



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(World Heritage Site N° 599)

(Contrat N° 4500007986)

**REPORT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF MOZAMBIQUE ISLAND
(WORLD HERITAGE SITE) 2022¹**
DECISION: 44 COM 7B.8



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

¹ Translation and edition by Celio Tiane, National Director of Cultural Heritage

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This progress report mirrors the actions that were carried out from 2019 to 2022 regarding the management, conservation and preservation of the Cultural Heritage of the Island of Mozambique (World Heritage, UNESCO 1991).

It should be noted that in this report, the greatest focus is on the built heritage of the Island of Mozambique, with emphasis on the assessment of progress in recovering from the effects of Cyclone Gombe that devastated the Island of Mozambique in March 2022. On the other hand, the report also describes the restoration works of buildings classified in the World Heritage Site, either by State initiatives or by individuals, which constitutes a great contribution in improving the state of conservation of the heritage in strict observance of the general principles of integrity and authenticity. In another approach and of great importance, the report points out the main challenges and threats that are currently being faced in actions to preserve the Cultural Heritage of the Island within a context where the contemporary dynamics of the globalized world, directly or indirectly, have some impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site.

On March 11, the Island of Mozambique was severely hit by Cyclone Gombe, whose passage left a trail of destruction on the monuments that make up the buildings declared World Heritage. It is also important to note that the damage caused by Cyclone Gombe has a direct impact on maintaining the authenticity and integrity of the Island, as the Attributes that have been protected despite numerous difficulties are now extremely vulnerable. However, it is important to mention that there are currently significant advances in the recovery of the damage caused by the cyclone, through the involvement of local communities.

Among the monuments listed in the document “Nomination of Ilha de Moçambique for inclusion in the World Heritage List 1990-1991”, it is important to mention that four (04) were seriously affected by the cyclone, namely: Palácio de São Paulo (now Museu da Ilha de Mozambique; São Domingos Convent (Court); Nossa Senhora de Baluarte Chapel; Hospital and Municipal Market. Given the seriousness of the situation caused by the cyclone, Mozambique is working towards making simultaneous use of both instruments (Emergency Fund and International Assistance) , which could contribute to the recovery actions on the Island of Mozambique.

The Museum on the Island of Mozambique (São Paulo Palace), as well as the Museum Square area will benefit from restoration actions with the support of Portuguese Cooperation, as well as the Chapel of Nossa Senhora do Baluarte in the Fortress of São Sebastião, whose project was approved in October by the National Council for Cultural Heritage with the knowledge of UNESCO Mozambique. At that moment, the company contracted to carry out the work on the Chapel has already carried out a technical visit to the monument and is developing studies on the mortar and other materials to be applied and it is expected that the work will start in early 2023.



Museum Bandstand. Source (GACIM, 2022)

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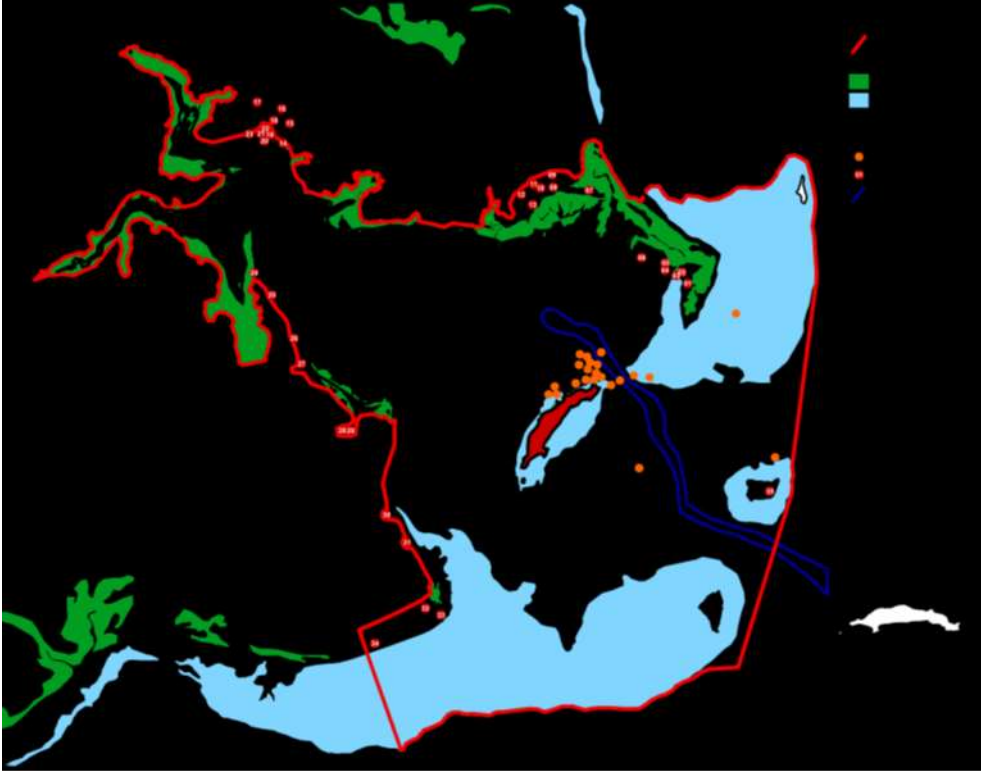
3. Commends the State Party for the finalization of the Management and Conservation Plan of Island of Mozambique (2018-2024) (MCPIM), and urges the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies and, once agreement has been reached on its content, to officially approve this document;

Answer: In order to respond to the current challenges with regard to maintaining the authenticity and integrity of the Outstanding Universal Values of the Island of Mozambique (World Heritage Site), the Management and Conservation Plan of the

Island of Mozambique was recently updated and extended the period of its term (2022-2027). At this point, the document translated into English has already been submitted to the World Heritage Center and the State Party awaits UNESCO's reaction for subsequent steps. However, it is important to mention that the content of the document has been used by entities on the Island in carrying out their activities, as well as defining lines of action with national and international partners that contribute to an integrated and sustainable conservation of the cultural heritage of the Island of Mozambique, including its Buffer Zone.

4. Also commends the State Party for the new buffer zone delimitation proposal, and requests it to submit it as a Minor Boundary Modification to the World Heritage Centre following the official procedure set in Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies and examination by the World Heritage Committee;

Answer: The new proposal for the enlargement and delimitation of the Buffer Zone is an integral part of the Management and Conservation Plan of the Island of Mozambique as it is a matter that involves many sectors of Government action at various levels, which resulted from a strong debate and contributions from the proposal by all interested parties. However, the State Party is aware of the need to observe paragraph 164 of the Technical Guidelines for the Application of the World Heritage Convention, so that, in due course, all procedures of the Convention will be followed.



Proposed extension of the Buffer Zone (PGCIM 2022-2027)

5. Encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts to strengthen the Island of Mozambique Conservation Office (GACIM)'s authority and technical capacities, notably by approving the proposed amendment of GACIM's statutes, by accelerating the process of recruitment of new official staff, and by reinforcing the cooperation between GACIM and the Municipality on issues and activities related to the management and conservation of the property;

Answer: Currently, GACIM has a total of sixteen (16) employees with different specialties. With the reinforcement of human capacity, GACIM has substantially improved works inspection actions with more presence of technicians on the ground and speed in issuing technical opinions of architectural projects and in their monitoring. The process of revising Decree n° 28/2006, of 13 July, which creates GACIM, is under way at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, in order to adapt the institution to current times and the new challenges that it imposes. in the conservation of the Island of Mozambique. The ongoing review will give GACIM greater autonomy and improve its coordination with other public and private entities, as well as enable its rapid internationalization. The document should be approved in the near future by the Council of Ministers.

6-Notes with satisfaction the conservation measures undertaken by the State Party to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, notably the restoration of a number of buildings in the hospital complex, and also requests the State Party to:

a) Finalize the restoration of the main block of the hospital,

Answer: The Hospital's recovery process is taking place in a satisfactory and gradual manner, which means that its maintenance is improving. In 2019, two (02) compartments were restored and, in 2020, the recovery of four (04) secondary compartments began. The Covid-19 pandemic greatly conditioned the progress of the works that are currently paralyzed but with an indication of their continuity soon. However, the island community and the local authorities are still anxiously awaiting the beginning of works on the main block of the Monument, which suffered seriously with the passage of Cyclone Gombe. The main block lost almost all of its roof structure, which makes its degradation even more vulnerable as it will be easy for rainwater to infiltrate the walls, which could negatively affect its structure.





Photos of the current state of conservation of the main block of the Hospital (GACIM 2022)



Two compartments recovered in 2019 (GACIM)





Four (04) compartments in the process of recovery (GACIM 2022)

b) Find a sustainable solution to avoid long-term vacancy of public buildings in the property and maintain their public use.

Answer: In January 2022, GACIM notified all State institutions to intervene in the conservation of their buildings through periodic preventive maintenance. What has been observed in recent times is the relocation of some State institutions to the mainland of the Island because their buildings no longer offer safe conditions for their use. On the other hand, State institutions are developing work towards the establishment of public-private partnerships in order to guarantee the recovery of degraded buildings, which in many cases will result in their change of use.

c) Undertake restoration work on important buildings, such as the Court of the Island,

Answer: The state of conservation of the Court of the Island of Mozambique worsened with the passage of Cyclone Gombe in March 2022. The Supreme Court of Mozambique, through the Vaults of the Courts, is preparing the architectural project to restore the Court and at the same contact was made with the embassies of European countries in Mozambique, and it is important to highlight the contact made with the Embassy of Portugal. However, given the advanced state of degradation of the building, it has been difficult to find financing. However, what is of capital importance and urgency at this moment has to do with the roof of the building that suffered a lot with the cyclone and if it is not urgently intervened, the situation of its state of conservation could still get worse.



Island Court (GACIM 2022)

d) Enforce the use of the conservation guidelines to steer renovation and restoration projects,

Answer: GACIM has made an effort to disseminate to public institutions, private entities and civil society the rules applicable to the management and conservation of the World Heritage Site. On the other hand, technicians carry out work to provide prior information to architects and other actors working on the Island of Mozambique. As a result of this work, there has been some improvement in the projects submitted. However, the challenge lies in improving the coordination between GACIM and the Municipality, especially with regard to the standardization of action procedures.

e) Submit the requested inventory of Structures of the stone and lime town area of the property, and include their current use in the inventory,

Answer: Decree n° 54/2016 of November 28 (Regulation on the Classification and Management of the Built and Landscape Heritage of the Island of Mozambique) makes a general survey of all the stone and lime buildings in the city and very carefully

assesses the state of conservation of each building. The current uses of the city's stone and lime buildings range from residential, commercial, religious and tourist.

f) Encourage property owners to address annual building maintenance, to avoid increasing deterioration due to Climate Change and rising Risks;

Answer: GACIM has carried out heritage education and awareness actions among building owners in order to adopt measures for the preventive conservation of the houses on the one hand. On the other hand, and given the phenomenon of climate change, with very negative impacts on the acquisition and maintenance of traditional materials, such as macuti, the option has been to apply techniques for reinforcing roofs with lashings that are resilient to the effects of climate change and in 2021 GACIM successfully implemented the project “Heritage Education and participatory construction in the city of macuti” with funding from the German Commission for UNESCO in the amount of 18,636.87 EUR under the *#SOSAfricanHeritage* Programme. With this project it was possible to restore 7 macuti houses on the Island of Mozambique and at the same time train twenty (20) local artisans in techniques resilient to climate change. The seven (07) houses intervened in the project did not suffer the effects of the cyclone, which demonstrates the effectiveness of the applied resilient techniques. (see photos below).







7. Further commends the State Party on its actions in addressing threats from climate change induced storm surges, also noting the potential spatial and visual impacts of these structures, further requests the State Party to develop a long-term strategy for sea defence infrastructure and to assess this through Visual and Heritage Impact Assessments, and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

Answer: The subject has already been presented to local entities and technical discussions are under way to harmonize ideas and seek funding for a study by a specialized consultancy. It is expected that this theme will be incorporated into the Disaster Risk Management Plan, which is expected to be prepared in order to reinforce the measures provided for in the Local Adaptation Plan to climate change prepared by the Municipality, prepared in 2017 with the support of USAID. On the other hand, it is

important to inform that the executive architectural project for the restoration of the Nossa Senhora do Baluarte Chapel in the São Sebastião Fortress has been finalized and has already been approved by the National Council for Cultural Heritage. The recovery is financed by Portuguese Cooperation and will consist of reinforcing the coastal protection barrier, restoring the collapsed roof structure. (Photos below).





(Arquitect Muhammad Cassimo, 2022)

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to finalize the "Urban Structure Plan for the Island of Mozambique District" and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before adopting it;

Answer: The Urban Structure Plan of Ilha de Moçambique was finalized and delivered by the Consultants to the Municipality of Ilha de Mocambique and was also approved by the Municipal Assembly. In turn, the Municipality of the Island has already sent it to the Ministry of State Administration and Civil Service for its ratification and

publication in the Republic Bulletin. However, it is important to highlight that for an effective application of the Plan in the World Heritage Site it will be necessary to unfold the Urban Structure Plan in a Detailed Plan.

9. Welcomes the elaboration of the "Specific Rules for the Conservation of the Built Heritage of the Macüti Town", and request moreover the State Party to update it following the recommendations provided by ICOMOS in its technical review and to officially approve and implement it;

Answer: All positive recommendations from ICOMOS were accepted and due to the pandemic it was not possible to assess and approve them by the Municipal Assembly in 2021. The document must undergo a community consultation on the Island and then must be submitted to the Municipal Assembly for official approval . The important thing is that even without being approved, its content is already in the domain and has been applied in a very positive way by technicians from GACIM and the Municipality.

10. Also encourages the State Party to mobilize funds (through International Assistance for example) to address the living conditions in the Macüti town in a way that is appropriate regarding the OUV of the property, notably through development projects to improve the sanitation and living conditions;

Answer: The State Party has already requested international assistance from UNESCO due to the passage of Cyclone Gombe last March and it has already been approved and we are waiting for the subsequent steps that will mark the beginning of the restoration works of the 15 houses of macuti selected. has been requested and is expected to respond from the Emergency Fund will focus on disaster risk management actions to strengthen protection measures at the World Heritage Site.

11. Also welcomes the holding of the "Workshop on the community participation in the management and monitoring processes at the Island of Mozambique World Heritage Site", and further encourages the State Party to continue community participation and engagement activities;

Answer: In 2020, GACIM under the *#SOSAfricanHeritage* Program funded by the German Commission for UNESCO in the amount of EUR 21,444.53, GACIM implemented the project "Community Participation in the Management and Monitoring

Processes of the Island of Mozambique through the Use of Networks Social”. The following objectives were achieved with the project:

- a) Trained community members and other agents (Stakeholders) directly involved in the management of the Island's Cultural Heritage in the appropriation of communication and interaction methodologies through the use of ICTs and other digital platforms (Facebook, WhatsApp, Webinar, including the fight against fakenews, etc);
- b) Increased understanding of local communities and other stakeholders (GACIM and CMIM heritage professionals) on the Island on approaches to inclusive and participatory management of World Heritage sites, with special focus on monitoring processes of the state of conservation from the Island of Mozambique;
- c) Creation of a working group (GT) involving trained community members and project coordination (GACIM, CNUM, DNPC) in order to consolidate the action strategies of the competent local authorities (GACIM, Municipality of the Island) in matters of preservation of the patrimony;
- d) Produced through participatory sessions (lectures, field visits, practical exercises) with local communities and heritage professionals, specific tools for monitoring the conservation status of the Island of Mozambique through the use of ICTs.

This year, the implementation of the project “Heritage and environmental education: Reinforcement of citizenship and social participation on the Island of Mozambique”, financed by the European Union and co-financed and managed by Camoes, I.P, in the amount of 2,000 EUR, begins in that month. The overall objective is to raise awareness levels in local communities about heritage and environment conservation, using ecological art as an element of income generation and economic sustainability. The activities consist of cleaning up the beaches and raising awareness in the neighborhoods, with local communities as direct beneficiaries, including fishermen and beach users.

In that same year, in partnership with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the implementation of the project:” Improving the conservation and living conditions of the macuti town of the Island of Mozambique through the Historic Urban Landscape approach” funded by UNESCO / Netherlands Funds-in-Trust no montante de (USD 50,000). Expected results / output:

1. A local management and development plan of macuti town is developed and approved by the government ;
2. An illustrative brochure on the rules and guidelines for the conservation of the built heritage of the Island of Mozambique is produced and promoted ;
3. A youth training on the good practices for the conservation of the Island of Mozambique is provided;
4. A training on the promotion of sustainable tourism and entrepreneurship is provided to local communities and associations dealing with conservation work. (See photos)











Despite these efforts made by GACIM, it is necessary to recognize that the demographic pressure exerted on the territory is still a great challenge in the World Heritage Site, especially in the city of macuti, which seriously undermines the authenticity and integrity of the Ensemble and there is a need to trigger of actions that can decongest the Island. It is also urgent to draw up and implement an urban mobility plan in the World Heritage Site.

In order to contribute to the appreciation of the city of macuti, in 2022 GACIM acquired a house in the Areal neighborhood and it has the function of “*Casa dos Contos*”. The acquisition of the house in Macuti results from the implementation of the “Islands and Enchantments” project financed by the European Union and managed and co-financed by Camões, I.P. *Casa dos Contos* is expected to be an example of good practices for local communities on the Island in the conservation of cultural heritage (photo below).



12. Recalls that, pursuant to Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the State Party should inform the Committee through the World Heritage Centre of the status of the "Fortim de São Lourenço", "Complex and Hotel Desportivo" and "Tourist complex in Goa Island" projects and ensure that no work continue on these proposed projects, until information has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

Answer: In 2018, a group of businessmen submitted a proposal to GACIM for the construction of a tourist complex on the Island of Goa. According to the proposal presented, its implantation would occupy almost the entirety of the physical part of the Island, including some buildings based on the sea in the surrounding areas of the same Island (stilt houses). GACIM submitted the project for analysis by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, which, if necessary, could be forwarded to the National Council for Cultural Heritage. However, the new proposal for the delimitation of the Buffer Zone (2022) includes the Islands of Goa and Sena, so this in itself represents a limitation for the advancement of the proposal. However, if there is a concrete proposal, it will be submitted for analysis by the World Heritage Centre. As for the Sports Complex, no progress has been made in terms of concrete proposals for the use of space.

After being submitted to the World Heritage Center and its official publication, the same report will be published on the Ilha de Moçambique website for public access through www.ilhademocambique.ac.mz

The Site Manager

Cláudio Zunguene

/ Investigator/