

# Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in Zambia



## Context

In Zambia, rates of malnutrition and undernutrition are high, particularly in small farming households. Around 46 % of the population is malnourished and the stunting rate of 40 % of all children under the age of five is one of the highest across Africa.

Population growth, combined with stagnating and declining fisheries yields, have resulted in a decrease in fish consumption in Zambia over the last 50 years. At the same time, fish is an excellent source of micronutrients and should be included in a balanced diet.

Therefore, it is a priority of the Zambian Government to increase fish production.

The project aims to support the Government in implementing the National Aquaculture Strategy with a focus on national food security and poverty reduction. In order to increase the availability of fish on local markets the project promotes sustainable fisheries management in dams in the Eastern Province and aquaculture in ponds in Luapula Province.

## Our objective

People facing food insecurity in Zambia have access to more fish products and a higher income derived from sustainable aquaculture and resource-friendly fisheries in small water bodies.

## Activities in Zambia

- **Increasing aquaculture production:** Fish farmers in the Province of Luapula receive training in fingerling production, feeding methods and business management, with the aim of increasing aquaculture production in an environmentally, socially and economically sound way.

- **Fisheries management for small water bodies:** In the Eastern Province, local communities adjacent to dams and dam committee members benefit from training for sustainable fisheries management, enabling them to manage fish stocks and water resources sustainably.
- **Training of trainers:** Multipliers such as extension service providers receive training to ensure long-term availability of advisory services for sustainable aquaculture and fisheries management for small water bodies.
- **Promoting knowledge exchange:** A platform is being established to connect different stakeholders in the aquaculture sector, furthering cooperation and the development of practical approaches for the future development of the sector.

**Region**

Luapula Province (Northern Zambia) and Eastern Province

**Term**

July 2019 to June 2025

**Budget**

EUR 9.267 million

**Implementing partners**

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL)  
Department of Fisheries (DoF)

**Lead executing agency**

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL)

**Target group**

Food-insecure population  
Artisanal fish producers and aquaculture farmers  
Dam committee members  
Potential multipliers, including training and extension service providers and value chain stakeholders

**WHERE WE WORK****A real-life example**

There are approximately 140 dams in the Eastern Province of Zambia that store rainwater during the rainy season. Among other purposes, they are used for fisheries, watering of cattle and irrigating of small-scale farms. Dam committees oversee dam maintenance, management and fishing. In specific training units, members of these committees learn how to keep records, manage fish stocks and monitor fishing. The objective of the project is to provide technical and organisational support to strengthen the management capacity of the dam committees.

Usually, between 2,000 and 5,000 people live adjacent to a medium-sized dam, benefiting directly from an increased fish supply. For a sustainable and resource-friendly use of the dams, existing regulations need to be complied with and new regulations need to be introduced. A fisheries management plan jointly drafted by all relevant stakeholders, including neighbouring communities, members of the dam committees and traditional authorities, therefore supports the use of the full potential of the dams.



This contributes to increased fish production in the Eastern Province of Zambia, where the poverty rate of 79.9% is well above the national average of 54.5% and 43.3% of children under five years display stunted growth. Better and more efficient dam management helps increase productivity considerably, facilitating access to high-quality fish for the food-insecure population in the region.

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