

AFRICAN BEHAVIORAL FINANCE (BUSINESS/ECONOMICS/PSYCHOLOGY CROSSOVER)

Vol. 1 | No. 1 | 2023

POLICY ANALYSIS

Navigating the Zambian Business Environment

A Policy Analysis of Research Constraints and Strategic Pathways (2000–2026)

Chilufya Sampa¹|Mwila Banda^{1,2}|Chanda Mwamba¹

¹ University of Zambia, Lusaka

² Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI)

Correspondence: csampa@outlook.com

Received: 25 August 2023 | Accepted: 17 October 2023 | Published: 18 November 2023 | DOI:

[10.5281/zenodo.18944827](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18944827)

ABSTRACT

The Zambian business environment presents unique challenges for research, constraining evidence-based policy formulation. A systematic analysis of these constraints and potential strategic pathways is required to enhance the quality and impact of business research in the region. This policy analysis aims to identify the principal constraints on rigorous business research within Zambia and to propose actionable policy mechanisms to mitigate these barriers, thereby strengthening the research ecosystem. The analysis employs a mixed-methods approach, synthesising data from policy documents, institutional reports, and semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders from academia, government, and the private sector. A thematic analysis was conducted to identify persistent structural and operational barriers. A dominant theme was the critical insufficiency of dedicated research funding, with an estimated three-quarters of interviewed researchers citing it as the primary impediment. This scarcity is compounded by limited institutional support and logistical challenges in data access, creating a cycle of low-quality, non-replicable studies. The constraints identified are systemic and deeply embedded, requiring coordinated policy intervention rather than piecemeal solutions. Strengthening the research infrastructure is fundamental for generating reliable insights into the Zambian business landscape. Key recommendations include establishing a centralised national business research fund, creating public-private data-sharing protocols, and incentivising university-industry research partnerships through tax credits. This article provides a novel policy mechanism framework, the Integrated Research Support System (IRSS), designed to address funding, data, and institutional barriers in a synergistic manner.

Keywords: *Policy Analysis, Business Environment, Sub-Saharan Africa, Evidence-based Policymaking, Research Constraints, Strategic Management, Zambia*

Article Highlights

- Systemic funding scarcity creates a cycle of low-quality, non-replicable studies.
- Proposes the Integrated Research Support System (IRSS) as a synergistic policy framework.
- Identifies limited institutional support and data access as compounding operational barriers.
- Recommends centralized national funding and public-private

Core Recommendation

Establish a centralized national business research fund coupled with incentivized university-industry partnerships to break the cycle of constraint.

This analysis provides a framework for coordinated policy intervention beyond piecemeal solutions.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| data-sharing protocols. | |
|-------------------------|--|

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

REQUEST FULL PAPER

 **Email:** info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

 **Submit at:** app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge