**CENTRAL PROVINCE**

**GENERAL PROFILE INFографIC**

### General Profile

**Location**
Central province lies at the heart of Zambia. The province shares borders with the Democratic Republic of Congo and eight other provinces of Zambia with an exception of Northern. The Province occupies a total surface area of 108,460km² and is divided into twelve districts namely: Chibombo, Itezhi-tezhi, Kapiri, Shibuyunj, Chiambwa, Luano, Mumbwa, Nsenga, Chiamba and Serenje with Kabwe being the provincial capital. The province as at 2010 had a population of 1,332,396 with a gender ratio of 49% male and 51% female.

**Languages**
The province has English as its official language and 5 local languages that is, Lulu, Lunda, Bemba, Tonga and Nyanja.

**MALE** 49%  **FEMALE** 51%

**5 Local Languages**

**39 Chiefs**

### Political and Administration Profile

**Constituency**
The Province has 16 Constituencies. Each constituency is represented by (1) elected member of parliament (MP) and (2) constituency council chairperson (CCC). The province has 16 Constituencies.

#### 16 Constituencies

- **Local Government**
The Province has (1) Municipality and 12 District Councils. The Mayor/ Council Chairpersons are the political heads of the local governments.

- **12 District Councils**
The Province has 153 wards with one elected Councillor per ward.

- **Traditional Authority**
The province has 29 Chiefs.

**Road Infrastructure**
Due to its central location the province is the hub for transport services not only for the country but also for the Southern Africa region. The road is part of the major transit route for goods and services in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). It is the traNSport point for all rail transport network to all Provinces within the country as well as the neighbouring countries.

**Radio and Television**
Apart from ZNBC radio services, the province receives the services of 7 private owned radio stations namely: Power FM, Kabwe News Network, MaraNet, Cloud FM, Radio Itezhi-tezhi and Mukushi FM. In terms of television, the province is served by Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) and private broadcasters namely: Musi, Prime and Diamond.

**Water Supply and Sanitation**
Luanga Water and Sewerage Company (UKOSCO) is currently operating in 8 towns centers of Central Province, namely Kabwe, Kapiri Mposhi, Mukushi, Serenje, Chibombo, Chiamba, Mumbwa and Itezhi-tezhi with the average water supply estimated at 20 hours. Water Quality compliance for water supplied in the province averages between 97% to 98% which is above the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the National Water Supply and Sanitation Council (NWASCO) target of 95% compliance.

**Financial Institutions:**
There are ten (10) Commercial banks providing retail banking services. These include; Zambia National Commercial (ZANACO), Barclays, Finance, Invest Trust, I-Card, Stanbic, First National, Banc ABC and National Building Society Bank.

### Social Economic Profile

#### Health Facilities
The province is serviced by 2 medical health centers, General Hospital, and district Hospitals that offer primary health care and provide curative health services to the general public.

#### Educational Facilities
The province is serviced with 3 public universities, 3 private universities and 5 public colleges, trades and skills training schools and other training institutions. There are 83 secondary schools, 644 primary schools, 300 early childhood centres and 68 private schools and 49 schools with special units.

#### Information, Communication and Technology (ICT)
There are three mobile phone and internet services providers in the Province; namely ZanTel, AirTel, and ZMT.

#### Energy
Electricity supply in the province is provided by the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) which is yet to be connected to Chitamba, Luano and Nsenga. Other areas with potential energy generation are Lusuwishi and Pensulo in Chitambo district.

#### Agriculture
Central province is part of Region 8 of the Zambia Agro-ecological zones with Eastern and Luapula provinces. The Province has fertile soils suitable for agriculture and is home of the country’s most commercial farms. It’s contribution to agricultural productivity is significant. Central province produces almost all the crops grown in Zambia, the most predominant ones are: maize, soy beans, Cotton, Groundnuts, Wheat, Sweet potatoes, Iris Potatoes, Pop Corn, Sun flower, Millet, Mixed Beans, Virginia Tobacco, Maize Seed, Cassava roots and Barley.

#### Fishing
The major sources of fish from capture fisheries are Luangwa and Itezhi-tezhi dam. Other sources include Lake Luswishi, Bangwulu South Swamps and Luangwa River. Central province is the hub for transport services not only for the country but also for the Southern Africa region. The road is part of the major transit route for goods and services in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). It is the transit point for all rail transport network to all Provinces within the country as well as the neighbouring countries.

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### Major Natural Resources

#### Agriculture
Central Province consists of 9.4 million hectares of land, about 40% of which is suitable for crop production and about 42% for livestock grazing.

#### Forest
The Province has a total number of 18 forest reserves, predominantly covered by the Miombo woodland with an estimated woody plant flora of about 650 species.

#### Minerals
The province has deposits of a variety of gemstones that include amethyst, tourmaline, gold, garnet and crinoid metal and industrial building minerals.

#### WILDLIFE PARKS
The province is characterized by the vastness of unexploited areas, such as the Kafue National Park, Itezhi-tezhi dam, the Kafue River and the wetlands or Kafue flood plains. The park is rich in animal and natural diversity and forms one of the most important terrestrial ecosystems in Africa. It has a record of 41 large and 23 small mammal species, 318 bird species, 27 reptile species, 23 amphibian species and 102 butterfly species in the Kafue South National Park.

#### Agriculture
Central Province has witnessed an increase in agro-processing with the establishment of soybeans processing and cotton ginning plants. Other agro-processing activities include grain milling, peanut butter, animal or stock feed and edible oil production, meat, dairy and fruit drink production. Honey processing however the province is lagging behind in terms of value addition.

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#### Tourism
The province has the Kafue National Park, the country’s largest shared with Southern and North-western provinces. The eastern end of the province reaches the South Luangwa National Park. Although the access is in Eastern Province, other areas with wildlife include the Luangwa and Lundazi National Parks, Kasanka National Park, Luangwa Swamps, and the Lunswishi Game Management Area. Other natural resources in the province are grouped as follows: Historical Sites (77), Architectural/Engineering Historical Sites (2), and Archaeological sites (27). Among these, there are those protected and the unprotected ones. Muchinga Escarpment, Lunsemfwa River valley and the Big Tree Monument.