

1. Description

- 1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: Zimba (Also known as Muzimba or Bazimba) Binja dialect of Zimba language is spoken (of the Niger/Congo family). Semulu dialect is spoken in the Northeast and Semalinga is spoken in the West. Many may also use Congo Swahili. (Source 16)
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): zmb
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): -4.30, 26.60; Maniema Province, Kasongo Territory, Mulu and Maringa collectivities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Sub-Saharan peoples. (Also found in Malawai and Angola) (Source 8) Reports indicate that the Zimba people are located in Maniema province located in the Grand Kivu area. The Grand Kivu area in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo is a key conflict affected region due to civil unrest between the Hutus and the Tutsis. (Source 1)
- 1.4 Brief history: Quiet "Agriculturalists" that produce rice, beans, greens, tomato, onion, cabbage, peanuts, papaya, pineapple, mango and also farm cattle and produce dairy products. (Source 1)
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Majority are Christian
- 1.6 Ecology (natural environment): Sub-saharan Africa. Lots of precipitation and thunderstorms.
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: 1994 survey states 120,000 members. More recent survey claims 184,000 (Source 1)

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): rice, beans, greens, tomato, onion, cabbage, peanuts, papaya, pineapple, and mango (Source 1)
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: beans, cattle, legumes etc. (Source 1)
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: Simple bows made of palm wood with kudu hide bowstring. Arrows with lanceolate iron heads, arrows with brass cartridge cases as heads, arrows with rolled and flattened pieces of iron as head. All arrows nocked and feathered with guinea fowl feathers. (Source 2) Knives with sheathes or "mukonda" are used as well with a long pointed blade with a wooden handle. Wood is ornamented with triangular cut-out which shows blade side and burned geometrics designs. Cow hide shoulder cord attached through lug on back of sheath. For protection. Worn under left arm. (Source 4)
- 2.4 Food storage: Baskets are used. Footed, conical basket made of fan palm leaves. Close coiled with a false braid made of baobab cordage. Used for mush. (Source 11). Also used are "eholo" or football shaped wooden vessels with vestigial handles carved in relief. Used for milk. (Source 14)
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: Women thresh, winnow and stamp millet (for cereal and beer), milk cows, water cattle, etc. Men participate in domestic activities like churning milk and watering cattle but are also in charge of livestock. (Source 6)
- 2.6 Land tenure: Obvious divisions of property. Demarcated by fences. (Source 6)
- 2.7 Ceramics:
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:
- 2.9 Food taboos:
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft?

3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f):

4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f):
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f):
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f):
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry? Mother arranges the dowry (Source 1)
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns:
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: Mother casually cradles her toddler in her lap while socializing. Appears to be a nurturing community within the family (Source 6)
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized?
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows")
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: War in the Congo has made women's lives much more complicated. Prevalence of rape and sexual violence against women in Eastern Congo was described as "the worst in the world." (Source 9)
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females

- 4.22 Evidence for couvades
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? Dolls carrying their baby's on their backs suggest that the women in the Zimba society do the same for the majority of the child's infancy. (Source 15)
- 4.24 Joking relationships?
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? Evidence supports the possibility that there would be a ceremony (Source 15)
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?)
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Mother arranges marriages (Source 1)
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: There is a dowry involves, so that implies that there is some conflict. (Source 1)

Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: Second Congo War: 3 million Africans in the Congo (Source 10)
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): The Second Congo War (1998-2003) affected the tribe a great deal, but the Kivu conflict (2004-2009) between the military of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a Hutu power group directly affected and displaced members of the Zimba tribe. (Source 1) A French report states that in the South of the DRC, people of the Zimba tribe, along with ten other ethnic groups, were forced to seek refuge in other localities due to fighting between the Congolese army and rebels. (Source 1)
- 4.18 Cannibalism?

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes):
- 5.4 Post marital residence:
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): Obvious fences demarcate property and crops (Source 6)
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex):
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: Seemingly very social (Source 6)
- 5.8 Village and house organization: Evidence of clearly defined "property" outlines for homes with an epicenter for community gatherings such as socializing, cooking, etc. (Source 6)
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses):
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? Suggestion of hut structures (Source 6) Use of "ochiholo" or wooden headrests while sleeping. (Source 12)
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:
- 5.12 Trade:
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? Evidence that it might be a more matriarchal society—women share laborious jobs with men such as tilling and farming and women socialize with others more than men. (Source 6)

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

- 6.0 Time allocation to RCR:
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): Witch doctors (see 6.5 below)
- 6.2 Stimulants:
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): Bead ornaments and special hairdress for married women on dolls indicate that the same happens to women when they marry. (Source 15)
- 6.4 Other rituals:
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): Painted red sticks or magic wands or "masiku" are used by witch doctors to drive out evil spirits. (Source 7)
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): Drums or "ongoma onene" made from trunk of emupepe wood, with a carved pointed base and tightly stretched drum head of goatskin. Carved cavities in the base store beeswax to make the sound stronger. Drum held with a belt of goatskin. A seed is contained within the drum. Used for dancing and ceremonial occasions. (Source 13) Dolls or "otylolo" with corn cob bodies carrying corn cob babies in back slings are made for play for girls. They have mud headdresses, breasts and buttocks. Represents a married woman with typical hairdress and bead ornaments. (Source 15)
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR:
- 6.8 Missionary effect: Majority are Christian (Source 1)
- 6.9 RCR revival:
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy?

6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.) The Joshua Project, a US based Christian website states that 96% of the Zimba tribe in the DRC are Christians and 76% are Catholic. The US Department of State (USDOS) reported on 26 October 2009 that the overall population of the DRC is “approximately 50 percent Roman Catholic, 20 percent mainline Protestant, 9 percent Kimbanguist, and 9 percent Muslim.”

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint: No evidence found in sources

7.2 Piercings: No evidence found in sources, but entirely possible due to their affinity for jewelry.

7.3 Haircut: Women and men both keep hair short, close to the scalp. (Source 6) Special hairdress for married women. (Source 15)

7.4 Scarification: No evidence found in sources

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): Back ornaments called “muminas” are worn. Muminas are two strips of brass with engraved geometric designs (Onjolo) on one side. Iron caps bent over each end and held in one place with copper rivets. Leather cords at each end; one goes around the neck and the other around the waist. (Source 3). A man’s costume (in 1929) consisted of a flap worn in the front or back over a tight piece of bark cloth to represent the tail of an animal. Fringed at both ends; brown.” (Source 5) A woman’s dress (in 1929) were embellished with grass stem “thread,” bark cloth, and stitch embroidery. Necklaces, bracelets and other jewelry can be seen in video (Source 6)

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: Bead ornaments and special hairdress for married women on dolls indicate that the same happens to women when they marry. (Source 15)

7.7 Sex differences in adornment: Man wearing necklace, but comparatively much less jewelry than the women. (Source 6)

7.8 Missionary effect: Majority are Christian (Source 1)

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system:

8.2 Sororate, levirate:

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.):

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Numbered references

1. <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4f13dda42.pdf>
2. http://collections.si.edu/search/tag/tagDoc.htm?recordID=nmnhanthropology_8447570&hlterm=zimba
3. <http://collections.si.edu/search/results.jsp?view=&dsort=title&date.slider=&q=zimba>
4. <http://collections.si.edu/search/results.jsp?q=zimba&tag.cstype=all>
5. http://collections.si.edu/search/results.jsp?date.slider=&q=zimba&fq=culture%3A%22Zimba%22&fq=object_type:%22Costume+%28mode+of+fashion%29%22
6. http://collections.si.edu/search/results.jsp?date.slider=&q=zimba&fq=object_type:%22Photographs%22
7. <http://collections.si.edu/search/results.jsp?q=Zimba&dsort=&view=&date.slider=&fq=culture%3A%22Zimba%22&start=20>
8. <http://www.joshuaproject.net/people-profile.php?peo3=16105&rog3=CG>
9. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/08/AR2007090801194.html>
10. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8471147.stm>
11. http://collections.si.edu/search/results.jsp?date.slider=&q=zimba&fq=object_type:%22Baskets+%28containers%29%22
12. http://collections.si.edu/search/results.jsp?date.slider=&q=zimba&fq=object_type:%22Headrests%22
13. http://collections.si.edu/search/results.jsp?date.slider=&q=zimba&fq=object_type:%22Drums+%28membranophones%29%22
14. http://collections.si.edu/search/results.jsp?date.slider=&q=zimba&fq=object_type:%22Vessels+%28containers%29%22
15. <http://collections.si.edu/search/results.jsp?q=zimba&tag.cstype=all> (Doll)
16. http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=zmb