

Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection

JCTR

Promoting Faith and Justice

# BULLETIN



## QUOTE

“When our God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom; this process is a demanding one and isn’t answered straight away!” - *Pope Francis*

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# LETTER

## *From the Editor*

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**Dear Readers,**

With the experience of drought in recent months, climate change has been a key focal point for public discussion. However, the big debate is how Zambia should respond to this crisis. This edition of the JCTR Bulletin suggests that decentralization is key. In the articles presented for your consideration, a strong emphasis is placed on the involvement of local communities if Zambia is going to respond to such crises as deforestation, soil erosion, and land degradation.

One author suggests that climate change adaptation requires the integration of traditional knowledge and the nurturing of the diverse crop varieties that different communities across the country can grow. From the perspective of legislation, another author argues that implementation of environmental laws is more effective if this is decentralized. This can be seen practically in the suggestion of one writer in this Bulletin who proposes that the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) is under-resourced to provide effective monitoring of adherence to environmental laws and recommends that Local Authorities need to give more support to this important function.

If one were to encourage decentralization in environmental management at the earliest stage possible, one might think of including this in the Zambian education system. Numerous authors in this edition speak of the need to introduce environmental management education at all levels of schooling. In order to encourage this inclusion, one author proposes that environmental management would need to become an essential element in the curriculum of primary and secondary schools, as well as in teacher training. This would enable students to grapple with local challenges presented by climate change at early stages in their formation.

Another author proposes that students could be encouraged to be more sensitive to environmental challenges by purposefully being more exposed to the beauty of our natural surround-

ings, and by being encouraged to think more about waste management and recycling.

Readers may be interested in the rationale for treating the environment with more respect. In this JCTR Bulletin, one author explores the key constitutional principles which underpin the environmental protection laws which we have in Zambia. These include the need for an equitable sharing of the benefits of Zambia's natural resources, as well as the 'polluter pays' principle, which places the financial burden of any environmental damage on the individual or company which did the damage.

Another author presents a Catholic rationale for environmental protection by explaining key aspects of *Laudato Si'*, the landmark 2016 encyclical by Pope Francis on the environment. According to this writer, *Laudato Si'* encourages the creation of a global consensus to deal with such things as a transition away from our over-reliance on fossil fuels. Like other articles in this Bulletin, it emphasizes the essential element of community participation, noting that we need to move away from interventions to a focus on long term policy approaches.

How we plan for the future can be instructed by how we learn from our past experiences. This is not the first time that Zambia has experienced such conditions of drought, but we can learn to adapt and to respond in better ways in the future. As one author suggests in this edition, Zambia can more fruitfully respond in the future to periods of drought through planning for more water reservoirs, encouraging the nurturing of crop diversity and by making better provision for the storage of produce. What becomes clear in these pages, though, is the need not just for central government to make better plans, but for the whole community to get involved.

**Grant Tungay, S.J.**  
*Assistant Editor*

# DECENTRALIZATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN ZAMBIA



## *Introduction*

**D**ecentralization in Zambia has been a significant focus in environmental management. The *Zambian National Policy on Environment (NPE)* emphasizes effective governance through the decentralization of environmental management services. This policy aims to integrate organizations and individuals to exercise care in preserving natural assets and preventing environmental degradation. Zambia's resources face challenges like deforestation, land degradation, soil erosion, and pollution, impacting the livelihoods of its population. The involvement of local communities, private firms, and NGOs is crucial for effective environmental management. In the explanation that follows, the impact of decentralisation will be explored and more deeply explained.

## **Empowering Local Communities**

Decentralization in environmental management in Zambia plays a pivotal role in addressing concerns about the ecosystem. This enhances the capacity of the local governments to address environmental challenges effectively by devolving state tasks and resources to local administrations. This process of decentralization in environmental management in Zambia aims to improve public services, promote efficient and transparent local govern-

ance, and empower local administrations to implement reforms. This approach aims to address challenges such as wildlife poaching, deforestation, unsustainable land use, and loss of biodiversity. By decentralizing management, Zambia can improve the effectiveness of protected areas such as national parks, wetlands, forests and many more. This strategy involves supporting policies for the decentralized management of protected areas and communities living in buffer zones. The benefits include improved management effectiveness, reduced poaching, enhanced forest protection, and increased private sector investment in tourism.

Decentralization plays a crucial role in managing socio-economic issues of the environment by empowering local communities and enhancing equity. It increases political participation by lowering the barriers for new candidates to enter the political arena. Decentralization is expected to empower local populations, leading to increased equity in decision-making processes. In communities with limited citizen participation, decentralization serves as an essential initial step in creating opportunities for regular and predictable citizen engagement. Furthermore, decentralization in environmental management provides citizens with a greater voice and choice in influencing decisions that impact their lives, fostering community-driven development and improving social outcomes.



## **Climate Change Adaptation**

Decentralization is an important aspect of addressing climate change in environmental management. It allows for better integration of knowledge, higher responsibility and motivation in decision-making. It also helps with internalizing the socio-economic costs of environmental degradation and facilitating the building of local capacities for adaptation efforts which are more consistent with the local requirements. Decentralized systems lead to better integration of traditional knowledge and crop varieties in environmental management, which play an important role in communities' adaptation strategies and innovation responses to climate change. Decentralization in environmental management can also lead to policies and practices specific to the local environmental needs, which can be more effective in addressing climate change at the local level.

## **Economic Efficiency and Innovation**

Environmental management considers decentralization as an important concept in addressing economic issues. This can lead to improved economic efficiency, better governance and increased innovations in the economic environment. Decentralization allows for decisions to be made at the local level, which can lead to more efficient resource allocation and better tailoring of policies to the specific needs of different regions. It can also promote competition and innovation by allowing for the emergence of new actors and ideas in the market. Decentralization can also lead to improved governance by reducing the power of central authorities and increasing the accountability of local governments. This can lead to more effective and responsive governance, as local governments are better able to understand and address the needs of their constituents.

## **Biodiversity Conservation**

Decentralization in environmental management plays a crucial role in the conservation of biodiversity in Zambia. The country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP-2) aims to reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use by implementing various strategic interventions. One key aspect is the decentralization of operations, which in-

volves promoting sustainable agricultural practices, alternative renewable energy technologies, and enforcing environmental regulations to reduce deforestation rates. This approach is vital in addressing key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Zambia, such as unsustainable agricultural practices and reliance on wood fuel. Additionally, decentralization facilitates the engagement of local communities in biodiversity conservation efforts, ensuring that they benefit from income-generating activities, which involves revenue sharing strategies with communities from the hunting industry. By decentralizing operations and involving local stakeholders, Zambia can enhance biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource management and community participation in environmental protection initiatives.

## **Ecosystem Protection**

Decentralization in ecosystem protection empowers local governments to manage natural resources effectively. This approach is supported by various policies and strategies such as the National Policy on Environment, the National Adaptation Programme of Action on Climate Change, the Environmental Management Act, and the National Climate Change Response Strategy. These initiatives aim to integrate environmental and climate change considerations into national development, promote public participation in decision-making and establish mechanisms for sustainable development. By decentralizing governance and involving local authorities in environmental management, Zambia enhances its capacity to address issues like deforestation, land degradation, air pollution and water resources management, contributing to the protection of its ecosystems.

## **Pollution Control and Waste Management**

Decentralization in Zambia helps pollution control by empowering local administrations to address environmental issues effectively. By devolving authority to local councils, decentralization enhances the capacity of these councils to implement environmental laws, such as the Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Act, at the grassroots level.

This shift in authority allows local governments to take more proactive measures in managing pollution within their jurisdictions, leading to more targeted and efficient pollution control efforts across different regions of Zambia.

Decentralization in environmental management plays a role in proper waste management in Zambia, particularly in Lusaka. The decentralization of waste management through privatization has been a focus in addressing the challenges faced by the city. Lusaka generates a significant amount of waste annually, with only half of it being taken to designated dump sites, highlighting the pressing need for effective waste management strategies. The inefficiency in waste collection practices, inadequate equipment, and budget constraints have made waste management a major challenge for the Lusaka City Council. A decentralized integrated waste-transfer station is proposed as a solution to improve waste management in Zambia, especially in areas where collection rates are low. This approach aims to enhance the waste management system by addressing the shortcomings in collection rates and overall waste disposal practices. Decentralization, coupled with effective waste management strategies, is essential for combating the issues related to waste disposal and ensuring a cleaner and

healthier environment in Lusaka and Zambia as a whole.

### **Education and Community Participation**

Furthermore, decentralization in education management in Zambia involves devolving power from the central government to local units like schools and districts. This shift aims to enhance community participation, improve service delivery and increase the quality of education in local communities. The quality of education gives skills and knowledge that learners obtain in order to understand the proper management of the environment as a whole. The decentralization process includes the establishment of education boards to involve communities in decision-making, resource allocation and planning for schools. Lastly, it benefits the education system by improving access, enhanced performance, efficient resource allocation and relevance to the local needs that also help in the proper management of the environment by starting at the local level.

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# LAUDATO SI' AND WHAT ZAMBIA IS GETTING WRONG IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



## Introduction

The Zambian Government has taken various steps to preserve the environment and conserve biological resources. These include such steps as adopting a National Conservation Strategy in 1985, creating the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources in 1991, and formulating a National Environmental Action Plan in 1995. Additionally, the country has committed to developing sectoral policies for the conservation, sustainable use, and benefit sharing of biodiversity resources to control the depletion of biological resources and proper management of the environment. However, Zambia can always improve its environmental management. What follows is an exploration in what Zambia is getting wrong in terms of environmental management and how Laudato Si' responds to these challenges.

## WHAT ZAMBIA GETS WRONG IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

### Lack of Compliance

Lack of Compliance with environmental regulation standards in environmental management is one of the things that most of Zambia's industries, factories, mines and other anthropogenic activities do not adhere to during the operation processes. This affects the environmental management by not complying with the environmental quality standards, emission standards, process standards and product standards. These standards refer to the ambience of the living environment in terms of acceptable conditions under which life can thrive with-

out disturbances.

### Environmental Education Illiteracy

Environmental education illiteracy is another factor that contributes to environmental mismanagement in Zambia. This is because most Zambians lack a multi-disciplinary approach to learning that develops the knowledge, awareness, attitudes, values and skills that enable individuals and the community to contribute towards environmental management. The lack of environmental education leads individuals and groups to not consider the environment in its totality (holistically) during decision making, which results in a relatively inactive participation in preventing and solving environmental problems and also leads them to neglect an interdisciplinary approach to environmental management.

### Poor Application of Anticipatory Actions

Poor application of anticipatory action is another contributor to the poor environmental management in Zambia. Anticipatory actions are risk management measures designed as preventative or precautionary measures imposed on an activity or a proposed project before it commences. However, the poor application of anticipatory actions enables environmental mismanagement by not knowing how to prevent the foreseeable and unforeseeable environmental risks through assessment and analysis of proposed project activities. Environmental Impact Assessment is an example of the anticipatory action that assesses a project for potential environmental and social risks within the proposed project activities.

## **Illegal Permits and Licenses**

Illegal permits and licenses hurt environmental management in Zambia. This is because permits and licenses obtained do not meet the required standards and procedures to allow a proposed project to be implemented. Project operators therefore do not abide by these terms and conditions, which negatively impacts their compliance of such terms and conditions which are meant to help in environmental management.

## **Lack of Government or Legislative Support**

The lack of government or legislative support in environmental management systems results in the poor management of the environment in Zambia. Environmental management systems are intended to help an organization accomplish its antagonistic environmental effects, yet lack of government support has been described as one of the barriers to its implementation. The role of government is to ensure public welfare and a good quality of life for the citizens. Meanwhile, this role is poorly performed in environmental management and leads to the poor management of the environment in the country.

## **Poor Economic Management**

Poor economic management in Zambia has had significant negative effects on the environment. The mismanagement of natural resources, particularly forests, has led to various environmental issues such as deforestation, forest degradation, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, and watershed degradation. These problems hinder socioeconomic development and ecosystem conservation. Additionally, poor agricultural performance resulting from economic challenges like low growth rates has led to food shortages, vulnerability to droughts, and unnecessary food imports, impacting nutrition standards and food security in the country.

## **WHAT LAUDATO SI' ADVISES**

### **Laudato Si' On Environmental Management**

Laudato Si is an encyclical letter written by Pope Francis to address every person living on this planet, empha-

sizing the interconnectedness of all creation and the urgent need to protect and improve our environment by caring for our common home. It calls for global dialogues about our shared responsibility for the earth and highlights the ecological crisis, climate change and the injustices faced by the poor due to environmental degradation that results from poor environmental management. *Laudato Si'* further states that the responsibility for God's earth means that human beings, endowed with intelligence, must respect the laws of nature and the delicate equilibria existing between the creatures of this world, for "he commanded and they were created; and he established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds and he set a law which cannot pass away" (*Ps 148:5b-6*). The laws found in the Bible dwell on relationships, not only among individuals but also with other living beings.

### **Human Beings Have Inherent Value**

It also states that, together with our obligation to use the earth's goods responsibly, we are called to recognize that other living beings have a value of their own in God's eyes: "By their mere existence they bless him and give him glory" and indeed, "the Lord rejoices in all his works" (*Ps 104:31*). By virtue of our unique dignity and our gift of intelligence, we are called to respect creation and its inherent laws, for "the Lord by wisdom founded the earth" (*Prov 3:19*). In our time, the Church does not simply state that other creatures are completely subordinated to the good of human beings, as if they have no worth in themselves and can be treated as we wish..

### **Global Consensus is Needed**

According to *Laudato Si'*, global consensus is essential for confronting the deeper problems, which cannot be resolved by unilateral actions on the part of individual countries. Such a consensus could lead, for example, to planning a sustainable and diversified agriculture, developing renewable and less polluting forms of energy, encouraging a more efficient use of energy, promoting a better management of marine and forest resources, and



ensuring universal access to drinking water. We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels, especially coal, but also oil and to a lesser degree, gas needs to be progressively replaced without delay. Until greater progress is made in developing widely accessible sources of renewable energy, it is legitimate to choose the less harmful alternative or to find short-term solutions.

### **Environmental Impact Assessments at the Beginning**

Laudato Si' also encourages that environmental impact assessment should not come after drawing up a business proposition or proposing a particular policy, plan or programme. It should be part of the process from the beginning, and be carried out in a way which is interdisciplinary, transparent and free of all economic or political pressure. It should be linked to a study of working conditions and possible effects on people's physical and mental health, the local economy and public safety. Economic returns can be forecast more realistically, taking into account potential scenarios and the eventual need for further investment to correct possible undesired effects. A consensus should always be reached between

the different stakeholders, who can offer a variety of approaches, solutions and alternatives.

### **Local Population Needs Involvement**

The local population should have a special place at the table; they are concerned about their future and that of their children and can consider goals transcending immediate economic interest. We need to stop thinking in terms of "interventions" to save the environment in favour of policies developed and debated by all interested parties. The participation of the latter also entails being fully informed about such projects and their different risks and possibilities; this includes not just preliminary decisions but also various follow-up activities and continued monitoring. Honesty and truth are needed in scientific and political discussions; these should not be limited to the issue of whether or not a particular project is permitted by law.

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# THE VALUE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS AT ALL LEVELS



## Introduction

Walking in the streets of Lusaka and many other bigger towns in Zambia, one can see the impact we are having on the environment: the daily cutting down of trees, unhealthy waste disposal, unplanned settlement, contaminated water, and so on. These often lead to environmental related diseases like cholera, dysentery, and diarrhoea that have rampantly increased due to little or no sensitization by relevant authorities to the importance of environmental preservation. This sensitization needs to happen and therefore, this article will explore the importance of environmental education to the future well-being of the environment in Zambia.

## Current State of Waste Disposal in Lusaka

Waste management has emerged as one of the greatest challenges facing Lusaka City, the capital and largest city of Zambia. According to the Lusaka City Council and Environmental Council, Lusaka generates about 1,000 tons of solid waste a day. However, only about 300 tons of the waste is disposed of at the designated dumpsites and treated in a sustainable environmental manner (Sambo, Joy, & Muchindu et al., 2020). As a

result, indiscriminate illegal dumping and the open burning of waste are common practices. The growth of the urban population and increased economic activity have resulted in greater generation and accumulation of waste in Zambia.

## Environmental Education and Management

One of the strategies that can be a permanent solution to the above stated challenges in the country and the region is environmental management education for students in schools. I had to learn about environmental issues in my fourth year as a law student because it was imposed on us when all students refused to select it as an elective course. From primary school to university, the best I could hear in certain subjects like social studies and home economics was "keep the environment clean," and the topic ended there.

The Environmental Management Act of 2011 changes Zambia's Environmental Council into the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) and defines its structure and duties. Part VI includes environmental information, education and awareness, and environmental research. The Act demonstrates that environmental education must be implemented for the environment to be safeguarded and conserved.



According to Milupi, I., Kalimaposo, K., et al. (2022), environmental education in Zambia's educational curriculum is still in its early stages and is treated as a cross-cutting issue rather than a specialized subject. Both teacher training and school curricula lack sufficient coverage of environmental education, resulting in few experts in the field at the primary and secondary levels. Teachers face challenges in teaching environmental education due to its integration into various subjects, leading to inconsistent coverage of environmental issues. Pupils' understanding of environmental education is generally low, with variations among social class areas.

### **The Role of Environmental Education in Holistic Development**

The Ministry of Education is urged to expand environmental education's scope to contribute to holistic pupil development and promote sustainable education nationally. Recommendations include revising the curriculum to prioritize environmental education, retraining teachers in environmental education methodologies for sustainable development, and fostering a citizenry conscious of sustainable environmental management.

The development of children requires that they are provided with relevant education and skills to enable them to understand what challenges exist in society and what they can do within their capacity to contribute to sustainability in their society, especially in fighting climate change. Primary school level is the first point of entry in the education sector, where learners come into contact with world education. Therefore, this entry point provides an opportunity for education stakeholders to ensure that they design and provide a curriculum for teaching that incorporates environmental education (Kimaryo, 2011).

Environmental learning focuses, either as a theme or principle, are an unprecedented change that has been introduced to the curriculum, and this calls for stakeholders, such as teachers, policymakers, parents, and

learners, to embrace the knowledge and ensure that every individual in society is well informed, working to ensure that everybody is well informed regarding society's conservation efforts (Le Grange and Reddy, 1997).

### **Benefits of Environmental Education**

There are various benefits to having environmental management education in schools at all levels. Environmental management education in schools at all levels plays a crucial role in fostering a sense of environmental responsibility among students. According to Wilson (2019), such education creates awareness about the importance of conservation and sustainability, laying the foundation for lifelong habits that benefit the planet. For instance, teaching students about recycling, reducing energy consumption, and conserving water not only instills sustainable practices early on but also empowers them to become advocates for the environment (Smith, 2020). This education not only connects students with nature through outdoor activities but also promotes critical thinking skills as they analyse environmental issues and develop solutions (Jones & Lee, 2018). Moreover, environmental education prepares students for green careers in the growing sustainability sector, providing them with the knowledge and skills needed for roles in environmental science, policy-making, and advocacy (Brown, 2021).

Furthermore, environmental management education encourages civic engagement among students. Through participation in local clean-up events, conservation projects, and advocacy campaigns, students learn how to actively contribute to their communities (Johnson et al., 2017). Additionally, this education preserves cultural heritage by teaching about the significance of landscapes and ecosystems in various cultures (Garcia & Nguyen, 2019). By integrating multiple disciplines such as science, math, and social studies into real-world contexts, environmental education fosters interdisciplinary learning and helps students see the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic factors (Roberts, 2022). Importantly, it also addresses global challenges such as climate change, pollution, and loss of

biodiversity, equipping students with the knowledge to understand these issues and contribute to effective solutions (Taylor & Clark, 2020).

Moreover, environmental management education promotes health and wellbeing by emphasizing the link between a clean environment and human health (Brown & Miller, 2018). By teaching students to identify and mitigate environmental risks such as pollution and habitat destruction, education in this field helps protect both the environment and public health (Adams & White, 2019). Additionally, it encourages innovation and creativity in problem-solving, essential traits for addressing complex environmental challenges (Lee & Smith, 2021).

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## Sustainable Development

Ultimately, by aligning with initiatives such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, environmental management education in schools contributes to achieving global sustainability targets and guiding students towards a more sustainable future (UNESCO, 2020).

## Conclusion

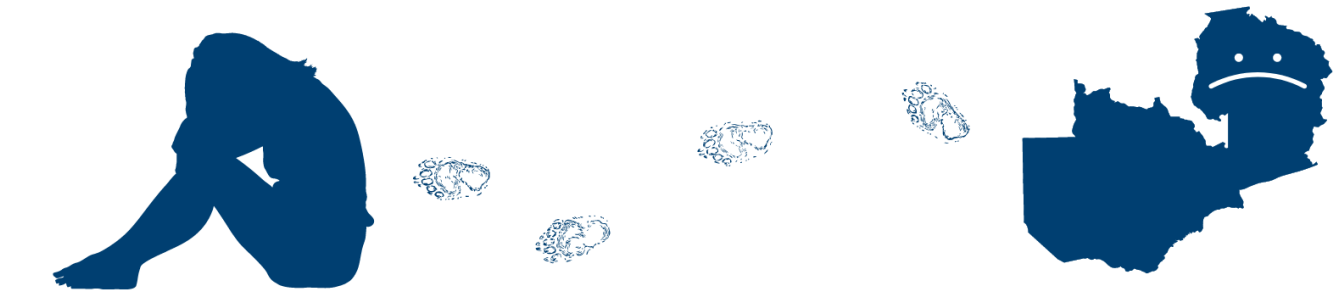
In conclusion, the value of environmental management education in schools lies in its ability to shape environmentally conscious citizens, prepare future leaders, and create a more sustainable world for generations to come.

*By Tazana Simutunda*

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# DEVOLUTION IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN ZAMBIA LEFT A STEP BEHIND



## Introduction

**E**nvironmental degradation and climate change effects in Zambia are on the rise with effects that cannot be ignored. This can be observed from the 2023 to 2024 poor rainfall pattern causing large crops fields to dry out, which has been largely attributed to the effects of climate change. Proving that the temperature increases by a steady margin since industrialization unabated could lead to severe effects (Zulu et al., 2022).

The continued environmental degradation in mining areas is not slowing down, with reports of death due to people being trapped in excavation pits, mine tailing dams and dilapidated mining sites making news headlines currently in the Country. More and more open barrow pits for quartz and other minerals in sporadic places are on the increase, as can be observed in random checks in mining Districts. Even though efforts are being made to prevent and mitigate such occurrences, the lack of coordination in institutions has been the problem as explained by Lindahl (2014).

The lack of coordination and centralization has made it difficult to protect the environment, enforce laws and mitigate against effects of environmental degradation. This article will explore the need for decentralization and devolution in environmental management, if Zambia is going to respond adequately to the climate change

crisis.

## Decentralization and its Context

Decentralization is the relocation of administrative functions away from a central location and devolution is the relocation of power away from a centralized location, FAO (1999). Decentralization and devolution are key to governance, meaningful development, and efficient service delivery.

The Government of Zambia is ensuring that sectors that are critical to sustainable development are being devolved, but environmental management is lagging. The regulating body responsible for ensuring environmental protection is the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA). Nonetheless, effective environmental management requires concerted efforts from key stakeholders having the mandate to make decisions at the local level, this is one of the missing gaps in efforts to protect the environment.

## Enforcing the Environmental Management Act

The Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) which was established through an Act of Parliament, and according to the Environmental Management Act (EMA) No.12 of 2011, has the sole responsibility to protect the environment.

According to the Environmental Management Act No.12 the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) is the primary institution charged with ensuring that there is adherence to Environmental laws in Zambia. ZEMA is in three regions with offices in Lusaka, Ndola, Chirundu, Livingstone and Chipata.

In a case where a company or person commits an Environmental offence, only ZEMA can act to fine or take to court. When an environmental offence is committed in a District, the only thing the Local Authorities can do is report to ZEMA which may be three or more Districts away in some cases and wait for their response.

ZEMA lacks the capacity to respond to these environmental issues on its own because of a lack of manpower and resources to cater to all the one hundred and sixteen (116) Districts against the four Districts they operate in. This concern has been echoed by different stakeholders over the years including the National Assembly Committee on Lands, Environment and Tourism (2014).

It is difficult for Local Authorities to do the monitoring and assessment of these projects because of low resources channeled towards environmental management. The companies that usually do explorations in these District do not have a statutory requirement to contribute any resources to the Local Authority. Most Councils need grants to effectively provide the required services (Mulenga and Mulenga 2021), hence additional resources are required to achieve this. Devolution will allow for some resources to be made available to Local Authorities for monitoring and effective environmental management including vehicles specifically for environmental monitoring.

### **Devolution of additional sectors essential**

The introduction of the Ministry of Green Economy is an important step towards Environmental Management, though the Ministry is working in isolation and its im-

pact is not felt in many Districts. This assent concerns which were highlighted in the 2014 Auditor General's Report as being a lack of integrated policies and actions. Further monitoring and warning systems under the Disaster and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) are not aligned with the Districts developmental activities to be effective. If the warning systems were effective the farmers in the country would have less devastating effects on crops currently drying due to lack of rainfall.

### **Importance of Environmental Management in Schools**

It can be agreed that some of the issues in Environmental Management have to do with behavioral change. Issues like waste management, littering and cutting down of trees are some of the issues that require behavioral change. Behavioral change can partly be changed starting with children in schools and communities. Unfortunately, there is little environmental awareness in school. The degradation occurring in schools today results from lack of knowledge and skills needed for required interactions and interrelations in the natural environment, knowledge which should have been in the school curriculum (Makisa et.al, 2016).

### **Recommendations**

1. For devolution to occur the EMA should give some powers to local authorities to act on certain environmental offences instead of just waiting for ZEMA who may respond when it is too late.
2. ZEMA should devolve some of its powers to the Local Authorities. There are Environmental Planners in Councils who are equipped to do the work that ZEMA does. ZEMA should additionally appoint all Environmental Planners as honorary inspectors since Councils are in every District while ZEMA is only in four.
3. Officers in Districts under the Ministry of Green Economy should be devolved into Councils just like other Ministries have done. This will ensure coordination in environmental management.

4. The process of EIA should start from Districts in which the project will be implemented, a down-up approach instead of the up-down approach where institutions skip District in which projects are conducted and go straight to ZEMA. After all assessments are done then ZEMA sends the EIA reports usually as courtesy. Institutions should instead attach a clearance document from the Districts they are working in, as part of the attachments in the Environmental report. In that way, the local Authority is not unaware of developments which might degrade the Environment, for which ZEMA gave a go-ahead without the Local Authority knowing that these activities are taking place.
5. Officers under DMMU should also be devolved to Local Authorities so that effective monitoring and warning systems are provided.
6. More programs on awareness need to be encour-

aged and implemented in school curriculums.

## Conclusion

Decentralization takes time, however changing legal and institutional framework as highlighted above is a good starting point in environmental management. Devolution is key for appropriate decision making, response and governance in environmental management at the local level. The Local Authorities and other key stakeholders at the District level are key in ensuring that local communities participate in protecting the environment in which they live.

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# THE VALUE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS AT ALL LEVELS



## Introduction

**E**nvironmental issues have become increasingly prominent globally with challenges such as climate change, deforestation, pollution, and loss of biodiversity demanding urgent attention and everyone's input. However, despite environmental education being taught in schools after many years of investment, there is still inadequate response to the combination of economic, social and environmental crises that make everyday life difficult today (Clayton and Daka, 2009).

Modern societies facing these growing concerns include developing countries like Zambia experiencing complex, serious and fast-growing pollution. In this context, the importance of environmental management education in schools at all levels cannot be overemphasized as it is more effective if people are aware of their environment, means of survival and their impact on the environment.

According to (Sergey, 2021) the formation of an ecological culture in a person allows them to realize the negative impact of human activity on the environment. This article is based on the value of environmental management education in schools at all levels with some suggestions on how this can be made viable in Zambia.

## Environmental Management

According to (Sergey, 2021), Environmental management is a system through which the management of activities that have or may have a negative impact on the environment takes place. Therefore, the main assignment of environmental management is to reduce the pollution of nature by products of human activity, protect the environment and ensure normal living conditions in society.

Environmental management has become one of the greatest challenges facing the world today. Managing the environment for a fertile, healthy, and productive life is at the core of all human activities. Even though maintaining a healthy environment is always a challenge for humans, it contributes to the harmonization of the relationship between man and nature. Furthermore, the effectiveness of environmental management in every community increases if the people have a responsible attitude to environmental problems and an understanding of the environment as a human habitat (Sergey, 2021). It is guided that, public awareness programs should enlighten public opinion on the environment and promote community action in environmental management (Kalulu and Mukonda, 2017).

## Importance of Environmental Management in Schools

Environmental management in schools fosters environmental awareness among students through integrating environmental topics into the curriculum and core curricula. Schools can equip students with the knowledge and understanding of the challenges the planet is facing. In Sweden, environmental education networking is consistently well organized through collaboration among various institutions and associations which consider children's appropriate learning age (Skolverket, 1998).

It is a mandatory part of the curriculum from preschool to high school in Sweden, ensuring that students grow up with a strong environmental consciousness. Therefore, schools provide a platform to build environmental care behaviour through teaching and learning activities carried out inside and outside the classroom in the form of assignments, and group activities that are carried out on an ongoing basis, to build active student involvement in issues of saving the environment (Nurwidodo et al, 2020).

Schools play a pivotal role in shaping the mind-set of future and decision makers. An education that includes environmental management instils a sense of responsibility and stewardship towards the environment. For instance, environmental education in any form at school is a solution to provide knowledge to students by opening students' thinking horizons about issues of the environment which can increase their knowledge and will indirectly shape attitudes and behaviour to care about the environment (Prasetyo, 2020). In Finland, schools are known for their innovative approach to education, integrating environmental sustainability into various subjects. This holistic approach ensures that students are not only well-versed in environmental issues but also equipped to make informed decisions in their future roles as leaders.

Environmental management goes beyond knowledge and it encourages the adoption of sustainable practices

in everyday life. According to Nagaraj and Vallepalli (2020) schools are important to provide a clean learning environment, water, sanitation and an ideal environment to help children adopt good habits useful for the rest of their lives. Schools in Japan have successfully implemented programs that teach students about waste reduction, recycling, and energy conservation. These initiatives not only benefit the environment but also contribute to the development of responsible and eco-conscious citizens.

Marningot Tua Natalis Situmorang (2020) argues that environmental management is very much determined by the quality of humans and Sergey (2021) adds that the effectiveness of environmental management depends on how much people themselves are interested in protecting the environment and whether they have an environmental mind-set. Therefore, connecting school learning with real world issues around the environment enhances the relevance and impact of environmental education. In Australia, schools often engage in partnerships with environmental organizations to provide students with hands-on experiences, exposing them to local environmental issues and solutions. This approach bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, fostering a deeper understanding of environmental management.



*“... environmental management is very much determined by the quality of humans.”*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Measuring Impact and Success

The school environment is very important in supporting and nurturing a healthy academic atmosphere for quality activities in the learning process. According to Marningot Tua Natalis Situmorang (2020), environmental management in schools should be accompanied by effective evaluation methods. For instance, a combination of standardized testing, student projects and community involvement to assess the impact of environmental education programs. This ensures that the goals of such programs are being met and that students are actively applying their knowledge to real-world situations.

### Incorporating Technology and Innovation

Educational institutions are considered the most ideal place to shape environmental care behavior, because the more a person's knowledge of environmental issues increases, the better his contribution to saving the environment and awareness (Utaya and WafarettaI, 2021). In the digital age, technology can be a powerful tool for environmental management education. There is a need to leverage technology to teach students about sustainable practices and environmental monitoring. Virtual simulations and interactive platforms enhance the learning experience, making it more engaging and effective.

### School Environmental Management Plan

Schools must make environmental management plans. This is a tool to help schools plan and coordinate environmental management. This plan assists in achieving the objectives in the three focus areas such as curriculum, management of resources, and management of

school grounds. It should be incorporated into the whole-school plan involving changes in active participation by students, staff, parents, and local community members, representatives from government and non-government agencies.

### Environmental Education Training

Schools should be encouraged to partner with organizations that deal with environmental issues, especially in formulating a clear-cut policy on environmental management. Teachers need to be trained and sensitized in the area of environmental management with appropriate methodologies in environmental education and education for Sustainable Development.

### Conclusion

The value of environmental management in schools at all levels is immeasurable. From fostering awareness and empowering future leaders to promoting sustainable practices and addressing global challenges, schools play a pivotal role in shaping environmentally conscious citizens. It is not merely an educational initiative but a collective investment in the well-being of our planet and future generations we recognize and utilize the school as having an important contribution to shaping and building the capacity of students to contribute and have an awareness of saving the environment.

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*“... From fostering awareness and empowering future leaders, schools play a pivotal role in shaping environmentally conscious citizens.”*



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# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION MANAGEMENT



## Introduction

**T**he environment refers to our immediate surroundings in which all living and non-living components co-exist; it can be used to refer to the social, natural, or built environment. The environment has a huge impact on an individual's behaviour and intellect. Environmental Education Management is concerned with an individual understanding of himself, his fellowman and the environment. Environmental education of the population is an important part of environmental management.

Environmental management is a multifaceted and multi-disciplinary practice that aims at safeguarding nature from potentially damaging business operations. It involves putting in place strategies to conserve resources such as energy or water and reduce negative impacts on the environment by industrial activities. Environmental management helps you identify degradation factors and implement strategies to mitigate them. It also helps you predict future impacts of environmental degradation and initiative processes to minimize the effects. The three types of environmental management systems include core processes, their outputs and the identification of significant environmental aspects and impacts. This article will explore environmental education and the importance of this education to the practice of environmental management in Zambia.

## Environmental Education

The primary purpose of the environmental education project is to promote eco-consciousness (i.e. good citizenship), environmental education was called "nature study" when it got its start in the 1920s, lack of awareness can contribute to sustainable behaviours and practices that harm the environment on the same basis. Environmental education helps learners understand their environment and build knowledge and skills necessary to address complex environmental issues.

Environmental psychology is a branch of psychology that explores the relationship between humans and the external world. The influence of nature and human built surroundings on how people feel, think and behave is a major focus of research in the field. Three main types of environmental factors that affect mental health are physical factors such as pollution, working conditions and weather conditions such as abuse, poor support and toxic relationships.

## Value of Environmental Management Education at All Schools' Levels in Zambia

Environmental management education at all school levels is important, it helps the learners to know more about the importance of reducing waste, conserving energy and preserving natural resources, this in turn can

help to reduce the impact of human activities on the environment and promote sustainability. In Zambia, challenges can be a lack of motivation among learners, emphasis on just theoretical knowledge, lack of entertainment for learners, lack of correct educational methods for small learners not encouraging students to explore their value.

Changes are possible through education, and many believe that it highlights the challenges faced by our environment. We must remind people that they are precious and delicate, our ecosystems are many, and people still don't realise that all life on earth is dependent on trees and plants.

### **Improving Environmental Health in Schools**

In Zambia, establishing an integrated environmental management approach for schools will require a coordinated capacity building effort and community based implementation. More institutions are including environmental awareness and educational programs as well as other activities such as seminars, conferences or talks, many of these activities can be carried out in the school playground or in another area of the city, where it is possible to learn about environmental problems such as pollution, gas emissions, energy consumption, recycling water use etc.

One of the significant benefits of environmental education is to help individuals understand the importance of sustainable practices and encourage them to adopt sustainable behaviours. Traditional environmental education, focusing on knowledge transfer means dealing with environmental problems from an inadequate perspective.

### **What Role Can Schools Play in Promoting Environmental Awareness Among Students?**

Environmental curriculum schools can incorporate environmental education into their curriculum across various subjects. This includes teaching students about climate

change, sustainable practices, conversation, biodiversity and other relevant topics, by integrating environmental concepts into different subjects, schools can help students develop a comprehensive understanding of environmental issues.

According to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), environmental education emphasizes these themes: awareness and sensitization about environment and environmental challenges, knowledge and understanding about environment and environmental challenges, attitude of concern for the environment and help to maintain environmental quality. Universities have responded to the need for environmental education by training specialists and offering survey courses integrating environmental conservation.

### **Ways to Incorporate Environmental Education in the Classroom**

- I. Nature walks and outdoor field trips.
- II. Gardening and composting (science from an early age to secondary school).
- III. Waste management and recycling programs (science, geography, from an early age to secondary).

### **Conclusion**

The amazing rainforests in Brazil have been severely impacted due to human development and our demands on natural resources such as timber increasing. As things stand forests that have survived for over 10 million years like the Amazon forests in Brazil have the potential to disappear within the next century. Children need to learn about forests at an early age; however, they can challenge and reverse this situation, by using recycled things and learning about tree care.

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# DROUGHT-RELATED FOOD CRISIS: THE CASE FOR A CLEARER VISION AND PLANNING



## Introduction

**F**ood security is essential to every nation's progress. Any government must create policies that guarantee its citizens access to food. A country's ability to store food and respond quickly to droughts brought on by climate change, in addition to having access to seeds and fertilizers, is crucial to preserving its food security. In this article, I offer suggestions on how the government could more fully respond to drought-related food crises with the planning and vision that is needed to adequately intervene in our communities which are most severely impacted by the drought crisis.

## History of Droughts in Zambia

The Southern African region did not receive enough rainfall in the 2023–2024 rainy season to sustain crop agriculture, particularly corn, which is a staple crop for the majority of the region's countries. Governments throughout the Southern African Region were finally compelled by necessity to declare a drought for the crop season of 2023–2024 after great hesitation. This has been a persistent problem for Zambia. A check into Zambia's history reveals that Zambia has had droughts in 1987–1988; 1991–92; 1994–95; 1997–98; 2001–03; 2015–16; 2018–19; and the present drought that is occurring in 2023–2024. This amounts to a total period of about 34 years. Taking into account the persistent nature

of this problem, one could ask what Zambia has learnt from these periods of food insecurity. One could further ask what the best approach should be for present and future governments. We could take the biblical character of Joseph as a guide to discern the best response to this crisis and future drought crises. He represents a character that is very good at planning and coordinating a government intervention that can lead to an effective response to the persistent threat of drought and food insecurity. In doing so, he prevented famine and food insecurity for an entire nation by effective planning (Genesis 47:13–26).

## What Should the Government Do When Anticipating Droughts?

### a) Crop Diversity

Inspired by the figure of Joseph, I will attempt to provide a few suggestions as to how we could plan for periods of drought and how we could discern an appropriate response to drought in this part of Africa. First and foremost, one must highlight the importance of crop diversity, particularly diversifying to drought-resistant crops. Zambia's principal crop, maize, is not resistant to drought. In Zambia, 80% of households eat nshima as their main dish. Nshima is a type of flour cake made from corn meal. A drought situation results in reduced maize yields and less maize meal produced, which raises the price of maize meal due to rising demand. The cost impl

-ication of this is usually hash on the populace. Casava meal is an alternative to maize meal. The government needs to take action to incentivize farmers to plant crops like cassava that withstand drought. Nshima can be made with cassava meal, which is another product of cassava. In the light of these considerations, one could criticise the policy of over-amplifying campaigns of maize production over other drought-tolerant crops. This conditioning of Zambians to eat only maize meal-related foods could result in communities being less able to adapt to periods of drought.

#### **b) The Need for Water Reservoirs**

Second, although Zambia has had periods of drought, the country has also had periods of abundant rainfall. In such cases, the government should take action to construct subterranean water reservoirs for irrigation. It is possible to build these water reservoirs beside significant waterways like the Zambezi River. Water from the Zambezi River flows freely into the Indian Ocean every year during favorable rainy seasons. It is possible to save some of this water for use during dry seasons. Other water bodies, including the Kafue River, can also be used for this.

#### **c) Greater investment in Storage Facilities**

Thirdly, Zambia has to make greater investments in maize and other crop storage facilities nationwide in case future seasons aren't as favorable for the agricultural industry. The government should budget for such storage facilities, taking a cue from Joseph, who built storage facilities that allowed Egypt to be food secure for seven years during a seven-year drought period.

#### **d) The Need to Conserve Reserves for Times of Drought**

The present government has overturned the embargo on exports of maize. One could question the efficacy of this action. The spike in maize meal prices was one of the first signs of this action's negative effects. We have a

drought right now, and the corn reserves at the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) are not sufficient, considering the negative impact of the drought. The government should give some consideration of the need to save corn for times of drought, rather than selling the supplies that are in the FRA. This would provide a safety net that could really assist communities in the future that are heavily impacted by periods of drought.

#### **Conclusion**

As a nation, we need to learn how to better respond to times of drought. Zambia could assist communities in times of crisis through appropriate planning and proper implementation of such planning. The Lord knows the plans he has for Zambia, plans to prosper Zambia and to give it a hopeful future (Jeremiah 29:11). Through giving adequate support for nurturing crop diversity, by providing resources to construct subterranean water reservoir systems, and by providing more storage facilities for maize and other crops, Zambia could plan more effectively for times of drought. Following the biblical figure of Joseph, this nation can work to avoid famine and food insecurity through taking note of the lessons of our past and planning for a prosperous future.

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Often overflowing with waters beyond its height, Magoye bridge in Monze's Chikuni is left ornamentally on dry ground due to the impacts of the drought.



# A REFLECTION ON THE VALUE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AT ALL SCHOOL LEVELS



## Introduction

Care for the environment has been the main agenda of every government and other stakeholders. This is because it is what enables our survival; and so, we have to manage it well today and consider the next generation. Hence, the main objective of this article is to reflect on the value of environmental management education at all school levels. It begins by presenting the understanding of environmental management. Thereafter, it shows the connectedness between the environment and humanity. Lastly, it highlights the value of environmental education and a conclusion.

## Understanding of Environmental Management

According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (2010:490), "environment is the natural world in which people, animals and plants live." In other words, the environment is the nature which is around us. It is the planet Earth which is conducive for human beings, animals and plants. Even though animals and plants also exist on this planet, they do not know how to manage it. However, it is the responsibility of human beings to take care of it. As such, this calls for environmental management's responsible use of the natural world. This is for the fact that it suffices us with

its natural resources and its ecological impact on human beings. Hence, this takes us to the concept of interdependence between our environment and ourselves.

## Interdependence: Environment and Human Beings

There is an interdependence between the environment and human beings. Interdependence is understood as something consisting of parts which depend on each other (OALDcE, 2010:778). There is a relationship between these parts. In this case, it is the universe which consists of the environment and humanity. Arguably, there is a relationship between nature and human beings. This relationship exists because we all have one source, which is God (cf, Genesis 1 and 2). From there it shows mutual relation which enables us to depend on each other. Human beings depend on the environment. For, it is in a unique way whereby, nature provides us with air, water and animals to feed on. Likewise, vegetation is important and useful to humanity for various purposes.

Pickering and Owen (1994:251) affirm that "vegetation is important to humans as a primary source of food, as a building material, in manufacturing industries, as a fuel and machine." This entails that, human beings are sustained by the environment.



## The Obligation to Care for the Environment

As human beings depend on nature, so as it depends on human beings. This is because it takes a long to sustain itself. As such, we are responsible for its sustenance. It is from this background that Saint Francis of Assis compares nature to a woman. He says that “our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.” (*Laudato Si*, 1). This brings to our attention to reflect on our relationship with our mothers or any guardian. When we are young, we depend on them, but when grow old, they become dependent on us. This is in the line of the Bemba proverb which says “*kolwe wakota, asabilwa na bana*.” Literally translated as, ‘an old monkey is given fruits by the children’. This is the kind of relationship and interdependence which is between nature and humanity. Human beings depend on nature for survival. Similarly, nature depends on humanity. That is why, when a person cuts down a tree, should plant two or more trees.

From the above arguments, it is necessary to care for nature. If we neglect it, then we are disturbing the relationship between the environment and humanity. Consequently, it will react back to us. It is already reacting, as we have observed how weather patterns have been fluctuating. This negligence has contributed to natural calamities such as floods, droughts, cyclones and many other natural disasters. It is for this reason that people should be educated about environmental management. This is because it is important at all school levels.

## The Value of Environmental Management Education at all School Levels

### a) Education Opens Minds

Education as it is argued is very important in one’s life. This is so because it opens the minds of people in a society. It makes one knowledgeable about the world formally. Care for the environment is a call to everyone; hence, everyone must be involved in this discussion. The Holy Father, Pope Francis, affirms by saying that

“we need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing and its human roots, concern and affect us all” (*LS*, 14). In this case, even students at all levels of education should be engaged in environmental education; this is for the following reasons. Firstly, it brings students to an awareness of the importance of protecting and preserving the environment. As such, students will be aware of key factors which affect nature. These may include pollution, deforestation and population growth. Wolf (2001:362) argues that the “human population may unsustainably exploit resources and destroy the earth’s great ecosystems.” Because people will be looking for places where to build their houses and industries, leading to deforestation and pollution. Subsequently, animals, rivers and rain patterns suffer the effects. All these bring about poverty in the country. However, if the environment is well managed, then all these things can be preserved. Hence, future generations will be sustained.

### b) The Importance of Future Generations

Furthermore, with the awareness of how high population affects the environment, students will be conscious of the future generations. Using resources given to the next generations is what sustainable development is all about. However, for this to be achieved, there should be population control in the country. This is because human population growth implies the increase of destitute and misery for the present and future generations of human beings (Wolf, 2001:362). This indicates that the irresponsibility of the young people towards the environment affects them and the next generation. For this reason, they have to be educated on how to manage the environment.



### c) Valuable at All Levels

Environmental management education is valuable at all school levels of education. It is this kind of education which fosters responsibility among the students towards the environment. Their responsibility entails not indulging in actions which affect the environment. When young people are trained to be responsible for nature, they participate in preserving it. They engage themselves in activities that make positive changes in their lives and communities. This is by promoting afforestation in their communities. Thus, this kind of education is worthwhile.

### d) Education Can Promote Connection to Nature

Environmental management education is valuable in the sense that, it promotes a sense of connection to nature. Previously, it was argued that there is a relationship between the environment and humanity; hence, if students are taught this, they will care for the environment. It enables them to develop a deeper relationship with the

natural world. Thereafter, they will appreciate its beauty and value ecosystems. It is this aspect that can lead to great stewardship of the environment as God invites us to be (cf, Genesis 2:15).

### Conclusion

Environmental management education is recommendable at all school levels as far as sustainable development is concerned. This is because it fosters an awareness of the connection between humanity and nature. It makes them realize and appreciate the beauty of the environment. As such, it promotes responsibility among the students about nature and empowerment.

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# ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN ZAMBIA: PRINCIPLES, ENFORCEMENT, AND IMPLICATIONS



## Introduction

**E**nvironmental protection and conservation have become paramount in global discourse due to the increasing threats posed by climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. In Zambia, a country blessed with rich natural resources, the legal framework governing environmental management is crucial in ensuring sustainable development while preserving the environment for future generations. This article delves into the constitutional principles guiding environmental law in Zambia, their importance, enforceability, and implications.

## Practical Application of Constitutional Principles on Environmental Law in Zambia

The Constitution of Zambia, amended in 2016 incorporates fundamental principles guiding environmental management and development. These principles are not mere theoretical constructs but have practical implications in addressing contemporary environmental challenges. These principles and their practical applications include:

## Multifaceted Value of Natural Resources

Zambia boasts abundant natural resources, ranging from rich biodiversity to mineral wealth. The recognition of natural resources' environmental, economic, social, and cultural value underscores the need for their sustainable management. One practical example is the management of Zambia's national parks, such as the South Luangwa and Kafue National Parks. These parks not only preserve biodiversity but also contribute significantly to tourism, local livelihoods, and cultural heritage. Balancing conservation efforts with tourism development ensures the multifaceted value of these natural resources is upheld.

## Polluter Pays Principle

The Polluter Pays Principle holds individuals, industries, and government agencies accountable for environmental pollution or degradation. A notable example is the case of mining activities in the Copperbelt and North-Western regions. Historically, unregulated mining practices have led to soil and water contamination, adversely affecting the health and livelihoods of local communities. In recent years, increased awareness and



pressure from civil society have prompted mining companies to adopt cleaner production methods and invest in environmental remediation efforts, aligning with the Polluter Pays Principle.

### **Precautionary Principle**

The Precautionary Principle advocates for proactive measures to prevent environmental harm, even in the absence of full scientific certainty. Zambia's response to climate change exemplifies the practical application of this principle. Despite uncertainties surrounding the exact impacts of climate change on Zambia's agriculture, water resources, and biodiversity, the government has implemented strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change. These include promoting renewable energy, reforestation initiatives, and climate-resilient agriculture practices, demonstrating a precautionary approach to environmental management.

### **Sustainable Conservation**

Conservation efforts in Zambia aim to protect ecologically sensitive areas, habitats, and species while ensuring sustainable development. An example is the Kafue Flats Conservation Area, renowned for its biodiversity and ecological importance. Efforts to conserve this critical ecosystem involve community-based conservation initiatives, sustainable fishing practices, and the establishment of protected areas. Sustainable conservation not only preserves biodiversity but also supports local livelihoods dependent on ecosystem services such as fisheries and tourism.

### **Equitable Benefit Sharing**

Zambia's natural resource wealth should benefit all citizens equitably, especially those directly impacted by resource extraction activities. In the mining sector, revenue sharing agreements between the government and local communities aim to ensure equitable distribution of mining proceeds. However, challenges such as reve-

nue leakage, inadequate community consultation, and limited transparency persist, hindering the practical realization of equitable benefit sharing.

### **Regulation and Information Access**

Regulating natural resource extraction and providing access to environmental information are crucial for informed decision-making and sustainable development. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process serves as a regulatory mechanism for assessing the potential environmental and social impacts of development projects. However, shortcomings in the EIA process, such as inadequate public participation and enforcement, have been observed, limiting its effectiveness in promoting sustainable development.

### **Debating the Adequacy of Environmental Law in Zambia**

In the heart of Zambia, a heated debate is raging over the adequacy of the country's environmental law framework. On one side, proponents argue that Zambia's constitutional principles on environmental management and development provide a solid foundation for sustainable practices. They point to examples of conservation efforts, renewable energy initiatives, and community-based projects as evidence of progress. However, sceptics challenge the effectiveness of these principles, citing ongoing environmental degradation, pollution, and social injustices as glaring failures of the current system.

### **The Proponents' Perspective**

Advocates of Zambia's environmental law framework commend the incorporation of comprehensive principles into the constitution as a significant step towards environmental protection. They highlight success stories such as the establishment of national parks, renewable energy projects, and efforts to mitigate climate change impacts. Proponents argue that while challenges exist, Zambia is on the right path towards sustainable

## **The Sceptics' Concerns**

On the other hand, sceptics raise critical concerns about the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws in Zambia. They argue that despite constitutional provisions, rampant environmental degradation, pollution, and social injustices persist. The mining sector, in particular, has come under scrutiny for its adverse environmental and social impacts, with communities bearing the brunt of pollution and displacement. Critics question the effectiveness of regulatory mechanisms such as Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), citing instances of inadequate consultation and enforcement.

## **Addressing the Divide**

Amidst this debate, there is a growing consensus on the need for urgent action to address the inadequacies of Zambia's environmental law framework. Key stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector, must come together to find common ground and chart a path towards sustainable environmental management and development.

## **Enhancing Enforcement and Accountability**

While Zambia's constitution outlines comprehensive environmental principles, the enforceability and effectiveness of these principles remain subjects of debate. The constitution mandates cooperation from individuals, state organs, and institutions in maintaining a clean, safe, and healthy environment. However, the practical implementation and enforcement mechanisms to hold violators accountable are often lacking.

The Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) plays a pivotal role in enforcing environmental regulations and policies. The central question arises: if ZEMA were to act contrary to these environmental principles, could it be held accountable? The answer hinges on legal mechanisms and public scrutiny. However, the effectiveness of these accountability measures depends

greatly on the strength of regulatory frameworks, the independence of the judiciary, and the extent of public engagement. To ensure that ZEMA can enforce environmental regulations effectively, this government agency must be equipped with adequate resources and authority.

## **Promoting Public Participation and Awareness**

Another crucial aspect is promoting public participation and awareness in environmental decision-making processes. Communities directly impacted by development projects must have a voice in planning, implementation, and monitoring. Access to environmental information should be ensured, empowering citizens to hold authorities and companies accountable for their actions. Civil society organizations play a vital role in mobilizing communities, raising awareness, and advocating for environmental justice.

## **Investing in Sustainable Solutions**

Furthermore, Zambia must invest in sustainable solutions to address environmental challenges such as climate change, deforestation, and pollution. This includes promoting renewable energy sources, implementing conservation measures, and adopting eco-friendly practices across sectors. Collaboration with international partners and leveraging innovative technologies can enhance Zambia's capacity to tackle environmental issues effectively.

## **Implications and Adequacy of Environmental Law in Zambia**

The incorporation of environmental principles into Zambia's constitution reflects a commendable commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship. However, the practical implications of these principles and the adequacy of environmental law hinge on several critical factors, including the implementation, enforcement, and adaptation to evolving environmental challenges.

## Vertical Rights and Implementation Challenges

Vertical rights empower citizens to demand accountability and action from the government to ensure environmental protection. However, the enforceability of these rights faces significant challenges in Zambia. Weak institutional capacity, inadequate funding, and limited public awareness hinder the effective implementation of environmental laws. Government agencies tasked with enforcing environmental regulations, such as the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA), often lack the resources and capacity to address environmental violations effectively. As a result, communities affected by environmental degradation struggle to access justice and hold polluters accountable.



## Horizontal Rights and Collective Responsibility

Horizontal rights foster a sense of collective responsibility among individuals to uphold environmental stewardship within communities. Citizens can hold each other accountable for environmental harm, promoting sustainable practices and conservation efforts. However, limited public awareness and inadequate enforcement undermine the effectiveness of horizontal rights in Zambia. Communities may lack the knowledge or resources to address environmental issues collectively, leading to the continued degradation of shared natural resources.

## Challenges to Adequacy

The adequacy of environmental law in Zambia is further challenged by the lack of stringent penalties for environmental violations. Despite the constitutional principles

guiding environmental governance, the absence of deterrent measures undermines efforts to combat environmental degradation effectively. Polluters often face minimal consequences for their actions, leading to a cycle of impunity and continued environmental harm.

## Path to Improvement

Despite these challenges, Zambia's constitutional principles provide a framework for environmental governance, guiding policy formulation, and promoting public participation. Strengthening both vertical and horizontal rights is essential to enhance the adequacy of environmental law in Zambia.

Efforts to strengthen institutional capacity, enhance public awareness, and enforce existing laws are crucial steps towards addressing environmental issues effectively. Government agencies must be adequately resourced and empowered to enforce environmental regulations, ensuring accountability and justice for affected communities. Public awareness campaigns and education initiatives can empower citizens to exercise their rights and participate actively in environmental conservation efforts.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the discourse on the adequacy of environmental law in Zambia highlights both strides made and hurdles to surmount. Zambia's dedication to sustainable development is underscored by the integration of constitutional principles guiding environmental management and conservation efforts. However, the practical application of these principles demands concerted action from stakeholders.

The effectiveness of Zambia's environmental law hinges on the real-world implementation of these principles, necessitating collaboration and commitment. The strengthening of both vertical and horizontal rights is pivotal for ensuring accountability and fostering collective responsibility toward environmental stewardship.

Despite progress across sectors such as mining, agriculture, conservation, and climate change adaptation, challenges endure in execution, enforcement, and accountability. Weak institutional capacity, insufficient funding, and limited public awareness persist as impediments to effective environmental governance.

To transcend these obstacles and advance toward a more sustainable future, Zambia must prioritize bolstering institutional capacity, raising public awareness, and fortifying enforcement mechanisms. Collaboration with organizations like the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) can enhance advocacy efforts and promote community engagement in environmental conservation.

In essence, the pursuit of sustainable environmental management in Zambia necessitates united action, unwavering dedication, and meaningful involvement from all stakeholders. Through collective endeavor and steadfast commitment, Zambia can address the shortcomings of the current system and pave the way toward a greener, more prosperous future for all.

By Lukundo Nanyangwe

JCTR Researcher, Faith and Justice

Lusaka, Zambia

### References

1. Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) [No. 2 of 2016].

## Vertical vs Horizontal Rights



### Vertical Rights

Leaders held to account by the people



### Horizontal Rights

People hold each other accountable



## PAYE TAX: BURDEN OR BENEFIT?



It is a well-known fact that taxes are one of the most important sources of revenue for the Zambian government. The Zambian tax system contains a number of different taxes, however, the tax type up for debate today is the Pay-As-You-Earn Tax, frequently referred to as PAYE. This tax type is at the centre of debate, particularly regarding its implications on the Zambian working population. The big question even after the recent PAYE tax band adjustments as presented in the 2024 budget, is whether this tax type remains a benefit or a burden to the Zambian working man. This article will explore the impact of the PAYE from a Zambian and human rights perspective.

### **PAYE in Zambia**

Pay-As-You-Earn is a tax type conditioned to be deducted not only from monthly and weekly payments but also from daily, annual or irregular payments and applies to casual employees as well as full time workers. It has been structured in a way that the government ensures regular tax payments, alleviating the stress on both the taxpayer and the government, of lump-sum payments at the end of the fiscal year. While it may have proved to be efficient theoretically, it is arguable to say that the practical implications on the different segments of the population agree with this notion. Agreeing that it

is designed to ensure regular tax revenue, it also has significant implications for average income earners, particularly when viewed through the lens of human rights.

### **Latest PAYE Tax Bands (2024)**

The 2024 budget introduced changes to the PAYE tax bands:

First K5,100.00: Tax-free

Next K5,100.01 to K7,100.00: 20%

Next K7,100.01 to K9,200.00: 30%

Above K9,200.01: 37%

These adjustments increased the tax-exempt threshold from K4,800 to K5,100 and slightly reduced the top tax rate from 37.5% to 37%. These changes aim to provide relief to lower-income earners while still generating necessary revenue from higher earners.

### **Human Rights Perspective: The Real Impact of PAYE**

From a human rights perspective, taxation should promote social equity and ensure fair distribution of wealth. The current PAYE system, with its progressive structure, attempts to tax higher incomes more heavily. However, the effectiveness of this approach is debatable.

## Impact on Low-Income Earners

For many low-income earners in Zambia, the tax-free threshold is a crucial aspect of the PAYE system. The minimum wage in Zambia varies by sector, but for many workers, it hovers around K1,500 per month. For average income earners, who typically earn around K5,000 to K7,000 per month, the PAYE system poses a significant challenge. The tax-free threshold ensures that those earning up to K5,100 are not taxed, which is a positive step. However, income above this threshold is taxed progressively, with significant portions falling into the 20% and 30% brackets.

The JCTR's Basic Needs and Nutrition Basket (BNNB) indicates that the cost of a basic food basket for a family of five in Lusaka was approximately K10, 348.08 as of 2 May 2024. This disparity between income and basic living costs underscores the financial strain faced by low-income households. With the average income earner making around K6,000, the current tax bands mean that after taxes, their take-home pay is often insufficient to cover basic living costs, leading to financial strain and potential poverty.



While the tax-free threshold is beneficial, the steep increase in tax rates for relatively modest incomes can be seen as inequitable. Those earning slightly above the threshold quickly find themselves in higher tax brackets, reducing their disposable income significantly and limiting their ability to save or invest in personal development.

Tax policies should respect and enhance human dignity by ensuring individuals can meet their basic needs and live a life of quality. The high cost of living, coupled with significant tax deductions, means that many aver-

age earners struggle to afford decent housing, healthcare, education, and other essentials. This compromises their quality of life and undermines their dignity as human beings.

## Transparency and Accountability

For PAYE taxes to be justified, the government must demonstrate transparency and accountability in how these funds are used. When taxpayers see tangible benefits from their contributions, such as better healthcare, education, and infrastructure, it reinforces the social contract and promotes trust in government.

## Social Justice and Policy Recommendations

**Review Tax Bands:** The government should consider reviewing the current tax bands to ensure they do not disproportionately burden average income earners. Incremental adjustments that more accurately reflect living costs could help alleviate financial pressure on this group.

**Increase Tax-Free Threshold:** Raising the tax-free threshold further could provide additional relief to low and average income earners, ensuring they retain more of their earnings to cover basic needs.

**Progressive Public Spending:** Ensuring that tax revenues are spent on programs that directly benefit low and middle-income earners, such as affordable housing, subsidized healthcare, and education, can enhance the perceived fairness and acceptability of the PAYE system.

## Conclusion

From a human rights perspective, the current PAYE tax bands in Zambia have a mixed impact on average income earners. While the progressive nature of the system aims to promote equity, the actual implementation can place undue financial strain on individuals already

struggling to meet basic needs.

Ensuring that tax policies align with human rights principles requires continuous review and adjustment to reflect the economic realities faced by average Zambians. By prioritizing fairness, transparency, and accountability, Zambia can create a tax system that upholds the dignity of all its citizens and promotes a just and equitable society. The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection

(JCTR) remains committed to advocating for such changes, ensuring that tax policies do not become a burden but rather a tool for advancing social justice and human dignity.

*Michell Angasisye*

*JCTR Researcher, Faith and Justice Programme*

*Lusaka, Zambia*

**Paye Calculator**

Basic Pay: 5100  
Allowances: 1020  
Gross/Taxable Pay: K 6120  
Statutory Contribution: Enter allowances  
Napsa 5%: K 306.00  
National Health Insurance: K 51.00  
Total Contributions: K 357.00  
Total Tax Deductions: K 204.00  
Total Deductions: K 561.00  
**Net Salary: K 5559.00**

**PAYE TAX COMPUTATION BANDS 2024**

Tax Bands	Chargeable Income	Tax Rate	Tax Due
First K5,100.00 @	5100.00	0%	0
Next K5,100.01 but not exceeding K7,100.00	1020.00	20%	204
Next K7,100.01 but not exceeding K9,200.00	2100.00	30%	0
K9,200.01 and Above	2800.00	37%	0

Note: Gross pay shows the tax band category used to calculate your tax

The image above shows the PAYE calculation for an individual whose basic pay theoretically falls under the first tax band, supposing their basic pay is K5, 100 including 20% housing allowance (K1, 020). Since the individual’s gross salary is K6, 120, their net salary after deductions is K5, 559— indicating total contributions (deductions) worth K561.

Visit <https://www.zra.org.zm/calculate-paye/> to calculate your tax contributions.



# INEFFICIENCIES IN GOVERNMENT DECENTRALISATION



## Introduction

The ongoing decentralisation process in Zambia embodies the quest for a more responsive and participatory governance system. This transformative journey, guided by the Local Government Act 2023, is a constitutional mandate aimed at empowering local authorities—comprising four city councils, 14 municipal councils, and 55 district councils—entrusted with many civic responsibilities. These local entities, under the stewardship of the Ministry of Local Government, not only have the authority to generate their revenue but also receive financial support from the national government. Tasked with providing essential services such as policing, water and sanitation, fire services, and the development of roads and agricultural support, these councils are pivotal to Zambia’s ambition of achieving middle-income status by 2030.

The local government’s autonomy and capacity to raise funds are critical components in fostering a governance structure that is both efficient and attuned to the specific needs of its citizenry. Zambia’s navigating the complexities of power devolution and authority transfer seems tenuous. The local government stands as a cornerstone in the nation’s developmental aspirations, striving to deliver improved services and enhance citizen participation.

## Devolution in Action

Devolution in the Zambian context means the transfer of executive and national powers, resources, and decision-making authority to provincial and local tiers of government. This process is pivotal in diluting the concentration of power in the upper levels of government, fostering a governance model more attuned to the grassroots level. In Zambia, this has been encapsulated in the National Decentralisation Policy, which aims to bring governance closer to the people, enhancing their participation and ensuring that local needs and priorities shape development agendas.

## The Legislative Landscape

Zambia’s journey towards decentralisation is deeply rooted in its legislative evolution, which reflects the nation’s commitment to redistributing power and fostering regional autonomy. The historical context of this transformation is marked by the enactment of pivotal laws such as the Local Government Acts of 1991, 2019 & 2023, the CDF Act, The Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act of 2016, the Public Finance Management Act, and the National Decentralisation Policy of 2023. These legislative instruments have been instrumental in laying down a structured framework for provincial and local government functions, alongside establishing financial provisions that underpin the operational autonomy of these entities.

A critical assessment reveals a potential for limited autonomy for provincial and local governments. This stems from an ambiguous delineation of power-sharing between the national, provincial, and local levels of government. The provincial functions are titled “Concurrent national and provincial functions” in the Annex of the Constitution. This lack of clarity can impede the devolving of powers, leading to inefficiencies and a possible dilution of the decentralisation ethos. The ongoing debates and the call for potential revisions to these legal documents underscore the need for a more robust decentralisation framework. One that clearly defines the roles and responsibilities at each tier of government, ensuring a harmonious and empowered governance structure responsive to the needs of Zambia’s diverse populace.

### **Direct Elections and Enhanced Autonomy**

Furthermore, transferring executive authority to provincial levels would be a transformative step in Zambia’s governance, allowing for a catered regional approach to administration. Under the current legislature, Provincial Ministers and District Commissioners are appointed by the President. Directly electing provincial officials, particularly Provincial Ministers would ensure that those in power are directly accountable to the regions they serve.

Under Local Government Act 2019 Section 18, "Subject to the Constitution, the Minister may, by statutory order, confer on a local authority power not otherwise conferred on the local authority by this Act or any other written law..."

When necessary Provincial Ministers should be able to be impeached or removed by a majority vote by District Commissioners (DC), and the DCs should also be elected. District Commissioners would also act as effective bridges between provincial and local governments. The electoral process is pivotal in enhancing the democratic fabric of the nation, fostering a sense of ownership and participation among citizens. The potential benefits are manifold, including increased responsiveness to local

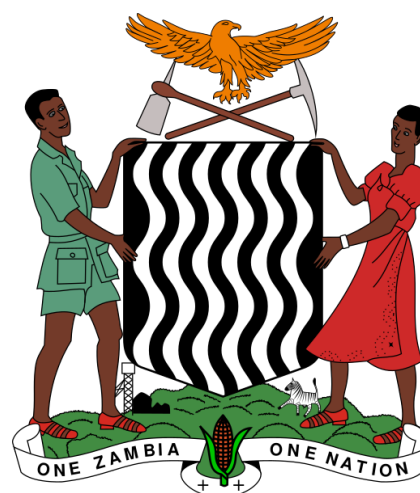
needs and a marked improvement in service delivery efficiency.

### **Local Governance: Control Over Civic Functions**

At the local level, transferring National authority means granting councils the power to manage functions such as education and health. This devolution of power is designed to bring decision-making closer to the ground, enabling local governments to tailor services to the specific needs of their communities. The potential benefits of such a transfer are significant, promising increased efficiency and a more direct response to the needs of citizens. Local governments with the authority to manage these essential services can ensure that their interventions are timely, relevant, and effective.

### **Challenges: Ensuring Equitable Development and Accountability**

Bureaucratic inertia and procedural complexities often impede the decentralisation policy, stymying resource allocation and the transfer of authority. The limited capacity of the local government, financially and in terms of human resources, further exacerbates these hurdles, hindering the full realisation of devolution. Moreover, move staff at the local governmental level under the Local Government Service Commission’s (LGSC) control, and create a Provincial commission separate from the Management Development Division (MDD) of the Cabinet Office.



The potential for uneven development across regions is a pressing concern, as disparities in resource allocation could lead to developmental patchworks. Moreover, with increased autonomy comes the need for robust accountability mechanisms at the local level. Ensuring that local officials are answerable for their actions and decisions is crucial in maintaining public trust and preventing misuse of power. Also ensuring that officials can be impeached or removed is essential for true accountability. Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort to establish clear guidelines for devolved powers and to implement effective oversight mechanisms that safeguard the interests of all citizens.

## Conclusion

The decentralisation process in Zambia shows promise of progress, reflecting the nation's commitment to fostering a governance system that is responsive, participatory, and attuned to the needs of its citizens. Legislative reforms empowering local authorities and devolving executive power have laid a solid foundation for a more equitable distribution of resources and decision-making authority. However, challenges in ensuring equitable development across regions and establishing robust accountability mechanisms persist. The potential for decentralisation is immense, promising to propel Zambia towards its development goals of improved service delivery and enhanced citizen empowerment. As the journey continues, Zambia's unwavering commitment to achieving a truly decentralised and democratic local governance system must be tempered with action and reform.



Minister of Finance, Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane pictured at the National Assembly of Zambia

## Recommendations

To navigate the challenges and capitalise on the opportunities presented by decentralisation, the following recommendations are proposed:

- **Directly Elect Provincial and District Officials:** Given the powers granted to these officials they should be elected by voters to enhance accountability and responsiveness.
- **Strengthen Financial Autonomy:** Diversify revenue streams and increase budgetary control for provincial and local governments to foster financial independence.
- **Enhance Human Resource & Capacity Development:** Implement leadership training and financial management expertise programs for local officials to improve governance capabilities. Devolved staff should also be under the LGSC's authority, and a Provisional commission should be created.
- **Foster Citizen Participation:** Encourage active citizen involvement in decision-making processes and hold local authorities accountable for their actions.
- **Streamline Bureaucratic Processes:** Simplify administrative procedures to facilitate a smoother devolution of resources and authority.
- **Establish Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms:** Create clear frameworks to track progress, identify areas for improvement, and ensure the effective implementation of decentralisation policies. These steps will be instrumental in realising the full potential of Zambia's decentralisation efforts.

*Lombe Kasanda*

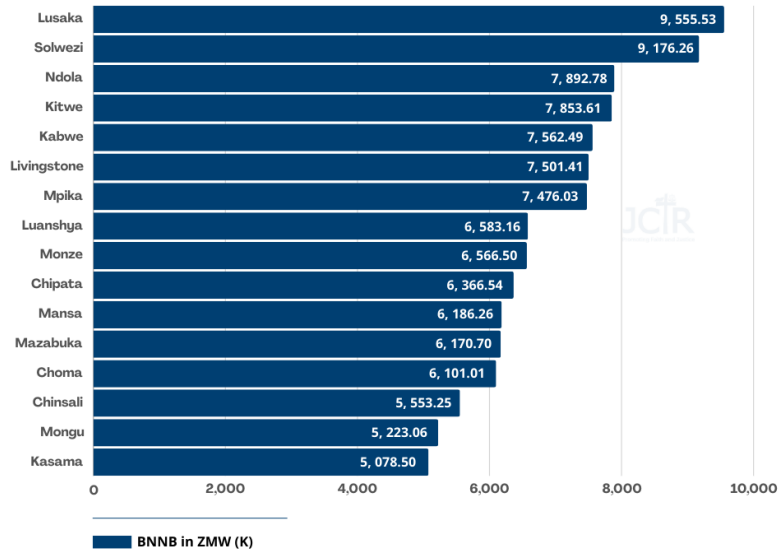
*Intern, Faith and Justice Programme*

*JCTR, Lusaka*

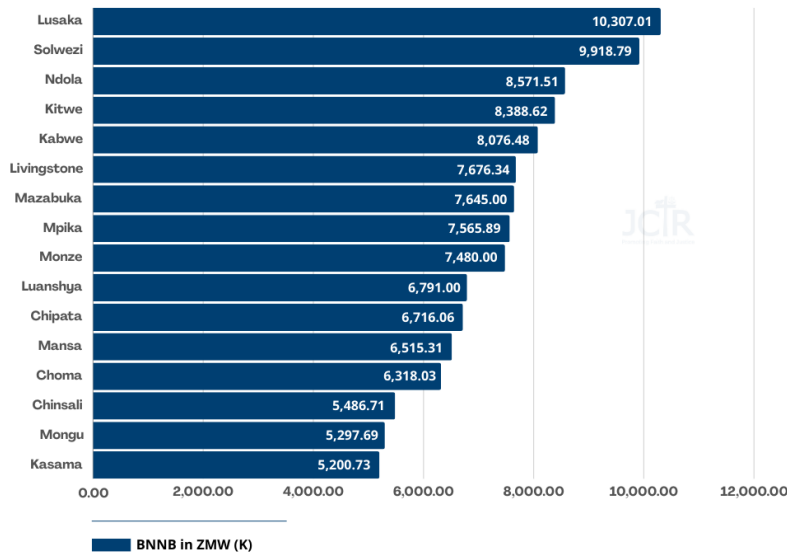


# THE BNNB, JAN — MAR 2024

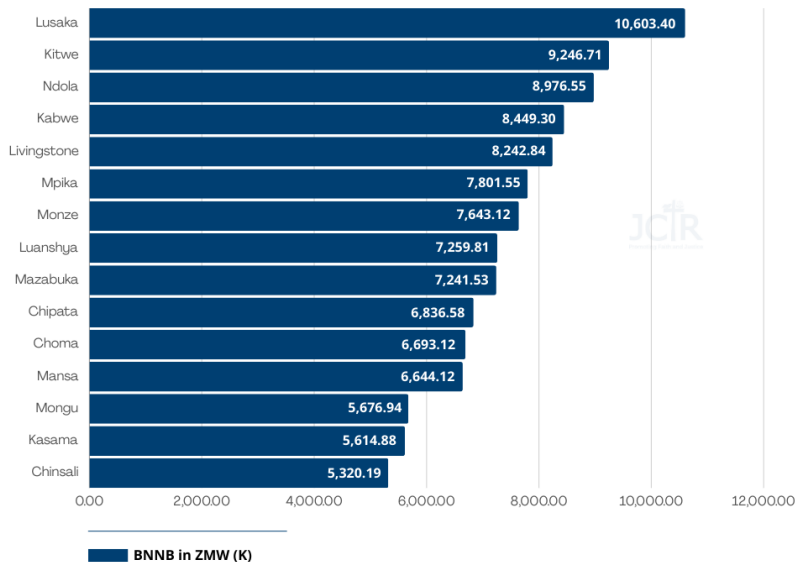
## COST OF LIVING TRENDS - JANUARY 2024



## COST OF LIVING TRENDS - FEBRUARY 2024



## COST OF LIVING TRENDS - MARCH 2024



# PHOTO FOCUS



January

With support from ActionAid Zambia, JCTR hosts a Multi-Stakeholder Forum in on transparency and accountability in Lusaka, post a six-month project in Shungu Ward, Livingstone.



JCTR engages in a crucial consultation with the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) on Social Inclusion in Climate Action. The engagement shed light on the challenges hindering marginalised communities' fair participation in climate projects.

JCTR submits a memorandum on the 'Review of the Implementation of the Constituency Development Fund' to the National Assembly of Zambia's Joint Parliamentary Committee on Local Governance, Housing, & Chiefs' Affairs.





# PHOTO FOCUS



February



JCTR participates in the 15th Alternative Mining Indaba (5th to 8th February 2024) in Cape Town, South Africa. This significant forum was themed "Energy Transition Minerals: Putting Communities First for an Inclusive Feminist Future."

With support from the Irish Jesuit International (IJI), JCTR embarked on a transformative journey with a project titled "Empowering Parish Groups to Advocate for Social Justice and Access to ESCR."



JCTR conducts an impactful training session at St. Augustine's Sub-Parish in the Nalusanga community of Christ the King Parish, Mumbwa District.



# PHOTO FOCUS



March

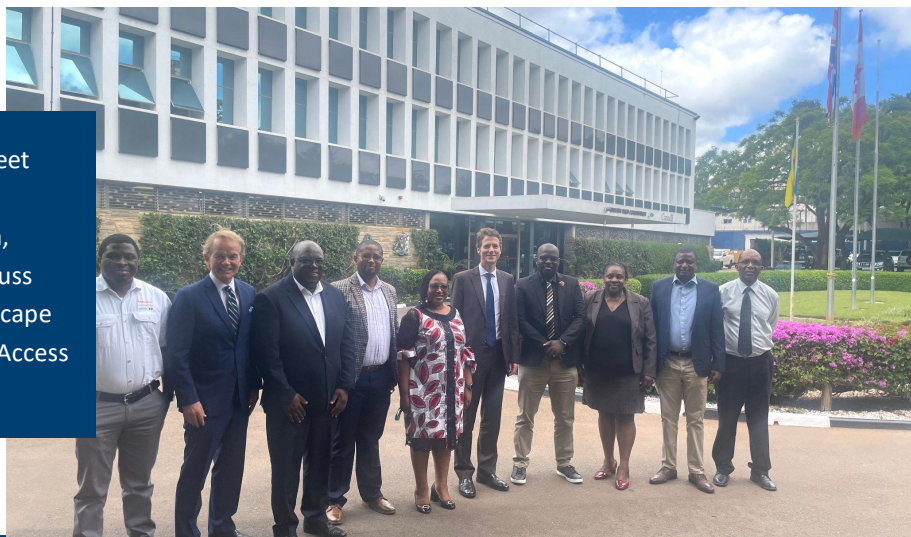
JCTR staff pose for a group photo, wrapping up a week long retreat generously supported by the Canadian Jesuits international (CJI).



The Provincial of the Jesuits in Southern Africa, Fr. Leonard Chiti, officiates as JCTR launches its 2024-2027 Strategic Plan at Southern Sun Hotel.



JCTR and other CSOs meet with the British High Commissioner to Zambia, Nicholas Woolley to discuss the socioeconomic landscape in Zambia as well as the Access to Information law.



## ARTICLES AND LETTERS

**We would like to encourage you to contribute articles to the JCTR bulletin.** These articles can be on any social, economic, political or educational, cultural, pastoral, theological and spiritual theme. **A good issue of the bulletin depends on your lively and analytical exchange of views.** Should you choose to write to us, **the length of your article should be between 1,000 and 1,500 words.**

We also encourage comments on the articles in this or any previous bulletin issues and views for the improvement of the bulletin are also welcome.

**To contribute, please write articles or letters to the Editor-JCTR Bulletin, by email, to:**  
jctrbulletin@gmail.com and  
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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

“To enhance justice and equality for all, particularly the poor and vulnerable through the promotion of Christian Values, empowerment and provision of policy alternatives.”

## **VISION FOR JCTR**

“A leading, prophetic, well-resourced think tank that speaks and works for the poor and marginalised.”



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Bulletin

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2024-06-28

# First Quarter Bulletin 2024: Environmental Management in Zambia

Chileshe, Mabula

Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection

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