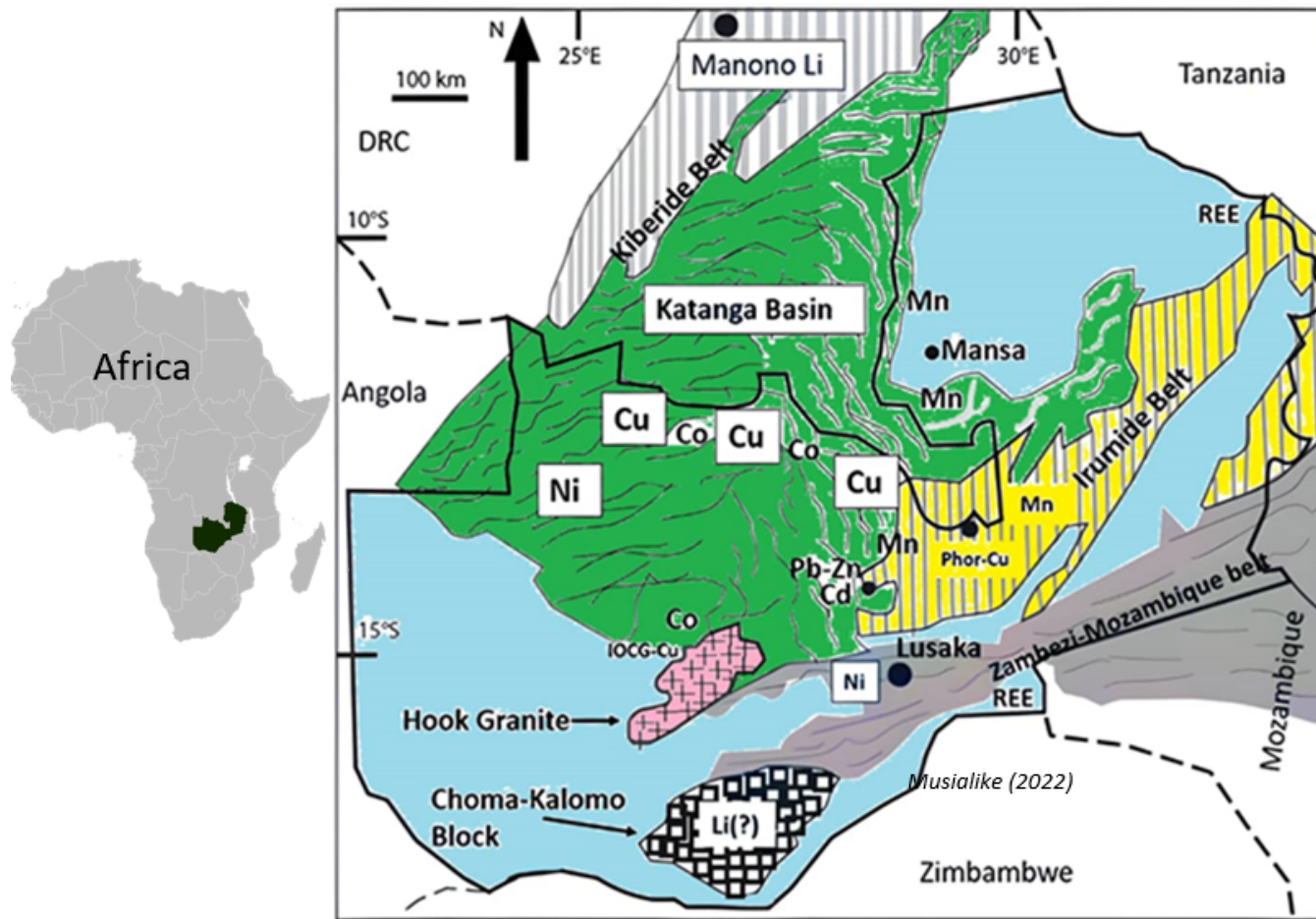


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# BACKGROUND

- As the global agenda to decarbonise the transport and energy sector gains momentum, commitments to climate action are accelerating the adoption of clean energy technologies
- Critical raw materials (CRM) will play an important role in the global economy
- This energy transition presents real economic benefits to producer countries, especially the resource-rich low-income countries in say Africa, South America and Asia.





- Zambia is already a major producer of some of these CRM e.g copper, cobalt, and now increasingly nickel.
- There has also been new interest in other clean energy technology minerals such as Li, REE and graphite



- However, significant challenges could arise if the climate-driven clean energy transition is not managed responsibly and sustainably.
- Today, producers and consumers of CRM want to demonstrate environmental stewardship and respect for human rights



# The way forward.....

- Meaningful mitigation and adaptation to climate change only through change in how we manage our natural resources
- A shift to more integrated and sustainable management of natural resources is clearly the best approach
- Zambia, like the rest of the world has realised the need for a more sustainable management of mineral resources along the entire value-chain e.g. the Eighth National Development Plan.



# UNRMS Zambia Pilot Project

- The UNRMS provides a pathway to achieving sustainable management of natural resources.
- UNRMS Zambia Pilot Project is a collaborative initiative by University of Zambia, Copperbelt University, University of Exeter, Ministry of Mines and FCDO, UK to explore ways of applying UNRMS standards in the management of CRM sourced from the copperbelt region of Zambia.
- It is bringing together all stakeholders in the sector to introduce them to UNRMS and finding ways in which to domesticate it for the Zambian situation



# Current activities

- Map out stakeholders in the CRM sector; government departments/agencies, large mining companies, ASM (community co-operative groups), civil society and academia
- Introducing UNRMS to stakeholders:
  - Publication, media
  - Circulated questionnaires
  - Interviews
  - 3 workshops (165 participants)
- To review how existing policies, regulations and practices map against the UNRMS



# Preliminary observations

- The UNRMS project is timely as the Zambian government is in the processes revising mining policy (Principle 1, state rights and responsibilities)
- ASM is a growing sector and characterised by significant participation of local groups e.g. women and youths (Principle 4, social engagement)
- ASM operations targeting mine waste; issues of safety; governance of these “new resources”, novel ways of exploiting these resources come to the fore (principles to do with circularity and health & safety)
- Waste water usage; Zambia has some of the wettest mines, but has been plagued by drought (principles of circularity, innovation, responsibility to the planet)
- Best practice by large scale mines, can other players in sector learn from that.....collaborations between sector players vital (?)







THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF Michael Musialike and Mubanga Mutale AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

# Thank you!

Michael Musialike  
Researcher

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