



# GROWTH POTENTIAL, OPPORTUNITIES AND RESILIENCE WITHIN AN ADVANCING BIOECONOMY ACROSS SADC

GIB MEETING



May 2025

# Bioeconomy Landscape



# Research Methods

- Extensive literature review
- Expert survey using a structured questionnaire.
- Participants include professionals from academia, government, private sector, and civil society.
- Questions covered key themes: bioeconomy definitions, sectoral priorities, skills development, job creation, green growth, and financing.

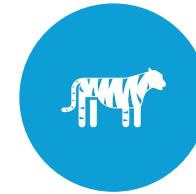
# Potential Bioeconomy Value Chains in SADC



Agro-Processing: Soya, sugar, cassava, horticulture.



Forestry and Timber Products: Medicinal, cosmetic, essential oil products.



Wildlife and Game Meat Processing: Bio-based leather products.



Bio-Based Pharmaceuticals: Herbal and natural products, pharmaceutical value chains.

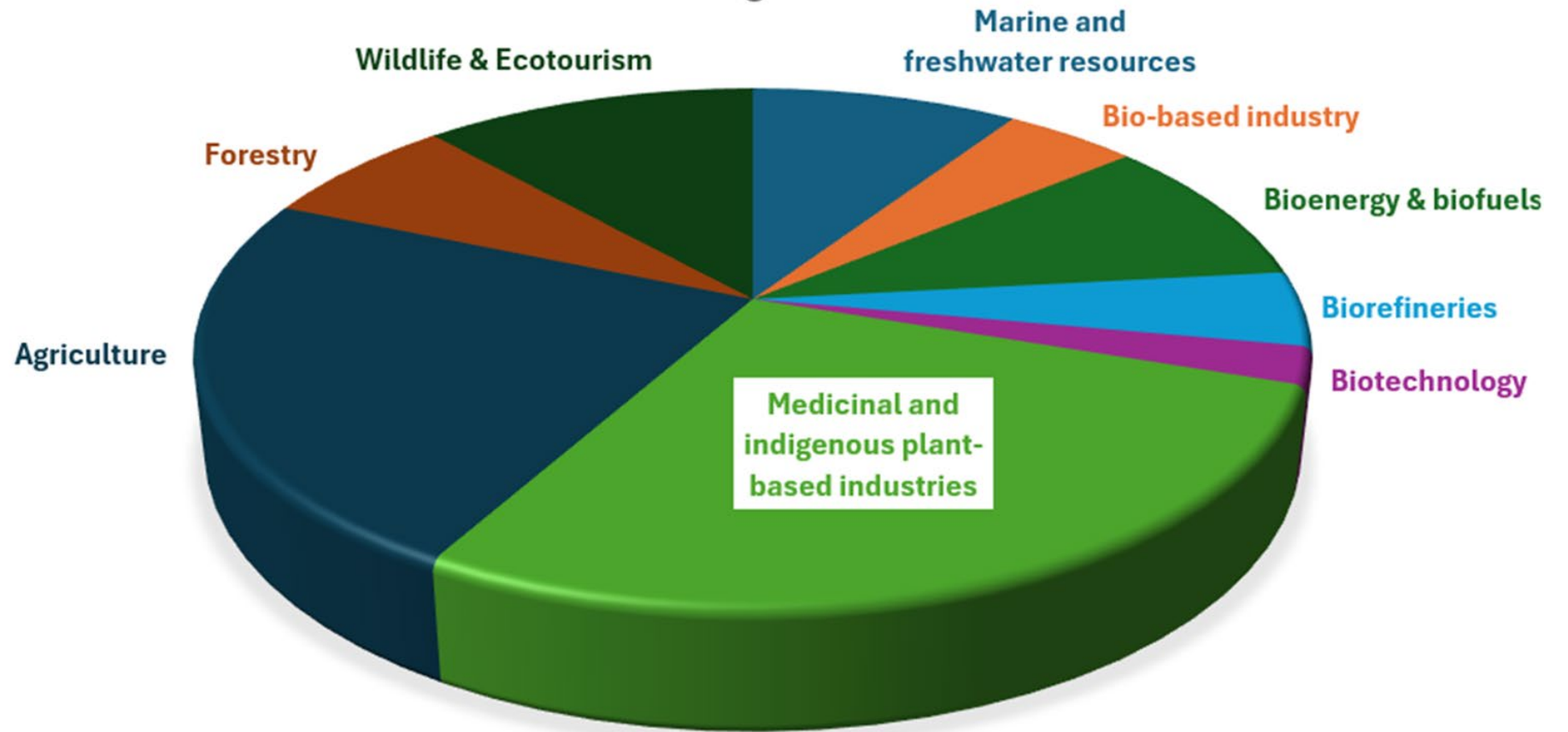


Fish and Fish Products: Fishmeal, fish oil.



Leather and Wildlife Products: Bio-based leather products

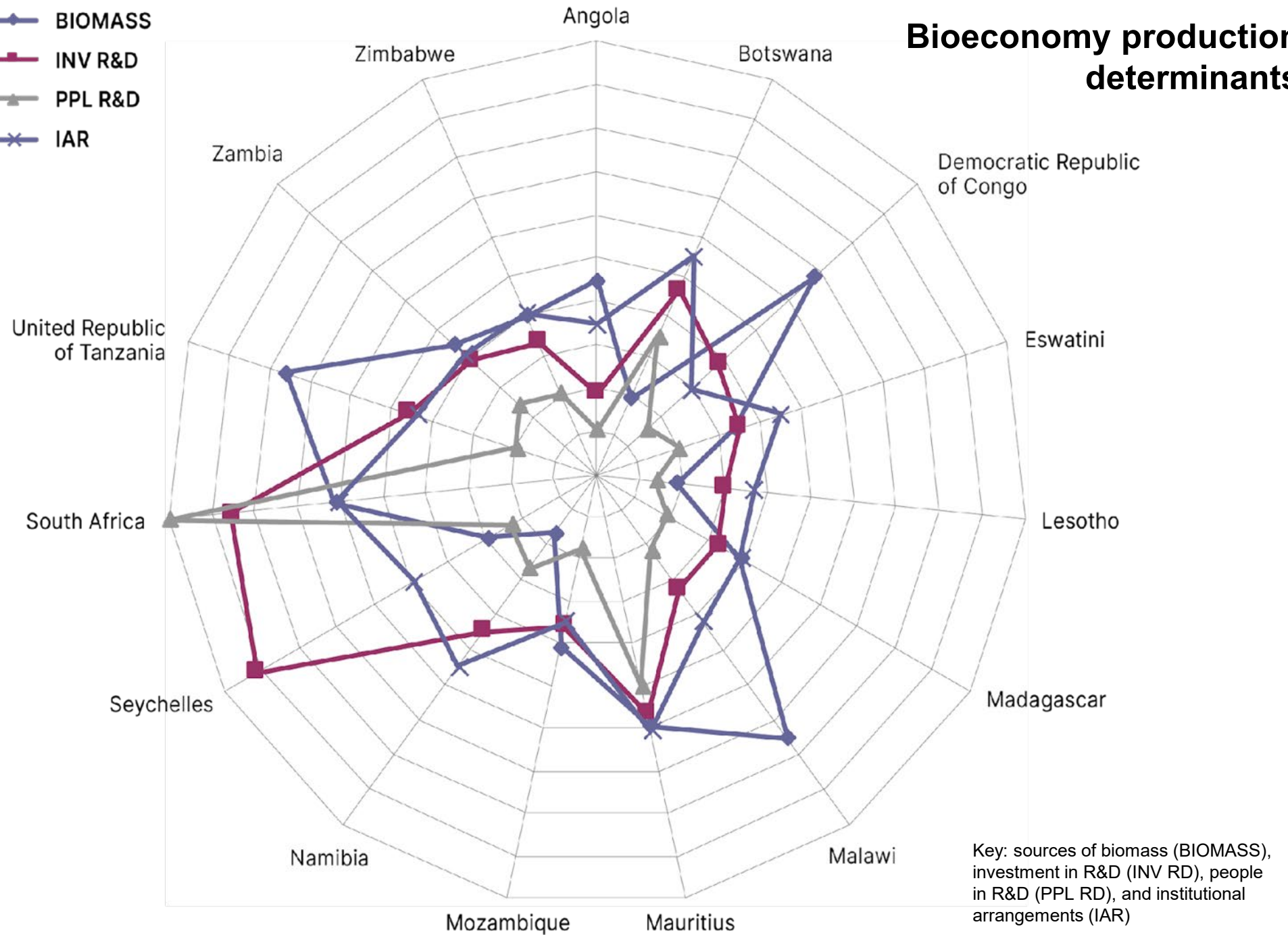
# Priority Bioeconomy Sectors





# Bioeconomy production determinants

- BIOMASS
- INV R&D
- PPL R&D
- IAR



# Bioeconomy Readiness/Potential

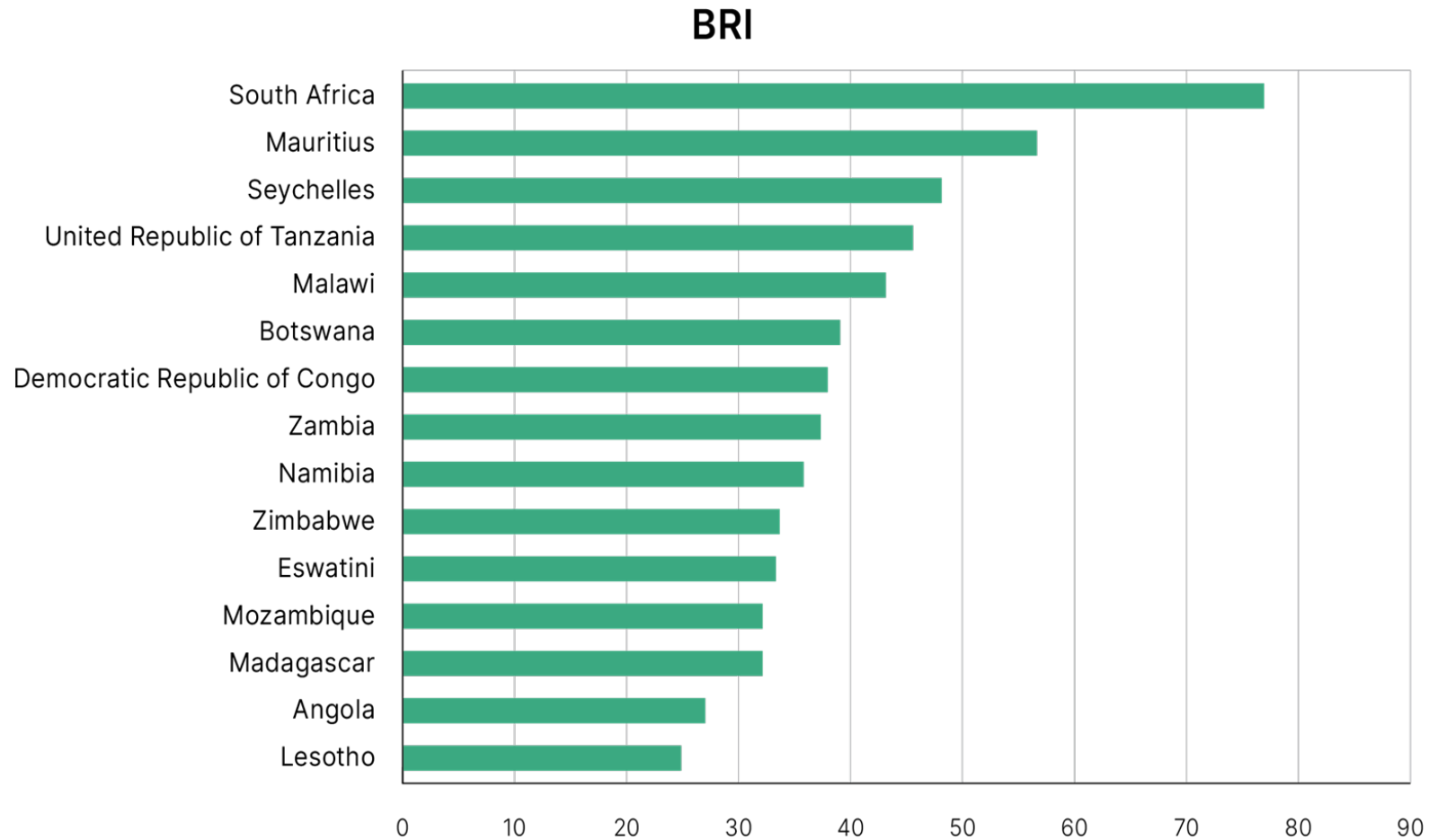


Figure 2 shows the overall standing of the SADC countries in terms of bioeconomy readiness/potential.)

# Key Skills



BIOTECHNOLOGY  
AND BIOSCIENCES



SUSTAINABILITY  
AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT



ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
AND BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT



INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS  
TECHNOLOGY



INTERDISCIPLINARY  
SKILLS



CHANGE  
MANAGEMENT  
AND LEADERSHIP



RISK  
MANAGEMENT  
AND SCENARIO  
PLANNING



INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY  
MANAGEMENT



# Job Opportunities

Agriculture , Agro-Processing and Forestry: farm management, processing, value addition and reforestation.

Biotechnology and Bioprocessing: research and development, manufacturing, distribution, and quality control.

Bioenergy: Biomass production, conversion technologies, and energy distribution.

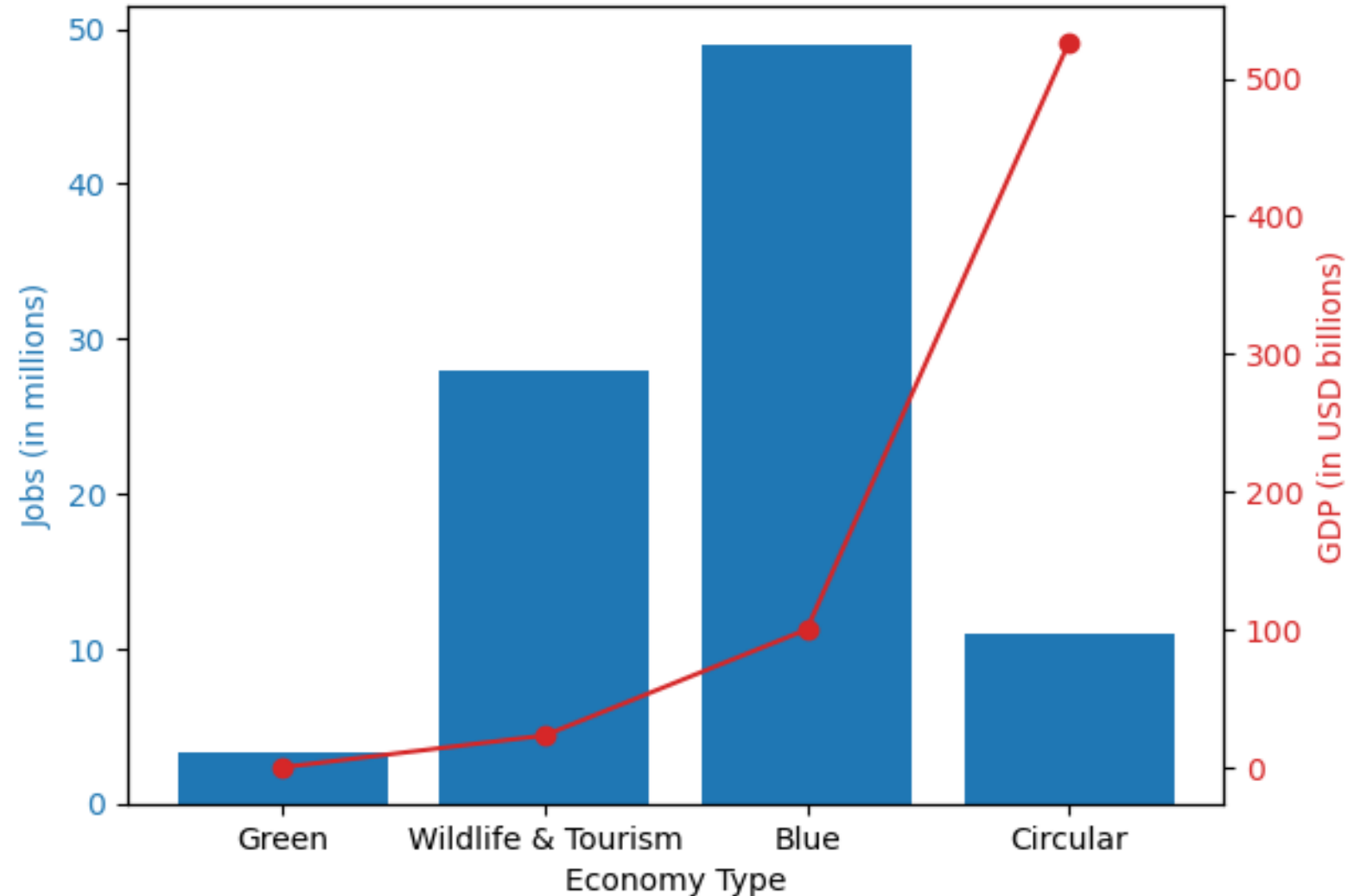
Health and Pharmaceuticals: Vaccine manufacturing, research, and regulatory affairs.

Environmental and Waste Management: Bioremediation, and ecosystem restoration, and transforming waste materials into products.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Start-ups and small businesses, market and trade opportunities, capacity building.

# Sustainable Economies

African Sustainable Economies: Employment and Economic Impact by 2030



# Challenges

- Policy inconsistency: varying definitions and overlapping mandates
- Financing barriers: high-risk perception and short-term grants
- Investment landscape: focused on sectors with quick returns

# Unlocking the Bioeconomy in SADC

Regulatory frameworks creating enabling conditions, incentives and coordination: R&D, commercialization and market access.

Investment and increased financial support from private and public sectors

Infrastructure development to improve access to energy, transportation, communications, etc.

Research and development of innovative technologies for high-value biobased products and transfer to industry.

Human capital investment, development and collaborative partnerships at all levels

Sustainable use of biodiversity and circular value-driven bioeconomy, leveraging strengths of local communities and ensuring equitable benefits.



**Solidarity**

**Equality**

**Sustainability**

**Thank you**