

The second category of paintings to be seen in these areas are Schematic Designs - concentric circles, ladders, finger dots, lines (vertical, horizontal and parallel), hand prints, circles, arcs, grids, circles with radiating lines, divided circles, oblong shapes, arrow like designs, flower-like designs, cones, and many more.



Mwela Concentric circles, and Changamwewe Hand Prints and Finger Dots

Flora and Fauna

The Rock art site consists of three woodland types. These are Miombo, Chipya and Swampy bushland. Major tree species include *Brachystegia spp*, *Jubernardia spp* and *Isorb-erlina spp*. Others are *Uacapa* and *strychnos spp*.

There are also a varied animal and bird species within Mwela Rock art site. Animals include Mountains Goats, Bush Pigs, Rock Rabbits, Velvets, Rats. Bird Species include the Guinea Fowls, Doves, Black Baobab, African Wagtail, Fire Fentures, and many more.

Please Help us to Manage the Site by observing the following:

- Cooperate with our site personnel
- Do not go on unguided tours
- Use designated Trails/Pathways
- Do not collect archaeological deposits from the area
- Do not litter in the area
- Dispose litter in designated areas
- Do not pour liquids on the paintings
- Do not make fire
- Do not create Graffiti on rock surfaces
- Do not cut down trees

Photography/Filming

Photographing is permitted within the Rock art area at no cost. Filming for commercial purposes is done at a fee.

Business Hours/Admission

The Rock art area is open from 0600hrs to 1800hrs daily. Entry to the Site is by payment of a Statutory Fee and is restricted to the access hours. Vehicle entry is also at a fee except for Tour Operators vehicles who have an agreement with the Commission.

For further information contact:

The Regional Director
National Heritage Conservation Commission,
 Northern Region, Heritage Centre
 P O Box 410339, Kasama-Zambia,
 Tel/Fax: 260-21-4-221221/222141,
 E-mail:nhcckas@zamnet.zm

Produced by: National Heritage Conservation Commission
 Concept design, layout and printing: Information & Public
 Relations Division of : National Heritage Conservation
 Commission



MWELA ROCK ART NATIONAL MONUMENT



Sumina Lioness and Mwanokole Finger Dots/lines

NORTHERN REGION
Kasama, Zambia



**National
 Heritage
 Conservation
 Commission**

Location

The Mwela Rock outcrops with the adjacent rock outcrops of Mwankole, Sumina, Namulundu, Fwambo are situated along Mungwi - Isoka road 4km east of Kasama Town in Northern Province of Zambia. Another outcrop with rock art in Kasama is Lwimbo which is situated 12 kilometres along Kasama–Lwingu Road and 3 km off to the left of Lwimbo village junction. Kasama lies at approximately latitude 10 degrees 11minutes, longitude 13 degrees 13 minutes.

The Site Management

Mwela Rock art was declared and gazetted a National Monument under Government Notice No. 255 of 1964. It is under the management of National Heritage Conservation Commission. The area is about 100 km.²

Significance

Mwela Rock art National Monument is a very important Cultural Heritage Resource. It is made of five distinctive areas — Mwela (east and west), Sumina, Mwankole, Fwambo, Changamwibwe and Lwimbo These Archaeological resources are artistic expressions executed by the Prehistoric inhabitants that lived and roamed the Mwela area.

In the absence of written records, the rock art paintings are the only primordial text we have to decipher the history of the inhabitants of Mwela. Besides the rock art paintings providing an insight into the people's artistic expressions, the paintings also give us an understanding of the economic and social/spiritual activities of the inhabitants.

Features: Types of Paintings:

The Rock art paintings of Mwela Rock art National Monument are predominantly executed in red pigment. The paintings fall in two main stylistic categories: naturalistic and schematic. Naturalistic designs include stick human, Animals figures which include: Lions, Elands, Elephants, Monkeys/Baboons, Guinea fowls, Warthogs, etc. Schematic designs include: finger dots, lines (vertical, horizontal and parallel), circles, arcs, grids, ladders, circles with radiating lines, concentric circles, divided circles, oblong shapes, arrow like designs, flower-like designs, cones, and many more.

Meaning of Paintings:

The Rock art Tradition show economic/social/spiritual activities of the executors. It also depicts some designs that resemble weather symbols and possible fertility motifs.

What to see

Whilst it is not possible for a visitor to at once visit all the areas with rock art paintings in the site, a visit to one of the areas will afford the visitor the two major categories of paintings – Naturalistic (human and animal figures/motifs) and Schematic /Geometric symbolism.

The site also has beautiful and unique landscape– undulating features. Swamps, plains, hills, forests and a rare yet vast placement of varied caves and rock outcrops on which the rock art was executed.



Mwela Rock Outcrops



Changamwibwe, Mwela Zoomorphic and Human Figures



Namulundu Lions, Guinea Fowls and Warthog Figures



Mwela Zoomorphic Figures

