

**THE
NATIONAL TRUST
OF
ZIMBABWE**



1. Introduction

This booklet provides details about the National Trust of Zimbabwe (NTZ). We hope that you enjoy reading it and become a member in order to take advantage of the many benefits that the NTZ offers.

2. History

The National Trust was originally founded in the United Kingdom in 1895 by three Victorian philanthropists - Miss Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley. Concerned about the impact of uncontrolled development and industrialisation, they set up the National Trust to act as a guardian for the nation in the acquisition and protection of threatened coastline, countryside and buildings. More than a century later the National Trust remains very much alive and a similar sister organization, The National Trust of Zimbabwe was established in 1960 by the National Trust Act with the same aim of protecting and managing properties for future generations to enjoy.

Some of our properties are held in perpetuity so that their future protection is secure. The others are open to visitors and we are constantly looking at ways in which we can improve public access and on-site facilities.

3. Governing Body

The National Trust act is assigned to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resource Management. It is administered and controlled by a Council consisting of a President and not less than 10 or more than 20 members of whom not more than 18 are elected at an annual general meeting of members and three are appointed by The Ministry.

4. Aims and Objectives of the Trust

The aims and objectives of the NTZ are as follows:

- (a) to accept and hold property in trust for any public purposes and to act in trust for or as Trustee of any property devoted to public purposes in accordance with the conditions of such trust;
- (b) to promote for the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe the permanent preservation and protection of :
 - i). lands and buildings of national, archaeological, historical or aesthetic interest; natural resources, animal or bird life and trees or flora;
 - ii) objects or collections of objects of any description having national, archaeological, historical or aesthetic interest, including furniture, works of art, stamps and literature;
- (c) to provide the public with access to and enjoyment of the lands, buildings, resources and objects mentioned in (b) above;
- (d) to maintain or manage or assist in maintaining or managing lands and buildings for the purpose of public recreation, entertainment, resort or instruction.

5.

4.1 INTO



The NTZ is part of the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) which is a non-governmental group founded in 2007. INTO was established to promote the conservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage of all nations for the benefit of the people of the world. INTO has close links with organizations such as: UNESCO, UNEP, ICOMOS, IUCN and Europa Nostra.

Currently, INTO represents about 55 million individual members and countless millions of visitors to sites and properties across more than 25 countries.

INTO are actively involved in various initiatives including conserving and enhancing existing built resources, most notably by the viable re-use of historic and older buildings, greening of existing building stock, and reinvestment in older and historic communities and managing land in a sustainable way.

4.1.1 Climate Change

INTO and its associates have been urging world leaders to take strong and decisive action to address climate change and its impacts on heritage through both mitigation strategies that reduce climate change and adaptation strategies to cope with its unavoidable consequences.

They have pledged to work with governments, agencies and protocols worldwide such as the UNEP Convention on Biological Diversity and the UNESCO World Heritage Committee programme to tackle climate

change and thereby protect the world's natural and cultural heritage now and for the future. Conscious of their role as custodians and repositories of heritage INTO has pledged to take action to address their own carbon emissions and thereby to be exemplars of best practice in this regard.

In 2009 The Dublin Declaration on Climate Change was signed at the 13th INTO International Conference of National Trusts in Dublin, Ireland. In the same year INTO participated in the UNFCCC Climate Change Conference COP 15 held in Copenhagen, Denmark and then the COP 16 held in Cancun, Mexico in 2010.

INTO observes that globally progress has been too slow in achieving the necessary reforms to take the action and adopt the strategies specified in the Dublin Declaration on Climate Change. So INTO urged the global community to modify their strategies as covered in The Victoria Declaration signed at the INTO conference in Victoria, Canada 2011 at the 14th INTO International Conference of National Trusts. Later in the same year INTO participated in the COP 17 held in Durban, South Africa where the National Trust Zimbabwe also had a presence. INTO continues to take a proactive stance on the issue of climate change.

5. Funding

Sources of funding for the NTZ include rents, annual subscriptions, donations and bequests, admission charges to properties, hire charges for the use of halls and grounds, and the proceeds of sales of nursery plants and cut flowers.

6. Staffing

A part-time honorary secretary and a part-time bookkeeper manage the NTZ's headquarters in Harare. An external auditor is appointed with the approval of

the Minister of Environment and Tourism.

7. Membership Benefits

Being a member of the NTZ has benefits both inside the country as well as around the world:

7.1 Zimbabwe



The Trust has a rapidly growing subscription-paying membership. Members enjoy free entry to all the Trust's properties in Zimbabwe. In the case of the La Rochelle property, situated in the scenic Imbeza Valley, members are entitled to a 10 per cent discount on accommodation upon production of a valid membership card. Members also receive an electronic newsletter.

7.2 United Kingdom

The NTZ has reciprocity with the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the National Trust of Scotland. In terms of arrangements with these Trusts, members are entitled to free admission to all of the many outstanding National Trust properties throughout England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland upon production of a valid National Trust of Zimbabwe membership card. This represents a

considerable benefit to members of the Trust who visit the United Kingdom.

7.3 Worldwide

Through reciprocal arrangements with the National Trusts in Guernsey, Jersey, Barbados, Ireland, Malaysia, Bahamas, Bermuda and New Zealand and with the Australian Council of National Trust's, and the Stichting het Vrienden der Geldersche Kasteelen and Stichting het Geldersch Landscape in the Netherlands Trust members enjoy free admission to the numerous properties of the National Trusts in those countries.

8. Properties

The Trust manages and controls the following properties with the help of its Council, its employees and a number of unpaid volunteers.

The Trust welcomes new members.

Help protect the unique heritage of Zimbabwe.

Please contact:

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8.1 La Rochelle Estate

La Rochelle estate is the best known of the Trust's properties. It is situated in the Imbeza Valley, Penhalonga in the mountainous eastern border area, some 280 km from Harare and 20 km from Mutare.



The house was built by Sir Stephen and Lady Virginia Courtauld in 1951 as a retirement home, and was donated to the National Trust in 1970.

A leading Professor of Architecture described it as follows:

"La Rochelle is a rare example in Africa of a major early Modern Movement (in architectural terms) private house, and almost unique in Zimbabwe, given the quality of its architectural detailing and of its interior decoration, especially in the Fantasia room and the Peacock cottage."

During the time that they lived here, La Rochelle was a Mecca for important local and overseas people from all walks of life, and included artists and film stars, as well as influential politicians, in addition to family members. Most of these distinguished visitors were asked

to engrave their signatures with a diamond-tipped stylus on the two large

end windows which are of great historical importance.

The Courtaulds were patrons of the arts and they funded the building of the Courtauld Theatre, the Queen's Hall, and the Rhodes Club in Mutare, the Kukwanisa Agricultural School at Watsomba, and the National Gallery and the College of Music in Harare.

La Rochelle Hotel and Restaurant operates at the property. Accommodation consists of 6 twin-bedded rooms and 2 double-bedded rooms.



There are also self-catering cottages consisting of 1 double-bed cottage and 3 cottages with 5 twin-beds in each 2-roomed cottage.

The Hotel offers full English Breakfast, and a Table d'Hote Menu in the evenings. Lunches comprise Light Snack menu, except on Sundays, when a Table d'Hote Menu is prepared subject to advance bookings.

To make a booking please contact:

E:mail larochellezim@gmail.com

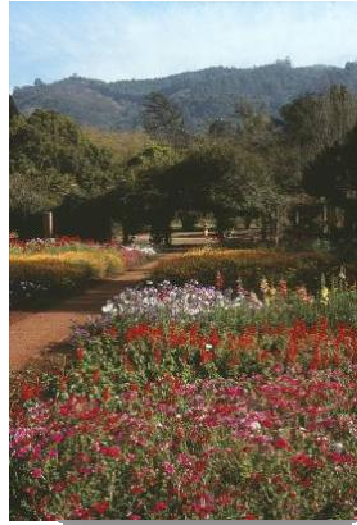
Skype: simonherring2

Telephone: Mutare (code 020)
22250 and 0772 306 560

La Rochelle has a large unique botanical garden covering 20 acres of land, established with the professional help of the UK Horticulturist John Henry Michell, with exotic plants and trees gathered from all over the world. The indigenous wild bushlands were carefully preserved. There are numerous walking paths around the gardens.



There are interesting exotic trees in the arboretum as well as palms, cycads, azaleas and other flowering shrubs. This diversity provides ideal habitats for a large variety of bird species.



An orchid house was built and filled with exotic and indigenous orchids and contains the Peter Horrocks collection of rare *Phalanopsis*.



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Directions to La Rochelle

Opposite Christmas Pass Hotel on the main Harare to Mutare Road, turn left at the Christmas Pass Service Station onto the Penhalonga Road. About 6 km down the road turn right at the La Rochelle signpost and proceed for about 3 km to the La Rochelle entrance on the right.

Open: *La Rochelle is open every day*

8.2 Murahwa's Hill

Murahwa's Hill has a unique combination of cultural heritage and indigenous flora and fauna.

There are traces of early hunter-gathers and on the south-western part of the hill there is an early Iron Age settlement of the Ziwa Period (200-400 AD) with a ruined stone-walled settlement higher up that may be associated with the Rozvi Dynasty in its upper levels (late 17th century). The hill is named after a Manyika village-head who was the last local occupant of the site. There are more recent villages of Headman Murahwa who lived here before relocating further south in the Save Valley.

The hill lies at the base of Christmas Pass on the western edge of Mutare. Traditionally it was protected in the past as a place of spirits, while latterly the ravages of seasonal fires have been prevented hence the maturity of the many indigenous trees and the unusual variety of microenvironments present.



Over the years an extraordinary list of trees and birds has been recorded. More than 132 species of trees have been recorded on the property: an exceptionally rich assemblage for such a small area. These comprise Eastern Highlands and Middleveld species, as well as broad range of vines, fungi, mosses and ferns. The diverse microhabitats include closed canopy evergreen forest on the wetter eastern slopes to drier deciduous woodland on slopes facing Christmas Pass. The rocky exposed slopes, ravines, watercourses and granite outcrops all contribute to the diversity of habitats. It is estimated that the larger forest trees are at least 150 years old.

Bird species include the Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Trumpeter Hornbill, Livingstone's and Purple-crested Louries (Turaco's), Tambourine Dove, Golden-rumped Tinker-barbet, Yellow-fronted Tinker-barbet, Whyte's Barbet, Gorgeous Bush-shrike, Red-capped (Natal) Robin-chat, and Jameson's Firefinch.

Over 200 of Zimbabwe's 500 species of butterfly are known from Murahwa's Hill. In addition there are many moths, beetles and dragonflies and much observation and research remains to be done.

Directions to Murahwa's Hill

At the fuel filling station as you enter the outskirts of Mutare City on the road from Harare, after crossing over Christmas Pass, turn right and after one kilometre, the entrance gate is signposted on your right just before the Mutare Agricultural Showground.

Open: *Murahwa's Hill opens every day.*

8.3 Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition



The Exhibition is located in the Rhodes Nyanga National Park. The building is known as Rhodes Stables, built in 1897 by R Marks a stonemason, for Cecil John Rhodes. It was used by Rhodes for the stabling of horses and mules during the several visits which he made to Nyanga during 1897 and 1900.



On his death in 1902, his Nyanga Estate was bequeathed in trust for the people of Zimbabwe. In May, 1974 the National Trust Zimbabwe acquired, from the Government, the right to occupy the building for the public display of manuscripts, photographs and other exhibits of interesting relating to Nyanga and persons and events connected with its history and development.

The exhibition was officially opened by the Hon MHH Partridge on the 8th of November 1975. At that time the President of the National Trust Zimbabwe was Sir Athol Evans K.B.E, BA, LLB.

The displays include early Manyika Africa culture, early European contacts and the first years of colonial rule, fallen heroes and tribal chiefs, Chief Tangwena and the struggle for Zimbabwe and the development of the Nyanga tourism and agricultural industries.



The building also contains a collection of archaeological material from the Nyanga district. Rhodes' equipment and household furniture



Directions to Nyanga Historical The Museum is situated next to the historic Rhodes Inyanga Hotel, in the Nyanga National Park.

Take the Rusape to Nyanga main road for about 90 km where you will see signposts to the historic Rhodes Nyanga Hotel. The Historical Exhibition and curio shop are located next door to the hotel.

Open: The Curator, Mr Edmore Nyamutowa, is on site from 9am until 4pm every day

On Sundays the times are 11.30am to 4 pm.

8.4 World's View



The property is set high on a hill that affords stunning views of the surrounding landscape. From an altitude of 2000m the escarpment drops 600m to the plain below. On top of the hill there is the large circular Astra Toposcope with numerous plaques of black granite around the perimeter with radiating lines indicating the direction and direct distance to thirty cities, towns and places of interest.



The construction of the Toposcope for the National Trust Zimbabwe was made possible through generous and public spirited contributions from the following companies: Astra Holdings Limited, Construction Associates (Pvt Ltd) and Carrara Marble (Pvt Ltd).

The area is particularly interesting for botanists and ornithologists, comprising of vegetation types associated with

either the basal granite or the dolerite cap.



The mist belt area, of some 70 hectares, is located on the western edge of the Nyanga Downs plateau.



Although not always clear there are traces of early stone walling in the grasslands and adjacent kopjes. These are part of the unique Nyanga Cultural Tradition.

Directions to World's View

In Rusape, turn left (north) onto the Nyanga road. At about 95 km peg just before reaching Nyanga village, turn right onto the Troutbeck Road. At the golf course just before the Troutbeck Hotel (13 km peg) turn left towards the Tsanga Lodge (4 km) and the circular drive towards World's View (11 km).

Open: *World's View is open every day.*

8.5 Fort Gomo Kadzamu

Situated in the Penhalonga district this attractive area of *Brachystegia* (Miombo) woodland and broken granite terrain is some two hectares in extent.

The settlement probably dates to the 17th to the 19th centuries A.D.



A small stone fort is located at the top of a hill on the property and is typical of the many fortifications in the eastern half of Zimbabwe. Part of the Nyanga Cultural Tradition these lowland forts were associated with the Shona Dynasties that postdate the Great Zimbabwe Culture.



Directions to Fort Gomo Kadzamu

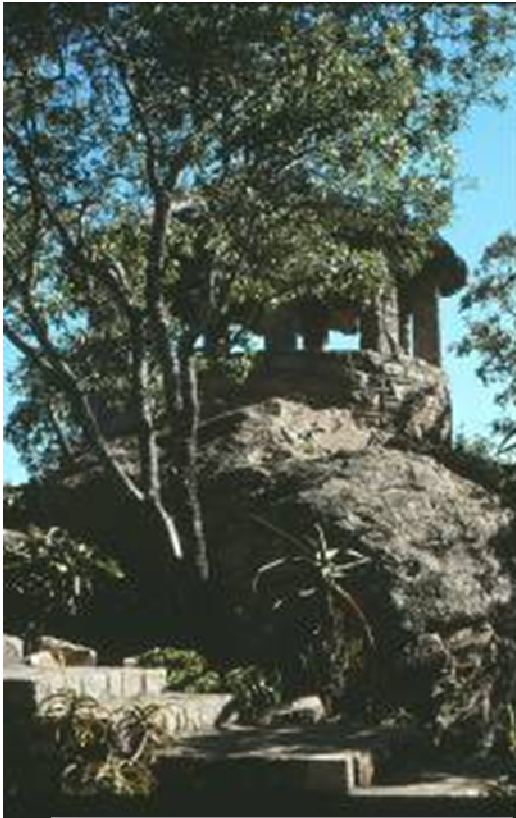
On the main road from Harare to Mutare, turn left (north) opposite the Christmas Pass Hotel onto the Penhalonga road. Pass through this village and past the gold mine dumps and eucalyptus plantations. Fort Gomo Kadzamu is on the right at the 26 km peg at the turn-off to the Stapleford Forestry Estate.

Open: *Fort Gomo Kadzamu is open every day.*

8.6 Mabukuwene

Mabukuwene means 'the look-out' or 'high point'. The view point is built upon a rocky outcrop 1 422 m above sea level.

The property is situated a few kilometres south of Bulawayo City centre and consists of 12 hectares of indigenous trees and plants set in an unspoilt area of kopjes whose distinctive pink hue distinguishes it from other rocky environments in and around Bulawayo.



360 ° View point of Bulawayo from the open-sided thatched rondavel

There are some 80 different species of indigenous trees including some particularly fine specimens of *Ficus* and *Euphorbia* with many aloes and other succulents. When in flower they attract a

wide variety of birds, nearly 100 species of which have been recorded.

The property was donated to the National Trust of Zimbabwe by the Thomas Meikle Trust in 1979 and partly restored in 1980 by the Aloe Society and the National Trust of Zimbabwe.

The grave area is enclosed in a small section of the property. Thomas Meikle and his three daughters are buried there.

There are a number of walks through the treed areas.



A small, picturesque thatched hall (above) is available for weddings, lectures and other functions. Various braai stands have been built around the area.

Directions to Mabukuwene:

Proceed south along Robert Mugabe Way which becomes Hillside Road, pass through Bradfield and Hillside, and look out for Inverleith Drive into which you turn right to reach the entrance to Mabukuwene in Burnside about 5 km from the City Centre.

Open: *Mabukuwene is open every day except Tuesday.*

8.7 Sebakwe Poort

This 262 hectare property is situated near Kwekwe. It is essentially an area of natural and unspoiled woodland comprising a large number of species of indigenous trees, including many fine specimens of several different *Acacia* species.

The Sebakwe River flows through the property and the poort (gorge), is an impressive sight.



Directions to Sebakwe Poort Park:

From the main Harare to Bulawayo Road on the Harare side of Kwe Kwe, at about the 205 km peg, turn right (north) onto the Gokwe Road and proceed for about 10 km.

Open: Sebakwe Poort is open every day.

**Please feel free to contact us
for any further information
that you may require
about the Trust and its
properties**

**Become a member of the
Trust today
and experience the
historical and cultural
importance and natural
beauty of these sites and
other National Trust sites
worldwide.**

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