

**MINISTRY OF GENERAL EDUCATION**

**REGIMENT GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (GCE) CENTRE**

**GEOGRAPHY FIELD PROJECT REPORT-2020**

**MULUNGUSHI DAM AND THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE OF  
KABWE AND KAPIRI MPOSHI**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EXAM NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF SUPERVISOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**A project proposal submitted to the examinations council of Zambia  
in partial fulfillment for requirement of the award of a General  
Certificate of Education (GCE)**

## **Declaration**

I declare that this project

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## **Acknowledgement**

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**Dedication**

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## **Chapter One**

### **1.0 Introduction**

#### **1.1. Background**

In the past decade, southern Africa's population has grown more than anticipated. This growth has led to the demand for electricity both for domestic and industrial use hence leading to massive power rationing in most of the countries in the region Zambia inclusive. This has led many countries like Zambia to venture into the development and upgrade of already existing power stations in order to caution the impact of this demand. In Zambia, the country's major power supplier and producer ZESCO in partnership with the Lunsemfwa hydro power company made some upgrades to the mulungushi hydro power station on the Mulungushi River which was opened in 1925 to provide power to the town of Kabwe by the Prince of Wales who becomes King Edward VIII. However, the developments of this dam on the Mulungushi River come with its own implications both negative and positives.

#### **1.2. Aim**

The study aims at establishing the implications of the mulungushi dam on the livelihood of the local people of Kabwe and Kapiri.

#### **1.3. Specific objectives**

- i. Find out the implications (negative and positive) of the dam on the local people.
- ii. Establish the challenges that mulungushi dam has brought on the people in the area.
- iii. Outline the reasons that led to the construction of the dam.

#### **1.4. Research questions**

- i. What are the implications (negative and positive) of the dam on the local people?
- ii. What are the challenges that mulungushi dam has brought on the people in the area
- iii. What are the reasons that led to the construction of the dam?

#### **1.5. Significance of the problem**

The study is important because it will help in highlighting the implications that this dam has brought on the livelihoods of the people of Kabwe and Kapiri since 1925 when it was opened. The information collected will help policy makers, local authorities in the two districts and the community to see how best they can mitigate these implications so as to make good use of this resource. Furthermore, the findings of this research will help other people who will wish to carry out research on the said topic in the near future with information vital to their research.

#### **1.6. The limitations of study**

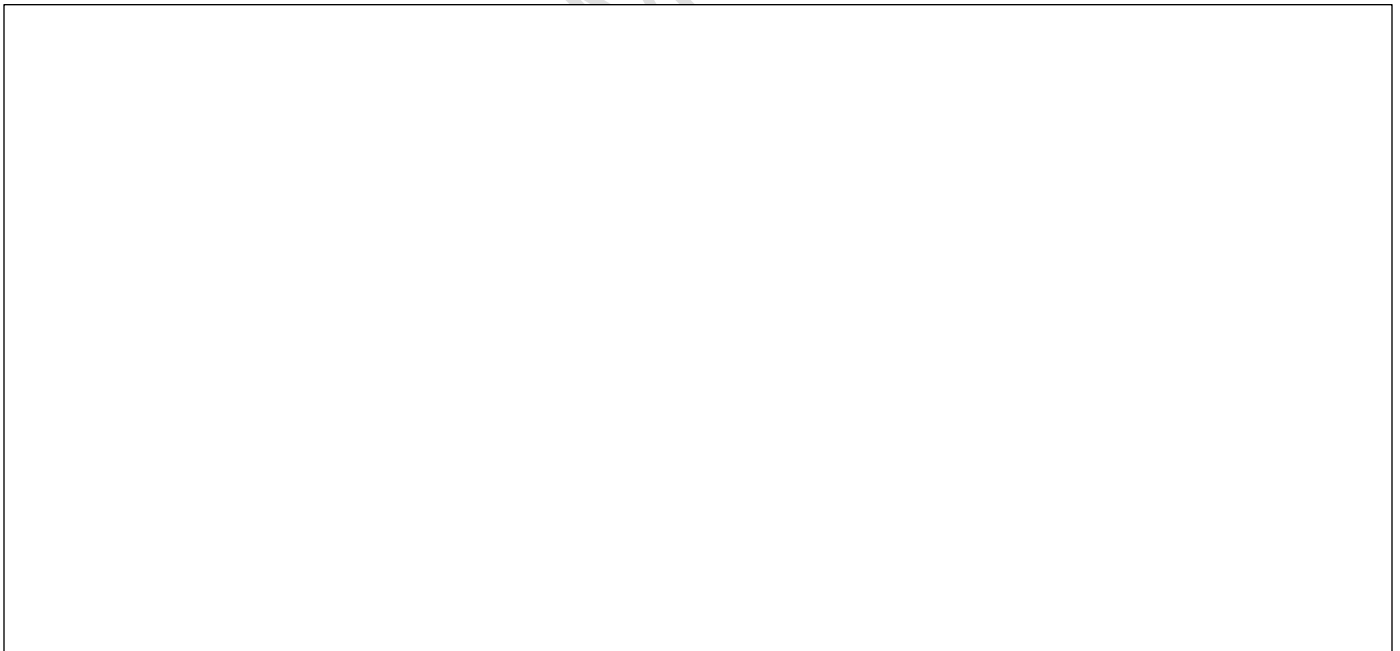
The time framework given was not enough to carry out this research in full hence only made me visit a few places in the catchment areas than earlier thought. More so, the research was hampered by the language problem which forced the researcher to look for an interpreter to help in the translations.

## Chapter Two

### 2.0 Description of study Area

#### 2.1. Location

The Mulungushi dam catchment area is situated in the greater Lunsemfwa Catchment area located within the chiefdom areas of Chimuka, Mukonchi and Chembe. It is located approximately 60km to the south east of Kabwe, which is the provincial capital of the Central Province. The area is surrounded by Kapiri Mposhi District (east of the Mulungushi Dam), and Chibombo District (west of the Mulungushi Dam). The Project Area sits within two chiefdom areas, namely, the Chiefdoms of Chimuka (west of the Mulungushi Dam), Mukonchi (east of the Mulungushi Dam), the Chembe Chiefdom is located south of the Mulungushi Dam (50km downstream) see figure 1.0.



*Figure 1.0 showing the map of Mulungushi Dam*

## Chapter Three

### 3.0 Research methodology

#### 3.1. Types of data

During the survey the researcher used both primary and secondary data. The secondary data was collected through the use of various published textbooks, government reports and Internet extracts while primary data was obtained by way of interviews and observations

#### 3.2. Data collection methods

The data was collected using oral interviews and observation. The researcher was the interviewer

#### 3.3. Sampling

##### 3.3.1. Sampling procedure

Both non-random and simple random sampling technique was used be in this survey in which respondents to be interviewed were selected at random in order to avoid biasness and selective in order to confirm collected information.

##### 3.3.2. Target population and sample size

The target population was the residents around the mulungushi dam catchment area who included villagers, their representatives and management at the power company. Sample of 9 respondents from the local people where interviewed and the sample structure comprised of both Male and Female.

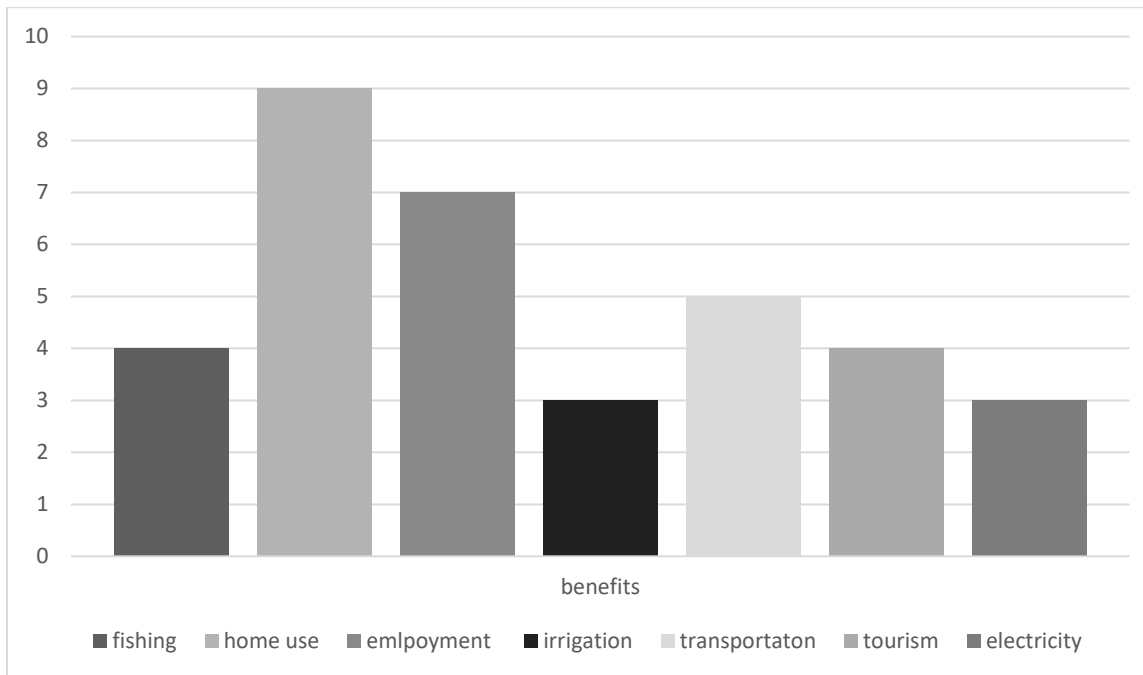
#### 3.4. Data analysis

After the data was collected, it was analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The data gathered is summarized and presented using various graphic methods which include pie charts, graphs etc.

## Chapter Four

### 4.0 Research Findings and observations

#### 4.1. Benefits of the dam to the people in this catchment area:



The data collected showed that most of the people use the dam for domestic or house hold use while only a few use the dam for irrigation.

#### 4.2. Negative effects of the mulungushi dam on the people in the area

The study, revealed that the dam has brought with it so many challenges which include the following. All the 8 people interviewed in the study area faced the issue of a rise in malaria cases in their villages while others said there has been an increase death on the dam due to drowning. Other people indicated crocodile attacks on them have increased and also flooding when the area receives beyond normal rainfall distribution.

#### **4.3. Challenges faced by the people in Mulungushi dam area**

The information collected indicates that 4 out of the 8 people interviewed complained of the high standards of living owing to a rise in prices of basic commodities. Other challenges include a poor road network which was acknowledged by all the 9 people interviewed as being a challenge. From the 9 people interviewed only 6 have access to clean drinking water while the other 3 depend on the dam for drinking water.

#### **4.4. Reasons that led to the construction of the dam**

According to the people interviewed the main reason that led to the construction of the dam in 1925 was to feed the demand for electricity coming from the mine (broken hill mine) and also as a source of water for domestic use.

## **Chapter Five**

### **5.0 Discussion of Findings**

#### **5.1. Benefits of the dam to the people in this catchment area**

The findings revealed that people in the area benefited from this dam in different ways as the majority of the people do not directly benefit from electricity due to the cost applied on the supply as many cannot afford to be connected. Others benefit from the dam through fishing, transportation of domestic goods, domestic water consumption, irrigation, tourism and the benefits that come with it such as employment which is offered by both the lodges and Lunsemfwa hydro company.

#### **5.2. Negative effects that mulungushi dam has brought on the people in the area**

Accidental deaths on the dam have been on an increase due to especially among the young who are vulnerable to this in that the researcher was informed that two boys had drowned in that particular area on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2015 a day before the study, levels of malaria have increased due to the fact that the dam acts as a breeding area for pathogens that help in the transmission of malaria, increase in communicable diseases due to the influx of migrants like HIV/AIDS due the employment offered in the area in both tourism and agriculture.

#### **5.3. Challenges of faced by the people in the Mulungushi dam area**

The researcher discovered that people had challenges in accessing vital social services such as clinics due to the distance as the area is only service by two clinics. Others include, poor road network which is negatively impacting on the food security in the area due to the fact that people fail to easily access market, challenges in accessing water due to the falling levels

of water in the reservoir which is making it difficult for them to access water nearby as their villages have no boreholes.

#### **5.4. Reasons that led to the construction of the dam**

From the mine's perspective, the major reason was for electricity supply but however the researcher found out that the dam has served many functions apart from supplying electricity which include the following: fishing, gardening, tourism and many more other functions.

#### **5.5. Summary**

In summary, it can be said that the implications of the dam on the people of mulungushi catchment area are immense both during and after the construction of the dam as highlighted in this report.

## Chapter Six

### 6.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

#### 6.1 Conclusions

This resource is meant to benefit the people around it though initially it was meant to feed the broken hill mine owned by ZCCM with electricity demands and the town of Kabwe but other benefits arose from that which included being a source of employment for the local, being a source of proteins through fishing and domestic use by the locals.

The negative implications that that the dam has brought on the people include the dam being a source of danger for their children due to accidental deaths and drowning, malaria cases due to the fact b that the dam offers perfect conditions for mosquito breeding,

However, the local people in that particular area are not fully benefiting from the construction of this dam as most of them still are in abject poverty hence the need to do some re thinking to be done by these in government. Reduction in accessibility by the local people due to the restrictions imposed on them by the people running the resorts on the banks of the mulungushi dam, distance to access social services and also challenges in accessing clean drinking water especially now that the levels of the water have gone down.

#### 6.2 Recommendations

**Lunsemfwa hydro company:** aim at employing people to be doing patrols on the dam to reduce the deaths related to the dam especially the locals.

**Mulungushi boat club:** the club being one of the investors in the areas should aim at investing in the community through their social cooperate responsibility to increase the benefits that the people around are getting from the dam.

**Zambia electricity supply cooperation:** the company should aim at reducing the cost of making connections to the power grid so that the local people can benefit from that resource.

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## Appendix 2



Plate 1.0: showing the low spill way gates which are still dry mid-way the rain season on the mulungushi dam.



Plate 1.1: the low levels of water in the dam.