

Mozambique

Country name	Mozambique
State title	Republic of Mozambique
Name of citizen	Mozambican
Official language	Portuguese (<i>por</i>) ¹
Country name in official language	Moçambique
State title in official language	República de Moçambique
Script	Roman script
Romanization System	Not required
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	MZ/MOZ
Capital	Maputo
Area / Population	800,000km ² /32,513,805 (2023 est.) ²

Introduction

Mozambique lies on the Indian Ocean (on the Mozambique Channel, which lies between Mozambique and Madagascar) and shares land boundaries with Eswatini; Malawi; South Africa; Tanzania; Zambia and Zimbabwe. It gained independence in 1975 from Portugal. The topography is diverse with coastal lowlands rising to mountains in the north and west, with the population largely concentrated on the coasts and the fertile river valleys.

Geographical names policy

For HMG use, geographical names should be taken from official sources if they can be acquired, such as the *Direcção Nacional de Geografia e Cadastro* (DINAGECA) or the *Centro Nacional de Cartografia e Teledeteção* (CENACARTA), which will be written in Roman script in a Portuguese style. All diacritical marks, apostrophes and hyphens should be retained.

The US Board on Geographic Names (BGN) [Geographic Names Server](#) can also be used as a source for names in Mozambique. Additionally, the [Africa Geoportal](#) may be used as a helpful source of geospatial data and names³.

¹ ISO 639 codes are given for languages mentioned in this Factfile.

² <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/mozambique/>

³ This is a source collated from multiple sources, including Esri, organisations working in Africa and crowdsourced information. It should be used as a supplementary source.

Languages

Portuguese (*por*), the former colonial language, remains the only official language, and this is widely spoken as a first or second language throughout the country (and is the usual *lingua franca* between different language communities). Over 40 indigenous languages from the Bantu language family are spoken; those used by at least 1 million people⁴ in Mozambique are Makhuwa⁵, Tsonga (*tso*), Lomwe (*ngl*), Chewa (*nya*), Sena (*seh*) and Chuwabu (*chw*).

Inventory of Characters (and their Unicode encodings)⁶

Portuguese contains the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

Upper-case character	Unicode encoding	Lower-case character	Unicode encoding
À	00C0	à	00E0
Á	00C1	á	00E1
Â	00C2	â	00E2
Ã	00C3	ã	00E3
Ç	00C7	ç	00E7
É	00C9	é	00E9
Ê	00CA	ê	00EA
Í	00CD	í	00ED
Ó	00D3	ó	00F3
Ô	00D4	ô	00F4
Õ	00D5	õ	00F5
Ú	00DA	ú	00FA

⁴ According to the [2017 census](#) (language names as used in ISO 639 standard).

⁵ There is no single ISO 639 code for Makhuwa – various varieties have their own code, e.g. Central Makhuwa (*vmw*).

⁶ See www.unicode.org.

Map of Mozambique



Map produced by PCGN for illustrative purposes only, and is not to be taken necessarily as representing the views of the UK government on boundaries or political status.

Administrative structure

Mozambique is divided into 1 city (*cidade*) and 10 provinces (*provincia*) at the first-order administrative level.

Administrative division	ISO 3166-2 code	Administrative centre	Location of administrative centre
Niassa	MZ-A	Lichinga	13°18'46"S 35°14'26"E
Manica	MZ-B	Chimoio	19°06'59"S 33°29'00"E
Gaza	MZ-G	Xai-Xai	25°03'07"S 33°38'39"E
Inhambane	MZ-I	Inhambane	23°51'54"S 35°23'00"E
Maputo	MZ-L	Matola	25°58'00"S 32°28'00"E
Cidade de Maputo	MZ-MPM	Maputo	25°58'00"S 32°35'00"E
Nampula	MZ-N	Nampula	15°07'11"S 39°15'53"E
Cabo Delgado	MZ-P	Pemba	12°57'39"S 40°30'28"E
Zambézia	MZ-Q	Quelimane	17°52'43"S 36°53'18"E
Sofala	MZ-S	Beira	19°50'37"S 34°50'20"E
Tete	MZ-T	Tete	16°09'23"S 33°35'12"E

Other Significant Locations

PCGN Recommended Name ⁷	Variant Names/Spellings	Location	Feature Type
Cahora Bassa	Cabora Bassa (former name)	15°40'00"S 31°50'00"E	Artificial lake
Lake Nyasa (Lake Malawi)	Lake Malawi (Malawi); Lake Nyasa (Tanzania); Lago Niassa (Mozambique)	1°00'00"S 34°30'00"E	Lake (Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique)
Lebombo Mountains	Montes Libombos (Mozambique)	26°15'00"S 32°00'00"	Mountain range (Eswatini, Mozambique, South Africa)
Limpopo River	Rio Limpopo (Mozambique)	25°12'22"S 33°30'40"E	River (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique)

⁷ PCGN usually recommends conventional English names for international features, unless national variants are specifically required.

PCGN Recommended Name ⁷	Variant Names/Spellings	Location	Feature Type
Monte Binga		19°46'36"S 33°03'43"E	Mountain (Mozambique, Zimbabwe) [2436m]
Zambezi River	Rio Zambeze (Mozambique)	11°22'11"S 24°18'30"E	River (Zambia, Angola, Namibia, Botswana; Zimbabwe; Mozambique)

Useful references

- Africa Geoportal: <https://www.africageoportal.com/>
- BBC Country Profile: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13890416>
- CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/mozambique/>
- Ethnologue: www.ethnologue.com (for information on languages)
- FCDO Geographical Names Index (GNI): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/geographical-names-and-information>
- FCDO Travel Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/mozambique>
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP) : <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui#home>
- Omniglot: www.omniglot.com (for information on languages and scripts)
- PCGN Country Names list: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/country-names>
- Unicode: www.unicode.org
- USAID and Mozambique Ministry of Education and Human Development language study: [pa00n7sd.pdf \(usaid.gov\)](#)
- US Board on Geographic Names GEOnet Names Server: [GNS Search & Download WebApp \(nga.mil\)](#)

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