
COMPANION TO THE EIGHT-VOLUME REFERENCE · FINALE

AFRICA

APPENDIX E

Country Profiles — Southern Africa

Botswana · Eswatini · Lesotho · Malawi · Mozambique · Namibia · South
Africa · Zambia · Zimbabwe

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About These Profiles

AFRICA: AN ENCYCLOPEDIC REFERENCE — 2026 EDITION

This is the fifth and final installment of the **Country Profiles**, the companion series to the eight-volume main reference compiled and edited by Marie-Soleil Seshat Landry and published by Landry Industries Inc. under the Marie Landry's Spy Shop imprint, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.

With this appendix, the companion series is complete: across five regional installments — A: North Africa, B: West Africa, C: Central Africa, D: East Africa, and E: Southern Africa — it profiles all 54 of Africa's sovereign states. **This appendix covers the nine states of Southern Africa**, the continent's industrial and mineral heartland, anchored by its most developed economy, South Africa. Each profile gives a country's essential data at a glance, followed by a short narrative.

A NOTE ON DATA, CURRENCY, AND CITATION INTEGRITY

Country data is a snapshot taken in **June 2026**. Southern Africa saw a remarkable run of democratic turnover in 2024–26, and the following were verified for this appendix: **Botswana** (the 2024 vote that ended the BDP's 58-year rule); **Namibia** (its first female president, sworn in March 2025); **Mozambique** (a disputed election and deadly unrest, with a new president inaugurated January 2025); **Malawi** (the return of Peter Mutharika, September 2025); **South Africa** (the coalition Government of National Unity); and **Zimbabwe** (the contested push to extend the president's term to 2030). All current heads of state and latest population and GDP figures are keyed to the numbered *References*.

Stable facts — capitals, areas, independence dates, currencies, and official languages — are from established reference knowledge. GDP is nominal and in US dollars; figures are the latest available estimates and may carry a short lag. Nothing is reproduced verbatim.

Companion series (now complete):

A — NORTH AFRICA · B — WEST AFRICA · C — CENTRAL AFRICA · D — EAST AFRICA (*PUBLISHED*)

E — SOUTHERN AFRICA (*THIS INSTALLMENT — CONCLUDES THE SERIES*)

Botswana · Eswatini · Lesotho · Malawi · Mozambique · Namibia · South Africa · Zambia · Zimbabwe

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APPENDIX E

Southern Africa

The continent's industrial and mineral engine — platinum, diamonds, copper, gold, and lithium — anchored by South Africa, its most developed economy. A region of stable democracies and recent peaceful turnovers, but also of the world's deepest inequality and its last absolute monarchy.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Botswana | 6. Namibia |
| 2. Eswatini | 7. South Africa |
| 3. Lesotho | 8. Zambia |
| 4. Malawi | 9. Zimbabwe |
| 5. Mozambique | |

Southern Africa: The Nine States

Southern Africa is the continent’s most industrialised and mineral-rich region, anchored by South Africa — its largest or second-largest economy and the gravitational centre of the Southern African Development Community. Four of these states — South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, and Eswatini — share the Common Monetary Area, linking their currencies to the South African rand, which circulates throughout. The region carries the legacies of settler colonialism and apartheid in some of the world’s highest levels of inequality, yet it is also home to several of Africa’s most durable democracies and, in 2024–26, a striking wave of peaceful electoral turnovers. It spans the diamond wealth of Botswana, the platinum and gold of South Africa, the copper of Zambia, and the continent’s last absolute monarchy in Eswatini. The profiles follow in alphabetical order.

SOUTHERN AFRICA · PROFILE 1 OF 9

Botswana

Republic of Botswana

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Gaborone
POPULATION	~2.5 million
AREA	581,730 km²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	English and Setswana
CURRENCY	Botswana pula (BWP)
HEAD OF STATE	President Duma Boko (since November 2024, ending the BDP’s 58-year rule) ^[1]
INDEPENDENCE	30 September 1966 (from the UK)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$20 billion; per-capita ~US\$7,500 — among Africa’s highest
KEY SECTORS	Diamonds (one of the world’s top producers), tourism (the Okavango Delta), beef, minerals

Long held up as one of Africa’s great success stories, Botswana turned its diamond wealth into decades of stability, sound governance, and upper-middle-income prosperity after independence in 1966. In a landmark 2024 election, voters ended the Botswana Democratic Party’s 58-year grip on power — the country’s first transfer of power between parties — bringing the opposition coalition’s Duma Boko to the presidency.^[1] The economy remains heavily dependent on diamonds, leaving it exposed to the global gem market, and the country is working to diversify and tackle high unemployment.

SOUTHERN AFRICA · PROFILE 2 OF 9

Eswatini

Kingdom of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland)

CAPITAL	Mbabane (administrative); Lobamba (royal & legislative)
POPULATION	~1.2 million
AREA	17,364 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	English and Swazi (siSwati)
CURRENCY	Swazi lilangeni (SZL), at par with the South African rand
HEAD OF STATE	King Mswati III (since 1986); PM Russell Dlamini (since 2023)
INDEPENDENCE	6 September 1968 (from the UK)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$5 billion ; per-capita ~US\$4,000
KEY SECTORS	Sugar, soft-drink concentrate, textiles, forestry; closely tied to South Africa

A small, landlocked kingdom between South Africa and Mozambique, Eswatini — renamed from Swaziland in 2018 — is Africa's last absolute monarchy, ruled by King Mswati III since 1986. Political parties are effectively barred from the legislature, and pro-democracy protests in 2021 were violently suppressed. The economy is closely bound to South Africa through the Common Monetary Area and a customs union, relying on sugar and manufactured exports. Eswatini has one of the world's highest HIV-prevalence rates, a burden that continues to shape its public health and demographics.

SOUTHERN AFRICA · PROFILE 3 OF 9

Lesotho

Kingdom of Lesotho

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Maseru
POPULATION	~2.3 million
AREA	30,355 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	Sesotho and English
CURRENCY	Lesotho loti (LSL), at par with the South African rand
HEAD OF STATE	King Letsie III (ceremonial monarch, since 1996); PM Sam Matekane (since 2022)
INDEPENDENCE	4 October 1966 (from the UK)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$2 billion ; per-capita ~US\$900
KEY SECTORS	Water exports to South Africa, textiles and garments, diamonds, remittances

A mountainous kingdom entirely surrounded by South Africa — the only independent state to lie wholly above 1,000 metres — Lesotho is often called “the Kingdom in the Sky.” Its most valuable asset is water, which it sells to its giant neighbour through the vast Lesotho Highlands Water Project, alongside a garment industry that exports to the United States and diamonds from high-altitude mines. A constitutional monarchy under King Letsie III with Prime Minister Sam Matekane as head of government, the country contends with deep poverty, a very high HIV burden, and a long history of political instability.

SOUTHERN AFRICA · PROFILE 4 OF 9

Malawi

Republic of Malawi

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Lilongwe (Blantyre is the commercial hub)
POPULATION	~21 million
AREA	118,484 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	English and Chichewa
CURRENCY	Malawian kwacha (MWK)
HEAD OF STATE	President Peter Mutharika (returned to office after the September 2025 election, defeating Lazarus Chakwera) ^[3]
INDEPENDENCE	6 July 1964 (from the UK)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$13 billion ; per-capita ~US\$600 — among the world's lowest
KEY SECTORS	Agriculture (tobacco, tea, sugar), fishing (Lake Malawi)

A small, densely populated and overwhelmingly rural country dominated by the great freshwater expanse of Lake Malawi, Malawi is one of the world's least developed nations, heavily dependent on rain-fed agriculture and tobacco exports. In a notable comeback, 85-year-old former president Peter Mutharika — who had lost a court-ordered re-run in 2020 — defeated the incumbent Lazarus Chakwera in the September 2025 election, which was fought largely over a cost-of-living crisis marked by high inflation and fuel and food shortages.^[3]

SOUTHERN AFRICA · PROFILE 5 OF 9

Mozambique

Republic of Mozambique

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Maputo
POPULATION	~ 34 million
AREA	801,590 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	Portuguese
CURRENCY	Mozambican metical (MZN)
HEAD OF STATE	President Daniel Chapo (since January 2025, after a disputed election and deadly unrest) ^[2]
INDEPENDENCE	25 June 1975 (from Portugal)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~ US\$22 billion ; per-capita ~US\$650
KEY SECTORS	Liquefied natural gas (vast offshore reserves), coal, aluminium, agriculture, hydropower

Stretching along a long Indian Ocean coastline, Mozambique holds some of the world's largest untapped natural-gas reserves off its northern Cabo Delgado province, though their development has been disrupted by an ISIS-linked insurgency since 2017. The ruling FRELIMO party, in power since independence in 1975, extended its rule when Daniel Chapo was declared winner of the October 2024 election; the disputed result, rejected by the opposition and international observers, triggered the worst post-election violence in the country's history, leaving hundreds dead before his January 2025 inauguration.^[2]

SOUTHERN AFRICA · PROFILE 6 OF 9

Namibia

Republic of Namibia

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Windhoek
POPULATION	~ 3 million — one of the world's least densely populated countries
AREA	825,615 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	English
CURRENCY	Namibian dollar (NAD), at par with the South African rand
HEAD OF STATE	President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (sworn in March 2025 — Namibia's first female president) ^[1]
INDEPENDENCE	21 March 1990 (from South Africa)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~ US\$13 billion ; per-capita ~US\$4,200
KEY SECTORS	Mining (diamonds, uranium — a top world producer, gold), fishing, tourism; emerging oil and green hydrogen

A vast, arid, sparsely populated country defined by the ancient Namib Desert, Namibia won independence from apartheid South Africa only in 1990 after a long liberation war. The ruling SWAPO party has governed ever since, and in 2024 its candidate Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah won the presidency, taking office in March 2025 as the country's first female head of state.^[1] An upper-middle-income economy built on diamonds, uranium, and fishing, Namibia is now drawing major international interest for newly discovered offshore oil and ambitious green-hydrogen projects, even as it remains among the world's most unequal societies.

SOUTHERN AFRICA · PROFILE 7 OF 9

South Africa

Republic of South Africa

CAPITALS	Pretoria (executive), Cape Town (legislative), Bloemfontein (judicial); largest city Johannesburg
POPULATION	~63 million
AREA	1,221,037 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	12 official languages (incl. Zulu, Xhosa, Afrikaans, English)
CURRENCY	South African rand (ZAR)
HEAD OF STATE	President Cyril Ramaphosa (since 2018; re-elected 2024, leading a Government of National Unity coalition) ^[4]
INDEPENDENCE	Union 1910; republic 1961; first democratic election 1994 (end of apartheid)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$400 billion — among Africa's largest; per-capita ~US\$6,300 ^[4]
KEY SECTORS	Mining (platinum, gold, coal, manganese), finance, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism

The continent's most industrialised economy and a member of the G20 and BRICS, South Africa is a sophisticated, diversified nation still working to overcome the legacy of apartheid, which ended with the first democratic election in 1994. In a historic shift, the long-dominant African National Congress lost its parliamentary majority for the first time in 2024 and formed a multi-party Government of National Unity, with Cyril Ramaphosa continuing as president.^[4] Despite its wealth and institutions, the country struggles with the world's highest measured inequality, very high unemployment, crime, and a long-running electricity crisis.

SOUTHERN AFRICA · PROFILE 8 OF 9

Zambia

Republic of Zambia

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Lusaka
POPULATION	~21 million
AREA	752,618 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	English
CURRENCY	Zambian kwacha (ZMW)
HEAD OF STATE	President Hakainde Hichilema (since 2021; seeking a second term in the 2026 election) ^[6]
INDEPENDENCE	24 October 1964 (from the UK)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$28 billion ; per-capita ~US\$1,300
KEY SECTORS	Copper (Africa's second-largest producer, the bulk of exports), cobalt, agriculture, tourism (Victoria Falls)

A landlocked country whose economy rises and falls with the price of copper — of which it is one of the world's leading producers — Zambia has lately become a focus of competition over the minerals essential to the global energy transition. Businessman Hakainde Hichilema won the presidency in 2021 after years in opposition, pledging economic reform, and steered the country through a landmark restructuring of the debt on which it had defaulted in 2020.^[6] A long-stable multiparty democracy by regional standards, Zambia heads toward a general election in 2026 with Hichilema seeking a second term.

SOUTHERN AFRICA · PROFILE 9 OF 9

Zimbabwe

Republic of Zimbabwe

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY	Harare
POPULATION	~16 million
AREA	390,757 km ²
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	16 official languages (incl. Shona, Ndebele, English)
CURRENCY	Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG), introduced 2024; the US dollar also circulates
HEAD OF STATE	President Emmerson Mnangagwa (since 2017; re-elected 2023; his party is seeking to extend his term to 2030) ^[5]
INDEPENDENCE	18 April 1980 (from the UK)
GDP (NOMINAL)	~US\$35 billion; per-capita ~US\$2,200
KEY SECTORS	Mining (platinum, gold, lithium, diamonds), agriculture (tobacco), with a large informal economy

Once a relatively prosperous agricultural economy, Zimbabwe was hollowed out by the chaotic land reforms and record hyperinflation of the later Robert Mugabe years, and it is still rebuilding amid a currency repeatedly remade — most recently as the gold-backed ZiG in 2024. Emmerson Mnangagwa, who took power when the military ousted Mugabe in 2017 and won a disputed re-election in 2023, now presides over a contested ruling-party drive to amend the constitution and extend his term to 2030.^[5] The country holds the world's largest known lithium reserves in Africa, a potential prize in the battery age.

References — Appendix E

All sources accessed June 2026. Listed in order of first citation. Volatile figures (leaders, latest population, latest GDP) are verified to these sources and are June 2026 snapshots; stable facts (capitals, areas, independence dates, currencies, languages) are from established reference knowledge. Population and GDP estimates may carry a short lag.

1. Freedom House; Journal of Democracy; Britannica; Associated Press. *Botswana and Namibia* (Botswana's Duma Boko of the UDC won the 30 October 2024 election, ending the BDP's 58-year rule since 1966, and was sworn in on 8 November 2024; Namibia's Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of SWAPO won the November 2024 election with ~57% and was sworn in on 21 March 2025 as the country's first female president). freedomhouse.org · britannica.com
2. France 24; Reuters; Al Jazeera; BBC. *Mozambique's 2024–25 crisis* (Daniel Chapo of FRELIMO was confirmed winner of the 9 October 2024 election with ~65% and inaugurated on 15 January 2025, extending the party's 50-year rule; the disputed result, rejected by opposition leader Venâncio Mondlane and international observers, sparked the worst post-election violence in the country's history, with hundreds killed). france24.com
3. Associated Press. *Malawi's 2025 election* (former president Peter Mutharika, 85, of the DPP defeated incumbent Lazarus Chakwera in the 16 September 2025 election, taking around 68% of the vote in a contest dominated by a cost-of-living crisis). [apnews via aol.com](https://apnews.com)
4. Wikipedia (Third cabinet of Cyril Ramaphosa; 2026 South African municipal elections). *South Africa's Government of National Unity* (after the May 2024 election produced a hung parliament and the ANC lost its majority for the first time since 1994, Cyril Ramaphosa was re-elected president on 30 June 2024 at the head of a multi-party Government of National Unity, which was reconfirmed as continuing into late 2025). en.wikipedia.org
5. Al Jazeera; International Crisis Group; Wikipedia (Emmerson Mnangagwa). *Zimbabwe's term-extension push* (President Emmerson Mnangagwa, in power since the 2017 coup and re-elected in the disputed 2023 vote, is constitutionally due to step down in 2028; in 2025–26 his ZANU-PF party advanced a contested constitutional amendment to extend his term to 2030, opposed by churches, war veterans, and the opposition). aljazeera.com
6. Africa Center for Strategic Studies; Wikipedia (Hakainde Hichilema). *Zambia* (President Hakainde Hichilema of the UPND, in office since 24 August 2021 after winning ~59% of the vote, oversaw a restructuring of the debt on which Zambia defaulted in 2020 and is seeking a second term in the 2026 election; copper is the bulk of exports). africacenter.org

END OF APPENDIX E — SOUTHERN AFRICA

THE WORK COMPLETE

Fifty-Four Countries, One Continent

With Southern Africa, this reference is complete. Across eight thematic volumes and five regional appendices of country profiles, *Africa: An Encyclopedic Reference (2026 Edition)* has set out to map the whole of a continent — its deep history and its present moment, its planetary-scale systems and its fifty-four distinct nations — in a single, coherent body of work.

The eight-volume main reference — Foundations; Civilization Layers; Modern States; Economic & Resource Systems; Society, Demographics & Culture; Technology & Digital Transformation; Geopolitics & Global Positioning; and Future Trajectories.

The five-part country profiles — A: North Africa (7) · B: West Africa (15) · C: Central Africa (9) · D: East Africa (14) · E: Southern Africa (9).

Fifty-four sovereign states, each individually profiled and verified.

The profiles were assembled to a single standard: current facts — every head of state, and the latest population and

economic figures — checked against identifiable sources and presented as a June 2026 snapshot, with the continent's extraordinary year of elections, transitions, and upheavals reflected as faithfully as the record allowed. The portrait that emerges is of an Africa in motion: young, urbanising, mineral-rich, contested, and central to the century ahead — moving, unevenly but unmistakably, from engineered dependency toward a sovereignty it is still in the act of claiming.

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