DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my beloved parents; Stephen Kunda Lukanga and Regina Malama Kaluba who first sow the seed of education in me. *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*
DECLARATION

I, Lukanga Mwewa Victor, declare that this dissertation represents my own work and that it has not been previously submitted for a degree at the University of Zambia or at any other University and that it does not incorporate any published work or material from other publications.

Signed: ……………………………………………

Date: ……………………………………………
APPROVAL

This dissertation by Lukanga Mwewa Victor has been accepted as fulfilling part of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Education (Religious Studies) of the University of Zambia.

Signed:……………………………………………………… Date:……………………………

Signed:……………………………………………………… Date:……………………………

Signed:……………………………………………………… Date:……………………………

Signed:……………………………………………………… Date:……………………………
Copyright declaration

All rights reserved. No part of this dissertation may be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, recording, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise without prior permission in writing, from the author or the University of Zambia

Copyright Lukanga Mwewa Victor 2011
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First I would start by acknowledging with gratitude the assistance of Dr. Austin Cheyeka my supervisor and HOD – Religious Department who tactfully and tirelessly helped me to put these materials together. His suggestions and encouragement gave me the strength and morale to move ahead without much difficulty. It is because of his kindness, flexibility, light heartedness, and listening skills that enabled me to complete this study in a relaxed manner.

I cannot forget to thank Malcolm Moffat College of Education, particularly the Principal Mr .F. M Chilufya and the College Management Board for giving me the chance to pursue further studies. I thank all the Malcolm Moffat College of Education staff for their increasing understanding and care during my study period.

Special thanks go to my wife Florence Nanyangwe Kasunga and children Malama, Stephen Jr. and Chilanga, my brothers and sisters, for their untiring encouragement and support. You selfishly journeyed with me even when things looked unbearable, vote of thanks to you.

I extend my appreciation to Fr Moore, Pst. Ngulube Musafya, Alport Mvula, Mwanza Beard, Martin Mwansa, Dorcas Banda for companionship and academic sharing. I cannot forget to thank the staff and management of Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre for their co-operation in allowing me to research at KATC and providing me with the necessary data and information for this study.

Last but not the lest, I would like to thank everyone who assisted me in one way or another during my study period at UNZA; those who gave me ideas and suggestions on this study and all my lecturers. To those who have been of any help through visitation, phone calls or letter writing thanks.

May the good Lord continue blessing you abundantly
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dedication............................................................................................................................i  
Declaration ...........................................................................................................................ii  
Approval ..............................................................................................................................iii  
Copyright declaration .........................................................................................................iv  
Acknowledgements ............................................................................................................v  
List of Appendices ...........................................................................................................xi  
Acronyms ............................................................................................................................xii  
Abstract ..............................................................................................................................xiii  

1.0 Introduction....................................................................................................................Error! Bookmark not defined.  
1.1 The background of Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre ....Error! Bookmark not defined.  
1.2 Statement of the Problem ............................................................................................Error! Bookmark not defined.  
1.3 Purpose of the study ....................................................................................................Error! Bookmark not defined.  
1.4 Objectives of the Study ...............................................................................................Error! Bookmark not defined.  
1.5 Research Questions ....................................................................................................Error! Bookmark not defined.  
1.6 Significance of the Study ............................................................................................Error! Bookmark not defined.  
1.7 Definition of Terms .....................................................................................................Error! Bookmark not defined.  
2.0 Literature Review.........................................................................................................Error! Bookmark not defined.  
2.2 Ecology: The neglected area of Catholic Church Pastoral Ministry ..Error! Bookmark not defined.  
2.2.1 Ecological responsibility in the third World: Africa........Error! Bookmark not defined.  
2.2.2 Effects of Ecological degradation ............................................................................Error! Bookmark not defined.  
2.2.3 Causes of Ecological degradation ............................................................................Error! Bookmark not defined.  
2.3 The role of the Catholic Church in Ecology ................................Error! Bookmark not defined.
2.3.1 The influence of Anthropocentrism on the role of the Catholic Church in ecology.

2.3.2 The Secularisation of ecology

2.2.3 Reclaiming the ecology in Catholic spirituality

2.4 Lynn White’s hypothesis

2.4.1 Reactions to White’s (1967) thesis

2.5 Ecological Schools of thought

2.5.1 The Stewardship model

2.6 Catholic Social teachings on the stewardship of ecology

2.7 *Imago Dei*: Towards a new ecological and environmental ethics

2.7.1 *Imago Dei*: theological foundations of Catholic Social teachings

2.7.1.1 Creation is fundamentally good

2.7.1.2 The dignity and place of human beings in ecology

2.7.1.3 Sin in ecology

2.7.1.4 Christ’s Redemptive role in ecology

2.7.2 Ecological ethics of the theology of *Imago Dei*

2.7.2.1 Respect and Care for the ecology

2.7.1.2 The unique role of humanity in ecology

2.7.1.3 The inalienable dignity of the human person

2.7.1.4 The Common good

2.8 Case study of the Catholic ecological position in the United States of America

2.9 The bases for the adaptation of the theology of imago Dei in the Zambian context
2.9.1 Ecology and traditional African life
2.9.2 The common good of humanity
2.9.3 African Cosmology
3.0 Methodology
3.1 Research Design
3.2 Study Site
3.3 Population
3.3.1 Sample Study Population
3.4 Sampling Techniques
3.4.1 Purposive Sampling
3.4.2 Random Sampling
3.5. Research Instruments
3.5.1. Description of Instruments
3.5.1.1. Questionnaires
3.5.1.2. Interview Guide
3.5.1.2.1 Interview guide for Conventional Small Scale farmers
3.5.1.2.2 Interview guide for the KATC Research, Extension/Training Co-ordinators, University Students on attachment and Research
3.5.1.3 Focus Group Discussion guide
3.5.1.4 Document Analysis
3.6. Validation of Instruments
3.7. Administration of Research instruments
3.8 Data Collection
3.9 Data Analysis ............................................................................................ Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.0 Presentation and Discussion of the Findings ........................................ Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.1 Introduction ............................................................................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.2 Ecology: The KATC Agenda ................................................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.2.1 The Vision of KATC ........................................................................ Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.2.2 The Philosophy of KATC ................................................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.2.3 The mission of the KATC in ecology .............................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.2.3.1 Moral imperatives in KATC’s mission in ecology ......................... Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.2.3.1.1. The alienable dignity of the small scale farmer ..................... Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.2.3.1.2. Social justice ........................................................................ Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.2.3.1.3 The Common good ............................................................... Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.2.3.1.4. Community and family life ................................................ Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.2.3.1.5. The unique role of the small scale farmer ........................... Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.2.4 Key Strategic Functional Areas ....................................................... Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.2.4.1 Training ...................................................................................... Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.2.4.2 Extension .................................................................................... Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.2.4.3 Research ..................................................................................... Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.3 Accessibility and comprehension of Catholic Church’s ecological approach and methods by Small scale farmers ................................................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.3.1 Small scale farmers responses ......................................................... Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.3.2 Conventional Small Scale Farmers’ perception of KATC’s role in ecology ........ Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.3.3 Conventional small scale farmers’ response to KATC’s proposed role in ecology ................................................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.

4.3.4 Classified Daily employees’ responses on the effectiveness of KATC’s role in ecology ........................................................................................................ Error! Bookmark not defined.
4.3.5 KATC Staff’s responses

4.3.6 Small scale farmers’ involvement in the stewardship of ecology

4.4 Challenges of KATC’s role in ecology

4.4.1 Time

4.4.2 Farmers on the peripheral of the institution

4.4.3 Continuing Staff development

4.4.4 Accessibility to research work

Conclusion

Recommendations

References
Appendices

Page

Questionnaire for small scale farmers .................................................................111

Questionnaire for programme co-ordinators/ extension officers..........................119
Acronyms

**JCTR**: Jesuit Centre for theological Reflection

**KATC**: Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre

**SSFs**: Small Scale Farmers

**HIV/AIDS**: Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune deficiency syndrome

**CHOPPA**: Chongwe Organic Producers and Processors Association

**UNZA**: University of Zambia

**TAZAMA**: Tanzania, Zambia Authority

**KCM**: Konkola Copper Mines

**SCIAF**: Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund
ABSTRACT

The raison d'être of this study was to assess the effectiveness of the role of the Catholic Church in ecology in the Zambian context. The study was qualitative in approach and in terms of design, a case study of Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre (KATC) made and research carried out to completion. The objectives of the study included: to investigate the effectiveness of the role the Catholic Church plays in ecology in Zambia, to find out whether the present Catholic Church’s ecological content and approaches are adequately accessed and understood by KATC’s small scale farmers and to suggest some strategies that would help in the implementation of the Catholic Church’s ecological proclamations.

Data were collected from a sample of the target group using questionnaires, observation, interviews, focus group discussions and document analysis. The data were analysed in the light of the principles of the Catholic theology of \textit{Imago Dei}.

The study shows that KATC has endeavoured to domesticate the ecological ethics underscored in the theology of \textit{Imago Dei}. KATC is a Jesuit owned non-profit making institution which advocates, lobbies, and trains small scale farmers in sustainable and organic agriculture.
Additionally the centre offers extension services to the small scale farmers and conducts research work to provide evidence that sustainable and organic farming is feasible.

KATC’s sustainable and organic agriculture initiative demonstrates that ecological revaluation should be guided by ethical values which do not compromise the needs of the present generation with the needs of the future generations. Moreover, the KATC ecological agenda explains that the capacity of the earth to support life should not be restrained by humanity’s irresponsible dominion of the earth.

The conclusion arrived at in the study was that theological and ethical principles stipulated in the theology of *Imago Dei*; all creation is fundamentally good, human beings’ dignity in ecology is inalienable, human beings are stewards of ecology and natural resources are a common good which should be used with respect and care above all ecology manifests the glory of God, provide the basis for ecological management at KATC.

As a result, it was recommended that the Catholic Church should integrate ecological ethics of the theology of *Imago Dei* into the Zambian context bearing in mind that the Church does not have an elaborate ecological scheme, The Church initiatives on political, economical and social justice should include ecological justice, and programs on poverty eradication should not sideline ecological management and sustainability. Besides, development should be holistic in approach so as to sustain the ecology.