



## Deforestation study

# Zambia

Zambia faces a high deforestation risk, primarily due to the expansion of commercial and subsistence agriculture, charcoal production, and unsustainable logging. Weak enforcement of forest protection laws, land tenure challenges, and climate change further exacerbate forest loss.

The country is losing forest cover at an alarming rate, impacting biodiversity, water sources, and carbon storage capacity.

## Economic contribution of land use sectors

### Agriculture including agro processing

#### GDP

3.4%

#### Labour

46.4%

#### Major Value Chains

Maize, soybeans, tobacco

#### Key Actors

Smallholder farmers, commercial agribusinesses, agro-processors, cooperatives, regulatory bodies.

### Aquaculture including fisheries

#### GDP

3.2%

#### Major Value Chains

Fish farms along the Zambezi and Kafue rivers

#### Key Actors

Small-scale fish farmers, commercial aquaculture enterprises, government fisheries departments, international investors

### Tourism

#### GDP

7.3%

#### Major Value Chains

Wildlife and natural heritage tourism

#### Key Actors

Safari operators, lodge owners, conservation organizations, government tourism bodies, international eco-tourism investors

### Forestry

#### GDP

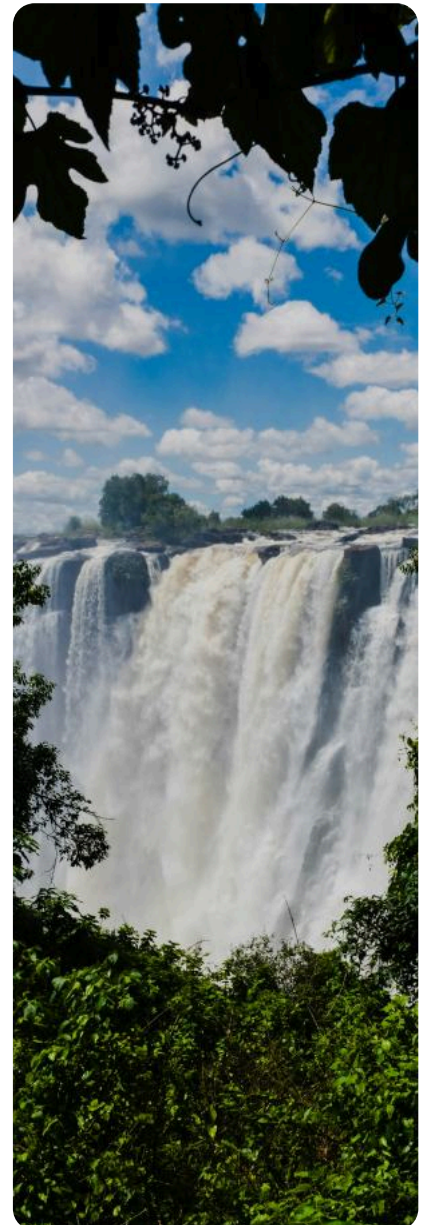
5.2%

#### Major Value Chains

Timber harvesting, charcoal production, non-timber forest products

#### Key Actors

Smallholder farmers, commercial agribusinesses, agro-processors, cooperatives, regulatory bodies.



## Key biodiverse rich areas

### Protected Area Forests

- **Examples:** 19 national parks, Game Management Areas, forest reserves.

### Forests in Unprotected Areas

- **Examples:** Forests facing high deforestation risks from agricultural expansion, illegal logging, human settlement growth.

### Other Biodiverse Rich Areas

- **Examples:** Wetlands, lagoons, peatlands (e.g., Bangweulu Wetlands).

## Risks posed by land use sectors

### Deforestation

- **Major Players:** Smallholder farmers, illegal loggers, large-scale agricultural investors.
- **Mitigation:** Proving legality of land tenure, providing county and sub-county information, ensuring no deforestation after the cut-off year, specifying deforestation details if before the cut-off date.

### Land Degradation

- **Major Players:** Subsistence farmers, mining companies, out grower schemes.

### High Carbon Stock (HCS) and High Conservation Value (HCV)

- **Major Players:** Charcoal producers, large-scale agricultural enterprises.

## General statement of country-level deforestation risk

Zambia faces significant deforestation pressures from commercial and subsistence agriculture, charcoal production, and unsustainable logging. Weak enforcement of forest protection laws exacerbates forest loss.

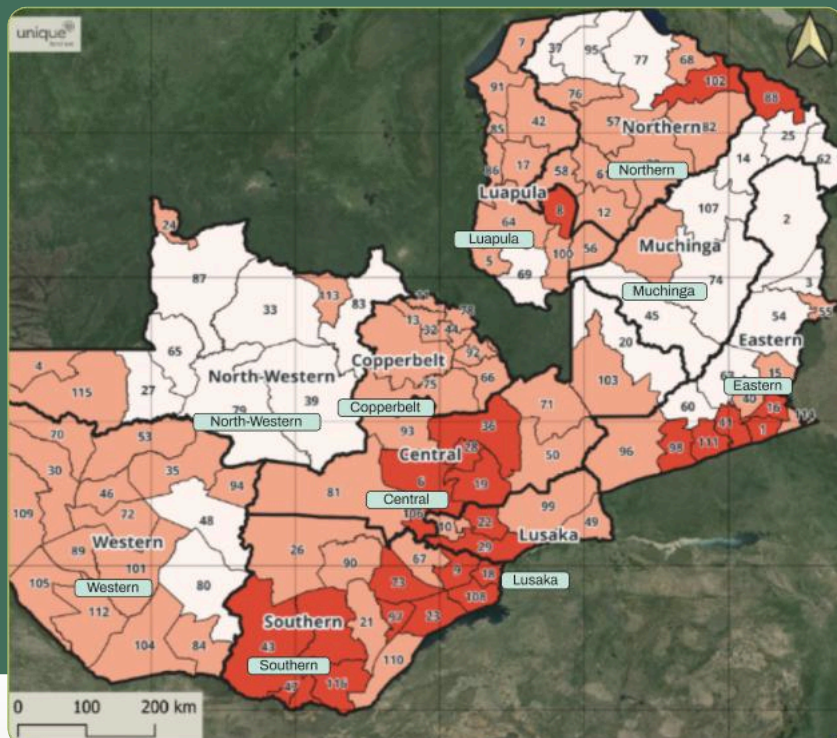


## Deforestation-risk methodology application to investment decisioning

Before making any investment in Zambia, this methodology focuses on rigorous pre-investment due diligence on the land and its environmental history. Specifically, it avoids investing in:

1. Areas that have been deforested since 2017 – meaning any land that has lost its forest cover in recent years is excluded.
2. High-risk zones – these are regions where deforestation is likely to happen or where environmental damage is a major concern.

By following these rules, investors ensure their decisions support environmental protection and long-term sustainability goals.



## Deforestation risk map

### Administrative boundaries

- Province
- District Label - District code

### Deforestation risk class

- 1- Low risk
- 2- Medium risk
- 3- High risk

