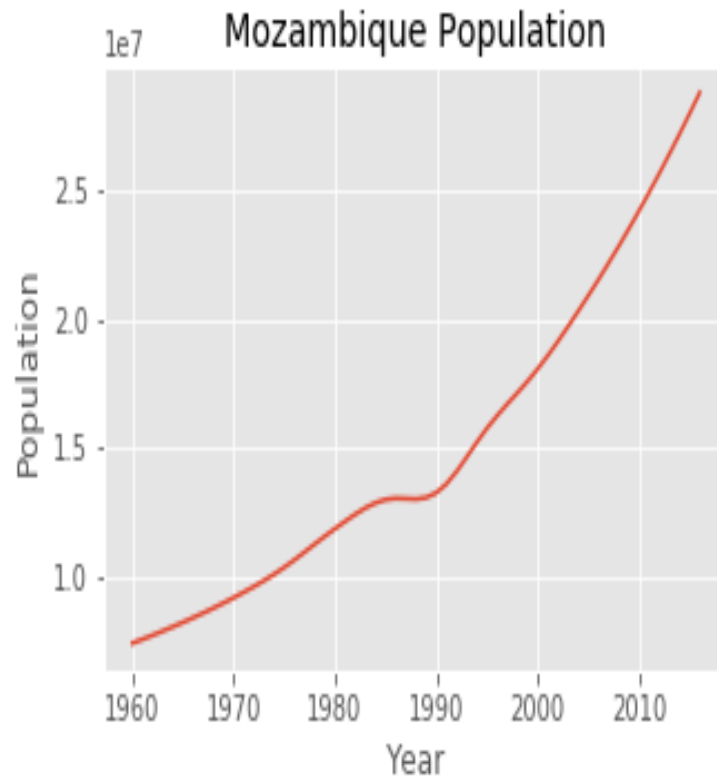


Mozambique



Coordinates: $18^{\circ}15'S$ $35^{\circ}00'E$ / $18.250^{\circ}S$ $35.000^{\circ}E$ / -18.250 ; 35.000 in the African Union (light blue)Mozambique (/moʊˈzæmˌbiːk/ or /mɒz-/), officially the Republic of Mozambique (Portuguese: Moçambique or República de Moçambique, pronounced [ʁɛˈpuβlik ɔ̃ musɐ̃ˈbik]) is a country in Southeast Africa bordered by the Indian Ocean to the east, Tanzania to the north, Malawi and Zambia to the northwest, Zimbabwe to the west, and Swaziland and South Africa to the southwest. It is separated from Madagascar by the Mozambique Channel to the east. The capital and largest city is Maputo (known as "Lourenço Marques" before independence).Between the first and fifth centuries AD, Bantu-speaking peoples migrated to present-day Mozambique from farther north and west. Beginning in the 11th century, Arab, Persian, and Somali merchants began establishing commercial ports along the coast, contributing to the development of a distinct Swahili culture and language.