



International Boundary Study

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Mozambique – Swaziland Boundary

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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

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MOZAMBIQUE – SWAZILAND BOUNDARY

I. BOUNDARY BRIEF

The Mozambique–Swaziland boundary has two tripoints with South Africa. Northward from the Great Usutu, it extends along the summit of the Lebombo Mountains for approximately 66 miles to Mpundweni Beacon. The boundary consists of various straight-line segments demarcated by trigonometrical and/or boundary beacons.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Swaziland. In the 1840's the Swazis asked the British Agent General in southern Africa for assistance against Zulu raids into Swaziland. The Agent General succeeded in establishing friendly relations between the two peoples, and shortly thereafter a number of settlers of European background moved into the Swazi territory.

Agreements between the United Kingdom and the Transvaal State (South African Republic) in 1881 and 1884 recognized the independence of Swaziland within certain stated boundaries. In 1890 a convention was signed by the United Kingdom and the South African Republic for cooperation in the settlement of the disorganized internal affairs of Swaziland, and in 1894 an additional Anglo–South African convention gave the South African Republic powers of protection and administration for Swaziland. These powers passed to the United Kingdom following the Anglo–Boer War of 1899–1902. Under the Treaty of Vereeniging in 1902, the South African Republic became a British colony and reverted to the name of Transvaal.

In 1907 Swaziland was placed under the control of the British high commissioner for South Africa. It was administered as a High Commission Territory until the dissolution of the High Commission on August 1, 1964. On September 6, 1968, the entity became independent as the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Mozambique. Following exploration of the east coast of Africa, Portugal established a trading post on the island of Mocambique in 1505. With the extension of territorial claims along the coast and into the interior of present-day Mozambique, Portuguese administration of the entity was placed under a resident governor in 1752. At present Mozambique is a Portuguese state which the Government in Lisbon considers to be an integral part of the Republic of Portugal.

III. BOUNDARY TREATIES

A treaty signed by Portugal and the South African Republic on July 29, 1869, stated that the southern limit of the Portuguese district of Lourenco Marques or Delagoa Bay was the parallel of 26°30' S. inland from the Indian Ocean to the Lebombo Mountains, from which

point the boundary extended northward along the summit of the mountains. In 1888 a joint commission, including representatives of the United Kingdom, Portugal, Swaziland, and the South African Republic, delimited the Mozambique–Swaziland boundary from the Great Usutu¹ northward along the summit of the Lembombo Mountains to an indefinite tripoint with the South African Republic. A joint Portuguese–South African commission erected Mpundweni Beacon in 1894 at the Mozambique–South African Republic–Swaziland tripoint.

In 1897 a Portuguese–South African commission demarcated with beacons or pillars the four principal points of the Mozambique–Swaziland boundary, which were designated by the 1888 commission as Ipoye, Buchanan, Nunes da Silva, and Krogh. The boundary north of Krogh also was beacons as a straight line to Mpundweni Beacon. In a letter to the Consul General of Portugal at Pretoria on October 24, 1898, the State Secretary of the South African Republic agreed to the beaconing of the 1897 commission, except for the sector of the boundary between Krogh Beacon and Mpundweni Beacon. The British Government on November 9, 1905, informed the Portuguese Government that it was in agreement with the view taken by the South African Republic on the proceedings of the 1897 commission.

Attempts by commissions in 1899 and 1907 to settle the alignment of the entire boundary were unsuccessful, but a commission meeting at Namaacha on July 5, 1920, agreed that only the sector from Krogh Beacon to Mpundweni Beacon was in dispute. An Anglo–Portuguese commission redemarcated the sector from Krogh Beacon to Mpundweni Beacon in 1925, and the redemarcation of the boundary was accepted by an exchange of notes between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Portugal on October 6, 1927.

IV. ALIGNMENT

The boundary from the Great Usutu² to Krogh Beacon follows the alignment determined by the 1888 and the 1897 commissions along the summit of the Lebombo Mountains. At present the line is demarcated by beacons shown on various British and Portuguese maps from south to north as follows: Comane, Macando, Ussuco, Tucharine, Libombos, Ipoye, Estatuene, Nunes da Silva, and Krogh.

The alignment of the sector from Krogh Beacon to the northern tripoint with South Africa at Mpundweni Beacon is in accordance with the demarcation approved by the Anglo–Portuguese exchange of notes on October 6, 1927. The following table gives the beacons from south to north with their locations which are based on a coordinate grid system of X

¹ In an Anglo–Portuguese treaty of June 11, 1891, the Portuguese sphere of influence was stated to extend southward along the Swaziland frontier to the Rio Maputo (Great Usutu).

² Although numerous maps show the southern tripoint with South Africa to be on the median line or thalweg of the Great Usutu, available information does not indicate the exact relationship of the tripoint to the river.

and Y values in meters from M'Ponduine Geodetic Station (25°56'47.19" S. and 31°58'40.46" E.).³

Coordinates Metres

	X	Y
Mpundweni (M'Ponduine Geod	+ 0.00	+ 0.00
Muguene Geod	-29757.40	+19691.48
Krogh	-12756.06	+23576.54
Line	-12048.39	+18300.49
Oribi	-10809.60	+ 9064.82
Sikayana	-10976.64	+ 6718.89
Xilungo	- 5236.90	+ 5786.62
C	- 3268.72	+ 5038.19
D' ^[4]	- 2539.52	+ 5430.60
Mpundweni Beacon (M'Ponduine Marco)	+ 229.38	+ 512.66

DOCUMENTATION

1. Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Boundaries, between Portugal and the Transvaal Republic. Signed at Pretoria, July 29, 1869. British Foreign and State Papers (BFSP), Vol. 63 (1872–3), pp. 600–7.
2. Convention between Her Majesty's Royal Commissioners and the Representatives of the Transvaal Burghers, for the Settlement of the Transvaal Territory. Signed at Pretoria, August 3, 1881. Ibid., Vol. 72 (1880–1), pp. 900–11.
3. Convention between Great Britain and the South African Republic, in substitution of the Convention of the 3rd August, 1881, for the Settlement of the Transvaal Territory. Signed at London, February 27, 1884. Ibid., Vol. 75 (1883–4), pp. 5–13.
4. Exchange of Notes between the United Kingdom and Portugal for the Settlement of the Boundary between Swaziland and the Province of Mozambique. Lisbon, October 6, 1927. BFSP, Vol. 126, Part 1 (1927), pp. 271–5. Also see Great Britain Treaty Series No. 7 (1928), Cmd. 3066.

³ Geographic coordinates also are given for a second geodetic station named Muguene (26°07'25.98" S. and 32°16'31.58" E.).

⁴ Beacon D' in the table appears on the map in this study as Beacon D.

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Government agencies may obtain additional information and copies of the study by calling The Geographer, Room 8744, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520 (Telephone: 63-22021 or 63-22022).