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## REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

### **SUBMISSION TO THE COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE OUTER LIMITS OF THE EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

*Under the Provisions of Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,  
1982*

## **Executive Summary**

June 2010





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## NATIONAL PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS/AGENCIES

**The following Institutions/Agencies of the Mozambican Government and Public Service contributed to the preparation of this submission:**

- *Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation (MINEC)*  
*Government of the Republic of Mozambique*
- *Ministry of Mineral Resources (MIREM)*  
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- *National Institute of the Sea and Borders (IMAF)*  
*Public institution responsible for the issues related to the Sea and Borders*  
*Thanks to **Mr. Miguel Chissano***
- *National Petroleum Institute (INP)*  
*Public institution responsible for hydrocarbons licensing and regulator*  
*Thanks to **Mr. Arsénio Mabote***



## SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

**Support and/or assistance to the preparation of this submission was granted by the following entities, International Organizations/Agencies:**

- ***Commonwealth Secretariat, ComSec***  
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- ***Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources, BGR (Germany)***  
*On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development*  
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- ***United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, UN-DOALOS***  
*Training on issues related to article 76 of the Convention.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Mozambique, hereinafter referred to as “Mozambique”, is a coastal state situated in the southeast of Africa, between latitudes 10°27’S and 26°52’S and longitudes 30°12’E and 40°51’E.

Mozambique borders Tanzania in the north, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe in the west, and Swaziland and South Africa in the south. It has an estimated area of 812,379 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 20,366,795 (2007 census). Its coastline stretches for about 2,700 km along the western Indian Ocean. The official language is Portuguese next to about 20 national languages. Mozambique is subdivided into 11 provinces and 128 districts with Maputo being the country’s capital city.

Mozambique has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”, on 13 March 1997.

As set forth in paragraph 1 of article 76 of the Convention, Mozambique has a continental shelf comprising the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, up to the limits referred to in the provisions of paragraphs 4 to 6 of article 76, or to a distance of 200 M from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, hereinafter referred to as “the territorial sea baselines”, where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance.

The maritime spaces over which Mozambique claims national jurisdiction are defined in the following national legislation\*:

- Decree-Law No. 47,771 of 27 June 1967 – delineation of straight baselines;
- Mozambique Council of Ministers Decree Law No. 31/76 of 19 August 1976;
- Law No. 4/96 of 4 January 1996 – provisions proclaiming the delineation of straight baselines as well as maritime spaces under national jurisdiction. Such legislation claims jurisdiction over a Territorial Sea with a breadth of 12 M, a Contiguous Zone

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\* Both the Decree-Law No. 47,771 of 27 June 1967 and Mozambique’s Council of Ministers Decree Law No. 31/76 of 19 August 1976 contain provisions included in the Law No. 4/96 of 4 January 1996.



up to 24 M, an Exclusive Economic Zone up to 200 M, and a Continental Shelf up to 200 M or to the outer edge of the continental margin, measured from the territorial sea baselines, respectively, taking into account the limits provided for in article 76 paragraphs 4 to 6 of the Convention.

By decision of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention (SPLOS/72), it is understood that in the case of a State Party for which the Convention entered into force before 13 May 1999, the 10-year time period for making submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”, set out in article 4 of Annex II to the Convention, shall be taken to have commenced on 13 May 1999. For Mozambique this implies that the 10-year time limit expired on 13 May 2009.

Based on the decision of the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention (SPLOS/183), Mozambique satisfied the time limit referred to above by submitting on 11 May 2009 preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M and a description of the status of preparation and intended date of making a submission in accordance with the requirements of article 76 of the Convention and with the Rules of Procedure and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines (STG) of the Commission (CLCS/11).

This submission fulfils the obligation that Mozambique has under paragraph 8 of article 76 and article 4 of Annex II to the Convention to submit to the Commission information on the outer limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines. In the submission, the eligible area is described as the extended continental shelf of Mozambique.

In the preparation of this submission the relevant provisions of the STG as well as of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission have been applied.

The scientific and technical work related to this submission, including its compilation and preparation, has been coordinated and carried out by the Task Force for the Delineation of the Outer Limits of the Extended Continental Shelf of Mozambique (*CoPePlaC - Comissão de Peritos para a Determinação e Delimitação da Plataforma Continental*), under the guidance of the National Institute of the Sea and Borders (*IMAF - Instituto Nacional do Mar e Fronteiras*) with its mandate established under article 2, paragraph b) of its Statutes published





under Decree No. 18/2001 of 18 July, 2001, in regard to the delimitation of the extended continental shelf.

In its work, the Government of Mozambique has interacted with its counterpart government/public institutions in the neighbouring states, i.e. the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa* and the *South African Task Force for the Delineation of the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf*, the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar* and the *Malagasy Task Force for the Delineation of the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf*.

## **2. MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION WHO GAVE ADVICE IN THE PREPARATION OF THE SUBMISSION**

In the preparation of this submission, Mozambique was assisted by two members of the Commission: *Mr. Galo Hurtado Carrera* (Mexico), in the desktop study stage and *Mr. Harald Brekke* (Norway) in the very final review stage of the submission preparation process.

## **3. OUTSTANDING MARITIME DELIMITATIONS**

Mozambique wishes to inform the Commission that the maritime area discussed here is not subject to any dispute between Mozambique and neighbouring States.

However, Mozambique is aware of the fact that there are still unresolved issues in relation to bilateral maritime delimitation with neighbouring States, specifically with the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Madagascar, as well as that there are overlapping claims to an extended continental shelf in the maritime area discussed here. Such issues will have to be considered by reference to rule 46 and Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

The Government of Mozambique has been involved in negotiations with the Governments of the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Madagascar on matters of bilateral delimitation of maritime spaces. In the spirit of Article 76 (10) of the Convention and the application of rule 46 (2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and Annex I of the Rules of Procedure, Mozambique has agreed with the Republic of South Africa, that their respective submissions may be considered by the Commission on the understanding that this



is without prejudice to any future delimitation. Furthermore, the Republic of Madagascar has indicated to the Government of Mozambique that it has no objection to Mozambique making a submission in accordance with the requirements of article 76 of the Convention, on the understanding that this is without prejudice to any future delimitation.

Therefore, Mozambique would like to assure that the present submission is without prejudice as well as that its consideration by the Commission will be without prejudice to the said outstanding delimitations, consistent with paragraph 10 of article 76 and article 9 of Annex II to the Convention.

#### **4. PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 76 INVOKED TO SUPPORT THE SUBMISSION**

To support the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf of Mozambique, where it extends beyond 200 nautical miles from the territorial sea baselines, Mozambique invokes the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 (a) of article 76 of the Convention, taking into account the provisions of paragraphs 4 (b), 5 and 7 of the same article. The outer limits result from the application of both, the 1% sediment thickness formula (Gardiner formula) and the distance formula (Hedberg formula), as described in article 76 paragraph 4 (a) (i) and 4 (a) (ii) of the Convention, respectively.

#### **5. THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF OF MOZAMBIQUE**

Applying the definitions and provisions of article 76 to the Mozambican continental margin leads to the following observations and conclusions:

The continental shelf of Mozambique extends beyond 200 M in the far south of the country's offshore area, namely in the region of the Mozambique Basin between the northern Mozambique Ridge and the Madagascar Plateau.

The Mozambique Ridge is a submerged plateau trending continuously southward from the Mozambique Bulge of southeast Africa to about 35°S. It is morphologically connected to the southeast African mainland via the Inharrime and Central Terraces, and therefore, belongs to the same continuous continental margin. Hence, it is regarded to form part of the submerged



prolongation of the land mass of Mozambique, and consequently, to be part of the continental margin of Mozambique in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 76 of the Convention. Resulting from this, the foot of the continental slope (FOS) of Mozambique can be determined along the eastern flank of the Mozambique Ridge.

The outer edge of the continental margin of Mozambique is the outer envelope of both formulae lines, the 1% sediment thickness formula line and the distance formula line, in accordance with article 76 paragraph 4 (a) (i) and (ii), respectively.

In order to construct the Gardiner formula line, seven (7) outermost fixed points have been determined in the northeastern and eastern parts of the relevant area, at each of which the thickness of sedimentary rocks is at least 1% of the shortest distance from that point to the FOS as per article 76, paragraph 4 (a) (i).

Eighty-four (84) fixed points have been chosen at a distance of 60 M from the FOS in the southern part of the relevant area pursuant to article 76, paragraph 4 (a) (ii).

The outer limit of the continental shelf cannot be delineated beyond the limits prescribed in article 76, paragraph 5. The constraint line is the outer envelope of both the 350 M and the 2,500 m isobath + 100 M limit lines (STG: 2.3.3 (ii)). In the case of Mozambique, the 350 M line is located seaward of the 2,500 m isobath + 100 M line throughout the relevant area. Therefore, only one limit line, the 350 M line, is relevant.

Both formulae lines are located landward of the 350 M constraint line. Therefore, the outer edge of the continental margin of Mozambique coincides with the outer limit of the continental shelf of Mozambique.

Altogether, a total of ninety-two (92) fixed points, defined by coordinates of latitude and longitude, has been determined to delineate the outer limits of the extended continental shelf of Mozambique by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length, connecting these fixed points, in accordance with article 76, paragraph 7, of the Convention:

- Point MOZ-OL-01 is the intersection point of the Gardiner line and the 200 M line measured from the territorial sea baseline of Europa Island.
- Points MOZ-OL-02 to MOZ-OL-07 are defined by the 1% sediment thickness formula (article 76, paragraph 4 (a) (i)).



- Points MOZ-OL-08 to MOZ-OL-91 are defined by the distance formula (article 76, paragraph 4 (a) (ii)).
- Point MOZ-OL-92 is located on the 200 M line measured from the territorial sea baseline of South Africa.

Hence, the resulting outer limits of the extended continental shelf of Mozambique presented in this submission are the result of the application of the provisions of paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 7 of article 76 of the Convention. The extended continental shelf of Mozambique comprises an area of about 136,163.8 km<sup>2</sup> beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines, with due consideration to the outstanding delimitations with the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Madagascar.

Mozambique reserves the right, at a later stage, to submit further data in order to demonstrate a straight line connecting point MOZ-OL-04 or MOZ-OL-05 with 200 nautical mile line of Madagascar, making points MOZ-OL-01, MOZ-OL-02 and MOZ-OL-03 redundant.

The coordinates of the outer limit fixed points MOZ-OL-01 to MOZ-OL-92 are listed in Table 1. The outer limit of the extended continental shelf of Mozambique is presented in Figure 1.

**Table 1:** *Outer limit fixed points of the extended continental shelf of Mozambique, defined by coordinates of latitude and longitude. For each point, the distance to the previous outer limit fixed point and the article 76 provision invoked are included.*

Outer limit fixed point	Latitude	Longitude	Distance to previous outer limit fixed point (M)	Article 76 provision invoked
MOZ-OL-01	-25.74372	40.214516	0.00	200 M of Europa Island
MOZ-OL-02	-26.5137	40.63159	51.27	1% sediment thickness
MOZ-OL-03	-26.6379	40.72385	8.94	1% sediment thickness
MOZ-OL-04	-26.7081	40.77159	4.92	1% sediment thickness
MOZ-OL-05	-27.1608	40.62299	28.23	1% sediment thickness
MOZ-OL-06	-27.7033	40.05513	44.42	1% sediment thickness
MOZ-OL-07	-28.3023	39.2313	56.56	1% sediment thickness
MOZ-OL-08	-29.0354	38.47078	59.46	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-09	-29.047	38.46066	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-10	-29.0585	38.45039	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-11	-29.07	38.44012	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-12	-29.0812	38.42947	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-13	-29.0923	38.41861	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-14	-29.1033	38.40776	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-15	-29.1142	38.39658	0.87	FOS + 60 M



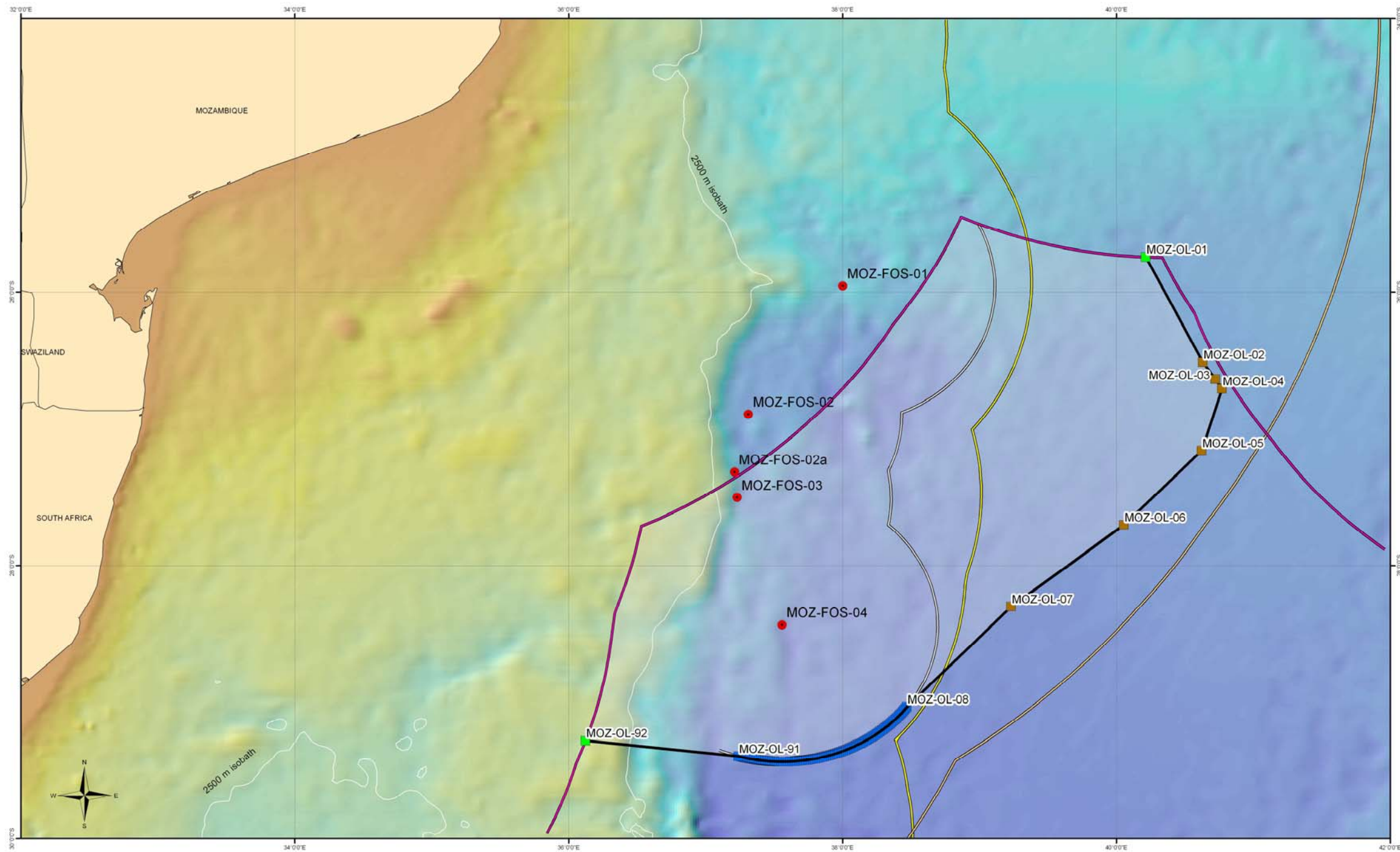
*Table 1: Continued*

<b>Outer limit fixed point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Distance to previous outer limit fixed point (M)</b>	<b>Article 76 provision invoked</b>
MOZ-OL-16	-29.1248	38.38517	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-17	-29.1354	38.37376	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-18	-29.1458	38.36208	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-19	-29.156	38.35013	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-20	-29.1661	38.33818	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-21	-29.1761	38.32603	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-22	-29.1858	38.31356	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-23	-29.1954	38.3011	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-24	-29.205	38.28849	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-25	-29.2141	38.27554	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-26	-29.2233	38.26259	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-27	-29.2323	38.24955	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-28	-29.241	38.23614	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-29	-29.2496	38.22273	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-30	-29.2582	38.20927	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-31	-29.2663	38.19542	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-32	-29.2744	38.18158	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-33	-29.2824	38.16773	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-34	-29.29	38.15348	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-35	-29.2975	38.13924	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-36	-29.305	38.12499	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-37	-29.312	38.11039	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-38	-29.319	38.09577	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-39	-29.3259	38.08115	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-40	-29.3324	38.06624	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-41	-29.3388	38.05127	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-42	-29.3451	38.0363	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-43	-29.3511	38.0211	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-44	-29.3568	38.00583	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-45	-29.3626	37.99054	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-46	-29.3679	37.97508	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-47	-29.3731	37.95951	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-48	-29.3782	37.94395	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-49	-29.3831	37.92825	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-50	-29.3876	37.91243	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-51	-29.3921	37.89662	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-52	-29.3963	37.8807	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-53	-29.4002	37.86467	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-54	-29.4041	37.84864	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-55	-29.4078	37.83254	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-56	-29.411	37.81632	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-57	-29.4143	37.8001	0.87	FOS + 60 M

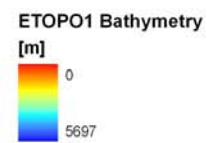
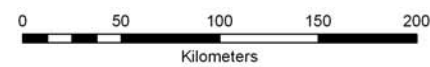


*Table 1: Continued*

<b>Outer limit fixed point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Distance to previous outer limit fixed point (M)</b>	<b>Article 76 provision invoked</b>
MOZ-OL-58	-29.4173	37.78384	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-59	-29.4199	37.76747	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-60	-29.4225	37.7511	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-61	-29.425	37.73471	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-62	-29.427	37.71822	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-63	-29.4289	37.70174	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-64	-29.4308	37.68524	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-65	-29.4321	37.66867	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-66	-29.4334	37.6521	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-67	-29.4347	37.63553	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-68	-29.4353	37.61891	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-69	-29.436	37.60228	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-70	-29.4366	37.58566	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-71	-29.4366	37.56903	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-72	-29.4366	37.55239	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-73	-29.4366	37.53576	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-74	-29.436	37.51913	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-75	-29.4353	37.50251	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-76	-29.4346	37.48589	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-77	-29.4335	37.46931	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-78	-29.4321	37.45275	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-79	-29.4308	37.43618	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-80	-29.429	37.41967	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-81	-29.427	37.40319	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-82	-29.425	37.38672	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-83	-29.4227	37.3703	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-84	-29.42	37.35394	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-85	-29.4174	37.33758	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-86	-29.4144	37.32129	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-87	-29.4111	37.30509	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-88	-29.4078	37.28889	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-89	-29.4043	37.27274	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-90	-29.4004	37.25673	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-91	-29.3964	37.24072	0.87	FOS + 60 M
MOZ-OL-92	-29.2825	36.12309	59.00	200 M of South Africa



- Legend**
- sediment thickness outer limit point
  - distance outer limit point
  - 200 M outer limit point
  - FOS point
  - FOS + 60M
  - 200 M
  - 350 M Mozambique
  - 2500m isobath + 100 M
  - outer limit of the continental shelf
  - extended continental shelf of Mozambique



### OUTER LIMIT OF THE EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF OF MOZAMBIQUE

Projection: Mercator  
Datum: WGS 84

REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE



**Figure 1:** Map showing the outer limit of the extended continental shelf of Mozambique, outer limit fixed points, constraint lines as well as FOS points and FOS+60M formula line.