

ABSTRACT

This research report will address the issue of empowerment through reconfiguring an existing organic informal market typology by expanding its functions to allow for learning and skills development.

In many African countries, the typical response for people driven informal (self-help) markets has been eviction, demolition, and relocation to other supposedly modern facilities.

However, many informal markets are situated within an advantageous geographical location and have a self-organized operational logic that guides their continued existence despite many challenges.

Therefore, using the case of Tsoka and Lizulu Market in Lilongwe, Malawi, this study will attempt to appropriate the logic that makes such markets thrive and use that to develop a design approach that moves away from the typical approaches.

The research will analyze the commodity value chains experienced by small scale traders in Malawi, Lilongwe, the tsoka & Lizulu market through interviews, mapping as well as literature and document reviews.

It is expected that this study will generate a design intervention that will facilitate the continuation and improvement of existing trading activities and also introduce new functions that are aimed at enhancing the growth potential of micro-scale businesses as well as small scale farmers.

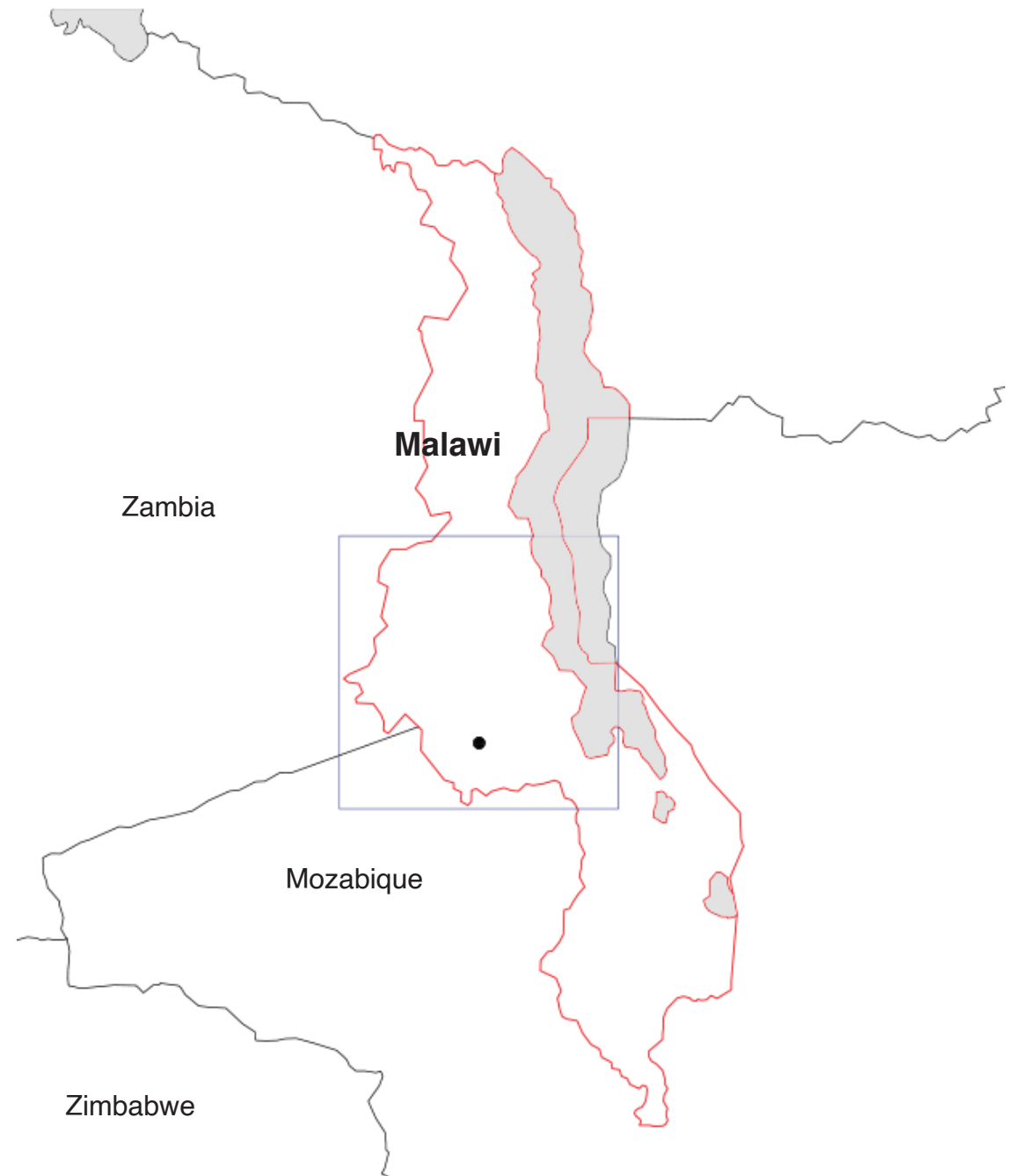


Figure 1.0: Contextual Map - Malawi within the immediate African Context - (Source: Author, 2019)