

Mozambique

Geography

Location: Southern Africa, bordering the Mozambique Channel, between South Africa and Tanzania

Area:

total area: 801,590 sq km

land area: 784,090 sq km

Land boundaries: total 4,571 km, Malawi 1,569 km, South Africa 491 km, Swaziland 105 km, Tanzania 756 km, Zambia 419 km, Zimbabwe 1,231 km

Coastline: 2,470 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: tropical to subtropical

Terrain: mostly coastal lowlands, uplands in center, high plateaus in northwest, mountains in west

Natural resources: coal, titanium

Land use:

arable land: 4%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 56%

forest and woodland: 20%

other: 20%

Irrigated land: 1,150 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: civil strife and recurrent drought in the hinterlands have resulted in increased migration to urban and coastal areas with adverse environmental consequences; desertification; pollution of surface and coastal waters

natural hazards: severe droughts and floods occur in central and southern provinces; devastating cyclones

People

Population: 18,115,250 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 45% (female 4,069,117; male 4,078,429)

15-64 years: 53% (female 4,882,292; male 4,630,193)

65 years and over: 2% (female 260,057; male 195,162) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.87% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 44.6 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 15.94 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: NA migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

note: by the end of 1994, an estimated 1.6 million Mozambican refugees, who fled to Malawi, Zimbabwe, and South Africa in earlier years from the civil war, had returned; an estimated 100,000 refugees remain to be repatriated from those countries

Infant mortality rate: 126 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 48.95 years

male: 47.04 years

female: 50.92 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 6.19 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Mozambican(s)

adjective: Mozambican

Ethnic divisions: indigenous tribal groups, Europeans about 10,000, Euro-Africans 35,000, Indians 15,000

Religions: indigenous beliefs 60%, Christian 30%, Muslim 10%

Languages: Portuguese (official), indigenous dialects

Literacy:

total population: 33%

male: 45%

female: 21%

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Mozambique

conventional short form: Mozambique

local long form: Republica Popular de Mocambique

local short form: Mocambique

Type: republic

Capital: Maputo

Independence: 25 June 1975 (from Portugal)

National holiday: Independence Day, 25 June (1975)

Constitution: 30 November 1990

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: three equal horizontal bands of green (top), black, and yellow with a red isosceles triangle based on the hoist side; the black band is edged in white; centered in the triangle is a yellow five-pointed star bearing a crossed rifle and hoe in black superimposed on an open white book

Economy

Industries: food, beverages, chemicals (fertilizer, soap, paints), petroleum products, textiles, nonmetallic mineral products (cement, glass, asbestos), tobacco

Agriculture: accounts for 50% of GDP and about 90% of exports; cash crops - cotton, cashew nuts, sugarcane, tea, shrimp; other crops - cassava, corn, rice, tropical fruits; not self-sufficient in food

Transportation

Railroads:
total: 3,288 km

Highways:
total: 26,498 km

Inland waterways: about 3,750 km of navigable routes

Pipelines: crude oil (not operating) 306 km; petroleum products 289 km

Ports: Beira, Inhambane, Maputo, Nacala, Pemba

Airports:
total: 192

Note:
note: highway traffic impeded by land mines not removed at end of civil war

Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Naval Command, Air and Air Defence Forces,
Militia;