

**CONSERVATION CHALLENGES FACING THE HERITAGE OF MAMA
NGINA DRIVE PUBLIC PARK, MOMBASA**

BY
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AWARD OF POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THE MANAGEMENT OF
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DECLARATION

I, Pumeza Mandela do hereby declare that this research project is a result of my study and findings, except where acknowledged. This study must not be submitted for a Postgraduate Diploma in any other University.

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DEDICATION

I humbly dedicate this work to my parents, Evelyn Mandela and Leonard Mandela and to my late brothers, Lulama, Lungelo and Pumzile as well as my nieces Gcobisa, Yamkela, Babalwa and Somila. I also dedicate this work to my friends for their kind support during my stay in Mombasa.

TABLE OF CONTENT

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background information	1
1.2 Statement of the problem	4
1.2.1 Introduction	4
1.3 Problem statement	5
1.4 Research Objectives	6
1.4.1 General Objective	6
1.4.2 Specific Objectives	6
1.5 Justification of the research	7
1.6 Scope and Limitations	8
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	9
2.1 Introduction	9
2.2 Contemporary Heritage Management	9
2.3 Public Parks	13
2.4 Factors of Deterioration	14
2.5 Conceptual Framework	15
2.6 Assumptions	17
2.7 Definitions of Conservation terms	17
CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY	19
3.1 Introduction	19
3.2 Research site	19
3.3 Population	21
3.4 Population Universe	21
3.5 Sampling Procedure	21
3.5.1 Purposive Sampling	22

3.5.2 Quota Sampling	22
3.6 Methods of Collecting Data	22
3.6.1 Questionnaire	22
3.6.2 Key Informant	23
3.6.3 Direct Observation	24
3.6.4 Photographs	24
3.7 Ethical Issues	24
3.8 Data Analysis	25
3.9 Problem Encountered	25

CHAPTER FOUR: CONSERVATION PROBLEMS FACING THE HERITAGE OF MAMA NGINA DRIVE PUBLIC PARK

	26
4.1 Introduction	26
4.2 Primary Data	26
4.3 Purpose of the visit	27
4.4 Indigenous plant species	28
4.5 Condition of the site	29
4.6 Site Management	30
4.7 Community Involvement	31
4.8 Factors Affecting the Site	32
4.8.1 Land Grabbing	33
4.8.2 Visitor littering	34
4.8.3 Site Erosion	35
4.8.5 Driving Lessons	36
4.8.6 Car Washing	37
4.8.7 Food Vendors	37
4.8.8 Open Market	39
4.9 Natural Forces	39
4.10 Effects of the Problems	40

4.11 Challenges Faced by NMK in the Heritage management	41
4.12 Future Plans	41
CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	43
5.1 Discussion	43
5.2 Conclusion	45
5.3 Recommendations	46
5.3.1 Site Conservation	46
5.3.2 Site presentation and Safety	47
5.3.3 Community Involvement	48
5.3.4 Site Management	48
Bibliography	50
Appendix 1	52
Appendix 2	55
Appendix 3	57
Appendices	V11
List of tables	V111
List of Figures	1X
List of Plates	X
List of Map	X1
List of Abbreviations	X11
Acknowledgement	X111
Abstract	X1V

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Questionnaire	52
Appendix 2 Key Informant Museum Professionals	55
Appendix 3 Key Informant City Council	57

LIST OF TABLE

Table 5.3.4 Site Management

48

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 4.2 Sex	27
Figure 4.3 Purpose of the visits	28
Figure 4.4 Indigenous plant species	29
Figure 4.5 Condition of the visit	30
Figure 4.6 Site management	31
Figure 4.7 Community involvement	32

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 4.8.1 a) Florida Night Club	33
Plate 4.8.1 b) Mosque	34
Plate 4.8.2 a) Garbage thrown by coconut vendors	34
Plate 4.8.2 b) Garbage thrown by municipality	35
Plate 4.8.3 a) Uncontrolled foot traffic	35
Plate 4.8.3 b) Vehicle access to fragile areas	36
Plate 4.8.4 Driving Lessons	36
Plate 4.8.5 Car Washing	37
Plate 4.8.6 Food Vendors	38
Plate 4.8.7a) Human Ignorance	38
Plate 4.8.7b) Urban Development	39
4.9 Vegetation Growth	40
410 Environmental Degrading	41
4.8.11 Proposed Plan	42

LIST OF MAP

Map of Mombasa

19

ABBREVIATIONS

CRM	Cultural Resource Management
NMK	National Museums of Kenya
MCC	Mombasa City Council
ICOMOS	International Council Monuments and Sites
PMDA	Programme for Museum Development in Africa

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ABSTRACT

Cultural landscape as part of our heritage presents conservation challenges despite the current use. The role played by the community in the management of sites needed to be taken as a matter of urgency. The study also suggests measures for proper conservation to ensure the sustainability of Mama Ngina Drive Public Park for future generations.

This study was carried out at Mama Ngina Drive Public Park, which is located on the southern part of Mombasa Island. The respondents targeted were local visitors grouped in sex such as males and females aged 18 years and above. 100 respondents were purposely selected from among visitors coming from Mombasa Island and neighborhoods. A structured questionnaire was designed for the above respondents. Interviews were held with the key informants to shed light to some issues. Purposive sampling technique was applied to select the respondents. Mama Ngina Drive Public Park was purposively selected.

The study concluded that natural forces and human actions are generally the agents that can destroy a site and its values. These sources of deterioration act continuously on the site and they range from minor to major activities such as erosion, land grabbing, car washing, driving lessons, visitors littering and natural forces such as vegetation and soil erosion caused by humans. The study also concluded that the current legal provision to protect the heritage seems to be inadequate. The study recommends ways through which the community, site conservation, site presentation, safety, and site management can be overwhelmed.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information

Kenya has a rich national heritage that consists of striking monuments and sites that are found along her coast. The importance of these monuments and sites lie in the great wealth of architectural history and archeological material that is reminiscent of the cultures borne by waves of migrants who arrived on the long Indian Ocean Coast of East Africa for trading purposes. The protection of this heritage place should be a relevant consideration in a wide variety of strategic plans that are prepared at local, regional and national levels. This is because, if natural and cultural heritages are not given adequate recognition in national strategic plans, then large scale forces can overwhelm protection and management measures at the individual site level.

Thus, proper management has a powerful symbolic value and can be used to justify and promote conservation. This should include strong mandatory and workable community involvement so as to provide an administrative structure to the site that it seeks to protect. The only way of to ensure long-range preservation of a site is through continuous care as conservation is a process that never ends. According to Fielden (1998, 70), various forms of strategic planning will ensure the protection of heritage places.

Specifically, conserving and managing parks with cultural heritage resources require careful planning. This is because, conservation plans can ensure that the significance of

the place is preserved. The Bura Charter (adopted by Australian ICOMOS, 1992) states that any works to maintain and actively manage places of cultural and natural heritage significance should follow a set of conservation principles. One of these conservation principles concerns the issue of reversibility which enables one to ensure that all treatments can be reversed without any alterations. Conservation principles also revolve around respecting the fabric of existing material, least possible physical intervention, use of all disciplines which can contribute to the study, safeguarding of a place considering all aspects of a site's cultural and natural significance, and determination of appropriate conservation strategies that are compatible.

Public parks are pieces of land set apart by government to be kept in their natural state. Many parks are for recreation purposes. They allow people to relax, explore and enjoy their natural environments. Some parks are designed and equipped for specific athletic or recreational activities. On the other hand, these places have a wide range of values that local communities recognize. These values can be natural heritage ones that include the importance of ecosystem, biological diversity and geodiversity. These consist of cultural values that include spiritual, aesthetic, historic and social aspects. In cases where you have both values, the concepts of cultural landscape need to denote the interdependence between nature and culture.

Mama Ngina Drive Public Park was gazetted in 1991 as a historical monument and degazetted again in 2004 under the Antiquities and Monuments and Museum Act. The National Museums of Kenya has been given a duty by the government to safeguard this

national heritage under the Museum Act and Antiquities and Monument Act. Therefore, the value of Mama Ngina Drive Public Park cannot be over estimated. It provides an important understanding about the development of Coastal Kenyan and archeological sites.

Cultural landscape is a product of human activity over time thus is an aggregation of human -made features. Acknowledging that, cultural landscapes play an important role in the quality of life everywhere and also believing that landscapes are the key elements of individual and social well being, they need proper protection, management and planning. This entails rights and responsibilities so that everyone plays a role towards promoting the sustainable use of the cultural landscapes. According to Spennemann and Look (1994: 30), cultural landscapes such as public parks, cemeteries, memorials, residential areas, water ways and transportation corridors, can be grouped into scientific, historic, aesthetic, social and economic values. Once their histories are destroyed, they cannot be replaced, recreated or renewed. Spenneman and Look (1994) further argue that “every single site is a unique physical manifestation of ideological, technological or social practices of the society concerned”. All these elements of a site creates a unique record of the past and once destroyed cannot be renewed.

Therefore, the primary aim of conservation is to safeguard, for example, the values of public parks along with their associated cultural and natural values. Conservation ensures the protection of the material substance as well as the integrity of the park for future generations. Any new developments should broadly, speaking, conserve, retain or recover

the cultural interest of a place and respect the existing fabric. Specifically, any urban developments should not distort the evidence revealed in the fabric. A public park is an area maintained by municipal areas or any other heritage related institutions (Cramton, 1932). The government should preserve the public parks because they are national assets that exhibit outstanding, scenic, scientific and historical values. The parks should also be conserved for education purposes and tourism.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

1.2.1 Introduction

Mama Ngina Drive Public Park has a lot of both cultural and natural importance and the idea of turning the site to a public park dates back to former president arap Moi's time. This site was the Ancient settlement of Waswahili of Tauca or Wakilindini. By the 15th Century the inhabitants had divided themselves into three communities, known as Wachangwe, Wakilindini and Watangana. The three communities were the first inhabitants to occupy the town of Tauca known now as Mama Ngina Drive Public Park. Within the site, there are more than 400 years old giant baobab trees, which offer a breeding ground for rare species of grey herons. These trees were used as grave markers as well as by traditional healers for medicinal purposes. The former president gave the people of Mombasa the site. Mama Ngina Drive Public Park is an exotic sport in Mombasa and hundreds of people congregate there everyday to relax and picnic with their families. The physical condition of the site is a shared concern of many people from different

traditions, custodians, archaeologists and the general public. Therefore, with its historic significance, it should be conserved for future generations as well as research purposes.

1.3 Problem statement

Mama Ngina Drive Public Park is one of the victims of human ignorance. This is because there is a marked increase in tourism litter as well as encroachment as a result of urban developments in the area. People have turned the park into a grazing land for their goats while others use it as a ground for driving lessons. Moreover, food vendors, who have been repeatedly thrown out of the site by the municipality, have continued to invade the park and are now turning it into a slum. This beach park used to have beautiful concrete seats, but today, it looks dirty and some of the concrete seats have been broken apart. Conversely, the construction of buildings within the site is a bad precedent since these buildings are not friendly to the cultural landscape of the park. They are now blocking the view of the creek and the South Mainland as well as destroying the integrity of the park. If the construction is allowed to expand, giant baobab trees that are more than 400 years old will be eventually destroyed, yet these trees are the breeding ground for rare species of grey herons on the coastal strip of Kenya.

According to Abungu (1991), Mama Ngina Drive Public Park must be preserved for future generations and by leaving it as natural as possible, but at the same time the local people should continue to use it. If the site is not properly managed that will be the end of any future studies and it will be a great loss to humanity. ¹

¹ Daily Nation 30 April 1991

By conserving these parks, it will ensure that our cultural and historical heritage is not interfered with while enjoying it. This study will, therefore, attempt to answer the following questions.

1. What are natural factors affecting Mama Ngina Drive Public Park?
2. What are human activities affecting the park?
3. What are the effects of these problems on the site?
4. What needs to be done to address these problems?
5. What is the role of the local community in the management plan?

1.4 Objectives

1.4.1 General objective

The general objective of this study is to identify the conservation problems, with a special emphasis on environmental factors, affecting Mama Ngina Drive Public Park and the role played by the local community in the management plan and to suggest appropriate conservation measures.

1.4.2 Specific objectives

1. To investigate the natural factors affecting Mama Ngina Drive Public Park.
2. To investigate the human activities affecting the site.
3. To find out the effects of these factors on the site.
4. To find out what needs to be done to address these problems.
5. To find out the role of the communities in the management plan.

1.5 Justification of research

This study highlighted the threats to cultural and natural values of Mama Ngina Drive Public Park and provides a starting point for addressing these threats so as to enable people know the importance of conserving cultural and natural landscapes. This is because landscapes are national symbols and they also testify to our unique past as well as being a source of cultural pride and inspiration.

Therefore, the purpose of this study is to develop a shared understanding of the valued qualities of a site and its contexts with a view of encouraging public involvement in the conservation of a site. Thus, this will make the present generation able to use and appreciate its significant national heritage without compromising the significance of a site. Because of its historical significance and its contribution to the understanding of other coastal sites, coupled with threats of destruction, the park should be conserved. This is the only big public park that is left in Mombasa, hence, its conservation aims at safeguarding and protecting its values as well as ensuring its integrity for future generations. Public parks are a barometer of our ethics and how well we conserve our precious nature for recreation, tourism and historical reasons. Therefore, parkland protection is not only environmentally- friendly, but it also has the potential of helping the country's economy.

1.6 Scope and limitation

This study focuses basically on an assessment of the present physical conditions of Mama Ngina Drive Public Park and its immediate surroundings. There are several processes that pose potential threats to any site, but when describing the condition of a site, the sources of deterioration are grouped under two main headings that is natural deterioration and man-made deterioration. The natural changes taking place in the research site are causing the park conditions to change. The latter category includes uncontrolled development projects as well as the wear and tear caused by the public. This study will, therefore, focus on some of the major man-made and natural deterioration factors affecting the park. The human factors that are considered in this study are encroachment in the development and policy formulation.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents an overview of researches that have been carried out on the conservation of public parks with cultural values as well as vital issues in the conservation of sites and monuments.

2.2 Contemporary heritage Management

Contemporary heritage management philosophy has recognized that heritage places are at risk as a consequence of either human or natural factors (Ndoro, 2001). The former is more devastating than the latter. National and public parks are the storehouses of our natural, historical and cultural heritages (Pritchard, 1999:4). Preserving a public park in general promotes its recreation and historical importance. For any other issue, once a historic site or natural site is lost, it is lost forever. According to Engles (1999:12), parks should be conserved in the same manner as historic buildings. However, there is a great need for diversity in the design, management, ownership and control of public parks.

The conservation of public parks requires proper administration systems and these should be in the context of international and national laws. Protective legislation is an expression of an ideal by, or on behalf of, the society (Sullivan, 1995:67). Legislation has a powerful symbolic value and can be used to justify and promote conservation. The existence of laws on protecting sites has very important psychological effects on the site's owners and

visitors since they recognize the site as something valued and protected. Thus, legislation becomes an important management tool.

The Burra Charter provides general rules and principles applicable in conservation and preservation of a site. The method and techniques for conserving and preserving public parks, such as Mama Ngina Drive Public Park with cultural values, are enshrined within the framework of the Burra Charter and the Risk Approach (Ndoro, 2001). The concept of risk has become the cornerstone of heritage management throughout the world. There are major steps in risk management, namely, risk identification, risk estimation, risk evaluation as well as risk control and reduction (Ndoro, 2001). Risk management recognizes the link between four steps in the heritage management that include identification, documentation, assessment and monitoring. This underlines the fact that heritage management is a continuous process and not a once-off event. Effective public conservation requires proper consultations and agreed upon standards and conventions. It must be understood that specific protection and conservation strategies vary according to the context and the value associated with each site.

The only way to ensure the long-range preservation of sites is through continuous care since conservation is a process that never ends. According to Taruvunga (2004) conservation encompasses legislation that protects the site and the public or private initiatives that are required to identify, document as well as manage the sites. Therefore, heritage management is a continuous process whose ultimate goal is promoting sustainable utilization of cultural resources. Cultural Resource Management (CRM) is the

application of the management skills to preserve important aspects of cultural heritage for the benefit of the public (Fagan, 1998). The term has taken a variety of meanings including documentation, protection and management. Irrespective of which term is used, the management of cultural landscapes nowadays very become very important (Taruvinga, 2004).

According to Katana, the conservation of Mama Ngina Drive Public Park is the responsibility of the National Museums of Kenya (NMK). The NMK is an organization entrusted with safeguarding the country's national heritage under the Museum Act and the Antiquities and Monuments Act. The Museum Act empowers the NMK with the custodianship of the cultural heritage while the Antiquities and Monuments Act deals with the legal apparatus for protecting sites and monuments. In exercising that mandate, any developments that impact negatively on the conservation of a site is not accepted. Kenya is one of the countries endowed with rich heritage, which spans the existence of man from the past to the present. For local communities, some of these monuments and sites are for religious gatherings while for the government, they are political symbols and they also improve the economic status of Kenyans (Were, 2005).

Heritage is a marvelous possession that has to be enjoyed but it has to be loved and conserved with care and imagination for future generations (Brik, 1976:1). Conservation is a continuous process that never ends, it hinges on the recognition and understanding of the values associated with a site.²

² Daily Nation 28 November 2003.

The strategy of conservation should be conceived according to the principle of maintaining the authenticity of the site and its contexts (Sullivan, 1995:102). Maintenance is a preventative strategy. It is defined as a protective care and includes practical measures that are needed to keep the site and its full setting as well as in good order and condition.

The task of preserving public parks with cultural heritage entails more than the safeguarding of material elements. This means that cultural significance by definition is the spiritual, aesthetic, historic, scientific and social value of the past, present and future generations. These authentic and spiritual needs must be taken into consideration when a conservation programme is planned and implemented (Parkes, 1976). Conserving intangible values, monuments and sites requires a clear definition of the values to be preserved (Ndoro, 2001). It is clear that these values are part and parcel of the cosmology of a community. Preserving them requires the recognition and sometimes the regeneration of the context in which they were practiced or used.

Monitoring permits informed management control of all changes to the site. Monitoring is necessary to ensure that the maintenance and conservation strategy is sensitive to the physical materials and historic cultural significance of a site (ICOMOS, 1996: 20). The aim of conserving public parks is to safeguard the value, protect its material substance and ensure its integrity for the future. This can only be adhered through monitoring developments at the site, thereby, enabling intervention. One of the major aspects of conservation is the legal protection of sites and monuments, a fact that has been strongly

emphasized (Burrows, 1975 Ghaidan 1976). Acts provide and create a number of control measures for the protection of historical and cultural heritage. But these controls need to be enforced so as to ensure maximum compliance.

According to Olschowy (1976:116), landscapes should not be impaired by human influence and with the help of landscape planners; their originality should be preserved by legislative and practical measures. It may also be necessary to protect and preserve parks as natural monuments. Conservation implies preventing the existing heritage resources from destruction or change that is the action taken to prevent decay and prolong life (Fielden and Jokitetho, 1998). Sometimes conservation implies various types of treatment aimed at safeguarding the sites, buildings and historic towns. This includes maintenance, repair, consolidation and reinforcement. The policy of conservation involves making practical interventions at various scales and levels of intensity. These are determined by the physical condition, the cause of deterioration and anticipated future environment (Sullivan, 1995).

2.3 Public parks

Public Parks have been set up to promote understanding, enjoyment, conservation and enhancement of natural and cultural heritage of these areas. Public parks are also symbols and evidence of the past history and prehistory. Some public parks contain historic places that represent the important aspects of a particular event. Collectively, parks present an African textbook, a textbook that educates visitors about the people, events, buildings,

objects, landscapes and artifacts of Africa's past and present including aspirations and intangible values that produce tangible evidence. The goal of heritage institutions is to promote the sustainable use of these areas. Therefore, public parks need to be conserved because they offer a window into the historical richness of the past and the opportunity to understand who we are and where we come from.

Public Parks vary in size that is, from small neighborhood units to giant reserves that contain vast wilderness areas. Similarly, parks vary in type ranging from urban, local, state, and provincial to national government parks. A few parks are privately owned and administered. They vary in their missions, purposes and activities. But generally, the purpose of having a public park is for enjoyment and at the same time preserving its heritage for posterity.

Many people regard Public Park as grounds for eating, drinking and having fun. Thus, people do not care about the harm they inflict on nature in the process of fulfilling their self-indulgence. Without dealing with the visitor and development mindset, it will not be possible to conserve the parks. Many people think that the role of a parks authority is to pick up the garbage that the visitors throw away without care. If such mindsets remain unchanged, the management of parks will become more and more difficult. For that reason, it is necessary to conduct nation wide campaigns in order to promote a new visiting culture that respects the significance of each and every park and its settings.

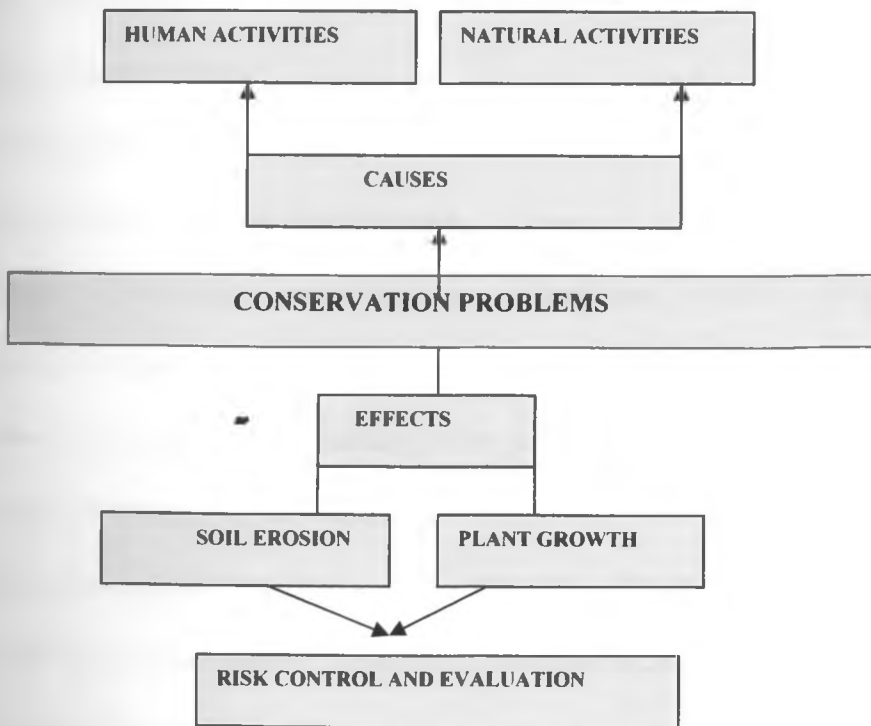
2.4 Factors of deterioration

Both Fielden (1979, 91) and Saur (2003: 13) argue that the deterioration of cultural properties is facilitated by natural and biological factors and as well as man-made ones. And Spennemann and Look (1994:13) further supports the notion that natural agents are responsible for the deterioration of cultural property. When describing the condition of a site, the sources of deterioration are grouped into natural deterioration including biological activity. Generally, man-made factors refer to marks that have been found on a site that are not usually there to keep the site in its original nature. Vandalism and looting are also some of the serious problems facing the heritage sites at present, but well-intentioned activities such as construction work can also be harmful (McIntosh, 1996:791). Sharer and Ashmore (1979) argue that almost any action that affects the surface is a threat to the record, thus, making difficult it to preserve the heritage sites. Therefore, heritage professionals have an obligation to police unethical operators, to keep charges for contract work within reasonable bounds and to develop strategies for making the public aware of the importance of cultural resource management and benefits obtained from them (Were, 2005).

2.5 Conceptual Framework

The aim of this study is to create the optimal environmental conditions and reducing risks. Maintenance requires cultural and material sensibility that governed by nature, rate and causes of decay. It aims at establishing an environment that contributes to retard to the decomposition of the material. Given that Public Park management is a very

specialized area and presents a conservation problem, appropriate conservation methods have to be employed. What makes the methods unique is the complex micro-environment of the site, implying that the diagnosis and interventions have to be specific to the problem and the set up. There are no long-term solutions, for instance, for weathering, but public park conservation aims at slowing down weathering processes and controlling or minimizing the effects of human misuse or overuse. Although there are various agents of destruction of cultural landscape, this study is trying to find out the natural factors that specifically affect the park. It refers to processes that are potential threats to the site, whether this is in the long-term or short-term. It is important to know whether these processes are impacting directly or indirectly on the significance of the site.



Conceptual framework for conservation challenges facing the heritage of Mama Ngina Drive Public Park, Mombasa.

2.6 Assumptions

- The natural factors affecting Mama Ngina Drive Public.
- The human factors affecting Mama Ngina Drive Public Park.
- Community role in the management of parks.

2.7 Definitions of conservation terms

Public Park: piece of land set apart by the government for the benefit, enjoyment of the people and to allow the public to relax, explore and enjoy their natural environment.

Sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man and a reas including archeological sites which are outstanding in universal value from historical, aesthetic and anthropological points of view

Cultural landscape: a testimony of the harmonious interaction between nature and human interventions over a long period of time.

Heritage place: a specific area, site or landscape or small area, which is valued by people for its natural or cultural heritage.

Conservation: the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its heritage significance and to prolong its life existence.

Preservation: measures necessary to keep the site in its existing state.

Maintenance: protective care that includes all practical and technical measures that are needed to keep the site and in its full setting in good order and condition.

Protection: the physical protection of historic sites in order to ensure their security from environment attack and visual intrusion.

Conservation plan: a systematic way of considering, recording and monitoring actions and decisions relating to all the aspects of managing a site.

Management: the conservation and protection of cultural landscape and the enhancement of features of special value.

Condition: an attempt to capture critical characteristics of a site at a particular point in what is a constant process of change operating on a site.

Natural significance: the importance of the ecosystem, biological diversity and geodiversity for their existence value for present and future generations.

Cultural significance: spiritual, aesthetic, historic, scientific and social value of the parks for the past, present and future generations.

Aesthetic value: the place, which has natural or cultural features, which are inspirational or evokes strong or special meanings and its use.

Historic values: a place, which has historic value because it has been influenced by an historic figure, event or activity.

Scientific value: the importance of data involved on its rarity and on the degree to which the place contributes further substantial information.

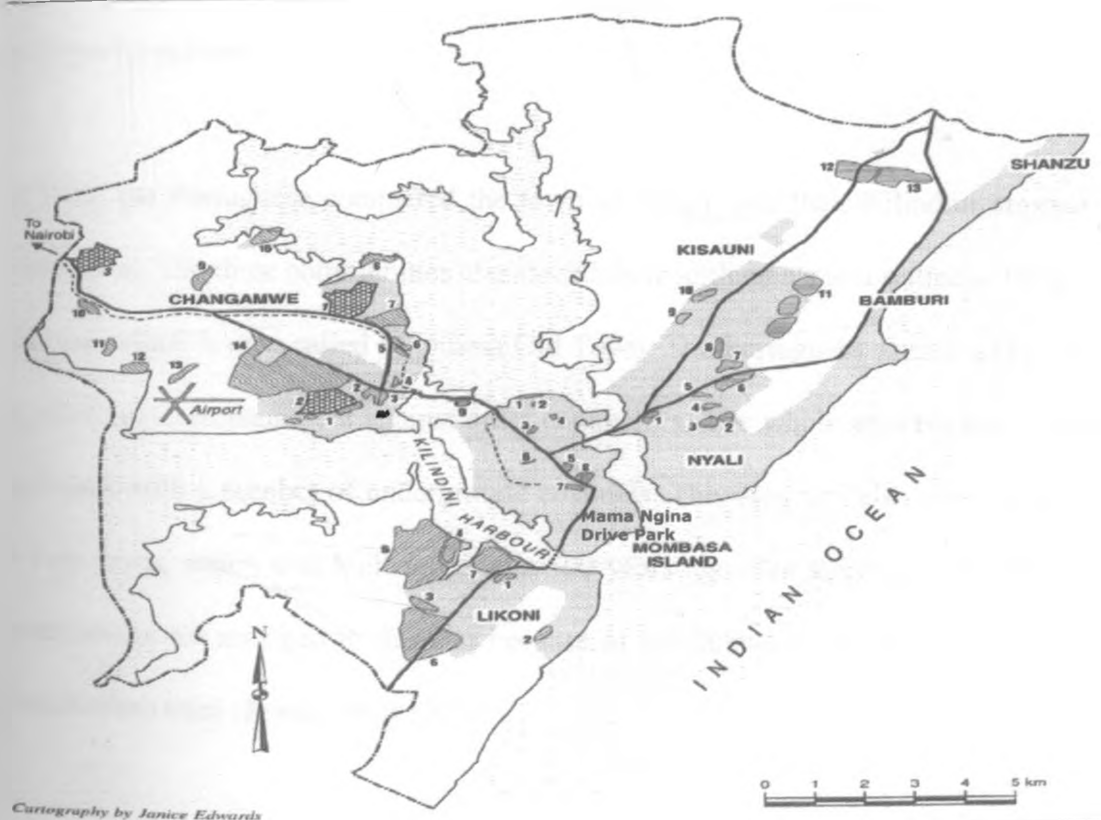
CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides information regarding the research site. The population and sample are defined. Sampling design for the respondents will be also described. It also explains the data collection methods that were used in collecting the data, analysis and ethical issues.

3.2 Research site: Mama Ngina Drive Public Park, Mombasa.



3.2 Map of Mombasa

Mama Ngina Drive Public Park is located on the southern part of Mombasa Island under Mombasa Island Division. It is 5 kms away from Mombasa Old Town, which was known as Gavana town. This site was the Ancient settlement of Waswahili of Tauca or Kilindini. By the 15th century the inhabitants had divided themselves into three communities, known as Wachangmwe, Wakilindini and Watangana. The three communities were the first inhabitants to occupy the town of Tauca known now as Mama Ngina Drive Public Park. A mosque and the Pillar were constructed to serve the communities. The Mbaraki pillar is still used even today especially by women. The women visit the Pillar and offer sacrifices in the belief that they will attain fertility. Within the site, there are more than 400 years old giant baobab trees, which offer a breeding ground for rare bird species of grey heron. These trees were used as grave markers as well as by traditional healers for medicinal purposes.

In 1953, the Portuguese conquered the town of Tauca, and their Kilindini mosque was bombarded. The three communities abandoned their settlements and settled at the town of Gavana, which is now called Mombasa Old Town. The Portuguese started using the area as a defensive embankment against other conquerors. The whole area became a military landscape with a number of underground channels. This area was also used as an access to Fort Jesus, which was built more than 500 years ago. But spiritually, the three local communities are attached to this site because of the human remains buried beneath the giant baobab trees (Jewel, 1976:120).

3.3 Population

The population consists of both females and males who visit the park. Both females and males are defined as residents of Mombasa, its neighboringhood and other parts of Kenya. .The study comprised of park visitors including both males and females aged 18 years and above. The study sample also comprised museum professionals and parks officers.

3.4 Population universe

A maximum of 100 visitors were interviewed. The target group is the people who visiting the park and interviews were conducted individually.

3.5 Sampling procedure

Mombasa has more than eighty heritage sites which are open to members of the public. Mama Ngina Drive Public Park was chosen as a representative sample of other sites and monuments along the Kenyan coast. The park was purposively selected because of its history and it is the only big public park that is left in Mombasa. Respondents were interviewed when visitors leaving or relaxing in the park. A Sample of 100 respondents of equal proportion of both men and women was drawn.

3.5.1 Purposive Sampling

The study targeted four museum officers and two parks officers from Mombasa City Council as the key informants for individual interviews. These officers were purposively selected because they are involved in one way or another in the management of Mama Ngina Drive Public Park.

3.5.2 Quota Sampling

Sampling of the respondent relied on accidental chance as the visitors were leaving or relaxing in the park. A Sample of 100 respondents of equal proportion of both men and women were drawn to ensure all the categories are interviewed.

3.6 Methods of data collection

To gather the data, both open-ended and closed-ended questions were used in the inquiry. Also, structured and semi-structured questionnaires as well as personal observations were used during the enquiry. Where responses were not forthcoming from structured interviews, oral communication was used.

3.6.1 Questionnaire

Structured interviews similarly were used to collect the data. The questionnaires were used to get more information about the management of the site at present and including

the perceived problems facing the conservation of Mama Ngina Drive Public Park. The questionnaires were designed for the public and heritage professionals. A questionnaire with both open ended and closed ended questionnaires was designed for this research. Thus, the closed ended questionnaire was specifically designed for the locals. The type of information being collected was on how the community can use the park as well how the community can get involved in the management of the site.

3.6.2 Key Informant

Apart from the structured interviews, four museum professionals who worked at Fort Jesus museum and two parks officers from Mombasa City Council were interviewed. The key informants were purposively selected. These people were considered to be knowledgeable. The interviews were focused on the protection, significance of the site and community participation. The six key informants were included.

- The Curator in charge of Fort Jesus Museum.
- The Curator of Sites and Monuments of Fort Jesus Museum.
- The Education Officer of Fort Jesus Museum.
- The Archeologist Fort Jesus Museum.
- The Director in charge of Parks of Mombasa City Council.
- The director in charge of Environment of Parks of Mombasa City Council.

3.6.3 Direct Observation

This method was adopted in the course of fieldwork to complement other methods of data collection. This method was used so as to observe the visitors behaviors toward conservation issues.

3.6.4 Photographs

Photographs were taken as a supplementary to the other data. The purpose of the photographs is to illustrate some aspects of the phenomena discussed.

3.7 Ethical Issues

There are ethical considerations that need to be followed when one is carrying out a study. The participants were not coerced into participating in the research. After a brief self-introduction, the respondents were requested to fill the questionnaire. The researcher made sure that the respondents were treated equally and fairly and also stressed the confidentiality of any information given by the respondents. The researcher also asked permission from the participants to take pictures so as to manipulate the information for archival purposes. The respondents were also fully informed about the benefits of the findings.

3.8 Data Analysis

The data collected in this research is mostly qualitative. Answers to open-ended questionnaires were given a numerical figure. This method of data is called the coding system. The primary way of analyzing is descriptive. However, quantifiable data generated from the research is presented in histograms and in appropriate tables. Pictograph details are also provided to supplement the descriptions.

3.9 Problems Encountered.

Among the limitations faced, was scarcity of time and resources that made it impossible to complete some of the targeted objectives. For example, it was not easy to reach targeted informants because of their busy schedules. Some of the museum employees were reluctant to respond to some of questions especially those related to challenges and problems facing their institutions. Some of the visitors were reluctant to fill the questionnaires because of the burning issue of changing the name of the park and they were given questionnaires two years ago nothing has been done to improve the condition of the site.

CHAPTER FOUR

CONSERVATION CHALLENGES FACING THE HERITAGE OF MAMA NGINA DRIVE PUBLIC PARK, MOMBASA

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study and deals with the presentation and analysis of primary data obtained from the park visitors and the key informants. It provides answers that were given in response to the research questions. The findings are presented in histograms, descriptions and pictograph to supplement the descriptive presented.

4.2 Primary Data

The questionnaire (Appendix 1) was administered to 100 visitors. The respondents were aged 18 years and above. These respondents were grouped by sex and this was done to check on the possibility of interviewing only a certain category of visitors. Out of the 100 respondents, 52% were males and 48% were females. The respondents were selected purposively as they left the park. Most of the questionnaires were administered by the researcher, only 10 questionnaires were self-administered because the respondents were not able to read and write. This exercise was preceded by a brief self-introduction, which included the purpose of the study.

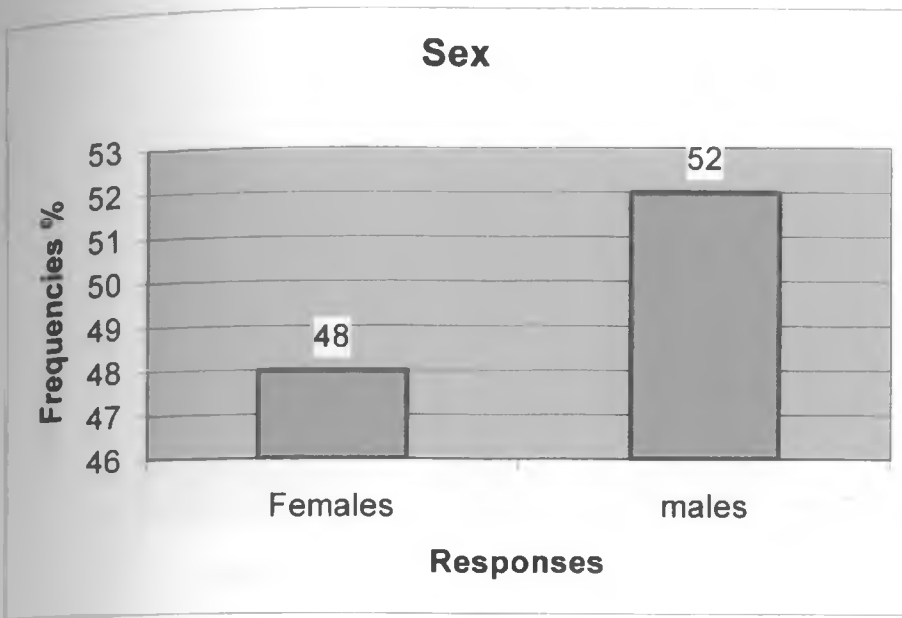


Figure 4.2

4.3 Purpose of the visit

The site was given officially to the public in the 1980's and since then, it has attracted a number of local visitors, foreign tourists, school children and researchers. Other than the tourism use, the community uses the park for prayers and other issues that concern the general well-being of the community. The data collected showed that 70% of the respondents came to visit the park for leisure while 20% of the respondents came for prayers and 10% for research purposes.

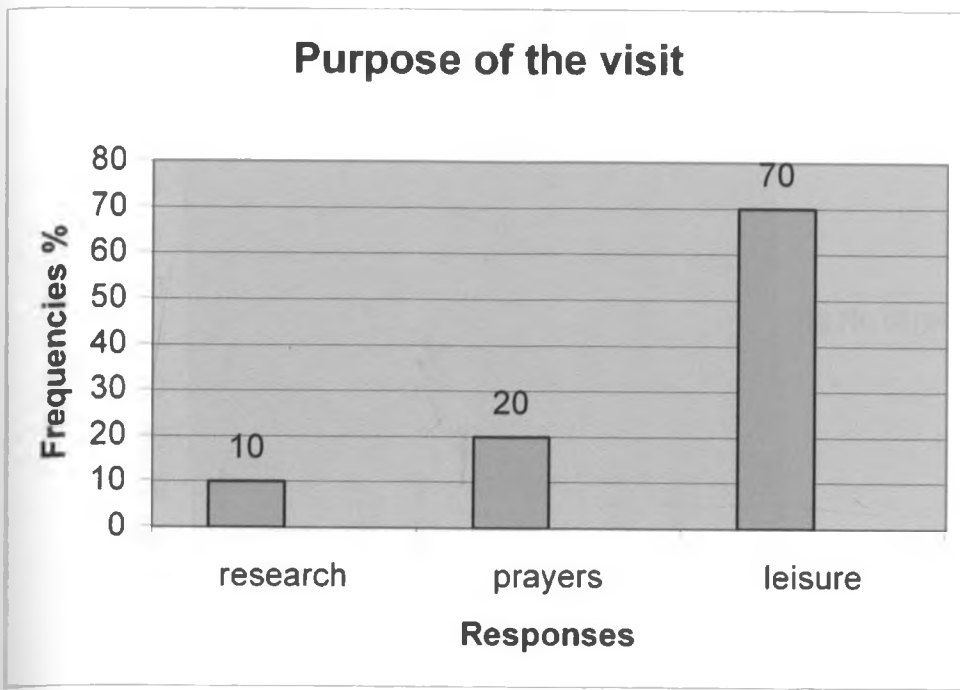


Figure 4.3

4.4 Indigenous plant species

Most of the respondents mentioned the baobab trees as indigenous plant species. These giant trees are more than 500 years old. Some of the respondents also indicated that these trees have spiritual value for them. These trees are the only breeding ground for the rare bird species, on the coastal strip. The site was the location of the historical Swahili town of Tauca, which existed in the 11th century and whose remnants were buried beneath the baobab trees. The communities used these trees to mark the graves of their departed relatives.

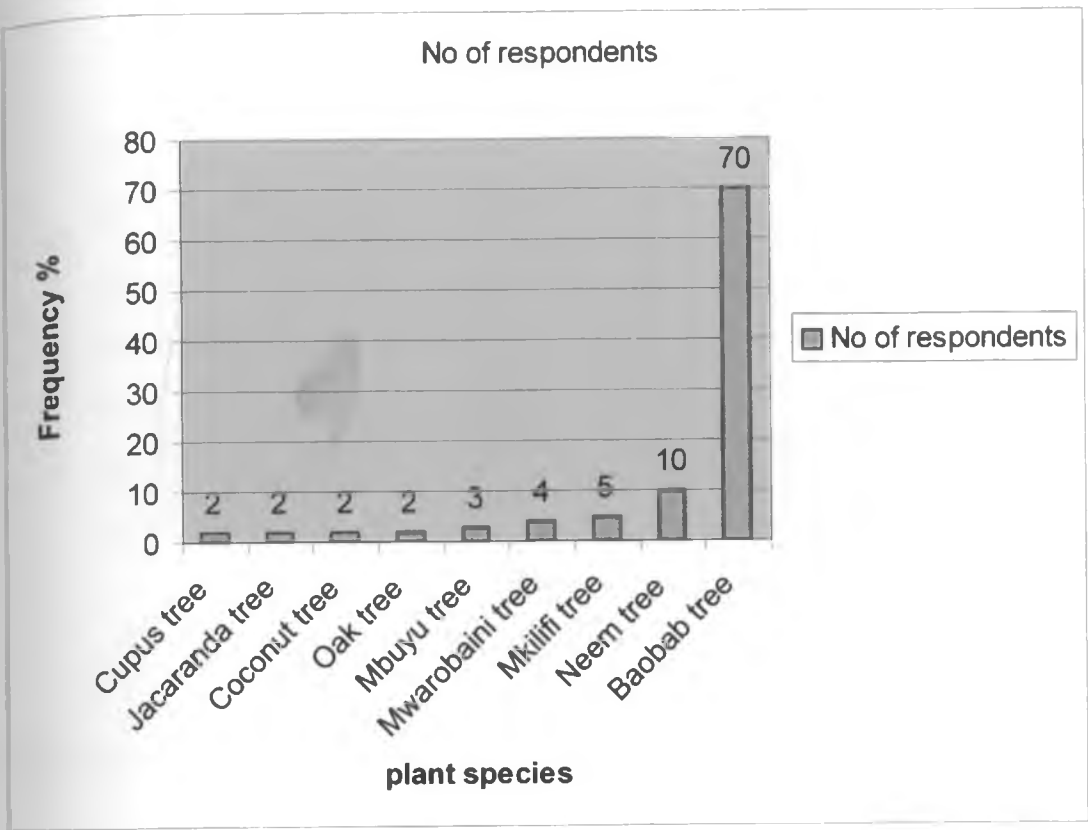


Figure 4.4 indigenous trees found in the park

4.5 Condition of the site

The primary condition of a site is a concern-shared responsibility by many people from traditional custodians, archeologists and the general public. Therefore, recording the condition of Mama Ngina Drive Public Park provides a characterization of its existing state of preservation. Out of the 100 respondents, 52 % felt that the state of the park is fair. While 30% of the respondents felt that the park is in bad condition.18% stated that the park is in good condition.

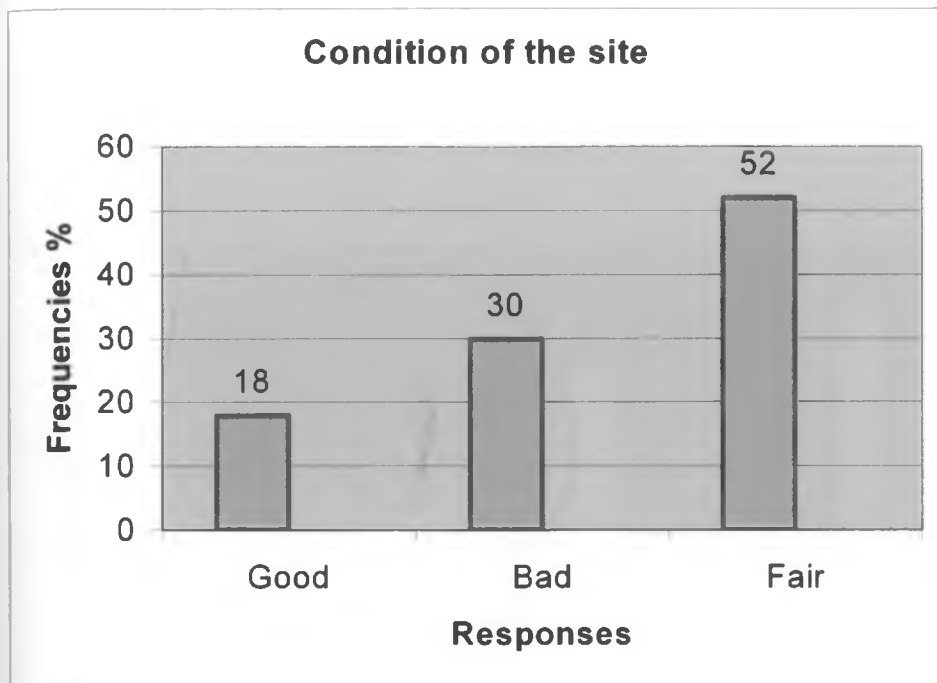


Figure 4.5

4.6 Site management

The National Museum of Kenya (NMK) is an organization entrusted with safeguarding the country's national heritage, using the Museum Act and the Antiquities and Monuments Act. The National Museum Act empowers the NMK with custodianship of the cultural heritage while the Antiquities and Monuments Act deals with legal apparatus for protecting sites and monuments. Mombasa City Council is an organization that acts as a community resource and this includes legal the apparatus for protecting and maintaining the sites, technical assistance and other expertise. The data collected showed that 51% of the respondents felt Mama Ngina Drive Park is managed by Mombasa City Council and 42% felt that the park is managed by both NMK and Mombasa City Council while 7% felt that the park is managed only by NMK.

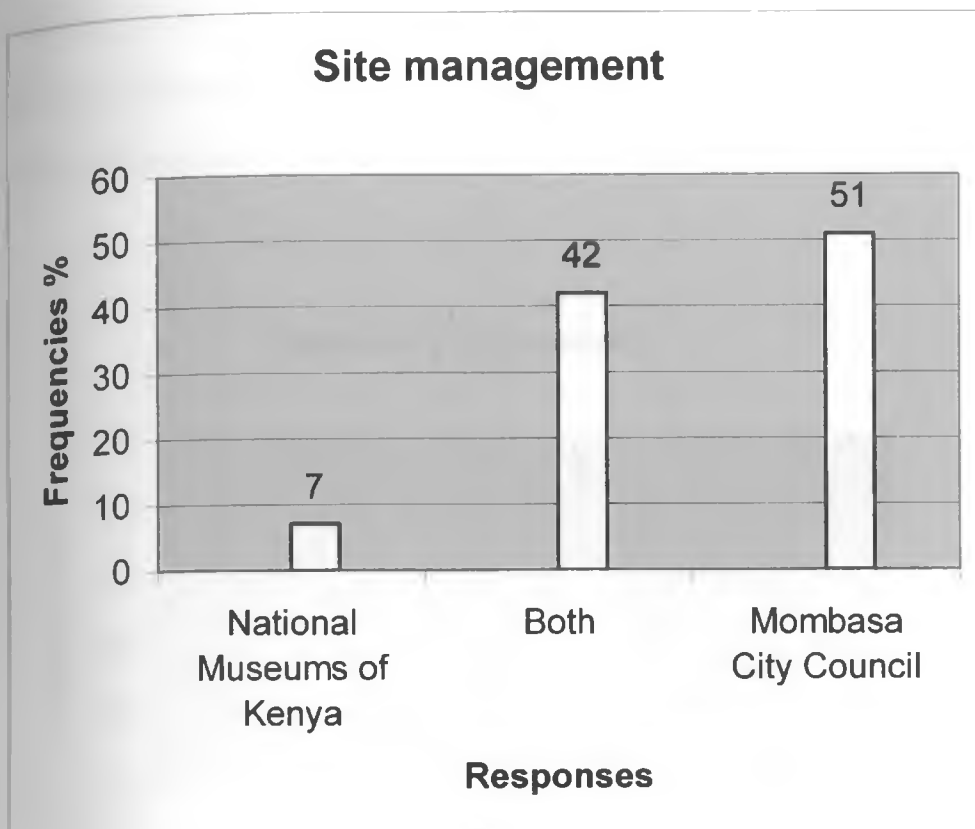
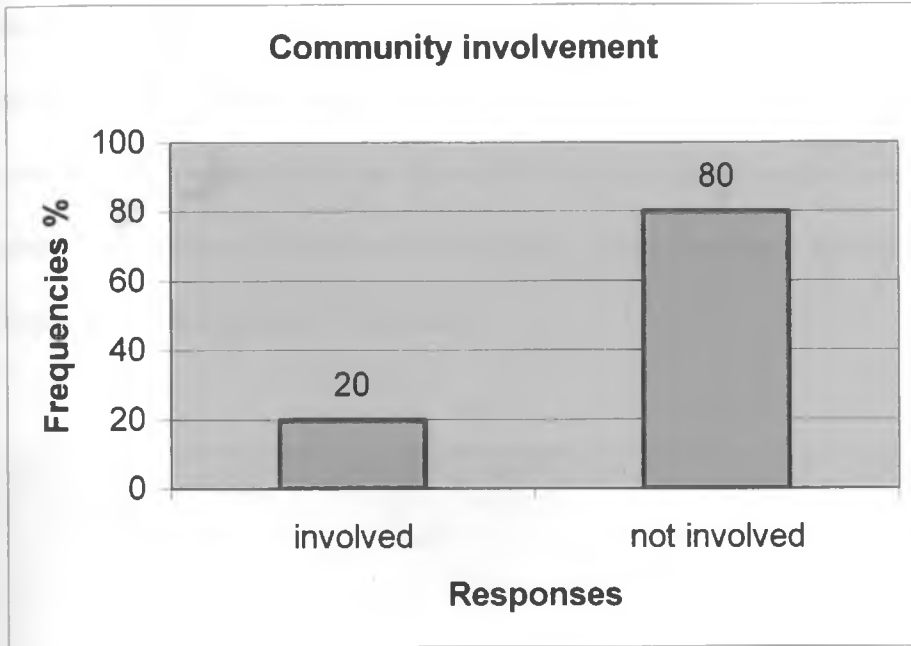


Figure 4.6

4.7 Community Involvement

Most of the respondents felt that community involvement plays an important role in conserving cultural landscape. Cultural landscape represents the combined work of man and nature. Public participation emphasis sharing information joint learning and understanding and ensure that resources are used effectively. The data collected showed that 80% of the respondent felt that the community is left out in the management of the park. This supports the fourth objective of this study which wanted to find out the role played by the community in the management of Mama Ngina Drive Public Park. And

20% of the respondents felt that the community is involved through consultative workshops. Therefore, participation or involvement of the community can take place at different levels as the respondents have indicated. This reflects the different abilities and skills and hence to the diversities in our communities.



4.7 Figure

4.8 Factors affecting the site

These are general categories of forces that can damage or destroy a park and their values and they include human actions and natural forces. These refer to those processes that are potential threats to a park whether in the short-term or long-term. Although these two sources of deterioration can be active independent of each other, it is common for both to interact. However, for ease of description, they are listed separately. The data collected showed the following responses on human actions.

4.81 Land Grabbing

Land development and resource exploitation activities continue to increase as the city's growing population demands more housing and manufactured goods. Urban development such as Florida Night Club, restaurants and construction of buildings may either destroy the archeological material and disturb soil layers or totally destroy the site. Mass land modifications that accompany flood residential development and intensive highway construction can cause the loss of over 400 years old giant baobab trees that represent the entire communities that thrived in the past. These buildings are also blocking the sea view and South Mainland (Plates 4.8.1 a, b.).



Plate 4.8.1(a) Florida Night Club is blocking the view of the creek and South Mainland.



Plate 4.8.1, (b) Construction of a mosque within the site is a bad precedent.

4.8.2 Visitor littering

Currently the park is used for any various forms of entertainment including religious and economic activities. Mama Ngina Drive Drive Public Park is one of the most popular parks in Mombasa and many of the families congregate into the park to relax. While others come for pilgrimage. However, this has some negative impact on the environment of the site. Although much of the litter strewn around the park is domestic, there is a marked increase in visitor litter such as water plastic bottles, coconuts thrown in the sea and garbage. (Plates 4.8.2 a and b)



Plate 4.8.2 (a) Garbage thrown by coconut vendors in the sea.



Plate 4.8.2 (b) Garbage thrown by the municipality.

4.8.3 Site erosion

This is generally caused by uncontrolled foot traffic away from formal paths and vehicle access over to fragile areas of the park. Motorists parked their cars in every corner of the site Plates 4.8.3 a and b).



Plate 4.8.3 (a) uncontrolled foot traffic



Plate 4.8.3 (b) Vehicle access fragile areas

4.8.4 Driving lessons

Many driving companies have turned the park into a ground for driving lessons.

Unrestricted visits access to the site will negatively impact the physical remains



Plate 4.8.4 using the park as a ground for driving lessons

4.8.5 Car washing

The community is using the park as a car wash. This is likely to increase soil erosion. It will also ultimately contribute to the disintegration of the site plate 4.8.5).



Plate 4.8.5 the community is using the park as car wash

4.8.6 Food vendors/Kiosks.

Food vendors who have been repeatedly thrown out of the site have continued to invade the park and are turning the park into a slum. As a result of this, a dozen o slum

settlements have sprung up accompanied with some agricultural and fishing activities (plate 4.8.6 a and b).



Plate 4.8.6 (a) Food vendors continued invade the park



4.8.6(b) Food vendors have turned the park into a slum.

4.8.7 Open market

The community is using the park as a market to sell clothes and jewellery. These people are also using the trees as washing lines for displaying the clothes. (Plates 4.8.7 a and b)



Plate 4.8.7 (a) Human ignorance



Plate 4.8.7 (b) Urban development

4.9 Natural forces

The forces of nature act continually on heritage sites and they range from minor ones to major activities. Many of natural forces such as erosion have acted in conjunction with human actions. The data collected showed that the site is mostly affected by erosion and differential vegetation growth. Vegetation growth prevents visitors from viewing the site from a far (See plate 4.9).



Plate 4.9 Vegetation growth

4.10 The effects of these problems

The data collected from the key informants showed the following indicators

- Environmental degradation because of unrestricted access
- Unhygienic environment because of visitor littering and dumping of garbage
- Loss of aesthetic value because of encroachment
- Loss of unique recreational site to the Mombasa community



Plate 4.10 Environmental Degrading

4.11 Challenges faced by NMK in heritage management

The data collected from the key informants showed the following indicators:

- Lack of heritage awareness due to shortage of funding
- Lack of political commitment within the members of the staff
- Lack of interface between NMK and other heritage related institutions.
- Inadequate policies. -

4.12 Future plans

The data collected showed the following responses

- To upgrade the place
- Develop a marketing plan

- Dissemination of information to the public about the importance of the site as a cultural landscape



Plate 4.12 Proposed plan for Mama Ngina Drive Public Public Park

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Discussion

Mama Ngina Drive Public Park is an important nature conservation and recreational resource for the people of Kenya. The sole aim and objective of conservation is interpreted to mean the protection of the cultural significance of a site or monument. This is why conservation is not generally perceived as something organically related to the whole process of change in human environment but rather something frozen inappropriate for the future. Therefore, the loss of a sense of a place within sectors of the community is a vital concern in this discussion and sustainability of cultural heritage and landscapes. It is recognized that changes of attitude and behavior by both the community and planners are necessary.

Landscapes can be described as the way a person interprets, interacts and reacts to the natural and cultural element. The recognition of a site as being pleasant or important is a first in planning on how it can be preserved and managed for the enjoyment of the people. The quality and values placed on the environment by the community are increasingly under pressure from rapid change in land use. Values may be considered as anything, which adds to human well-being so does not restrict values to benefits from only the direct use of a resource.

The major sustainability issues relating to parks include the need for protection from unsympathetic use and development of a site and the change of a site and change due to economic incentives. Several barriers exist which restrict sustainability in regard to heritage. The most important of these barriers is the lack of serious community involvement, legal government initiatives and lack of awareness and education about the concept of conservation. No organization or body is responsible for the heritage and landscapes, although both National Museums of Kenya and Mombasa City Council take a responsibility for registered parks and buildings. The current legal provisions to protect heritage seems to be quite inadequate for the purpose they were meant to serve (Wandibba, 1996). Thus a good legislation should arise out of the society for which its intended to serve and must fit with the traditions, norms, values and political or social structure of that society. It must also include strong mandatory and workable community involvement and consultation processes.

Therefore, legislation and supportive administration issues remain important in implementing and designing conservations plans. But such national legislation should respect international standards and ethos about the preservation of the integrity and authenticity of cultural materials relating humanity to its peculiar environment. On the other hand national legislation must pave the way for increased community participation in order to effectively tap on the richness and effective tradition protection systems.

Therefore, the primary aim of conservation is to safeguard the values of a site and protect its material substance so as to ensure its integrity for future generations. As a rule,

preventive measures are directed towards the cause of destruction. Therefore, conserving is meant to create the optimal environmental conditions and reduce risks to sites. The policy of conservation involves making interventions at various scales, levels and intensity and these are determined by the physical conditions of the site, the cause of deterioration and anticipated future environment.

5.2 Conclusion

While public parks are important in our communities, their conservation by heritage organizations has been given limited attention. Many parks do not have management plans in order to provide measures for their proper conservation and management. Although The Kenya Government gave NMK and the Mombasa City Council to look after the site, it seems both organizations appear to be quite weak in the face of accelerated destruction under the cover of development.

Therefore, to enhance the protection of Mama Ngina Drive Park, a whole community approach should be undertaken. Surveys should be focused on community wellness and could be implemented to measure attitudinal shifts. This will ensure cherished memories and experiences are valued. The local community is sidelined in the decision-making and management of the park. Macomo (1996) argues that local communities should know the importance of preserving cultural landscapes. According to Wandibba (1996), the current legal provision to protect heritage seems to be quite inadequate for the purpose it was meant to serve.

Given that park management is a very specialized area and presents difficult conservation problems, appropriate conservation methods have to be considered. What makes the methods unique is the complex micro- environment implying diagnosis and interventions that are specific to the problem and the set up. There are no long-term solutions, for instance, to vegetation growth but park conservation aims at slowing down the vegetation processes and minimizing the effects of human misuse or overuse.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.3.1 Site conservation

Objective: to provide measures that will enable continuous conservation of the site

Maintenance is a preventative strategy and it is defined as a protective care including all practical and technical measures that need to keep the site and its setting in good condition. There are signs of encroachment to the site. This is a serious problem that needs to be addressed wherever possible maintenance should be integrated into a scheduled routine. Both the NMK and Mombassa City Council should implement a programme of action with well-established cycles describing who does the work, how this is done and how frequently. This requires the involvement of responsible professionals who can instruct and supervise the personnel carrying out the task.

5.3.2 Site presentation and safety

Objective: to provide site presentation that enhances visitor experience and safety without jeopardizing the future preservation of the site. The park is part of the visitor trail to the sites associated with Kenyan Coastal history. The management should provide the following facilities in order to ensure the sustainability of the park.

- To provide designated access routes to allow visitors access to relax and picnic but in a manner which does not negatively impact the historical fabric of the ecological character of the site.
- To provide parking facilities in a location and in a manner, which does not detract from the visual and quality of the site. Vehicular traffic is likely to interfere with the contemplative and tranquil quality of the site. It should be restricted to the existing area allocated for parking which is out of the park.
- Access across the site should be prevented. The continued existing footpaths should be prevented. Furthermore, access through the site will contribute to the deterioration of the site. Access needs to be formalized in order to control access to the site and specific measures should be developed. Paths should be demarcated with stones embedded in the soil or plant flowers indicating with arrows the route to be taken to prevent erosion.
- Installation of security lights, provide seats for visitors, public toilets, rubbish bins in every corner of the site and planting more flowers and providing children facilities, the site gradient and trimming the vegetation that prevent one from viewing the site from afar.

- Provide interpretative information on the historical significance of the site in order to enhance visitor's appreciation.

5.3.3 Community Involvement

Objective: to find out the role-played by the community in the management of the site. Through this study it was observed that the community is not involved in the management of the park. Therefore, to enhance the sustainability of Mama Ngina Drive Public Park, a whole community approach should be undertaken. The greatest change should be brought through education awareness on heritage issues and environmental issues for community members and government bodies. Thus, strong partnerships and effective collaboration between the interested parties such as Mombasa City Council, National Museums of Kenya, and community organizations should be implemented. With a community development process in place, some of the negative effects of massive landscape decline should be minimized to empower landowners and community members.

5.3.4 Site management

Objective: To identify and understand the issues that threatens site significance and provide management measures. Both NMK and Mombasa City Council are currently managing the site. However, both organizations manage the site without a management plan. Conservation of the immovable cultural property needs proper legislation and administrative systems. These systems have a powerful symbolic value and can be used

to justify conservation while people are enjoying it. It must include strong mandatory and workable community involvement and consultation processes. Therefore, to identify and understand the issues that threatens the site and provides measures to address them NMK and Mombasa City Council must do the following activities (Table 5.3.4).

Table 5.3.4 Site management

Short term	Long term
Finalize the management plan. Develop operational policy. Hold regular meetings with stake holders	Implementation of management plan Monitoring and evaluation of the management plan. Ensure the use of policy in decision making Establishing of accountable and transparent system

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UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES

Dear Respondent

Thank you for participating. The aim of this research is to investigate the conservation problems faced by Mama Ngina Drive Public Park. Your opinions and suggestions will go a long way in the development of the site. Any information received will be used only for the purpose of this research and will be treated very confidentially.

PART ONE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

Please provide answers to all the questions in the sections.

1. NAME (optional) Age

2. SEX Male Female

3. LEVEL OF EDUCATION: No education

 Primary

 Secondary

 University

4. OCCUPATION: No employment

 Self-employed

 Employed

5. ESTATE.....

6. TEL NO.....

DATE OF INTERVIEW.....

PART 2 GENERAL INFORMATION

Please provide answers for the following questions by ticking on the space provided.

1. Where do you come from?

Urban Rural

2. How far is the park from your home?

0__10km

11__20km

22__30km

Other

3. How did you know about the place?

Family

Friends

School

Media

Other

4. Have you ever visited a public park before?

Yes No

5. Is this the first time to visit Mama Ngina Drive Public Park?

Yes No

6. What is the purpose of the visit?

Leisure Educational Other

7. Does the place have indigenous plant species?

Yes No

If yes mention one.....

8. Is the place important as part of your identity?

Yes No

If yes, how?.....
.....

9. What is the condition of the site?

Good

Bad

Fair

10. What are the human activities affecting the site?

.....
.....

11. What are the natural threats affecting the site?

.....
.....

12. What needs to be done to address these problems?

.....
.....

13. Is the community involved in the management of the site?

Yes

No

If yes, how?.....

15. Who manages the site?

National Museums of Kenya

Mombasa City Council

Both

16. In your own opinion, what needs to be done to improve the condition of the site?

.....
.....
.....

Thank you for your cooperation.

Appendix 1

Appendix 2

GUIDELINES FOR THE KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW

(Museum Staff)

Name.....Date.....

Administrative Position.....

1.What is the significance of Mama Ngina Drive Public Park?

- **Cultural**
- **Natural**

2.What features led to the declaration of Mama Ngina Drive as a public park?

3.What are the problems of a site, as a result of being a public park?

4.What are the major threats affecting the site?

- **Biological**
- **Natural**
- **Human being**

5.What are the effects of these problems?

6.What does the NMK do in order to address these problems?

7.Does the NMK have a management plan for Mama Ngina Drive Public Park?

If no, why

8.Do you involve local communities in the management of the site?

- **If yes, how?**

- **If no, why?**

9. Does the community know the importance of the site?

- **If yes, how?**

- **If no, why?**

10. What is the relationship between the NMK and other heritage related institutions in terms of managing the park?

11. Does the NMK fully own the park?

- **If yes, how?**

- **If no, why?**

12. What are the most challenges the NMK face regarding heritage management?

13. Generally, what are the problems faced by NMK in the conservation of Mama Ngina Drive Public Park?

14. What are the future plans for the site?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

Appendix 3

GUIDELINES FOR THE KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW

(City council)

Name.....Date.....

Administrative Position.....

1.What features led to declaration of Mama Ngina Drive Public Park as a cultural landscape?

2.What are the problems of a site as a result of being a public park?

3.What are the major threats affecting the site?

- Human being
- Biological
- Natural

4.What are the effects of these problems?

5.What needs to be done to address these problems?

6.What is the role of the municipality in the management of the site?

7.What is the relationship between the city council and other heritage related institutions in the management of the site?

8. Does the city council involve the local communities in the management of the park?

- **If yes, how?**

- **If no, why?**

9. What are most challenges the city council face regarding the management of public places?

10. What comments would you provide regarding the service provided to the public by the municipality?

- **Conservation**

11. What is the future plans for the site?

THANK YOU for your co-operation