

**MT MUOZI : A SACRED SITE IN NORTHERN NYANGA, EASTERN
ZIMBABWE
Shenjere PLAN*, Zimbabwe**

ABSTRACT

This paper discusses Mt. Muozi, a sacred site and a preserve for the Saunyama people in Northern Nyanga, Eastern Zimbabwe. The discussion necessarily focuses on the intangible values of this 15th-18th century site which belongs to the Nyanga archaeological complex (Soper 2002). Ethnographic research has shown that the Saunyama people still carry out some of their important ceremonial activities such as rain making, installation of chiefs and burial rituals for chiefs on the mountain. It is also important to note that over the years, Mt. Muozi has become in some respects less central to the Saunyama people due to a number of reasons. In this regard, the site needs effective preservation where the community will take lead since the site is important to them. Realising the problems which come with declaring such sites as National Monuments for effective preservation, the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe (hereafter NMMZ) should look after the site other than the idea of a national monument since it fits within wider belief systems and world's view of cosmology of the Shona people.