

# Sustainable Fisheries Conservation and Climate Adaptation in the Barotse Floodplain

- Assessing the Effectiveness of Seasonal Fish Bans and Livelihood Impacts
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# Background

- The Barotse Floodplain supports thousands of households through fisheries and floodplain livelihoods.
- Fisheries sustainability is threatened by climate variability, reduced flood cycles, and illegal fishing.
- Seasonal fishing bans have been introduced to protect fish during breeding periods.

# Purpose of the Study

- Evaluate effectiveness of seasonal fish bans in restoring fish stocks.
- Assess socioeconomic impacts on fishing communities.
- Understand community compliance and perceptions.
- Provide policy recommendations for sustainable fisheries management.

# Study Area

Research conducted in key fishing zones of the Barotse Floodplain:

- Senanga District
- Mongu District
- Nalolo District
- Limulunga District
- Shangombo District

# Research Methodology

## Mixed-method research approach

- Household surveys with 200 fishing households
- 25 key informant interviews
- Landing site ecological observations
- Stakeholder consultations

# Key Ecological Findings

Seasonal fish bans contribute to:

- Increased fish breeding activity
- Higher presence of mature fish species
- Improved fish species diversity

# Livelihood Dependence on Fisheries

68% of households depend primarily on fishing income.

- Fishing supports:
- Household food security
- Education expenses
- Healthcare needs

# Economic Impacts of Fish Bans

During fishing bans households rely on:

- Crop farming
- Casual labour
- Small trading
- Livestock activities
- However, these alternatives often provide limited income.

# Community Perceptions

- 72% of respondents support seasonal fish bans.
- Fishers recognize importance of protecting breeding fish.
- Stronger enforcement and awareness programs are needed.

# Climate Change Implications

Climate variability affects fisheries through:

- Reduced flood levels
- Changing rainfall patterns
- Habitat disruption
- Seasonal bans serve as ecosystem-based climate adaptation strategies.

# Policy Recommendations

- Strengthen enforcement of fisheries regulations
- Promote alternative livelihoods (aquaculture, agriculture, SMEs)
- Improve fisheries monitoring systems
- Implement gender-sensitive fisheries policies

# Conclusion

- Seasonal fish bans are important for sustaining fisheries in the Barotse Floodplain.
- Success requires:
  - Strong enforcement
  - Community participation
  - Alternative livelihood support
  - Climate adaptation integration