

FOCUS ON RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTES PLEINS FEUX SUR LES INSTITUTS DE RECHERCHE ET DE FORMATION

THE RESEARCH UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ZAMBIA

1. The Research Unit was established in 1971. It is located along Government Road opposite the Ridgeway Post Office in Lusaka, the Capital city of Zambia. It is not an autonomous institution but part of the Department of Town and Country Planning. Thus it is under the direct control of the Headquarters of the Department. When this Unit was created it was then called the Development Planning and Research Unit.

STAFF

2. The staff situation in the Unit has fluctuated over the years. Although the post of a Regional Research Officer was in existence in the Department for more than 10 years, this officer mostly worked single handed. The Unit had its peak staff strength in the middle of 1972 when there was one Regional Research Officer, 7 Planning Officers and 3 supporting staff, while at the present moment there is one Acting Regional Research Officer, 3 Planning Officers and 3 supporting staff. This, however, is expected to change in the near future when 7 students undergoing training abroad return home.

FUNCTIONS

3. Mostly, in the beginning, the Unit was involved more in the preparation of development plans than on research. However, at the moment the Unit performs the following functions:—

- (a) To review the consultant's works and reports as and when required by the Headquarters,
- (b) To provide research services to other sections of the Department and indeed to many other institutions, organizations and agencies both local and foreign who request for a variety of information;
- (c) To conduct research on all crucial aspects of physical planning e.g. planning standards, site and service schemes, village regrouping etc;
- (d) To undertake if necessary, regional studies and prepare regional plans for selected areas and provinces;
- (e) To conduct studies leading to the formulation of a national settlement or national physical plan;

- (f) To liaise with other Government Ministries, Departments and Para-statal bodies on all aspects of physical planning;
- (g) To advise the Headquarters on training of planners and planning assistants.

RESEARCH POLICY

4. The Research policy of the Department, although not specifically laid down, can be broadly noted as follows:—

- (a) To undertake research into all aspects of urban, rural, regional and national physical planning in Zambia, with particular emphasis on problem and growth areas;
- (b) To formulate (through knowledge gained in (a) above) better development strategies and policies for integrated urban – rural regional development and especially on the development of human settlements in the country.

PUBLICATIONS

5. As stated earlier on, the Unit was mainly involved in the preparation of development plans. The Unit has since produced the following development plans:—

- (a) *Development Plans:*
 - (i) *Copperbelt Development Plan:* This is one of the major research contributions by the single Regional Research Officer prepared in 1962–64.
 - (ii) *Development Plans for Western Province:* The Unit prepared development plans for Kalabo, Sesheke and Senanga in the Western Province and a layout plan for Mpika in connection with the Tazara development.
 - (iii) *Kapiri-Mposhi and Choma Development Plans:* The Unit prepared physical development plans for Kapiri-Mposhi and Choma and they were completed in 1978.

REPORTS

6. The Unit also produced the following research reports, for the benefit of the Department and other Ministries;

- (i) Notes on the provision of services and social facilities and Design Standards in Zambia.
- (ii) Basic issues of village Regrouping in Zambia.
- (iii) Human Settlements Policies in Zambia Post Habitat 1976.
- (iv) Some Aspects of Integrated Housing in Tanzania and its relevance to Zambia.

- (v) Some Aspects of Urban Planning in Zambia.
- (vi) Open Space in Urban Areas of Zambia.
- (vii) An In-Service Training Scheme for Planning Assistants in Zambia.
- (viii) An Estimation of future needs and strategy for Training of Physical Planners in Zambia.

BOOKS

7. The major contribution of the Unit came out since 1972 and they are as follows: –

- (i) *Low Cost Residential Development in Lusaka:*
This book published in 1972, briefly explains the stages and patterns of development of low cost residential areas in Lusaka, the policy decisions which have influenced their developments and the physical and human characteristics of particular areas;
- (ii) *Mwaziona – A Study of an unofficial Housing Area:*
A survey of Mwaziona (George) of Lusaka was undertaken by the Unit in early 1973. The aim was to provide basic information on the area as a preliminary to upgrade it. A report on the findings was published in the middle of 1973.
- (iii) *Population Projections for Zambia:*
To provide a base for future planning at the level of provinces, population projections were attempted in 1973, for the eight provinces of Zambia, up to the year 2000. The projections were made at the intervals of 5 years from 1975 to 2000 for every age groups of population using eight assumptions.
- (iv) *Central Province of Zambia – A Regional Study*
Study and an outline Development Plan:
The Study was undertaken with a view to provide a framework for the planned development of the Central Province, up to the year 1981. Special emphasis was laid on suggesting measures for a balanced population distribution settlement pattern and creation of hierarchy of service centres with adequate community facilities and infrastructure for integrated development of rural and urban areas. This study which started in late 1971 took more than two years to complete.
- (v) *Luangwa Valley: A Proposed New Settlement at Kakumbi:*
As early as June 1971, the Unit was involved in this SNDP Project. A number of Government Ministries and Para-statal bodies were also involved in this project. The role of the Unit was mainly (a) to carry out a sub-regional study which involved the collection and analysis of data relevant to existing conditions (b) to select sites for settlements to accommodate the supporting staff for the proposed game lodges (c) to carry out a detailed design of Kakumbi – One of the support settlements and (d) to play a liaising role in the project.

(vi) *Integrated Housing in Zambia:*

A study was initiated in early 1977 to evaluate the policy and actual attempts of housing integration in selected urban areas of Zambia. The study mainly emphasized the social and psychological aspects of segregation and integration. It was however, decided not to publish the report.

ACTIVITIES

8. During the past few years the Unit was involved in the following activities: —

(i) *TNDP Committees:*

During 1976 and 1977, the Research Unit was actively involved in the deliberations of the four Third National Development Plan (TNDP) committees namely, Housing and Construction, Urban Development, Regional Development and Water. Discussion papers were prepared and submitted to the Committees for inclusion in the chapters of the TNDP draft document.

(ii) *Scrutiny of Consultant's Work:*

Since 1973, the Unit was involved in scrutinizing Consultant's works connected with the SNDP Housing Programme and preparation of Development Plans for the nine large urban areas of Zambia. This was to make sure that the consultant's work were of adequate and acceptable standards.

(iii) *Preparatory Work in the Establishment of School of Environmental Studies.*

The Unit made some important deliberations to the meetings of the University of Zambia Planning Committee which dealt with the matter of the establishment of a Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the proposed School of Environmental Studies at UNZA, Ndola Campus.

9. RESEARCH CURRENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN

(i) *A National Settlement Strategy for Zambia:*

This is a research project of major significance to the Department. The main aim of the project is to provide a long term strategy for the Government to rationalise the human settlement pattern of the country as a whole. Special emphasis is given to the formulation of an effective settlement network to serve the needs of integrated urban — rural — regional development in the future. It is hoped that this strategy should help in the formulation and co-ordination of appropriate urban, rural and regional development policies in the national five year plans of the future.

A brief outline paper on this subject was presented by two officers of the Unit at a seminar on Human settlements held in Lusaka in September, 1976. Following up the resolutions of that seminar, work on the above project was started earnestly in 1977.

(ii) *Public Transportation in Lusaka:*

The aim of the research project is to identify the journey to work pattern of the people in the low-income residential areas and assess the adequacy and inadequacies of the present modes of transportation systems. Suggestions will be made to rationalise the public transportation system to cater adequately for the present and future demand of journey to work.

(iii) *School Busing Transportation Study:*

The aim of this research project is to identify the transportation needs of school children with a view to establishing a comprehensive school bus system encompassing all schools in Lusaka.

(iv) *The Concept of Two-Stage Migration:*

It is hypothesised that migrants from the peripheral regions first use the small urban areas as staging posts before they end up in the urbanised regions of Lusaka and the Copperbelt. The aim of this research project is to check the validity of this hypothesis.

(v) *The SNDP Site and Service Housing Programme:*

Zambia's site and service housing programme is considered by the IBRD as the largest in Africa. 70,000 serviced plots were to be provided throughout the country during the 5 year plan period (1972-1976). The aim of this research project is to find out what has happened since the programme was launched in 1972.

(vi) *Rural Settlement Planning Attempts in Zambia:*

Though much has been done in the field of agricultural planning, not much is available in a document form on the planning and development of all forms of rural settlements such as agricultural settlement schemes, traditional nucleated villages and organised village regrouping schemes. It is intended to make a sample survey of these various types in order to obtain a more authentic picture of these settlement forms.

FUTURE RESEARCH TOPICS

10. The following are other research topics which have much relevance to this country and are planned to be undertaken within the next five years:

- (i) A Study of environmental pollution and its control in Zambia;
- (ii) A Study of the plan implementation capability of the local authorities in Zambia;
- (iii) Revision of the Town and Country Planning Act (Cap 475) of Zambia;
- (iv) A National Physical Development Plan for Zambia;
- (v) Evaluation of existing planning standards and formulation of appropriate planning standards for different types and sizes of human settlements in Zambia;
- (vi) A Study of Kafue New Town with Special emphasis on its planning concept and its development.