



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE
MINISTÉRIO DA CULTURA
(World Heritage Property N° 599)

**REPORT ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF MOZAMBIQUE ISLAND IN
2012-2013¹**
DECISION: 36 COM 7B 46



**By: MOZAMBIQUE ISLAND CONSERVATION OFFICE (GACIM) IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF CULTURAL
HERITAGE**

¹ Translation and editing by Solange Macamo, National Director of Cultural Heritage

INTRODUCTION

The present report reflects the activities undertaken mainly in 2012 and throughout 2013, concerning the conservation and preservation of the cultural heritage of Mozambique Island, with special attention to the built heritage. In this context, the restoration works of the immovable heritage by the Mozambican State Party, as well as by private initiatives are hereafter described. Likewise, some conservation and preservation activities carried out by the Mozambique Island District Government and by the Municipality are also mentioned.

In 2013, two Memorandums of Understanding were signed for Mozambique Island: 1- for the Creation of the Documentation Center in São Sebastião Fortress and 2- for the Rehabilitation of the Hospital. Also a new technical staff was hired for GACIM (Conservation Office of Mozambique Island).

THE GOVERNMENT'S FIVE YEARS MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PLAN: GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The implementation of the five-years management and conservation plan foresees, in the cultural heritage area, in general lines, the full understanding of Cultural and Historical Heritage, its state of conservation and preservation. It aims at monitoring the process of restoration of tangible and the preservation of intangible heritage of Mozambique Island and surrounding areas.

Therefore, particular attention, in 2012 and 2013, was paid to the following:

- To preserve and value heritage preservation;
- To update the legislation about the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage;
- To disseminate the importance of conservation and preservation of the Historical and Cultural Heritage for socio cultural development.
- To continue the implementation of the Management and Conservation Plan of Mozambique Island (2010-2014).

1. RESPONSE FROM THE STATE PARTY TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE,S DECISION

- THE FUNCTIONING STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF MOZAMBIQUE ISLAND CONSERVATION OFFICE (GACIM).

Human Resources

The Government of Mozambique has been endeavoring to recruit technical staff with compatible training for GACIM, aiming to achieve an effective management of Mozambique Island.

In 2012, GACIM had 14 civil servants, namely 1 Director, 2 technicians for scientific research (being one of them overseas), 1 high level technician in tourism, 3 technicians in Administration and Finances, 2 technicians in Public Administration, 1 Medium Engineer Technician and 4 Auxiliary Administrators.

A public tender was launched for admission to the State, having been approved: 1 Architect, 1 High Technician in Information Technology and Communication, 1 High Technician in Tourism and 1 High Technician in Environmental Management.

The new staff consisting of the above technicians has been already approved, since 2013 and is now working for GACIM.

However, regrettably, in Mozambique Island there is no UNESCO representative, as used to be in the past. This is problematic, particularly, when it comes to take decisions about conservation procedures and the need of following the correct rules, in accordance with WHC and ICOMOS recommendations for the protection of World Heritage Sites.

- THE ISSUE OF POPULATION RELIEVE IN MOZAMBIQUE ISLAND

Responding to the situation of a growing population density in the Island, GACIM, in coordination with Mozambique Island Municipality identified 400 allotments, in the inland area of Lumbo.

In parallel, efforts by GACIM and the Municipality are being made to create awareness among the local communities, in order to make them understand the need of moving to the inland area, in Lumbo.

- ROAD PAVEMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE ISLAND

In 2012, following the work initiated in the last years, the Municipality of Mozambique Island was involved in road pavement. In a total of 9km of the road area 6km were covered, that corresponds to 66,6% of roads within a global investment of MZ 9.083 (1USD=30,00MZ).

It is important to note that the pavement works in progress follow the procedures of the Special Status of Mozambique Island, as regards the good conservation and preservation practices of the built heritage.

The pavement work, among various advantages for heritage preservation, allows the drainage of pluvial and residual water for the promotion of a health and sustainable environment.

This work will also extend to the Lumbo Administrative Station.



Example of the paved roads in Mozambique Island



The pavement of the main road in Lumbo Village

- THE IMMOVABLE HERITAGE RESTORATION INTERVENTION AND THE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PLAN

Following the Management and Conservation Plan of Mozambique Island, in 2012 and 2013, several buildings have been rehabilitated. Most of them belong to private owners. Thanks to these restoration works of the immovable heritage, there is now a new urban landscape view in the insular area of the Island.

The restoration works follow the procedures of the Special Status and they are based on the opinion formulated by GACIM, in close collaboration with the Municipality of Mozambique Island. For example, based on the opinion formulated by GACIM, in 2012, some projects were rejected with a recommendation for their improvement in accordance with the heritage conservation procedures. Also, small conservation interventions can be observed throughout the Mozambique Island.









An example of a rehabilitated immovable property in the final phase.

2. OTHER CURRENT CONSERVATION ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE PARTY

- CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED DURING THE RESTORATION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES IN MOZAMBIQUE ISLAND

The continuation of the degradation of the State's properties, along with a weak financial power and the absence of a legal basis that could put pressure on the owners, depositaries and beneficiaries, makes heritage management a sinuous process.

One element of extreme importance for the conservation of immovable properties relates to the growing degradation of some State institutions as can be seen in the following images:



Mozambique Island court and tribunal



Mozambique Island Hospital

The growing degradation of the Hospital's state of conservation becomes increasingly dangerous for the users.

There are interested candidates in its rehabilitation and transformation into a hotel, on the one hand, and into a cultural centre on the other hand.

After having received proposals from the two initiatives, GACIM sent them along with their opinion to the Ministry of Health, at central level. The initiatives aim for a valorization that promotes a sustainable preservation of this monument. The assessment of the hospital's rehabilitation proposal was done by an inter-ministerial committee composed of staff members from the ministries of Culture, Health, Tourism, Public Works and Finances.

In 2013, after coordination among the above ministries, the proposal of the project for the rehabilitation of the Hospital was submitted to the National Advising Council for Cultural Heritage and a decision was taken supporting the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding. This Memorandum was signed by both the Ministries of Culture and Health as well as by the Association of Mozambique Island. Prior to this, the project, in appendix, was sent to the WHC, for appreciation.



A ruin in a marked degraded state of conservation.

Despite the whole progresses that has been recorded in the immovable restoration area in Mozambique Island, there are still some ruins that need an urgent intervention. Furthermore, most of these ruins, belong to particular individuals, however, with poor economic power.



São Lourenço Fortress

For the utilization of São Lourenço Fortress there is a private candidate interested in transforming the fortress in a touristic resort. Given the historical and cultural value of this fortress, GACIM has submitted the project for appreciation by the Ministry of Culture, having received back, the response prepared by a consultant hired by the Ministry of Culture.

The consulting assessment was as follows:

- a) The Project does not present an environmental impact assessment;
- b) It does not present a socio economic impact assessment;
- c) The presented architectural intervention does not follow UNESCO requirements for a World Heritage Site;
- d) The Project does not refer to the mixed cultural and religious aspects present in the Island along 500 years of catholic-Hindu and Muslim interactions;
- e) The study does not foresee, with evidence, its benefits for the community (fisheries, craftsmen);
- f) The study is not culturally contextualized in the whole Eastern African region (Ibo Island, Zanzibar, and Mombasa) and even in Diu, in Asia.

In conclusion, the study is out of the context that the Government and UNESCO have defined for Mozambique Island. This is, however, a project with a great social significance for the Government of Mozambique. The following actions are therefore proposed so that the study be analyzed by UNESCO and relevant Government partners.

- 1. To present the previous environmental and socioeconomic studies;
- 2. To deliver the study to a Mozambican who knows the local national reality (socio-cultural and religious reality);

3. To know the UNESCO requirements for this kind of projects to be implemented in World Heritage protected areas;
4. To test the professional background of the candidates in terms of finances and heritage management.

GACIM hopes that this Project goes ahead, following the above recommendations, without discouraging the candidate. Otherwise, the monument will become more degraded. Unfortunately, until now in 2014, the candidate has not yet responded to the State Party's concerns..

- THE MACUTI HOUSES IN RISK OF DISAPPEARING

In Mozambique Island, a growing tendency of abandonment of the macuti roof has been observed. Such fact owes to the lack of macuti along with the need of life improvement that force people to prefer to cover the roofs using zinc material.

The achieved progress:

As a result of the awareness work that has been taking place in the macuti area; the house preservation situation has been improving.

In this respect, the involvement of the stakeholders has been crucial, along with the awareness work done at secondary and primary schools.

It is also expected to rehabilitate a total of 12 macuti houses in different areas, aiming both at preserving heritage and generating income for the benefit of their owners.



An example of a macuti house with a new roof

- PROGRESSES IN SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In Mozambique Island, the sanitation issue is still a big concern for the local authorities because of the existing negative image, mainly on the beaches. Nowadays, thanks to the municipality sensitizing campaigns, the sanitation situation is improving. In addition, more public toilets were constructed.

In the course of 2012, the Municipality, in collaboration with the local residents, has achieved visible results in Mozambique Island by cleaning the living areas.



Daily cleaning of beaches in Mozambique Island



Public toilet constructed in 2012

- REHABILITATION AND EXPANSION OF WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Mozambique Island, as a result of the population growth, has been facing serious problems of water supply. In response to this situation, in 2012, with the sponsorship of the World Bank the rehabilitation work of the water supply system was initiated. This process was monitored by the local Infrastructure Administration. It is intended to benefit a total of 43.000 inhabitants in the inland as well in the insular areas of the island.

The Project implementation follows the UNESCO conservation and preservation principles. GACIM is endeavoring to permanently monitor the ongoing works in order to ensure the integrity of the heritage. The works initiated in November 2012, with a six months duration. The interventions in the insular area of Mozambique Island will not affect the structure of the buildings and will consist in rehabilitating damaged water cisterns and other elements.





Water supply works

CHALLENGES

For the continuation of the preservation and conservation obligations, challenges are still enormous, namely:

- To ensure the continuation of the rehabilitation of the degrading immovable properties, by sensitizing the local Government entities and the various society groups;
- To give priority to coordinating actions among various partners (District Government, Municipality and private sector), in order to allow jointly interventions in heritage preservation and conservation, mainly the built one;
- To promote contacts among partners to obtain technical assistance and financial support for projects;
- To initiate the rehabilitation of the Hospital, after receiving the final comments from UNESCO WHC.

SOME PROGRESS ACTIVITIES AND NEW PERSPECTIVES

- Training of the young staff attached to GACIM, in the areas of environmental protection, cultural tourism, architectonic protection and Information Technology. For this end a collaboration work is being done with the AWHF, in order to enable the participation of the

young GACIM technicians in training activities. In addition, within the collaboration activity between the Brazilian “Centro Lúcio Costa” (CLC)/ IPHAN and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) aiming to develop training programs in heritage management for the African Portuguese Speaking Countries (PALOP), a workshop on Risk Preparedness was accepted by the Ministry of Culture of Mozambique, which is planned to take place in Mozambique Island.

- Hiring of a specialized architect in the conservation and preservation area in accordance with the agreement established between GACIM and the Portuguese Cooperation Cluster;
- Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between GACIM, UniLúrio (University of Lúrio in Nampula province) and UNESCO, for the establishment of a Documentation Center;
- Placement of an architect by UNESCO, for the continuation of the second phase rehabilitation of São Sebastião Fortress;
- Purchase of appropriate equipment for the creation of database of the architectonic works;
- Unveiling of new working areas for the functioning of some GACIM unities.

In the Ministry of Culture, at central level, there are ongoing discussions about the rehabilitation/reuse of monuments. Apart from the above-mentioned hospital and São Lourenço Fortress there is also a new project proposal for the transformation of a Sport Complex building in a Hotel. In order to help to take the right decisions, consultations were made mainly during a special session of the National Advising Council for Cultural Heritage. We are also considering the 35th World Heritage Committee recommendations in relation to: 1-” Direct community involvement and benefits from World Heritage properties” and 3-“Balancing World Heritage and development needs”.

At the same time, the formalization of the Buffer Zone planned for 2013, is still to be completed, in accordance with the requirements of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The translation of the OUV into Portuguese, after ICOMOS’ comments, was made end of December 2013; it should be submitted to the Ministry of Culture for approval at high level.

Maputo, 27th March 2014