

# **Flooding in Mozambique**

---

**Current Situation - March 2000**

FAS/Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division

# Mozambique

---

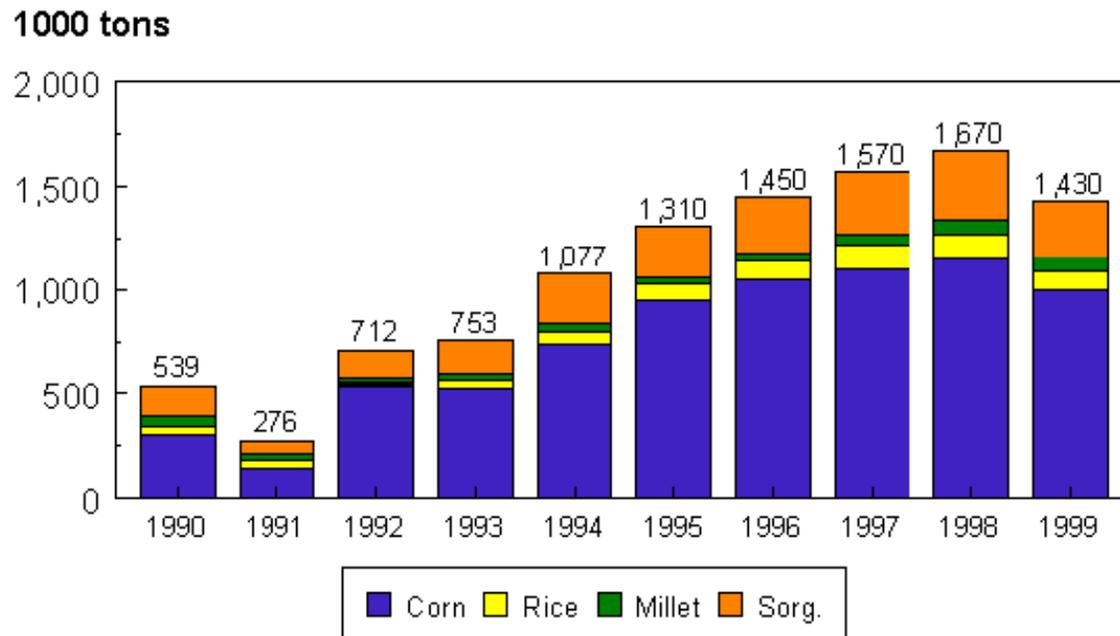
## Country Profile

- P Area: 784,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- P Description: Self-sufficiency in near future; food production improving following return to peace but distribution from surplus north to deficit south remains problematic.
- P Population/Growth rate: 18.028 million (mid 1996 )/3.0% per annum.
- P Marketing year: April - March.
- P Major domestic food crops: Cassava, maize, roots, tubers, sorghum, rice.
- P Estimated per caput cereal consumption: 82 kg per annum.
- P Share of staple foods in total calorie intake: Cereals 44% (maize 29%; rice 5%; wheat 5%; sorghum/millet 5%); cassava, 36%

Source: SADC

# Mozambique Grain Production

1989/90 - 1999/2000

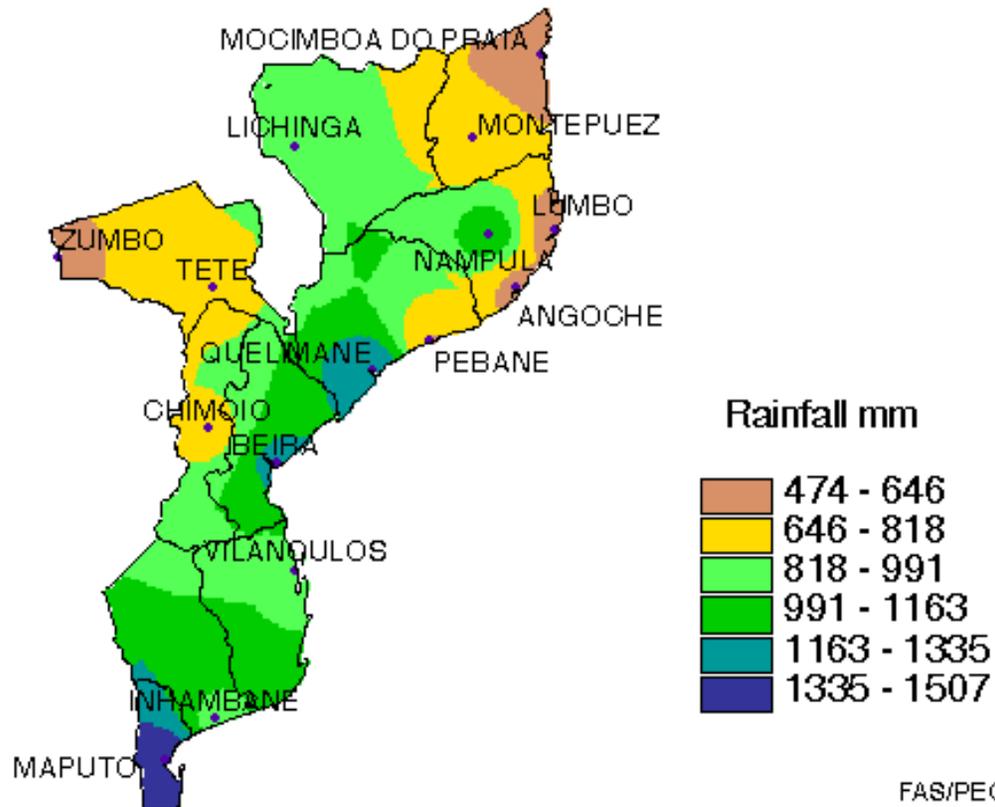


FAS/PECAD  
March 2000

Grain production has been increasing steadily since 1991, especially corn in the northern part of the country.

Production for current crop (1999/2000) is forecast down by 14%.

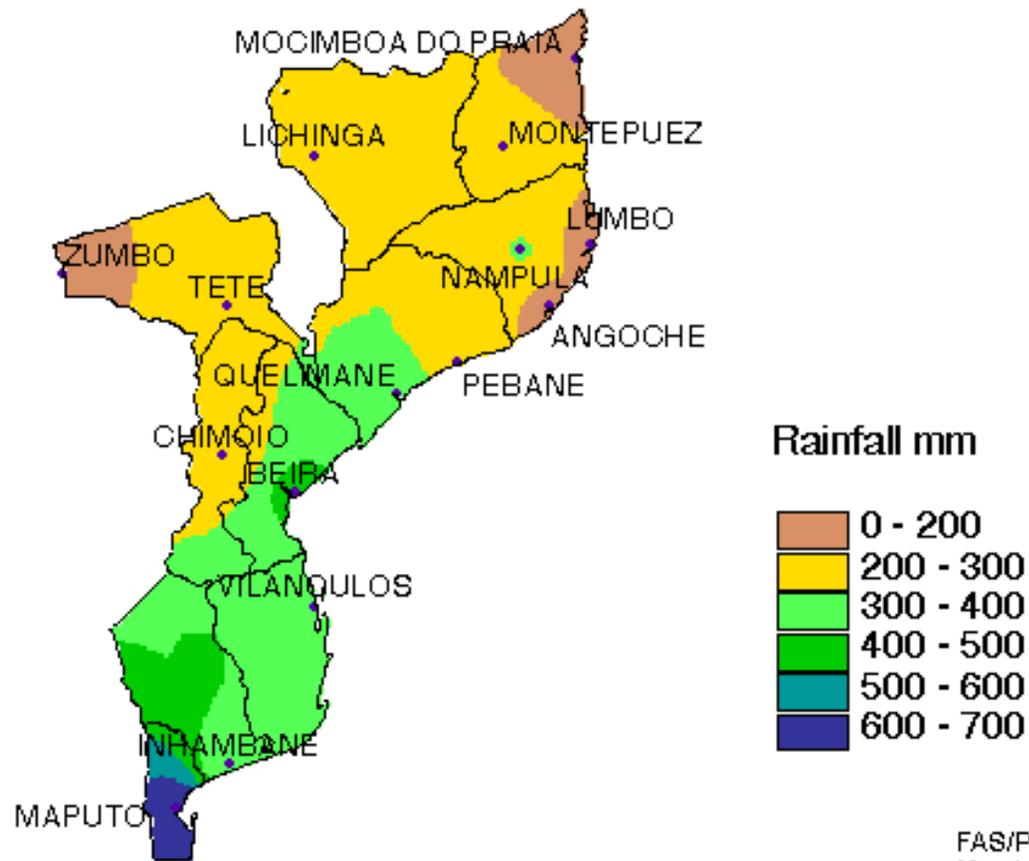
## Mozambique Rainfall November 1, 1999 - February 29, 2000



FAS/PECAD  
March 2000

Rainy season starts in October / November. Northern and western districts have been dry this year.

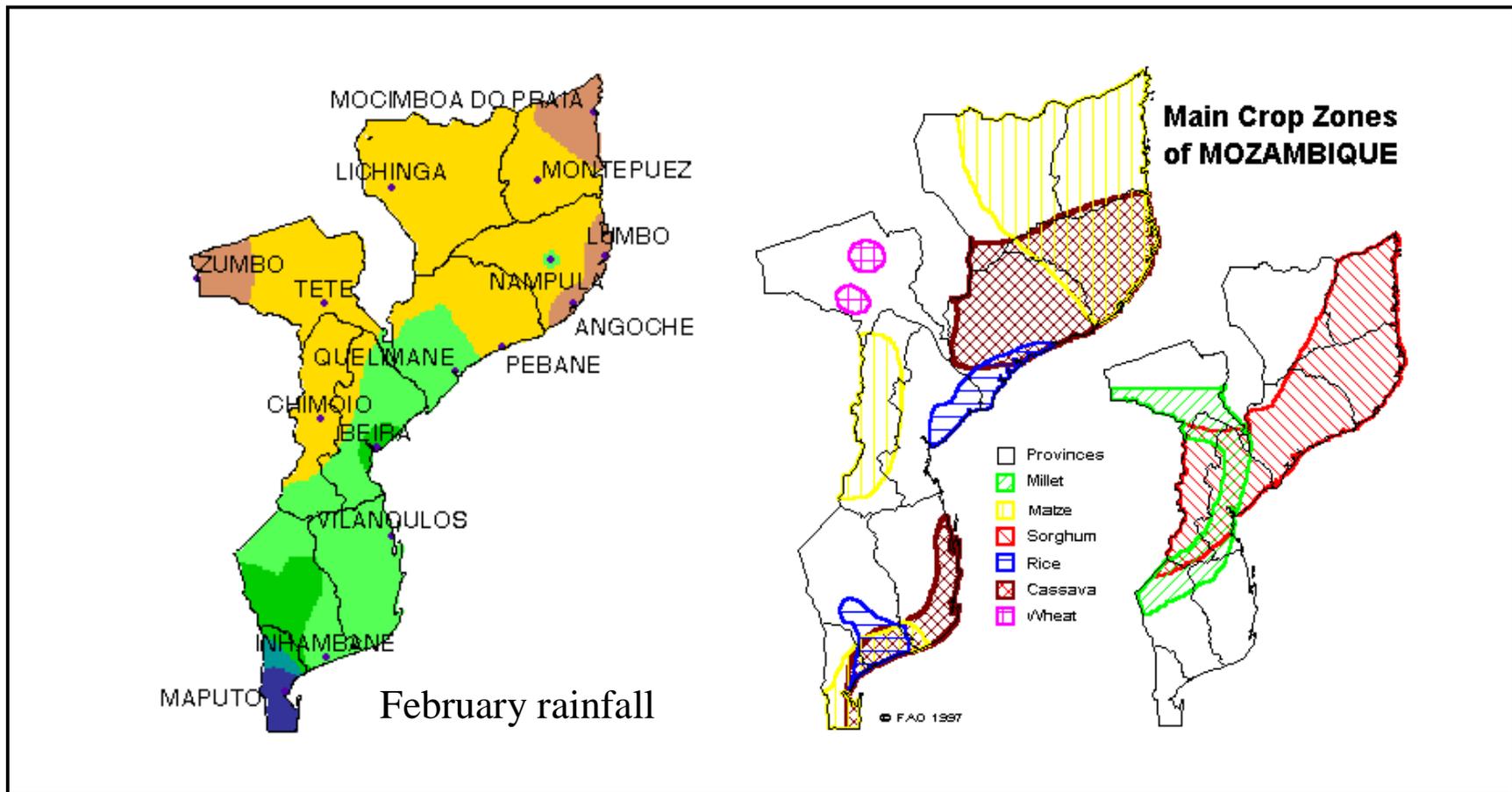
## Mozambique Rainfall February 1 - 29, 2000



Heaviest rainfall in February 2000 located in extreme southern Mozambique.

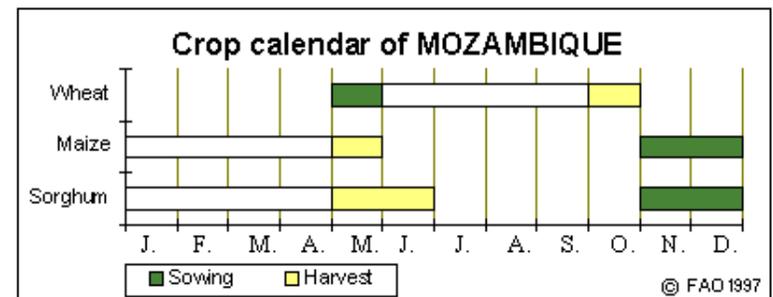
Northern areas were drier than normal for the month.

FAS/PECAD  
March 2000



Rice and cassava affected by rain/flooding in southern Mozambique.

Corn and sorghum affected by dryness in the north.



# Mozambique - Food Facts

Mozambique registered increased crop production in 1998/99, the sixth in a row. The second cropping season (April–August 1999) provided additional output of cereals, beans and vegetables.

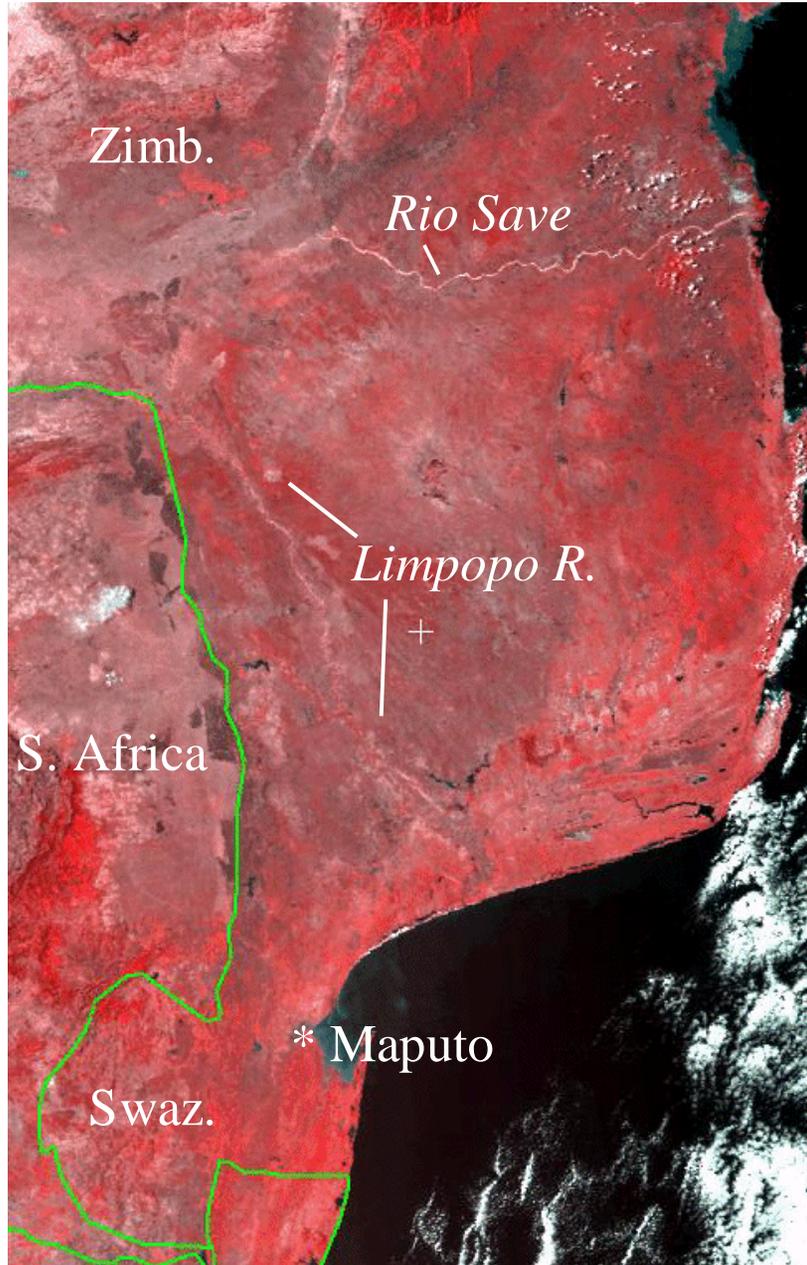
Maputo, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia Provinces are classified as highly food insecure. In these areas, people derive a good share of their income from livestock.

The flood-prone coastal areas and river basins, mainly in Gaza, Zambezia and Nampula Provinces are classified as moderately food insecure. On average, these populations have food access that meets only 6 to 9 months of their consumption needs and have limited alternative sources of income.

The rest of the national population resides in districts considered food secure, located mostly in upland areas characterized by high agricultural potential and low environmental risk.

The rural marketing network that moves cereals from the northern part of the country remains weak. Poor roads increase transport costs and limit the flow of food, reducing market supplies in structurally deficit areas in the central and southern regions. Furthermore, poor marketing outlets for improved seeds, pesticides and fertilizers, coupled with the low level of agricultural production technology, prevent many farmers from taking advantage of favorable weather conditions.

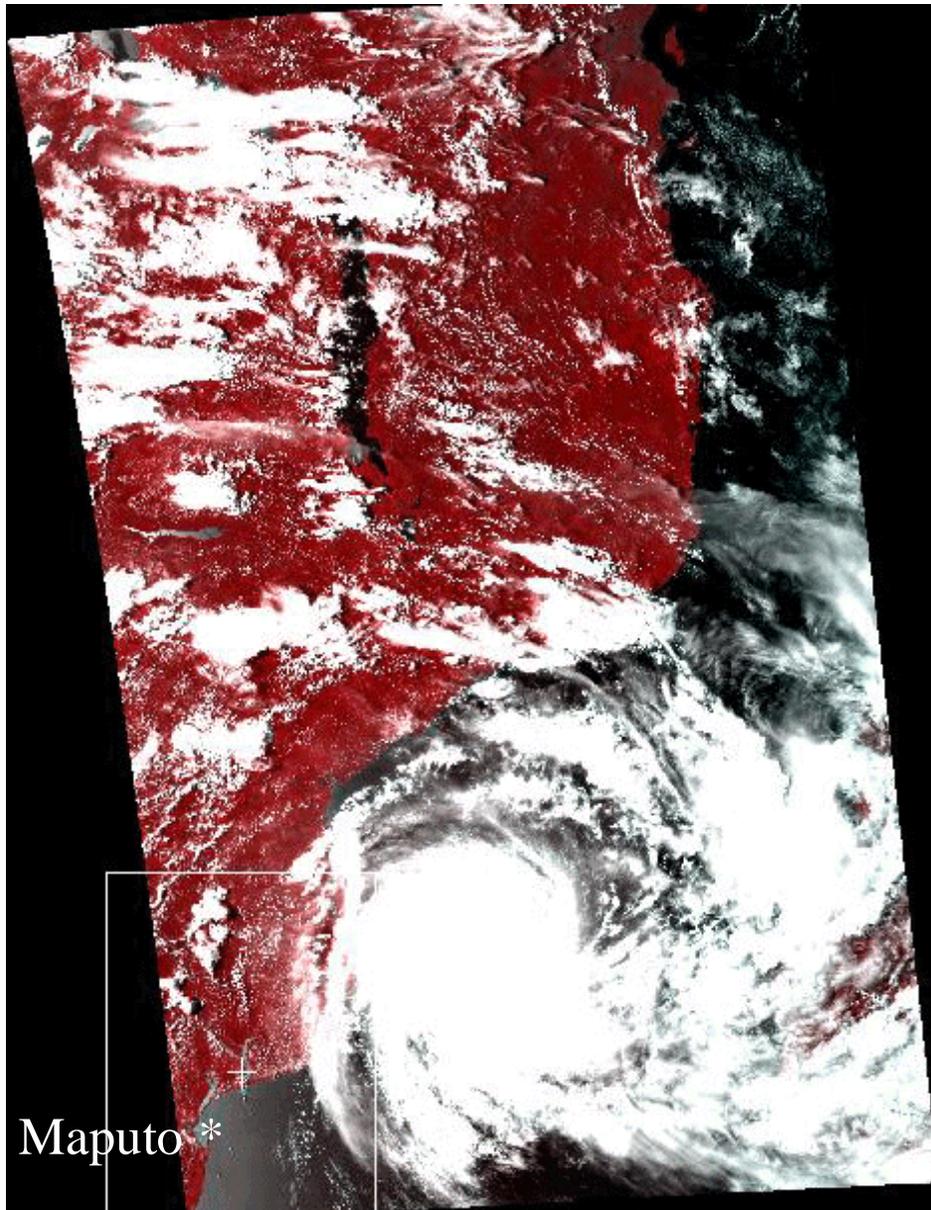
Source: FEWS/Mozambique,  
adapted from VAM Report  
FEWS, December 1999



Area shown on satellite image

Southern Mozambique  
AVHRR image - 10 Oct 1999

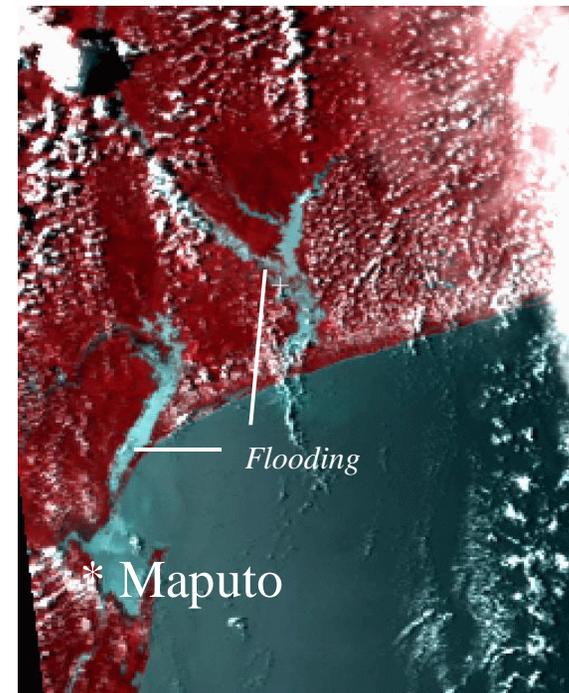
Dry season



Southern Mozambique  
AVHRR image - 20 Feb 2000

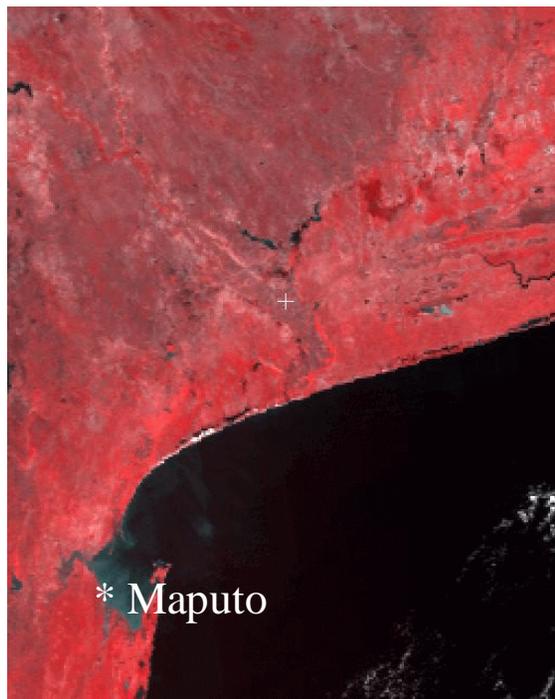
Cyclone Leon-Eline approaching.

Flooding already serious in the vicinity  
of Maputo following heavy rain in early  
February.

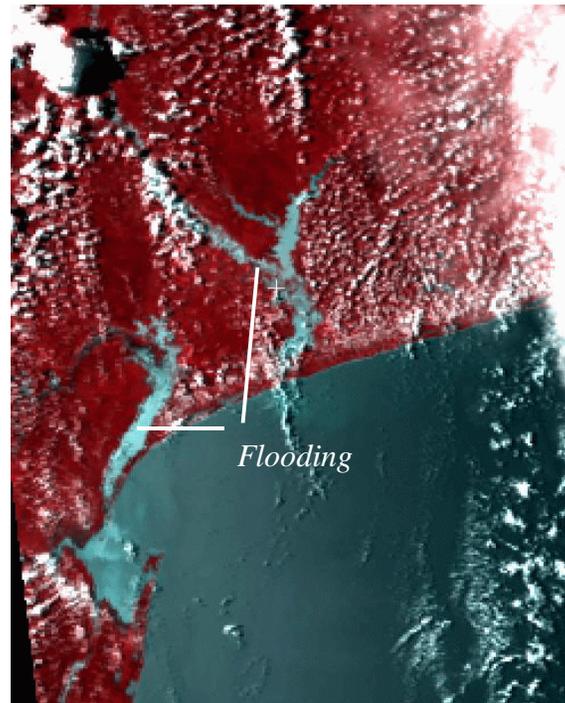


Inset

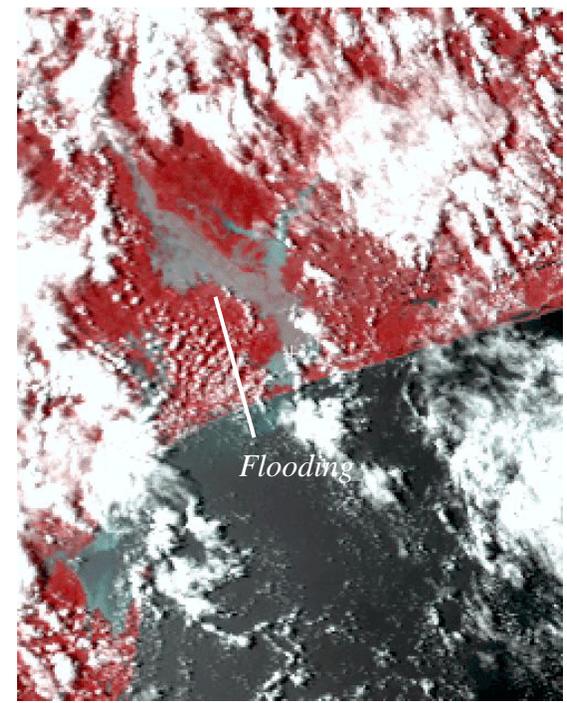
# Flooding - Maputo area - AVHRR Images



AVHRR image - 10 Oct 1999



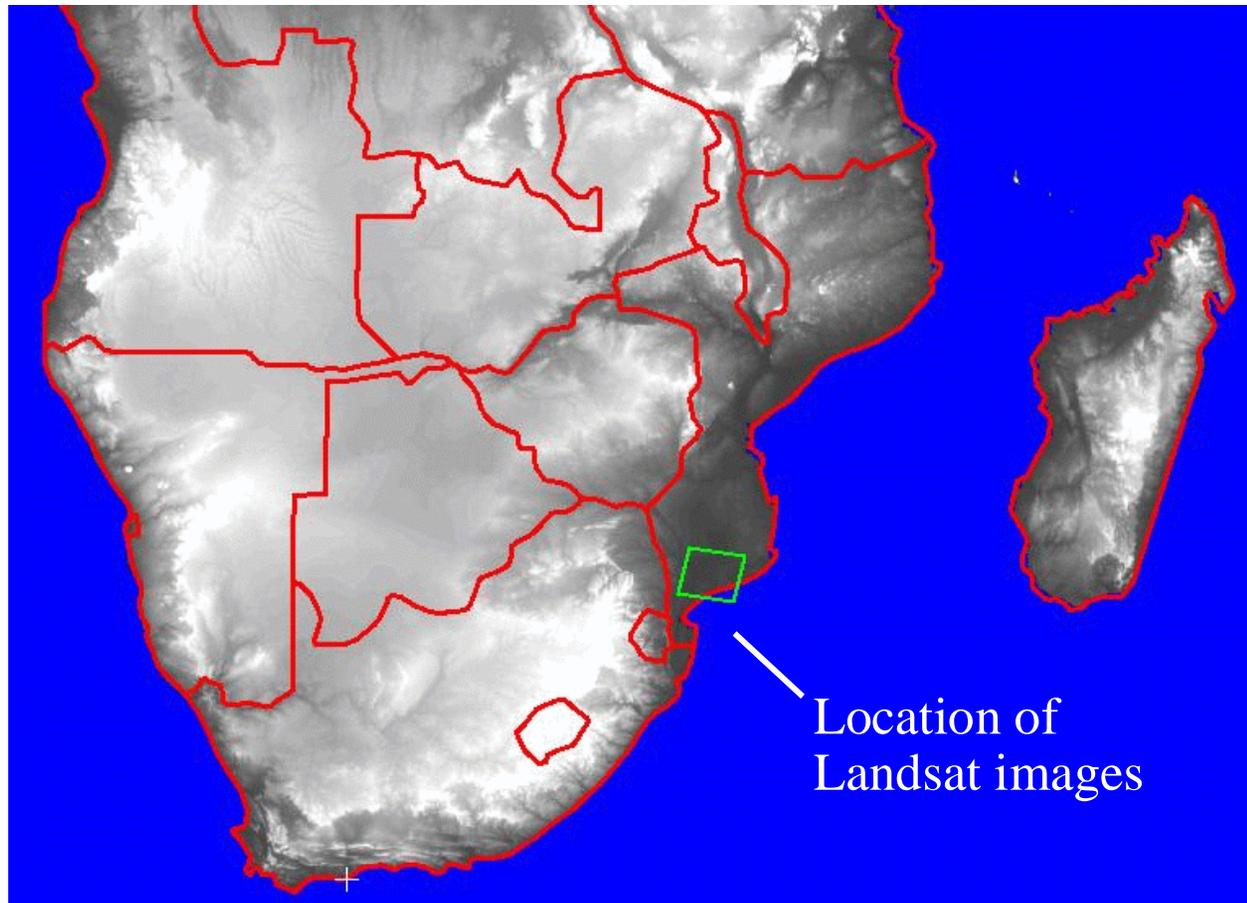
AVHRR image - 20 Feb 2000



AVHRR image - 28 Feb 2000

Flooded area expands

# Mozambique - Elevation map



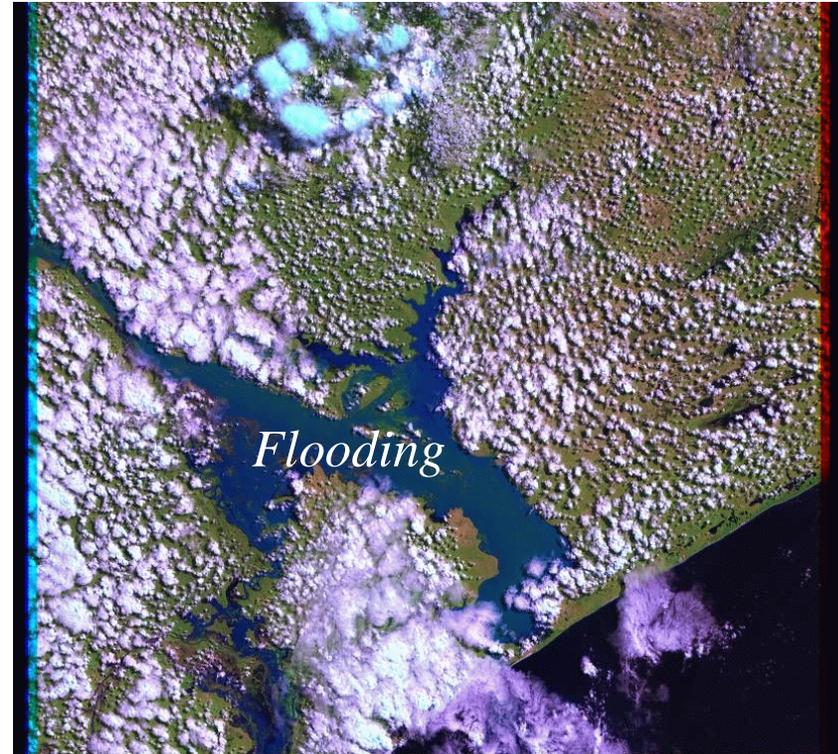
Dark shades = low elevation

# Flooding - Maputo area - Landsat Images



22 Aug 1999

Dry season - streams and lakes are small. Intensive cropping is limited to the most fertile land near stream beds. Scattered subsistence plots are located elsewhere.



1 March 2000

Flooding covers some of the most productive farmland in the region. Dry and clear weather this week allowed water to start receding. The government is urging farmers to replant.



Full resolution Landsat scene.  
22 August 1999

Small fields near the stream are mostly fallow (dry season). Red indicates natural vegetation.

Broad and shallow floodplain with many meanders

Dry grass or scrub covers the terrace on the right.

An important agricultural area in southern Mozambique.