Name	**Sitokozile Sibanda**
Title Research project	"The prevalence and epidemiological features of infection with *Aphanomyces invadans/* Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS*)* in finfish, on dams and rivers on the Zimbabwean side of the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) TFCA and the Great Limpopo Transfrontier drainage: Implications on human livelihoods and the environment"

Abstract

The first outbreak on the African continent of Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) recently renamed Infection with *Aphanocyces invadans* was described in the Chobe-Zambezi River system in 2006-2007. This significant fish disease emergency exposed serious aquatic biosecurity weaknesses in the Southern African region. In response to the serious disease outbreak affecting freshwater fishes in the region and recommendations of a Task Force mission, FAO approved a regional technical assistance project- TCP/ RAF/ 3111 Emergency assistance to combat EUS in the Chobe-Zambezi River involving seven countries bordering the Zambezi River, namely Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. (Dr Melba B. Reantaso, et al).

The disease Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) also known as 'red-spot' disease colloquially, is an ulcerative syndrome of fish which affects a range of native species and has continued to spread in Zimbabwe encroaching into the Limpopo drainage river systems. The project will be conducted in rivers and dams in Zimbabwe, with special emphasis on water bodies in TFCAs e.g Kavango-Zambezi and the Great Limpopo TFCAs. The proposed project is targeted at investigating the morbidity, prevalence, biosecurity risks and effects of EUS on human livelihoods and the environment in affected areas. The project will also seek to address mechanisms of disease spread in our river systems and to compare these with knowledge from similar disease outbreaks described in other countries. Samples will be collected from fish showing clinical signs of EUS, and the collected samples will be processed at the histopathology section of Central Veterinary Laboratory shipped to University of Zambia where confirmation of EUS will be done. Questionnaire survey will be conducted in order to access the biosecurity risks and effects of EUS on human livelihoods, biodiversity and the environment. Information from the research will help to improve awareness on aquatic animal health amongst stakeholders and facilitate a working Active and Passive Aquatic Animal Disease Surveillance framework for Zimbabwe. The research is expected to contribute towards sustainable livelihoods through integrating the Aquaculture production and DLVS surveillance models.