

## Country Profile: Zimbabwe

[Country Profile \(PDF\)](#)

## Country Resources

### Topographic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Zimbabwe 1:50,000 Scale Topographic Maps	SGZ	1:50,000	1960 - 2005	576
Zimbabwe 1:250,000 Scale Topographic Maps	SGZ	1:250,000	1975 - 1995	32

### Geoscientific

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Botswana 1:1,000,000 Scale Geological Maps	GSD	1:1,000,000	1984 - 1990	4
Botswana 1:2,000,000 Scale Geological Maps	GSD	1:2,000,000	1963	1
Malawi 1:1,000,000 Scale Geological Map	GSD	1:1,000,000	1966	1
Malawi 1:1,000,000 Scale Mineral Resources Map	GSD	1:1,000,000	1990	1
Zimbabwe 1:100,000 Scale Geological Maps	GSZ	1:100,000	1975 - 1986	12
Malawi 1:1,000,000 Scale Aeromagnetic Map	HGG	1:1,000,000	1986	1
Angola 1:1,000,000 Scale Geological Map (6 Sheets)	INGA	1:1,000,000	1988	1
Angola 1:1,000,000 Scale Mineral Resources Maps (4 sheets)	INGA	1:1,000,000	1998	1

### Thematic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
The World 1:30,000,000 Scale Topographic Map Series 1145 (NGA)	DMA	1:30,000,000		2
Zambia Political Administration Maps	SD	1:750,000	1990 - 1991	4
Zimbabwe 1:1,000,000 Scale Land Classification Map	SGZ	1:1,000,000	1998	1

## Global Census Archive: GIS Census Data

East View Geospatial has an ongoing effort to add GIS census data to our Global Census Archive program. Please contact us for the status and availability of Zimbabwe census resources.

## Global Resources

### Topographic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Soviet Military City Plans	VTU GSh	Varies	1944 - 2003	3,020
Soviet Military 1:100,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:100,000	1947 - 1999	24,897
Soviet Military 1:200,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:200,000	1949 - 2009	17,799
Soviet Military 1:500,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:500,000	1953 - 1998	3,093

### Nautical

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
NGA Nautical Charts POD Certified (All Scales)	NGA	Varies	1943 - 2013	4,517

---

## Aeronautical

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Joint Operations Graphic (JOG 1501A) 1:250,000 - Aeronautical	DMA	1:250,000	1958 - 2007	4,204
Tactical Pilotage Chart (TPC) 1:500,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:500,000	1967 - 2006	598
Operational Navigation Chart (ONC) 1:1,000,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:1,000,000	1969 - 2001	243
Jet Navigation Chart (JNC) 1:2,000,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:2,000,000	1971 - 1999	117
Global Navigation and Planning Chart (GNC) 1:5,000,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:5,000,000	1981 - 1999	27

## Geoscientific

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Soviet Military 1:1,000,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:1,000,000	1948 - 1994	1,089

**Note:** East View Geospatial is continuously sourcing new resources that may not yet be listed in Global Explorer. Please contact us if you have geodata needs beyond what is listed above and we will be happy to discuss available off-the-shelf and custom solutions.

Shop all products in Global Explorer

---

# Historical Country Mapping Information

Jump to: [Topographic](#) | [Geological/Scientific](#) | [Vegetation/Forestry](#) | [Cadaster](#) | [Tourist/Reference](#) | [Census/Demography/Statistics](#)

[Country Profile \(PDF\)](#)

## Topographic

The **Department of the Surveyor General (Zimap)** was established in 1891 as a land registration agency and has grown into the national mapping agency with responsibility for geodetic, topographic, cadastral and aerial surveying. It publishes topographic, thematic and cadastral maps of Zimbabwe.

Topographic mapping of the country was established by British agencies when the country was part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. A 1:50,000 scale map, compiled from aerial photography, was completed between the end of World War II and 1970 when the last of 561 sheets was published. This series still uses quarter-degree sheets and is plotted on the Transverse Mercator projection, Clarke 1880 ellipsoid, but other specifications have changed. A metric standard was introduced in the 1970s and relief in second or third edition sheets is now shown with 20 m contours. The detail of the current five-color topo-cadastral specification includes land ownership in purple. It is intended to maintain currency of the series to within 10 years by a regular revision program. In the 1980s a Canadian-funded aid programme flew complete aerial photographic coverage and installed new digital map production systems, so as to allow the generation of monochrome 1:25,000 scale orthophoto maps of the most densely settled parts of the country. The aim was to provide mapping with 10 m contours and a cadastral overprint. First maps were published in 1983, but only a few sample areas have been taken to publication, notably of the Harare area. Instead this map is now used to derive revisions of 1:50,000 mapping.

A 32-sheet 1:250,000 scale map is derived from the 1:50,000 scale series. Two versions of this topo-cadastral map were published between 1973 and 1980, with layered or unlayered relief and 100 m contours, both also using hill shading and with a UTM grid overprint. A revision program since completion is resulting in fourth edition coverage of the country. Other smaller scale mapping includes a four-sheet 1:500,000 scale wall map enlarged from 1:1,000,000 scale coverage. Both this and the parent map show relief with 300 m contours, but other versions are also published at 1:1,000,000 scale. This includes; an outline edition of the relief map, an aeronautical version compiled in association with the **Directorate of Civil Aviation** with air over-print conforming to ICAO standards, and a recently published road map with tourist information.

Soviet military topographic mapping of Zimbabwe exists at the following scales: 1:1,000,000 (6 sheets, complete coverage, published 1977-1985); 1:500,000 (16 sheets, complete coverage, published in 1983); 1:200,000 (73 sheets, primarily complete coverage, published

1981-1982); and city (1:10,000 to 1:25,000) topographic maps of Bulawayo and Harare published in 1982. These products are available in print, digital raster and digital vector formats from **East View Geospatial**.

[Back to top](#)

---

## Geological/Scientific

The **Geological Survey of Zimbabwe (GSZ)** was founded in 1910 and a series of maps accompanying geological bulletins has been issued since the 1920s. These maps are mostly at a scale of 1:100,000, spatial coverage is irregular and numbered chronologically by Bulletin number, rather than systematically organized, but most of the country (with the exception of the Kalahari desert) is now mapped in full-color series, or is still available in reconnaissance versions. Recent geophysical mapping has been carried out, with coverage at 1:250,000 and 1:50,000 scales on topographic sheet lines. Smaller scale publications include geological maps and hydrogeological coverage, in association with the hydrology section of the **Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and Development (MEWRD)**. Minerals mapping has been carried out with the German **Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BfGR)**. French, British and Korean aid has also been used by **GSZ**. A program of aeromagnetic survey was carried out in conjunction with the **Canadian International Development Agency** between 1983 and 1991. 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 maps are available for the whole of the country, except for the extreme eastern fringes, as individual sheets or in four large blocks.

[Back to top](#)

---

## Vegetation/Forestry

Amongst other mapping agencies in Zimbabwe are the **Forestry Commission (ZFC)**, which is producing a 28-sheet 1:250,000 scale vegetation map, in conjunction with **Zimap**. This vegetation map is compiled from the Vegetation resources information system, established by **ZFC** and the **Environment and Remote Sensing Institute**, and based upon remote sensing and GIS technologies. The **Ministry of Lands and Agriculture** carries out project-oriented soils mapping, but maintains no formally published national series mapping programs.

[Back to top](#)

---

## Cadaster

Larger scale programs include photogrammetric 1:5,000 scale mapping of settlements. The current specification of these topo-cadastral maps includes a 4 m contour interval. A 1:2,500 scale map of Harare is also published.

[Back to top](#)

---

## Tourist/Reference

Commercially published mapping of Zimbabwe includes a street atlas of Harare from **Mapping and Promotional Services** and road mapping from the **Automobile Association Zimbabwe**, who regularly update a national single sheet map, and also maintain ranges of touring maps of national parks. General maps of the country are released by a number of overseas publishers including South African **Map Studio**, **International Travel Maps (ITM)** Vancouver, **Cartographia** Budapest, **Freytag-Berndt (FB)** Vienna, (also marketed by **New Holland**), **Lonely Planet** and the French **Institut Géographique National (IGN)**.

[Back to top](#)

---

## Census/Demography/Statistics

**Zimap** also issues small scale thematic mapping of the country, depicting administrative boundaries, population, land classification, soils, hydrology and climate. Population mapping presents the results of decennial censuses carried out by the **Central Statistical Office**.

**Zimap** also issues full-colour town maps of Bulawayo and Harare.

[Back to top](#)

---

Content copyright © 2014 De Gruyter for e-version of World Mapping Today, 2nd Edition

Visit [https://geospatial.com/country\\_profiles/zimbabwe/](https://geospatial.com/country_profiles/zimbabwe/) for more information or to place an order.