

MOÇAMBIQUE



A LAND OF CONTRASTS

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SECTION 1

**GENERAL INFORMATION, STATISTICS
& FIGURES**

THE GEOGRAPHY	
Geographic Coordinates:	18 15 S, 35 00 E
Area:	801,590 km ²
Land	784,090 km ²
Water	17,500 km ²
Coastline:	2,470 km
Climate:	Tropical to Subtropical
Elevation Extremes:	Lowest Point: Indian Ocean – 0 m Highest Point: Monte Binga – 2,436 m
Natural Resources:	Coal, Titanium, Natural Gas, Hydropower, Tantalum, Graphite
Natural Hazards:	Droughts, cyclones and floods in central and southern provinces.
Environmental Issues:	A long civil war and recurrent drought in the hinterlands have resulted in increased migration of the population to urban and coastal areas with adverse environmental consequences, desertification, pollution of surface and coastal waters. Elephant poaching for ivory is a historical problem.

THE PEOPLE	
Population:	19,686,505
Population Growth:	1.38%
Birth Rate:	35.18 births / 1,000 population
Death Rate:	21.35 deaths / 1,000 population
Sex Ratio:	At birth: 1.03 males / female Under 15 yrs: 1.01 males / female 15-64 yrs: 0.94 males / female 64 yrs +: 0.72 males / female Total: 0.97 males / female
Life expectancy:	Males: 39.53 years Females: 40.13 years
Fertility Rate:	4.62 children born / female
HIV/Aids Prevalence:	12.2% 1.3 million people living with HIV/Aids
Ethnic Groups:	Tribal Groups: 99.66% (Makhuwa, Tsonga, Lomwe, Sena...) Europeans: 0.06% Euro-Africans: 0.2% Indians: 0.08%
Religions:	Catholic: 23.8% Zionist Christian: 17.5% Muslim: 17.8% Other: 17.8% (1997 census)

Languages:	Emakhuwa: 26.1%
	Xichangana: 11.3%
	Portuguese: 8.8% (spoken by 27% as a second language)
	Elomwe: 7.6%
	Cisena: 6.8%
	Echuwabo: 5.8%
	Other Mozambican: 32%
	Other Foreign: 0.3% (1997 census)
Literacy:	47.8%
	Males: 63.5%
	Females: 32.7%

All above estimated between 2003 and 2006, except where specified

THE GOVERNMENT	
Government Type:	Republic
Capital:	Maputo
Administrative Divisions:	10 Provinces (provincias): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabo Delgado - Gaza - Inhambane - Manica - Maputo - Nampula - Niassa - Sofala - Tete - Zambezia
Independence:	25 June 1975 – from Portugal
Legal System:	Based on Portuguese civil law system and customary law.
Political Parties:	FRELIMO – Front for the Liberation of Mozambique RENAMO-UE – Mozambique National Resistance-Electoral Union

THE ECONOMY	
GDP – per capita:	\$1,300
GDP – real growth rate:	7.2 %
GDP composition:	Agriculture: 24.2% Industry: 41.2% Services: 34.6%
Unemployment Rate:	21% (estimate 1997)
Agricultural Products:	Cotton, Cashew Nuts, Sugarcane, Tea, Cassava (tapioca), Corn, Coconuts, Sisal, Citrus and Tropical Fruits, Potatoes, Sunflowers, Beef, Poultry
Industries:	Food, Beverages, Chemicals (fertilizer, soap, paints), Aluminium, Petroleum products, Textiles, Cement, Glass, Asbestos, Tobacco

Export Commodities:	Aluminium, Prawns, Cashews, Cotton, Sugar, Citrus, Timber, Bulk Electricity
Export Partners:	Netherlands: 60.9% South Africa: 12.9% Malawi: 3.3% Germany: 9.8% Zimbabwe: 4.7%
Import Commodities:	Machinery, Vehicles, Fuel, Chemicals, Metal Products, Foodstuffs, Textiles
Import Partners:	South Africa: 41.4% Netherlands: 11% Portugal: 3.3% Australia: 10.9% US: 3.7%
External Debt:	\$966 million (estimate 2002)

All above estimated in 2005, except where specified.



The Flag



Some different views of the Land of Contrasts

SECTION 2

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MOÇAMBIQUE

THE HISTORY

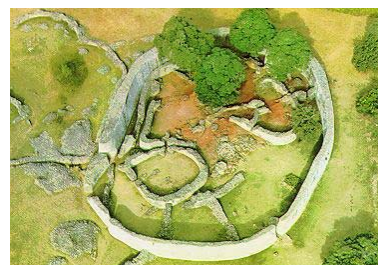
Stone Age: South East Africa is inhabited by ancestors of the San and Khoi people. Most people in the region live as hunters and gatherers.

± 300 AD: Overpopulation and ecological changes in West Africa results in immigration of Bantu tribes to more central and southern areas. The Bantu people gradually force out the original inhabitants and bring the region into the iron age. They establish agricultural communities.

AFRICAN KINGDOMS

± 800 AD: Some Bantu groups have settled in villages, which have grown into seaports and then into large cities. By the 8th century Arab traders have begun trading in goods from southern Africa. These Muslim traders bring ceramics, cloth, glass, beads, salt and metal goods in exchange for southern African gold, palm oil, rhinoceros horn, and ivory. Sofala, in Mozambique, becomes a city of warehouses and docks for the trade between East Africa and India. Many of the coastal people adopt Islam and the Arabic word Swahili, meaning “people of the shore”, to describe themselves. The language of Swahili is the trading language of these East African cities.

1100 – 1400: Mozambique does not exist as a unified country, but as numerous kingdoms. The region is divided with natural boundaries by the two great rivers: Zambezi and Limpopo. The area north of Zambezi river is dominated by the kingdoms of Makua, Yao, Maravi and others. The most powerful empire is made up of the Shona people and lasted until the 15th century. Their kingdom is called Zimbabwe and it is located between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers. Shona wealth is based on cattle, and they also mine gold and transport it to the coastal cities for export to Asia. The Shona worship the god Mwari who is the creator and sustainer of life. The Shona are excellent builders, and construct an oval shaped fort 30 feet high called Great Zimbabwe.



The Ruins of Great Zimbabwe

1400's: The Zimbabwe kingdom is followed by the Monomatapa empire. The Monomatapa empire possesses rich goldmines, which are later believed to be the legendary mines of King Solomon.

VASCO DA GAMA



Vasco da Gama

1497: The Portuguese explorer Vasco De Gama sets out to find an ocean passage to India by travelling around the southern tip of Africa. The Portuguese want to break the Arab monopoly on the spice trade with India. In addition, they want access to the gold fields of Africa. Da Gama stops in the Muslim trading town of Moçambique on the way to the Malabar coast of India. He is surprised to find a developed society with trade, monetary economy, wealthy merchants and sheikhs. There are also sailors who possess the knowledge he is looking for: the sea-route to India. The Portuguese need to acquire supplies, but they have little to trade with and tension grows between the Swahili people and their European guests. The town is plundered and bombed as Vasco da Gama sails off. From Malindi in Kenya he continues towards India.

1500: Vasco da Gama returns to Mozambique with more ships and weapons. He intends to take control of the region and within a few years the Portuguese are in charge of all trade. To achieve this they destroy most of the Islamic-African civilizations in military campaigns – all towns and city states not willing to surrender to Portuguese terms are attacked.

The Europeans justify the violence and killings as a Christian crusade against Islamic influence. Vasco da Gama himself orders the destruction of a ship carrying 380 Muslim pilgrims (unarmed men, women and children). Stories of these hostile acts reach far into the Arab world...

1505: Portugal, under Francisco de Almeida occupies Mozambique and establishes a Portuguese settlement at Sofala.

PORTUGUESE SETTLEMENTS

1600's: After “conquering” the coast, the Portuguese now try to infiltrate the continent. Explorations start from the Zambezi river and as more land is “discovered” Portuguese farmers are encouraged to settle in the country. Settlers can have whatever land they want as long as they pay a “Prazo” tax to the Portuguese crown. Through the Prazo the settlers gain the right to use the local people for labour. Portugal become dependent on these taxes.

1698: After losing Mombasa and the Kenyan coast to the Arabs, Portugal concentrates on their lands further south.

1700's: In one of the few places in Africa it becomes common for the Portuguese landlords to adopt some degree of the African culture. Many settlers wed local women. The settlers become more “Africanised” and they refuse to pay their taxes to Portugal. Arab and Indian traders on the coast regain some of their power as Portuguese control is weakened. Maize and cassava are introduced to much of Africa.

COLONY AND SLAVERY

1752: Portugal announces that Mozambique is now a Colony. The slave trade starts.

1787: The Portuguese raise a fort in Lourenço Marques (now Maputo) and a town starts to develop around it.

1800's: Slaves have become a major part of trade since the late 1700's. Most slaves from Mozambique are sent to French sugar plantations in Reunion and Mauritius as well as to the Portuguese plantations in Brazil. Approximately 1 million slaves are shipped from Mozambique during the 1800's. Conflicts between different African tribal groups break out as some tribes are hunted and others function as slave traders.



St Paul's Palace in 1809

Mid 1800's: The Monomatapa empire finally collapses under the continuing pressure from both Portugal and the new generation of Arab traders. Nguni people from South Africa take over the Thonga kingdoms (south of Zambezi) and form the Gaza empire.

1869: Portugal officially abolishes slavery, but it continues in Mozambique until around 1900.



Division of Spoils

1878: Portugal can only control the Southern part of the country and, in order not to lose the Colony to Britain or Germany, chooses to lease out large territories in the North to trading companies, many of which are British. Slavery has officially been abolished, but forced labour known as “Chibalo” is used by these companies on plantations and for construction of roads and railways.

1884 – 85: The European powers split up Africa at the Berlin conference. Portugal claims all the land between Mozambique on the east coast and Angola on the west

coast, but has to settle for less. The “Scramble for Africa” has begun.

Portuguese East Africa is dominated by those Bantu kingdoms that benefited from the slave trade. Other groups have been more or less wiped out. A few Portuguese traders, officials and military are still in some of the coastal cities, but without much power and without much contact with Portugal.

1886: A railway is built to connect the Boer-republic of Transvaal (where gold has been found) with Lourenço Marques.

1891: Portugal and Britain sign a treaty which lays out the current borders of Mozambique.

The Gaza empire in the south, which benefited from the slave trade, now has considerable political power and tries to resist all kinds of Portuguese influence in the area. This resistance is carried out both with acts of violence and with trade and diplomacy. Other kingdoms are also fighting the Colonisers but don't join forces – so are ineffectual.



Lourenço Marques in 1892

1895: Gungunhanas, the last emperor of the Gaza empire, is captured by the Portuguese and deported to the Azores.

THE WORST LIVING CONDITIONS IN AFRICA

1907: Portugal moves the colonial capital of Mozambique from Ilha de Moçambique to Lourenço Marques. The new capital has a population of approx. 5,000.

1915: After the fall of the Gaza empire Portugal finally has military and political control of all Portuguese East Africa. For the first time all kingdoms and territories of Mozambique are under the same rule.

Three big trading companies are managing half of Portuguese East Africa. The companies own all rights to agriculture and mining in their areas. They can also claim taxes from the local population, who are forced to work on the plantations. Approx. 100,000 Mozambicans are forced to work in the gold mines of the Transvaal. Life conditions in the Colony are so bad that many Africans choose to cross the borders into neighbouring British Colonies.

A FASCIST REGIME

1926: A fascist coup turns Portugal into a military dictatorship. António Oliveira Salazar comes to power, and this means an even tighter grip on the African population and a wider use of forced labour.

The new Portuguese Government has close ties with the white Governments in neighbouring Rhodesia and South Africa. Roads and railways are built to give the neighbours access to the big ports in Mozambique. Due to poor administration by Portugal, most profit is made by Rhodesia and South Africa. Portugal neglects to develop Mozambique or to make any kind of social progress. Schools and hospitals are only for the Portuguese citizens.



Salazar on cover of Time in 46

1932: Portugal takes a more direct control of the Colony and decides to cancel all agreements with the foreign trading companies – as Portugal needs more profit.

The Salazar Government encourages primarily poor Portuguese people to immigrate to the Mozambican Colony. The population grows rapidly, and introduces little but more social problems.

The Portuguese Government rules the Colony through a system similar to the South African Apartheid. Schools are still only for the Portuguese population. It is forbidden by law for Africans to have any kind of business and the majority are forced into hard and dangerous labour on farms, in mines and in cotton production.

The Catholic Church expresses a commitment to educate the Africans, but only on their terms, which include obligatory Christianity and support of the fascist regime. Mozambicans can only avoid being used as forced labour by becoming “assimilados” – meaning that they willingly give up their own culture and indigenous beliefs. These assimilados are (at least in theory) allowed to get basic education. Among the requirements are that they have to wear shoes, eat with fork and knife and prove that they are not sleeping on the floor. Only very few choose this humiliating solution to their misery.

GROWING RESISTANCE

1959 – 1960: Groups of African farmers in the province of Cabo Delgado form co-operatives to run their own businesses. The leaders are rapidly imprisoned.

June 16, 1960: Government gunfire kills more than 500 peaceful demonstrators in Mueda (Cabo Delgado). The “Mueda Massacre” only inspires more to strive for independence.

In the early sixties most African nations are gaining their independence, but both South Africa and Rhodesia are governed by a white minority. Portugal does not intend to give up power in Mozambique and Angola, which are the least developed Colonies in Africa. Mozambican resistance movements are formed in the neighbouring countries of Malawi, Tanzania and Rhodesia. Opposition also starts to form among students in Lisbon and Paris.

1961: Forced labour (Chibalo) is at last abolished in Mozambique, as a sign of “good will”.

1962: After independence of Tanzania, the Mozambican resistance is centralised in Dar Es Salaam, with support of president Julius Nyerere. The newly formed organisation gets the name FRELIMO (Frente de Liberatacao de Mocambique), and its president is Eduardo Mondlane. It is agreed that freedom for Mozambique can not be gained through peaceful methods.



Eduardo Mondlane

FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM

September 25, 1964: The first shot is fired in the freedom fight against the Portuguese regime which still shows no sign of retreating from Mozambique. A military post in Cabo Delgado is attacked. Soon Cabo Delgado and Niassa are under Frelimo control: guerrilla forces with support from the local farmers.

1966: Most provinces in northern Mozambique are now liberated from Portuguese control.



1969: Eduardo Mondlane is killed by a bomb in Dar Es Salaam. The assassins are the secret police of the Portuguese fascist rule. Samora Moïses Machel follows Mondlane as president of Frelimo.

Portugal sends more soldiers to Mozambique to crush the resistance. The Government gets support and weapons from NATO. Both the Portuguese Colonies and apartheid South Africa are considered to be “friends of the West” during the cold war.

Samora Machel
His widow is now Mrs Nelson Madela

END OF FASCISTS – END OF WAR

April 1974: Portugal and its fascist regime is weakened by the colonial wars in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea Bissau. This finally leads to a military coup. The changes in Portugal help Frelimo to gain power in Mozambique and it becomes legal for Africans to form political parties. Frelimo convinces the new Portuguese military Government that it is ready to take control of Mozambique.

September 7, 1974: Samora Machel agrees on a cease-fire with the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs. The agreement also includes Independence for Mozambique with a Frelimo-based transitional Government.

June 25, 1975: Mozambique becomes independent!

Samora Machel is the first president in a Frelimo single-party system. The capital changes its name from Lourenço Marques to Maputo.

Inspired by the situation in Rhodesia, some Portuguese settlers try a coup d'état against Frelimo. The coup fails when put down by united forces from Frelimo and Portugal.

Portugal pulls out of the country almost overnight, leaving Mozambique in chaos. Frelimo fails to convince the white settlers that the new republic has room for everyone. Soon most of the white settlers have left Mozambique and what they consider to be a terrorist Government. On their retreat many settlers choose to destroy as much as they can (houses, livestock, cars, infrastructure and machinery) to prevent others from using it. In many ways the Portuguese settlers leave a gap which can not easily be filled by a population without education and a Government without experience. Frelimo tries to prove that it is not anti-European or racist by offering white people posts in the Government and Administration.

BIG CHANGES IN A SHORT TIME

Frelimo and the new Mozambique have hard work ahead. The Government immediately starts to form a new society with very radical changes: Local committees are formed all over the country to restart industry and farming and to solve other kind of practical problems. All farmland and houses are expropriated. High priority is given to education. Private schools and hospitals are made public. Banks and companies are nationalised.

March 1976: Mozambique closes its borders to Rhodesia and starts to support ZANU (Zimbabwean African National Union), who are fighting Ian Smith and his white minority regime in Rhodesia.

1977: The socialist wing of Frelimo gains more power. The party is now Marxist-Leninist and makes new plans after the Soviet model. Many of the new doctrines are in conflict with traditional African beliefs and society. Frelimo is working for women's liberation, against the system of bridal price and does not approve of polygamy. Members of Frelimo are not allowed to belong to a church and the many traditional healers are not accepted. These sudden changes to a very traditionally bound society come as a shock to many and give Frelimo new enemies.

Mozambique receives economic support from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and the Nordic Countries. Politically, the country is supported mainly by the Soviet block and therefore considered to be a threat to Rhodesia, South Africa, USA and the NATO alliance. The Governments of Rhodesia and South Africa try to destabilise Mozambique.

FORMATION OF RENAMO

The South African resistance movement, the African National Congress (ANC), is permitted to work in southern Mozambique. To the west, Frelimo permits ZANU to operate from bases within Mozambique. The answer from Rhodesia is the formation of MNR also known as RENAMO (Resistencia Nacional Mocambicana-Uniao Eleitoral). Renamo is controlled by Rhodesian intelligence to fight against ZANU within Mozambique.

Renamo is anti-socialist and anti-Frelimo, but that is about all there is to the political programme of the new organisation. Among the Renamo soldiers are several white people who had fled Mozambique after Independence, who see a chance for return. More exiled Mozambicans are recruited from Portugal and South Africa. Other soldiers are recruited in rural areas, tempted by promises of a better life or by force. Many leaders of Renamo have a past in Frelimo. Others join, frustrated by the hopeless situation in their country and Frelimo's socialist ideas. Traditional healers are amongst those joining Renamo.



Renamo child soldiers in central Moz. pose for a photograph taken by their hostage William Blakely in 1985

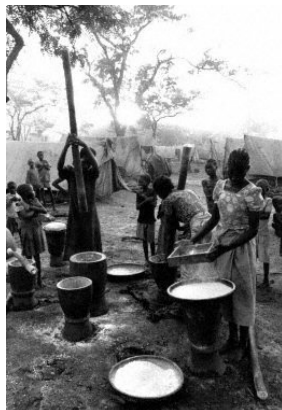
1979: The Renamo army now consists of 2,000 men.

1980: Many years of fighting in Rhodesia finally leads to the fall of the white regime. Robert Mugabe becomes president of the new republic of Zimbabwe. All Zimbabwean support to Renamo is stopped. The army, weapons and leadership of Renamo is transferred to South Africa shortly before the Independence of Zimbabwe.

CIVIL WAR

1981: With South African support, Renamo grows to more than 7,000 men and triples within the decade. For the South African apartheid Government, this is a chance to destabilise the feared "black communists" in neighbouring countries. South Africa cuts down on the use of Mozambican mine workers and finds alternatives to the big Mozambican ports.

More and more brutal attacks are carried out in Mozambique by Renamo. They target everything from farms, infrastructure and industry to schools and hospitals. Some attacks are carried out by soldiers from the South African army. Every effort is made to destroy the fragile Mozambican economy. Soon soldiers from both sides are plundering villages, killing, raping and kidnapping children and young men for their armies. There are no heroes and no civilians are spared.



Refugees who have fled the civil war prepare food for their families in Ukwimi refugee camp, Zambia. 1988

1983: The Frelimo Government is hit very hard by the continuing attacks and sabotage. On top of this, frequent droughts and floods in Mozambique result in widespread famine. The economy is diving and Mozambique turns to the West for financial aid for the first time. Frelimo's socialist reform programme has failed...

March 16, 1984: Governments of South Africa and Mozambique sign the "Nkomati Accord" – a Treaty that promises not to support hostile acts against each others' Governments. Mozambique keeps their promise and closes the ANC bases, but South Africa unofficially continues their support of Renamo, which also receives financial support from right-wing movements in USA, West Germany and Portugal. Renamo moves its headquarters to Malawi.

September 1984: Frelimo changes their political strategies and applies to be accepted by IMF and the World Bank. The socialist doctrines are modified to please the new Western donors. South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pik Botha, fails in an effort to mediate between Frelimo and Renamo.

October 19th, 1986: President Samora Machel dies under mysterious circumstances when his plane crashes into a hillside in Transvaal, whilst flying from Lusaka (Zambia) to Maputo. The plane was navigating using a false signal, which some people think could have been transmitted by South African military to divert the plane into South African airspace...



“Throughout the day we shall mourn you mighty soldier, a courageous son, a noble statesman. We must believe that his death will strengthen your and our resolve to be finally free. Our struggle has always been noble and we shall be victorious together.”

Inscription on the memorial stone at Samora Machel's crash site. The quote is from a message from Nelson Mandela to Graca Machel, while he was still in prison on hearing about Machel's death.

The more pragmatic Joaquim Chissano is elected by Frelimo as new president.

1987: Malawi is finally convinced to stop its support of Renamo, after pressure by a coalition of Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Angola and Botswana. Approx. 10,000 Zimbabwean soldiers are fighting in the civil war on the Frelimo side. Both sides in the war carry out cruel attacks against civilians and use terror tactics. People in rural Mozambique simply want peace and a chance to get on with their lives.

NEW PRAGMATIC TUNES

1988: Some people within Frelimo finally realise that the modernisation efforts and “cultural revolution” have been too drastic, and that their society cannot function without its ancient traditions – which are beginning to be accepted again.

September 1988: President Joaquim Chissano meets with South African President, P.W. Botha.

July 1989: The Marxist-Leninist doctrine of Frelimo is officially cancelled at the party's Congress. Renamo still doesn't have an official political ideology, except for a desire to introduce a market-economy. It becomes more and more apparent that this is not a war of ideologies, and that neither Frelimo nor Renamo can achieve the final military victory necessary to end the Civil War.

July 1990: Protestant and Catholic churches invite the parties to the first of numerous Peace Negotiations.

November 1990: Mozambique adopts a new constitution allowing a multi-party system. The country changes its name from the socialist inspired “Peoples Republic of Mozambique” to simply “Republic of Mozambique”. State companies are once again being privatised. Freedom of speech and freedom to form political parties are now part of the Mozambican constitution.

October 4th, 1992: A new round of peace negotiations in Rome finally results in a cease-fire and peace treaty. The end of the cold war has changed the international political climate, thereby making way for peace in Mozambique. F.W. de Klerk's South African Government stops support of Renamo, and the following ANC Government has no sympathy for them. In Malawi, the Renamo-friendly dictator Hastings Banda has been ousted.

October 15th, 1992: The cease-fire officially comes into effect. As a part of the treaty, Frelimo acknowledges the existence of Renamo as a political party in Mozambique. A huge effort is made to transition Renamo from a guerrilla army to a responsible political party.

The UN takes on responsibility for the peace process. The UNOMOZ peace force moves into Mozambique to arrange, amongst other things, elections and ensure the peaceful return of refugees. A new united army of Mozambique is formed with a force of only 10,000 men.

Life slowly returns to abandoned towns all over the country. Friends, neighbours and family members who were forced to fight on different sides in the war now face the challenge of reconciliation and of building a future.

ELECTIONS

October 1994: First free elections in Mozambique are held. 6.3 million registered voters can choose between candidates from 14 political parties, the two largest being Frelimo and Renamo. Almost all parties in the new democracy are promoting a new liberal economy, and they promise to work for better social conditions. International observers ensure that the elections are fair.

Frelimo wins the Election 44% of the votes – against Renamo’s 38%. Joaquim Chissano remains in office. It comes as a surprise to Frelimo that they don’t have total support from the population, and that so many support Renamo.

RECONCILIATION

Mistrust between the rival parties continues – and at times it is feared that the peace in Mozambique is very fragile. The reconciliation process has been most successful in communities using traditional rituals. What seem to be “strange religious rites” are sometimes ancient social precautions for retaining a well functioning society. Homecoming soldiers have to be “cleansed” from the evil spirits which, according to traditional beliefs, have caused all the misery. The healers function as the community “psychologists” and social workers. A successful cleansing process includes much talking and debate and unites a community. Forgiveness and reprieve are granted and the community is allowed to rebuild itself.

1995: Mozambique becomes a member of the Commonwealth – traditionally a union of countries that have been British Colonies.

December 1999: Joaquim Chissano once again beats his Renamo rival Afonso Dhaklana in presidential elections. International observers approve the election.

February 2000: Southern Mozambique suffers from floods and thousands of people are forced to leave their homes.

November 2000: A Renamo protest against the 1999 elections ends in chaos and riots with at least 40 people killed in Montepuez. A few weeks later, 83 people who were arrested at the demonstration, die in the prison – they suffocate from being held in a single 21 square meter cell.

March 2001: Once again a flooding causes a disaster in Mozambique, killing many and leaving thousands homeless. It is estimated that 70% of Mozambique’s 17 million people live on less than \$0.40 a day.

AND TODAY

December 2004: Mozambique undergoes a delicate transition as Joaquim Chissano steps down after 18 years in office. It is rare that an African president leaves office before he is forced to do so by the constitution. His newly elected successor, Armando Emilio Guebuza, has promised to continue the sound economic policies that have encouraged foreign investment.

June 2005: Mozambique is among 18 countries that will benefit from the G8 announcement that it is writing off \$40 billion in debt.

SECTION 3

THE COUNTRY

THE COUNTRY

THE LANGUAGE

A few helpful words and phrases....:

English	Shangana	Portuguese
Good morning	Lixile (<i>li-shee-leh</i>)	Bom dia
Good afternoon	Lipelile (<i>li-peh-lee-leh</i>)	Boa tarde
Thank you	Kanimambo (<i>kab-nee-mahm-bow</i>)	Obrigado
Goodbye	Salani (<i>sah-lab-nee</i>)	Até a vista

Xichangana (or Shangana) is widely spoken in southern Mozambique. Portuguese is the National Language.

THE GEOGRAPHY & CLIMATE

The coastal plain, in the south, rises to mountains and plateaus in the north and west. Two of Southern Africa's longest rivers, the Zambezi and the Limpopo, flow through Mozambique. Other major rivers include the Save and the Rovuma, which forms the northern border with Tanzania. Lake Malawi, also known as Lake Nyasa, forms part of the border with Malawi.

As you go westward, the land changes abruptly from a narrow, palm-studded strip of beach along the coast to a broad belt of savannah and woodland, then forested mountains. Trees include hardwoods, acacia and papaya. Fauna include the rare, endangered black rhinoceros.

There are many regional variations in Mozambique, but generally the hot, rainy season is from November to March with the average daily high hitting 31°C (88°F). The dry season runs from April to September, when the average daily high tops out at 27°C (80°F) on the coast, while it is somewhat cooler inland.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mozambique is characterised by an exceptional diversity of ecosystems. Among the most notable are extensive wetlands; mangrove forests in the centre and north; rich off-shore marine habitats; and montane habitats, including the Chimanimani Mountains to the west and the Gorongosa Massif in central Mozambique. While some of these are in protected areas, with relatively well-documented flora and fauna, many others are not. Even where official protection has been extended, finances and trained personnel are insufficient to adequately enforce conservation measures and many of Mozambique's natural resources are being ignored and squandered.

CORAL REEFS

Coral reefs, which are only found between the latitudes of 30° north and 30° south, are among the most productive and diverse of the earth's ecosystems. About 25% of the world's fish species depend on coral reefs during at least some stage of their life cycle. In addition, reefs protect the coast from damaging wave action and erosion, and contribute to the formation of sandy beaches and islands.

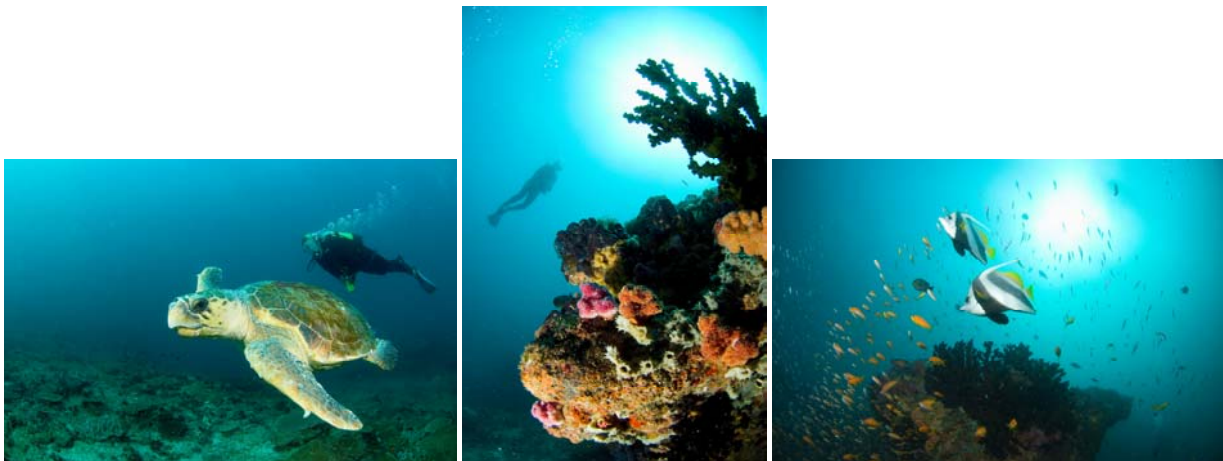
Northern Mozambique has extensive fringing reef systems. Corals occur between the Bazaruto Archipelago and Inhaca Island (off the coast of Maputo). Although scattered coral communities extend beyond this into South Africa, the reefs near Inhaca are considered to be the southernmost of the African mainland. Despite some areas of damage, Mozambican reefs are considered to be in generally very good condition, although the majority are unexplored.

FLORA

Mozambique hosts an abundance of flora, including numerous endemic species, although much of this richness is poorly documented. More than 5,600 plant species have been recorded in the country, with the actual number likely to be much higher. Of these, an estimated 250 may be endemic. Two areas of notable significance are the Chimanimani Mountains, with at least 45 endemic species, and the Maputaland Centre of Plant Diversity – south of Maputo, straddling the South African border. This is considered a site of global botanical significance, with important coastal forests and more than 2,500 species of vascular (sap carrying) plants.

FAUNA

Mozambique has more than 200 mammal species, although most large mammal populations were decimated during the war years. Documented reptile and amphibian species officially number about 170 and 40, respectively, although the actual numbers are almost certainly much higher. Mozambique's rich insect biodiversity includes an endemic dragonfly (*Ceragrion mourae*). Endemic mammal species include the blue Niassa wildebeest and a subspecies of Birchell's zebra.



An amazing diversity of ocean species



Lion and Elephant in the Gorongosa National Park

SECTION 4

**BENGUERRA ISLAND & THE
BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO**

BENGUERRA ISLAND

THE STORY OF A LODGE

By Margie Adcock – part owner

It all started in 1989. I was on holiday on Bazaruto Island with my family and there we met 2 brothers who had a vision... The Landrey family had been involved in the area for a long time, and Dan Landrey (Kim and Trevor's father) had been trying to revive the small lodge on Bazaruto, while his sons explored the island next door, and found what they thought was the perfect spot for a new Lodge. They chose the site that would become Benguerra (then Benguela Lodge) carefully and well: It was the only forested area left on the island, it was close to the beach, it faced north and, most importantly, it had a permanent deep water channel which would allow for boat access at all tides. The tidal movement in Moçambique is big – approximately 3 meters – so when the tide goes out, it really goes out. And boat access is very limited in all other sites.

We initially got involved because they need financial know-how and my then husband (Alistair Macduff) happened to be very clued up. We were all dreamers, I suppose. Our families had brought us to this part of Moçambique when we were children – and so with a child's ignorance of borders and politics, we grew up thinking of it as “our beach” (4 of the 6 shareholders are Zimbabwean).

So we decided to build...



Margie and her Boys in 1989



Kim Landrey, Pete Hougaard, Alistair Macduff and Trevor Landrey

At that point in time Moçambique was just limping out of several decades of war and misery. There was an uneasy truce and a lot of armed people were on the loose, with no direction, objective or control. The country as a whole was devastated. Most of the schools and hospitals etc had been destroyed. There was no infrastructure to speak of. The roads were in a shocking state – most of them with big anti tank ditches dug across them; and there were many areas which were totally unsafe for travel due to landmines.

There was nothing to buy outside main towns, and when we arrived no-one would work for money as it had absolutely no value. There was nothing to spend money on! (The upside of that being that there was no modern garbage, no plastic bags, no soda cans... - it was all strangely pristine). The shops had virtually nothing in them, famous cafés and restaurants were closed and the people were pretty destitute. I once saw a line of people waiting to buy a puff on a cigarette as they couldn't afford to buy a whole one.

Maputo (the capital) was fairly derelict, with shocking roads and massive potholes. I remember the atmosphere being tense and uncomfortable. You couldn't take photographs of anyone, or anything – and there were army personnel everywhere, with AK 47's. You couldn't travel after dark. Hotels (such as the Polana, which still exists) were open, but there was usually no water, very little food and often no power. And I remember that most of the windows were empty of glass... A lot of the businesses that were opening up again had generators to guarantee their power supply – otherwise it was a tricky place to do business in!

All land and property was state owned, and routine events like hiring office space were very difficult as a foreigner – almost impossible in fact, without the help of a Mozambican.



Maputo Port in January 1990



The outskirts of Maputo in January 1990

Benguerra itself was a little different – because it was an island. There were a lot of refugees on the island – and the forests were being systematically cut down for fire wood and to build shelters. We arrived just in time to preserve the forested area around where the Lodge now sits. The people on the island were dressed in very old clothes and a lot of the children were naked. The government moved the refugees off the island and said that only the traditional island families could stay, which seemed like a smart thing to do at the time because resources were stretched and everyone was suffering as a result.

The sails on the dhows were made out of food aid bags, plastic and old cloth sewn together. Quite colourful – and an example of the gloriously African tradition of “making a plan”.

Nothing commercial had ever been built on Benguerra. There was a resident population and there were 2 half finished houses on the hills on the north of the island. I think they had been started by Zimbabwean holiday makers before the war. And there was a shack on the extreme north-western corner which sold peri-peri chicken!

We were the first Lodge there. The island was said to have belonged to Joaquim Alves – who built the hotel on Santa Carolina (Paradise Island), and the Donna Anna Hotel at the harbour in Vilanculos. He also built and owned most of Vilanculos and a lot of the buildings there still have his name inscribed on them. His wife, Donna Anna (after whom the hotel was named) was a local woman, and was famous for her homemade “Donna Anna Peri-Peri Sauce”. It was so strong it blew your head off if you weren't used to it! My family travelled there from Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) in the 60's, and I remember staying in the Donna Anna before catching a wooden ferry to Paradise Island (now Santa Carolina). At dinner one evening my younger sister put lots of “tomato sauce” in her soup and then complained bitterly that it tasted horrible. My mother told her that it was her choice to put so much sauce into the soup she must finish it! My poor sister had put the famous peri-peri sauce into her soup and had to eat it all! To this day she won't touch anything hot.

Getting permission to build the Lodge was, frankly, a nightmare. It required many trips to Maputo, many stairs (you couldn't use the lifts, for fear of being stuck in one when the power inevitably failed) and many days of waiting. One classic story is of a meeting Kim had set up with a Minister for a certain time on a

certain day. He duly arrived, hot and tired after all the stair climbing, announced his arrival and was told to sit and wait as the Minister was not there, but would be coming back. After 3 hours, and trying to still be polite, Kim demanded to know when he would be back. “Oh – in 2 days time”, he was told. The Minister was overseas – but would assuredly be back!

The goal posts changed often, and no-one actually knew the regulations – largely because there were none. We were pioneers of a sort – and no-one really knew what to do with our requests. We had a Mozambican colleague who assisted with all the trials and tribulations. Very few people spoke English and so Kim learned Portuguese. It took 18 months to get our permission. Much longer than it took to eventually build the Lodge!

Once we had permission to build, and a concept – then the fun began!



This is what made it all worthwhile...

Once the design had been decided on and drawn up, a complete breakdown of what was required was done, and everything was sourced. We had 14,500 crates to transport from South Africa, as well as 2 Ace-Cat boats (22 ft each), a generator, 2 Landrovers, a tractor and trailer and 400 cubic feet of thatch!! All the furniture, electrics, bedding, crockery, cutlery, kitchen units, light fittings and plumbing etc had to be included – and we only had one shot at getting it all to the island on time. We hired a ship, Anna, in Durban and had a week of co-ordinating everything to arrive at the correct dock, on the correct day. We would meet every morning at breakfast to decide who was going to do what on that day. We would then scatter and do our various chores. One day I had to collect fertilizer (“the one to make the runway grow” was the answer to my question of which one to get!) and had a hair-raising drive back to the dock as I had one bald tire, and was terrified of getting a puncture with the spare under half a ton of fertilizer. Never have I driven so carefully!

On the last morning we were sitting rather smugly, congratulating ourselves on the fine job we’d done, when I glanced out of the window and saw “Mattress House”. Mattresses...we had forgotten them! Thus ensued a collective dash to the 6th floor of said shop, general bouncing on numerous beds, pretend sleeping, tossing and turning before deciding on the perfect mattress – and then my having to persuade an eager salesman that he was about to make a sale of 14 mattresses, but there was an important condition... They had to be suitably packaged, crated and delivered to Dock 14 by 15h00 that afternoon! He opened his mouth to protest, the sweat beading on his brow – but I quickly interrupted, saying that he was obviously extremely efficient and would naturally therefore have no problem with such a simple request, I flourished the cheque, and dashed off to do the next chore. I didn’t dare look behind me in case he was running after me trying to return the cheque. The mattresses arrived, on time.

The 400 cubic feet of that also posed a problem. As you can imagine, it was a HUGE pile of grass. Trucks had been scurrying like busy beetles between Hilton (in the Natal Midlands) and the docks for 2 days, non stop, when the Harbour Master called me and said I had to remove it from the dockside, as it was a potential fire hazard. I crossed my fingers behind my back and told him that it had all been treated with a fire retardant. “All of it?!” he glared at me, I mumbled something looking at my feet and prepared myself to burst into tears if necessary, a long silence followed, and then finally he said: “well as long as that’s the case, you can leave it.” I thanked him politely and rushed out before he changed his mind.



The Anna arrives, fully laden



400 ft³ of thatch takes a while to offload



The temporary camp on the beach

Back on the island, we built a small temporary camp for staff on the site where Chalet #5 now sits. The kitchen was a piece of corrugated iron on 4 poles. We dug a well, built a bird bath (still there), and thus, after quite a difficult birth, Benguerra was born.

It was not long after the ship, Anna, arrived from Durban and anchored in the deep water channel, that the word spread that something was happening. All manner of boats arrived to help with transferring all the cargo to shore. At one point a roll of chicken wire fell into the sea and in no time the locals were diving for it, and managed to bring it up to join the rest of the cargo on the beach. We did have to watch the transfers carefully as such wealth and variety of goods had not been seen for many, many years, and the temptation to acquire it must have been strong.

After that builders, carpenters, metalworkers and anyone connected with the building trade began arriving to look for work. There hadn't been work available for over 15 years – so we had more willing staff than we knew what to do with. Everyone on site was local, and was paid in food and clothing, initially. The only outside help was for the very specialised job of thatching – we brought people in from Zimbabwe for that.



One of 14,365 crates



The building begins



Digging a well for the villagers

We opened 8 months later with 6 rooms and increased that to 9 – which was our capacity for a long time. The current chalets are the original ones built – but they've been modified over the years.

In the beginning all of our business came from word of mouth. And we got lots of Zimbabweans and South Africans coming to us who delighted in being able to return to a country fondly remembered. Our target market was fishermen who knew Moçambique and longed to be fishing there again, and were brave enough to try. The memories of 1000 lb marlin, prawns, peri-peri chicken livers, floury Portuguese rolls, Laurintina beer, endless sunshine, white beaches, and warm water drove many people back to the Archipelago.

All our supplies came from Durban. The logistics were horrific. It's miraculous (or perhaps we're all just very good at what we do) that it all worked. Food and fuel had to be ordered from Durban and put on a passing ship, which weren't all that frequent. On occasion we would have fuel loaded onto the deck of a ship, and when they passed by, the ship would slow down, roll the barrels of fuel off, and we would round them up with the boats, push them onto the beach, roll them up the beach (easier said than done!) and into the storage tanks. Surprisingly we never once ran out of fuel – although we did once get down to 5 litres...

After a year or so of operation, Kim started to fly the provisions to the Island, although we still had to go via Maputo, as Vilanculos airport wouldn't open for another 5 years.



Our lucky pangolin

This pangolin was brought to the lodge from the mainland. A delegation of Government officials were on the island to give us a star rating and our license, and she gave birth the night they arrived. A very good omen for the Lodge!

There have been a few changes since then...



The Lodge then...



The Lodge now...



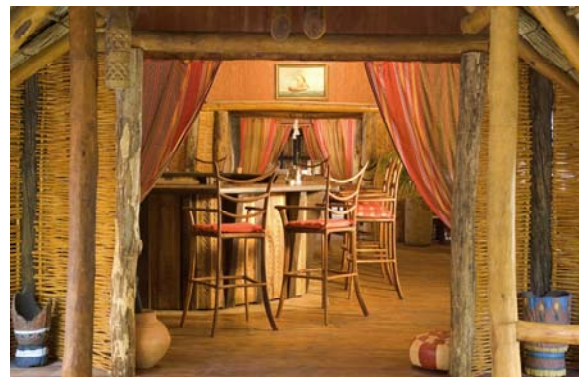
The Chalets then...



The Chalets now...



The Bar then...



The Bar now...

THE STORY OF A LOOK

By Trevor Landrey – part owner

How Did You Come Up With The Benguerra Look?: Our target market at the time we built was mostly Zimbabwean and then South African fishermen – and they were only really interested in sport fishing, drinking copious amounts of Captain Morgan rum, and passing out on the beach instead of their chalets. So the design wasn't initially considered to be of much importance. We decided that faux cane and eucalyptus furniture would give us the desired effect of creating a Robinson Crusoe style Lodge. And that served us well for 13 years. We grew organically over that time – and undertook some decorative and architectural improvements, as we gradually made headway in convincing the local authorities to improve the infrastructure – such as air transportation, immigration, issuing of visas etc. This allowed us access to the international market – which hastened the changes...

We remodelled all the Chalets in 2001, built the Villa in 2003, rebuilt the main lodge (in its entirety) and built 2 new Suites in 2005.

The architectural theme is aligned with the Arabic influence on the area, which began during the era of slave; gold; pearl and ivory trading, and is historically connected with Great Zimbabwe. The interior design and décor are essentially a blend of Arab and East African colonial influences.

I think that every project like this is a work of love and passion. And it never really ends. There's always room for growth. The most enjoyable aspect of owning and running Benguerra is the reward inherent in designing and building a lodge like ours with virtually no input from professionals (architects & interior decorators), and with a very limited budget – and the Lodge still being unquestionably the most desired destination in the Bazaruto Archipelago!

It's still quite challenging (and sometimes frustrating) to provide consistent first world standards and levels of service (which are expected from a lodge of this calibre) because of the remote location and relatively poor infrastructural development to support the logistics which the operation requires. For example – it is difficult for our guests to appreciate that the fresh salad they have for lunch is procured 1,300 kms away and then driven by road to us.

THE BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO

Once part of the mainland, the Archipelago broke away some 25,000 years ago to form a chain of five islands. These islands – jewels in a turquoise sea – are made up of Bazaruto, Benguerra, Magaruque, Banque and Santa Carolina (previously known as Paradise Island). They lie opposite the coastal town of Vilanculos.

The Archipelago, declared a National Park in 1971, sustains a diverse population of fauna and flora including forest, savannah and wetland eco-systems. To maintain the ecology and social integrity of the Bazaruto National Park, a long-term “Multiple Resource Use” Project is underway. The National Park and is managed by Worldwide Wildlife Fund (WWF), with the assistance of the Lodges in the area. There are over 200 different species of birds, with the crab plover, being the most sought after. The freshwater lakes are the home to indigenous crocodiles. Suni antelope, squirrels and elephant shrew are some of the mammals found. The main attraction is the variety of sea life, from game fish to tropical fish, turtles, whales and dolphins. The rare and endangered dugong is also found here.

CONSERVATION

To maintain the ecology and social integrity of the Bazaruto National Park, a long-term “Multiple Resource Use” project for the Archipelago is under way. Benguerra Lodge subscribes to the wise and sustainable use of the resources and contributes financially to the project.

Scuba Diving & Snorkelling: One of the most striking aspects of diving the reefs off the Archipelago is the sheer unspoiled beauty and the variety and abundance of marine life. Your journey begins before you even get wet – with possible turtle, ray, dolphin and whale sightings. If you’re lucky a curious whale shark might surface near the boat, inspiring you to momentarily abandon your dive gear and snorkel with the biggest fish in the ocean. Once under water exotic reef fish abound – schooling bannerfish, moorish idols, butterfly fish, blue striped snappers, oriental and barred sweetlips, boxfish, goldies, trigger fish and numerous others provide movement among the diverse beautifully coloured corals and sponges. Schools of kingfish are attracted to the reef’s food supply and circle divers’ bubbles before moving off on their hunt. Turtles and reef sharks can often be seen patrolling the bottom.

Fishing: The Archipelago is home to some of the best saltwater flyfishing in the world, and is renowned for it’s deepsea fishing. Being on the very edge of the deep Mozambique Channel, this is Africa’s most productive area for Marlin (Black, Blue and Striped) and Sailfish as well as warm water game fish such as Giant Kingfish, Wahoo, King Mackerel, Dorado and Bonito. Benguerra maintains a strict “Catch & Release” policy.

Bird Life: Approximately 164 different birds have been identified on the islands, in habitats varying from the coastal dunes, open grasslands and fresh water lakes to savannah and acacia woodlands. The shores fringing the islands are a paradise for plovers, sandpipers and other wading birds. Thousands of Palaearctic migrants cram the shallow waters during the summer months and a keen eye and a good pair of binoculars will reveal many rarities among them.

ILHA DE BENGUERRA

Benguerra is approximately 55 square kilometers (11km long x 5.5km wide), and lies 14km offshore. Its size ensures that guests enjoy ample privacy within an idyllic and unspoiled island paradise surrounded by magnificent beaches and pristine coral reefs. The island sustains a varied array of fauna and flora including natural forest, savannah, dunes and wetland eco-systems. The unique freshwater lakes on the island are indeed a reminder of ancient times when the island was part of the mainland and still hosts a population of freshwater crocodiles.

Benguerra was originally named “Santa Antonio” by Portuguese explorers, and renamed Benguerra in honour of a local Tribal chief. Cashew nut trees are indigenous to the island, and harvested by the islanders. They also harvest the toxic husk which is used to brew a very intoxicating liquor. Wild orange

trees (which contain a natural strychnine poison when green but can be eaten when ripe), sisal plants (used to repair fishing nets) and mlala palms (used for weaving mats, baskets and hats) all grow abundantly. On the southern point of the island you will find Casuarina trees planted by convicts from Penal Colonies in the area during Portuguese rule, to prevent soil erosion.

ILHA DE BAZARUTO

The largest island in the Archipelago is Bazaruto Island – approximately 37km long x 7km at its widest point. The name originates from a local word “Ushurutswa”, which means “island of the mist”. It was later renamed by the Portuguese. The eastern strip of the island is composed of enormous sand dunes, and the remainder of the island is thicket, grassland, scrub and wetland. Near the north point of the island is an old lighthouse, the Farol do Bazaruto, built by the Portuguese over 100 years ago. It hasn’t been in operation for many years, but the view from the top of the lighthouse is truly spectacular.

ILHA DE MAGARUQUE

Magaruque is the third largest island in the Archipelago and is, as yet, undeveloped.

ILHA SANTA CAROLINA

Santa Carolina used to be known as Paradise Island and was a very popular holiday destination for Zimbabweans and South Africans before the war. It was sometimes referred to as the “Pearl of the Indian ocean”. There is an old hotel, built in the 60s, which is slowly falling into the ocean. As with Magaruque, there are plans to develop.



Benguerra Island: surely one of the most beautiful places on earth...

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