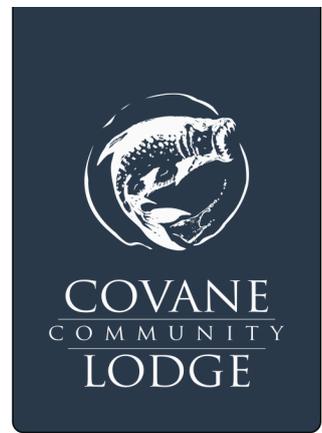


RESERVATIONS & LODGE CONTACT DETAIL

PHONE | (00258) 869587864 / 863579954
EMAIL | info@covanecommunitylodge.com



Excerpt taken from

'African Adventurer's Guide to Mozambique'

by Willie & Sandra Olivier

HISTORY

Mozambique has a long and fascinating history, which is intricately linked to the east coast of Africa, the Zimbabwean Plateau, the Portuguese voyages of discovery and the colonial powers' "Scramble for Africa" in the 1880's.

EARLY INHABITANTS

Prior to the arrival of Early Iron Age people in Mozambique between the third and fourth century, it was inhabited by San hunter-gatherers, who lived in scattered groups throughout the country. The Early Iron Age people first populated the valleys along the coast and later the plateau and highlands further west, displacing or assimilating the San in the process. They were skilled in mining gold, cultivated crops such as mapira and mexoeira (types of sorghum and millet) and practiced animal husbandry. Between the 12th and 14th centuries the Later Iron Age people migrated into Mozambique.

MUSLIM AND PORTUGUESE TRADE

By the 10th century Muslim traders had extended their commercial network from Kilwa, Mombassa and Malinde along the east African coast as far south as the "Land of Sofala". Extensive trade links existed with Great Zimbabwe and the Karanga kingdoms that arose after the decline of Great Zimbabwe at the end of the 15th century; the most prominent was the legendary paramount chieftancy of the Monomotapa. These kingdoms extended from the Zimbabwean plateau eastwards across the present day Manhica and Sofala provinces, with the Rio Zambeze as the northern boundary. Fairs were held from time to time on the Zimbabwean escarpment and gold was traded for beads, pottery and cloth.

Portuguese exploration of Mozambique dates back to 1498 when Vasco de Gama landed in search of a sea passage to India. Henceforth the coast became an important stop where ships were replenished before they continued to India. Lured by reports of gold and silver being mined in the interior, a struggle for trade supremacy ensued between the Portuguese and Muslim traders.



Portugal's possessions in Mozambique were governed from Goa in India until 1752, when the first governor was appointed for the territory. Portuguese control was however, limited to the district of Mozambique (the present Nampula province), Tete and Sena along the Rio Zambeze and a few coastal settlements. In the south of the country, the Portuguese established their first permanent settlement in Baia de Lagoa only in 1782. Following the break-up of the Portuguese South Atlantic Empire and Brazil's independence in 1822, Portugal turned its attention to Angola and Mozambique. Lacking the necessary capital to administer and develop the country, the Portuguese government granted land concessions to foreign companies, which controlled the administration and commerce to the areas under their control, but at the same time the concessions enabled Portugal to claim effective occupation of the areas. A concession between the Rio Save and Rio Zambeze was granted to the Companhia de Moçambique in 1891, while the land between the Rio Lurio and the Rio Rovuma was allocated in 1894 to the Companhia do Niassa. Smaller concessions were awarded in Zambezia Province on former prazos.

Meanwhile, in the south of the country major political developments were taking place. The second decade of the 19th century witnessed the migration of Nguni people into Mozambique. One group migrated from Zimbabwe and ruled the area between the Rio Zambeze and the Rio Save for 10 years before the kingdom disintegrated. Another group, led by Soshangane, migrated into southern Mozambique in 1836 and established the Gaza kingdom, which extended from the Rio Incomati to just south of the Rio Zambeze.

Owing to its strategic location, the southern part of Mozambique was becoming increasingly important. In 1869, the Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR) and Portugal recognized Portugal's sovereignty over Delagoa Bay. Britain however, disputed Portugal's claim over the area, but in 1875 the arbitrator, French President MacMahon ruled in favour of Portugal. In 1876 the construction of a railway line to Lourenco Marques was proposed to provide an independent gateway to the sea for the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek and following the discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand in 1886 the strategic position of Delagoa Bay became even more important. Construction of the line however, was only completed in 1894. The railway line and the port of Lourenco Marques provided a lucrative source of income for the Portuguese government, accounting for nearly a third of state income.

In January 1895, the Portuguese launched an attack against the Gaza monarchy, now led by Gungunhana, to re-assert their authority over the area. After several battles, Gungunhana was captured on 28 December 1895 and sent into exile to the Azores.

The ZAR gold mines needed a vast workforce and towards the closing years of the 1800's large numbers of Mozambicans were recruited to work on the mines on the Witwatersrand. This resulted in an agreement on labour recruitment between the Portuguese government and the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek in 1897. Four years later a monopoly was granted to the Witwatersrand Native Labor Association to recruit labor in

southern Mozambique and between 1904 and 1926 the number of migrant laborer's fluctuated between 50,000 and 96,500.

SALAZAR AND THE ESTADA NOVO

Following the ousting of the monarchy in Portugal in 1910, the new republican government, which ruled until 1926, introduced liberal reforms in Portugal's overseas colonies. Although the colonies were granted a great degree of self-government, they were still viewed as provinces of the mother country.

In May 1926, the Republican government in Portugal was overthrown by a military coup and heavy reliance was placed on Antonio Salazar, an academic of Coimbra University, who devised the policies of the Estada Novo, or New State. Salazar, who became prime minister in 1932, enacted laws which restricted the autonomy of the Portuguese territories and ended the control of charter companies and the prazos. To reduce Portugal's dependence on imports, Mozambique was used to provide foodstuffs such as coffee, cocoa, sugar, rice and raw materials (especially cotton) to Portugal. At the same time Mozambique became an important market for exports from Portugal.

The system of indigena and não-indigena, inherited from the Republican government, was retained and in 1944 the indigena were required to register and carry identity cards. In the mid-1950's tens of thousands of peasant families were resettled in aldeamentos for administrative purposes and to boost crop-growing in the north of the country.

In 1951 the Portuguese Constitution was revised and Mozambique became an overseas province of Portugal. The change from colony to overseas province was aimed at emphasizing the government's position that Portugal and its African territories were a single country.

The provision of health care to the indigena only improved after the Second Development Plan was implemented in 1958, while education was largely left to the church.

Although the boundaries of Mozambique were finally drawn in 1891 by Britain and Portugal, it took another 50 years before a unified government was created. At that time, the only areas under the direct administration of the colonial government were the district of Mozambique (now Nampula) and an area to the south of Rio Zambeze around Tete. In addition, Britain also accepted Portugal's territorial claim over the area south of the Rio Save. The Companhia do Niassa's concession expired in 1929, while most of the prazo leases only expired in 1930. The concession of the Companhia de Moçambique, however, continued until 1941.

THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE

The nationalist movement that finally forced Portugal to hand over power to Mozambicans, Frelimo, was founded in Dar-es-Salaam in 1962 when three independent movements amalgamated. Two years later the Luta Armada or armed struggle, was launched. The first phase of the armed struggle was fought in the northernmost reaches of Cabo Delgado and Niassa provinces, bordering on Tanzania, from where operations were initially launched.

Following Operation Gordian Knot the liberation struggle shifted to Tete Province where Frelimo targeted the Cahora Bassa Dam. By 1972 the entire Tete Province (except for Cahora Bassa and the city of Tete) was under the control of Frelimo, as well as most of Cabo Delgado Province and the northern half of Niassa Province. From Tete Province Frelimo infiltrated further south, attacking Portuguese settlers and the Beira-Umtali (now Mutare) railway line.

Frelimo's infiltration of Tete provided a foothold for Zapu guerillas fighting against the Rhodesian government of Ian Smith and disrupted the rail and road connection to Beira. The Smith government responded by deploying its troops to guard the Tete Corridor and the Beira Corridor and created the Renamo rebel movement in 1977 to counter Zapu and Frelimo.

The Carnation Revolution of April 1974, in which the Portuguese Prime Minister, Marcello Caetano, was ousted in a military coup led by the monocled General António de Spínola, brought about a swift change of events in Mozambique. Eager to dispose of its colonies as quickly as possible, the socialist government of Spínola began negotiations with Frelimo in June 1974, with a view to handing over power. Frelimo however, refused to agree to a ceasefire until August 1974. Violence broke out and uncertainty about the future resulted in most of the 240,000 white settlers fleeing the country. Fleeing settlers withdrew their money from their banks, set buildings ablaze and sabotaged machinery and equipment.

INDEPENDENCE

After an agreement with the new Portuguese government, a provisional government was formed by Frelimo and on 25 June 1975 Mozambique became independent. In 1977 Frelimo declared Mozambique a one-party state guided by the doctrine of Marxism-Leninism. Faced with a flight of capital and the abandonment of farms, companies and shops by fleeing settlers, unoccupied land and businesses were nationalized.



In the meanwhile, Renamo stepped up its military campaign in central Mozambique. Zimbabwe's independence in 1980 denied the rebels support they had previously enjoyed, but South Africa, fearful of a communist government in Mozambique, stepped in to fill the breach. The Beira and Tete Corridors, once

the target of Frelimo, now became frequently under attack by Renamo rebels, prompting the Zimbabwean government of deploy up to 12,000 troops to guard the Beira corridor.

The signing of the Nkomati Accord between the Mozambican and South African governments on 16 March 1984 was meant to herald an end to the hostilities between the two countries. In terms of the accord, Mozambique agreed that its territory would not be used as a springboard for attacks on South Africa by ANC and PAC operatives, while South Africa undertook to cease all support to the Renamo movement. In August 1985, when Frelimo forces overran the Renamo headquarters in the Gorongosa area, documentary evidence was found that South Africa was still maintaining contact with the rebel movement. Not surprisingly, Mozambique abrogated the accord and, although it appears that the official South African government position was not to supply arms and logistical support to Renamo, hardline elements within the South African Defence Force continued covert support.

The ill-fated experiment in socialism and the near-total destruction of the country's infrastructure by Renamo forced the government to abandon socialism in favour of a transition to a free-market economy. In 1987 it agreed to a structural adjustment programme and two years later Frelimo transformed itself from a Marxist-Leninist to a social democratic party.

A new constitution, providing for multi-party democracy, human rights, freedom of the individual and property rights was adopted in 1990. By then it had become obvious that neither Frelimo, nor Renamo, could win a war that had killed, maimed and displaced millions of people.

With the mediation of Zimbabwe, Kenya, Italy and the Catholic Church, direct peace talks between the government and Renamo began in 1990 and an accord was signed on 4 October 1992 in Rome. The two-year transition to democratic rule was overseen by the United Nations Operations in Mozambique; this is regarded as the world body's most successful operation to date. Among its duties were the demobilization of soldiers from both sides, the integration of former government and Renamo forces into a new national army and ensuring free and fair, democratic elections.

Mozambicans went to the polls for the first time ever in October 1994 and Frelimo President, Joaquim Chissano, received 53,3% of the votes while Renamo leader Alfonso Dhlakama trailed with 33,3%. The election for the Assembly was more closely fought, with Frelimo winning 44,3% or 129 seats to Renamo's 33,7% and 112 seats. Despite its defeat, Renamo accepted the outcome of the elections and the country has since enjoyed peace and tranquility.

POPULATION

The total population of Mozambique is estimated at 18,1 million (1997), giving the country an average population density of 20,8 people per square kilometer. About 30% of the country's inhabitants live in urban areas, with the capital, Maputo having an officially estimated population of just over one million. Unofficial estimates, however put this figure considerably higher.

The population growth rate is estimated at 2,6% (1997); 45 percent of the population is under the age of 14. Life expectancy at birth is just under 45 years.

Mozambique is a multicultural country and among its diverse peoples are Africans, Arabs, Indians and Portuguese. The Makua, the largest population group, account for nearly 28% of the country's population and live in the northern provinces of Nampula, Cabo Delgado and Niassa. Other cultural groups of the north include the Makonde of Cabo Delgado Province, the Yao of western Niassa, the Mwani and the Nyanya.

The central provinces of Manica and Sofala are inhabited mainly by Shona, Sena, Chuabo and Nyungwe people, while the Lomwe is the most numerous group in Zambezia.

The Tsonga (Shangaan) of the Gaza and Maputo provinces in southern Mozambique are the second largest cultural group and account for just over 12% of the population. Also living in Maputo Province is the Ronga, while Inhambane Province is home to the Tswa, Chope and Tonga. About 80% of the country's population is engaged in subsistence farming. Other important employment sectors include industry, transport and communication, and fishing. Unemployment, estimated at 50% in 1989, is set to decrease as more job opportunities become available.

Traditional religion is still widespread in Mozambique and although statistics are difficult to obtain, about 50% of the population still practice traditional faiths that are often combined with other religions. About 16% of people are Catholic and a similar percentage are Protestants, with some 22% Muslims, a religion widespread in the north of the country.

LANGUAGE

The country's cultural diversity is reflected in the over 60 languages and dialects spoken. Portuguese is the official language, despite the fact that it is the home language of just over 1% of the population and is spoken by less than a quarter of the population. Until the mid-1990's very little English was spoken, but nowadays it is widely understood in resorts frequented by South African and Zimbabwean tourists, and at up-market hotels in Maputo and Beira. Outside the cities, major towns and resorts, little English is spoken and it is advisable to learn a few commonly used phrases, or to take a short course in Portuguese.

ECONOMY

At the time of independence, Mozambique was the fourth most industrialized country in Africa, but an ill-considered experiment with socialism, followed by civil war and a devastating drought, virtually destroyed the country's economy. In 1992 it was ranked by the World Bank as the poorest country in the world, with a per capita GNP of US \$60 and an average inflation rate of 38% from 1980 to 1992. The Metical was hopelessly overvalued and decreased in value from 200 Mt to the US dollar in 1987 to over 5,600 Mt in little more than seven years.

The country's economic upswing over the last decade can be attributed to two major events – the launching of the Economic Recovery Programme in January 1987 and the ending of the civil war in 1992. The ERP signaled a radical departure from Marxism and provided for privatization of over 1,000 state-owned firms, reduced state expenditure and liberalization of the exchange rate, among others.

Following the democratic elections of 1994, foreign aid worth billions of US dollars has flowed into the country while international investors have shown a keen interest in Mozambique. By mid-1999 approved and proposed investment projects amounted to over ten billion dollars, making Mozambique the country that attracted the most foreign investment in sub-Saharan Africa. Among the top investment projects are the US \$1,3 billion Mozal aluminium smelter near Maputo and a US \$2,5 billion gas, iron and steel project.

With about 36 million hectares of arable land, Mozambique has considerable potential for agriculture, but only about 7 million hectares are cultivated by the formal farming sector. Important export crops include cashew nuts, sugar, copra, citrus, tea and tropical fruit. Subsistence farming is practiced on the remaining 80% of the land; the most important crops are maize, mandioco, cashew nuts, citrus, tropical fruits, cotton, coffee, tea and cocoa. As a result of the introduction of state farms which were unproductive, and the civil war, livestock production declined and even today few animals are to be seen.

The fishing industry is another sector that holds great potential for recovery.

The nutrient-rich offshore waters of southern Mozambique are rich in prawns, shrimps, crab and rock lobster. Prawns occur from Beira northwards to Quelimane. The main pelagic fishing waters, where sardines, anchovy and mackerel are caught, are off the coast from just south of Beira to north of Quelimane, with tuna occurring in the deeper offshore waters along much of the coast.



Tourism is a rapidly expanding economic sector and has attracted considerable investments since the elections in 1994. Various zones have been earmarked for development; among them the coastline from Cabo Santa Maria to Ponta da Ouro, Inhaca, Beira and Pemba. Prime wildlife areas such as Parque Nacional

da Gorongosa, Reserva do Niassa and Reserva Especial do Maputo have been, or are in the process of being rehabilitated and will in time again become a major drawcard for tourists.

The country is rich in minerals and several international mining companies have been attracted to Mozambique following the announcement of incentives for foreign investors. The coal reserves at Moatize in Tete Province have been estimated conservatively at 2,2 billion tonnes. Among the minerals are gold and bauxite in Manica Province, emeralds at Gile in Zambezia Province and several heavy minerals along the coast.

Mozambique's energy sector is blessed with rich resources, including vast reserves of natural gas. The Pande gas field in Inhambane Province has an estimated 60 billion cubic meters of gas, while the Temane gas field, 60km south of Pande, also has vast gas reserves. Oil exploration is being conducted in the Rovuma Basin in the north of the country and in the Zambeze basin.



The Cahora Bassa hydro-electric scheme on the Rio Zambeze has a generating capacity of 2,000MW. Although the 900km long line running through Mozambique to South Africa was repaired in 1997, a disagreement on tariffs between HCB and the South African electricity utility, Eskom has stalled the flow of energy to South Africa.

Prior to independence, 40% of exports from South Africa's industrial heartland passed through the port of Maputo, which is some 200km closer than the harbour facilities in Durban. A year after the democratic elections in Mozambique and South Africa, the Maputo Corridor project was launched to revive international trade and attract foreign investment along the 563km road between Gauteng and Maputo.

The R1,5 billion Maputo Development Corridor has provided a major stimulus for the country's economy. One of the corridor's major benefits is that it gives Gauteng harbour facilities that are some 200km closer than those of Durban. The project involved the upgrading of the national road between Gauteng and Maputo, the upgrading of the rail link and the rehabilitation of the Port of Maputo.

Commerce and services account for about a third of the country's GDP, agriculture 26,5%, fishing and industries 15%, transport and communication 14% and construction 10,6%. The main export products are prawns, cashew nuts, cotton, sugar, copra, wood and minerals. With billions being invested in the country however, the contribution of the various economic sectors to GDP is likely to change significantly over the next few years.

GOVERNMENT



iebuza

Mozambique is a republic governed by a constitution adopted on 30 November 1990. The executive branch consists of a president, elected for a five-year term by popular vote, a prime minister appointed by the president and a cabinet. The 250 members of the unicameral legislative branch, the Assembleia da República, are also elected by popular vote for a five-year term. All citizens 18 years and older are eligible to vote. The third branch of the government is the judicial branch. The Supreme Court comprises of judges appointed by the president and judges elected by the Assembly. The legal system is based on customary law and the Portuguese civil legal system.

On a regional level, the country is divided into 10 provinces (provincias), each with a provincial capital. Covering 129,055km², Niassa Province is not only the largest but also the most sparsely populated province while Maputo Province in the south is the smallest. The provinces are again divided into distrito (districts), while inhabitants of cities and towns, are represented by elected city or town councils. Maputo and its satellite, Matola, have the largest population, followed by Beira (300,000), Nampula (200,000), Nacala, Chimoio, Quelimane and Tete.

<u>Province</u>	<u>Provincial Capital</u>	<u>Area km²</u>
Maputo	Maputo	25,756
Maputo City	Maputo	602
Gaza	Xai Xai	75,709
Inhambane	Inhambane	68,615
Sofala	Beira	68,015
Manica	Chimoio	61,661
Tete	Tete	100,724
Zambezia	Quelimane	105,008
Nampula	Nampula	81,606
Niassa	Lichinga	129,056
Cabo Delgado	Pemba	82,625

SOME BASIC WORDS AND PHRASES IN PORTUGUESE

Good morning	Bom dia
Good afternoon	Boa tarde
Good evening/night	Boa noite
Goodbye	Adeus
Excuse me (calling waiter)	Faz favor
Excuse me	Com licença
How are you?	Como está?
I am well, thank you	Estou bem/bom, obrigado(a)
No problem	Não faz mal/Não tem problema
Thank you	Obrigado(a)
Thank you very much	Muito obrigado(a)
Too much	Demais
Do you speak English?	Fala Inglês?
I don't speak Portuguese	Não falo Português
I don't understand	Não compreendo, or Não percebo
What is your name?	Como é que se chama?
My name is	(Eu) sou
I want to go to	Quero ir para ...
Where is?	Onde é ...?
Yes	Sim
No	Não