

Flora and Fauna

A tourist would not only enjoy the beauty of falling waters whilst at Ntumbachushi site but also the rich flora and fauna found in the high biodiversity of the site.

Vegetation

The Ng'ona River and Mabila stream which transverse the monument site are fringed with evergreen riparian vegetation because of high ground water table and the continuous mist from the curtain of falling water. The rich riparian floristic species of rare kingdom makes the area a useful botanic attractive centre. It consists of species like *Gardenia imperialis*, *Pandanus livingstoneanus*, *Raphia farinifera* and species of *syzgium*.



Floristic species of rare plant at Ntumbachushi Falls

Pandanus livingstoneanus



Marine and wildlife

Fauna life at Ntumbachushi includes the following: baboons, Vervet monkeys, Duikers, Rodents and Hares. There is also a high diversity of avifauna (birds) species which include Guinea fowls, Ground hornbills, Cattle Egrets, Fish Eagles Honey guide, Night Jar Owls, Swallows, Bishops to name but a few.

These, together with the splendours waterfalls have made Ntumbachushi National Monument aesthetically an attractive tourist spot and the memories of the visit to the site would remain indefinitely.

Management

This National Monument is under the management of National Heritage Conservation Commission. The falls and the area embracing them were gazetted as a National Monument under Statutory Instrument No. 69 of 1976. Ntumbachushi is part and parcel of a protected Forest Area No. 265, which is a Botanical Reserve, and hence it is protected as an avenue for Botanical Research under the Forest Act. The site covers a total area of 186 hectares.

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. Visitors are advised to respect the privacy of others and therefore not photograph anyone without their consent. Filming for commercial purposes is done at a fee.

Business Hours/Admission

The Falls is open from 0600hrs to 1800hrs daily. Entry to the Falls 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.

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NTUMBACHUSHI FALLS
Kawambwa, Zambia

**National
Heritage
Conservation
Commission**



Location

Ntumbachushi Falls is located in Kawambwa District of Luapula Province on Muchinga Escarpment along the Ng'ona River approximately 15 kilometres west of the district at latitude 9 degrees 25'S and longitude 28 degrees 58'E.

Main Falls



Significance

The panoramic view of the falling waters and the evergreen mist soaked forest makes the Ntumbachushi Falls aesthetically attractive. The rich Riparian floristic species, which harbour both woodland and riverine fauna and aquatic animal life, makes Ntumbachushi a significant area for academicians in the field of botany and zoology. The geological landscape has a unique scenic beauty. Above all, Ntumbachushi is an integral aspect of National significance as it shows a true, accurate and essentially unspoiled example of natural history.

Features

The Ntumbachushi Falls developed at an area where the Ng'ona River failed to erode the hard granite rock material and plunged down to the low lying terrain forming curtains of falling waters. The Monument area contains naturally significant biotic-nonliving and biotic-living resources other than the marvelous water fall itself. The elevated rocky ground on the eastern half and the low-lying valley like terrain is valuable geological scenery, which makes the area a 'lot tourist geological spot.

What to see at the Falls

Ntumbachushi waterfalls and the cataracts

About 1000 meters upstream, the Ng'ona River gracefully meanders but with yet several mini waterfalls (5 cataracts and 8 natural swimming pools upstream and 2 cataracts downstream the main falls – Katongo and Fwaka) before coming to the scenic wide plains as if to give an illustration of the masterly and divine architecture of the landscape. The main waterfalls are about 60 metres in length and have a vertical drop of 30 metres. At the foot of the falls is a calm pool excellent for swimming and summer baths. In the same vicinity is another waterfalls popularly known as Mabila (daubed the Witchdoctor).



Second Falls



Upper Rapids and natural pools

Myths/ Traditional/ Spiritual

Spiritual

Apart from the natural aesthetics and splendor that Ntumbachushi Falls offers are a number of Cultural Heritage sites therein.

The site is home to a number of legendary myths that link the nearby Kingdoms/Chiefdoms and local communities like Mwata Kazembe and the Lunda migration and Chishinga's Chief Munkanta to the Traditional Spirits of Ntumbachushi Falls Site. For example, to date, Chief Munkanta has a Traditional Shrine located within the Monument area. His spiritual mediums offer prayers and carry out rituals at this site. The traditional prayers are believed to have power to bring providence, good health, peace and satisfaction to the Chiefdom of Munkanta within which the falls are.

The BaTwa (Bushmen) Rock art Paintings

Types/Age of Paintings

Apart from the traditional and spiritual dimensions of the local people, Ntumbachushi Falls Site is also blessed with a number of Rock art Paintings which are located about 700 metres on the southern upper edges of the waterfalls and on Ng'ona River. These paintings which are a "window into the past artistic and spiritual" world of the Later Stone Age (LSA) peoples or the Ba Twa or Bushmen as commonly known are believed to be over 10000 years old".

The paintings which are similar to those of Kasama's Mwela Rock art Paintings, take both naturalistic and schematic stylistic nature. Unlike the Kasama Rock art that occurs in both Red Animal

Tradition (Naturalistic) as well as Red Geometric Tradition (Schematic), the majority of Ntumbachushi Paintings are in Red Geometric Tradition and these include: finger dots, lines (vertical, horizontal and parallel), circles, arcs, grids, ladders, circles with radiating lines, concentric circles, divided circles, stick human figures, oblong shapes, arrow like designs, flower-like designs, cones, and many more.



Circles & lines

Meaning of Paintings

A number of meanings have been attributed to the Red Geometric paintings some of these include: weather divination, shamanism, rite of passage, and procreation.