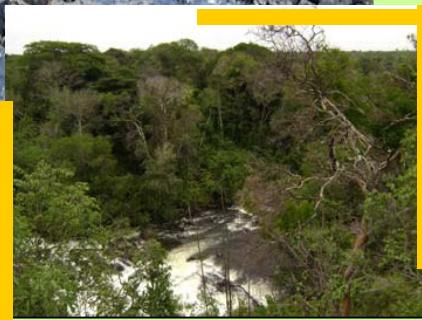


Flora and Fauna

Vegetation

Unlike most National Monument Sites in Zambia, the Chipoma Falls has a rich diversity of vegetation and flora types. While most of the waterfalls sites, for example are predominantly surrounded by, riparian vegetation, dambo areas and usually Miombo Woodlands, the Chipoma Falls area also plays host to Chipya woodland. Chipya woodlands are characterized by tall, old trees which have been subjected to frequent occurrences of fires. In essence, the area has plenty of Marquesia and Parinari species, with dense undergrowth.

Presence of the Chipya Vegetation type at this site makes it an ideal haven for snakes like pythons and cobras, most of which are regarded as spiritual serpents by local people. It is also in the Chipya area that termitaria vegetation predominates. Although some areas within the site were inhabited up to, probably, the early 70's, the place literally remains well endowed with natural vegetation, while disturbed portions were profusely regenerating. The Chipoma Falls area also remains an ideal place for wildlife, especially ungulates and other forms of small game like duikers, greysbok, hares, monkeys, bush squirrel, giant rats and cane rats. This is so because of the presence of Miombo woodlands which usually play host to wildlife.



Vegetation at Chipoma Falls

Wildlife:

The site is blessed with a number of wildlife species and these include: Common Duiker, Bushbuck, Kudu, Lions (intermittently reported), Buffalo (though rarely seen in the area), Greysbok (Katili), Cane Rats, Porcupine, and Giant Rats. Reptiles include – lizards, water monitors, and Snakes. Bird species include - Guinea Fowl (Ikanga), Horn Bill (Mungo'mba), fish eagles, etc.

Marine:

Chimanababwe River has the following marine life: crabs, fish, water monitors, wild geese, etc.

Management

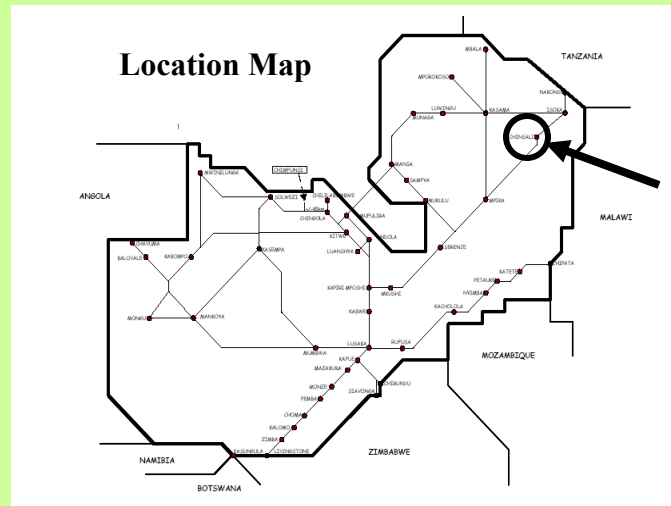
The site was declared a National Monument under Government Notice 255 of 1964. The area covering the monument is managed by NHCC, which is the institution in charge of Zambia's Heritage resources.

Photography/Filming

Photographing is permitted within the Falls area at no cost. However permission needs to be sort in writing if so derived photographs are to be reproduced or published. Filming for commercial purposes is done at a fee.

Business Hours/Admission

The site is open from about 0800 hours to 1800 hours.



For further information contact:

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**National Heritage
Conservation Commission**

CHIPOMA FALLS

**Northern Region – Chinsali
Zambia**



Location

Chipoma Falls is located in Chinsali District of Northern Province of Zambia. It is situated on the Chimanabubwe River at 10° 46'S and 32°01'E some 24km South West of Chinsali District on the Great North Road. The site is about 6km West of Chimbele Village/Basic School in Mbutuka Village.

The site takes a rectangular shape, it is 1.609 kilometres long and 0.40225 wide on each side of Chimanabuwi River having as its centre a point halfway down the series of falls, and situated 24.135 kilometres south-south-west of Chinsali.

Description and Significance

Chipoma Falls is an integral legend of National significance. The Chimanabubwe River flows through an attractive series of rapids and cascades over a distance of about 500 metres forming a total drop of about 40 meters but no individual fall is more than five metres.

The Chipoma Falls is pristine and geographically remains undisturbed and attractive. The gigantic evergreen mushitu (riparian) vegetation at the 'foot' of the Falls is unique and home to several types of snakes linked to the legendary stories about Chipoma Falls. It was this aesthetic natural beauty that contributed to declare this natural reserve as a National Monument Site.

Apart from the natural aesthetic beauty of the Falls, Chipoma Falls National Monument Site is home to rich pre history and various forms of Cultural Heritage. The site has substantial quantities of Iron Age Smelting Kilns on the North-Easterly direction of the Falls whilst number of Traditional Sites are also dotted within Chipoma Falls Site, a reflection of the rich legendary tales about the area.

Features: What to see at the Falls:

Chipoma Falls National Monument avails a visitor a number of features - the Falls made by two waterfalls, the upper rapid is about 5 metres in height whilst the main Falls is roughly 8 metres in height.

Other features include: Archaeological heritage resources such as Stone/Iron Age open and habitation sites, Iron Age sites with features such as Smelting Kilns. Other heritage resources include - traditional/anthropological sites such as shrines.

Within the vicinity of Chipoma Falls, a visitor can sample the local community rural architecture, blacksmith works and arts/crafts.



Rapid 1 of Chipoma Falls

Myths/Traditional/Spiritual

Traditionally Chipoma Falls is made by two falls, the upper rapid is called Ichilume (man) whilst the main Falls is known as Ichikota (woman). For the local people, Chipoma Falls acts as is an assembly point, a conduit for religious expressions, spiritual rituals, prayers, offering and mediumship for the local community. Rituals mostly directed towards rainmaking, horticulture and social well-being are performed annually in September by the local community traditional custodians known as Bakabwela. Besides the two waterfalls the site is also rich in cultural heritage resources such as: Imfumba shrines and other archaeological resources both reflecting the Stone and Iron Age Periods.

Cultural Heritage Resources at Chipoma Falls:

Chipoma is the only site that gives a glimpse into the now defunct metallurgy industry technologies. The site has over 10 Iron Smelting Kilns in three different heights and designs.



A 2metres high Kiln at Chipoma



one and half metre Kiln at Chipoma



Iron Slug from Kilns at Chipoma Falls

Current Metallurgy Traditions:

Although the old smelting technology has disappeared in the area, the forging of metal using contemporary materials is still being practiced by the local community and various domestic, hunting and farming implements are made.



Forging using Animal Skin Bellows

The Region-

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