

Zambia

Sustainable Investment Requirements



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About the paper

This is a national companion guide to the publication *The Business Guide for Sustainability in Foreign Investments*. The companion guide presents an overview of Zambia's environmental and social regulations for investment operations in agroprocessing and light manufacturing. It also provides contacts of relevant national ministries and enforcement bodies.

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Foreword by ITC

Foreign investment in Zambia unlocks opportunities to reach new regional and global markets and better serve the local market. The actions taken by business managers have tremendous spillover effects, not only for the local economy, but for the social and environmental conditions of the local population. As part of the post-pandemic recovery, investing sustainably is essential.

National legislation, regional trade agreements, and market demand all trend towards increased consideration for social and environmental practices. Beyond the business case for sustainability, international firms and local business must be aware of the requirements in their country of operation in order to avoid repercussions and remain competitive.

This national companion guide provides the mandatory social and environmental requirements for investing in Zambia in agroprocessing and light manufacturing. The guide details the steps businesses must take in their investment journey and the respective agencies they will contact along the way. The recommendations as well as the tools, such as sustainability checklists and resource directories, provide practical support to investors in their journey to improve their business practices.

This is a companion guide to the publication *The Business Guide for Sustainability in Foreign Investments*, which makes the business case for sustainable investment and provides common sustainability practices that firms must consider when starting operations in a foreign country.

This guide is an outcome of the research conducted for the Partnership for Investment and Growth in Africa, funded by the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. It is based on insights of ministries, investors, businesses and experts at the International Trade Centre.

Pamela Coke-Hamilton
Executive Director
International Trade Centre

Foreword by the Zambia Development Agency

Zambia is in southern Africa. The country has a growing population of about 17.9 million, around 40% of whom live in urban areas. The increase in population translates into greater demand for jobs. Creating much-needed jobs calls, to a large extent, for investments into the economy.

The Zambia Development Agency (ZDA), a government agency mandated to attract investments in Zambia, has developed this guide with support from the International Trade Centre's Partnership for Investment and Growth in Africa (PIGA) project. The guide provides potential investors with the necessary information on the country's legal and environmental requirements to set up, operate and decommission a business. Investors targeting Zambia must comply with the relevant environmental regulations. This is important because it promotes environmental sustainability. Investors are, therefore, advised to engage with the Zambia Environmental Management Agency to get firsthand and up-to-date information about the environmental requirements for companies operating in Zambia. To ensure that a smooth relationship exists between workers and employer to their benefit, Zambia has put in place requisite labour laws. The country is also in the process of developing the labour code. This guide outlines the current labour laws and workplace provisions for easy reference by investors targeting the country.

We would like to thank our partners and the PIGA project for developing this guide. We implore all investors targeting Zambia to use this guide to prevent unnecessary non-compliance, but most importantly to ensure positive impacts on people, the planet and the investor's own profits. This is the triple bottom line that ZDA is encouraging all its investors to consider.

Mukula Makasa

Acting Director General
Zambia Development Agency

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About ITC

Established in 1964, the International Trade Centre (ITC) is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. Its mission is to foster inclusive and sustainable economic development and contribute to achieving the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

ITC is the only development agency that is fully dedicated to supporting the internationalization of small and medium-sized enterprises. It helps these businesses in developing and transition economies become more competitive and connected to international markets for trade and investment, thus raising incomes and creating job opportunities, especially for women, young people and poor communities. ITC works with policymakers, trade and investment support institutions, exporters and other stakeholders in the public and private sectors to enable export success of small firms in developing countries and transition economies.

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About the Partnership for Investment and Growth

The Partnership for Investment and Growth in Africa (PIGA) is part of Manufacturing Africa, a flagship programme of the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office facilitating foreign direct investment with high development impact into selected African countries.

Under Manufacturing Africa, PIGA aims to contribute to job creation and sustainable growth in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique and Zambia by helping these countries attract foreign direct investment, specifically Chinese investment, in the agroprocessing and light manufacturing sectors. PIGA is also designed to enhance the capacity of these

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