
GOVERNMENT NOTICES GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE DEPARTEMENT VAN KUNS EN KULTUUR

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DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

DECLARATION OF “LAKE FUNDUDZI CULTURAL LANDSCAPE”, SITUATED IN VENDA, LIMPOPO PROVINCE AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of section 27(5) of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (the Act), SAHRA hereby declares Lake Fundudzi Cultural Landscape as A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lake Fundudzi Cultural Landscape is significant because of its setting, rich history associated with living and sacred heritage and scientific value. It is a distinctive cultural and natural environment, which remains relatively untouched, unaltered and authentic..

Intangible Heritage or Living Heritage

Sacred Site

Its variable water level is dependent on the inflow of three rivers from a catchment of 6000 ha, the Mutale or Mavhidzelele, Godoni or Tshidumbi or Govha and Muiladi Rivers. The lake is the focus of cultural ceremonies, traditions and rituals for the Vhavenda, amongst them the Vhatavhatsindi clan in

particular. It is a burial site that it venerated as a sacred place because it is the home of ancestral spirits of Vhatavhatsindi people. The Vhatavhatsindi people discovered the lake, dating back to the period when their ancestors moved into the present Venda from Zimbabwe. The name “Fundudzi” resulted from a cultural ritual to be observed by anyone approaching the lake for the first time. This involves bowing in a special way “kodola” then removing a strand of hair from ones head which is then thrown into the water as a way of respecting the ancestors. In addition, the following elements of living heritage are conducted at the lake and centre on the origin and the special character of the lake and its water “Thevhula” (annual thanksgiving ritual) and “Tshiswavhathu” (this is a practice that is conducted after the burial of the members of the royal family).

Scientific Value

From a scientific perspective, Lake Fundudzi may harbour a wealth of information on the recent history of the area in the form of its sediments that have washed into the lake since its formation. This information is contained in the form of sediment layers, particle size and thickness of consecutive layers, which allows for the possibility of carbon dating and palynological analysis. Fossil pollen in the sediment reflects the vegetation, as well as disturbances by major events such as fires, floods and influence of early settlements by man in the catchment.

Extent

	ERF NOS.	SITE NAME	OWNER	LOCATION	EXTENT
1		Lake Fundudzi	Traditional custodianship	S 22° 51'03.52" and E 30°18'37.79"	144 ha and the bufferzone

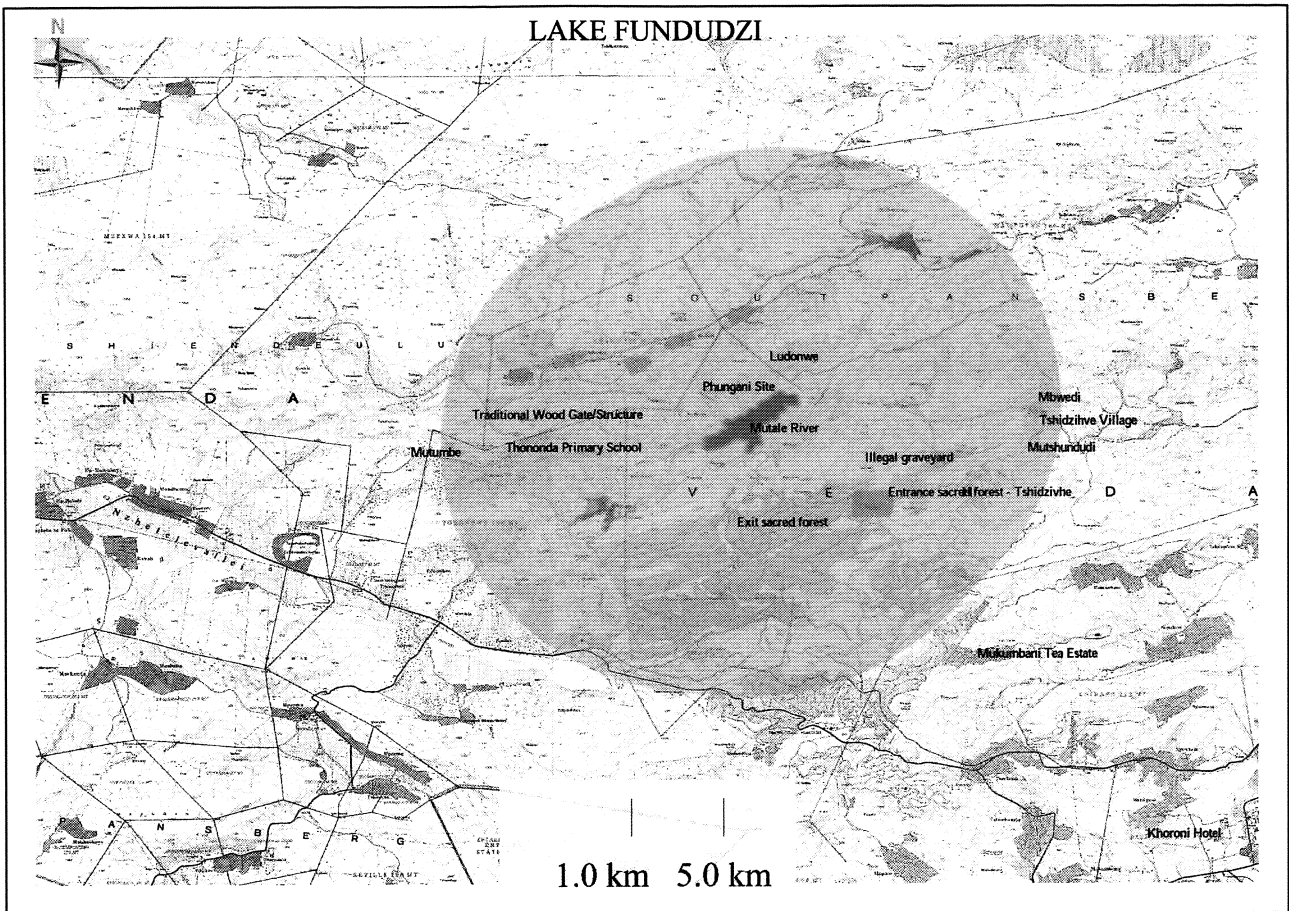


Figure 1: The core protected area that is on the 100m contour surrounding the lake and the buffer zone (green shaded area) that extends up to 7 km around the lake.