

## **ICOLD Update on Zambia**

Zambia is a landlocked country surrounded by eight countries namely: Congo DR, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Angola. It covers an area of 753 000 km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of 13 million people, Central Statistics Office Zambia 2011.

### **Water resources**

Zambia has a relatively well distributed network of open water bodies in form of rivers, lakes, swamps, streams and wetlands. The major rivers include the Zambezi, Kafue, Lwangwa, Chambeshi, Luapula and Kabompo. The major lakes include Tanganyika, Bangweulu, Mweru, Kariba and Mweru-wa-Ntipa. All rivers drain into either Zambezi or Congo basin. The average total surface water potential is estimated at 86,800 Mm<sup>3</sup> per annum. These rivers are characterized by many wetlands, gorges and falls. The distribution of water resources in the country is not even with the northern parts being relatively wet and the southern part dry.

### **Large Dams in Zambia**

Most large dams in the country are as a result of mining, agriculture and hydropower activities. There are more than twenty large dams in the country currently.

Currently no large dams are under construction, although a few have been planned for irrigation, mining and hydropower purposes e.g. a CFRD which is planned for the Kafue Gorge Lower hydropower project and another CFRD planned for the Batoka Gorge hydropower project on the Zambezi river.

### **Future outlook of Dam Construction in Zambia**

The remaining technically feasible hydro potential of Zambia has been estimated at more than 6000 MW capacity, equivalent to more than 55 000 GWh/year, and the economically feasible potential is estimated to be 1260 MW, equivalent to about 20 000 GWh/year. So far, about 27.8 per cent of the country's technically feasible hydro potential has been developed.

Hydropower development is one of the main drivers of dam construction in Zambia. Further hydropower development is expected to continue beyond 2020 because Zambia and the Southern Africa in general have an electricity power deficit. Currently the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) is trying to mobilize financial resources from international lending institutions for development of electrical power projects in the Southern African Region. Zambia is focusing on the construction of a number of hydropower projects. The country is mobilizing financial resources from the lending agencies, and

is encouraging private hydropower developers to develop some of the projects in the country. These will come with large dams.

### **Zambian Committee on Large Dams (ZANCOLD)**

The Zambian Committee on Large Dams (ZANCOLD) has recently adopted a new constitution aimed at restructuring itself and broadening participation in its activities and those of ICOLD. This is in an attempt to move away from the hydropower dominated ZANCOLD. ZANCOLD has also resolved to improve its participation in the African Regional Club (ARC) and International Commission on Large dams (ICOLD). The following are the interim office bearers:

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