

AFRICA REVIEW

AN UP-TO-DATE GEOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUMMARY OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES

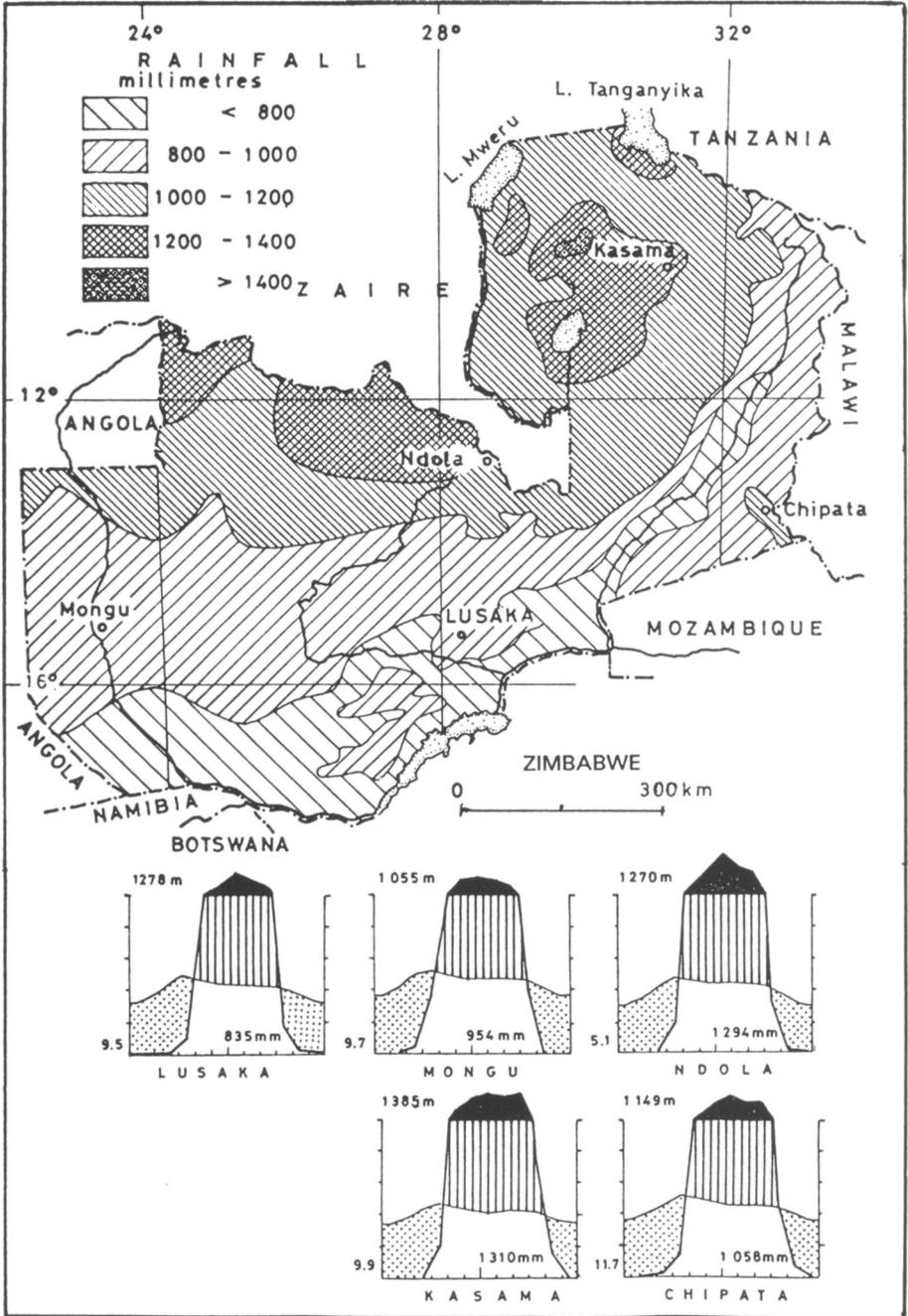
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ZAMBIA

1. Official name: Republic of Zambia

2. Geography:
 - 2.1. Situation: Zambia is a landlocked country in east Africa, between 8°S and 18°S, 22°E and 33°E.
 - 2.2. Total area: 752 614 km².
 - 2.3. Natural regions: Zambia is a part of the central high plateau (1200 m) of Africa. Two thirds of the country belongs to the Zambezi basin. The northern region with the main lakes belongs to the Zaire basin. The gently rolling landscape is more varied in the east with the Muchinga hills and Luangwa valley.
 - 2.4. Climate: the climate is rather more moderate than tropical, due to the plateau altitude. Three seasons can be distinguished: cool and dry in May-August, warm and dry in September-November, warm and moist in December-April. Nights are fresh and nightfrost may occur.

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3. Population:

- 3.1. Total population: 8.5 mln (1991), urban population: 53%.
- 3.2. Population density: 11.3 per km²(1991).
- 3.3. Population growth rate: 3.6% (1980-1987).
- 3.4. Capital: LUSAKA, 870.000 inh. (1991).
- 3.5. Languages: English (official), Bemba, Ila, Kaonde, Lala, Lenge, Lozi, Lunda, Lungu, Nyanja, Shima, Tonga, all of them belong to the Bantu linguistic family.
- 3.6. Religion: Christians 40%, traditional beliefs, minorities of Islam and Hindu.

4. History:

Zambia was always a cross-road for nomadic peoples and merchants. From these contacts emerged long ago several ethnic groups (about 60) and two great kingdoms in the 19th century, the Lozi in the west and the Bemba in the north. Most of the peoples follow a matrilineal filiation. The marriage is virilocal so that the lineages are dispersed over the country.

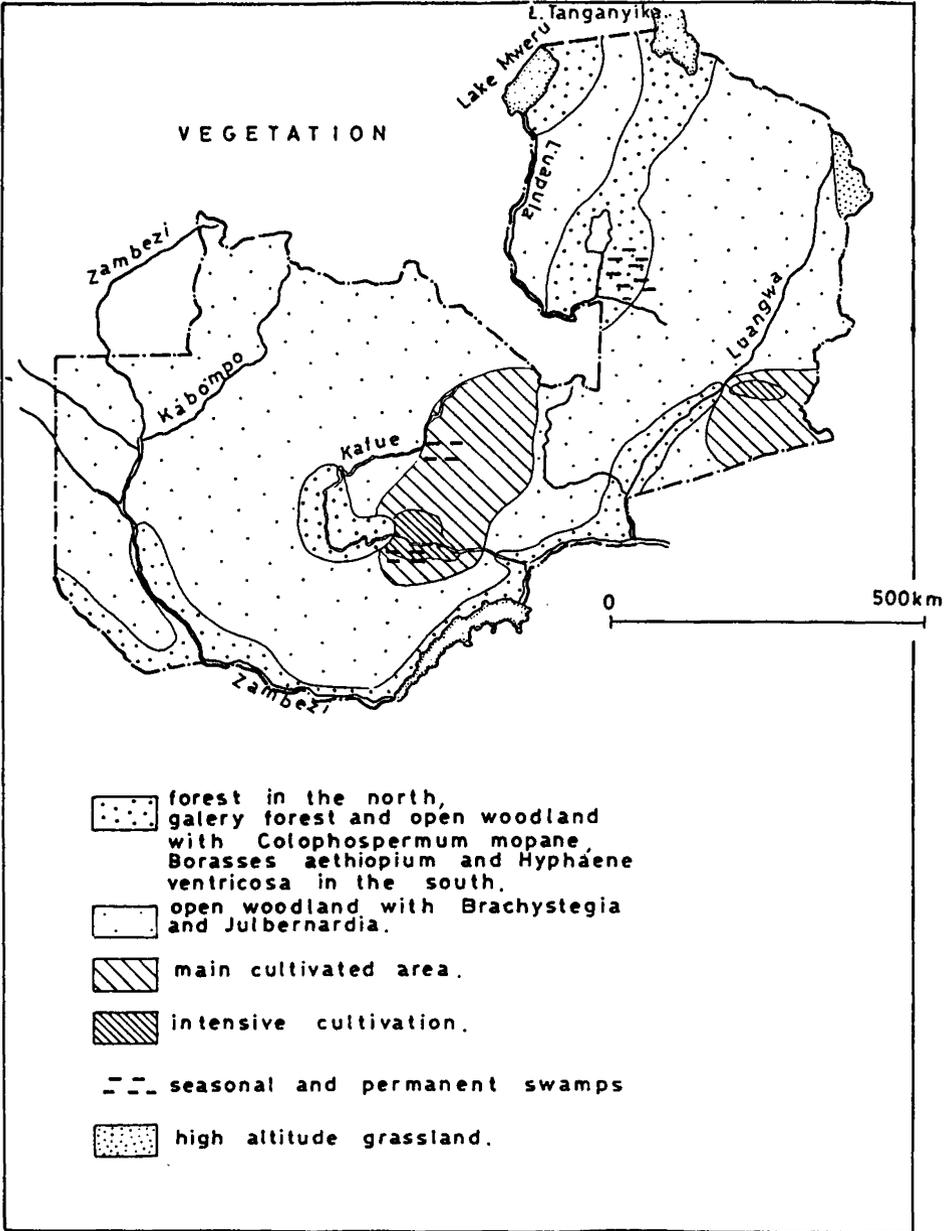
Nowadays, we can distinguish three focal areas:

- 1° in the west: traditional agriculturalists, who also keep cattle, such as the Lozi, Kwangwa, Ndundulu and Shima;
- 2° in the northeast: were the ethnic groups can be called traditional but get a salary for working in the coppermines, such as the Bemba, Bisa, Lala and Kaonde;
- 3° in the south: the very active agriculturalists producing maize for commercial purposes, such as the Tonga, Ila, Totela and Soli.

In 1889 the British South Africa Company controlled Northern Rhodesia till, in 1924, the British government took over. North Rhodesia became a British protectorate of the Rhodesia-Nyassaland Federation. After the federation was split up, North Rhodesia became an independent republic in July 1964 and changed its name into Zambia. Kenneth Kaunda was the first elected president. He approved a new constitution in 1972 which made Zambia a one-party state.

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VEGETATION



On 2 August 1991 a new constitution installed a multi-party form of Government. The Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) became the foremost challenger of Kaunda's rule. In the elections of November 1991, their leader Frederick Chiluba, ousted Kaunda from power after 27 years of austere rule.

5. Nature of political system:

On 2 August 1991, a new Constitution was voted by the National Assembly. It installed a multi-party form of Government. Head of State is the president, electable to two five-year terms. He governs in accordance with the vice-president and his cabinet, chosen from the elected members of the National Assembly. The National Assembly consists of 150 members of whom 142 are chosen by universal adult suffrage and 8 are appointed by the president. Voting qualifications: universal adult suffrage over 18 (except those convicted of an election offence or serving a prison term).

On 2 november 1991 Frederick Chiluba, leader of the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) was installed as new president, after his party won the parliamentary elections of 31 october 1991, thereby ending the 27 year rule of Kenneth Kaunda.

6. Economy:

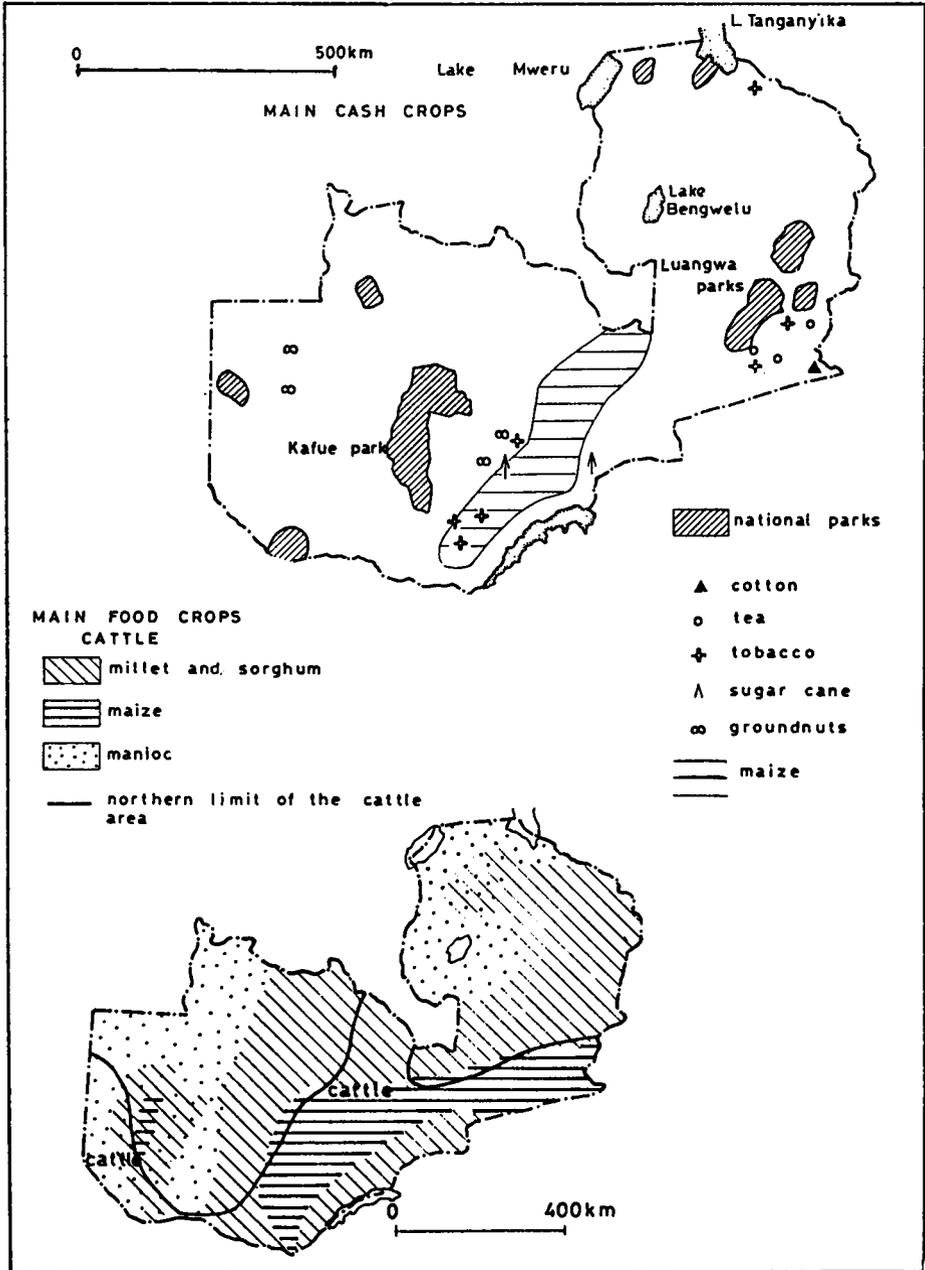
GDP: agriculture: 14%, industry: 39%, services: 46% (1985).

Employment: agriculture: 73%, industry: 10%, services: 17% (1980).

6.1. Mining:

Zambia is the fifth world producer of copper. Production is falling down due to transport difficulties (from 768 000 t in 1978 to 565 000 t in 1981). Besides copper Zambia has important coal reserves (annual production: 600-800 000 t). Other minerals: cobalt (as by-product of copper), zinc, gold, phosphates, tin, gypsum, manganese, silver, cadmium, emeralds.

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6.2. Agriculture:

7% of the total area is arable land or cultivated with permanent crops (1984). There are still possibilities as only two-thirds of the arable land is cultivated. The production of maize, as main food crop, and sugar cane has quickly increased over the last years. Other food crops are rice, grain legumes and root crops. Main cash crops are cotton and tobacco. Recently sunflower production was tremendously increased (2000 t in 1973, 40 000 t in 1985).

6.3. Livestock:

46.5% of the total area is permanent pasture (1984). Cattle is concentrated in the southern and western provinces, where Tonga and Lozi are traditional cattle breeders. The production of chickens is increasing.

6.4. Forestry and woodland:

35% of the total area (1984). The Miombo forest in the south and tall trees in the north. Plantation of fire trees and Eucalyptus in the west. There is export of teak wood (Rhodesian teak or mukushi).

6.5. Fishery:

The Zambian Fisheries Cooperation is charged with catch, storage, transport and marketing. Although the lakes are rich fishing grounds, the yearly catch is low (40 000 t), due to poor organisation and a lack of storage and transport facilities. Little progress is expected.

6.6. Industry:

The copper industry is the dominant sector. Copper transformation industry is weakly developed. Other industries are chemical industries (explosives for mining, anorganic fertilizers, plastics, industrial gas), food and beverages industry, textile, tobacco, metal products, cement, tires, commercial vehicles, bottles.

6.7. Weights, measures and currency:

kg, meter
1 Kwacha (K) = 100 Ngwee
1 US \$ = 133,69K (1992)

7. Trade:

Total exports amount to 1.178 mln US \$ (1988) of which copper represents 88%. Main clients are the EEC, Japan and the USA. Total imports amount to 839 mln US \$ (1988) of which food represents 5%, fuels 43%, machinery and transport equipment 29%. Main suppliers are the EEC, the USA, Japan and South Africa.

8. Miscellaneous:

Literacy: 73% (1992).

World Bank classification: Zambia belongs to the low-income economies with a GDP per capita of 352 US \$ (1992).

Membership of international organisations:

GATT, ILO, IMF, OAU, UN, UNESCO, WHO, African Development Bank, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (recipient), Economic Commission for Africa, Commonwealth, Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, World Bank.

Zambia is a signatory to the Lomé Convention (EEC-ACP).

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