

## **Maputo (Mozambique)**

Mozambique, located along the east coast of Southern Africa, covers an area of 799 380km<sup>2</sup> and has a coastline spanning over 4,600 km. In 2014, Mozambique had a total population of 25.1 million people, of which more than 60% lived along the coast (Lotz-Sisitka & Urquhart, 2014: 21; Mahongo & Mwaipopo, 2015: 15).

Maputo has the highest population density, as well as many significant coastal urban nodes such as Beira, Inhambane and Quelimane with densities above 500 persons per square kilometre.

The main contributors to Mozambique's economic growth include agriculture, which employs approximately 80% of the population, of which a large portion is poor. Others include aquaculture; manufacturing; energy resources such as coal, natural gas and hydropower; infrastructure; tourism and finance, real estate and business services.(Deloitte, 2017a: 11 & 13; Lotz-Sisitka & Urquhart, 2014: 21; Wingqvist, 2011: 3).

Despite Mozambique's impressive increase in economic growth, one of the country's main challenges is to translate this performance on economic growth to improved development. However, with an annual urban population growth rate of 3.3%, it is projected that approximately 40% of the population will be living in cities by 2040 (Deloitte, 2016: 2). Maputo, Beira and other coastal cities in Mozambique are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, especially extreme weather events, such as droughts and cyclones. An analysis of the interactions between cyclone risk and sea-level rise performed for Beira and Maputo show that relatively small rises in sea level significantly increase the probability of storm surge events, with associated damages (Lotz-Sisitka & Urquhart, 2014: 10, 22).

According to the official statistics and projections of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the proportion of the urban population in Mozambique will be more significant than the average in sub-Saharan Africa by the next decade (UNDESA 2007). The city of Maputo mediates the provision of aid and aid inflows and has a higher average income than the rest of the country but also experiences growing inequality (Brück and Broeck 2005). With an estimated population of 1.1 million, according to the definitive data of the 2007 official population census (INE 2012), the city is sharply divided between "the cement city" (the city centre which corresponds to the old colonial centre) and "the bairros" (neighbourhoods in the surrounding areas hosting the majority of people living in mostly unserviced and congested areas). Bairros host the bulk of the labour force and provide the basis for the city economy.

Mozambique is an elongated country with a land area of 784,090 km<sup>2</sup> and a coastal line of 2,515 km; 17,500 km<sup>2</sup> of the land is underwater. Given its geographic location, the country is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly those of hydro-meteorological origin (such as floods, drought and cyclones). Maputo is located at the extreme south of the country and covers an area of 300 km<sup>2</sup>. The city is part of an interconnected metropolitan system, Greater Maputo, including the municipalities of Maputo and Matola and the Marracuene District, with a fluctuating population of 2 – 2.5 million inhabitants.