
GLOBALIZATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT: THE CHANGING VALUE OF WATER

AUGUST6-8 AWRA/IWLRI, UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE INTERNATIONAL SPECIALTY CONFERENCE 2001

WATER ALLOCATION IN ZAMBIA – MANAGING THE WATER DEMAND

Jonathan Kampata and Andrew Mondoka¹

ABSTRACT: Demand for water in Zambia, has been on the increase. This has resulted in competition for the limited water between all competitors. Under the 1948 Water Act users have to be given a fair consideration of their plight. Water rights are granted for fixed volumetric sum (e.g. 5000 m³/day), with the increase in demand causes a threat of over allocation and conflicts. The Water Board has now begun to manage the demand rather than the supply. This has been attempted in the irrigated agricultural sector by considering introducing actual crop water requirements, pricing, metering, and community participation. It has been very difficult to change the system because of the notion held that there are property rights in water. This paper looks at how water is viewed by most investors local and foreign and how the legislation operates to regulate the use.

KEY TERMS: Demand management, public trust doctrine, equitable utilisation, transparency, water resources management

¹ Water Resources Engineer, Department of Water Affairs, P.O. Box 50288, Lusaka, Zambia.
Hydro@zamnet.zm