



Mozambique

Joined the Commonwealth in 1995 - visited by the Queen in 1999



Mozambique is a nation in south-east Africa bordering the Indian Ocean

Pop: (2012) 25,203,000 Capital: Maputo Area: 799,380 sq km

Mozambique has a mountainous interior falling to a broad plateau then to coastal hills and plain. The coastal beaches are fringed by lagoons, coral reefs and small islands. Although subtropical, the climate is cooler and wetter inland where it is higher. The country is vulnerable to cyclones.

Vegetation ranges from savanna grassland on the plateau to subtropical bush on the coastal plain. Forests cover 49% of the land area. A huge variety of African wildlife is protected in four national parks and forest or game reserves. Tropical birds, such as flamingos and pelicans thrive.

Although Mozambique is one of the world's poorest nations, its economy is now improving with growth in construction and agricultural products such as cotton and tobacco. The development of coal and natural gas will add to this growth.

The Cahora Bassa hydroelectric dam on the Zambezi which exports electricity to neighbouring countries

