



# South-South-Cooperation as an Instrument in Disaster Prevention

## - the example of Mozambique and Central America



### Introduction

Droughts, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, fire and volcanic eruption can result in catastrophes, which occurs mostly on local level, but can create situations and consequences that are hampering the development of many countries on a long run. Different countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia are confronted with the same challenge that is to say to minimise the risk of human and economic loss due to disasters. In this task they are supported by international donors, typically in a cooperation that is installed in North-South-Direction. But why not exchange and transfer experiences and knowledge between Latin America, Africa and Asia directly? National administrations and institutions in concerned countries are faced with similar conditions in disaster mitigation and have gained experiences and knowledge on different levels. Knowledge transfer and exchange of experiences in South-South-Direction offers an effective and economic way of cooperation between countries whose structural and economic background is more alike than in a North-South-Cooperation.

Taking an example, the benefits that can arise from a South-South-Cooperation are presented for the case of Mozambique and Central America.

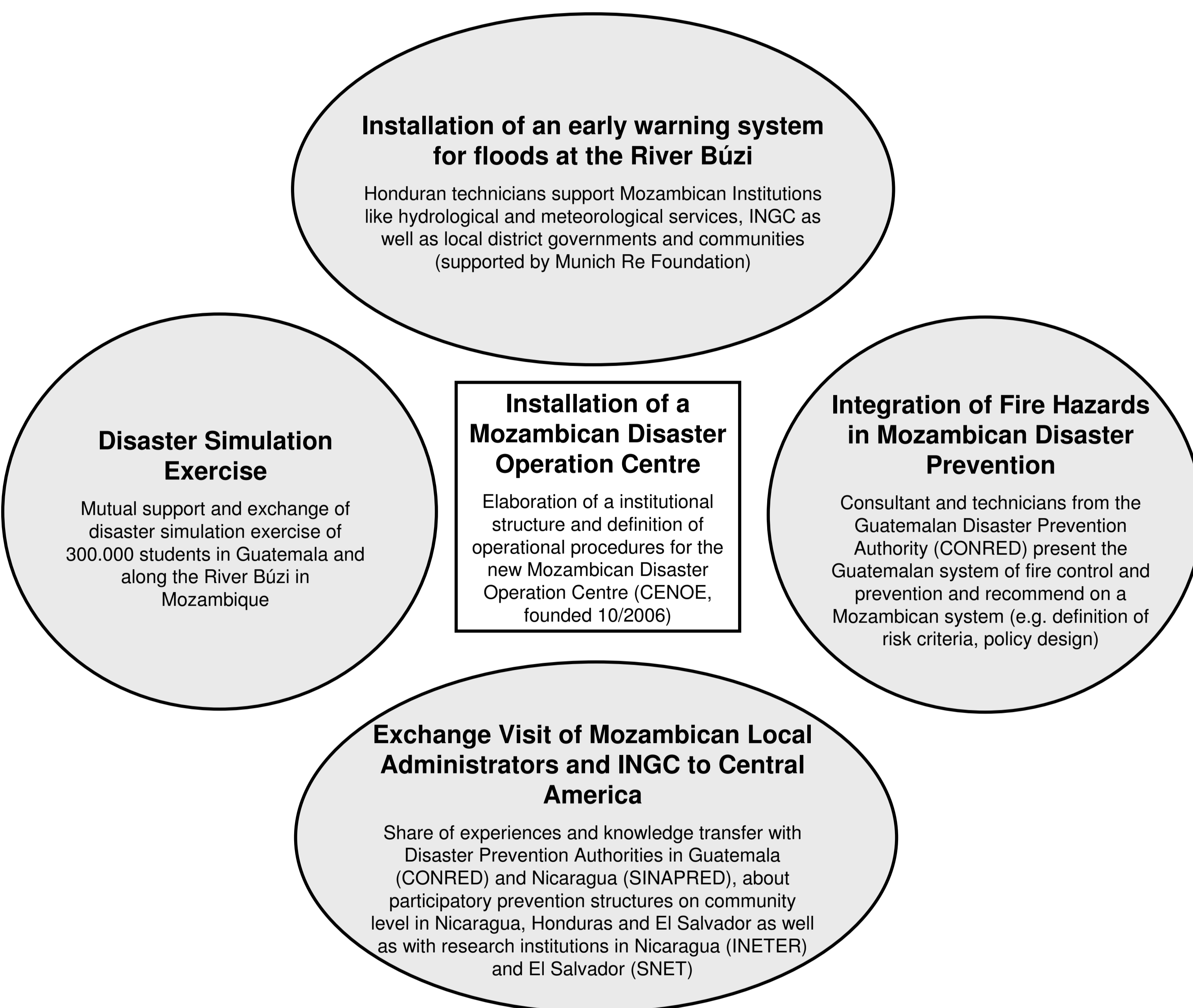


Figure 2: Sharing of experiences and knowledge in Disaster Prevention between Mozambique and Central America

### South-South-Cooperation in Disaster Prevention and Management

The Mozambican project is involved in various exchange activities with Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua; figure 2 gives an overview. Within Central America, GTZ's support to foster regional cooperation dates from 1997 and was later broaden to Africa.

The foundation in October 2006 and the installation of the Mozambican Disaster Operation Centre (CENOE) was intensively promoted through the South-South-Exchange with Central America, especially with the Guatemalan National Coordination of Disaster Reduction (CONRED). The project's partner institution INGC (National Disaster Management Institute in Mozambique) and CONRED concluded a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen their cooperation and the exchange of experiences. Based on its practical experiences since its start in 1996, CONRED gave advice on the organisational structure of the coordination centre as well as elaboration of operational procedures (e.g. flow of information in case of catastrophes, determination and proclamation of threat levels). The first disaster simulation exercise in Mozambique was supported by CONRED.

As the integration of disaster prevention in planning on different levels is more advanced in Mozambique, these experiences are shared with Central American institutions. One example is the consideration of disaster prevention and preparedness in local district development plans in the regions of Sofala, Inhambane and Manica that is promoted by the project.

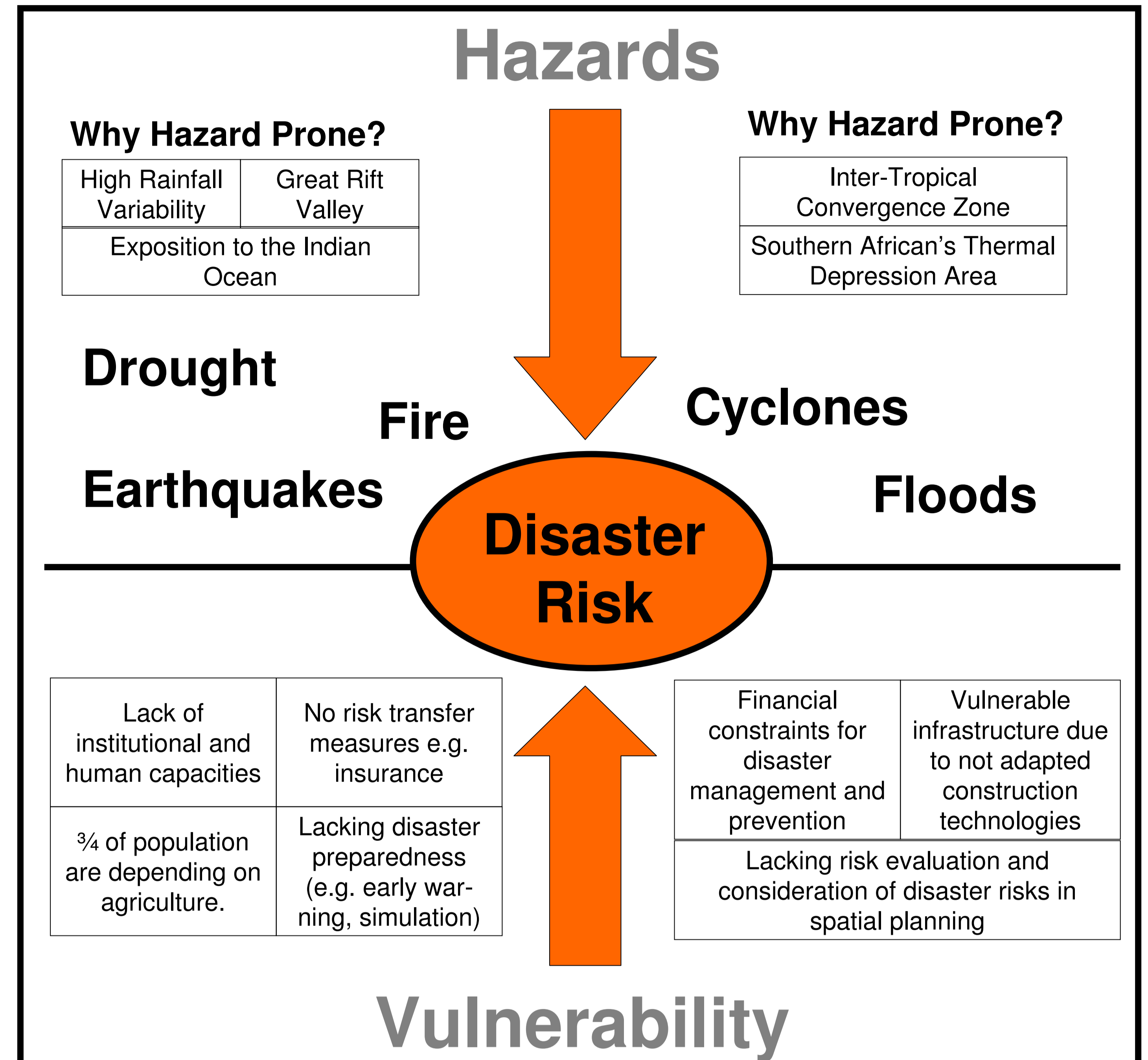


Figure 1: Disaster Risk in Mozambique as a Result of Hazards and Vulnerability

### Disaster Prevention in Mozambique

Mozambique suffers from natural catastrophes that frequently cost lives and cause loss of crop, livestock and belongings as well as they damage houses, public buildings and streets. This leads to loss of income and jobs, discontinuities in trade and redirection of investments to reconstruction. Apart from cyclones, which affect the south-eastern part of the African continent every year, the country has also been hit by severe drought in recent years. In 2000 and 2001, several hundred people lost their lives when large-scale floods affected a number of areas, one of which was along the river Búzi in central Mozambique. Many more inhabitants lost their livelihoods (see figure 1).

Since January 2007, the consortium of IP Consult, Stuttgart and AMBERO Consulting, Kronberg supports together with its local partner INGC (National Disaster Management Institute of Mozambique), on behalf of GTZ, the institutionalization of disaster prevention in Mozambique. The project PRO-GRC incorporates efforts and achievements of previous as well as recent cooperation programmes for reconstruction, agricultural development and decentralization. Key activities are first, the dissemination of approved instruments for the mitigation of vulnerability to droughts, second, the local implementation of disaster prevention systems on district level (e.g. risk analysis, early warning, emergency plans) and third, capacity building within INGC.



Figure 4: South-South-Exchange (Source: Ferguson, J. (2005): Disaster Risk Management at the Rio Búzi, Mozambique. Case Study.)



Figure 5: Evacuation in the Province of Sofala during the Cyclone Favio, 2007 (Source: Munich Re Foundation (2007): Intor Action 2 Flutwarnsystem in Mo-sambik, Abschluss Projekt Búzi.)

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