

Valorization and safeguarding of the built heritage of the Island of Mozambique. Contributions to a management plan for the property inscribed on the world heritage list

Summary

The Island of Mozambique, which has long been one of the main anchorages of the Swahili maritime trade warehouses on the eastern coast of Africa, served as a harbor for ships from the “Carreira da India” of the Portuguese Colonial Empire. The result of sociocultural miscegenation, it carries with it a synthesis of knowledge and knowledge of the urban, architectural and construction processes, recognized by UNESCO in 1991 as World Cultural Heritage.

The current buildings, to the north, in the “city of Stone and Lime”, characterized by the limestone construction technique, and to the south, in the “city of Macuti”, with houses made of precarious materials, constitute a cultural landscape at risk, due to its advanced state of degradation and the uncontrolled replacement of architectural and structural forms, including closing and finishing materials.

The scarcity, in the region, of materials traditionally used in construction, both in the “city of Stone and Lime” and in the “city of Macuti”, and the lack of specialized workers to intervene in heritage have motivated dissonant opinions about the value of patrimonialization and patrimoniality.

Meeting in Istanbul in 2016, the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO) draws attention to observations by ICOMOS and ICCROM that warn of the growing number of collapsed or seriously degraded buildings and threats to authenticity resulting from inadequate repairs, such as the replacement of traditional Macuti roofs with corrugated zinc sheeting.

In view of the dissonant discourses about the cultural landscape, the thesis to be developed aims to consider new sustainable paradigms that value buildings and that provide an improvement in the quality of life of communities, without losing, however, their value as a cultural landscape, materialized through a proposal, or contributions, for the Management and Conservation Plan for the Island of Mozambique 2021-2026.

Keywords

Built Heritage, sustainability, local development, world heritage.



(a) Building in the City of stone and lime



(b) Building in the City of Macuti

Main types of buildings in the Island of Mozambique.



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