



Until 2018, groundwater was not regulated in Zambia. However, this has had negative effects on both the quantity and quality of groundwater in Zambia. This problem is more severe in larger urban areas like Lusaka with its many unplanned settlements where boreholes are often in very close proximity to septic tanks and pit latrines. Although groundwater is underground, it is still highly susceptible to contamination from sources above ground, such as sewage, rubbish, and industrial waste. It is this very contamination which contributes to public health problems such as the recent cholera outbreaks we have been experiencing.

As a consequence, all citizens have to register new and existing boreholes with WARMA. To do so, applicants need to submit the required forms to the WARMA Headquarters, a catchment- or sub-catchment office. For Domestic use, a once-off payment of k250.00 is required.

Documents to submit to WARMA:

- Completed Form (Application to drill a borehole).
- Proof of consent from the landowner or certified title deed or letter of property sale.
- Domestic users: A sketch map or sitemap covering a radius of 30 meters showing property boundaries, road, distance from septic/pit latrine or any other potential pollution source.
- Non-Domestic users: A borehole site investigation report containing the planned location, existing boreholes within 250m, distance from any pollution source, proposed depth of borehole and casing diameter.

Application Process

Application for the registration of a borehole

