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# CULTURAL LANDSCAPES: THE MANAGEMENT OF ROCK ART SITES IN MOZAMBIQUE

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## Abstract

This paper departs from the understanding that there is an interaction between nature and culture that is embedded in specific landscapes. Rock art sites are a good example of this, since they join the rock, that is natural and art that is human made.

Rock art sites are part of nature and they form cultural landscapes or mixed heritage (both natural and cultural heritage). In this paper I discuss rock art sites with a view to interpret the process for their management that takes into account not solely the cultural heritage legislation existing in the country, but also the environmental legislation (Land Law and Conservation Areas legislation).

This reflection is quite new, in the country, even if theoretically we know this. But in most cases heritage is only regarded in relation to cultural heritage laws, putting aside the whole set of environmental laws that perhaps are more relevant for a successful site management plan.

In Mozambique there is legislation for the management of National Parks that is related to natural heritage. In most cases, rock art sites are to be found in this Parks or reserves. The combination of uses of both cultural and natural laws can help to answer different questions, for site management, at the same time.

Also tourists will enjoy to visit National Parks if they can complement with the mystery and beauty of rock art paintings, covering many thousands of years of the human past.

In this paper, I shall first discuss the various concepts of cultural landscapes, including archaeological landscapes. Then, I shall apply these concepts to specific rock art sites of Mozambique, in relation to cultural and environmental laws, for heritage management.

**Key words:** Central Mozambique, Cultural Landscapes, Rock Art, National parks, heritage legislation

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