



**REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE**  
**MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM**

**Theme:** Conservation Report

**State Part:** Mozambique

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**MOZAMBIQUE ISLAND, 2015**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In the last years, including 2013, 2014 and 2015, major efforts were concentrated in training technical staff attached to the Conservation office of Mozambique Island (GACIM), in order to improve capacity building.

The other activity was the continuation of conservation of immovable heritage of the property.

These actions were taken in accordance with the Government annual plans and national legislation, as well as the UNESCO decisions and recommendations for the conservation of Mozambique Island, mainly the UNESCO 1972 Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Training capacities for the island were made possible mainly thanks to the support of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), to which Mozambique is a beneficiary country. The training topic was about Risk Preparedness, in Tunisia, followed by the seminar held in Mozambique Island for the PALOP (African Portuguese Speaking Countries) and also in Cabo Verde, at the World Heritage site of Cidade Velha.

Also, within the cooperation program initiated with the Brazilian Lucio Costa Centre, UNESCO category II Center, a training course was made possible for three Mozambicans, focusing primarily on the nomination procedures for the inscription of sites in the World Heritage site.

The conservation of immovable heritage is demonstrated by various interventions made in buildings, undertaken either by the State, either by private initiative. Over 2015 several buildings were subject to restoration and rehabilitation, in Mozambique Island. Thanks to this, the former scenario of ruin tends to be reduced and a new visible conserved urban landscape is emerging in the Island.

The overall work has been coordinated by the three acting institutions: GACIM, Mozambique Island Municipality and the local District Government, under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture (and now Ministry of Culture and Tourism, from 2015).

The Management and Conservation Plan of Mozambique Island is the guiding tool when it comes to decide what and how to do, however, it came to an end in 2014. Despite this, its Action Plan is still valid. Therefore the consensus is that what is needed is to extend it for more years adding the new Plan of Risk Preparedness.

Of particular importance was the promotion, by the Government of Mozambique, of Mozambique Island awarded by the Head of State, in 2014, for its national and universal cultural values. This promotion shows the commitment of the Government of Mozambique in relation to the preservation of Mozambique Island heritage. On this occasion, a brochure on Mozambique Island was launched, for public awareness. The

brochure includes the revised Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of Mozambique Island, after approval by ICOMOS.

During 2014 and 2015, the long standing situation for the protection of underwater archaeological heritage of Mozambique Island was resolved, in close collaboration between the Government and the University of Eduardo Mondlane.

This was achieved through the National Advisory Body for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, that also as the function of a National Committee for the 1972 UNESCO Convention.

UNESCO assisted, greatly, in this process, by providing training and all needed explanations for a proper conservation of underwater cultural heritage. The Government of Mozambique represented by its Ministry of Culture and Tourism and their partners feel proud of this achievement.

However, for the progress of activities in Mozambique Island, more challenges are faced with the need of an architect, to replace the former one, and also an archaeologist. The Government is endeavouring to continue to increasing the number of technical staff hired for the Conservation Office of Mozambique Island.

# **I. PROGRESS REPORT OF CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES**

## **1. RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION OF BUILT HERITAGE**

Over 2015 several buildings were subject to restoration and rehabilitation, in Mozambique Island. The majority of them are private residences and accommodation properties. Thanks to this the former scenario of ruin tends to be reduced and a new visible conserved urban landscape is emerging in the Island.

The restoration work of immovable properties follow procedures included in the Special Status and in the by Law Municipality, as well as the National Monument Policy, in accordance with ICOMOS recommendations.

In 2015, GACIM processed its opinion for 40 intervention requests. This represents much more than 14 cases in 2012.

There are also many intervention works of maintenance, such as improvement of facade, treatment of fissure, roof and painting in several public and private buildings.

### **1.1. EXAMPLES OF RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE WORK, IN MOZAMBIQUE ISLAND, 2015**



**Fig. 1** The Bank of Mozambique



**Fig. 2** Old customs house



**Fig. 3** Trading Depot Hotel, in the final stage of restoration



**Fig. 4** Restoration of the Municipality building, in progress

## **1.2. REHABILITATION WORK OF THE SLAVE MEMORY GARDEN**

In 2015, on the basis of the State budget, GACIM undertook rehabilitation work in the Slave Memory Garden. This garden is an interesting cultural and touristic monument for symbolizing the history of slavery in the Indian Ocean coast.

The initiative for the creation of this Monument is a joint project between the Government of Mozambique and the French Island of Reunion.



**Fig. 5** New look of the Slave Memory Garden

### 1.3. HOSPITAL

In 2015, the Government, through the Ministry of Health, initiated the conservation work of the old Hospital (1877), in order to face its degradation. This consists of cleaning operations, architectural survey to find out the major problems affecting its structure (drainage system, cleaning the cisterns).



**Fig. 6** The Hospital with the plaque indicating the initiated conservation work

### 2. Road Pavement

The Municipality of Mozambique Island is developing an extensive program of road pavement, in order to allow better circulation of local residents and tourists. A total of 9km of the road is estimated to be paved with 8km having been covered, corresponding to 95% of the work done.

This work has been sponsored by the Government, through the Road Fund project. One of the advantages coming with road pavement is the improvement of the water drainage system, for the environmental conservation and heritage enhancement.



**Fig. 7** Paved Roads in Mozambique Island

### **3. IMPACT OF RESTORATION, REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION OF IMMOVABLE HERITAGE IN THE ISLAND**

At present there is still many people settling in the Island, coming from the mainland. There are now living in the Island 50 thousand inhabitants, within the classified area which is only 1km<sup>2</sup>.

Although local government is taking necessary measures that could allow people to find more space to live in the mainland, most of them insist on their preference to the Island.

The number of tourists visiting the Island increased, in part as a result of improvements due to interventions in the built heritage and infrastructures.

The conservation work also has positive impact among the local people and this is demonstrated by their collaborative position with GACIM even by denouncing wrong practices that are contrary to conservation work.

Also Government institutions are aware of the need for the conservation of their properties. Both the Municipality and the District Government are concerned about maintenance of their properties.

However, there is still a lot to do, because there more degraded buildings, as can be seen below:



**Fig. 8** Mozambique Island court of justice in progressive degradation



**Fig. 9** District jail in progressive state of degradation



**Fig. 10** Private ruin in high degradation situation

It should be also noted that the majority of ruined buildings belong to individuals without economic capacity to maintain their premises, a situation that makes difficult the conservation of the majority of the island buildings.

GACIM, as the entity responsible for managing the Island has played a role to sensitize local people for the need of maintaining their buildings, at least the facades, as a first step.

#### **4. THE MACUTI ROOFING AT RISK OF DISAPPEARING**

The macuti houses are in danger of disqualification due to the tendency of macuti roofing abandonment. The main reason for this is caused by the lack and expensiveness of macuti together with the improvement of living conditions of the local people that are more interested in roofing their houses with zinc plates.



To face this, an awareness work to sensitize local people about the importance of the use of macuti or of less expensive grass coverage, has been carried out within the macuti town and also at primary and secondary schools. Local authorities and stakeholders contribution has been crucial to the solution.

The HOMESTAY initiative of Mozambique Island Association is pointed out as an example of conservation. There are 12 macuti houses to be rehabilitated within the HOMESTAY initiative, with an income for their owners.



**Fig. 11** An exemple of macuti house with renovated roof, using alternative grass coverage.

## **5. PROGRESSES IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

The issue of sanitation of the environment was a major concern for the island authorities, and as a result, providing a negative image especially on the beaches. The open-pit defecation practiced along the waterfront was subject to free awareness campaigns made by the municipal structures for their eradication. Public toilets were built as a way to combat the problem.

Throughout the year of 2015 there was an improvement of the system for collection of solid waste by the Municipal Council, a work done in close collaboration with the residents. Regarding coastal protection against erosion 100 saplings of beef wood were planted along the island coastal belt in a coordinated action between the City Council and GACIM.

## 6. HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS IN MOZAMBIQUE ISLAND

The following activities demonstrate the development of management programs in Mozambique Island, indicating both challenges and achievements. This also comes in response to the last UNESCO decision:

- i) Improving the economic resources of local owners. One solution for this is the creation of living facilities in the mainland;
- ii) Approval of a legal instrument. A proposal regulating interventions in the built heritage has been finalized, in this year, with the help of the Faculty of Architecture and Physical Planning of Eduardo Mondlane University. This includes the definition of a grade system for each building, to ensure sustainable management. The approval of this regulation will be made by the Cabinet Meeting, together with the main Regulation for the Protection of Immovable Heritage, to take place in 2016.
- iii) Allocation of more qualified personnel for GACIM and Local Municipality. This is an ongoing activity;
- iv) Fund raising with local and foreign investment in the Island. Contacts with partners should continue to be established, with the help of UNESCO.
- v) Renewal of the Management and Conservation Plan (2010-2014). The terms of reference for this activity were finalized in 2015, under the proposal of UNESCO-Maputo, for possible funding. The Government will also allocate funds, for the completion of the work, in 2016. This will mainly consist of an addition of Risk Preparedness in the Action Plan;
- vi) Adoption of the buffer zone in conformity with Paragraph 107 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The new buffer zone boundary was completed yet in 2011 with the help of Ana Pereira, an architect attached to the Urban Historical Landscape project. This includes the previous island area itself and the mainland as illustrated bellow in the map (Figure 12). What is missing now is an expert work for the inclusion in the buffer zone of underwater archaeological heritage, to be advised. This should be followed by formalization of the process at UNESCO/ WHC.

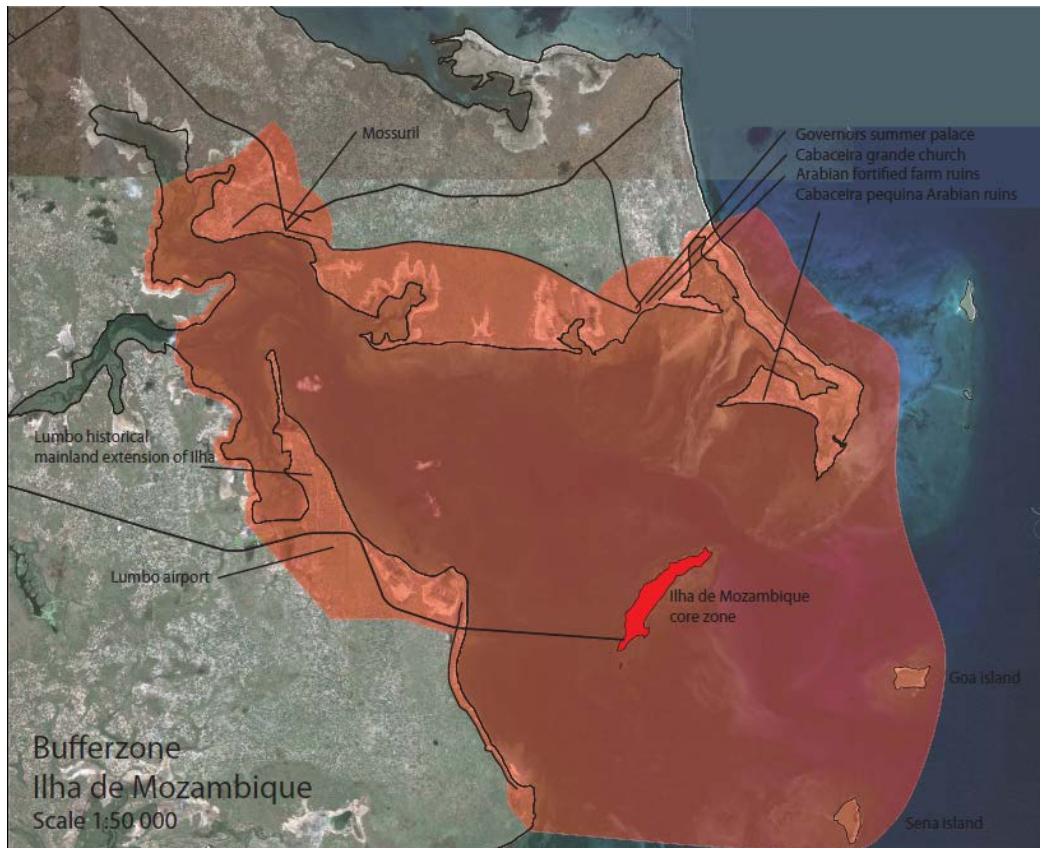


Fig. 12. New proposed buffer zone for Mozambique Island (A courtesy of Ana Pereira)

vii) Creation of the Documentation Centre in Saint Sebastian Fortress (CEDIM). According to Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and UniLúri CEDIM was planned to be installed in newly restored premises inside the S. Sebastian Fortress. This however, showed not feasible due to two reasons:

- Delay of funding for the necessary technical equipment for CEDIM;
- By 2013 the premises indicated had suffered water infiltration to such a degree, that installation of CEDIM would need further restoration works.

It was then agreed between the partners to install CEDIM within the old town hall in a room behind the municipal library in a first phase. The approval of this was given by the Mayor of Mozambique Island in a note to UniLúrio.

Rehabilitation of the space was initiated in August 2014, but became integrated in a general rehabilitation of the whole building initiated in April 2015. The general rehabilitation was foreseen to be finished by September 2015, but has been re-scheduled to the end of the year. The installation of CEDIM is now foreseen to take place in the beginning of 2016.

For the time being CEDIM is functioning in temporary installations at the Urban Services Department at Mozambique Island Municipality.

## **Staff**

CEDIM is still only counting with one staff – the director – who is sharing his time between coordination of CEDIM activities and tutoring at the FAPF.

UniLúrio is now in the process of recruiting personnel for the development of archive, research and dissemination activities.

## **Activities carried out**

Collaboration between CEDIM and the entities presented in the Mozambique Island Steering Committee have been carried out by the director on a daily basis comprising:

- Support to Department for Urbanization and Construction (DUC) at Mozambique Island Municipality;
- Coordination of on the elaboration of a diagnostic for the drawing of a detailed urban plan for the insular part of Mozambique Island municipality;
- Evaluation of proposed sanitation plan for Mozambique Island Municipality;
- Support to GACIM staff in areas of conservation;
- Participation in the technical Commission at GACIM;
- Public lessons on issues related to heritage conservation, done by Mozambique Island Museum.

## **International contacts**

CEDIM is continuously searching international contacts and partnerships in order to promote cooperation with similar institutions abroad within the areas of heritage conservation.

In 2012 FAPF students participated in surveys of historic buildings at Mozambique Island in collaboration with the School of Architecture (KADK), Copenhagen, Denmark.

In 2013 FAPF-CEDIM collaborated with the University of Bergen (UiB) and Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI) in Bergen, Norway, on the preparation of two historical and archaeological research projects.

In October 2013 Mozambique Island was included in the priority list of the international organization World Monuments Fund-Watch (WMF/W) for the 2014-15 circles, proposed by UniLúrio and endorsed by the former Ministry of Culture.

An agreement on cultural cooperation has recently been signed between CEDIM-FAPF and the “Faculdades Católicas da Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, Núcleo Interdisciplinar de Reflexão e Memória Afro descendente” (NIREMA), foreseeing a seminar on historic studies in Northern Mozambique in an Indian Ocean context.

An agreement is under way with the School of Architecture, Reunion Island (a satellite to “Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture de Montpellier” (ENSAM).

A seminar on the UNESCO program “Slave Routes”, within the context of the Indian Ocean Network of Architect Schools, is foreseen to be held by April 2016.

- viii) Development plans for the Mozambique Island Hospital and São Lourenço Fortress. A Memorandum of Understanding (Mou) between the former Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health and Mozambique Island Foundation was signed in 2013.

The Mou gives the concession of the building of the hospital of Mozambique Island to the Foundation to convert it into a cultural center, conference center and 20 bed room boutique hotel. For that the project will be building a Hospital in Lumbo and a clinic on the Island for the Ministry of Health.

This aims at developing an integrated rehabilitation program for the island that will also comprise São Lourenço Fortress.

With the creation of the new Ministry of Culture and Tourism, it is felt the necessity to update the project. After further recommendations by the Ministry, the project will be sent to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

**Challenges regarding heritage conservation in Mozambique Island are enormous among them:**

- Ensure the continued rehabilitation of properties in state of degradation through sensitizing various segments of society and government entities;
- Coordinating actions between various stakeholders including the District Government, City Council and the private sector to enable cohesion in different performances regarding the conservation and preservation of heritage, especially the buildings;
- Promote more and more contacts with partners with a view to seeking technical assistance and support in the financing of projects;
- Set the best option for the use of the facilities of the San Sebastian Fortress under the existing proposal in 2009 when the first rehabilitation phase;
- Ensure upgrade of the GACIM Organic Statute as approved in 2006 in order to adapt it to the new reality;
- The allocation of a resident UNESCO official to address the continuation of the rehabilitation works of the Fortress of San Sebastian in its second phase and in situ monitoring of all the restoration and conservation actions of the built heritage.
- Address the study and protection of the local archaeological heritage including its underwater component.

## **Government perspectives, in collaboration with partners:**

- Allocation of two architects to continue and consolidate the work started on heritage conservation and preservation;
- Allocation of an archaeologist for the coordination of research and protection of archaeological work.

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### Note:

This report was prepared by Solange Macamo, National Director for Cultural Heritage and Focal Point at UNESCO /WHC, with the main input by GACIM. The following people are thanked for their collaboration:

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