

## Zambia

Country name	Zambia
State title	Republic of Zambia
Name of citizen	Zambian
Official languages	English ( <i>eng</i> ) <sup>1</sup>
Country name in official languages	Zambia
State title in official languages	Republic of Zambia
Script	Roman script
Romanization System	Not required
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	ZM/ZMB
Capital	Lusaka
Area / Population	752,617km <sup>2</sup> / 20.2million (2023 est.) <sup>2</sup>

### Introduction

Zambia gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1964. From 1911 to 1964 it was known as Northern Rhodesia. The name Zambia is derived from the name of the Zambezi river. Landlocked, it shares land boundaries with Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

### Geographical names policy

For HMG use, geographical names should be taken from official sources from Zambia, where these are available. The Zambian national mapping agency is the Survey Department (ZS), which is within the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources: [https://www.mlnr.gov.zm/?page\\_id=1995](https://www.mlnr.gov.zm/?page_id=1995). No products are available digitally, though they can be requested via an online form for a fee: <https://eservices.gov.zm/#/service/222>.

If no national official sources can be found, the [Africa Geoportal](#) may be used as a helpful source of geospatial data and names<sup>3</sup>; the US Board on Geographic Names (BGN) [Geographic Names Server](#) can also be used as a source for names.

<sup>1</sup> ISO 639 codes are given for languages mentioned in this Factfile.

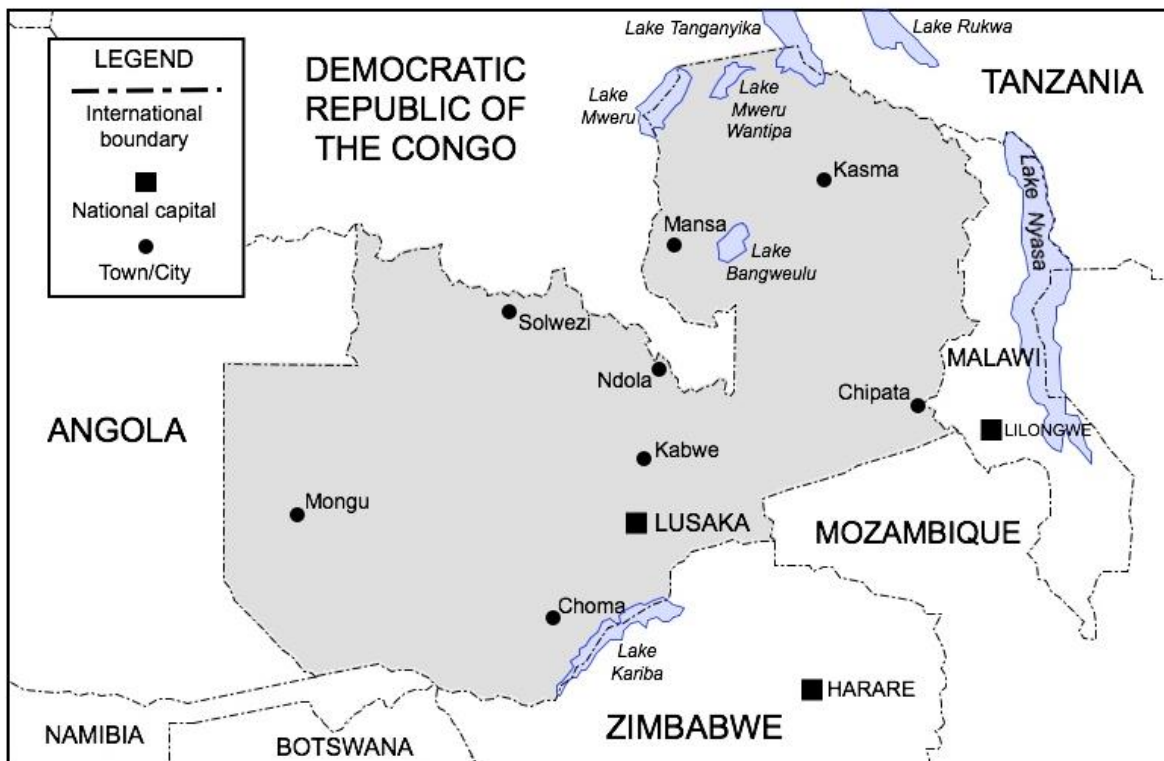
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/zambia/>

<sup>3</sup> This is a source collated from multiple sources, including Esri, organisations working in Africa and crowdsourced information. It should be used as a supplementary reference.

## Languages

English is the only official language in Zambia, although it is spoken as a first language by less than 2% of the population. Nyanja (*nya*)<sup>4</sup> and Bemba (*bem*) are the most widely spoken languages (each spoken by over 30% of the population), and these along with 5 others (Kaonde (*kqn*), Lozi (*loz*), Lunda (*lun*), Luvale (*lue*) and Tonga (*toi*)) all have regional status in their respective areas, and are used in primary education.

Map of Zambia



Map produced by PCGN for illustrative purposes only, and is not to be taken necessarily as representing the views of the UK government on boundaries or political status.

<sup>4</sup> This is a variant of Malawi's national language, Chichewa (*nya*).

## Administrative structure

Zambia is composed of 10 provinces at the first-order administrative level. The provinces are sub-divided into districts at the second-order level.

Province	ISO 3166-2 code	Administrative centre	Location of centre
Central	ZM-02	Kabwe	14°26'36"S 28°27'06"E
Copperbelt	ZM-08	Ndola	12°57'31"S 28°38'12"E
Eastern	ZM-03	Chipata	13°38'00"S 32°39'00"E
Luapula	ZM-04	Mansa	11°11'59"S 28°53'40"E
Lusaka	ZM-09	Lusaka	15°25'00"S 28°17'00"E
Muchinga	ZM-10	Chinsali	10°32'29"S 32°04'54"E
North-Western	ZM-06	Solwezi	12°10'08"S 26°23'22"E
Northern	ZM-05	Kasama	10°12'46"S 31°10'51"E
Southern	ZM-07	Choma	16°48'32"S 26°59'15"E
Western	ZM-01	Mongu	15°14'54"S 23°07'39"E

## Other Significant Locations

PCGN Recommended Name <sup>5</sup>	Variant Names/Spellings	Location	Feature Type
Congo	Congo River ( <i>eng</i> ), Fleuve Congo ( <i>fra</i> )	06°04'05"S 12°23'35"E	River (Angola, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia)
Kariba Dam		16°31'00"S 28°46'00"E	Dam (Zambia, Zimbabwe)
Lake Kariba		17°00'00"S 28°00'00"E	Reservoir (world's largest reservoir by volume: Zambia, Zimbabwe)
Lake Mweru	Mweru ( <i>Zambia</i> ); Lac Moero ( <i>Congo (Dem Rep)</i> )	08°59'48"S 28°43'58"E	Lake (Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo)
Lake Tanganyika	Lac Tanganika ( <i>fra</i> )	6°00'00"S 29°30'00"E	Lake (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Zambia)
Livingstone		17°51'00"S 25°52'00"E	Populated place

<sup>5</sup> PCGN usually recommends conventional English names for international features, unless national variants are specifically required, or the relevant countries share an official language.

PCGN Recommended Name <sup>5</sup>	Variant Names/Spellings	Location	Feature Type
Mafinga Hills	-	10°00'00"S 33°20'00"E	Mountain range including Zambia's highest point (2330m)
Muchinga Escarpment	Muchinga Mountains	13°41'36"S 30°58'57"E	Escarpment
Victoria Falls	Mosi-oa-Tunya (meaning "thundering smoke")	17°55'00"S 25°51'00"E	Waterfall (Zimbabwe, Zambia)
Zambezi	Zambezi River ( <i>eng</i> ); Rio Zambeze ( <i>por</i> )	08°34'14"S 36°28'13"E	River (Zambia, Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique)

## Useful references

- Africa Geoportal: <https://www.africageoportal.com/>
- BBC Country Profile: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14112449>
- CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/zambia/>
- Ethnologue: [www.ethnologue.com](http://www.ethnologue.com) (for information on languages)
- FCDO Geographical Names Index (GNI):  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/geographical-names-and-information>
- FCDO Travel Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/zambia>
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui#home>
- Omniglot: [www.omniglot.com](http://www.omniglot.com) (for information on languages and scripts)
- PCGN Country Names list: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/country-names>
- Unicode: [www.unicode.org](http://www.unicode.org)
- US Board on Geographic Names GEOnet Names Server: [GNS Search & Download WebApp \(nga.mil\)](https://www.nga.mil)
- Zambia Central Province Administration website: [Zambia – Central Province Provincial Administration](https://www.zamstats.gov.zm/2022-census/)
- Zambia Statistics Agency and 2022 census: <https://www.zamstats.gov.zm/2022-census/>

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