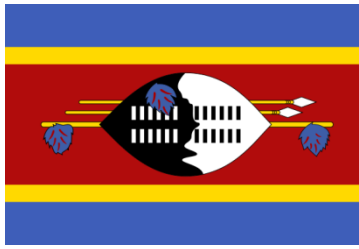


2016 Southern Africa Resource Document



South African Flag



Swaziland Flag



Mozambique Flag

The current flag of the Republic of South Africa was adopted on April 27, 1994, during the first free elections and the end of apartheid. A new national flag was adopted to represent the new democratic South Africa. According to the South African government information, the South African flag is "a synopsis of principal elements of the country's flag history." Although different people may attribute personal symbolism to the individual colors or color combinations, "no universal symbolism should be attached to any of the colors." The only symbolism in the flag is the V or Y shape, which can be interpreted as "the convergence of diverse elements within South African society, taking the road ahead in unity."

Swaziland's flag was adopted on October 1, 1968. The red stands for past battles, blue for peace and stability, and yellow for Swaziland's resources. The central focus of the flag is a horizontal shield reinforced by a staff with hanging feather tassels, and with two spears above the shield, symbolizing protection from the country's enemies. Its color reflects that white and black people live in peaceful coexistence in Swaziland.

The flag of Mozambique was adopted on May 1, 1983. Green stands for the riches of the land, white signifies peace, black represents the African continent, yellow symbolizes the country's minerals, and red represents the struggle for independence. The rifle stands for defense and vigilance, the open book symbolizes the importance of education, the hoe represents the country's agriculture, and the star symbolizes Marxism and internationalism. Proposals for a new, non-partisan flag have been introduced.

ISV's Mission Statement

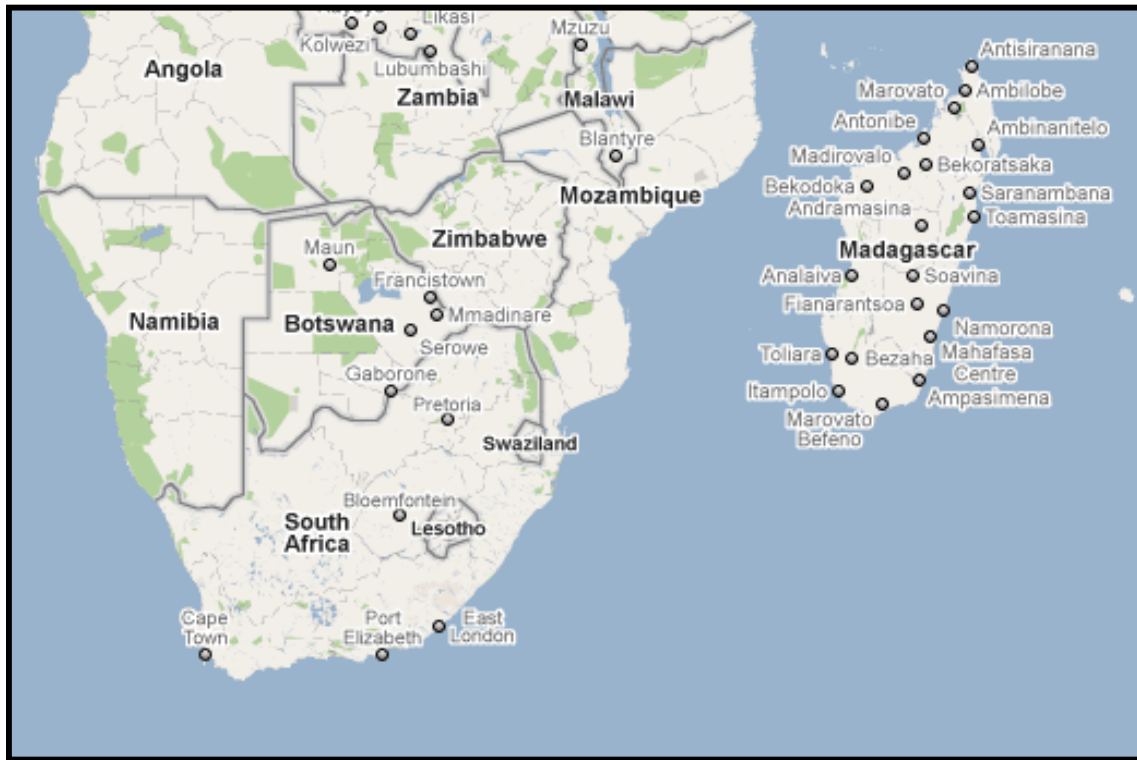
To support sustainable development initiatives around the world through life-changing student volunteer and responsible adventure travel programs designed to positively change our world and to educate, inspire and result in more active global citizens.

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Southern Africa at a Glance

Map



Country*	Area	Land Borders with South Africa
South Africa	1,219,912 sq km / 758,018 sq mi	
Botswana	581,730 sq km / 224,610 sq mi	1,840 km / 1,143 mi
Lesotho	30,355 sq km / 12,727 sq mi	909 km / 565 mi
Mozambique	801,590 sq km / 498,085 sq mi	491 km / 305 mi
Namibia	825,418 sq km / 318,696 sq mi	967 km / 600 mi
Swaziland	17,363 sq km / 10,789 sq mi	430 km / 267 mi
Zimbabwe	390,757 sq km / 150,871 sq mi	225 km / 140 mi

*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_South_Africa

South Africa

Highest point	Njesuthi 3,408 m / 11,181 ft
Lowest point	Sea level 0 m / 0 ft
Longest river	Orange River 2,200 km / 1,367 mi
Largest lake	Lake Chrissie

Bill Bryson – “One of the gladdest moments of human life, methinks, is the departure upon a distant journey into unknown lands. Shaking off with one mighty effort the fetters of habit, the leaden weight of routine, the cloak of many cares and the slavery of home, man feels once more happy.”

Useful Facts and Figures

Name:	Republic of South Africa
Government Type:	Republic
Capital:	Pretoria
Languages:	IsiZulu 23.82%, IsiXhosa 17.64%, Afrikaans 13.35%, Sepedi 9.39%, English 8.2%, Setswana 8.2%, Sesotho 7.93%, Xitsonga 4.44%, siSwati 2.66%, Tshivenda 2.28%, isiNdebele 1.59%, other 0.5% (2001 census).
Population:	48,810,427 (July 2012 est.)
Population Growth Rate:	-0.412% (2012 est.)
Life Expectancy at Birth:	49.41 years (total population)
Ethnic Groups:	Black African 79%, white 9.6%, colored 8.9%, Indian/Asian 2.5% (2001 census)
Religions:	Protestant 36.6% (Zionist Christian 11.1%, Pentecostal/Charismatic 8.2%, Methodist 6.8%, Dutch Reformed 6.7%, Anglican 3.8%), Catholic 7.1%, Muslim 1.5%, other Christian 36%, other 2.3%, unspecified 1.4%, none 15.1% (2001 census).
Literacy:	89% (UNESCO Institute for Statistics 2005-2010.).
Administrative Divisions:	9 provinces; Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North-West, Western Cape.
Independence:	May 31, 1910 (Union of South Africa formed from four British colonies: Cape Colony, Natal, Transvaal, and Orange Free State); May 31, 1961 (republic declared); April, 27 1994 (majority rule).
Date of Constitution:	December 10, 1996; note - certified by the Constitutional Court December 4, 1996; was signed by then President Mandela December 10, 1996; and entered into effect February 4, 1997.
Legal System:	Mixed legal system of Roman-Dutch civil law, English common law, and customary law.
Suffrage:	18 years of age; universal
GDP:	US \$422 billion (2011 est.)
GDP Composition by Sector:	Agriculture 2.5%; Industry 31.6%; Services 65.9%. (2011 estimate).
Labor Force:	17.67 million (2011 est.)
Labor Force by Occupation:	Agriculture 9%; Industry 26%; Services 65% (2007 estimate).
Unemployment Rate:	23.9% (2011 est.)
Population below Poverty Line:	50% (2000 est.)

Industries:	Mining (world's largest producer of platinum, gold and chromium), automobile assembly, metalworking, machinery, textiles, iron and steel, chemicals, fertilizer, foodstuffs, commercial ship repair.
Agricultural Products:	Corn, wheat, sugarcane, fruits, vegetables; beef, poultry, mutton, wool, dairy products.
Exports:	Gold, diamonds, platinum, other metals and minerals, machinery and equipment.
Imports:	Machinery and equipment, chemicals, petroleum products, scientific instruments, foodstuffs.
External Debt:	\$47.66 billion (December 2011 est.)
Natural Hazards:	Prolonged droughts.
Environmental Issues:	Lack of important arterial rivers or lakes requires extensive water conservation and control measures; growth in water usage outpacing supply; pollution of rivers from agricultural runoff and urban discharge; air pollution resulting in acid rain; soil erosion; desertification.



People & Culture

Nelson Mandela – “We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right.”

South Africa

Population

In the last century South Africa’s population has grown exponentially, breaking the 50 million mark (51,770,560 [2012 est.]). Exponential population growth is not unique to South Africa, and there has been greater attention both nationally and internationally on sustainable development. Sustainable development is a pattern of resource use that aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but in the indefinite future.

If this population trend persists, by the year 2035, there will be nearly 82 million people living in South Africa, and dependent on the same level of natural resources which are already under pressure to

adequately meet demand. Roughly half these people live in towns and cities, and many live in informal and inadequate housing. Many people do not have access to water supply and sanitation, electricity, and other services. The population is more mobile now than in the last century, and factors such as employment opportunities, land reform and restitution, and immigration from other countries, are causing the population in urban centres to grow rapidly. Levels of poverty are highest amongst the Black population, reaching over 60%.

The focus in South Africa at present is on meeting basic needs (i.e., ensuring that all citizens have proper housing, water supply and sanitation, electricity, health care and other services). South Africa also recognises and has participated in international efforts to promote sustainable development, including the adoption of Agenda 21 and a commitment to implementing it at the national, provincial and local levels. Agenda 21 (the number 21 refers to the 21st century) is a program run by the United Nations (UN) related to sustainable development. It is a comprehensive blueprint of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the UN, governments, and major groups in every area in which humans impact on the environment.

Population estimates for South Africa explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality, higher death rates, lower population growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected.

Demographics & Languages

South Africa is a nation of about 50 million people of diverse origins, cultures, languages, and religions. The demographic breakdown according to the 2011 census was black African 79.2%, white 8.7%, colored 9.2%, and Indian/Asian 2.9%.



South Africa has eleven official languages: Afrikaans, English, Ndebele, Northern Sotho, Sotho, Swazi, Tswana, Tsonga, Venda, Xhosa and Zulu. In this regard it is third only to Bolivia and India in number. While all the languages are formally equal, some languages are spoken more than others. According to the 2001 census, the three most spoken first home languages are Zulu (23.8%), Xhosa (17.64%) and Afrikaans (13.35%). Despite the fact that English is recognized as the language of commerce and science, it was spoken by only 8.2% of South Africans at home in 2001, an even lower percentage than in 1996 (8.6%).

Religion

According to the 2001 census, Protestants accounted for 36.6% of the population, Catholics 7.1%, and other Christian 36%. Muslims made up 1.5% of the population, other religions 2.3%, unspecified 1.4%, and no religious affiliation 15.1%.

Swaziland

Population

The estimate of the population of Swaziland in 2012 is 1,386,914. Estimates for Swaziland explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality, higher death rates, lower population growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected.

The majority of Swaziland's population is ethnically Swazi, mixed with a small number of Zulu and White Africans, mostly people of British and Afrikaner descent. Traditionally Swazi have been subsistence farmers and herders, but most now mix such activities with work in the growing urban formal economy and in government. Some Swazi work in the mines in South Africa. Swaziland also received Portuguese settlers and African refugees from Mozambique.



Religion

The most common religion in Swaziland is Christianity which totals 82.70% of the total population, in which various Protestant and indigenous African churches, including African Zionist, constitute the majority of the Christians, followed closely by Roman Catholicism. There are also non-Christian religions practiced in the country such as Islam (0.95%), the Bahá'í Faith (0.5%), and Hinduism (0.15%).

Languages

SiSwati (also known as Swati, Swazi or Seswati) is a Bantu language of the Nguni Group, spoken in Swaziland and South Africa. It has 2.5 million speakers and is taught in schools. It is an official language of Swaziland (along with English) and one of the official languages of South Africa. About 76,000 people in the country speak Zulu. Tsonga, which is spoken by many people throughout the region, is spoken by about 19,000 people in Swaziland. Afrikaans is also spoken by some residents of Afrikaner descent.

Mozambique

Population

The 2012 estimate of the population of Mozambique was 23,515,934. Estimates for Mozambique explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality, higher death rates, lower population growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected.



Demographics

Ethnic groups found in Mozambique include Makhuwa, Tsonga, Makonde, Shangaan, Shona, Sena, Ndaou, and other indigenous groups, and approximately 10,000 Europeans, 35,000 Euro-Africans, and 15,000 South Asians. Mozambique's ethnic groups break down into African 99.66% (Makhuwa, Tsonga, Lomwe, Sena, and others), Europeans 0.06%, Euro-Africans 0.2%, and Indians 0.08% (CIA Factbook).

Religion

According to the 2007 census, Catholics make up 28.4% of the population, Protestant 27.7% (Zionist Christian 15.5%, Evangelical Pentecostal 10.9%, Anglican 1.3%), Muslim 17.9%, other religion 7.2%, and no religious affiliation 18.7%.

Languages

Portuguese is the official language of the nation and is the language of the Mozambican education, business and legal systems, which poses a problem people who cannot read nor speak it. Approximately 60 other languages and dialects are spoken in Mozambique. All are of Bantu origin, and can be roughly categorized by geography.

According to the 2007 census, the languages spoken by the population break down as Emakhuwa 25.3%, Portuguese (official) 10.7%, Xichangana 10.3%, Cisená 7.5%, Elomwe 7%, Echuwabo 5.1%, other Mozambican languages 30.1%, and other languages 4%.

Miriam Beard – "Keep things on your trip in perspective, and you'll be amazed at the perspective you gain on things back home while you're away...One's little world is put into perspective by the bigger world out there."

Sports

Transcending race, politics or language group, sport unites the country – and not just the male half of it. When a South African team wins, a cacophony of hooting, cheering, banging of dustbin lids, trumpeting on cow horns, vuvuzela's and fireworks reverberates across the largest cities. The national adrenaline goes into overdrive.

The major sports in which South Africa excels are the aristocratic British games of **rugby** and **cricket**. For over a century, the country has regularly fielded teams of world-beating class, playing chiefly against arch-foes England, Australia and New Zealand. But it is football - or **soccer**, as it is universally called here - that has won the hearts of South Africa's black majority.



For many black South Africans, the country's proudest sporting moment came when South Africa won the African Nations Cup on home turf in 1996 – having failed to even qualify for the previous cup. The national team, nicknamed Bafana Bafana, which means "The Boys," is extraordinarily erratic – beating giants, then succumbing to minnows.

Sir Richard Burton – “All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware.”

Ethnic Cuisine

South Africa

The food -"Rainbow Cuisine" - depicts a blend of many cultural societies — European, Asian, and African — evolved over centuries. It showcases the varied, traditions of the Italian, Portuguese, Greek, English, French and Dutch. It presents the fruity sweet and sweet-sour tastes of the Malay, a people from the East Indies who came to the Cape as slaves by the Dutch colonials. It includes the spicy curries from India and China. And it encompasses the indigenous fare of the African tribes. Alongside, the superb wines complement the special dishes.

The country grows virtually everything it needs. The Western Cape has an abundance of fruits, grains, and grapes. The Eastern Transvaal supplies tea and subtropical fruits — lush mangoes, bananas, and papayas. Natal produces sugarcane and avocado. Excellent lamb comes from the Karoo along with low-cholesterol game meats such as venison, ostrich and impala, come from wild herds or from farming. Seafood is regional, ultra-fresh, and plentiful — crayfish, prawns, tuna, mussels, oysters, mackerel and snock are caught in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Rock lobsters populate the bays near Cape Town, although poaching is decreasing the surplus.



Among the Malay, a renowned dish is bobotie, a custard-topped minced meat pie seasoned with onion, curry, and fruit chutney. Other dishes include pickled fish; sosaties, curry-marinated pork or lamb kebabs; and bredie, a meat or fish stew with vegetables and chilies. The Indians introduced their curries. The Afrikaaners have their succulent potjies, or stews of maize with tomato and onion sauce or rice, and braais of grilled seafood and meat. The Dutch contributed their fried cruller, or koek sister, and milk pies. These classic ethnic dishes are often intertwined in a continental-style menu.

Swaziland

The cuisine of Swaziland is largely determined by the seasons and the geographical region in question. Staple foods in Swaziland include sorghum and maize, often served with goat meat, a very popular livestock there. The farming industry mainly depends on sugar cane, tobacco, rice, corn, peanuts, and the exportation of goat meat and beef. Many Swazis are subsistence farmers who supplement their diet with food bought from markets, freshwater produce and imports from coastal nations are also part of the cuisine of Swaziland. Some local markets have food stalls with traditional Swazi meat stew, maize meal and seasonal roasted corn on the cob.



- Sishwala: Thick porridge normally served with meat or vegetables
- Sncwancwa: Sour porridge made of fermented cornmeal

- Sitfubi: Fresh milk cooked and mixed with cornmeal
- Siphuphe setindlubu: Thick porridge made of mashed ground nuts
- Emasi etinkhobe temmbila: Ground corn mixed with sour milk
- Emasi emabele: Ground sorghum mixed with sour milk
- Sidvudvu: Porridge made of pumpkin mixed with cornmeal
- Umncweba: Dried uncooked meat (biltong)
- Umkhunsu: Cooked and dried meat
- Siphuphe semabhontjisi: Thick porridge made of mashed beans
- Tinkhobe: Boiled whole maize
- Umbidvo wetintsanga: Cooked pumpkin tops (leaves) mixed with ground nuts
- Tjwala (umcombotsi): Traditional brewed beer

Mozambique

The cuisine of Mozambique revolves around fresh seafood, stews, corn porridge (maize meal), arroz (rice), millet (a type of grain), and mandioca (cassava). Meats such as bifel (steak) and frango (chicken) are often accompanied by beans, cassava chips, cashew nuts, coconut, batata (potatoes), and a variety of spices, including garlic and peppers (a Portuguese influence). Seasonal fruta (fresh fruit; Mozambique's papaya and pineapples are known as some of the juiciest in the world), puddings made of fruits and rice, and fried balls of flour paste (similar to doughnuts), most often accompanied by Mozambican chá (tea), make a delicious ending to any meal.

In the mornings for pequeno almoço (breakfast), tea and coffee are commonly sold with sandwiches made of ovos (egg) or fresh peixe (fish), or a slightly sweetened bread-cake. The pequeno almoço is usually light, however, as the main meal of the day is normally almoço (lunch) at midday.



Those who work in cities and towns often purchase almoço from food stalls (also called tea stalls), which are located on roadsides, bus stations, and markets around town. Pregos (steak sandwiches), burgers, fried chicken, meat stews, and rice are typical fare available from the stalls. Fresh seafood from off the coast of Mozambique is abundant and is considered some of the most delicious food available. It is sold nearly everywhere from street stalls to city restaurants, though it is more available near the coast. Fresh fish, prawns (similar to shrimp), calamari (squid), crab, lobster, and crayfish are often served with arroz (rice) or batata fritas (fries, known as chips). Matata, a seafood and peanut stew, is a typical local dish. Rice topped with sauce, spicy stew, fresh fruit (such as pineapples sprinkled with sugar and cashew nuts), and posho (maize porridge) are common lunches for children. Toasted cheese sandwiches (sandes de queijo), commonly sold at stalls, and chips (fries) are other favorites.

Aside from the widely served coffee and tea, adults may enjoy locally brewed beer made from maize, a Mozambican staple food. The thick and sweet drink is often drunk from a common pot and shared by everyone present on special occasions. Madeira, a Portuguese wine that is popular in Mozambique, was

extremely popular in America during the colonial era—it was a favorite of George Washington and was used to toast the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

History & Politics



“You can see that, there is no easy walk to freedom anywhere and many of us will have to pass through the valley of the shadow of death again and again before we reach the mountain tops of our desires. Dangers and difficulties have not deterred us in the past, they will not frighten us now. But we must be prepared for them, like men who mean business and who do not waste energy in vain talk and idle action. The way of preparation for action lies in our rooting out all impurity and indiscipline from our organization and making it the bright and shining instrument that will cleave its way to Africa's freedom.”

– Nelson Mandela

South Africa

(http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1071886.stm)

Diversity is a key feature of South Africa, where 11 languages are recognized as official, where community leaders include rabbis and chieftains, rugby players and returned exiles, where traditional healers ply their trade around the corner from stockbrokers and where housing ranges from mud huts to palatial homes with swimming pools. The diverse communities, however, have not had much representation for long.

Overview

Until 1994 South Africa was ruled by a white minority government which was so determined to hang onto power that it took activists most of the last century before they succeeded in their fight to get rid of apartheid and extend democracy to the rest of the population.

The white government which came to power in 1948 enforced a separation of races with its policy called apartheid. It dictated that black and white communities should live in separate areas, travel in different buses and stand in their own queues. The government introduced grand social engineering schemes such as the forced resettlement of hundreds of thousands of people. It poisoned and bombed opponents and encouraged trouble in neighboring countries.

The apartheid government eventually negotiated itself out of power, and the new leadership encouraged reconciliation. But the cost of the years of conflict will be paid for a long time yet, not least in terms of lawlessness, social disruption and lost education. South Africa faces major problems, but having held four successful national elections as well as local polls since the end of white rule, a democratic culture appears to be taking hold, allowing people at least some say in the search for solutions.

Very much Africa's superpower, South Africa has the continent's biggest economy, though this went into recession in May 2009 following a sharp slowdown in the mining and manufacturing sectors. The construction industry, on the other hand, has benefited from a huge program of government investment

ahead of the 2010 World Cup. Many South Africans remain poor and unemployment is high - a factor blamed for a wave of violent attacks against migrant workers from other African countries in 2008 and protests by township residents over poor living conditions during the summer of 2009.

Land redistribution is an ongoing issue. Most farmland is still white-owned. Having so far acquired land on a "willing buyer, willing seller" basis, officials have signaled that large-scale expropriations are on the cards. The government aims to transfer 30% of farmland to black South Africans by 2014.

South Africa has the second-highest number of HIV/AIDS patients in the world. Around one in seven of its citizens is infected with HIV. Free anti-retroviral drugs are available under a state-funded scheme.

Legalized discrimination



From 1948 successive National Party administrations extended the existing system of segregation and denial of rights into the legal system of apartheid, which lasted until the 1990s. Apartheid remained the central system around which most of the historical issues of this period revolved. Apartheid — meaning separateness in Afrikaans - was a system of legal racial segregation enforced by the National Party government between 1948 and 1994. The vestiges of apartheid still shape South African politics and society.

With increasing opposition to apartheid in the final decades of the 20th century - including an armed struggle, economic and cultural sanctions by the international community, pressure from the anti-apartheid movement around the world, a rebellion amongst Afrikaner and English-speaking youth as well as open revolt within the ruling National Party - State President F.W. de Klerk announced the unbanning of the African National Congress and Pan Africanist Congress as well as the release of Nelson Mandela on 2 February 1990, which signaled the beginning of a transition to democracy. In the referendum held on March 17, 1992 a white electorate voted 68% in favor of dismantling apartheid through negotiations.

A draft constitution appeared on 26 July 1993, containing concessions towards all sides: a federal system of regional legislatures, equal voting-rights regardless of race, and a bicameral legislature. From April 26 to 29, 1994 the South African population voted in the first universal suffrage general elections. The African National Congress won election to govern for the very first time. Nelson Mandela was elected as President on 9 May 1994 and formed a government of national unity, consisting of the ANC, the NP and the Inkatha. On May 10 Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's new President in Pretoria and Thabo Mbeki and FW De Klerk as his vice-presidents. After considerable debate, and following submissions from special-interest groups, individuals and ordinary citizens, the Parliament enacted a new Constitution and Bill of Rights in 1996.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

After the enactment of the constitution focus turned to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, established in 1995 under the dictum of Archbishop Desmond Tutu to expose crimes committed during the apartheid era. The commission heard many stories of brutality and injustice from all sides and offered some catharsis to people and communities shattered by their past experiences.

Leaders

Nelson Mandela - "As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others"

Nelson Mandela

In 1997, Mandela had handed over leadership of the ANC to his deputy, Thabo Mbeki, and speculation grew that the ANC vote might therefore drop. In fact, it increased, putting the party within one seat of the two-thirds majority that would allow it to alter the constitution.

In 2003, Mbeki maneuvered the ANC to a two-thirds majority in parliament for the first time. Yet not everything has gone the ANC's way. In the early days of his presidency, Mbeki's effective denial of the HIV crisis invited global criticism, and his conspicuous failure to condemn the forced reclamation of white-owned farms in neighboring Zimbabwe unnerved both South African landowners and foreign investors.

Although in 1998, South Africa led the world in reported murders and robberies, since this time the South African Police Service and South African Medical Research Council respectively have published statistics showing a decrease in homicides at national and city level.

Current President: Jacob Zuma

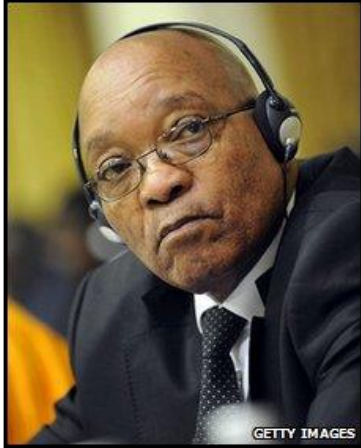
The leader of the ANC, Jacob Zuma, was officially chosen as the country's president by the newly-elected parliament in May 2013.

Born to a Zulu family in 1942, Mr Zuma has spent his entire adult life since 1959 in the service of the ANC. He joined its armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe in 1962 and was arrested the following year. He spent ten years in prison for conspiracy to overthrow the apartheid-era government. After his release he left South Africa and was a leading figure in the ANC abroad until he returned home in 1990 to take part in the talks that brought apartheid to an end.



Tip: Before you visit South Africa, read Nelson Mandela's autobiography, Long Walk to Freedom. This moving and inspiring book is destined to take its place among the finest memoirs of history's greatest humanitarians.

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela tells the extraordinary story of his life – an epic of struggle, setback, renewed hope, and ultimate triumph, which has, until now, been virtually unknown to most of the world.



Mr Zuma was prominent in promoting the ANC among Zulus who had voted for the Inkatha Freedom Party in the first free elections in 1994, and was consistently elected to senior ANC posts. In 1999, he became the deputy president of South Africa under President Thabo Mbeki.

Mr Zuma's standing in the country fell rapidly after he was named in a corruption case related to a controversial arms deal, and President Mbeki dismissed him from the deputy presidency in 2005. Prosecutors then brought corruption charges against him, and shortly afterwards he was charged with rape. He was acquitted of the rape charge the following year, and his support on the populist left of the party ensured that he was able to defeat President Mbeki in elections for the ANC leadership

in December 2007.

Mr Zuma looked set to become president of South Africa after the 2009 parliamentary elections, but the corruption allegations persisted. It was not until April 2009 - weeks before the parliamentary polls - that state prosecutors finally threw out the charges on the grounds that there had been political interference. The opposition said this was a technicality and that Mr Zuma ought to answer the charges in court. Nonetheless, he led the ANC to a convincing election victory and was duly inaugurated on 9 May.

Swaziland

(http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1069035.stm)

The kingdom of Swaziland is one of the world's last remaining absolute monarchies. Its king rules by decree over his million subjects, most of whom live in the countryside and follow traditional ways of life. The power of the throne, however, has not gone unchallenged.

Overview

King Mswati III, on the throne since 1986, is upholding the tradition of his father, King Sobhuza II, who reigned for almost 61 years and had scores of wives. King Sobhuza scrapped the constitution in 1973 and banned political parties. A long-awaited constitution, signed by the king in 2005 and introduced in 2006, cemented his rule. King Mswati has shown no enthusiasm for sharing power, but banned opposition parties and trade unions have been vocal in their demands for greater democracy and limits on the king's power.

With peaceful change in neighboring South Africa and Mozambique, Swaziland has been described as an island of dictatorship in a sea of democracy. Royalists have argued that democracy creates division, and that a monarch is a strong unifying force. Swaziland is virtually homogenous, most of the population being of the same tribe. Economically, it relies on South Africa, which receives almost half of Swazi exports and supplies most of its imports. Many Swazis live in chronic poverty and food shortages are widespread.

AIDS is taking a heavy toll. With an adult HIV prevalence of 26 percent in 2007, Swaziland has the most severe level of infection in the world. The virus has killed many workers and farmers and has created thousands of orphans. Life expectancy has plummeted.

Leaders

King: Mswati III

King Mswati III was crowned in 1986 at the age of 18, succeeding his long-serving father King Sobhuza II, who died at the age of 82. The king, who is known as Ngweyama "the lion" often appears in public in traditional dress and has many wives.



He rules by decree and has been criticized for the heavy-handed treatment of opponents. The king has also been criticized for requesting public money to pay for new palaces, a personal jet and luxury cars. Street protests led him to abandon the aircraft purchase.

Mozambique

(http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1063120.stm)

Since independence from Portugal in 1975, Mozambique has been battered by civil war, economic mismanagement and famine. A peace deal in 1992 ended 16 years of civil war, and the country has made much progress in economic development and political stability.

Overview

Portugal began to colonize the area that became Mozambique in the early 16th century. An anti-authoritarian coup in 1974 in Portugal ended colonial rule and its ten-year war with the Frelimo independence movement.

Mozambican support for armed groups fighting the white-minority rule governments in Rhodesia and South Africa led to those two countries sponsoring the Renamo movement, which fought Frelimo in the 1977-1992 civil war. This conflict, combined with Rhodesian and South African intervention and central economic planning by the Marxist leadership of Frelimo left the country in chaos. About a million people died in the civil war and millions more fled abroad or to other parts of the country.

An attempt to secure a ceasefire with South Africa in the Nkomati Accord of 1984 broke down, and the government and Renamo eventually began talks brokered first by Christian groups and then by the United Nations. Frelimo inaugurated a new constitution in 1990 that enshrined free elections, and both sides signed the resulting Rome Peace Accords of 1992. Frelimo has won all subsequent elections, some of which have been disputed by Renamo and smaller opposition groups. Political life has nonetheless remained stable, with Renamo continuing to work within the constitutional system.

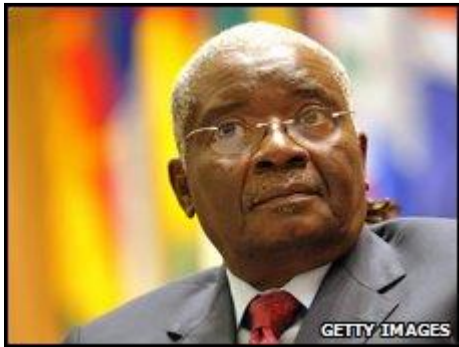
Foreign investors are showing interest in Mozambique's untapped oil and gas reserves, and titanium mining is a growing source of revenue. Most of the population works the land, however, and infrastructure

nationwide still suffers from colonial neglect, war and under-investment. The economy suffered serious setbacks when in 2000 and 2001 Mozambique was hit by floods which affected about a quarter of the population and destroyed much of its infrastructure. Furthermore, in 2002 a severe drought hit many central and southern parts of the country, including previously flood-stricken areas. Poverty remains widespread, with more than 50% of Mozambicans living on less than \$1 a day.

Leaders

President: Armando Guebuza

Armando Guebuza, from the ruling Frelimo party, succeeded Mozambique's long-time leader Joaquim Chissano in February 2005. He won another term in office in the October 2009 elections with a landslide majority. Frelimo, in power since it led the country to independence from Portugal in 1975, won 191 parliamentary seats out of 250 - enough to change the constitution at will.



Mr Guebuza, seen as welcoming of greater foreign investment, beat his rivals, long-time leader of the opposition party Renamo, Afonso Dhlakama, and the head of a new party, Daviz Simango, capturing 75.46% of the presidential vote.

Mr Guebuza, a millionaire businessman, is under pressure to provide poor Mozambicans with the benefits of tourism and untapped mineral and energy resources that have started to draw foreign investors, particularly from neighboring South Africa. And Guebuza, who made his fortune in the energy, transport and port industries, faces the new challenge of accommodating a new generation that was not born in the liberation struggle nor the 16-year civil war against Renamo. He was a member of Frelimo's armed wing and played a leading role in Mozambique's struggle for independence. As a former interior minister in 1975 he ordered the expulsion of Portuguese citizens from the country. His predecessor, Joaquim Chissano, became president in 1986 after the death of founding president, Samora Machel. Mr Chissano oversaw a move away from Marxism and the introduction of a multi-party constitution.

HIV/AIDS

South Africa

The spread of AIDS (acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome) is an alarming problem in South Africa with up to 31% of pregnant women found to be HIV infected in 2005 and the infection rate among adults estimated at 20%. The link between HIV, a virus spread primarily by sexual contact, and AIDS was long denied by prior president Thabo Mbeki and then health minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, who insisted that the many deaths in the country are due to malnutrition, and hence poverty, and not HIV.

In 2007, in response to international pressure, the government made efforts to fight AIDS. In September 2008 Thabo Mbeki was recalled by the ANC and chose to resign and Kgalema Motlanthe was appointed

for the interim. One of Mr. Motlanthe's first actions was to replace Mrs. Tshabalala-Msimang with Barbara Hogan who immediately started working to improve the Government's approach to AIDS. After the 2009 General Elections, President Jacob Zuma appointed Dr Aaron Motsoaledi as the new minister and committed his government to increasing funding for and widening the scope of AIDS treatment.

Swaziland

Swaziland is critically affected by the HIV and AIDS pandemic, which is now an existential threat to its society. As reported in the CIA World Factbook, Swaziland recently surpassed Botswana as the country with the world's highest known HIV/AIDS prevalence rate. The 2009 estimated HIV prevalence rate in adults was 25.9%, there were approximately 180,000 people living with HIV in Swaziland, and about 7,000 HIV/AIDS deaths. Swaziland life expectancy is 49.42 years. In 2004, Swaziland acknowledged for the first time that it suffered an AIDS crisis, with 38.8% of tested pregnant women infected with HIV. Prime Minister Themba Dlamini declared a humanitarian crisis due to the combined effect of drought, land degradation, increased poverty and HIV/AIDS.

Mozambique

The first case of HIV/AIDS was diagnosed in 1986 in Mozambique. This was followed by a steady increase in the prevalence rate up to an estimated 16.2% among the population aged 15 to 49 years in 2004. In July 2004, the government declared HIV/AIDS a national emergency. The epidemic reduced life expectancy from 41 years in 1999 to 38.1 years in 2004. Recent estimates for life expectancy are 52.02 years. On average, 500 new infections occur every day, 90 of them among young children through mother-to-child transmission. The 2009 estimated HIV prevalence rate in adults was 11.5%, there were approximately 1.4 million people living with HIV in Mozambique (more than 90,000 of them are children under 15 years of age) , and about 74,000 HIV/AIDS deaths.

(source: http://www.unicef.org/mozambique/hiv_aids_2045.html)

Economy

South Africa is a middle-income, emerging market with an abundant supply of natural resources; well-developed financial, legal, communications, energy, and transport sectors; a stock exchange that is 17th largest in the world; and modern infrastructure supporting an efficient distribution of goods to major urban centers throughout the region. Growth was robust from 2004 to 2008 as South Africa reaped the benefits of macroeconomic stability and a global commodities boom, but began to slow in the second half of 2008 due to the global financial crisis' impact on commodity prices and demand. However, unemployment remains high and outdated infrastructure has constrained growth.

Daunting economic problems remain from the apartheid era - especially poverty, lack of economic empowerment among the disadvantaged groups, and a shortage of public transportation.

South Africa's economy is highly dependent on natural resources for food and energy production, inputs to manufacturing, and to absorb wastes and pollutants. To achieve sustainable development, it must be recognized that the economy and the environment are co-dependent, i.e., that economic instability leads to environmental degradation, and responsible environmental management makes economic sense.

South African unemployment rate:	23.9% (2011 est.)
South African population below poverty line	50% (2000 est.)
Swaziland unemployment rate:	40% (2006 est.)
Swaziland population below poverty line:	69% (2000 est.)
Mozambique unemployment rate:	21% (1997 est.)
Mozambique population below poverty line:	54% (2008 est.)

Unemployment on a national basis is also high, and highest among the Black population. Although the education system has been reformed and all South Africans now have access to education, approximately 7.5 million people are functionally illiterate. Although most people have access to health services, public facilities are often under-resourced and unable to meet demands. For reasons of cost or culture, many people also seek the help of traditional healers.

Human capital flight

There has been a large degree of human capital flight (commonly referred to as "brain drain") which is the large-scale emigration of a large group of individuals with technical skills or knowledge. For example, in South Africa in recent years, 25% of its graduates have gone to the United States. The reasons are general dissatisfaction with the cost of living, the level of taxation, safety and security, and the standard of public and commercial services in South Africa. Furthermore, the government's affirmative action policy was identified as another factor influencing the emigration of skilled white South Africans. However, migration of low-educated Africans is negligible.

Nelson Mandela – "Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that a son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another."

Climate

South Africa

A subtropical location, moderated by ocean on three sides of the country and the altitude of the interior plateau, accounts for the warm temperate conditions. Average annual rainfall is about 464 mm (compared to a world average of about 860 mm). The Western Cape gets most of its rainfall in winter; the rest of the country is generally a summer-rainfall region.

On the interior plateau the altitude - Johannesburg lies at 1,694 meters – therefore lower temperatures. Winter, night-time temperatures can drop to freezing point or lower. South Africa's coastal regions are warmest in winter. There is a striking contrast between temperatures on the country's east and west coasts, due respectively to the warm Agulhas and cold Benguela Currents that sweep the coastlines.

Swaziland

The climate of Swaziland varies from tropical to near temperate. The seasons are the reverse of those in the Northern Hemisphere with December being mid-summer and June mid-winter. Generally speaking, rain falls mostly during the summer months, often in the form of thunderstorms. Winter is the dry season.



Swaziland landscape

The Highveld (high plateau region) temperature is temperate and, seldom, uncomfortably hot while the Lowveld (area between 500 and 2,000 feet (150 and 600 meters) above sea level) may record temperatures around 40 °C (104 °F) in summer.

Mozambique

Mozambique has a tropical climate with two seasons, a wet season from October to March and a dry season from April to September. Climatic conditions, however, vary depending on altitude. Rainfall is heavy along the coast and decreases

in the north and south.

Annual precipitation varies from 500 to 900 mm (19.7 to 35.4 in) depending on the region with an average of 590 mm (23.2 in). Cyclones are also common during the wet season. Average temperature ranges in Maputo (the capital of Mozambique) are from 13 to 24 °C (55.4 to 75.2 °F) in July to 22 to 31 °C (71.6 to 87.8 °F) in February.

Ralph Waldo Emerson – “When you travel, remember that a foreign country is not designed to make you comfortable. It is designed to make its own people comfortable.”

Geography

(Source: <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Africa/index.html>)

South Africa

Area: South Africa occupies the southern tip of Africa, its long coastline stretching more than 2,500 kilometers (1,553 miles) from the desert border with Namibia on the Atlantic coast southwards around the tip of Africa and then north to the border with subtropical Mozambique on the Indian Ocean. The low-lying coastal zone is narrow for much of that distance, soon giving way to a mountainous escarpment (Great Escarpment) that separates it from the high inland plateau. South Africa covers a total of 1,219,912 sq km / 758,018 mi (an area slightly less than twice the size of Texas).



Oceans: South Africa abutts the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, which meet at the southwestern corner. The territory includes Marion and Prince Edward Islands, which sits nearly 2,000 kilometers (1,242 miles) from Cape Town in the Atlantic Ocean.

Currents: The cold Benguela current sweeps up from the Antarctic along the Atlantic coast, laden with nutrients providing rich off-shore fishing grounds. The east coast has the north-to-south Mozambique/Agulhas current which provides warm waters. These two currents affect the country's climate.

Rivers: There are only two major rivers: the Limpopo, a stretch of which is shared with Zimbabwe, and the Orange (with its tributary, the Vaal) which runs with a variable flow across the central landscape from east to west, emptying into the Atlantic Ocean at the Namibian border. Dams and irrigation are extremely important in South Africa: the largest dam is the Gariep on the Orange River.

Swaziland

Area: Swaziland covers a total area of 17,363 sq km / 10,789 mi (an area slightly smaller than New Jersey). Swaziland's terrain is mostly mountains and hills; some moderately sloping plains. Swaziland also offers a wide variety of landscapes, from the mountains along the Mozambican border to savannas in the east and rain forest in the northwest.

Oceans: Swaziland has no coastline being landlocked between Mozambique and South Africa. Swaziland is nearly completely surrounded by South Africa.

Rivers: The Maputo River (also found in South Africa and Mozambique) is called the Great Usutu River or Lusutfu River in Swaziland. It is Swaziland's largest river and forms part of the boundary between Swaziland and South Africa as well as the boundary between Mozambique and South Africa.

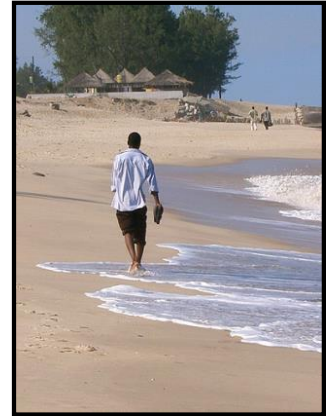
Elevation: Swaziland's lowest point is at the Great Usutu River 21 m / 68 ft and highest point is Emlembe 1,862 m / 6,108 ft.

Mozambique

Area: **Mozambique** covers a Total Area of 801,590 sq km / 498,085 sq mi (slightly less than twice the size of California) and has a coastline that stretches 2,470 km / 1,535 mi.

Oceans: Mozambique has the Indian Ocean to the east with the Mozambique Channel running along its border.

Rivers: the Zambezi River flows through the north-central and most fertile part of Mozambique



Elevation: Mozambique's lowest point is at the Indian Ocean 0 m / ft, and highest point is Monte Binga 2,436 m / 7,992 ft.

Geology

Table Mountain

The main feature of Table Mountain is the level plateau approximately 3 kilometers (2 mi) from side to side, edged by impressive cliffs. The highest point on Table Mountain is 1,086 meters (3,563 ft) above sea level. The geology of the Table Mountains consists of the upper mesa of Ordovician quartzitic sandstone, commonly referred to as Table Mountain Sandstone, which is highly resistant to erosion and forms characteristic steep grey crags. Below this sandstone is a layer of micaceous basal shale, which readily weathers and is not readily visible. The basement layer consists of heavily folded and altered late precambrian Malmesbury shale, which has been intruded by Cape Granite. The basement rocks are not nearly as resistant to weathering as Table Mountain Sandstone but significant outcrops of the Cape Granite are visible on the western side of Lion's Head.



The flat top of the mountain is often covered by orographic clouds, formed when a south-easterly wind is directed up the mountain's slopes into colder air, where the moisture condenses to form the so-called "table cloth" of cloud. Legend attributes this phenomenon to a smoking contest between the Devil and a local pirate called Van Hunks. When the table cloth is seen, it symbolizes the contest.

Drakensberg Mountains

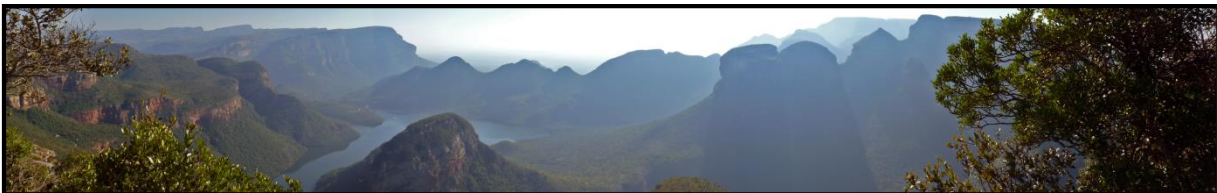
The Drakensberg (Afrikaans: Drakensberge, Dutch: Drakensbergen, "the Dragon Mountains") is the highest mountain range in Southern Africa, rising to 3,482 meters (11,424 ft) in height. In Zulu, it is referred to as uKhahlamba ("barrier of spears"), and in Sesotho as Maluti (also spelled Maloti). Its geological history lends it a distinctive character amongst the mountain ranges of the world.

Volcanic eruptions in the area resulted in lava covering large sections of the Southern African sub-continent. In the Palaeozoic Era, wind and water deposited thick layers of shale, mudstone and sandstone, now known as the Karoo Supergroup, over the ancient primary rock. When Gondwanaland began to break up 200 million years ago, the resultant forces caused the extrusion of magma, known as Drakensberg lava, through fissures and cracks in the Earth's surface. In the Drakensberg region it capped the sedimentary rock formations with layers of solid basalt up to 1400 m thick. Weathering reduced the range's size, and caused the plateau to recede. In modern times, continued erosion has exposed some of the underlying sediment.



Blyde Canyon

The Blyde River Canyon is a significant natural feature of South Africa, located in Mpumalanga, and forming the northern part of the Drakensberg escarpment. It is 16 miles (26 kilometers) in length and is, on average, around 2500 feet (800 m) deep. The Dam itself, when full, is at an altitude of 665 m (2182 feet). The Canyon consists mostly of red sandstone. The highest point of the canyon, Mariepskop, is 6378 feet above sea level (1944 m) whilst its lowest point where the river leaves the canyon is slightly less than 1840 feet (about 560 m) above sea level. This means that by some measure the Canyon is over 4500 feet (about 1400 m) deep.



By some measures it is the third largest canyon in the world, after the Grand Canyon in the United States and the Fish River Canyon in Namibia but this depends heavily on one's definition of a canyon (see canyon.) By any definition it is one of the largest canyons on earth, unquestionably being the largest 'green canyon' due to its lush subtropical foliage, and it has some of the deepest precipitous cliffs of any canyon on the planet. It is the second largest canyon in Africa, after the Fish River Canyon, and is known as one of the great wonders of nature on the continent.

Environment

South Africa

South Africa's government is deeply concerned about managing the country's rich and varied natural resources in a responsible and sustainable manner. Numerous South African non-governmental organisations (NGO) have emerged as a potent force in the public policy debate on the environment. South Africa is seen as a key leader among developing countries on issues such as climate change, conservation and biodiversity. South Africa was selected to be the host of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

South Africa is a disproportionately large producer of carbon emissions with much of its relatively cheap electricity is produced by coal-fired power stations. However, recently, due in part to UN Environmental reports and recent water restrictions and climatic fluctuations, the South African government has started formulating legislation to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Total energy consumption by type (2004):

- Coal: 75.4%
- Oil: 20.1%
- Nuclear: 2.8%
- Natural gas 1.6%
- Hydroelectric: 0.1%
- Other: 0%

Swaziland

The chief environmental problem in Swaziland is soil erosion and degradation, particularly because of overgrazing. Population growth and the increased demand for fuel has threatened the country's forests, and the resulting deforestation has contributed to the loss of valuable soil. Swaziland has 4 protected areas for wildlife—2 wildlife sanctuaries and 2 nature reserves—totaling 40,045 ha (98,953 acres), all in the northern half of the country.

As of 1994, 2.3% of the nation's total land area was protected. Another significant environmental problem in Swaziland is air pollution from transportation vehicles and emissions from other countries in the area. Water pollution from industrial and agricultural sources is also a problem, as well as contamination by untreated sewage, which contributes to the spread of life-threatening diseases. Swaziland has about 1.7 cu mi of water, of which about 93% is used for farming and 2% for industrial activity. Access to safe drinking water is available to only 41% of urban dwellers and 44% of the population.

As of 1994, none of Swaziland's 46 animal species were endangered, but 5 of the nation's bird species and 25 types of plants were threatened with extinction. The World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Red list of threatened species lists almost 700 entries of endangered flora and fauna for Swaziland, including the

African lion, rhinoceros and hippopotamus. Burchell's zebra has become extinct. Threatened marine species include the Baltic sturgeon, Danube salmon, and marsh snail.

(Source: Swaziland USAID-USFS: USAID Biodiversity and Tropical Forest Assessment; Sept 07.
http://www.rmportal.net/library/content/usda-forest-service/Swaziland_118_119_FINAL.pdf).

Mozambique

The civil war combined with natural disasters from flooding and drought have created a life-threatening situation for the nation's people. According to a 1992 UN report, humans were the most endangered species in Mozambique. Other significant environmental problems include the loss of 70% of the nation's forests. The nation lost 7.7% of its forest and woodland between 1983 and 1993 alone. Mozambique has since launched reforestation projects, mostly involving the planting of conifers and eucalyptus. The purity of the nation's water supply is also a significant issue. Surface and coastal waters have been affected by pollution. Mozambique has 100 cu km of renewable water resources. About 89% is used in farming and 2% for industrial purposes. Only 81% of the nation's city dwellers and 41% of the rural population have access to pure drinking water. As of 2001, 13 of the nation's mammal species and 14 bird species were endangered. About 57 plant species were threatened with extinction. Endangered species in Mozambique include the Green Sea, Hawksbill, Olive Ridley, and Leatherback turtles.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variation of life forms within a given ecosystem, biome, or for the entire Earth. Biodiversity is often used as a measure of the health of biological systems.

South Africa

South Africa has the THIRD highest level of biological diversity in the world, with 7.5% of the world's vascular plants, 5.8% of the world's mammal species, 8% of the world's bird species, 4.6% of the world's reptile species, 16% of marine fish species and 5% of the world's recorded insect species!



With a land surface area of 1.1 million km² – representing just 1% of the earth's total land surface – **South Africa contains almost 10% of the world's total known bird, fish and plant species, and over 6% of the world's mammal and reptile species!** However, many species are threatened, and extinction rates in South Africa are high by global standards. Most of the land area (86%) is used for crop cultivation or grazing of livestock.

This high level of biological diversity is due to the broad range of climatic, geological, soil and landscape forms found in South Africa. In combination, climate and topography give rise to broad vegetation zones which, together with their associated animal life, are called biomes. These are the Karoo, fynbos, forest, grassland and savanna biomes. The Karoo (a

Khoisan word) is a semi-desert region of South Africa. It has two main sub-regions – the Great Karoo in the north and the Little Karoo in the south. Fynbos (meaning "fine bush" in Afrikaans) is the natural shrubland or heathland vegetation occurring in a small belt of the Western Cape of South Africa, mainly in winter rainfall coastal and mountainous areas with a Mediterranean climate.

Plants: More than 20,300 species of flowering plants occur in South Africa. One of the six most significant concentrations of plants in the world is the Cape Floral Kingdom, with its distinctive vegetation, in the south west Cape.

Mammals: In total 243 mammals are found in the region. There are 17 threatened species in South Africa, including the black rhino, pangolin and giant golden mole. The riverine rabbit, roan antelope and wild dog are endangered. Two mammals have become extinct: the blue antelope and the quagga.

Birds: Of the more than 800 bird species, 26 are threatened, including the jackass penguin, Cape vulture, martial eagle, bateleur and Cape parrot. The five endangered species are: wattled crane, roseate tern, Egyptian vulture, blackrumped buttonquail and blue swallow.

Reptiles and Amphibians: There are 370 reptiles and amphibians occur in the region, 21 of these are threatened and six of these are endangered.

Fish: 220 freshwater fishes occur, of which 21 are threatened. There are more than 2,000 marine fish species, for which no information is available about threatened species.

Insects: 80,000 insects are known to occur, many of which are endemic. There are many more still as undescribed species.

Swaziland

Swaziland is endowed with many biologically important plant and animal species. The eastern part of the country lies within the Maputoland Centre of Plant Diversity which reportedly has the greatest bio diversity in Southern Africa. The western area is also important lying within the Drakensburg Escarpment Endemic Bird Area.

Swaziland is home to approximately 121 species of mammals, 153 amphibians and reptiles, and 350 kinds of birds. The larger animals are found only in nature reserves and game farms. Many of these species – elephants, warthogs, rhinos, impala, zebra, wildebeest and lions – were reintroduced by the Kingdom and their survival depends on the protection afforded by these areas. Others protected in the reserves are hyenas, jackals, leopards, mongoose, vervet monkeys, chacma baboons, and thick tailed bush babies.

The IUCN Red lists states three species in Swaziland are critically endangered (Black Rhino, *Encephalartos Heenanii*, *Encephalartos Laevifolius*), four species critically endangered (Marley's Golden Mole, Lebombo Cycad, African Wild Dog, Pepper Bark Tree), and 21 species are listed as vulnerable. The full list can be viewed at www.iucnredlist.org.

Mozambique

The 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 problem.

Mozambique shares Lake Niassa (Lake Malawi) with neighbouring Malawi. The lake is thought to harbour over 600 endemic species of fish, primarily cichlids. Biodiversity is also high along the coast and in the mountains in the north and east of the country.

New species are continually being discovered in Mozambique, which shows how diverse and understudied it is. A Fauna & Flora International (FFI) survey in Niassa Reserve led to the discovery of a new species: the Mecula girdled lizard (*Cordylus maculae*). A number of butterfly, snake and plant species were discovered in 2008 on Mount Mabu in Zambezia province. Many of the new species are unique to Mozambique.

Protection of Southern Africa's Biodiversity

Southern Africa's natural wealth is under extreme pressure resulting from human demands on the environment through economic development, agriculture and urbanisation.

Southern Africa has 582 national parks and nature reserves covering 6% of the region. More than 90% of the region's birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles occur in this network of protected areas. However, **only 34% of plants are protected**. There is an urgent need to extend the network of conservation areas to include unprotected plants.



Threats to biodiversity, including species extinction and population reduction, are:

1. habitat destruction (often the main threat);
2. exotic species;
3. genetic pollution and hybridisation; and;
4. climate change (an emerging problem).

In Southern Africa the following problems combine to create a decline in biodiversity:

- **Rapid population growth** in South Africa has led to urbanization, intensification of agricultural production, and industrialisation, in order to meet the demand for food, energy, and other commodities.
- Policies which **forced large numbers of people off their land** and into the former "homeland" areas resulted in intense demand for natural resources in these areas.

- **Collection of plant material for the medicinal and horticultural trades**, reduces the abundance of certain species in the wild.
- **Changes in the climate** which result from **atmospheric pollution**, alter the distribution of species and communities.
- **Alien invasive organisms** (i.e., weeds) place pressure on terrestrial ecosystems because they can dominate the indigenous (native) species. In total there are 200 species of plants that are declared weeds or invaders in South Africa. These include 121 woody species, 16 succulent species, 44 herbaceous species, 9 grasses and reeds, and 10 aquatic species.
- **Reduction in water availability - only 8.6% of the rainfall is available** as surface water. The scarcity of water is compounded by **pollution of the surface- and ground-water resources**.
- Fishing is a primary economic activity in South Africa. Several fish species face local extinction due to **over-harvesting**.
- Environmental pressures on the landscape through habitat transformation.
- Coastal ecosystems are also **damaged by sewage and stormwater discharge**.

Nelson Mandela – “I dream of the realization of the unity of Africa, whereby its leaders combine in their efforts to solve the problems of this continent. I dream of our vast deserts, of our forests, of all our great wildernesses”

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