USING MODELLING AS A MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR WATER RESOURCES: IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS AND CAUSES AND PROVIDING SOLUTIONS TO CURRENT EUTROPHICATION PROBLEMS IN LAKE CHIVERO

by

Itai Hilary Tendaupenyu

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Tropical Resource Ecology

Department of Biological Sciences
Faculty of Science
University of Zimbabwe
P.O. Box MP 167
Mount Pleasant
Harare
Zimbabwe

July 2004

Abstract

The PAMOLARE model can be used as an effective tool for managing water resources. Projections show that in the next 25 years Lake Chivero's water quality will further deteriorate if there are no measures taken immediately to reduce the rapid inflow of nutrients into the lake. Reducing the phosphorous and nitrogen loadings into Lake Chivero from 24.4g/m²/year to 0.5 g/m²/year and 108.9 g/m²/year to 2 g/m²/year respectively will see the recovery of the lake within 5 years of implementing remedial steps. The failure to implement remedial measures is predicted to result in residents of Harare and neighboring towns facing escalating water charges since the costs of water treatment will increase due to the increased water pollution.

"We may all see that freshwater ecosystems are at risk; we therefore need also to act with the knowledge and resources needed for sustainable change".

-Chief Emeka Anyaoku

"A vision without action is just a dream; an action without vision just passes time; a vision with an action changes the world."

-Nelson Mandela.

Lake Chivero requires both vision and action to see it turn around and eliminate the pollution problem. The lives of millions are at stake. The time to act is now.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When I started my Masters programme, I never imagined myself getting this far. I would never have been able to achieve the feats that I have today were it not for the following people and their contributions: Prof. Magadza for all his guidance and encouragement. He has been my supervisor since undergraduate level; Cindy Whittet, Andrea Meade and the Clough family for assisting me financially throughout my research; My parents for the efforts that they have put to make sure I survive from day to day as well as their encouragement; Prof. Marshall and people at the MTHF (Biological Sciences Department, UZ) for all their material and human support which was really important in completing this thesis; Mr. Nhapi for the Lake parameters as well as for taking time to help out with the finer aspects of the research; lastly to all those who assisted me but are not mentioned here. May God bless you all.

CONTENTS

	Page
Abstract	ii
Acknowledgements	iv
Table of contents	v
List of Tables	ix
List of Figures	X
List of Appendices	xvi
INTRODUCTION	
Freshwater resources and problems facing its management	1
Background Information on Lake Chivero	3
History of the State of the Lake.	6
Legislative and Institutional Framework Governing water Pollution	7
Pollution contributions of major rivers into Lake Chivero	9
The Mukuvisi River	9
The Marimba River	10
The Manyame River	10
Problems in Lake Chivero	12
Eutrophication in Lake Chivero	12

Immediate causes of eutrophication	
Population pressure in the catchment	13
Other sources of pollution	16
Using Modelling as a management tool	17
Planning and Management of Lakes and Reservoirs (PAMOLARE)	20
Outlines of the 1-layer model	20
Outlines of the 2-layer model	21
Limitations of the model	22
MAGICC and SCENGEN precipitation and temperature map generation	22
Working hypothesis	24
Alternate hypothesis	24
Objectives	24
Justification for doing the research	25
MATERIALS AND METHODS	28
Modelling using the PAMOLARE model	29
Lake Parameters	30

RESULTS	32
Precipitation changes in Upper Manyame Area and water residence time	e 32
High range climate sensitivity and percentage precipitation	
change	33
Mid range climate sensitivity and temperature change	34
Low range climate sensitivity and percentage precipitation chan	ge 36
Effect of increasing residence time on lake biology and chemistry	39
Effect of high range climate sensitivity on water biology and	
chemistry	39
Effect of mid range climate scenario on water biology and	
chemistry	41
Effect of low range climate scenario on water biology and	
Chemistry	43
Climate change and water temperature changes in Lake Chivero	45
High range climate scenario for both SRESA2 and SRESB1	46
Mid range climate scenario for both SRESA2 and SRESB1	46
Low range climate scenario for both SRESA2 and SRESB1	47
Two-layer simulations of effect of temperature change on water	
oxygen levels	48
Effect of changing water temperatures under high climate	
Sensitivity	48
Effect of changing water temperatures under mid level climate	
Sensitivity	50

Effect of low climate sensitivity to water chemistry	51
Population growth and consequences on the Lake	52
Modelling as a remediation tool using the one-layer model	54
DISCUSSION	57
Recommendations to possible solutions to the eutrophication problem	63
Seeking alternative water sources	63
Public participation	64
Penalizing polluting industries	66
Wetlands as a purification tool	67
Sound governance	68
Need for continued monitoring	68
Proper planning when expanding residential areas	69
REFERENCES	70

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1: Existing Sewage Treatment Works in the greater	15
Harare Area	
Table 2 : Population trends in Harare from 1992-2002	16

LIST OF FIGURES

		Page
Fig 1:	Map of Lake Chivero Catchment	13
Fig 2:	Schematic presentation of settlements, waste management	
	and water supply in Greater Harare and Chitungwiza	17
Fig 3 :	The role of ecological modelling in lake resource management	18
Fig 4:	SCENGEN generated map of projected precipitation change in	
	the high climate sensitivity range (SRESB1) for the Southern	
	Africa region.	23
Fig 5:	SCENGEN generated map of projected precipitation change	
	in the high climate sensitivity range (SRESA2) for the Southern	
	Africa region.	34
Fig 6:	SCENGEN generated map of projected precipitation change in	
	the mid climate sensitivity range (SRESB1) for the Southern	
	Africa region.	35
Fig 7:	SCENGEN generated map of projected precipitation change in	
	the mid climate sensitivity range (SRESA2) for the Southern	
	Africa region.	36

Fig 8: SCENGEN generated map of projected precipitation change in	
the low climate sensitivity range (SRESB1) for the Southern	
Africa region.	37
Fig 9: SCENGEN generated map of projected precipitation change in	
the low climate sensitivity range (SRESA2) for the Southern	
Africa region.	37
Fig 9b: PAMOLARE projections of nitrogen and phosphorous levels	
in a business as usual situation using reference scenario IS92a	38
Fig 10: PAMOLARE simulations on the effect of changing water	
residence time on nitrogen levels using: a) SRESB1 to 1.637	
Years and b) SRESA2 to 1.782 years from the current 1.6 years.	39
Fig 11: PAMOLARE simulations on the effect of changing water	
residence time on phosphorous levels using: a) SRESB1 to	
1.637years and b) SRESA2 to 1.782 years from the current	
1.6 years.	40
Fig 12: PAMOLARE simulations on the effect of changing water	
residence time on primary production using: a) SRESB1 to	
1.637years and b) SRESA2 to 1.782 years from the current	
1.6 years.	40

Fig 13: PAMOLARE simulations on the effect of changing water	
residence time on nitrogen levels using: a) SRESB1	
to 1.626years and b) SRESA2 to 1.728 years from the	
Current 1.6 years.	41
Fig14: PAMOLARE simulations on the effect of changing water	
residence time on phosphorous levels using: a) SRESB1 to	
1.626years and b) SRESA2 to 1.728 years from the current	
1.6 years.	41
Fig 15: PAMOLARE simulations on the effect of changing water	
residence time on primary production using: a) SRESB1 to	
1.626years and b) SRESA2 to 1.728 years from the current	
1.6 years.	42
Fig 16: PAMOLARE simulations on the effect of changing water	
residence time on nitrogen levels using: a) SRESB1 to	
1.618 years and b) SRESA2 to 1.692 years from the current	
1.6 years.	43

Fig 17: PAMOLARE simulations on the effect of changing water	
residence time on phosphorous levels using: a) SRESB1 to	
1.618 years and b) SRESA2 to 1.688 years from the current	
1.6 years.	43
Fig 18: PAMOLARE simulations on the effect of changing water	
residence time on primary productivity using: a) SRESB1 to	
1.618 years and b) SRESA2 to 1.688 years from the current	
1.6 years.	44
Fig 19: PAMOLARE projections of the Secchi depth in Lake Chivero	
over the next 25 years.	45
Fig 20: SCENGEN generated map on temperature change in Upper	
Manyame area by the year 2025 in the mid climate sensitivity	
range	46
Fig 21: SCENGEN generated map on temperature change in Upper	
Manyame area by the year 2025 in the mid climate sensitivity	
range.	47
Fig 22: SCENGEN generated map on temperature change in Upper	
Manyame area by the year 2025.	47

Fig 23: Effect of changing the annual water temperature by 0.8°C on	
lake oxygen levels	49
Fig 24: Effect of changing the annual water temperature by 0.5°C on	
lake oxygen levels	50
Fig 25: Effect of changing the annual water temperature by 0.4°C on	
lake oxygen levels	51
Fig 26: PAMOLARE projections of phosphorous levels if population	
a) remains constant and loading remains at 24.4g/m²/yr and	
b) increases by 3.5% and increasing loading to 34.42g/m²/yr	
over the 2000-2010 period.	52
Fig 27: PAMOLARE projections of nitrogen levels if population	
a) remains constant and loading remains at 108.9g/m2/yr and	
b) increases by 3.5% and increasing loading to 153.61g/m2/yr	
for the 2000-2013 period	53

Fig 28: PAMOLARE simulation of lake chemistry if total nitrogen:	54
a) loading remains at 108.9g/m ² /yr and	
b) loading is reduced to 2g/m ² /yr.	
Fig 29: PAMOLARE simulation of lake chemistry if total phosphorous	55
a) loading remains at 24.4g/m²/yr and	
b) loading is reduced to 0.5g/m ² /yr.	
Fig 30: PAMOLARE simulations showing the average maximum	
primary production in Lake Chivero upon reduction	
in nitrogen and phosphorous loadings to 2 and 0.5g/m²/yr.	
respectively.	55
Fig 31: PAMOLARE simulations of fish yields in Lake Chivero if	
a) nitrogen and phosphorous loadings remain at 108.9	
and 24.4g/m2/yr respectively and b) nitrogen and phosphorous	
loadings are reduced to 2 and 0.5g/m2/yr respectively	56

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Trophic status of some South Africa Reservoirs	74
Appendix 2: Two-layer model parameters used in simulation of current	
state of Lake Chivero	74
Appendix 3: Initial data composer values in two layer model	75
Appendix 4: Initial data input into 1-layer model for Lake Chivero	75
Appendix 5: Initial data input for 1-layer model for Lake averages	
Nitrogen and phosphorous levels	75
Appendix 6: Lake Chivero Morphology	76