

# **Mamba-Mamsera Boltholes, Kilimanjaro: A forgotten Cultural Landscape**

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## **Introduction**

This paper discusses the cultural landscapes that have been forgotten in terms of recognition, preservation and even ownership. The objective of the paper is to present a critical analysis of the Mamba-Mamsera Cultural Landscapes on how the bolt-holes and stone forts as cultural resources have been forgotten and how these resources could have been preserved and used positively not only to keep the heritage and the ancestry knowledge of the Chagga, but also boosting cultural tourism in the area. These resources, like written records, preserve knowledge which could make the young and future generation appreciate the High level of intelligence their ancestors processed in construction technologies.

## **Presentation of the Historical Landscapes**

A historic landscape could be a geographic area which has undergone past modification by human design; or used in an identifiable pattern; or is the relatively unaltered site of a significant event; or a natural landscape with important traditional cultural values. There are various ways in which people may express the past or historical landscapes. According to Ingold (1993:152) this can be through relics, monuments; traits, names, stories, dances and myth. A historical landscape is a surface inscribed by the historical signs and stories that are meant to validate the memory of a place (Raivo and Attonen, 2004:4). Therefore; an historical landscape means the material and meaning of the physical marks left behind by our ancestors. When a landscape's historic context has not been previously established, an adequate level of research must be undertaken to develop the appropriate context for the evaluation of the resource. This historic context will place the property's theme within a time period and geographic area and provide the perspective from which to evaluate the property's significance. Because a landscape may reflect multiple land uses and physical evolution over many years, it may relate to more than one historic theme or period.

## **Mamba-Mamsera Cultural Landscapes**

At the foot of eastern side of Mount Kilimanjaro, outside the entrance to Kilimanjaro National Park, lie the beautiful towns of Mamba and Mamsera (Plate1 and Fig.1).