



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

SANREM CRSP

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Trip Report: Zambia

17 December 2007 – 12 January 2008

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Purpose of Trip: To identify collaborating faculty and students at the University of Zambia (our host country). Ultimately, I hoped to recruit a graduate student that would join and strengthen our team's ongoing gender cross-cutting research.

Sites Visited: University of Zambia (UNZA)
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Offices

Description of Activities/Observations:

I visited the departments of Demography, Economics, Social Studies, Development Studies, and Gender Studies at the University of Zambia. My aim was to: (i) learn the ongoing faculty research and teaching activities, (ii) identify the department with the best fit for our needs, (iii) find faculty collaborators, and (iv) solicit their help in identifying a graduate student that would join our team and work closely with me on the gender research work in Luangwa Valley.

After meeting with various faculty members in Economics, Demography, and the Law School, I learned about ongoing training and research programs in these departments. In addition, I learned that all these departments only train undergraduates. I was pointed towards the Department of Gender Studies.

I met with the chair of the Department of Gender Studies (Dr. Rasing) and another Lecturer in the department (Dr. Kusanthan). The chair helped me identify a Masters level graduate student, Chisha Chungu. In addition, Dr. Rasing explained the structure of the graduate level training program in Gender Studies. The academic year is split into two semesters:

March 2007 – July 2007
March 2008- July 2008

October 2007-Feb 2008
October 2008-February 2009

Further, she explained the process of proposal development and approval within the department, faculty and the University in general, and the timing of all hearings. This information was

critical as it helped me understand Chisha's schedule in ways that are informing the timing of our field work.

Last, I gave Chisha a comprehensive orientation to enable her to understand WCS' work in Zambia, especially the COMACO model. In addition, I provided her in-depth materials and oral narratives to get her up to speed in understanding the depth and breadth of the overall SANREM project with a deeper focus on the ongoing multi-disciplinary Cornell activities. In the end I accomplished the following:

- (i) Got the collaborating student on track towards developing her MS thesis proposal that focuses on mapping women's spaces and participation along the agricultural production chain in COMACO areas. She currently is working on her second draft with my input and oversight from Dr. Rasing, her supervisor. She also has an opportunity to get substantive methodological and theoretical insights from Maria-Elisa Christie.
- (ii) Helped Chisha get acquainted with key WCS staff in Lusaka including Chris (incoming Country Deputy Director), Progress (Merchandising Manager), Mike (Accountant), Denia (Communications and Human Resources Manager), Ruth (Chief Liaison Officer), James (Marketing Manager, Chipata), James (Accounts Clerk) and Kabilia (Information Systems Manager). At the time of my departure, Chisha had made arrangements to join Chris on a road trip to all main COMACO Community Trading Centers (CTCs) in Luangwa Valley including Feira, Lundazi and Mfuwe. They plan to make the visit sometime in February 2008. This visit will provide Chisha an opportunity to carry out a rapid appraisal of ongoing COMACO work in the field. She will also be able to familiarize herself with COMACO products on the market like rice and honey through visiting shops such as Shoprite in Lusaka.
- (iii) Learn about the financial contributions that would be necessary to get the UNZA partners to fully engage in our activities.

Overall, the trip was a great experience and helped me lay a solid platform for long term collaboration with UNZA faculty. Moreover, Cornell University (through the input of Alex Travis, Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue and I) as well as Virginia Tech (through Maria-Elisa Christie's research and technical inputs) have a tremendous opportunity to help in capacity building for a host country student.

Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items:

Over the summer, Chisha and I will collect primary data in Luangwa Valley. I recommend that if possible, Maria-Elisa comes to provide technical inputs at the inception of our study in Zambia in July 2008. I also recommend that the gender cross-cutting-research mobilize some resources that will enable Chisha to participate in the planned gender meetings for 2009 when all team members will share their findings.

List of Contacts Made:

| Name | Title/Organization | Contact Info (address, phone, email) |
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| Chisha Chungu | Graduate Student (MS) | University of Zambia Department of Gender Studies Box 32379, Lusaka, Zambia cell +260977663546 |
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