

The Geological Heritage of Maputo: Examples of Sites with Educational and Geotouristic Interest

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The southern region of Mozambique particularly Maputo province is characterized by the occurrence of some exceptional geological sites in the context of educational, scientific and tourist interest named geosites. The set of these sites when inventoried and characterized constitutes the geological heritage of the Maputo province.

In the recent years Maputo has been experiencing a growth in demand of mineral resources as a source of raw materials. This constitutes a threat to the integrity of some geosites; therefore it is necessary to find mechanisms to ensure its protection and preservation to carry out educational, scientific, touristic activities and so on, so that future generations can also benefit from them.

The National Museum of Geology is conducting an inventory and characterization of the geological heritage of Mozambique. In this context it carried out an inventory of geological heritage occurring in the province of Maputo, in collaboration with the Department of Geology of Eduardo Mondlane University, aiming at its conservation and dissemination. Some geosites for educational and geotouristic purposes were identified, among them we have the following examples:

- Vertical diabase dyke in quartz latite of the Pequenos Libombos Formation;
- Columnar jointing in a basaltic sill intruding riolitos of the Pequenos Libombos;
- Chimneys fairy in quaternary Internal Dunes (GTK Consortium, 2006).

Due to the immense variety of outstanding geological features of interest that these geosites offer, combined with a privileged geographic location, accorded by its proximity to the capital city of Mozambique, access facilities, proximity to major service centres, good range of commercial banks, health facilities and accommodation, we believe that there are good conditions for the establishment of educational and geotouristic itineraries in Maputo province.

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