

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref.GB/TA/1720_Add.Inf

Charenton-le-Pont, 4 October 2023

H. E. Mr Richard M. Bosire
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Delegate
Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Kenya
to UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
1 rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex

World Heritage List 2024 – Additional Information The Historic Town and Archaeological Site of Gedi (Kenya)

Dear Ambassador,

ICOMOS is currently assessing the nomination of “The Historic Town and Archaeological Site of Gedi” as a World Heritage property and an ICOMOS technical evaluation mission has visited the nominated property to consider matters related to its protection, management and conservation, as well as issues related to its integrity and authenticity.

ICOMOS takes the opportunity of this letter to thank the State Party for welcoming an observer from the African World Heritage Fund during the technical evaluation mission.

In order to allow us to further evaluate this property, we would be grateful if the State Party could provide us with additional information on the following points:

Comparative analysis

ICOMOS considers that the most relevant basis for the comparative analysis is the comparisons between Gedi and other Swahili settlement sites. ICOMOS would appreciate additional information about whether there are further Swahili sites beyond those discussed in the nomination dossier. If so, it would be appreciated if the full list could be presented as a table, together with the key attributes associated with the criteria proposed for Gedi (with brief text highlighting the distinctions between them).

Community engagement issues

ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could provide additional information on several aspects of community engagement outlined in the nomination dossier and listed below:

- **Indigenous Peoples:** ICOMOS notes the efforts to secure and document the consent of local communities for this nomination. What is less clear is whether or not there are Indigenous peoples associated with the nominated property. The nomination dossier (p. 69) seems to suggest that earlier Indigenous populations have now become assimilated into the local Mijikenda. ICOMOS would appreciate a brief clarification about the status of the cultural groups associated with the nominated property.
- **Sacred Sites:** While much of the sacred significance of the nominated property appears to be historical, there are various mentions that the site is of religious and sacred importance to local communities today. What are the implications for the future management and community access to the nominated property arising from these current spiritual associations?

- Income generation projects: The nomination dossier details a range of income generation projects that involve collaboration between the National Museums of Kenya and local communities (p. 67). ICOMOS appreciates that benefits to local communities are directly considered within the World Heritage nomination and would be pleased if additional information could be provided about whether these activities take place within the nominated property and how they are organised.

Planned and approved development projects

ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could provide information on any planned or approved development projects within the nominated property, buffer zone or wider setting. The response to this query should include planned tourism, energy or transportation infrastructure, or any large-scale development projects planned for the wider setting.

Management system

ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could provide additional information on several aspects of the management system outlined in the nomination dossier and listed below:

- Action Plan: ICOMOS would be pleased to receive any update on the progress of short-term actions that were to be completed by July 2023 (pp. 35-40, management plan).
- Documentation: ICOMOS would be interested to better understand how the different sources of information are organised and accessed for management, monitoring and research purposes. Is there a regional or site-based repository or database/GIS where all this information is collated?
- Visitor numbers: The visitor numbers are given up to 2021 (p. 76, nomination dossier). ICOMOS would be interested to know if there is any updated information on the levels of post-COVID visitation, or on the likely projected numbers of visitors (in the next five years).
- Management of natural values: Throughout the nomination dossier, there are several mentions of both natural and cultural values of the nominated property, leading to the understanding that the biodiversity values are associated with the forested buffer zone. ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could confirm whether this is a correct understanding. ICOMOS would also appreciate additional information on how these values are managed, and the mechanisms for coordination between government organisations responsible for cultural and natural heritage.
- Risk preparedness plan: According to the management plan, a comprehensive disaster risk preparedness plan was scheduled to be completed by July 2023 (p. 38). ICOMOS would welcome any update as regards the preparation of the plan.
- Financial and staff resources: The nomination dossier acknowledges that there is inadequate funding available for the nominated property at present and insufficient staffing and expertise as well as vacancies in several key positions (p. 74). Some of these are identified for recruitment in the Action Plan (p. 35, management plan). ICOMOS would appreciate receiving updated data about staffing and resourcing (if any).
- Monitoring: The monitoring system and indicators provided in the nomination dossier are directed toward the state of conservation of the nominated property, but the recording methods seem anecdotal rather than systematic. In addition, there are no indicators that are directly oriented at measuring trends and impacts arising from the main factors affecting the nominated property such as visitor numbers and climate change. ICOMOS is interested to understand the future development of the monitoring system if the nominated property is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

We would be grateful if you could provide **ICOMOS** and the **UNESCO World Heritage Centre** with the above information by **Friday 10 November 2023 at the latest**.

ICOMOS appreciates that the timeframe for providing this additional information is short. Brief responses are required at this stage, and can be discussed further with the State Party if needed during the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

Please note that the State Party shall submit a copy of the additional information to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and a copy to ICOMOS so that it can be formally registered as part of the nomination dossier.

We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

Yours faithfully,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to National Museums of Kenya
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre

GEDI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE AND HISTORIC TOWN

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Introduction

The following is a submission of additional information regarding the Nomination of Gedi by the State Party of Kenya as requested by ICOMOS in a letter dated 4th October 2023 *Ref: GB/TA/1720_Add.Inf.* Kenya would like to make clarifications and shed more light on the issues raised as follows:

Comparative analysis

In its evaluation, ICOMOS considered that the most relevant basis for the comparative analysis is the comparisons between Gedi and other Swahili settlement sites and requested for additional information on whether there are further Swahili sites beyond those discussed in the nomination dossier. It also requested that the full list could be presented in form of a table, together with the key attributes associated with the criteria proposed for Gedi (with brief text highlighting the distinctions between them).

There are over 300 Swahili settlements and sites along the East African coast. These range from a few buildings of domestic and possibly one mosque to major towns such as Ungwana, Mwana, Pate, Lamu, Zanzibar, Kilwa, Mombasa, Jumba la Mtwana to Chundwa, Siyu, Shanga etc. These share a number of things in common such as town planning, prevalence of mosques, and stone buildings, wells etc. They are often located by the sea. However Gede is the largest of the abandoned Swahili settlements, has major structures such as two Great Mosques, elaborate houses with sunken courts, palace, a clearly defined street planning and possibly the only one with a detailed and complex water engineering system. It is also the only one located far away from the sea and one that has fully demonstrated the possible causes of the abandonment of these Swahili settlements. The building stock at Gedi is the most dense and concentrated, the most elaborate and fully representational of a Swahili town of its time. Gede is also the most researched and the most documented Swahili site ever including through 3D photogrammetry. It is wholly owned by the NMK and as such faces no threat. Gede is possibly the only Swahili

settlement where nature and culture is so intertwined and live side by side to this day. In addition it is the site that has demonstrated that conservation and community participation and benefit can and is a reality

Community engagement issues

As regards Indigenous Peoples, ICOMOS noted the efforts to secure and document the consent of local communities for this nomination. ICOMOS sought clarification on whether or not there are Indigenous peoples associated with the nominated property. It also asked for a brief clarification about the status of the cultural groups associated with the nominated property.

In the nomination dossier, there was mention of a minority group known as the *Waata*. From the oral history narration, the site was associated with the *Waata* indigenous people; a forest hunter and gatherer community in Coastal Kenya. Even the name has its origin from this community. Being a minority group and through a long period of interaction with the current indigenous group known as the Mijikenda, the Waata have been assimilated into the Mijikenda through intermarriage and other trade. Elders still have vestiges of the Waata culture particularly in language and subsistence practices. A few Waata words still remain and many of the cultural practices have been overshadowed by the majority tribe and the younger generation have fully integrated to the majority group.

The older generation with the help of National Museums of Kenya have documented the cultural practices, festivals, folklores, cuisine and songs, dances and other relevant indigenous knowledge. Indeed, few elders who attribute their origin to the Waata were fully involved in the nomination process. Examples of Waata community members fully involved include Mr. Geoffrey Guyo Mashauri, the current chairperson of the Waata Council of Elders and Mr. Peter Dadi also member of the Waata Council of Elders.

As regards their association with the Gedi site, direct linkages to the Waata are only historical as there are neither inhabitants living within the site nor on the nominated buffer zone. The Waata however are fully integrated in development projects and decision making that affect the community in respect to site conservation. Their current interaction with the site is a part of the other communities that have settled around the site. Community projects that have ever been initiated under the auspices of the Gedi historic site such as bee keeping and butterfly farming

have incorporated all interested community members without distinctions of preference of any community including those who still claim descent from the Waata.

Other cultural groups also represented at the site are local curio and handcraft sellers, performing artists, herbalists and tour guides. Many of these cultural groups are regulated by the NMK management and are quite vibrant and eke a living from the site. The management of the site has a cordial working relation with all these groups. The cultural groups have become part of the site and continue to assist in site awareness, information and general care. They often provide vigilance on the expansive forest covering the site, guide visitors and help in marketing the site among other activities.

***Sacred Sites:** While much of the sacred significance of the nominated property appears to be historical, there are various mentions that the site is of religious and sacred importance to local communities today. What are the implications for the future management and community access to the nominated property arising from these current spiritual associations?*

Sacred and religious uses of the site

Some Arab and Swahili community members from various parts of coastal Kenya often visit Gedi to conduct ritual prayers at several mosques within the site. They come from Gedi, Watamu, Malindi, Mamburi and Mombasa. For regulatory measures, the community groups paying pilgrimage to the sacred and religious spots only have to inform NMK staff. One other most visited and used sacred and prayer area is located outside the protected site in an adjacent village. The community around continue to freely use it and it is protected by traditional systems. Traditional diviners and healers are regular visitors at the sacred Mgandi (Fig tree) area and although the spot is in private land, there is free access to the area for religious and cultural prayers. Traditional herbalists also visit the site occasionally to pick herbs for use.

***Income generation projects:** The nomination dossier details a range of income generation projects that involve collaboration between the National Museums of Kenya and local communities (p. 67). ICOMOS appreciates that benefits to local communities are directly considered within the World Heritage nomination and would be pleased if additional information could be provided about whether these activities take place within the nominated property and how they are organized.*

The income generation activities are practiced and undertaken by the local community under the supervision of the NMK. The major livelihood activities are bee keeping and butterfly farming which are non-intrusive and environment friendly activities. These activities take place in the respective farmer's farms and the Kipepeo Project which is located at the Gedi National monument provides the link between the farmers and the market. Kipepeo Project assists the community through value addition and marketing particularly the butterfly larvae and honey. The National Museums of Kenya therefore serves as a channel to assist the farmers with international markets for their produce. This thereby cushions the farmers from exploitation by middle men who would otherwise short-change them. Staff at the Gedi Site provides technical back stopping, professional guidance and training. Towards this end, there is an exhibition and demonstration facility at the edge of the site that serve the community.

This is a critical income generating project that is associated with Gedi, and where farmers use their farms outside the site but receive assistance in marketing and sale of their produce. This activity does add value to the site especially through community support and direct benefit where conservation and community benefit is demonstrable. It does not in any way compromise but complement the site.

Planned and approved development projects

ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could provide information on any planned or approved development projects within the nominated property, buffer zone or wider setting. The response to this query should include planned tourism, energy or transportation infrastructure, or any large-scale development projects planned for the wider setting.

There is no major development projects in the buffer zone of the nominated site and at the wider setting. Within the site there are normal ongoing renovation works on the interpretation centre and refurbishment of the entrance gate. The works includes demolition and erection of a new gate at the same spot where the old one stood. The works at the interpretation centre entails repair of walls, reinforcement and repair of leaking roofs. The interpretation center holds offices for the site manager and other staff and also serve as a space for learning. This area is also earmarked for community engagements with visitors including tourists through showcasing local art and crafts directly further involving the local community with the site.

Management system

ICOMOS also requested for additional information on several aspects of the management system outlined in the nomination dossier and listed below:

- *Action Plan: ICOMOS asked for updates on the progress of short-term actions that were to be completed by July 2023 (pp. 35-40, management plan).*

The action plan is presented here below with the updates highlighted in red.

Key issues and planned activities

No	Key Issue	Activities			
		Short-term July 2022- June 2023	Mid-term July 2023- June 2024	Long-term July 2024- June-2026	Resources
1	Staffing	A local artisan (masonry) skill trained in Lamu polytechnic is in charge of the restoration work	Recruitment of more staff specifically traditional stone masons, guides and security Personnel.		NMK Budget
2	Staff training	Implementation is being prioritized and will be carried out as soon as funds are available	Capacity building of staff in management and conservation of heritage		National Museums Heritage Training Institute
3	Site promotion	Placement of signage along the major coast road network for marketing. Signages have already been placed at different locations. There are several to follow. One directional signage has also been placed inside the site	Development of a traveling exhibition on Gedi to be showcased in local and international trade fairs		NMK, Development Fund, Kilifi County Culture Fund, KTB, virtual exhibits, 2 D and 3D media, audio-visual media
			Fundraising to enhance site management		Tourism Trust Fund

4	Community sensitization	<p>Periodic engagement of community on site's management progress</p> <p>Annual Community engagement on diverse issues of the site.</p> <p>This is undertaken whenever there are festivals and celebration events at the site such as during the World Biodiversity Day, World Environment Day, International Museums Day, International Monument Day, International Wildlife Day, International Forest Day and Earth Day. Some of the activities and focus areas during these events are community sensitization programs. This is therefore in place and ongoing. It is intended to have another one on the day of listing of the property, should this nomination be successful.</p>			Kilifi County Culture Fund
5	Demolition of deteriorated and flaking contemporary archway and refurbishment of the interpretation centre	<p>-Assessment structure deterioration, analysis of intervention necessary and preparation of bill of quantities</p> <p>-Award of tender and Construction.</p> <p>Tender awarded and the structure demolished and construction work is in progress</p>			Tourism development Fund, contractor

6	Repair of broken section of the perimeter fence	Assessment of damage. Budget prepared and submitted to several donors who have committed to fund. This will be undertaken in the 3rd quarter of the financial year (April-June 2024).	Budgeting in the financial year	Repair works by resident Gedi maintenance staff	Youth and Sports fund
7	Repair collapsed sections of walls	Assessment of damage Restoration exercise as part of routine work is on-going. Several sections restored and/or reinforced.	Preparation of Bill of quantities, Budgets Repair works		NMK development fund, local community artisan with the requisite traditional masonry skills
8	Re-routing of visitor access path	Remapping of the circuit, relocation of signages Development and installation of new signage. Re-routing of the visitors' access path fully implemented			NMK Development fund, Gedi staff, Local tour companies

9	Climate monitoring	Collaboration with the meteorology department in weather conditions at the site and impact on the heritage.	Should be a sustained activity through time		Keeper Coast Region, Msabaha Meteorological Station
10	Tackling poaching menace	De-snaring and removal of illegal bush meat traps. This has been fully implemented; 3 people engaged to undertake the De-snaring, monitoring illegal cutting of tress and dumping of solid waste within the site. Six (6) camera traps installed and fully functional.	-Should be a sustained activity through time. -installation of motion cameras	- Sensitization workshops with the local community	Gedi staff KWS staff Local community scouts, Local tour guides and scout

11	Removal of trunks on walls	Sawing off collapsed trees on walls. Equipment already on site. A chain saw was procured to help grounds maintenance staff perform their duty effectively and efficiently. Training has been conducted on how to operate and service the machine and work continues as was planned.	Physical removal of growing vegetation on walls	-Gedi staff -Cutting implements -community wage labour
12	Risk preparedness	Preparation of a comprehensive disaster risk preparedness. Drafting of the plan is ongoing even if a little behind schedule.		NMK staff, KFS, KWS, NMK Development Fund

Documentation: *ICOMOS would be interested to better understand how the different sources of information are organized and accessed for management, monitoring and research purposes. Is there a regional or site-based repository or database/GIS where all this information is collated?*

All the major activities on site are recorded and monitored to register progress, gaps, inform on required actions, establish challenges and to recommend mitigation measures.

The site manager generates weekly, monthly and quarterly reports for the activities undertaken at the site. Major activities that are documented include training sessions and sensitization of staff, site maintenance such as inspection and clearing firebreaks along the long the boundary, de- snaring of trapped animals, removal of overgrown vegetation of walls of the structure, monthly community engagements for clean ups, tree planting exercises to revitalize the forest. In these activities and as part of performance targets required of the site manager cum curator records are kept at the sites office which are used to evaluate his performance at the end of every financial year. The records kept are used as documentary evidence of the achieved targets. All these are available on site for reference.

In addition, information on scientific and technical projects like archaeological excavations are also recorded. It is an NMK standard procedure for all specimen/materials of interest collected to be well labelled, and analysis and stored properly. There is an archaeology laboratory on site where excavated objects are stored including field notes, photographs and maps. This is the responsibility of the resident archaeologist stationed at the Gedi site. Analysis of reports and cultural objects or any specimens are eventually deposited with National Museums of Kenya's National repository in Nairobi.

Publications on Gedi Historical Site are readily available in NMK's online repository, plans are on course for a site interpretation centre to be set up after the ongoing renovations. This will also house a room with physical collections for research and general education to the public.

• *Visitor numbers: The visitor numbers are given up to 2021 (p. 76, nomination dossier). ICOMOS would be interested to know if there is any updated information on the levels of post-COVID visitation, or on the likely projected numbers of visitors (in the next five years).*

Visitor statistics 2022/2023

Month	Total number
January 2022	3288
February 2022	3827
March 2022	4580
April 2022	5244
May 2022	2855
June 2022	3806
July 2022	7523
August 222	4224
September 2022	11045
October 2022	6997
November 2022	7040
December 2022	9817
2023	
January 2023	7095
February 2023	4681
March 2023	6237
April 2023	8020
May 2023	3424
June 2023	7113
July 2023	7928
August 2023	38990
September 2023	7841
October 2023	7578

VISITOR FORECAST 2024

Next year (2024), is projected to have an increase in visitor numbers with a margin of 15%. Gauging by the current trend, we expect numbers to grow tremendously onwards with all the other factors held constant.

VISITOR STATISTICS PROJECTION FOR 2024-2027

	2024	2025	2026	2027
JAN	6641	8890	10090	12901
FEB	6790	8790	10790	12850
MARC	7303	9303	11005	13010
APRIL	6285	8230	10230	12988
MAY	6056	8051	10011	12765
JUN	6455	8450	10450	12765
JUL	9453	11456	12456	14760
AUG	8613	10013	12013	14980
SEPT	11545	12545	14545	16199
OCT	10545	12454	14454	16453
NOV	10557	12557	14556	16865
DEC	11452	12453	14353	16876

Management of natural values: Throughout the nomination dossier, there are several mentions of both natural and cultural values of the nominated property, leading to the understanding that the biodiversity values are associated with the forested buffer zone. ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could confirm whether this is a correct understanding. ICOMOS would also appreciate additional information on how these values are managed, and the mechanisms for coordination between government organisations responsible for cultural and natural heritage.

Mechanisms for coordination between government and non-governmental organizations

	Organization	Mandates	Remarks
	National Museums of Kenya	<p>National Museums of Kenya (NMK) is a state corporation established by an Act of Parliament, the Museums and Heritage Act 2006. NMK is a multi-disciplinary institution whose role is to collect, preserve, study, document and present Kenya's past and present cultural and natural heritage. This is for the purposes of enhancing knowledge, appreciation, respect and sustainable utilization of these resources for the benefit of Kenya and the world, for now and posterity. NMK's mutual concern for the welfare of mankind and the conservation of the biological diversity of the East African region and that of the entire planet demands success in such efforts.</p> <p>In addition, NMK manages many Regional Museums, Sites and Monuments of national and international importance alongside priceless collections of Kenya's living cultural and natural heritage. As an institution that</p>	Manages the protected monuments by working closely with other relevant government agencies

National Museums of Kenya

		must respond to the growing needs of the society, NMK is striving to contribute in a unique way to the task of national	
	Kenya Wildlife Service	The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) conserves and manages Kenya's wildlife for the Kenyan people and the world. It is a state corporation established by an Act of Parliament Cap 376 with the mandate to conserve and manage wildlife in Kenya, and to enforce related laws and regulations. KWS undertakes conservation and management of wildlife resources outside protected areas in collaboration with stakeholders. It works with other stakeholders to conserve, protect and sustainably manage wildlife resources	Work closely with NMK in ensuring the wildlife found within the Gedi National Monument are protected and preserved. KWS undertakes regular patrols at the site to monitor the state of the animal species. It also collaborates with NMK in community sensitization exercises on management of heritage.
	Kenya Forest Service	The Kenya Forest Service is an agency of the Government of Kenya designated by the Forest Act of 2005. To enhance development, conservation and management of Kenya's forest resources base in all public forests, and assist County Governments to develop and manage forest resources on community and private lands for the equitable benefit of present and future generations.	Work closely with NMK in ensuring the Forest resource found within the Gedi National Monument are protected and preserved. KFS also undertake regular patrols and community sensitization exercises at the site. It has been involved in undertaking forest restoration exercises every year. In addition, KFS

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			have been spearheading distribution of tree seedlings to local communities to plant on their farms as way of encouraging afforestation and to reduce pressure on coastal forests for fuelwood demand.
	Kenya Forestry Research Institute	Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) is a State Corporation established in 1986 under the Science and Technology Act (Cap 250) which has since been replaced by the Science, Technology and Innovation Act No. 28 of 2013 to undertake research in forestry and allied natural resources, generate, promote and improve technologies for sustainable developed.	KEFRI works closely with NMK in ensuring the forest resources found within the Gedi National Monument are protected and preserved. They undertake drives to collect and preserve plant gene banks from all ecological zones in the country including the coastal region. In the current drive by the Government of Kenya to increase forest cover KEFRI has been providing tree seedlings to communities.
	Nature Kenya	Nature Kenya—the East Africa Natural History Society (EANHS)—is Africa’s oldest environmental Society, established in 1909 to promote the study and conservation of nature in eastern Africa. We remain a non-political and not for profit membership Society.	Nature Kenya has been encouraging and supported community-based organizations to become Site Support Groups (SSGs) promoting conservation and alternative

			<p>livelihoods at Important Bird Areas.</p> <p>Nature Kenya has been collaborating with NMK in promotion community based conservation projects in Gedi.</p> <p>One of the key areas of collaboration has been in capacity building the local youths and women on income generating activities, leadership and governance.</p> <p>It has trained the local community guides at Gedi National Monument on visitor handling and customer care</p>
	Primate Global Foundation	Primate Global is a small US based not for profit foundation. Its mission is to protect primate habitats by supporting research and conservation initiatives which address human-wildlife conflict	<p>The Primate Global Foundation has been supporting NMK at Gedi to undertake monitoring of biodiversity, de-snaring and in provision of camera traps to monitor species. It has also supported NMK by employing three community members as scouts to help researchers in data collections, de-snaring and setting up of plant nursery and distribution of the same the seedlings to adjacent community.</p>

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			The foundation has also positively had impacted on the local community through issuance of scholarships to 5 students from the community adjacent the Gedi Site.
	Friends of Gedi National Monument	<p>The Gede Site de-snaring initiative is a partnership between Gede Site, Friends of Gede Ruins (a community based organization), and Primate Global Foundation. The goal of this partnership is to protect the flora and fauna found within Gede National Monument.</p> <p>Weekly patrols record illegal activity and remove snares, traps, and other items intending to catch or harm wildlife. Since 2015, Friends of Gede Ruins de-snare associates have collected 415 snares and traps combined.</p>	Undertake several conservation programs. work closely with the community on alternative source of fuelwood, clean up exercise and seedlings distribution

• **Risk preparedness plan:** *According to the management plan, a comprehensive disaster risk preparedness plan was scheduled to be completed by July 2023 (p. 38). ICOMOS would welcome any update as regards the preparation of the plan.*

A disaster risk preparedness plan draft is being developed for the site but its completion is behind schedule. The complete document is expected to be finalized by May 2024 after all the collaborators at the Gedi Site and the local community have made their input into the document. There are some agreements and negotiations that need to be made with the other government players in the heritage conservation field to the risk plan effective and impactful.

• **Financial and staff resources:** *The nomination dossier acknowledges that there is inadequate funding available for the nominated property at present and insufficient staffing and expertise as well as vacancies in several key positions (p. 74). Some of these are identified for recruitment in the Action Plan (p. 35, management plan). ICOMOS would appreciate receiving updated data about staffing and resourcing (if any).*

Regarding the staffing inadequacy, the issue is being holistically addressed at the entire NMK institution guided by the NMK Strategic Plan (SP) for 2023-2027. A functional analysis conducted during the SP planning stage indicated a shortage of staff especially within all the technical departments. To effectively address this anomaly and drive the strategy forward, the NMK is undertaking a job evaluation and workload exercise to ensure optimum placement of technical staff at strategic sites for ease of management and conservation. The results of the exercise will positively impact on better management of the Gedi site in getting the requisite staffs to manage the cultural and natural values of the site going forward.

• **Monitoring:** *The monitoring system and indicators provided in the nomination dossier are directed toward the state of conservation of the nominated property, but the recording methods seem anecdotal rather than systematic. In addition, there are no indicators that are directly oriented at measuring trends and impacts arising from the main factors affecting the nominated property such as visitor*

numbers and climate change. ICOMOS is interested to understand the future development of the monitoring system if the nominated property is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The Strategic Plan 2023-2027 also noted that monitoring and reporting procedures need improvement. There has been monthly and quarterly reporting required for all sites under the National Museums of Kenya. These reports are compiled and submitted by the site managers /curators to the Director of Antiquities Sites and Monuments. The plan directs that daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly reporting will be required for sites. The new plans direct that management will then avail the quarterly progress reports to the Board of Directors on the progress made towards the attainment of the goals. To achieve this, the planning department of the NMK is currently preparing a standard format for data collection and reporting and the list of details of required information in the reports for the purpose of uniformity across all the heritage sites in Kenya. As a world heritage property when listed, then all the standard instruments as prescribed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will apply and will be followed to the letter.

A monitoring system specifically for Gedi will be put in place to follow up on the OUVs of the site once inscribed. Some of the areas of importance within the monitoring system will include conditional surveys of the features within the site and risks and their mitigation.

2ND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS REQUESTED BY ICOMOS

SITE PLANS

ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide one or more detailed site plans that would show the layout of the town and the spatial arrangement of the attributes. The existing plans and maps that have been provided are presented at a scale that usefully shows the whole property, its buffer zone and wider setting, but it would also be helpful to have one or more maps that show the recorded structures at a larger scale.

RESPONSE

As per the request of ICOMOS above, the State Party presents here below site plans to further explain the attributes of Gedi and its setting and to clearly and unambiguously demonstrate the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The palace's size is well illustrated in the plan drawn to scale. The Palace is one of the defining architectural features of Gedi with an elaborate design with a well-planned orientation that take into consideration among other things, the sun rays as described below. One of the unique features within the palace is a combination of courts and courtyards, with one large and two small one within the palace. The large court forms the largest space as shown in **Figure 1** below.

The court was set in a way that it ran from north to south, so that, in the morning the east side, and in the afternoon the west side would be screened from the rays of the sun by the wall behind. From this court, a passage led into the Audience Court. Here the direction of the orientation was different. It is suggested that this was the space where cases were heard and judgements made. A similar situation was reported by the great Arab scholar and traveler Ibn Battuta in the fourteen Century where he witnessed such an occurrence in a similar place in Mogadishu, in the present day Somalia. In the case of Gedi, though the bench of 'judges' was in front of the west wall and so protected from the morning sun, those with cases and their representations would stand in the sun and with their eyes looking towards it.

Water engineering is also a defining feature for Gedi. As shown in **Figure 2** outlined in the plan below, Gedi was a deliberately and careful designed to manage the ground and rain water in an efficient way. The plan below shows the designs of a typical well including coral rag lining to prevent well walls from collapsing. The floor of the wells were let open to allow ground water to

filter in. Adjacent to the wells were conduits built of stone masonry with a leaning gradient leading towards the destination from the source. These would conduct the water into the mosques and or houses for various uses. **Figure 3.** shows the design of the cisterns and the technology behind its design.

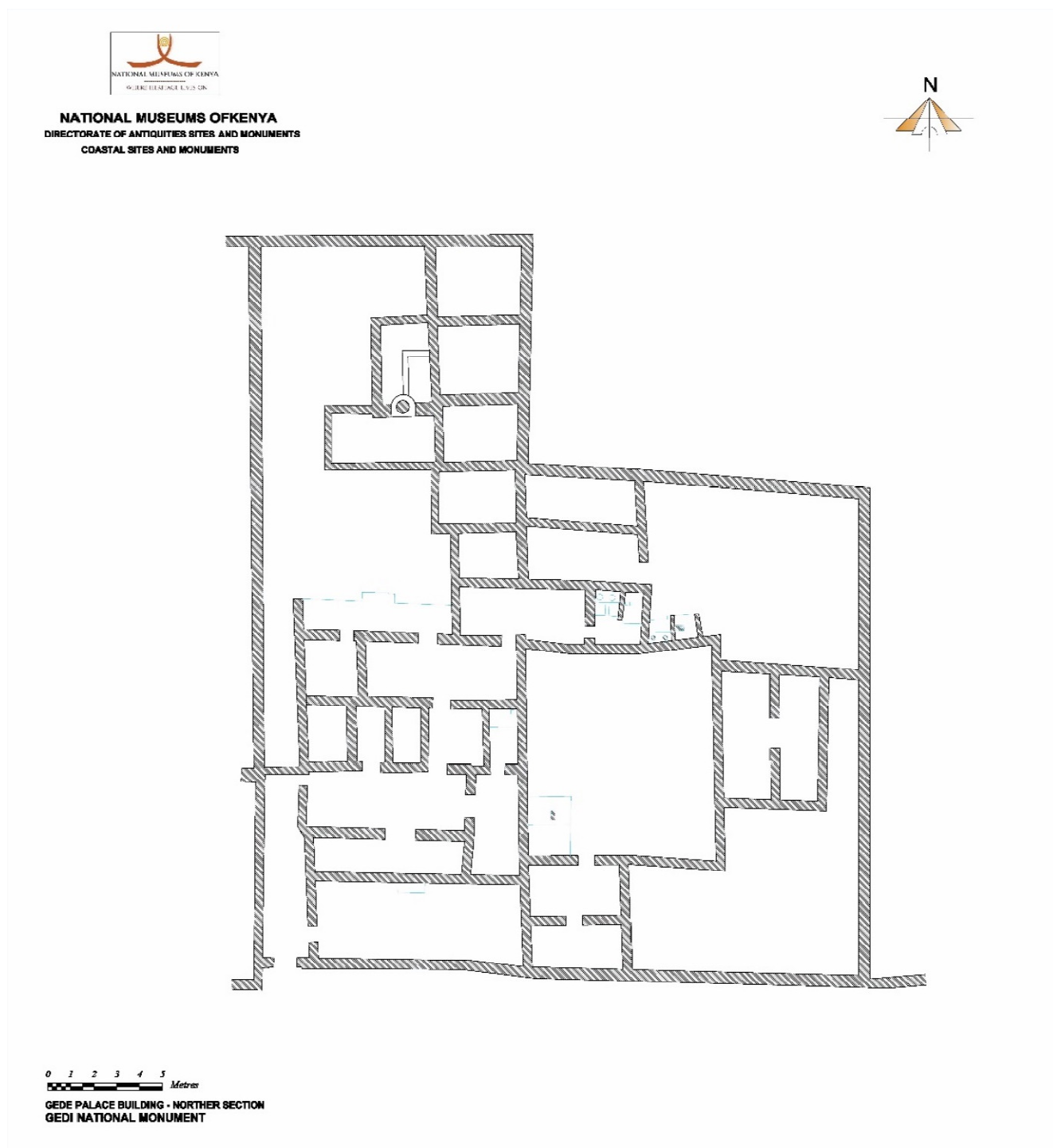
Figure 1. Gedi Palace

Figure 2.

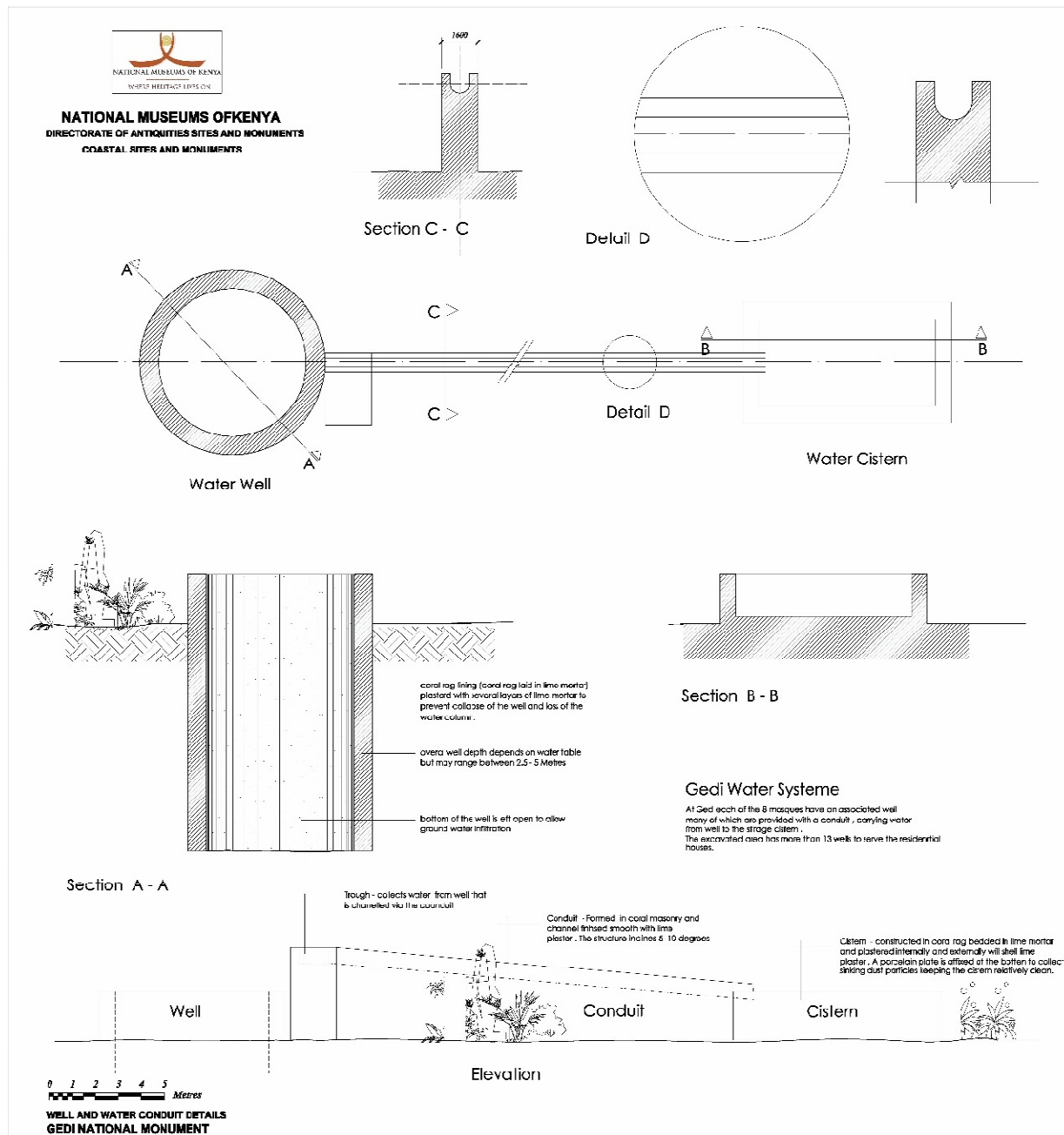
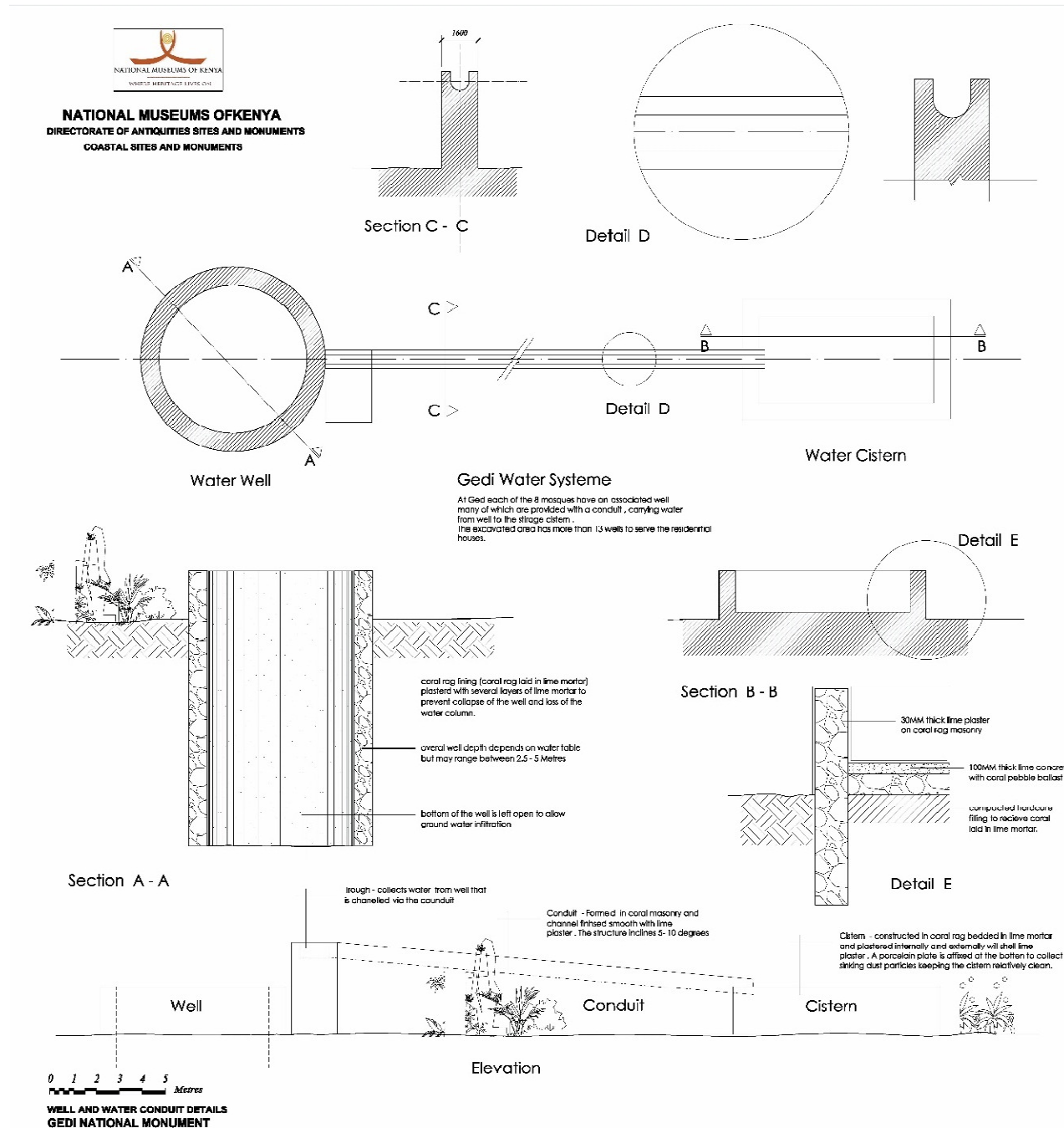


Figure 3.



RESEARCH PLAN

ICOMOS is aware that Gedi has been the subject of research for many years, and that recent research has begun to illuminate important dimensions of its social and architectural history. However, it is apparent that there is still much more to learn about Gedi, including its relationship with its hinterland and the coast. ICOMOS recommends that a longer-term research plan be developed and included in the management system. Additional information about any existing research strategy/plan would be appreciated, as well as any longer-term plans to further develop a research strategy, including a timeline.

RESPONSE:

RESEARCH PLAN

Introduction

The Historic Town and Archaeological Site of Gedi is one of the most researched and studied Swahili settlements along the east African Coast. It is also one of the best documented and recorded heritage sites within Sub-Saharan Africa. The works of researchers such as Kirkman (1954; 1974) Pradine (2004) among others, have provided detailed description and interpretation of several features in the layout and development of the Gedi town. Works undertaken by Baumanova and Smejda (2017) suggest that reinterpretation of the townscape could be an ongoing process as new evidence arises and new technological innovations in archaeological investigations are applied. For example, they have suggested that some of the structures such as the Palace could have served a variety of purposes related to public affairs or trading and that the structure may have developed from a single residence onto which new additions were added over a period of nearly 150 years to provide new functions and accommodation.

More recently, the Zamani Project (www.zamaniproject.org) has undertaken mapping through photography and digitization works of the site, and provides a geometrically accurate record of the present state of preservation of all architectural remains, mainly based on 3D laser scanning. The detailed 3D laser scanning provides fundamental tool for site monitoring and conservation, especially for the monuments.

Archaeological studies detailing the historical accounts of the site have been carried out since the first major excavations by James Kirkman in the 1940s followed by other research works including those by Pradine (2003, 2010) and more recently by Kusimba (2019, 2022). These works have discussed in detail the settlement's successive inhabitants and their cultural and historical ties including religion. These works have demonstrated the ingenuity of the inhabitants over time in developing a vast town with all the necessary and at times extravagant infrastructures and amenities required for a complete town complex of the time. The growth and eventual abandonment of the town has also been a subject of research and more recently these studies have suggested that its abandonment could have been due to a possible pandemic in addition to the salinity of water observed in researches before.

Unlike many other Swahili settlements that were located either on islands adjacent to the main lands or on the seaside, Gedi was a few located kilometers inland. It however definitely played a major role in the transoceanic trade despite this location leading to the development of a thriving town complex with rich architectural heritage. Like other coastal sites however part of the trade goods with international traders must have originated in its hinterland. This is an ongoing research project that will further shed light in trade and other relations between Swahili settlements and their hinterland at the time.

Gedi is also rich in biodiversity, comprising remnants of the once widespread coastal tropical forest that is today also found in the adjacent Arabuko Sokoke forest ecosystem. For Gedi, this rich natural ecosystem provides a symbiotic relationship between the cultural and natural heritage with the site. The forest within the site harbours a considerable number of taxa which are either endemic, threatened with some species known to have limited home range. The composition, distribution and the abundance have however not been documented comprehensively as related to the other protected sites like Arabuko Sokoke forest and the Kaya's in the vicinity of Gedi. Approximately, over 300 species of plants and 150 Avifauna species are known at Gedi. Some of these are rare and unique species such as the two Globally Threatened animals – the Spotted Ground Thrush and Golden-Rumped Sengi (or Elephant-Shrew), the latter being endemic to Kilifi County in Kenya– and found nowhere else in the world.

A number of studies on the biodiversity have been carried out on specific taxa but no overarching survey work has been done nor even fully vetted species lists. There is therefore little published data about the biodiversity of Gedi, an area that provides opportunity for further research. The floral biodiversity has over the years provided cover to the monument from the vagaries of weather and other elements of deterioration including rain and sunshine. This however does not mean it does not pose challenges especially with rooting and falling trees. These are however managed and a balance maintained that ensures the biodiversity continue to provide protection rather than being a threat. The forest is also revered by the local community as it has some cultural /religious significance and as a result of this, both the flora and fauna has been well protected. This patch of forest found within the site therefore presents an excellent stage to observe the ecology of the forest in change, an ecological ‘laboratory’ providing reasonably controlled conditions. A forest restoration project has also been initiated and follow up monitoring work is carried out.

The National Museums of Kenya has therefore purposely promoted advance biodiversity research in the areas of forest management and sustainable conservation, ecological studies and species diversity and their habitats, threats associated with the biodiversity and community outreach for sustainable conservation, economic development and value addition. This biodiversity is critical in engaging community in sustainable economic benefits and awareness creation on environmental matters. This is even more critical in the era of climate change and the need to maintain environmental/biodiversity sustainability to mitigate negative effects of these changes and ensure conservation of both the cultural and natural heritage so presently abundant.

The other area of interest has been the Oral historical research at Gedi that has provided valuable information in relation to the local peoples’ perspective and understanding of the site, its relevance and reverence and the understanding of its various elements. The site’s oral history is rich and providing local account into when and why the site was established, its growth and eventual abandonment. The oral history has also highlighted who the founders and first inhabitants of the site were, and their interactions with other communities. These accounts have also described how the name came to be, and the historical and modern interactions of the local

community and the site. The local community revere the site and their continued engagement with the site has been one of the sustainable ways for the protection and conservation of the site.

Gedi research results are highly published including in books, monographs, papers etc. These publications can be found in many libraries across the world with some online. Many of the resource centres at the National Museums of Kenya including at Fort Jesus World Heritage Site, the Nairobi National Museums Headquarters in Nairobi and the Malindi Resource Centre in Malindi, hold copies of most of these publications. The GIS data and the digitization materials are hosted at the University of Cape Town, some at the Zamani website and at the National Museums of Kenya Computer Department where copies are stored at the National Museums of Kenya server, and are available for research works under the NMK ICT & Data Policy.

Research and studies at the site have always been guided by the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 which is under the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI); the National Museums and Heritage Act 2006; NMK's Research and Collection Policy and the Institution's Strategic Plan (the current being the 2023/2027 Strategic Plan). Under the NACOSTI Quality Policy, NMK is registered and accredited as a Research Institution in Kenya and must therefore follow all regulations on research under the NACOSTI Act. This includes making sure that any research being carried out at Gedi is licensed, monitored, evaluated and its impact assessed. The Act acknowledges that research should facilitate and promote the progress of Science, Technology and Innovation particularly in the fields of architecture, archaeology and biodiversity. In addition, this research must facilitate economic, social and cultural transformation at the local, national and global level. In lieu of this, several individuals have attained their professional certificates including Bachelors, Masters and PhD from researches at Gedi. Furthermore, research at the site has contributed to the economic and educational empowerment of the local community through activities that promote livelihoods such as Kipepeo butterfly project in which the local community farm butterflies and harness honey from bees for sale. In turn the community also learn to respect, appreciate and manage biodiversity leading to extended biodiversity conservation in adjacent community areas and as such mitigating any potential adverse climatic induced changes.

Although a lot of research and studies have been carried out at the site and its environs and whose results can be found in many libraries and resource centres, the National Museums of

Kenya guided by its mandate, the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 and current Strategic Plan 2023/2027 underscores the objective to increase relevant research output and publications produced particularly in the areas of:

- Cultural mapping and monitoring;

Biodiversity

- Taxidermy services;
- Citizen science.

- a. **Cultural mapping and monitoring.** As already indicated above, a lot of mapping and documentation of the site, the structures and features has already been undertaken and the data will continue to be used for site conservation, evaluation and monitoring purposes. Training on use of this data is however necessary for practical use by the site curatorial staff and conservators. In addition, documentation of intangible heritage practices associated with the understanding and use of the site by the locals is encouraged such as traditional medicine and its connection to religion and healing. This is particularly important since the site has a rich biodiversity of plants, some of which possess medicinal aspects.
- b. **Biodiversity studies and monitoring.** Biodiversity and Ecological monitoring is an essential tool in consolidating the basic ecological information required for the effective management of natural resources. Due to its protected state, Gedi presents an excellent stage to observe the ecology of a forest in change, an ecological ‘laboratory’ providing reasonably controlled conditions. Population censuring or monitoring is a valuable conservation tool for monitoring the stability of a population and assessing the efficacy of conservation and management practices. Natural ecosystems are dynamic and constantly undergo changes such as damage succession, climax states and climate change. With human intervention ecosystems process are affected. It is through such monitoring that these changes in ecosystems and taxa can be documented. This is a critical exercise that is not meant to be only for conservation sake but will be beneficial in understanding and mitigating climate change effects on both cultural and natural heritage through time.

- c. **Taxidermy services.** To enhance sustainable conservation of the biodiversity of Gedi, an interpretation on the site's biodiversity, its importance and need for conservation will be developed and this will include taxidermy services. Some of the site's biodiversity species, such as the various species of bees and their environmental impact will be presented in the interpretation through taxidermy services.
- d. **Citizen science .** Currently, the site is being used for butterfly and honey farming. Training of farmers to transition to ecological honey production and value addition will continue while also assisting the farmers with new markets for better profits. Other areas are research to explore, are areas related to traditional enterprises such as performing and traditional craftsmanship, visual arts, making and selling of curios, local tour guiding, production and selling of merchandise relating to culinary arts (food), fashion and design with roots in the tradition of the area and region. This will not only ensure sustainable communities in terms of economic benefits but also safeguard of both tangible as well as intangible heritage. This further contributes to the promoting the working relations between the various UNESCO Conventions including 1972, 2003 and 2005 and the Convention on Biodiversity.

The proposed research at the site is also in line with the current government's manifesto which is a five-year plan under six core pillars, namely: Agriculture; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) economy; Housing and Settlement; Healthcare; Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy; and Environment and Climate Change. The major areas of this manifesto that fit into research at Gedi site include, Agriculture, Health Care, Housing and Settlement and Environment and Climate Change.

- a. **Agriculture.** This aligns to Butterfly farming and Meliponiculture and Apiculture farming (bee keeping and honey farming) towards improving the livelihoods and food security among the local community of the surrounding area.
- b. **Health Care.** This will benefit and contribute to the historical studies related to the hypothesis of diseases and pandemic that may have led to the abandonment of the site and current pandemics which have been witnessed globally

- c. **Environment and Climate Change.** Researches may include water changes in chemistry and quantities and how this affected the growth and decline of the Gedi and other settlements along the coast of East Africa. In addition and under this field, research on the Blue Economy looking mainly at the history of human migration and interactions along the East African coast will be key. Other areas are in trade and economic developments, and interactions between the coast and the hinterland. In addition other potential areas of study will include the changing dynamics in weather patterns such as intense rainfalls, storms and drought and their effects on the site's physical attributes including the monuments and their fabric.
- d. **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) economy.** The site provides an avenue an incentive for the community to be assisted in developing micro and small enterprises businesses with the activities that they are already undertaking around the site such as apiculture and the creative arts so as to promote their livelihoods and economy.
- e. **Housing and Settlement.** The architectural and technological development of Gedi and its town planning and the skills and knowledge that some of the artisans within the coast of Kenya still possess is a resource to be harnessed towards the development of modern housing and settlements. The historical unique materials and techniques which were used at Gedi and have ensured that the monuments can stand the vagaries of weather, time and other threats is research subject towards this effort.

Table 1 below gives an analysis of the priority research areas within the next 5-10 years guided mainly by the NMK Strategic Plan 2023/2027, the manifesto of the Kenyan Government 2023/2027 and the interpretation and information gaps of the site. The researches will be undertaken by both local and international researchers from various institutions. Many of these are partners and collaborators with NMK, and have research projects and interests advancing the history, knowledge and information of the site (Table 2).

Table 1: Summary of research areas and expected outcomes

**THE HISTORIC TOWN AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF GEDI'S FIVE-TEN YEAR RESEARCH PLAN**

RESEARCH AREA	ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	IMPACT
Archaeological research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conduct targeted excavations at wells, latrines, tombs, and middens secure a series of cores in the regions carry out extensive oral ethnographic interviews with descendant communities secure samples for a DNA extraction and identification of parasites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> well mapped ecological history of the region identifying the types of diseases that Gedi residents coped with during its 500- year history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More information on the social economic, environmental and ecological setting of Gedi site during its 500-years as well as the reasons for its rise, growth and fall/abandonment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced knowledge on the history of settlements and interactions within the East African Coast
Traditional Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus group discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on local's traditional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better understanding of the site's history 	Increased knowledge on how traditional

systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and Documentation of ITK • Interviews with local elders to understand the different traditional systems • mapping out sites associated with traditional knowledge systems • Interviews with traditional herbalists 	<p>know-how, skills and practices and their association with the site.</p>	<p>through traditional knowledge systems</p>	<p>systems relate to historical sites</p>
Religion and ritual landscapes and practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping all religious and ritual sites • Studies on the use of the site for religion and rituals • Demographic studies of the users of the site for religion and ritual practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A well mapped religious and ritual landscape • Information on who the religious users of the sites were and continue to be and what rituals are undertaken at the site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better knowledge on town planning, religious activities and groupings within the site • Knowledge on modern use of site associated with local's traditional beliefs and religious practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced knowledge on historical coastal towns and their planning as influenced by religion and traditional beliefs

Biodiversity Assessment & Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline assessment for different taxa • Biodiversity surveys & inventory • Setting up of nursery and seed propagation • Resource mapping and zoning • Biodiversity Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of fauna and flora found within the site • Reports on biodiversity monitoring • Seed nurseries for use by the locals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better managed and conserved biodiversity at the site • Well informed locals on the importance of biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced environmental and biodiversity management within the coast of Kenya
Mapping & documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field survey and mapping • Proper recording and documentation • Archiving and Filling • Resource mapping and zoning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of site maps and records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better conservation and motoring of the site • More knowledgeable conservators • Virtual sites tours • Better appreciation of the site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well documented and mapped heritage sites within the east African Coast
Architecture & Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping and documentation of structures • Mapping out the designs at the site • Identification of raw 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of architectural maps and designs of the site • Lists of raw materials and tools used for construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge on town planning and setting during its era • information on construction skills and technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced knowledge on the historical architectural and town planning along

	<p>material and tools used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on conservation standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained local and site conservators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better understanding on how to conserve and maintain the monuments • better understanding of the socio interactions at the time 	<p>the East African Coast and races involved.</p>
Blue Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and mapping out maritime sites within the area • Surveying and identifying underwater resources within the area • Archaeological excavations on some of the maritime sites and resources identified during the survey • Linking the findings of these maritime sites with Gedi in terms of trade and economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well mapped out maritime sites and underwater resources within the area • List of maritime and underwater resources in the area • Information on the history if these maritime sites and underwater resources and their relationship with Gedi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better understanding of the history of trade and economy at the site and its neighbourhood • Knowledge on the setting of the site and its interactions with the hinterland • More information on the coastal and hinterland interactions during that time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better understanding of historical trade, economy and interactions within the east African coast • Promotion of Aqua culture • Promotion of Coastal tourism

Environment and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline assessment on the trends and the impacts of weather • Capacity building on basic environmental degradation • Setting of tree nursery for restoration • Indigenous seed propagation 	<p>Information weather patterns and its effects on the monuments</p> <p>Information on types of indigenous plants and trees and their importance within the site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better maintenance of the site and environment • Knowledge on site's possible growth and downfall 	<p>Increased knowledge on importance of trees in the protection of erosion as a result of adverse weather effects on environment and climate change. Climate change mitigation</p>
Health and well being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainings on processing and packaging locally produced herbals • Conditional survey of monuments/site remains • Training locals on hygiene and the environment 	<p>Processed herbal products</p> <p>Reports on conditional surveys</p> <p>Trained locals on environmental hygiene</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better maintenance of the site and environment • More information and knowledge on site's history • Better understanding of diseases and pandemics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved health and well-being of coastal environments and people
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake assessments on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of pollinators and foraging plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowered local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in heritage

	<p>pollinators foraging plants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm Water harvesting • Training on nature based (farming) enterprises • Build the capacity of local conservation groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macro Enterprises created • Knowledgeable Local conservation groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased livelihoods • alternative livelihoods created 	<p>products for better livelihoods thus advance heritage awareness and appreciation and thus better protection by the local communities</p>
Citizen Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of locals on heritage conservation methods and skills at the site • Training of locals in making construction materials used at the site • Train local community on tour guiding and catering • establishing of indigenous plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher number of conservators for Gedi remains • More skilled labour to maintain and conserve the site • More informed locals on conservation of environment and importance of heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better conserved and maintained site • More and better empowered locals in the area of conservation and heritage • Increased livelihoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better management and conservation of heritage in general

	<p>nursery sheds at learning institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• promotion of pollinators friendly crops• capacity building on use of ecological and biological pests control systems• Promote alternative livelihoods• Market the estuary as a tourist destination• create awareness on basic environmental issues			
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Table 2: Institutions/Organizations and Research Areas

Institution/Organization	Area of Research
Kenya Wildlife Service	Wildlife conservation and management
Kenya Wildlife Training Institute	Wildlife and Environment and tourism management
Kenya Forest Service	Forest management, conservation and sustainability
Kenya Forest Research Institute	Forestry studies- productivity, biodiversity and social-economic studies
Nature Kenya	Biodiversity, conservation, sustainability and community social-economic studies
A Rocha Kenya	Wildlife ecological monitoring and community outreach
University of South Florida	History and Archaeology research
Pwani University	History, Archaeology and Tourism research
Global Primate Foundation	Primatology and social impact assessment
University of Nairobi	History and Archaeology research
New York University	Planning and Architecture
Bio-ken Snake Farm Kenya	Conservation and promotion of Reptiles
National Museums of Kenya	Archaeology, Anthropology, Heritage, Architecture, History, Biodiversity, Community Studies, Traditional/Oral History
Zamani project, University of Cape Town	Digitization, Mapping and Documentation

A number of researchers have raised issues related to the site's abandonment, hinterland connections, and development and decline of the Swahili City States. In view of this the following is an overview of current archaeological focus.

Ongoing and planned archaeological research at Gedi and its hinterland

New research perspectives suggest that climate instability affected societies from the ground up, by weakening the health of populations. The proposed research at Gedi will examine the role of climate change and its impact on health, food security, and disease over the last 1000 years. During this period complex city-states, such as Gedi, arose as hubs of international trade networks until the 17th century when they were abandoned. What were the causes of Swahili state collapse? The planned research will excavate pit latrines, wells, middens, and tombs from the site and study human remains and waste, bio-artifacts and ecofacts to determine cultural and ecological factors that contributed to the decline and eventual abandonment of Gedi. NMK and its partners have carried out preliminary excavations which yield a wealth of information on diet, paleo-disease, and other markers of health. These data have confirmed the need for investigating the role of climate change and environmental degradation in Gedi's collapse.

Goals and Objectives

Research at Gedi will integrate the archaeology, hydrology, ethnography, and genetics to determine how the residents of the city-state of Gedi, their hinterland neighbors, and by extension the people of the Swahili coast, coped with the period between 1400-1750, during which their once great urban civilization weakened and became vulnerable to internal and external invasions and conquest. What measures did the residents of Gedi take to address the crisis they faced?

To answer these questions, it is proposed: (1) conduct targeted excavations at wells, latrines, tombs, and middens; (2) secure a series of cores in the regions in order to map the ecological history of the region; (3) carry out extensive oral ethnographic interviews with descendant communities (4) secure samples for a DNA extraction and identification of parasites as proxy for identifying the types of diseases that Gedi residents coped with during its 500- year history.

Excavations and coring will document the successive horizons of settlement level: house floors, middens, wells, latrines at the microlevel to identify different kinds of sediments that accumulated during the history of the site. To address state collapse, there will be systematic seeking of information on environmental variability, depopulation, resilience, and disease agents. Studies have increasingly integrated archaeology and genetics to address the relationship between environmental and ecological deterioration and human coping mechanism (e.g., Mitchell 2017). The proposed research at Gedi is amongst the first in East Africa to address impacts of climate changes, famine, and disease on daily life that include family life, trust, networks, warfare etc. The research will involve carrying out extensive ethnographic interviews with local communities, including Mijikenda, Orma, Swahili, and Waata elders. Despite rapid changes in everyday life, Waata communities still hold enormous knowledge on environmental sustainability. NMK and its partners believe Waata ways of life hold key principles governing hunting, gathering, and code of which animals to bring down both during good and hard times. A special research unit will be devoted on Waata ethnoarchaeology and will be set up at Gedi site.

Table 3: Types of evidence to be collected at Gedi and its hinterland.

Evidence Type	Where to be found	What it means
Disease Microbes	Desiccated and dissolved fecal in latrines, soil samples, wells, and human and animal remains	Health and Disease
aDNA	Skeletal remains and microbe remains	Identity, Genetic disposition to disease , parasites
Plant remains	Core samples, middens, trenches	Climate, biota, subsistence
Animal remains	Core samples, middens, trenches	Climate, biota, subsistence, disease
Human microbe	Core samples	Environmental,
Ethnographic	Archival and ethnographic interviews	Responses to climate change, disease, famine

Going forward, the State Party of Kenya will call upon ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN and UNESCO World Heritage Centre to continue working and collaborating with the State Party to enhance the sites protection and management for the benefit of humanity.

INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

ICOMOS notes the importance of interpretation for the future of the conservation and presentation of Gedi and recommends that an interpretation strategy should be a priority if the nominated property is inscribed on the World Heritage List. When it is fully developed, this strategy should include the modalities of communication, but also the thematic framework, including the importance and layout of Gedi, the exchanges and operations of the Swahili trading networks, the spatial expression of the social stratification of the town, and evidence of fusion between African and other cultural influences. ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide additional information on current plans and progress toward an interpretation strategy.

RESPONSE

The State Party is in agreement with ICOMOS in the importance of interpretation for the current and future of the conservation and presentation of Gedi. The State Party also is in agreement with the areas identified by ICOMOS that the strategy should focus on that inkling among others “the modalities of communication, the thematic framework, including the importance and layout of Gedi, the exchanges and operations of the Swahili trading networks, the spatial expression of the social stratification of the town, and evidence of fusion between African and other cultural influence”. A heritage interpretation strategy being key determinant of how clear the heritage values and historical themes at the site are communicated is a basic requirement. The State Party has therefore for a long time had an active education and public communication department, which lays down procedures and standards for communication.

Interpretation has been an ongoing activity with continuous improvement of site presentation through time. Interpretation has been evolving with time, and therefore the State Party agrees to develop a formalized interpretation strategy in line with ICOMOS guidance and recommendation that shall include planning on the best means of understanding and presentation of Gedi, to enhance visitor experience. Among aspects to be emphasized will be portraying Gedi as an

outstandingly Swahili settlement, with its rich history, development and decline, its central place in terms of position of trade and enabling intra-regional movement of people which led to increased interchange of human values. It will also include Gedi's siting offshore unlike most other Swahili city states which were located closer to the sea, or on islands adjacent to mainland, its connection to the hinterland, and all other attributes that are presented at the site.

The present interpretation will be enhanced to showcase the sites heritage, historical and archaeological values since the 1940s, when it was first documented, to the present. Being one of the earliest excavated sites in Kenya, it will also commemorate and celebrate the African/indigenous Kenya archaeologists whose roles and names are still absent from the archeological archives, especially those who were part of the excavations at the site.

Further if the nominated property is inscribed on the World Heritage List, the NMK will invest adequate resources and put place a robust multimedia presentation and continually update the same to reach a wider public through virtual access using the available and most current technologies. Developments in multimedia interpretation will be informed by well researched and detailed work emanating from the broad areas of the site's attributes.

The National Museums of Kenya is currently working under a new Strategic Plan covering the period from 2023-2027. Under this Strategic Plan, and as established in the Performance Contract for 2023/24, NMK has committed to, among others, enhance modernization and access to sites. This incorporates enhancement of access and visibility of the Archeological and Historic Town of Gedi site through the development of outdoor signage and information, education and communication materials. The short term target is to enhance outdoor signage by June 2024.

Long term targets in the Strategic Plan 2023-2027 shall include:

- Enhanced Multimedia use- use of virtual reality tours, interactive 3D models, QR code text option, jig-saw puzzles of site maps, sound recordings for blind visitors, radio and TV shows.
- Community engagement- The communities in Gedi take an active role in site interpretation when tour guiding visitors. They have been continuously updated and empowered with new findings to pass the information to visitors.

- Open door policy where all visitors will be given fair consideration especially in the sense of affirmative action for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) considerations
- Enhanced community engagements for conservation, site management, exhibition and promotion of local cultures.
- Standardization of signages and exhibition texts design in line with NMK's requirements
- Website dedicated to the property and its accessibility parameters
- Dissemination of research findings in the diverse areas of research on the property.

Implementation of the long-term strategies shall be budgeted for and implemented within the next 5 years as per the Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

ICOMOS notes that the conservation approach is outlined in the management plan but considers that a detailed conservation management plan should be developed to further strengthen the management system and the planned capacity building initiatives. It is envisaged that this would include a more detailed outline of the approach to restoration, use of materials, vegetation management, and maintenance of above-ground elements. ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide a response to this suggestion, including a realistic estimate of the timeframe for completion following the potential inscription on the World Heritage List.

RESPONSE

The State Party, through the National Museums of Kenya has over the years had a tradition of efficiently managing its numerous and abundant heritage spread all over the country. These also include built heritage by which among other strategies it has recognized and over the years engaged traditional craftsman skilled in the unique building and restoration techniques. This has worked well and as a result of the same, the State Party of Kenya boasts of huge array of built heritage including towns like Mombasa and Lamu. However, the State Party also agrees with ICOMOS on the need for a detailed conservation management plan in addition to the present management plan, that would further strengthen the management system and the planned capacity building initiatives. The process of developing a conservation management plan is in place and whose overall objective is to ensure the sustainability and even enhance the OUV of

the property including its authenticity and integrity through proper management system and tools.

A process to realize the same has been put in motion and experts involved include archaeologists, anthropologists, biodiversity experts, educationists, ecologists, other partners and the local community, among others

The objectives of the Conservation Management Plan are :

- a. to identify the attributes and plan for their conservation based of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Gedi;
- b. to set out policies and strategies for the management and conservation of the physical attributes of Gedi that contribute to the OUV;
- c. to prescribe a maintenance programme for the built heritage;
- d. consider sustainability of community projects such as butterfly farming and bee keeping.

The main goal of the Gedi Conservation Management Plan shall be the protection and enhancement of the property's OUV through the maintenance of its archaeological, historical, architectural and biodiversity characteristics and values and the strengthening of its conservation management system including the provision of adequate and relevant human and resource capacity.

Table 4. Recommended priority actions

Action	Specific action	In place/ Ongoing	Urgent	Necessary	Desirable
1. Enforce NMK research and collections policy	Pre and post approval of research projects and their implementation	√			
	Regulation of access to Gedi for			√	

	research and related activities				
	Archiving of Gedi's research data in the NMK's centralized integrated research data management system			√	
	Maintenance of an inventory of all research outputs at Gedi.	√			
	Issuance of approvals for transfer of collections and research materials from Gedi to other institutions	√			
	Monitoring ongoing research activities to ascertain ethical compliance			√	
	Address issues related to ownership and management of intellectual property			√	
2. Maintenance programme development for Gedi	Documentation through photography of sections in need of	√			

monuments	repair				
	Preparation of bill of quantities for the requisite repair works			√	
	Repair of walls of cracked/collapsed walls	√			
	Removal of vegetative growth on walls	√			
	Pruning and clearing of bushes near the walls		√		
	Removal of trunks on walls			√	
	Removal and clearing of debris from the wells				√
	Reinforcement of the wells guard rails		√		
	Repair of broken section of the perimeter fence			√	
3.Tackling poaching menace	De-snaring and removal of illegal bush meat traps				√
Sustainable development programmes	Enhancing Gedi community based projects as per the			√	

	NMK Strategic Plan 2023-2027				
4.Climate monitoring	Monitoring of weather			√	
5. Risk preparedness	Preparation of a disaster risk preparedness plan			√	
6. Appropriate materials and technical skills required	Repair of the walls shall be done by qualified traditional Swahili stone masons employing coral materials(lime and mortar) used in the past.			√	
7.Compliance with statutory requirements	Contracting of the mason shall follow NMK procurement policy and the repair works shall observe the provisions of the Heritage Act and UNESCO and ICOMOS guidance on the same			√	
8.Monitoring	Continuous Assessment of the site's condition			√	
9.Mitigation against potential	Conducting Heritage Impact			√	

damage	Assessments before any infrastructural development at the or its buffer zone is done				
10.Reporting	Reports on any damage to the site				

It is envisaged that a detailed conservation management plan as recommended by ICOMOS will be finalized in December 2024 with the involvement of various stakeholders listed above and that include local community representatives, NGOs, anthropologists, educationists, archeologist, other partners, and ecologists among others.

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The nomination dossier does not specifically outline the provisions in place for Heritage Impact Assessment. ICOMOS notes the information provided during the meeting with the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel confirming that Heritage and/or Environmental Impact Assessments are carried out when developing proposals for new works. Could the State Party please provide summary information about these processes, including how these are embedded in the frameworks for legal protection and site management?

RESPONSE

The State Party of Kenya has had a long and strong legal backing on heritage protection through an Acts of Parliament dating to the early 20th Century. These have been reviewed from time to time with new laws enacted when and where necessary. The National Museums of Kenya has therefore been in the frontline for the Protection of Kenya's heritage including Gedi, that is one of the earliest declared national heritage in the country. The Gedi property is currently well conserved and will continue being managed as per the requirements of the World Heritage Convention and the State Party legal framework guiding such. As already indicated in the dossier that was submitted in January 2023, NMK guided by the legal provisions available will ensure any developments are within the legal framework.

It is important to stress that every development that goes on in the country is subjected to Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments before licensing or before the works can be issued with approval. Therefore any development in and around Gedi is subject to the Impact Assessment process. The key topic of assessment in the case of Gedi shall be geared to the safeguarding its OUV, integrity and authenticity as per the Operational Guidelines for potential and world heritage properties and well as the 1972 Convention

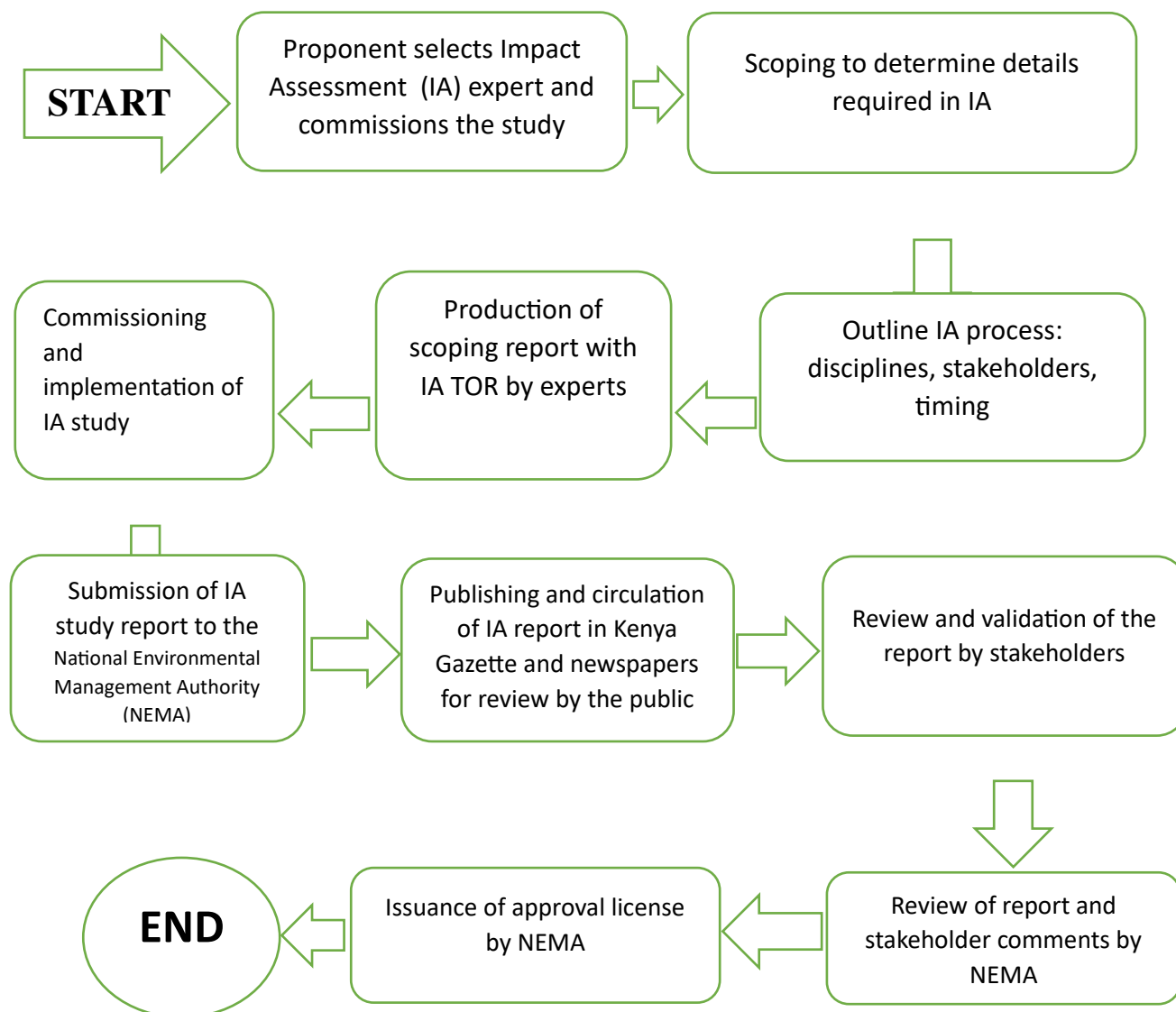
The main legal frameworks that provides for the protection of heritage against any or major developments-is the Environmental Management and Coordination Act of 1999 (EMCA) amended in 2015, National Construction Authority Act of 2011 and the National Museums and Heritage Act of 2006.

The EMCA Act prescribes the procedures and processes to be followed before any major development is started in Kenya. The Environmental (Impact Assessment and Audit) Regulations

of 2003 establishes that environmental impact studies must be carried out by a qualified expert. It defines "environment" to includes the physical factors of the surroundings of human beings including land, water, atmosphere, climate, sound, odour, taste, the biological factors of animals and plants and the social factor of aesthetics **and includes both the natural and the built environment.**

The diagram below illustrate the impact assessment processes as required by the EMCA Act.

Table 5. Impact Assessment process in Kenya



RITUAL AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

ICOMOS appreciates the recently provided additional information about the religious and other cultural practices that occur at Gedi. It is noted that people sometimes pray at the mosques, and that the local ritual practices are not considered to pose challenges to the protection or management of the nominated property. However, ICOMOS suggests that these uses could be more explicitly described in the nomination dossier and supported in the management plan. Could the State Party please provide additional information about whether this suggestion can be accommodated?

RESPONSE

The use of the site for rituals and religious practices has been an ongoing and continuous activity. Historically, the property has intermittently been used by communities as a religious, sacred site. With one, two or three individuals visiting intermittently.

Thus cases of People from as far as Malindi, Mamburi and Mombasa visiting the site for rituals and religious practices has been recorded. This however is not a formalized exercise with given dates or time for visit but depends on individuals who may wish so. The National Museums of Kenya on its part has continued to provide access to people who want to use the site for rituals and religious purposes in as much as their use do not pose challenges to its protection, conservation and management.

It is considered that the association of the property with ritual partakers and other religious activity gives the community a sense of belonging, identity and purpose. Rituals are part of the community's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of which they are at liberty to perform as long as it does not interfere with others freedom or negatively impact on the attributes of the property. It is the opinion of the State Party that continued enactment and valorization of the rituals and other religious practices within the site brings the site closer to the community and provides for its enhanced respect and protection. Since these visitors are not at the site every day (and are only sporadic) not coming in numbers, their occasional visits pose no threat or challenge to the site management.

It is therefore, of a great value, that the property continues to attract attention and get desired protection and enhanced of its various and multi layered values drawing the same from many of the UNESCO Conventions including 1972 World Heritage Convention and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage among others. The aspects of Intangible Cultural Heritage will be reviewed in the management plan to appropriately accommodate ICOMOS advice.

Annex 1:Additional information on comparative analysis presented in a table format

Swahili sites in Kenya	Attributes	Comparison remarks
Gedi itself with its attributes	<p>-Swahili urbanism- town planning <i>mitaa</i></p> <p>Town plan, nuclear layout, social stratification influence on town planning</p> <p>-Town gates</p> <p>-Offshore town</p> <p>-Spirituality</p> <p>-Archaeology-trade materials, built fabric locked in time-</p> <p>Architecture, building techniques (wainscoted walls, thick walls), distinct lavatory designs, arched doorways, building materials (coral rag, lime, timber, clay),</p> <p>-Water engineering-ground and rain water management, proliferation of wells, soak pits, sumps to drain away storm water</p>	Gedi richly exhibits these attributes in one space more than any other site
Lamu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Town situated on the Indian Ocean Shore • Swahili Urbanism-Town planning • Town plan-Linear urban structure • Building plan-open courtyards, • Built fabric-Coral stone and mangrove timber, • Simplicity of structural forms • Lamu had a protective fort while • Spirituality 	While Lamu is a living town with many challenges but intact architectural heritage, Gedi is no longer inhabited and retains its intactness. While Lamu is located on an island, Gedi is an inland settlement set a couple of kilometres away from the Indian Ocean, a truly unique feature for such a large and complex Swahili town. Gedi's town plan is in a nuclear layout, with guardrooms built at each gate along the town wall.

		Gedi also had spiritual importance including the use of the long abandoned monumental structures.
Kilwa	<p>Architecture,</p> <p>Building material -Coral rag, lime</p> <p>Building techniques.</p> <p>Kilwa has no trace of town walls, sumps, sunken courts and archways into buildings</p> <p>A large palace</p> <p>A large Mosque</p> <p>Located in two distinct areas</p>	<p>Traces of walls remain-Gedi's floor plan and original heights of walls are clear.</p> <p>Kilwa has inhabitants in its precincts but Gedi is a forested with large concentration of monuments since its abandonment</p> <p>Kilwa is devoid of <i>mitaa</i> as is evident in Gedi</p> <p>Both have large mosques and large palaces although the Kilwa one has what has been referred to as 'swimming pool'.</p> <p>Gedi is concentrated in one unit rather than the two divisions in Kilwa</p>
Sanje ya Kati	<p>Few traditional Swahili buildings</p> <p>Watch towers at the site</p>	<p>Gedi is more elaborate in representation of Swahili town set up and is well conserved</p> <p>Gedi had town gates instead of water towers.</p>
Manda	<p>The site is suitable in comparing and contrasting with Gedi based on site-specific needs and challenges that informed the choice for their different technology and</p>	<p>Gedi's setting away from the sea dictated its different design and construction</p>

	<p>designs</p> <p>Manda depicts the Swahili technology in responding to sea waves as it faced the sea. It had massive sea walls- (mega-walls and maxi-walls) due to its location facing the open sea.</p>	<p>Gedi contrasts with Manda in that it is set on a relatively flat terrain and away from the shores. To overcome the challenge of water paddling during torrential rains, Gedi planners designed sumps on the streets to drain off storm water</p>
Pate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Town with a city wall like Gedi -Built fabric-Most of the ancient structures within the town walls have been lost -The site is within a living community which presents challenges in its conservation. Gedi is preserved in time -Town gates: Both sites are also known for their gates and while Pate has 9 Gedi has 5 major and several smaller ones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Both towns had city walls -Both sites are also known for their gates and while Pate has 7 identified, Gedi has 5 major and several smaller ones -Both sites also exhibit evidence of intricate interior plaster designs such as niches -Unlike Gedi the location of Pate is at the waterfront in an island unlike Gedi which is inland -Overall, Ged's structures are more visible, present, intense and well preserved.
Takwa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Buildings with courtyards and galleries -Much smaller settlement compared to Gedi -Both were abandoned in 17th Century 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Gedi monument are better preserved, elaborate, and large in size
Shanga	<p>Size: 15 hectares</p> <p>Religious buildings- sequence of buildings with details of</p>	<p>Gedi presents overriding layers of occupation and history of</p>

	<p>early advent of Islam</p> <p>Shanga is key to the history of early Islamic settlements in East Africa.</p> <p>Age: dated from dating from the ninth century,</p> <p>Shanga's monuments are not as preserved as in Gedi</p>	<p>conflict and climate change impacts leading to her abandonment in the 17th century</p> <p>Gedi has more standing structures than Shanga</p>
Siyu	<p>Size : 22 hectares</p> <p>Town wall with bastions for guards erected at regular intervals which differs from the guardrooms found at each entrance of the town wall at Gedi.</p> <p>Both sites have acquired spiritual values where the locals and people from afar frequent the sites seeking spiritual help</p> <p>Very few structural remains at the site.</p>	<p>Comparably Gedi 's structural remains stand out more with much of its construction works preserved in fuller detail.</p>
Ungwana	<p>Friday mosque with rare masonry Minbar</p> <p>The Friday mosques of Gedi and Ungwana are provided with elaborate ablution blocks and served by well-articulated water systems</p> <p>Ungwana's abandonment is placed at about 17th Century CE making it one of the closest sites in terms of period of occupation with Gedi</p>	<p>Friday Mosque of Gedi stands out in design and size</p> <p>The Friday Mosque of Gedi is still in use having acquired new values for traditional rituals by the local inhabitants. Therefore, Gedi has sacred values that have enormously contributed to its preservation. Gedi has also been much more researched and present a well defined chronology of Swahili towns from around the 12th/13th centuries to the 17th Century</p>
Mwana	<p>Town layout-Mwana consists of numerous permanent stone structures that may have been constructed beyond the confines of the settlement.</p>	<p>Gedi houses are within the confines of the two town walls with the exception of the mud</p>

	Setting: Mwana is located on a high ground behind sand dunes	and thatch structures outside and now not visible. Gedi is situated on an inland location and has representation of more houses than Mwana
Al-Famau	The site is on the landward side of the coastal dunes of Bwawaya in present day County of Lamu in Kenya. The Site is estimated to be from the 16th -century and abandoned in the 18th century. It consists of a mosque, a graveyard, a standing wall, and a hill covered with many potsherds. The site is in a poor state of conservation.	The site is a few kilometers from the sea. Much of the settlement has been lost and the site has not been extensively researched. The site is currently invisible and require more investigation.
Kimbo	Kimbo, is located on a channel lined by mangroves. The undulating ground and ceramic scatters indicate a settlement area. Two wells, one of which has a long conduit extending from it, presumably to a mosque, of which nothing remains. There is a cistern nearby, not related to the conduit or, probably, to the mosque. In the bottom is a Chinese blue and white bowl with a blue line around the rim and a bare circle in the bottom.	Kimbo is a much smaller settlement of less economic significance compared to Gedi. Most of the site's attributes have been lost due vandalism.
Kiponozi	Kiponozi is located south of Karaweni Swamp at the end of Mto wa Kimbo. The most notable structure at Kiponozi is a very large mosque that once had very high walls, which have now mostly fallen. In front of the great mosque are several large tombs, one of which has a tombstone that rises over 2 metres on top of the wall. Nearby is a smaller mosque, completely broken down except for a plain apse, slightly pentagonal in plan.	Compares well to Gedi in terms of the mosques but almost all the residential structures are covered by thick bush and are in accessible. Gedi also has a larger concentration of tombs than Kiponozi
Shaka	Shaka is located along the edge of the present beach, about 4.5 kilometres from Ungwana. The ruins consist of	Much smaller than Gedi and even though has a unique dome

	<p>mosques, numerous houses represented by mounds of rubble, tombs and wells - all surrounded by a wall. This site is smaller compared to sprawling Ungwana and Mwana, covering between 10 and 12 acres. The only mosque may have been a double mosque, as at Ungwana. The most notable architectural structures of Shaka are tombs</p>	<p>mosque it is much smaller than the grand mosque of Gedi.</p>
Mnarani	<p>Located on a knoll along Kilifi creek, Mnarani is one of the Coastal East Africa most fascinating historical and archaeological site. The site was established in the early 14th Century and Archaeological findings indicate that the site had some settlement until the late 17th Century.</p> <p>It has a unique indigenous forest patch within the site; remaining structures include a Mosque, wells, mounds of fallen structures</p>	<p>Was a much smaller settlement compared to Gedi. Mnarani has perhaps the tallest pillar tomb on the Kenyan coast. The town is unique sitting on a knoll compared to Gedi that is further inland.</p>
Jumba la Mtwana	<p>Jumba la Mtwana (<i>Swahili; House of slaves</i>) The town is located about 15 km north of Mombasa on the Kenyan coast and according to studies was occupied between the 14th and the 16th century. The site is in a tropical woodland that characterizes most of the Kenyan coastal waterfront. The site comprises of several mosques, residential buildings, tombs and wells.</p>	<p>It compares well with Gedi in terms of styles and designs of mosques, houses and tombs. Its integrity has been lost compared to Gedi. This is mostly due to new homes that surround it.</p>
Ishakani	<p>Size:</p> <p>Ishakani is a remnant 14th century Swahili settlement situated 60 km north of Lamu Island on Northern Kenyan coast. It is located by the sea and is surrounded by a town wall which is lime-plastered</p> <p>The monuments consist mainly of a group of tombs and two mosques located both inside and outside the town</p>	<p>It compares well with Gedi in terms of the tomb designs. However, the residential house and their designs have been lost</p>

	<p>wall. Some of the tombs are unparalleled with sides consisting of alternating plain panels and abstract patterns carved with precision and a remarkable sense of design making them unique along the East African Coast.</p>	
Dondo	<p>Dondo is located on the mainland within the Dodori Creek. There are two mosques, two distinct cemeteries, and a stone house. Some have claimed Portuguese presence at Dondo.</p> <p>The tombs of Dondo include numerous structures tightly clustered on the hill.</p>	<p>Very few domestic and religious structures remain. The integrity of the site is greatly compromised.</p>
Swahili towns in Tanzania		
Stone Town of Zanzibar	<p>Criteria ii,iii,vi</p> <p>Size: 122 hectares</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coral rag masonry, thick mortar consisting of lime, earth and sand covered in lime plaster and lime wash. Like in Gedi these basic construction techniques were used. -However, Zanzibar is vastly transformed and has no or little significant evidence of the pre 17th century Swahili urban attributes -In this regard, most traditional Swahili buildings in Zanzibar were transformed especially from the 19th century characterized by extrovert designs with first introduction of Omani style architectural attributes, later by Indian and British influences such as balconies and shop front buildings. -The new colonial architecture was introduced including 	<p>Criteria- ii, iii, iv</p> <p>Size: 43 hectares</p> <p>Gedi has exemplified evidence of the pre 17th century Swahili urban attributes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Gedi exhibit a difference in the intention of its location by avoiding the norm at the time of building Swahili towns on the edge of the sea or in islands but also in its town planning. Gedi also is not inhabited like Zanzibar that is now a city with all the pressures associated with the same. And while Gedi is much more intact Swahili town,

	<p>Saracenic or Moorish features borrowed from Turkey and Morocco</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The town has new techniques of storied buildings, suspended balconies and elaborate facades that define the post 18th century urban character of Zanzibar that almost completely erased the traditional layout of single-story building traditions. -The urban infrastructure of Zanzibar is quite modern with stairways, fountains, and vistas 	<p>Zanzibar is a combination of Swahili, Asian and European architecture.</p>
Muhembo	<p>Muhembo is a Swahili settlement located in northern part of Pangani District of Tanga Region, Tanzania. The site is home to Swahili monuments that still requires substantial archaeological research. The major monuments include remains of a <u>mosque</u> and a few monuments in state of disrepair. Outside and immediately northeast of the mosque, on the same low mound, are coral walls that appear to be residential buildings. Coral fragments are also found in other locations on the site, that together, show that Muhembo was inhabited from the 14th/15th to the seventeenth/eighteenth centuries.</p>	<p>The integrity of the old town of Muhembo has been lost and therefore, it is of little significance</p>
Kaole	<p>The site is located three miles east of the historic city of Bagamoyo on the Indian Ocean coast. The area contains old Swahili coral stone monuments dating to a period between the 13th century and the 16th century. Some of the monuments date back to the 13th century and consist of two mosques and 30 tombs.</p> <p>The tombs have religious significance for the locals to the present as people perform rituals at the site.</p>	<p>Some of the tombs at Kaole have pillars like those of Gedi but their number are more in Kaole. However, in terms of representation of religious building the site have far much less compared to Gedi. It is been reported that most of the residential buildings were mostly constructed of wattle and daub making them less</p>

		<p>durable than the stone mosques and tombs.</p>
Kunduchi	<p>Kunduchi is a Swahili settlement located in Kinondoni District of Dar es Salaam Region in Tanzania. There is an excavated 15th-century mosque on the site. An 18th-century cemetery with the biggest collection of pillared tombs numbering about 40 decorated with porcelain plates some of which have been identified as belonging to the Ming era . Like all other Swahili settlements, there is a rich representation of Chinese porcelain that would indicate the town's affluence and its trading connections beyond Africa.</p> <p>A mosque and the numerous tombs built around the fourteenth century are still well represented even though other structural remains of domestic houses have been lost.</p>	<p>Despite the numerous tombs at the site, its other structures have been lost.</p>
Mbuamaji	<p>The site has not been extensively researched and documented. However, it includes destroyed homes, tombs, wells, and an old mosque that is still used on Fridays. The Mbuamaji site was probably inhabited from the 15th century. Archaeological evidence has shown that the site was relatively important Swahili settlement.</p>	<p>Despite its historical importance, most of its residential houses have been lost.</p>
Kwale Island	<p>Kwale Island also known as Kuvala Island is a historic site located in Kisiju ward of Mkuranga District in southern Pwani Region of Tanzania. Studies have shown that the extreme eastern tip, which is around three hectares, had been designated for burial, a mosque, and a port since the 14th century AD. The area that is currently settled is further inland.</p>	<p>There is little information on the site and nothing much remains at this site .</p>

Tongoni	<p>The Tongoni Monuments (<i>Magofu ya kale ya Tongoni</i> in Swahili) are a 15th century Swahili monuments of a mosque and forty tombs located in Tongoni ward in Tanga District, Tanga Region of Tanzania. The largest and possibly most significant Swahili site in Tanzania is Tongoni, which is located 25 km north of the Pangani River.</p> <p>Overlooking Mtangata Bay, about forty standing tombs and a Friday mosque occupy a third of a hectare.</p>	<p>The Site has a higher density tombs compared to Gedi.</p> <p>However, the site has lost most of its attributes including house and mosque</p>
Kua	<p>Located on Juani Island in the Mafia Archipelago, the Kua ruins are all that remains from a medieval Swahili town. They offer insight into an island civilization that saw Portuguese and Omani control as well as independence, enslavement, and eventual abandonment. The surviving structures at Kua include the ruins of residences, mosques, and what is believed to have been the sultan's palace. Building materials include coral, lime, and wood, with mangrove and thatched roofs. Many of the standing ruins could collapse at any time, while the site as a whole is threatened by the continued effects of a harsh climate and destruction at the hands of explorers digging for fabled Swahili treasures.</p>	<p>Kua is an island city located on the water front and many of the ruins at the site consist of enclosed was unlike Gedi which contains a higher number of intricate constructions and mosques. Gedi is also a much larger town and its palace complex is much larger and more sophisticated with a labyrinth of rooms , courtyards and numerous toilets. Majority of Kua residents utilized external communal latrines.</p>
Other sites		
Great Zimbabwe	<p>Size 722 Ha</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Criteria ii, iii vi Architecture, -Configuration of the settlement, -Building materials -Dry-stone walling construction techniques 	<p>Size: 43 ha</p> <p>Criteria: ii, iii, iv</p> <p>The attributes of Gedi including but not limited to its Swahili architecture, configuration of town, building materials,</p>

	These are Shona cultural tradition that evolved independently in the region and beyond.	building technique are all different
Historic Town of Zabid	<p>Criteria ii,iv,vi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Military architecture and urban plan - Enclosed by a protective town wall with a series of gates -Important centre in the Arab and Muslim world from 7th century -Setting: on a rise above a river junction and a fertile flood plain -Circular fortified town with four remaining gates -Town supplied with water through extensive canals 	<p>Criteria: ii, iii, iv</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Swahili settlement -Also enclosed by a protective town wall with a series of gates -Setting on a low area -important trade centre -Water supplied by numerous wells - Elaborate storm water disposal system devised to drain away courtyards and streets
Ancient City of Qalhat	<p>Criteria ii, iii</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Qalhat is similar to Gedi in terms of the time of occupation and abandonment, building techniques and materials used for construction. -However, the Friday mosques is the only building that is still standing on site. 	<p>Criteria: ii, iii, iv</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Conservation of the Gedi monuments is superior -Gedi stands high in the ranks of towns with Islamic heritage

Annex 2

Maps with details of the attributes

MAP SHOWING DETAILS OF THE ELEMENTS IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE HISTORIC TOWN AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF GEDI



MAP SHOWING DETAILS OF THE ELEMENTS IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE HISTORIC TOWN AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF GEDI

