



ZIMBABWE GEOHERITAGE: UNTAPPED TOURISM AVENUE

DARLINGTON MUNYIKWA

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATIONAL MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS OF ZIMBABWE

INTRODUCTION

- Heritage is about what we inherit from the past which we should guard and passed on to future generation
- Works of art, buildings, cultural and natural artefacts, environments, traditions which are born out of natural processes as well as anthropogenic activities as they interact with the environment.

INTRODUCTION

- Heritage should be enjoyed by humanity and worthy of preservation.
- Need for a collective responsibility in safeguarding our heritage
- Includes geoheritage

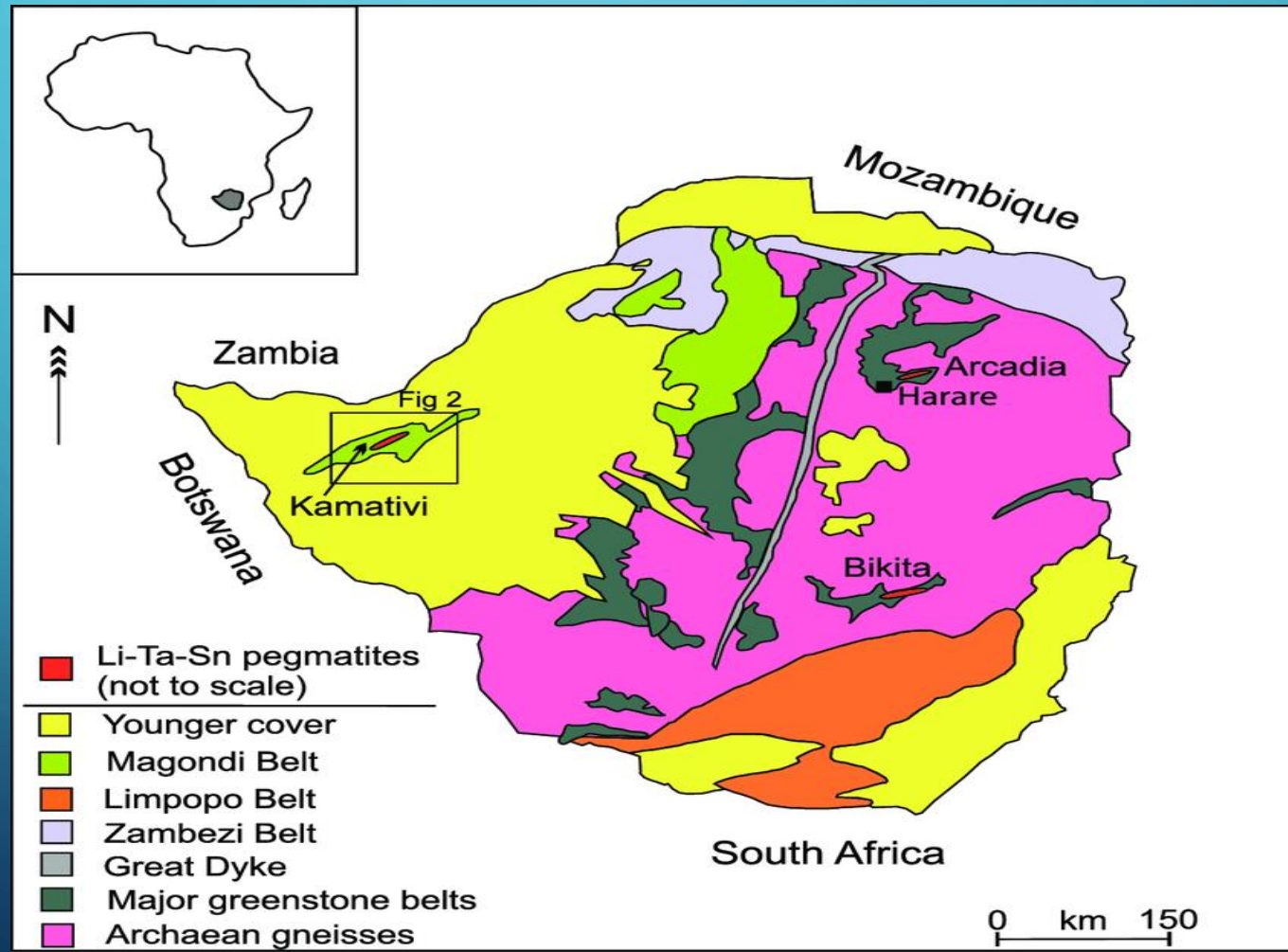
INTRODUCTION

- Geoheritage refers minerals, rocks, soils, fossils and landforms of outstanding values
- Created by combination of geological and geomorphological processes, environment and human interaction with nature

INTRODUCTION

- Provide a window into the evolution of the earth and human interaction with the environment over time.
- A record of such features in a specific place constitutes the Geopark of an area.

GEOHERITAGE FACETS OF ZIMBABWE



GEOHERITAGE FACETS OF ZIMBABWE

- Zimbabwe possesses archaean rocks (over 3.6 billion) and later rock formations in the mobile belts and sedimentary basins
- An archive of long history of the geological, geomorphological, palaeontological and cultural processes

GEOHERITAGE FACETS OF ZIMBABWE

- Assemblages of granites, gneiss, greenstones, mafic rocks, meta sediments and sedimentary rocks, responded differently to geomorphological processes.
- A diverse geoheritage which is yet to be exposed.

Geoheritage sites of Zimbabwe

1) Landscape of Zimbabwe

- The landscape is a product of the interaction between rock formations denudation process over the years.
- Denudation processes produced spectacular landform features such as castle kopjes, bornhardts, inselbergs, caves, balancing rocks

Geoheritage sites of Zimbabwe

- Ancient kingdoms and settlements e.g. Great Zimbabwe, Khami, Nalatale, Kubiku, Kamugumbudzi, Chiremba, Domboshava, Pomongwe Cave, Mtswatugi Cave.
- Platforms for traditional practices (rain making , thanks giving and appeasement ceremonies (Great Zimbabwe, Njelele).

GEOHERITAGE OF ZIMBABWE

- Provide aesthetics and places of contemplation such as the Matobo hills, Chiremba Balancing Rocks.

Geoheritage sites of Zimbabwe

- Great Zimbabwe



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Nalatale Ruins



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Pomongwe Cave



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Matobo Hills landscape



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Chiremba balancing rocks



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Ngomakurima mountain



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- ii) Water falls

- Weathering and erosion produced a number of spectacular waterfalls e.g. Victoria Falls/ Mosia Tunya/ Smoke that thunders and Mutarazi Falls in Nyanga.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Cultural values attached to some of the water falls e.g. at Victoria Falls

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Victoria Falls



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

iii) Mountain Ranges

- Mountain ranges are common in the landscape.
- Bornhardts of the granitic terrain, eastern highlands (which includes Chimanimani and Nyanga Mountains) and Great Dyke outcrops and Sedimentary escarpments.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

iv) Caves

- Caves are present mainly in granites, limestones and sedimentary rocks
- Outstanding caves are present in limestone caves in the Lomagundi and Umkondo Rock Formations.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- History of their formation is spectacular and so is their cultural values e.g. Chinhoyi and Mabura Caves

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

Chinhoyi Caves



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

v) Springs

- Springs are found throughout landscapes of Zimbabwe.
- Binga has a number of hot and cold springs.
- Male (makes a spray) and female (oozes out) springs

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

v) Springs



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Chihwatata Hot spring (male) Binga Centre while Sawa (female) and Luvimbi (female) are about 80km and 100 km from Binga Centre respectively.
- Springs are associated with rain making ceremonies.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Rain making ceremonies are conducted by Chief Sikelenge at Chihwatata Hot Spring.
- Believed that a legend rainmaker (Malila) used to go down the spring and came out either holding mealie meal or empty handed signifying good rains or drought respectively.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Chihwatata Hot Springs falls under Zimbabwe Parks and Wild Life Management Authority. Its location limits further assessment and management of cultural values
- Springs are also found in other parts of the country e.g. in Hot Spring, Manicaland. Currently the distribution of springs has not been documented.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

vi) Palaeontological sites

- Zimbabwe is well known for the presence of invertebrate, vertebrate and plant fossils.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Stromatolites are present in the Belingwe Greenstone rocks and reptile fossils (dinosaurs; early mammals) and fossil wood are located both in the Zambezi and Limpopo sedimentary basins.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Dinosaur skeleton, Sentinel Ranch



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- In situ preservation is carried at certain sites. At Sentinel Ranch, Limpopo, a well-articulated dinosaur skeleton Mpandi Formation, was prepared in situ.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

Dinosaur trackway

Chewore safari



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Dinosaur bone bed and footprints are present in the Chiwore Safaris and Mana Pools
- Fossil wood is present in the Zambezi and Limpopo Karoo Basins

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Because of their intrinsic value and delicate nature of fossils guided visits to fossil sites are encouraged.
- Most of the fossil sites are located in private land (safaris, parks and farms) hence access is controlled.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

vii) Scenery and educational view points

- Mountain ranges offer pleasing scenic views. These includes eastern Highlands, Domboshava, Ngomakurira, Matobo Hills, Mware just to mention a few.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

Map of Africa,
Zaka (Mware Mtn)



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Domboshava mountain



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

viii) Rock and mineral formations

- Zimbabwe has a rich mining history worth retracing.
- Long history of mining of gold, silver, nickel, copper, coal, iron, chrome, lithium just to mention a few.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Ancient mining sites and associated archaeological and ethnographic material are collected and deposited at national museums.
- Golden and Phoenix (G&P) established in 1894 in Kwekwe, represent the early modern mining history.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Paper House, Kwekwe



GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- G&P office (Paper House) is now a national monument
- Similar gold mining ventures that followed G&P are well preserved in Zimbabwe.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

ix) National museums and national monuments

- There are five national museums in Zimbabwe namely Zimbabwe Museum of Human Sciences (Harare), Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe (Bulawayo), Mutare Museum (Mutare), and Zimbabwe Military Museum (Gweru) Conservation Centre.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- National museums hold a large collection of movable geoheritage objects.

GEOHERITAGE SITES IN ZIMBABWE

- Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe (Bulawayo), has one of the largest collection of rocks, minerals and fossils in this country, and has the best Geology Gallery in Zimbabwe.
- In addition, there are several site museums throughout the country which have geoheritage.

PROTECTION OF GEOHERITAGE

- Heritage in Zimbabwe is protected at national level by the following legislation:
 - National Museums and Monuments Act (cultural and natural Heritage),
 - Parks and Wild Life Act (natural heritage),

PROTECTION OF GEOHERITAGE

- Traditional Leaders Act (traditional heritage),
- Environment Management Act (environment)

PROTECTION OF GEOHERITAGE

At international level its protected by:

- Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972).

PROTECTION OF GEOHERITAGE

-Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954).

-Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970).

PROTECTION OF GEOHERITAGE

- - Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003).
- - Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (1992).

PROTECTION OF GEOHERITAGE

- Currently geoheritage has not been officially recognised hence no relevant legislation for its protection has been promulgated.
- Geoheritage within protected areas coincidentally

PROTECTION OF GEOHERITAGE

- enjoys the protection proffered by the above legislation or conventions.
- The need to develop appropriate protection of geoheritage cannot be overemphasized

THE WAY FORWARD

- i) Documentation of Geoheritage to establish the diversity, distribution and interlinkages heritage products
 - Compilation of nomination dossiers of geoheritage sites

THE WAY FORWARD

ii) Protection of geoheritage of Zimbabwe through legislation

-Risk of climate change and encroachment through anthropogenic activities

THE WAY FORWARD

- Lack of direct legislation in favour of the protection of geoheritage.
- Use geoheritage data base to justify a bill for protection of geoheritage

The background is a dark teal gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line-art patterns resembling circuit boards or neural networks, with lines connecting to small circles.

THE WAY FORWARD

iii) Awareness of Geoheritage

- Heritage has less meaning/value if not understood or appreciated.

THE WAY FORWARD

- High risk of vandalism/ or destruction if the heritage values are silent to the local communities.
- Need for geoheritage awareness campaigns among the local communities and other stakeholders

THE WAY FORWARD

iv) Establishment of Geoparks and Geotourism

- Geo-heritage data can be utilised to establish Geoparks
- Establish geotourism creating jobs, entertainment, revenue generation, education and preservation of heritage



THANK YOU