

DATELINE: February 2000. Cyclone Eline has caused the worst floods to hit Southern Africa in 50 years. In Swaziland, the capital Mbabane was left without drinking water. Southern Botswana received 75% of its average annual rainfall in three days. In the Mozambique capital of Maputo tens of thousands of people were forced to flee their homes. The worst-hit were people living in shanty towns around the capital. On 22 February, tropical Cyclone Eline hit the Mozambique coast near Beira with winds measuring 260 km per hour.

An estimated 200 000 Mozambicans have lost their homes and at least 200 people are known to have died in the flooding across southern Africa. Helicopters worked continuously to rescue thousands of people stranded in the Save river valley, and in the Chokwe district near the Limpopo river, about 200 kilometres north of Maputo. People could be seen waving and rubbing their stomachs to show their hunger. Towns have been left without clean water supplies after their pumping stations were swept away, leading to concerns about outbreaks of dysentery, malaria and cholera.

1. What natural hazard caused the flooding in southern Africa?

2. What has been the impact of the floods on the human population?

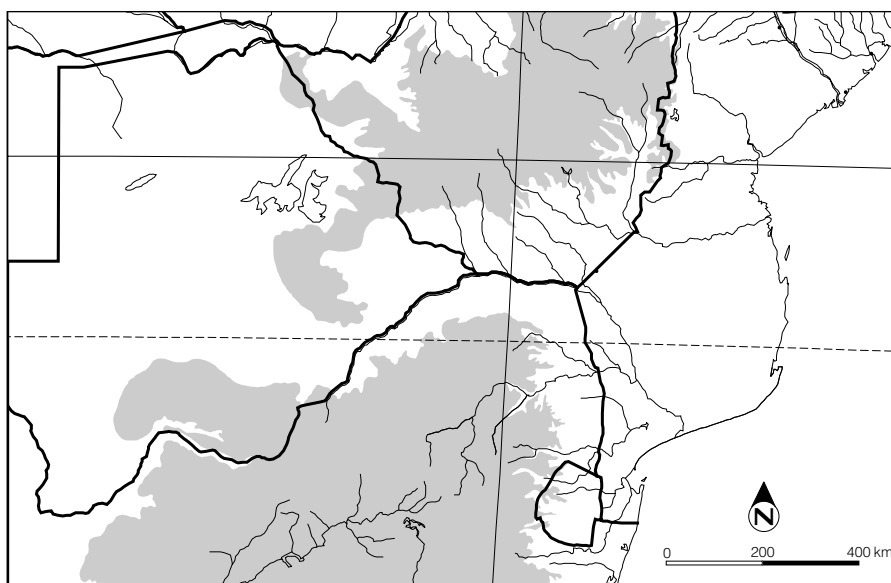
3. Look at the health information on page 34 of the *Jacaranda Atlas*.
 - (a) How is dysentery caused?

 - (b) How does dysentery affect people, particularly young children?

4. Look at the cross-section at the bottom of page 188 of the *Jacaranda Atlas*.
 - (a) Where do the major rivers that run through Mozambique begin?

 - (b) Why is Mozambique prone to flooding?

5. Using the outline map and page 188 of the *Jacaranda Atlas*, mark in the following features:
 - (a) The countries of **Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland** and **South Africa**
 - (b) The cities of **Maputo, Beira** and **Mbabane**
 - (c) **Limpopo** and **Save** rivers
6. Create a key to show the following features and incidents:
 - (a) Land over 1000 metres
 - (b) Areas affected by cyclone damage
 - (c) Areas affected by flooding (note that flooding usually occurs in river valleys)



Flooded area of Mozambique