

## Project Update: September 2019

Environmental, physiochemical and biological data were collected from 42 sampling stations located inside and outside protected areas in Zimbabwe. Data collected were associated with eight protected areas as shown in Table 1 below. Representative whole fish specimens were fixed in 10% formaldehyde and preserved in alcohol and stored at a storage facility at Midlands State University, Department of Applied Biosciences and Biotechnology, Zimbabwe. Fresh muscle tissue and fin clips fixed in alcohol from selected species were shipped to the United States (Export permit number: VB/2/13/186) for further advanced analysis on toxicology and genetic diversity. As the country is experiencing a drought year, researchers were forced to change the initial proposed protected areas as they are located in the driest region of the country where rivers were already dry.

Table 1: Protected areas sampled for the dry season

Protected Area	Classification	Sampling stations
Mana Pools	National Park	6
Matusadonha	National Park	2
Kariba	National Park	1
Matopos	National Park	9
Sebakwe	Recreational Park	9
Kyle	Recreational Park	8
Chivero	Recreational Park	6
Mazoe	Conservation Area	1

### Current work and Future plans

I am working on exploratory analysis of the dry season data. A second round of sampling during the wet season will be conducted in February 2020. I am also writing a journalistic article to submit to a local newspaper on freshwater fish conservation in Zimbabwe. The researcher will look for alternative sources of funding to finance the processing of tissue samples brought to the United States.



