Udzungwa Mountains National Park Enhancing the Visitor Center Experience.

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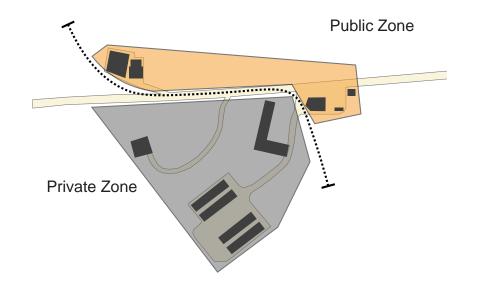
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Site Analysis

Site circulation and Use:



Distinction between Public and Private:



Conclusions:

- The spaces which visitors use within the center is concentrated in two main areas, which include the registration office and the future VIC building.
- There is a clear distinction between public and private spaces that should be preserved in the design process.
- The experience of the space is naturally very linear and with a strong axis. This could become a feature for a possible design, but does not necessarily have to be retained.

Problem Statement

Currently, circulation of visitors within the site is very direct and involves going from one building to another before entering the trails. However, the transition between buildings lacks a meaningful experience, and does not give visitors the opportunity to spend time outside while still being in the park node. Additionally, all the educational experiences are concentrated within buildings, mainly the inside of the visitor registration center and the future visitor center building.



1.Registration Office 2. VIC Building

----≽ 3. Trail







Promoting connections between this node and the rest of the park through the use of outside spaces will elevate the overall experience for visitors; making the educational opportunities that the park offers much more immersive and interactive.

Education and the Visitor Experience

Providing an immersive educational experience for visitors is important in order to influence their attitudes and values towards the park's conservation. Management stategies in conservation-related institutions often follow the premise that providing visitors with information will educate them and consequently change their attitudes and behaviors (Ballantyne et. al. 2007). However, research in educational psychology suggests that this view is too simplistic, and the institutions need to implement interpretive materials that are specifically designed to meet the knowledge, interests and needs of visitors in order for education to be effective (Ballantyne et. al. 2007).

The subject of environmental interpretation involves presenting the information of conservation and natural science in a way in which people not involved with these subjects will understand and connect with (Ham 1992). In order to do so, the educational experience must combine facts with meaningful messages that visitors can understand at a personal level. Making connections, both intellectually and emotionally, to the subject of learning is a way to achieve nature interpretation and enhance the quality of learning (Ballantyne et. al. 2007). Increasing environmental interpretation in the visitor experience involves immersing them into the landscape, which can be achienved through the use of interactive audio and visual materials, in-depth content, and meaningful nature interaction experiences (Ardoin et. al. 2015). Immersive and interactive activities, such as the one in figure one, can therefore be pleasurable, meaningful and personal (Ham 1992). Environmental interpretation can also play a role in influencing people's knowledge, attitudes, and behavior in regards to conservation and wildlife. In a literature review over the subject of nature-based tourism and visitor outcomes, the authors analysed 24 research papers that dealt with the topics of education and interpretation in regards to environmental knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors. As shown in table number one, 11 of the 24 essays recommended these two factors as a way to increase knowledge and foment positive values and behaviors towards wildlife conservation (Ardoin et. al. 2015). Additionally, three essays recommended creating an emotional connection to the topic of learning, while another three recommended providing the opportunity for a time of reflection in the learning experience (Ardoin et. al. 2015).

While the Udzungwa Mountains National Park (UMNP) currently has some amount of educational components within their headquarters, most of their material lacks immersion and a meaningful experience. As explained in the previous slide, all educational components are within inside spaces and prevent visitors from engaging with the landscape as they learn. Through the use of more environmental interpretation and experiences that immerse visitors with nature, the park can greatly improve the visitor experience, as well as influence their knowledge and attitudes towards the UMNP's conservation.

Figure 1: Children learning about elephants at their local zoo.

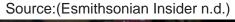




Table 1: Salient Features of Research on the nature-based toursim experience.Source: (Ardoin et. al. 2015)

Identified feature	Supporting articles
Interpretation/education	Coghlan et al. (2011); Dearden et al. (2007); Higham and Carr (2002); Hill et al. (2007); Hughes and Morrison-Saunders (2002); Mayes and Richins (2009); Powell and Ham (2008); Smith et al. (2008); Stamation et al. (2007); Tubb (2003); Weiler and Smith (2009)
Time for reflection	Ballantyne, Packer, and Falk (2011); Ballantyne, Packer, and Sutherland (2011); Hughes (2011, 2013)
Creating an emotional connection	Ballantyne, Packer, and Sutherland (2011); Hughes (2011, 2013); Skibins et al. (2013)
Strategies and opportunities for action	Ballantyne, Packer, and Sutherland (2011); Hughes (2011); Powell et al. (2009); Rattan et al. (2012); Skibins et al. (2013)
Exposure to wildlife	Hovardas and Poirazidis (2006); Mayes and Richins (2009); Skibins et al. (2013); Tisdell and Wilson (2005)
Level of participation and type/intensity of activities offered	Coghlan and Kim (2012); Hughes and Morrison-Saunders (2005a, 2005b)
Viewing actual environmental damage	Dearden et al. (2007)
Trip duration	Dearden et al. (2007)
Pre-existing visitor characteristics	Ballantyne, Packer, and Falk (2011); Hughes and Morrison-Saunders (2005a)
Prior preparation	Dubin (2008)
Post-visit support	Ballantyne, Packer, and Falk (2011); Ballantyne, Packer, and Sutherland (2011); Hughes (2011, 2013); Hughes et al. (2011); Rattan et al. (2012)

Inspiration

The project draws inspiration from some of the most unique features of the UMNP, including its endemic animal and plant species and its natural landscapes. Mainly, the design attempts to highlight the presence of Udzungwa's endemic primate species and native plants; as well as the presence of waterfalls in the area, which are important water catchment areas and generate hydropower.



Tanzania derives 60% of its electricity from hydropower, mostly generated in the Udzungwa Mountains (World Bank 2009).

There are over 4,000 plant taxa on the Eastern Arc Mountain Region, 800 of which are endemic (Fisher et. al. 2012).

There are at least 96 endemic vertebrate species in the Eastern Arc Region, including endemic primates such as the Sanje Mangabey and the Red Colobus (Fisher et. al. 2012).

Site Plan

7

6

5

Prince Bernard's Trail

- 1. Welcoming Area
- 2. Rain Drum Court
- 3. Ethnobotanical Pharmacy and Garden
- 4. Children's Playground
- 5. Outside Classroom
- 6. Butterfly Gardens
- 7. Wooden Deck

40m

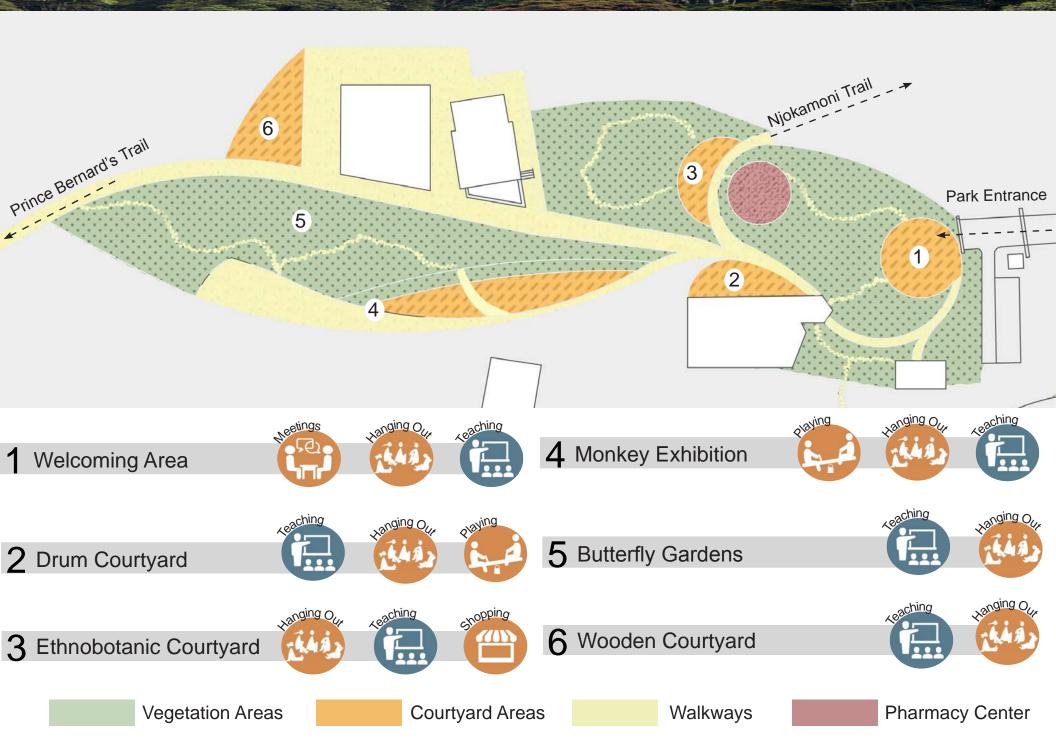
RN 11/

Njokamoni Trail

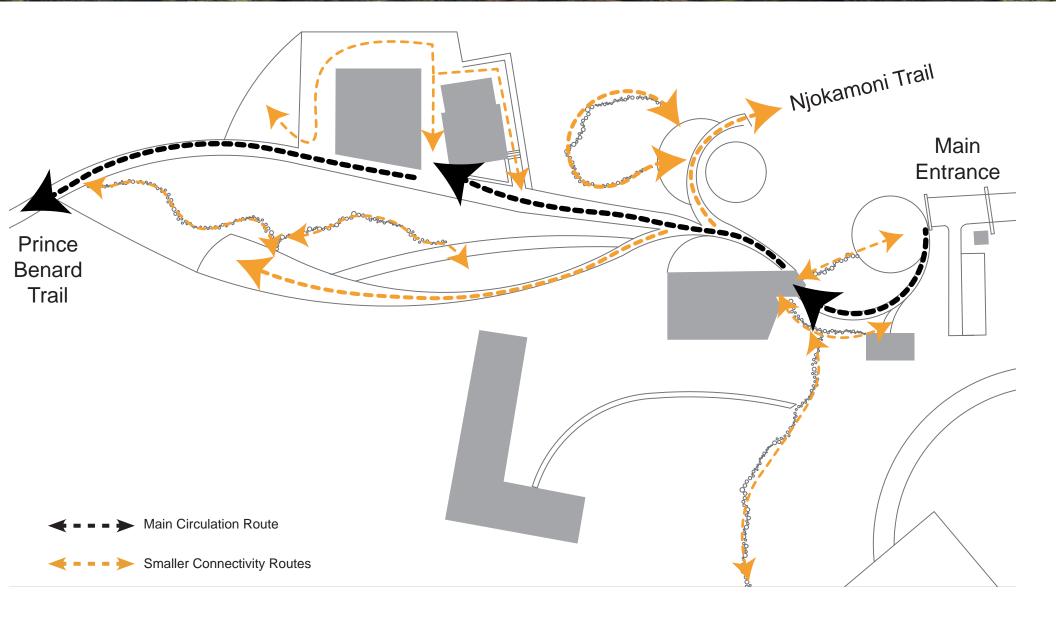
§10m

0m

Site Zoning Diagram



Circulation Diagram



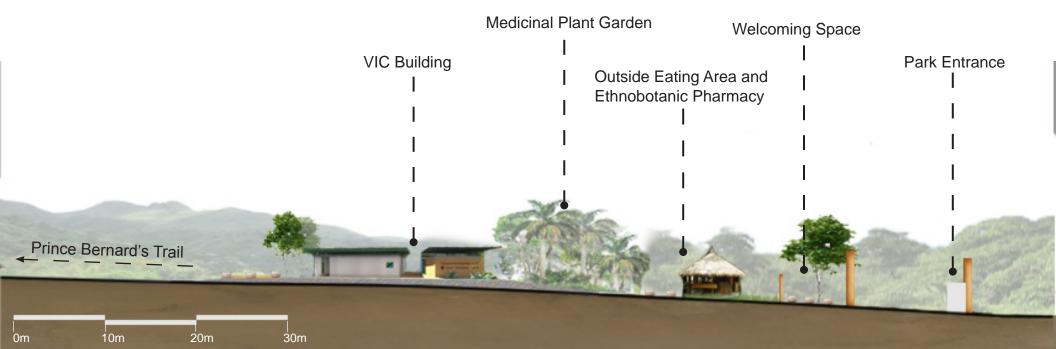
The design still maintains the circulation hierarchy of the three main visitor stops within the node (Entrance, Ticket Center and VIC). Meanwhile, it provides the opportunity for other kinds of circulation within subspaces.

Section Along Entire Site 1

The proposed ramp for the VIC building is used as a main point of circulation within the design, in order to expose more visitors to the future buildings and to the views of the mountains in this area.

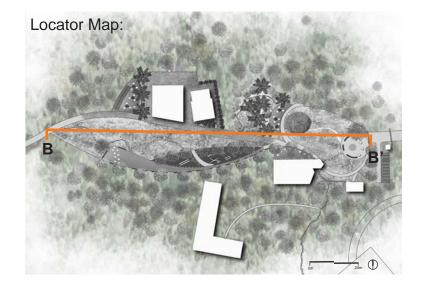
Locator Map:

Section A-A':



Section Along Entire Site 2

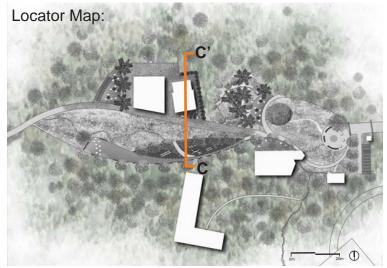
The circulation within the design takes you in a sequence of spaces that touch upon each of the buildings. The welcoming area leads visitors to the ticket center and the drum courtyard, and subsequently to the Monkey Educational Exhibit.



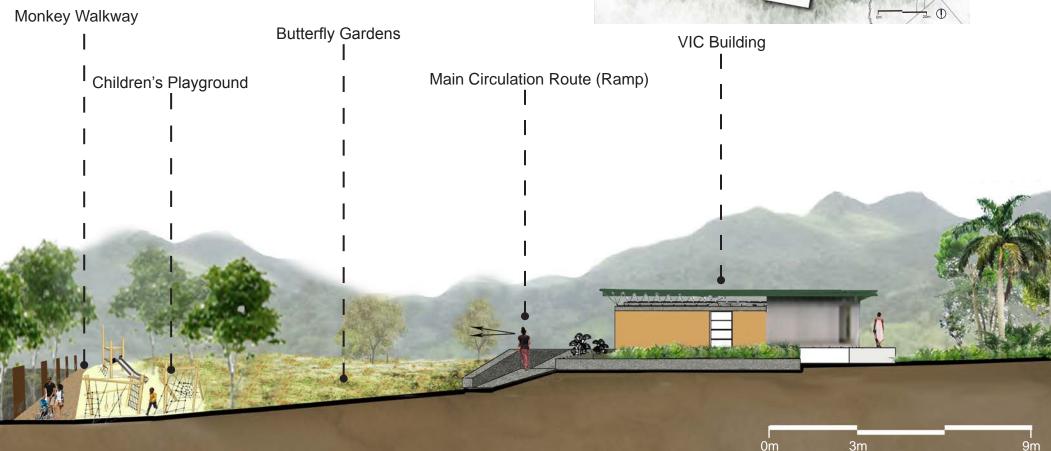
P9

Section Across Site

The existing ramp going towards the VIC building will become the main route of circulation towards Prince Bernard's trail, bringing more attention towards this building to visitors. The slightly higher elevation provides views of the butterfly garden and adjacent playground.



Section C-C'



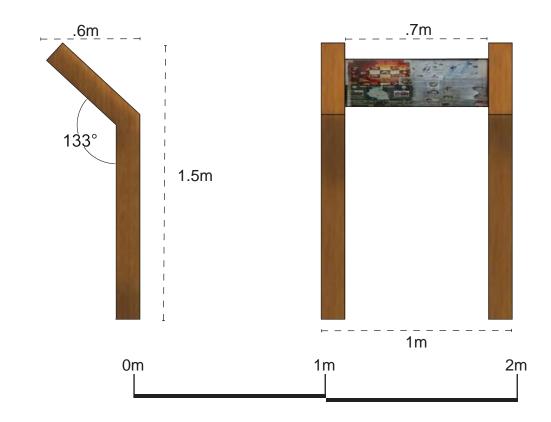
Site Furniture and Signage

Information Signs



The information signs will be distributed throughout the entire node area and can also be utilized in parts of the park trails. These signs will contain information about specific subjects of focus, as well as interactive games that can create a more immersive experience. The content of these signs will focus on topics such as:

- Endemic animal and plant species of the UMNP
- Importance of biodiversity in the local ecosystem
- Importance of Udzungwa as a water catchment area and hydropower generator.
- Impacts of deforestation in the Udzungwa Mountains



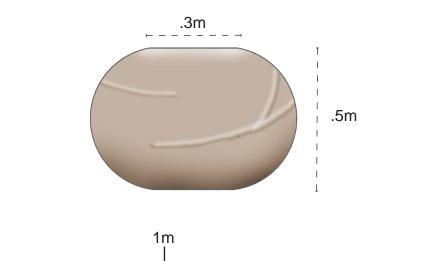
Site Furniture and Signage

Formal Seating



0m

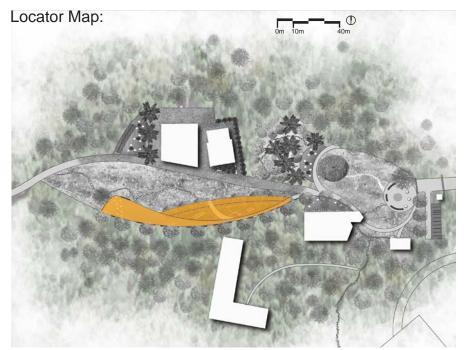
The formal seats throughout the site draw inspiration from spherical seats used throughout the villages near the Udzungwa Mountains. This seating adds a cultural component to the entire design.



2m

Monkey Tales Educational Exhibit

The monkey educational exhibit is designed around the endemic primates that live in UMNP. The overall shape of the exhibit reminisces that of a monkey tail, such as the one shown in figure 2. The main pathway functions as the elongated part of the tail, while the outside classroom represents the fluffy, white end.



Monkey Tail Diagram:

Outside Classroom

Main Pathway of Exhibit



Children's Playground

Vegetation Buffer

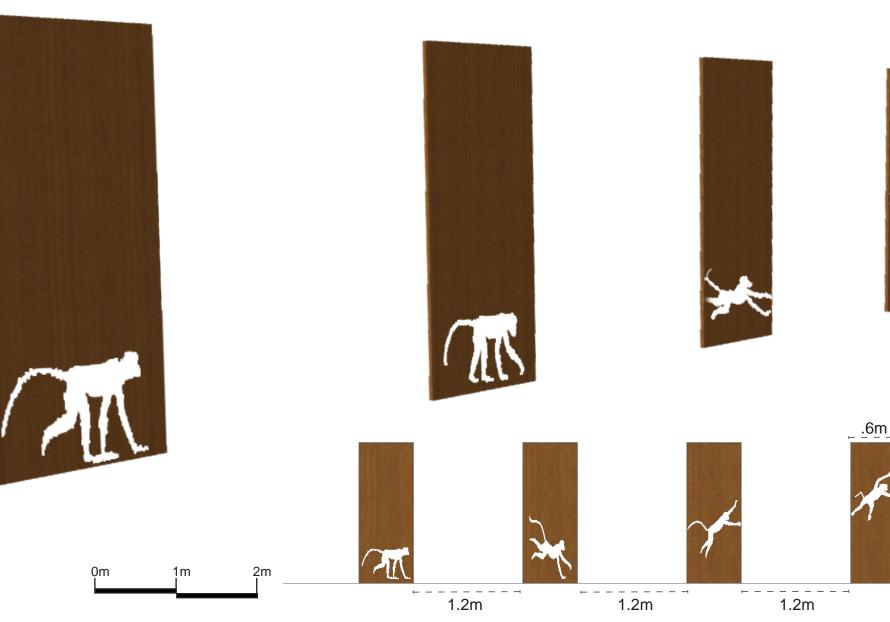


Source: (Beaton 2009.).

Site Furniture and Signage

Monkey Wooden Boards

The teak wood boards that are placed along the path have a carved silhouette of a monkey, which changes positions from one board to another. This creates an allusion of movement that makes the visitor feel like the monkey is walking alongside of them.



1.8m

Monkey Walkway Perspective



The walkway functions as a connection between the outside classroom and the rest of the site, as well as providing smaller connections to the Butterfly Gardens. This walkway is more interactive and aesthetically pleasing.

Materials Used:



Teak Wood



Native Plants



P15

Oil Palm Seed

Outside Classroom Perspective



The outside classroom will provide people with information about all the monkeys that are found in the UMNP, as well as the impacts of deforestation on monkey populations.

Children's Playground Perspective



The elements of the playground focus on climbing activities, since this is something which primates are known to do and is enjoyable for children. Little branch tunnels and houses are another play component.

Materials Used:



Teak Wood



Rope







P17

Branches

Sand

Soil

Rain Drum Mechanisms and Precedents

The design implements an African drum courtyard, which adds a cultural component to the visitor experience. The main aspect of the courtyard consists of using gutters and drippers to spew rain drops over drums fitted with plastic heads. This form of artful rainwater design has been implemented in other educational institutions, such as the Cedar River Watershed Educational Center in Seattle; their Rain Drum Courtyard has 21 drums which play music through computer-programmed dripping systems (Pucci 2005). As shown in Figure 3, the raindrops drip over the drums to create sound. While the precedent uses computer generated programs, this same effect can be achieved through simple Rube Goldberg mechanisms, or by tilting the gutters of each drum at different angles.

Locator Map:

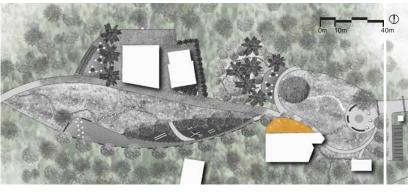
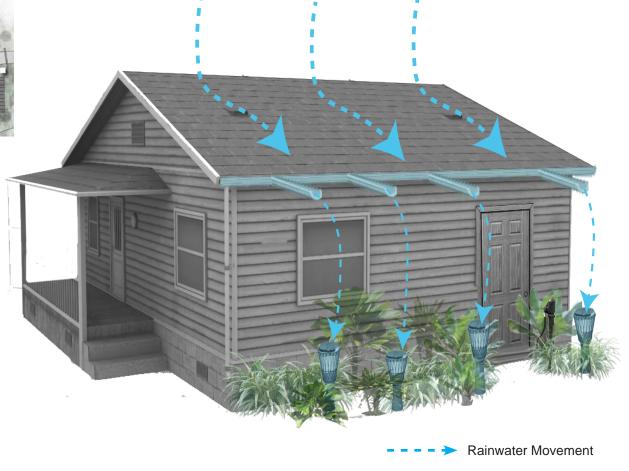


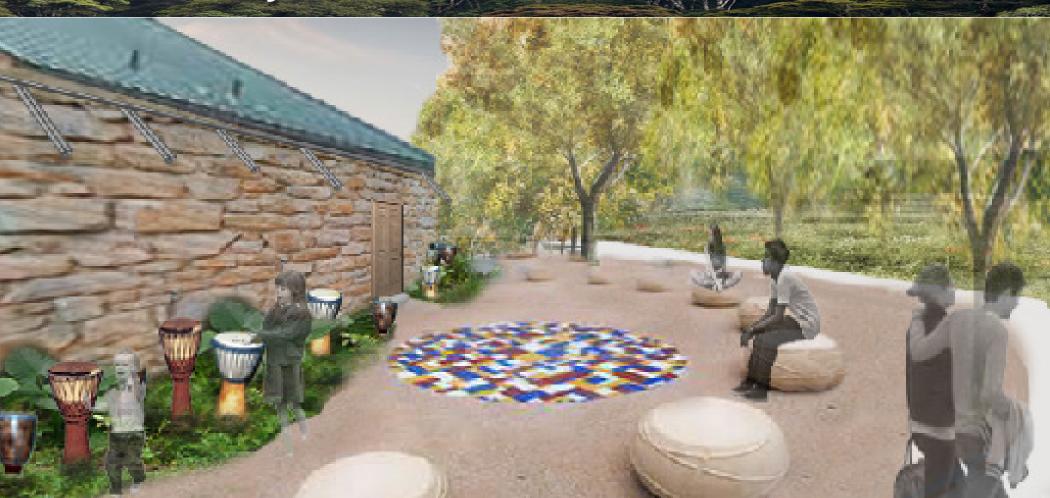


Fig 3: Raindrops falling over a drum in the Cedar River Center. Source: (Teashon n.d.).

Raindrum Courtyard Diagram



Drum Courtyard



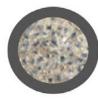
The drum courtyard can function through rain during the rainy season. During the dry season, visitors can choose to play the drum themselves, or use a pump that activates the drippers with stored rainwater.

Materials Used:





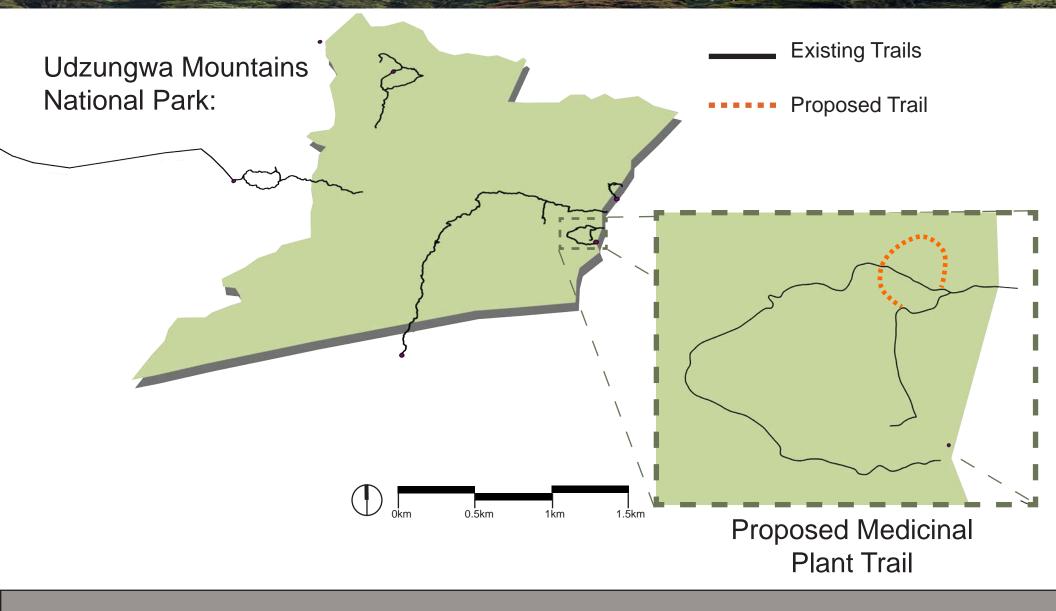
Native Plants



P19

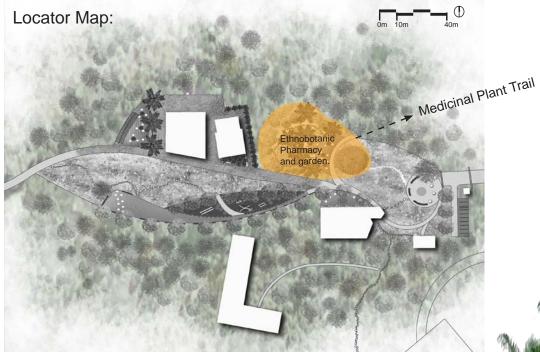
Palm Oil Seed

The New Trail and Ethnopharmacy



The project proposes the addition of a medicinal plant trail within the existing Njokamoni trail, which can begin within the visitor center node and connect to different sections of the Njokamoni and Prince Bernard's trails. This particular trail would exhibit a range of native plants which are used by local people for medicinal purposes. This feature adds a cultural component to the trails, while showcasing the park's high amount of diversity.

The Trail Experience

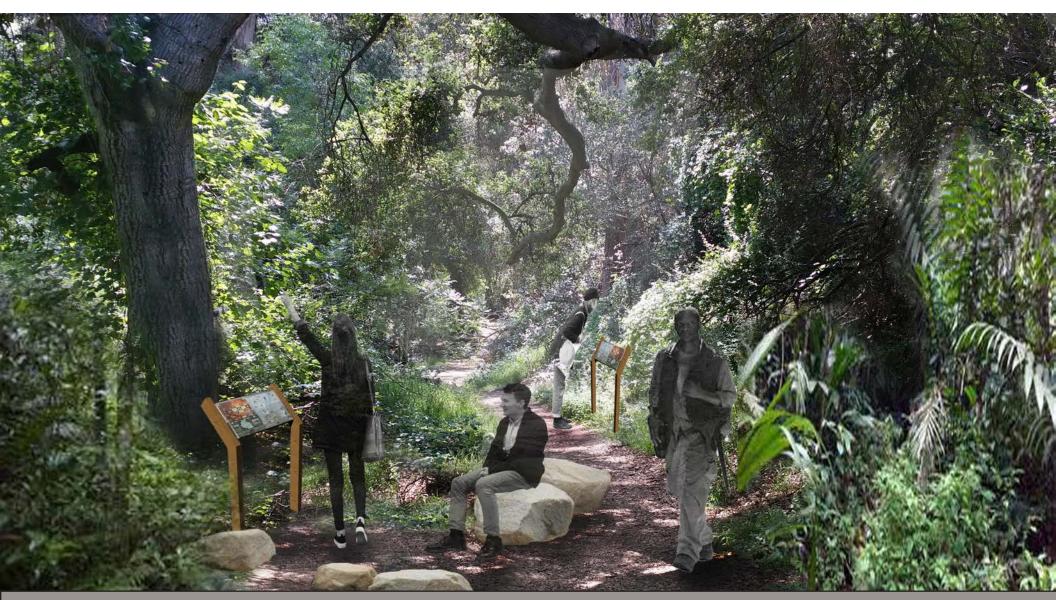


The trail entrance will be located next to the Ethnobotanical Pharmacy area and the medicinal plant garden. At other points of the trail, it will connect to other main pathways

The trail itself will be wider than other trails found in the park, in order to make it more accessible for higher amounts of visitors. The trail will also implement small resting areas and signage.



Proposed Trail Perspective



The medicinal plant trail will implement infromation signs that can give visitors more background as to what each plant is used for and how the local community uses it. Additionally, small areas with signs and rock seating can be created in order to make the hike more enjoyable.

Medicinal Trail Plant List Part 1

Sources: (Dharani and Yenesew 2010), (Shangali et. al. 2008), Ruben Mwakisoma and Aggrey Uisso.

Scientific Name	Local Name	Use	Methods of Use
Acokanthera schimperi	Mmemeng'oro	Snakebites and stomach pain	Powdered dry leaves and roots are used for snakebite, leaf infusions are taken for stomach.
			Bark decoctions are used for steam bathing for fevers, root decoctions are taken for exhaustion and
Adansonia digitata	Mbuyu	Fever, exhaustion, diarrhoea	fruit pulp is used for diarrhoea.
Adenia cissampeloides	Ligolomosi	Madness and mental disturbance	Root powder added into leaf decoction and taken orally twice per day, or added to bathing water.
			Decoction of bark is rinced in the mouth twice daily , leaf powder is boiled and taken three times
Agarista salicifolia	Mkolongo	Toothaches, diarrhoea	daily.
			Decoction of roots is taken for seven days for rheumatism; leaves are pounded and boiled, then
Agelaea pentagyna	Mlungamo	Rheumatism, Pneumonia	taken twice daily for pneumonia.
Albizia amara	Mtanga	Open wounds and purgative	Leaves are used to treat wounds and bark decoctions to induce vomiting.
Albizia gummifera	Mtanga	Rashes	Bark powder is stirred in warm water and foam is applied twice daily.
Bauhinia spp.	Msegese	Diarrhoea	Leaves can be chewed to treat diarrhoea.
		cold, headaches, menstruation pains	Bark is sniffed for colds and headaches, bark and roots are taken for menstruation pains and
Bersama abyssinica	Mbasamono	and infertility	infertility.
Cassia alata	Msekeseke	Fungal infections	Leaves and roots used to treat ringworm, impetigo, scabies, leprosy and eczema.
Catunaregum spinosa	Mtutumo	Loss of apetite and vomiting	Liquid from the bark is boiled and drunk before bubbles go down.
Cordia sinensis	Mtundwa	Malaria, dry coughs	Root decoction is used for malaria; dry fruit is eaten for coughs.
Deinbollia kilimandscharica	Mkongwa	Hernia	A decoction from the roots is taken orally.
Dichrostachys cinerea	Mohanidume	Burns, body swellings and arthritis	Powedered bark decoction is used for all three ailments.
		Diarrhoea, bleeding wounds, skin	Leaf infusions are taken for diarrhoea and colds; leaves are pounded into powder and mixed with
Dodonaea angustifolia	Mguina	rashes, flu	water for wounds and rashes.
Dombeya rotundifolia	Mtogo	Abdominal pain	Dry roots are pounded, burned and sniffed.
Dracaena manii	Mdetema	Measels	Leaves can be drunk to treat measels.
		Fungal infections, skin rashes, acne,	Poultices made from the powdered bark are applied externally to skin; root decoctions are used to
Ekebergia capensis	Mulimuli	chronic coughs	treat coughs and scabies.

Medicinal Trail Plant List Part 2

Sources: (Dharani and Yenesew 2010), (Shangali et. al. 2008), Ruben Mwakisoma and Aggrey Uisso.

Scientific Name	Local Name	Use	Methods of Use
Entada Abyssinica	Lifute	Flu	Bark is dried on the sun, squeezed and sniffed.
			Liquid squeezed from bark can be applied twice daily on the eyes; roasted and crushed bark forms a
Erythrina abyssinica	Kirundirundi	Trachoma, burns and body swelling	paste for burns and inflamation.
Euclea divinorum	Mdaa	Stomachaches and chest pains	Dried root powder mixed with hot water is drank twice daily for stomachaches; boiled roots are drank for chest pains.
Grewia bicolor	Umwimwi	Diarrhoea,colds and chest pains, intestinal worms	Root decoctions are used for diarrhoea and colds; boiled bark powder is drunk for colds and chest pains; leaf decoctions are taken for intestinal worms.
Kigelia africana	Mfungutua	Malaria and Maesles (in children)	Boiled leaf powder is drunk for malaria; Children are washed with a beer made from fermented fruits as maesles treatment.
Moringa oleifera	Mlongitongi	Skin and fungal infections, malnutrition	Gum of the plant can be dissolved in water and applied to skin; leaves can be eaten fresh or dried and mixed with other dishes.
Ocotea usambarensis	Muheti	Malaria, headaches, whooping cough	Fresh pounded roots can be boiled and drunk for malaria; ground roots and bark can be sniffed for headaches; boiled stem bark can be drunk for whooping cough or brochitis.
Prunus africana	Mnandawi	Stomachaches and fever	The bark is used for stomach pains while the leaves are used as an inhalant to relieve fever.
Rhus natalensis	Uhehefu	Heartburn, abdominal pain, hookworms	Pounded fresh leaves are chewed for heartburn and drunk for abdominal pain; dry root powder is drunk daily for 2-3 days for hookworms.
Ricinus communis	Nyonyo	Laxative, stimulates appetite	Root decoction stimulates appetite and aleeviates abdominal ailments.
Simylux ancepsy	Mkwangasale	Cavities	Liquid is drunk from the vine.
Solanum incanum	Matulatula	Toothache, earache, warts and skin ailments	Fruit pulp can be rubbed on the teeth, or applied to the skin; Boiled fresh leaves can be applied as ear drops.
Syzgium cuminii	Mvenge	Diabetes, weak gums, wounds and nosebleeds	One teaspoon of dry fruit kernels can be taken twice daily for diabetes; boiled fresh bark can be used as a mouthwash; seeds can be grinded as a sniff powder for nosebleeds.
Syzgium guineense	Mvenge	Stomachaches and anthelmintic	Fresh bark and roots are pounded and drunk with cold water for stomach ailments.
Tamarindus indica	Mkwaju	Premature ejaculation, indigestion	Roasted seeds are pounded and drunk for premature ejaculation; Ripe fruit with removed seeds can be mized with water and drunk for stomach problems.
Teclea nobilis	Mpembesa	Malaria, pneumonia and fever	Fresh bark is drunk to treat malaria, and boiled fresh leaves are drunk to treat pneumonia; boiled leaves are inhaled in steam vapour to treat fever.
Trichilia emetica	Mbokoboko	Skin ailements, malaria and fever	Pounded fresh leaves or seeds can be mixed with water and applied on skin; steeped fresh leaves can be drunk for malaria and fevers.
Unknown	Likamanda	Blood clotting and loss of consciousness	Liquid is drunk from the vine.
Unknown	Mmavimmavi	Severe fever on children	Leaves can be drunk to cure fever in children.
Utika masaica	Lougen	Leg Inflamation	Pounded leaves can be applied on skin.

Ethnobotanical Pharmacy Perspective



The ethnobotanical pharmacy gives visitors the opportunity to buy some of medicines made by local community members using native medicinal plants. In addition to medicines, visitors can also buy products such as balms or juices, all made using native trees.

Materials Used:



Teak Wood



Bambusa vulgaris





P25

Thatching

Sand

Palm Oil Seed

Ethnobotanical Pharmacy Products

The Pharmacy could feature medicines made from some of the plants found in the trails which are used for more common ailments like skin issues or stomachaches. Additionally, the pharmacy could sell juices and balms which are also made using native plants found in the park.

Species in Trail List which could also be sold in the Pharmacy			
Scientific Name	Local Name	Medicinal Purpose	
Bersama abyssinica	Mbasamono	cold, headaches, menstruation pains and infertility	
Dichrostachys cinerea	Mohanidume	Burns, body swellings and arthritis	
Ekebergia capensis	Mulimuli	Fungal infections, skin rashes, acne, chronic coughs	
Euclea divinorum	Mdaa	Stomachaches and chest pains	
Prunus africana	Mnandawi	Stomachaches and fever	
Ricinus communis	Nyonyo	Laxative, stimulates appetite	
Simylux ancepsy	Mkwangasale	Cavities	
Solanum incanum	Matulatula	Toothache, earache, warts and skin ailments	
Syzgium cuminii	Mvenge	Diabetes, weak gums, wounds and nosebleeds	

Species Used for Fruits	s (Juices)	Source: (Msuya and Species Used for Bee Keeping		ping (Balms)	Source: (Ministry of
Scientific Name	Local Name	Kideghesho and Mosha	Scientific Name	Local Name	Environment and
Allanblackia stuhlmannii	Mkani	2010).	Sorindeia madagascariensis	Mpilipili doria	Tourism 2003).
Alsodeiopsis schumannii	Mmavimmavi		Dichrostachys cinerea	Mkulagembe	
Borassus aethiopum	Mtapa		Burkea africana	Mkarati]
Euclea divinorum	Mdaa		Combretum adenogonium	Mkunguni	
Ficus syconorum	Mkuyu	1	Brachystegia spiciformis	Mriti]
Flacourtia indica	Mgora		Parinari curatellifolia	Mbula	
Grewia similes	Mkole	1	Croton Megalocarpus	Ziloi	
Hoslundia opposita	Mteremtere		Syzygium cordatum	Muvengi	
Landolphia kirkii	Mlimbo	1	Acacia albidia (F. Albida)	Mkababu	
Opilia amentacea	Mlende		Brachystegia bussei	Miombo	
Parinari excelsa	Mgama	1	Uapaca kirkiana	Mguhu	
Rhus natalensis	Uhehefu		Acacia tortilis	Mgunga	
Solanum anguivii	Songwa	1	Terminalia sericea	Mbuko	
Syzygium cordatum	Msu		Combretum molle	Mlama	
Telfairia pedata	Ng'eme	1	Albizia versicolor	Mduruasi	
Vangueria infausta	Msada	1	Faurea saligna	Mhenyi]
Ximenia caffra	Mhingi]	Trema orientalis	Mgendagenda	

The Medicinal Plant Garden

The design of the medicinal garden is meant to act as a refuge, where all the taller species of plants are located in the outer ring of the garden so as to enclose the space away from the rest of the node. The shorter species of plant are located in the middle ring, which makes them easier to observe for visitors.

Section D-D':



1m

Locator Map:



Future Development: Observatory Houses



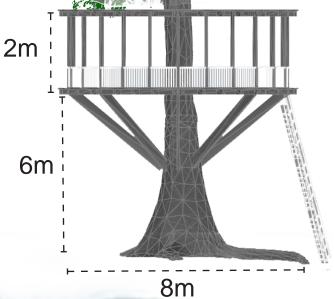
P28

Future development for the park could include observatory tree houses in strategic spots of the park, in order to enhance the visitor experience within the trails themselves. These houses allow visitors to appreciate views, and enjoy spending some time within the forest.

Future Development: Observatory Houses

Observatory houses can be implemented in strategic places, including sites that are at higher elevations and that provide particularly interesting views. These houses will need to be at least 6 meters off the ground in order to allow large mammals to pass underneath without any conflicts.

10m



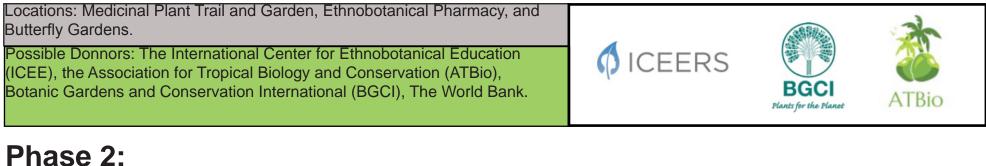
Adapted from: (3D Warehouse 2012).

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Phase Construction Plan and Funding

As the design presented is a large-scale project and presents many challenges in terms of expenditures, several organizations that could become potential funding partners have been identified. The following table presents a construction phase plan, which indicates a possible order of construction within the project and identifies possible donors within each section.

Phase 1:



Locations: Monkey Tales Educational Exhibit.

Possible Donors: The Primate Conservation Organization (PCO), The World Wildlife Fund (WWF), The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), The World Bank, The Norwegian Agency of Development Cooperation (NORAD).

Norad

Phase 3:

Location: Courtyards, connective Walkways, observatory houses, and additional Infrastructure

Possible Donnors: The World Bank, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (DANIDA), NORAD



Note On Maintenance:

As many of the spaces within the design implement teak wood, all wooden elements will be painted with antiseptic paint in order to assure more long-lasting infrastructure. Additionally, the integration of many new gardens will require higher amounts of plant maintenance than the current state of the node, which will increase current maintenance costs.

Conclusions

Enhancing the visitor experience can increase the amount of visitors that the Udzungwa Mountains National Park gets every year, which would be potentially beneficial to the area in therms of both conservation and local livelihoods.



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Thank you!