



Republic of Mozambique

EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF OF MOZAMBIQUE

**PRELIMINARY INFORMATION
INDICATIVE OF THE OUTER LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF
AND
DESCRIPTION OF THE STATUS OF PREPARATION OF MAKING A SUBMISSION
TO THE COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF
FOR
MOZAMBIQUE**

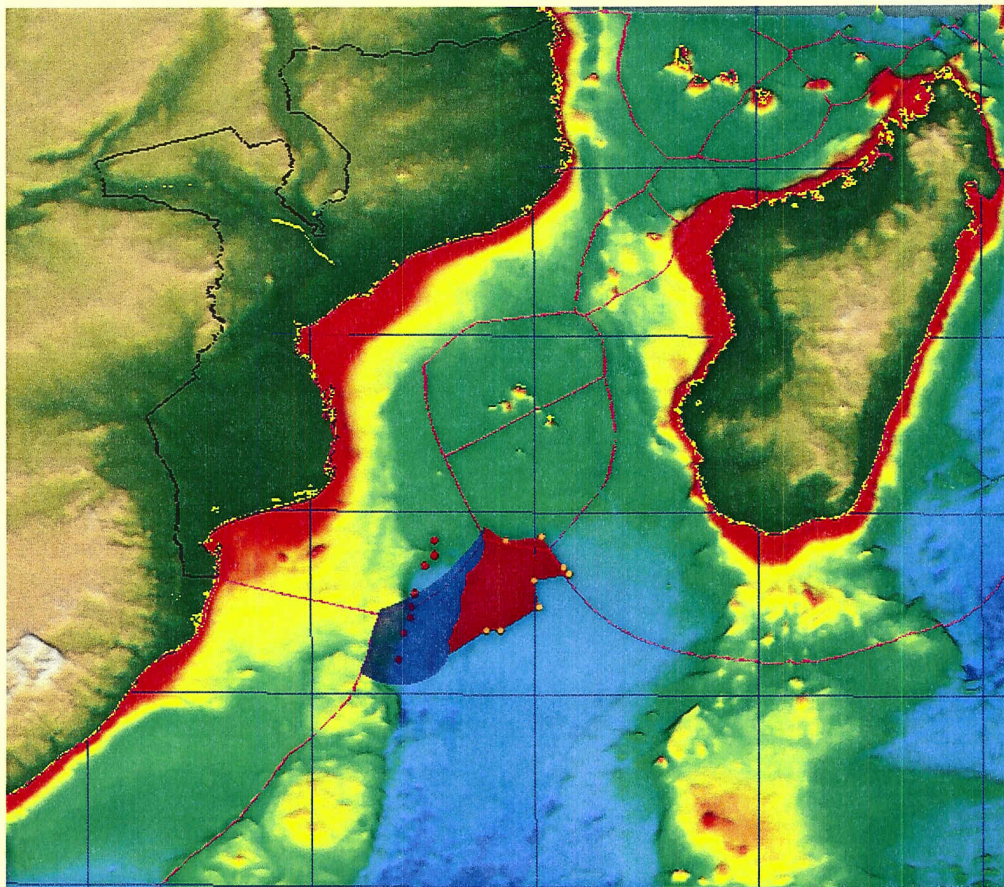


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1. Introduction

Mozambique ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”, on 13 March 1997. Thus, Mozambique became one of the States to declare its willingness to be bound by the Convention.

Mozambique is in the process of preparing information and data on the limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles to be submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (“the Commission”) in accordance with article 76 and Annex II 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 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 will expire on 13 May 2009.

Mozambique is mindful of its obligations under the Convention and of the importance of the work of the Commission for coastal States and the international community as a whole.

Recalling the decision of the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention (SPLOS/183), Mozambique would like to inform that it continues to face particular challenges in submitting full information on the outer limits of its continental shelf to the Commission, due to constraints in financial and technical resources and in relevant capacity and expertise that led to the slow preparation of its final submission.

Based on the decision of the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention (SPLOS/183), Mozambique therefore decided to satisfy the time limit referred to above by submitting herewith 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 of the Commission [SPLOS/183 op.p. 1 (a)].

Mozambique is aware of the fact that there are still unresolved questions in relation to bilateral maritime delimitation with neighbouring States, as well as that there may be overlapping claims to an extended continental shelf in the maritime area discussed here. Such questions will have to be considered by reference to Rule 46 and Annex I of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. Therefore, the present preliminary information of Mozambique is without prejudice to any future bilateral maritime delimitation with neighbouring States.

2. Preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M

2.1 Geology of the continental margin of Mozambique

The structures of the Mozambique continental margin result from the break-up of Gondwana Continent and the formation of the Indian Ocean at the end of Mesozoic. According to the plate-tectonic reconstruction, it is scientifically agreed that rifting between Africa and Antarctica created the Riiser-Larsen Sea off Dronning Maud Land (Antarctica) and the Mozambique Basin [König and Jokat, 2006; Jokat et al., 2003].

The Mozambique continental margin is constituted by two basically syn-break-up sedimentary basins along the coastal plain of Mozambique, the Rovuma Basin in the north and the Mozambique Basin from the central part to the south of the territory of Mozambique. These basins contain Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous and Tertiary sediments. Since the transgression in Early Cretaceous times the region developed as a normal continental shelf, with transgressions and regressions related to the opening of the Mozambique Basin and to the Indian Ocean [Flores, 1973].

The Mozambique Basin is a broad, almost triangular trough, bounded by the Mozambique continental slope to the west and the Madagascar continental slope to the east. The average water depth is 3000 meters and increases southwards to 4500-5500 meters in the deepest part. To the west and east, the Mozambique Basin is flanked by the steep scarps of the Mozambique and Madagascar Ridges, respectively.

The continental shelf and slope of Mozambique run approximately parallel to the coastline, except where large fan-shaped features protrude into deeper water: Mozambique Fan off Zambezi Delta, Limpopo Cone and Tugela Cone. In the Zambezi Delta area, the Mozambique continental margin is composed of a wider shelf (~150 km off Beira) and a gently deepening continental slope, typical of an abundantly sediment-fed margin. Northeast and south of this area, the narrow shelves and upper steep slopes are characteristic of a tectonically controlled margin [Droz and Mougenot, 1987]. Southwards of 27°S the slope is rough in topography and dissected by series of canyons. The rough topography of the slope is related to basinward sediment movement via slumping and a canyon-fan system. Steep slopes coincide with main and subsidiary glided-plane scars, fissures and canyon systems. The continental shelf portion of the southern Mozambique Basin between Beira and the South African border is the widest of East Africa, bulging seaward off Ponta Zavora as an expression of the Inharrime Terrace.

The Mozambique Ridge, a large submerged plateau, is about 1000 to 2000 meters deep and trends continuously southward from the Mozambique Bulge of southeast Africa. It is morphologically connected to the southeast African mainland via the Inharrime and Central Terraces (Figure 1 and Annex I). The Mozambique Ridge is regarded to form part of the submerged prolongation of the land mass of Mozambique. Hence it is regarded to be part of the continental margin of Mozambique in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 76 of the Convention.

The Mozambique Ridge is wider near its southern end and narrowing to the north. The eastern scarp of the Mozambique Ridge bounds the Mozambique Basin, while the western flank descends gradually into the Natal Valley, which separates the southern part of the Mozambique Ridge from the steep continental margin of south-eastern Africa.

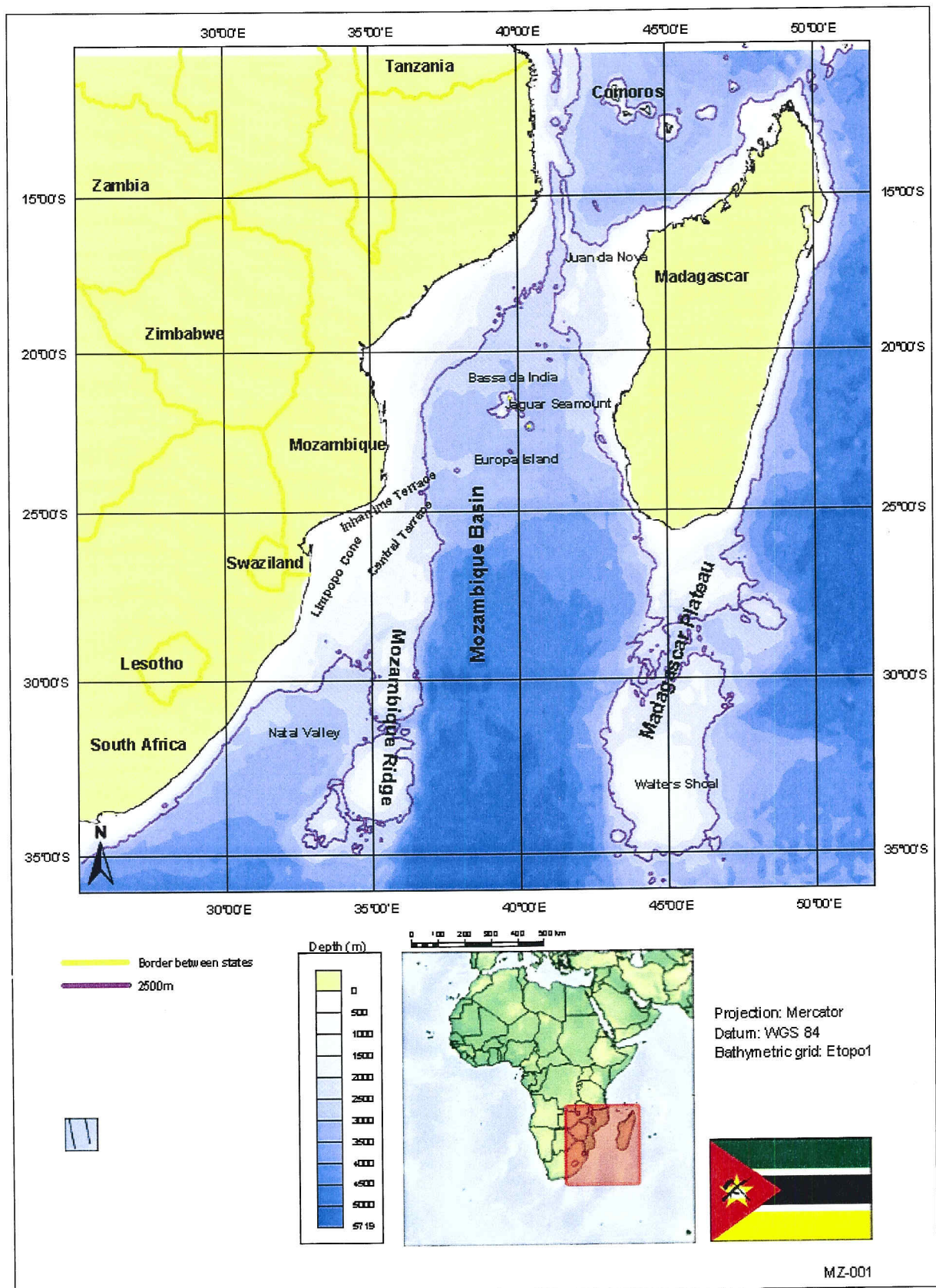


Figure 1: Map of the Mozambique Channel and major features (Mozambique Ridge and Madagascar Plateau) with names of key submarine features and state borders.

(Projection: Mercator, WGS 84; and the ETOPO 1 grid)

2.2 Indication of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M

Based on the bathymetric and seismic data that Mozambique has at its disposal, Mozambique was able to determine sixteen Foot of slope (FOS) points along the eastern flank of the Mozambique Ridge. Ten of these FOS points contribute to an extended continental shelf beyond 200 M based on both, the sediment thickness criterion and the 60 M distance criterion of article 76, paragraphs 4(a)(i) and 4(a)(ii), respectively (Figure 2 and Annex II).

The attached figure gives an indication of the preliminary outer limit of the continental shelf of Mozambique and the area of the continental shelf beyond 200 M. In the northern and central part of that area, the preliminary outer limit is delineated by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length connecting seven fixed points defined by the sediment thickness criterion. In the southern part, the preliminary outer limit is delineated by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length connecting fixed points defined by the 60 M distance criterion.

Mozambique would like to point out that the FOS points and the outer limit points determined for this preliminary information may be subject to later revision during the preparation of the full submission to the Commission.

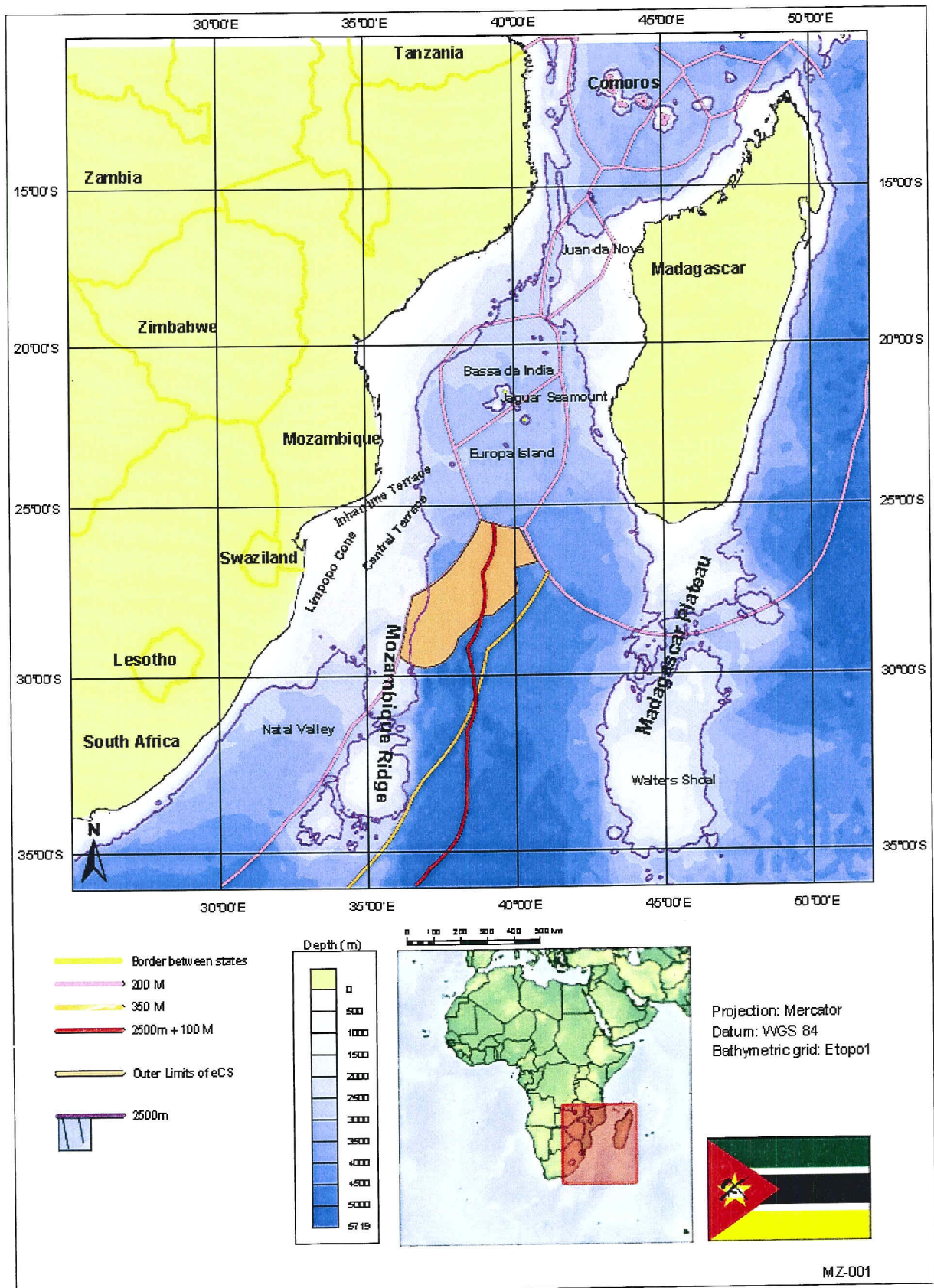


Figure 2: Map showing the Indication of the Outer Limits of extended Continental Shelf area beyond 200 M based on the sediment thickness and the 60 M distance criteria of article 76 paragraphs 4(a)(i) and 4(a)(ii), respectively. (Projection: Mercator, WGS 84; and the ETOPO 1 grid).

3. Description of the status of preparation and intended date of making a submission

In 2004, the Government of Mozambique established the *Comissão de Peritos para Delimitação da Plataforma Continental de Moçambique (CoPePlaC)* in order to prepare the documents necessary for a submission to the Commission in accordance with article 76 and Annex II of the Convention.

3.1 Baselines

In accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 of Mozambique's Law No. 4/96 on the Law of the Sea of 04 January 1996, the normal baseline for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea is the low-water line along the coast, supplemented by a set of closing lines and straight baselines. As regards the present communication, all measurements were carried out based on the World Vector Shoreline (from the Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase) as an approximation of the normal baseline.

3.2 Desktop study including test of appurtenance

In 2007, a desktop study was conducted by Mr. Galo Carrera Hurtado, member of the Commission (1997-present), who was appointed for this purpose by the Commonwealth Secretariat. The desktop study provided an analysis of the legal and technical information to be used in support of the determination of the outer limits and international boundaries of the maritime spaces under the national jurisdiction of the Republic of Mozambique. It contained a feasibility study for the determination of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M based on existing technical and scientific information and data. The included initial appurtenance study clearly demonstrated the entitlement of Mozambique to a continental shelf beyond 200 M in an area of the Mozambique Ridge and Basin to the SE of Mozambique.

3.3 Additional data acquisition

Apart from the compilation of available bathymetric and seismic data from different sources, additional data acquisition was necessary to provide exact information on the location of the FOS and sediment thickness points. With financial support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), additional 1,700 line km of 2D multi-channel reflection seismic data were acquired in cooperation with the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) and the Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER) on board of MARION DUFRESNE in October 2007 (Leg MD164, Project MoBaMaSis). Bathymetric, gravity and magnetic measurements were also carried out along the profiles.

3.4 Analysis of data

The bathymetric and seismic data has subsequently been analyzed and interpreted. The Government of Mozambique would like to stress that the data available now permitted the completion of the initial (a) determination of the FOS points, (b) calculation of sediment thicknesses along the seismic profiles, (c) construction of the two formulae lines using the sediment thickness criterion and the 60 M distance criterion of article 76, and (d) construction of the constraint lines as defined in paragraph 5 of article 76 of the Convention.

3.5 Issues of maritime delimitation

The Government of the Republic of Mozambique has been involved in negotiations with the Governments of the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Madagascar on questions of bilateral delimitation of maritime areas. Both Governments have indicated to the Government of the Republic of Mozambique that they have no objections to the Republic of Mozambique submitting this preliminary information for the purposes referred to in SPLOS/183 and making a future submission in accordance with the requirements of article 76 of the Convention, on the understanding that this is without prejudice to any future delimitation.

The “non-objection” indication mentioned in the above paragraph can be confirmed by the agreed minutes with both countries, which are attached hereto.

With reference to paragraph 10 of Article 76 of the Convention and Article 9 of Annex II to the Convention, the Republic of Mozambique would like to inform that it has no objection to the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Madagascar making submissions to the Commission including maritime areas of potential overlap with the extended continental shelf of Mozambique, based on the understanding that such submissions and their consideration by the Commission as well as its recommendations will be without prejudice to any future delimitation.

In regard to Bassas da India and Europa Islands, for the purpose of EEZ delimitation, any negotiations/agreements are pending the resolution of the dispute between Madagascar and France on their sovereignty claim, as described in the Desktop Study. For the extended continental shelf exercise, the Test of Appurtenance carried by the Mozambican Task force has shown no relevance of the above captioned islands for the exercise, therefore they were not seen as relevant in the contacts for “no-objection” agreement with either France or Madagascar.

3.6 Pending tasks

In order to make a submission on the limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 M to the Commission in accordance with the requirements of article 76 of the Convention and with the Rules of Procedure and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission, Mozambique is committed to complete in a timely manner the pending tasks, namely the production of all relevant scientific and technical documentation and the preparation of the final submission document.

In this regard, Mozambique will continue to take advantage of available opportunities for scientific and technical capacity-building, advice and assistance available to coastal States in the preparation of submissions to the Commission.

3.7 Assistance and advice received during the preparation of this communication

Based upon the request put for assistance by the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, the Commonwealth Secretariat made available its technical assistance in the preparation of the submission on the Extended Continental Shelf of the Republic of Mozambique. The Special Services Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat has kindly accepted to provide such assistance on the clear premise that this would not amount to the preparation of a submission. Mr. Galo Carrera Hurtado, member of the Commission (1997-present) was then appointed to assist Mozambique on the preparation of the desktop study. No advice was provided by any other member of the Commission.

Furthermore, advice in the preparation of this communication was provided by the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) on data processing and interpretation, as well as on the text review.

3.8 Intended date of making a submission

The Government of Mozambique is committed to deliver its full submission within 1 year from now, unless otherwise specified in light of other circumstances.

4. Conclusions

The preliminary information presented herewith demonstrates that Mozambique is entitled to a continental shelf beyond 200 M and gives an indication of its outer limit. This information is submitted in accordance with SPLOS/183 op.p. 1 (a) with the intention to ensure that Mozambique satisfies the time period set out for submissions in article 4 of Annex II to the Convention.

In accordance with SPLOS/183 op.p. 1 (c), this preliminary information is without prejudice to the future submission in accordance with the requirements of article 76 of the Convention and with the Rules of Procedure and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission, and its consideration by the Commission.

In accordance with SPLOS/183 op.p. 1 (b), pending the receipt of the full submission, the preliminary information presented here shall not be considered by the Commission.

The Government of the Republic of Mozambique would like to request that the Secretary-General inform the Commission and notify member States of the receipt of this preliminary information, and make this information publicly available, in accordance with SPLOS/183 op.p. 1 (d).

5. References

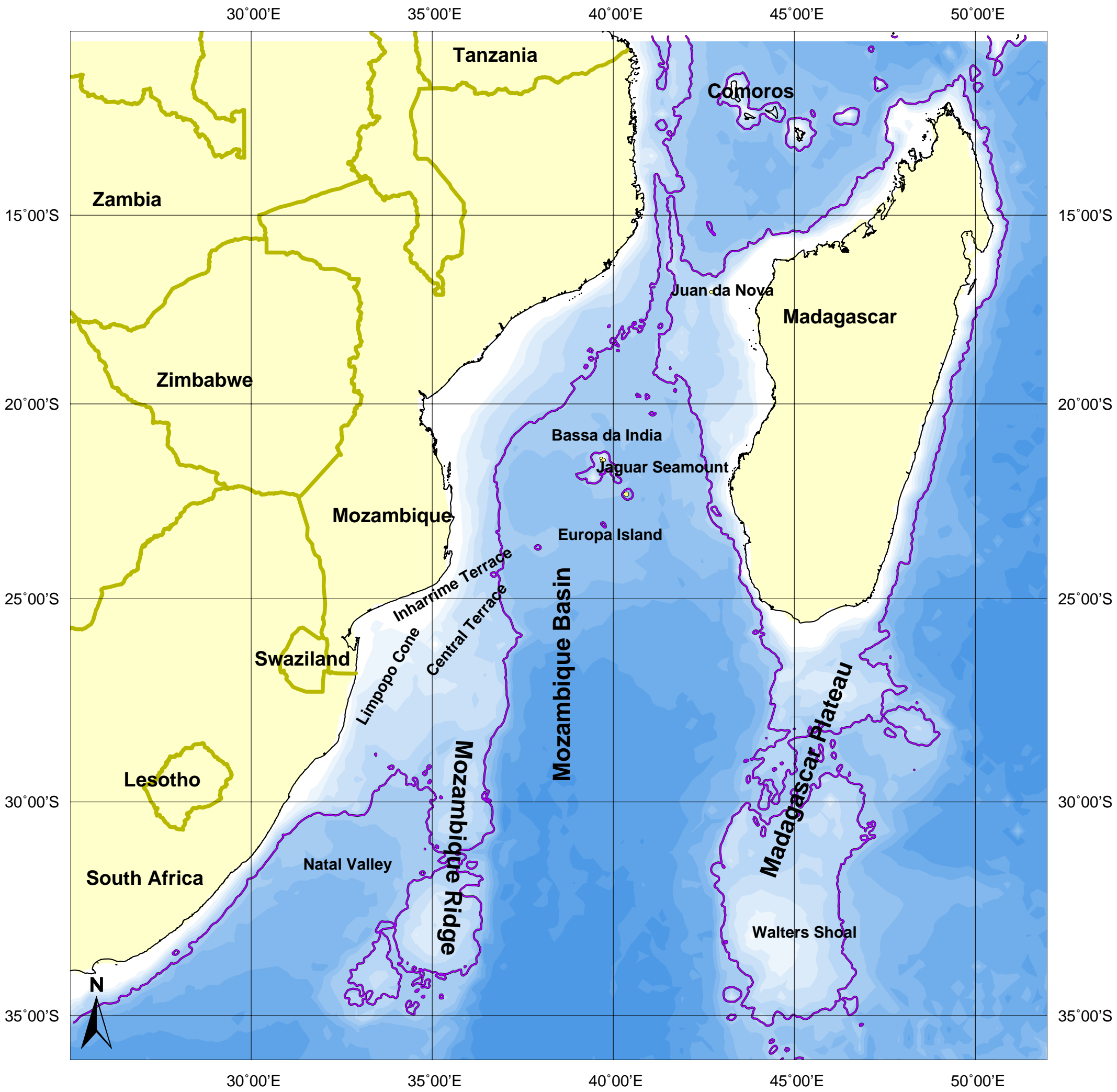
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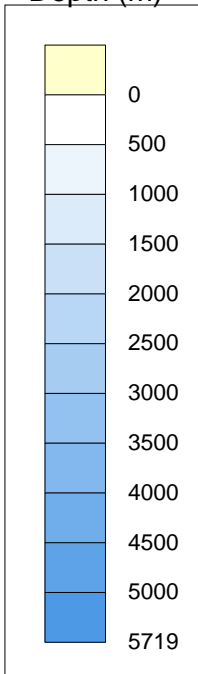
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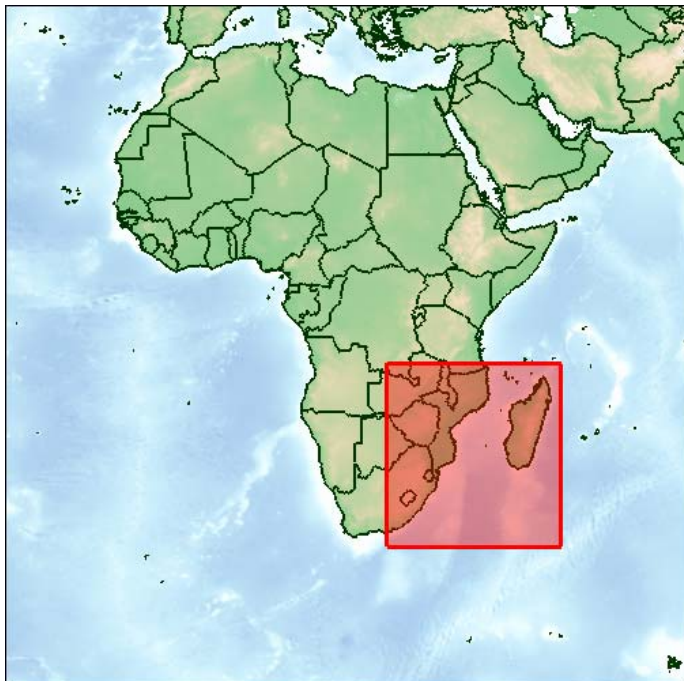
— Border between states
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Depth (m)

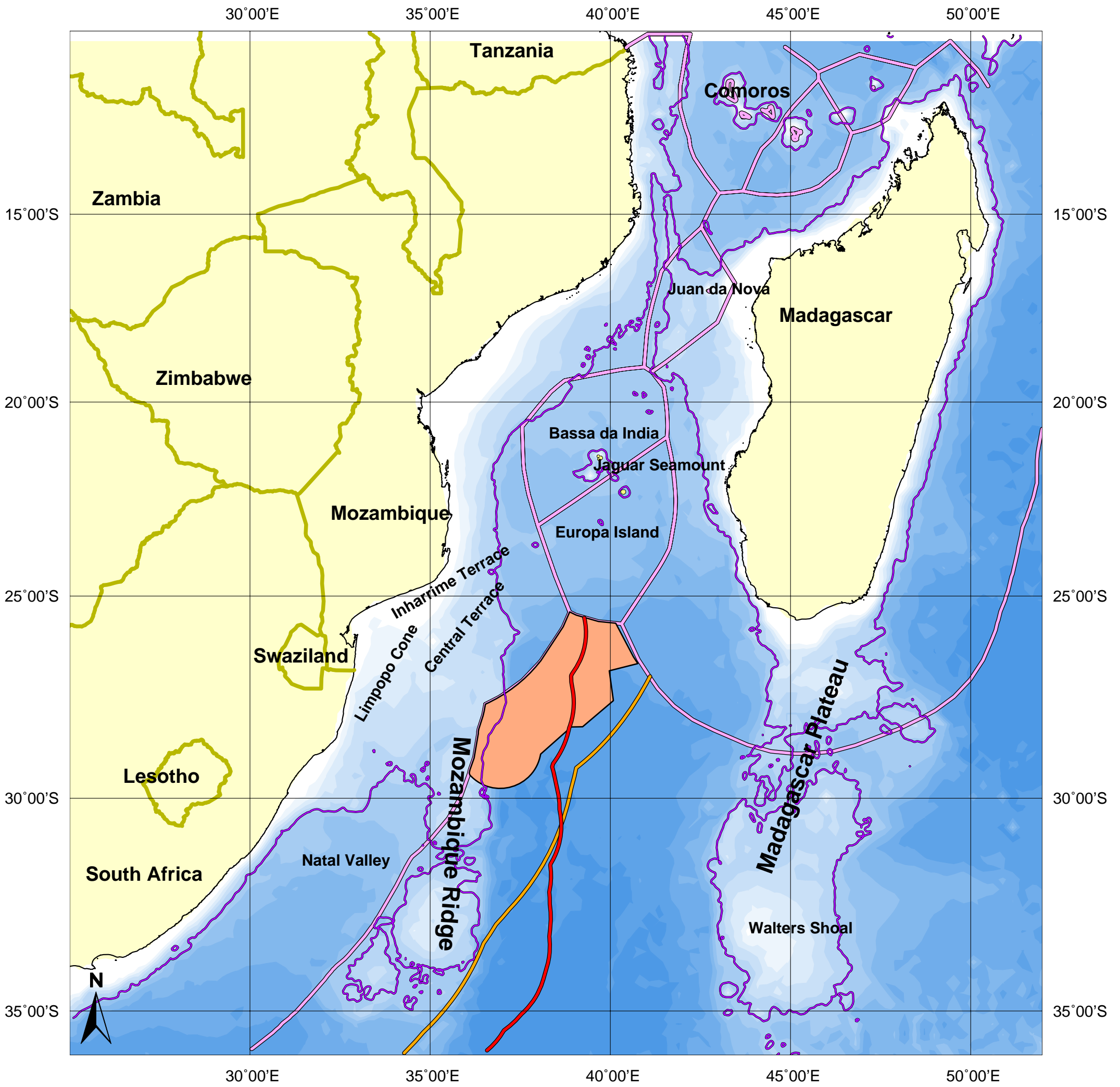







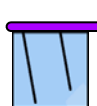
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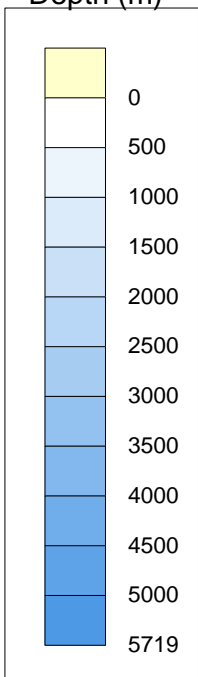
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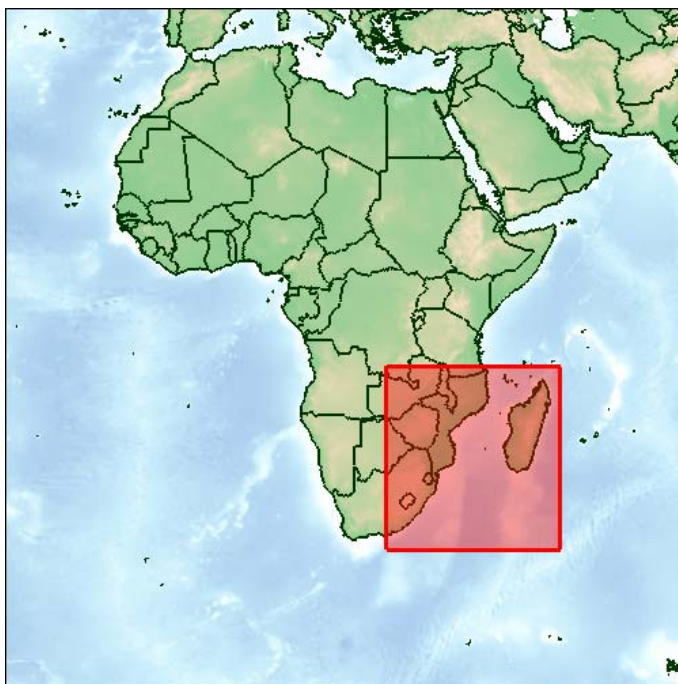


-  Border between states
-  200 M
-  350 M
-  2500m + 100 M
-  Outer Limits of eCS
-  2500m

Depth (m)



0 100 200 300 400 500 km



Projection: Mercator
Datum: WGS 84
Bathymetric grid: Etopo1



AGREED MINUTES

Following the invitation by the General Manager of the "Office des Mines Nationales et des Industries Stratégiques" (OMNIS) and the malagasy task force for the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf, emanating from a proposal made by the National Institute for the Sea and Borders of the Republic of Mozambique, a meeting of experts on technical matters pertaining to the harmonization of the submissions relating to the extended continental shelf project under article 76 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea took place in Antananarivo (Aina hotel, Antaninarenina), Madagascar, from the 26th to 30th January 2009.

The malagasy delegation, as the inviting party, led by **Mr Germain Michel Ranjoanina**, Senior representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the National Committee of the Continental Shelf of Madagascar, was comprised by the following experts:

- Mrs Clodette Raharimananirina, Senior Geophysicist,
- Pr Théodore Razakamanana, Doctor Geologist,
- Mr Tolojanahary Randriamiantsoa, Geophysicist.

The mozambican delegation at this meeting, led by **Mr Eugénio João Muianga**, Director of the Sea at the National Institute for the Sea and Borders, was comprised by the following experts:

- Mr Estevao Stefane Mahanjane, Geoscientist,
- Mr Fernando Jorge Manhiça, Senior Legal Expert,
- Mr Adriano Silvestre Sênvano, Senior Geologist.

The two parties have agreed on the following agenda:

- Presentation of an overview of the method used for the delineation of the outer limits of the "legal" continental shelf in relation to the "Scientific" continental margin ;
- The identification of the foot of the continental slope;
- The delineation of the formulae lines which are used to identify the outer edge of the continental margin in relation to the foot of the continental slope;
- The delineation of constraint lines which are used to identify the limit beyond which the continental shelf cannot extend;
- The use of the formulae lines and constraint lines to delineate the outer limits of the continental shelf;
- Discussions on the harmonized submission of the extended Continental Shelf Projects.

The presentations were followed by technical discussions which conveyed on the application of article 76, paragraph 10, and article 83, paragraph 3, of the 1982 Convention.

In accordance with above mentioned articles, Madagascar and Mozambique may enter on a provisional agreement on harmonized extended continental shelf submissions:

Such agreement, as proposed by the mozambican delegation in the attached document, shall be without prejudice to the final delimitation.

The mozambican delegation has expressed its willingness to further cooperate with the malagasy task force in its submission preparation process.

The discussions between the two delegations were undertaken in a spirit of understanding and cooperation.

Antananarivo, the 30th January 2009

The malagasy delegation



Germain Michel Ranjoanina

The mozambican delegation



Eugénio João Muianga

HARMONIZATION OF THE EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF BETWEEN MADAGASCAR AND MOZAMBIQUE

The Republic of Mozambique is a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS 82) from March 1997 and in 2006 embarked on the preparation of its Submission on the Extended Continental Shelf, under the provisions of Article 76 of the Convention, with the 5th May 2009 as the target date for the delivery of the Submission to the CLCS-Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

Paragraph 10 of Article 76 states that, we quote: "*the provisions of this Article are without prejudice to the question of delimitation of the Continental Shelf between States with opposite or adjacent coasts*".

The Republic of Mozambique will be delivering its Submission based on the above quoted paragraph, and so that the delegation of Mozambique would like to propose a Harmonized Submission platform between Madagascar and Mozambique.

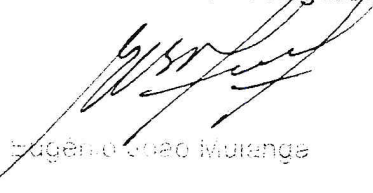
If the Mozambican proposal is acceptable to Madagascar, the two countries would enter into an Agreement in form of a Memorandum of Understanding/Exchange of Diplomatic Letters, expressing the willingness of both countries in doing so.

Taking into account the Mozambique's timing for the delivery of its Submission, the above mentioned Agreement would be concluded by mid-April, latest.

In this regard, the Government of the Republic Mozambique would initiate the process by addressing the Government of the Republic of Madagascar on the matter.

Antananarivo, the 30th January 2009

The mozambican delegation



Eugénio José Muxanga

AGREED MINUTES

THE EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF TASK FORCES OF MOZAMBIQUE AND SOUTH AFRICA

On the 11th of March 2009, the Extended Continental Shelf Task Teams of Mozambique and South Africa met in Maputo, to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries consistent with Article 76(10) of UNCLOS and the harmonization process of their respective claims, which are to be submitted to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

The Mozambican delegation was comprised of:

Prof. Dr. Mussa Achimo, Senior Geologist, Chairman of Task Force

Mrs. Leonor Joaquim, Senior Legal Officer, Vice-Chairperson of Task Force

Mr. Eugenio J. Muianga, Maritime Administration Expert, Member of the Task Force

Mr. Adriano S. Senvano, Senior Geologist, Member of the Task Force

Mr. Fernando J. Manhiça, Senior Legal Officer, Member of the Task Force

Mr. Amad V. Mamad, Senior Geologist, Member of the Task Force

Mr. Estevão T. James, Hydrographer, Member of the Task Force

Mr. Estevão S. Mahanjane, Geoscientist, Member of the Task Force

The South African delegation was comprised of:

Mr. Sivu Maqungo, Principal State Law Advisor (IL), Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Mr. Mthozami Xiphu, Chief Executive Officer, Petroleum Agency of South Africa;

Mr. Ian McLachlan, Manager: SA Shelf Claim Project, Petroleum Agency of South Africa;

The two parties agreed on the following Agenda:

- Opening remarks
- Presentation of the Submission Preparation Progress by Mozambique Task Force and comments
- Presentation of the Submission Preparation Progress by South Africa Task Force and comments
- Discussion on Harmonization Technical aspects
- Discussion on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
- Closing remarks.

The presentations were followed by technical discussions which conveyed on the application of Article 76, paragraph 10, and Article 83, paragraph 3, of UNCLOS.

In accordance with the above mentioned articles, Mozambique and South Africa may enter on a provisional agreement on harmonized extended continental shelf submission.

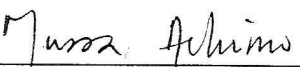
Such agreement, as proposed by both delegations shall be without prejudice to any future boundary delimitation between their two countries. They agreed to facilitate such agreement through exchange of notes between their respective governments.

The two delegations expressed the willingness to continue their spirit of cooperation on the submission preparation process.

The discussions between the two delegations were undertaken in a spirit of understanding and cooperation.

Maputo, the 11th March, 2009

The Mozambican delegation



Prof. Dr. Mussa Achimo

The South African delegation



Mr. Sivu Maqungo