

# Preservation of archival heritage in Zanzibar Island National Archives, Tanzania

Gabriel Kaminyoge  
Department of History, University of Dodoma  
86kaminyoge@gmail.com

Maximilian F. Chami  
Heritage Studies, Department of Intercultural Studies  
Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus  
maxchami@yahoo.com

## Abstract

This paper focuses on the assessment of preservation of archival heritage resources in Zanzibar Island National Archives (ZNA) in Tanzania. Many studies on cultural heritage resources in Tanzania have until recently concentrated on the archaeology, management and conservation of the immovable heritage, leaving out issues of preservation of archival heritage resources. This has led to problems in the preservation of archival heritage resources in Tanzania. Data were collected through interviews, focus group discussions and legal analytical method and analysed using a thematic approach. The sample size included six ZNA staff who provided their views about the preservation of archival heritage in Tanzania. The findings show that the overall archival heritage resources of the Zanzibar National Archive have a big connection with the other cultural heritage resources of Zanzibar Island. Therefore, the paper recommends the revolutionary government of Zanzibar to support the Archives Department financially with the modern archival preservation and conservation equipment.

**Keywords:** Archives, Zanzibar National Archives, preservation, heritage

## 1. Introduction

Various scholars across the world have defined archives differently. For example, the Dutch archivists, Muller, Feith and Fruin define archives as written documents, drawings, and printed matter, officially received or produced by an administrative body or one of its officials, at least in so far as these documents

were intended to remain in the custody of that body or that official (Barritt 1993). For a long time in Tanzania, archives have been regarded as the place or a store for keeping unwanted materials while others view them as the place for tourism purpose (Chami 2017:61). This situation has been the same for some African countries, including Nigeria and Ghana whereby many people are still unaware of the importance and functions of archives institutions (Onuoha 2013; Otu & Asante 2015). Owing to all these, in 1992, UNESCO established a programme of the Memory of the World. The aim was to safeguard the documentary heritage of humanity and creates community awareness on the importance and use of archival institutions. This programme is supported by different stakeholders including the International Council on Archives (ICA) and operate at the national level in each country which is a member of UNESCO through their national commission (Motsi 2017:2). This is also the case with the Island of Zanzibar which falls under Tanzania.

It should be well known that the history of Zanzibar National Archives in Tanzania goes back to British colonial time. It was established by the British Protectorate in 1954 with the name of Zanzibar Archives. Before that, the Peace Memorial Museum was responsible for the archives of the British Protectorate (Chami 2017). Since its establishment in 1954, Zanzibar Archives has been collecting and providing access to information including documents which are currently in paper form. The first chairman of the ZNA was Sir John Grey who was appointed in 1955 while Mr H Thompson was the first Archivist and Curator who worked from 1956 to 1961 respectively (Declich 2006). In 1963, a special building was constructed at Kilimani to house archival collections preserved in the Peace Memorial Museum.

This study examined the preservation of archival heritage at the ZNA. The ZNA has got very important and valuable archival records. These records include Consular Records, Protectorate Records, German Records, and Arabic correspondences as early as the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which prove interaction between Zanzibar and other parts of the world, as well as records on the famous East African Slave Trade, Explorers and Missionaries which all of these acquired in 1965 (Chami 2017). Owing to this richness and variety of collection and records, it led to being nominated for the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2003 (Bang 2011). These features made ZNA one of the oldest and wealthiest archives. It also emerged as an independent institution with full responsibilities of preserving Zanzibar records since 1954 and supported by the Records and Archives Management Act, No. 3 of 2008. Although, ZNA is regarded as rich in archival heritage with a deep history, yet studies regarding its conservation, values and the status of the available documentary heritage are rare. For instance, Chami (2017:61) mentions funding, shortage of trained experts, lack of political will, and awareness as the serious impediments to the conservation of documentary heritage.

## **2. Problem statement**

Despite the fact that Tanzania is well endowed with many cultural heritage destinations and resources, many studies in Tanzania and Zanzibar Island in particular have until recently concentrated more on the management and conservation of monumental heritage (immovable cultural heritage), for tourism satisfaction, community awareness and sustainability (Juma 2004; Juma, Ali & Khamis 2005; Chami & Lyaya 2015; Chami 2017; 2018b; Kamamba 2005) and for archaeological excavations (Chami 2009; 2018a). The emphasis has,

unfortunately, affected how archival heritage in Tanzania is managed by government bodies which focus on heritage management, archaeology, and tourism development especially for economic growth. One would argue that over-concentration in heritage management, archaeology, and tourism development alone is, perhaps, a less comprehensive approach. In many parts of the world, archival departments are considered to be important for many areas including research, keeping records and history, references and memories. Because of these values, it is therefore important to study and understand the context and rationale, laws, connection with other heritage resources and challenges hampering the conservation of archival heritage in Zanzibar. However, the situation of many developing countries including Tanzania is against this fact. Therefore, this study is carried out to determine the extent and magnitude of the situation of the archival heritage of Tanzania and Zanzibar in particular. As such, before this study, there was no clear information on the extent and magnitude of preservation or the management status of archival heritage resources compared to other monumental heritage resources in Tanzania and Zanzibar particularly. It was important to understand the value of archival heritage about other heritage resources, laws governing its conservation and existing challenges facing ZNA. As such, this understanding is vital in ensuring proper management and preservation of archival heritage resources of Zanzibar, as it will aid to propose relevant measures and initiatives that will help in the management of documentary heritage of ZNA.

### **3. Purpose and objectives of the study**

The purpose of the study was to assess the preservation of archival heritage resources in the Zanzibar National Archives. The specific objectives were to:

- Examine the methods used in the preservation of archival heritage in Zanzibar National Archives.
- Find out whether there is a connection between the archival heritage and other cultural heritage resources of Zanzibar Island.
- Examine the effectiveness of the legal framework in governing and recognising archival heritage in Zanzibar.

#### **4. Literature review**

Effective preservation of archival heritage is a vital ingredient for the longevity and sustainability of written documents. Archival heritage is a fragile resource and therefore prone to different threats ranging from biological, environmental, and human-led agents. Owing to the value embedded in the archival heritage, scholars have vested their time and resources to study on the viable methods and techniques suitable for the preservation of the archival heritage in different preservation environments (Mkuwira 2015:61). For example, Ikegune (2016) identified six different techniques for the management and preservation activities for non-book materials in academic libraries from three different universities in Nigeria. Ikegune (2016) argues that these methods should range from de-acidification, microfilming, use of insecticides, install air conditioners, adequate security to defend theft, shelving and cleaning and dusting. Bonn, Kendall and McDonough (2017) and Mkuwira (2015:57) echo the same sentiment when they revealed other more methods such as binding, photocopying, use of insect repellent and technology preservation through replicating any old configuration of hardware and software. Nevertheless, Graham (2009) had different ideas on some of the methods used for the protection of documents. She argues that the documents should be available for

access during minimal hours and photocopying of the materials should not be allowed or permitted.

The area of legislation and policy framework for archival heritage has received a scant coverage compared to the methods and challenges encountering archival department. Effective law and policy framework is fundamentally essential to provide a legal right of access, restrictions and the means of arrangement and description. In addition, the law provides the critical structure that enables national records and archive service to operate with authority in its dealings with other agencies of the state. Moreover, research provides guidelines and standards for the preservation of archival manuscripts (Ngulube 2006:145). Even though records and archives legislation is regarded as a fundamental component of the broader legislative base of accountable and effective government, the point of old records and archival legislation have not been given enough prominence in many parts of Africa (Okello-Obura 2007). Where the laws are in place, not much is done to ensure its implementation and effective functioning. Moreover, the absence of legislation and the existence of ineffective and outdated laws can affect how records are managed. Many countries in developing countries have either weak laws or inactive legislative provisions to promote good records and archives management. Not much effort has been made to engage legal and policymakers on the need and value of functional legal and policy provisions for records and archives management. However, this situation has been different from Zanzibar Island whereby the Zanzibar National Archives and archival heritage legally preserved under the Records and Archives Management Act, 2008 (Chami 2017). The Act ensure the preservation of archival repository regarding illegal exports, access to the public and provided heavy penalties to the people who destroy the archival repository, including imprisonment.

However, the implementation of the Act is not effective owing to some challenges such as lack of proper government support in the preservation of archival resources on Zanzibar Island (Chami 2016).

Heritage conservation along with archival resources have become essential themes in the contemporary discussion on the place, identity and the preservation of the past in many countries in Africa (Matero n.d). However, there is a slight coverage of the connection between archival heritage and other cultural heritages such as monuments, mosques, tombs, and archaeological sites to mention a few. Manuscripts have an attachment to cultural heritage such as Mosques, memorials, and mausoleums. Despite little publications on this theme, yet there is an excellent inter-connectedness between the manuscripts and the broader cultural heritage of a place. For example, the widespread manuscripts in Timbuktu complement the vast cultural heritage landscape of the area (Motsi 2017:16). Along similar lines, Bonn, Kendall and McDonough (2017:6) in their study revealed that archives, libraries and museums often generate contextual information as a ‘backroom’ activity. In addition, they showed that the library and archives are the vital scholarly record to help the preservation of intangible cultural heritage (ICH). For example, documented ICH (transcription) and or audio-visual means always kept in libraries, archives, and museums. Ekwelem, Okafor and Ukwoma (2011), who observation who studied the preservation of cultural heritage, focusing on the strategic role of the library and information science in South East Nigeria share a similar observation. The results concluded that archives have a great contribution to the conservation and preservation of other heritage resources and increase accessibility to the community. However, Bonn, et al. (2017) felt that the absence of coordination among libraries and

archives regarding supporting the preservation of ICH's have led to the widening gap between archival heritage and other forms of cultural heritage.

Preservation of manuscripts and archival heritage resources faces different challenges. The different researcher has researched the problems confronting the preservation of archival heritage manuscripts (Bonn *et al.* 2017; Motsi 2017; Segaetsho 2012; Ikegune 2016; Forde 1998). Such problem ranges from both natural and non-natural threats. For instance, the ancient manuscript of Timbuktu gives good evidence of threats ranging from natural, social, political, to environmental challenges (Motsi 2017). Motsi (2017) identified several problems, including limited funding, shortage of experts and lack of friendly built infrastructures that are negatively affecting the preservation of the documentary heritage of Timbuktu. With the above factors, Bonn et al. (2017) added the non-existence of the software and the harsh environmental condition as one of the issues affect the preservation of archival heritage resources.

Meanwhile, Segaetsho and Mnjama (2012) found that mutilation of materials, theft, lack of a well-defined disaster preparedness plan and pests as the problems faced University of Botswana library. Ikegune (2016) pinpoints dust and particles provisional of unregulated temperature as a severe impediment to effective archival heritage preservation in Nigeria. Lastly, Forde (1998) reveals challenges regarding the management of archival materials include lack of awareness, lack of resources, lack of training and research in preservation management and technology and lack of a practical solution to problems (See also Chami 2016; Chami 2017). From these previous studies, this study is the first attempt to examine the preservation of archival heritage resources in Tanzania taking the case study of Zanzibar National Archives.



## **5. Research methodology**

Qualitative data for this study were obtained through document review and interviews with ZNA staff members held from June to July 2018. Six staff members were selected purposefully. Only staff members (the director (1), conservators (2), treasurer (1) and the gate security guards (2)) who were considered by the researcher knowledgeable enough about the ZNA and its management and preservation thereof were selected. Data obtained through interviews and document reviews were analysed using thematic analysis involving organising the data into main themes for each of the interview questions and complemented by data from secondary sources about the specific objectives of the study (Boyatzis, 1998; Braun & Clarke, 2006).

## **6. Findings of the study**

The results of this study were presented according to the research objectives. The study focused on four main themes, namely, methods used in the preservation of archival heritage, effectiveness of the legal framework in governing and recognising archival heritage, connection between the archival heritage and other cultural heritage of Zanzibar Island.

### **6.1 Methods used in the preservation of archival heritage in ZNA**

During the interview and discussion with participants from the ZNA, different methods and techniques for preservation of archival heritage were revealed. All (2) conservators said that there are so many ways and methods to conserve, preserve and ensure the long-term survival of documents, of which some of them are expensive, and others are less expensive. “Here, at our institutions, we often

use binding and lamination to repair the less damaged documents”, one conservator added, in some cases, de-acidification method and tissue repair can be used to neutralise acids. She also added that scanning, photocopying and microfilming are used to reduce access to the original documents, and it is highly used when the document is rare and contain sensitive data; so, duplication helps in this. In addition, the director said:

*“We are getting small fund from the government, but the small amount we receive we have started to digitalise documents that will help us reduce the bulkiness and ensure long survival of manuscripts”.*

The second domain focuses on issues related to the safety of the documents. Here, one conservator revealed that we had installed security cameras inside the small library and archival storage for monitoring archival users who misuse the documents. These cameras help to track people’s movements and activities inside the ZNA and theft. Also, the directors and conservators pinpointed control of temperature and moisture inside the repository as another method used by ZNA to preserve and conserve the archival heritage documents. One of the directors said:

*“Among the things we are trying to monitor closely is the temperature and moisture inside the repository and we have had always been keeping it optimal through the use of air conditioners and humidifiers. And to make this effective we have installed a generator in case of a power cut off”,* he added.

Another method identified by conservators of ZNA was proper arrangement and cleanness of the archival heritage documents. They said:

*“We always do the cleaning of dust, cobweb inside the repository and around the documents and arrange them properly as they are not congested and get attacked by insects and fungus. As it is known that dust in the repositories is generated from building materials, people who are using the archive and from outside as its brought by moving wind and air especially if the surrounding environment is not clean thus cleanness is the solution. Once the dust ingrained in the archival heritage document, it cannot be removed entirely using conservation methods. Hence, vacuum cleaners are the most effective method of removing dust in the repository”.*

## **6.2 The legal framework governing and recognising the archival heritage**

The section is based much on the review of policy and legislative framework governing archival heritage of Zanzibar Island. It involved the review of the archives legal framework in getting a deep understanding of how effective the legal prescripts are, especially in governing and embracing archival heritage (documentary heritage). The study sought to understand how the Records and Archives Management Act No. 3 of 2008 governs the archival heritage of Zanzibar. It should be well understood that the presence of archives legal framework without recognising effectively the management and preservation of archival heritage resources could be useless. This situation of failure of archives' legal framework to cover the preservation of archival heritage resources perhaps can bring the problems such as damaged or disappearance of valuable heritage documents like in 2013 in Zanzibar National Archives (Chami 2017:62).

The Act provides for the management of two aspects of records and archives. It provides for better management and proper administration of public records and archives and safeguarding records of enduring value by preserving them in the archives. The Records and Archives Act, No. 3 of 2008 provides a room for the public to access archival documents. For example, Part IV is intended to make provision for access to public records. In part IV, clause 16 of the Act makes a provision that public records, which were prohibited or limited to disclosure to the public are now open to the public. In addition, part VI of this Act explains the offence and penalties for the archival users, particularly those who are found guilty of illegal transportation of documents, mutilation and damaging of documents. It follows that section 29 (3) empowers the Director to establish a register of archives and records in Zanzibar. Part VII, section 30 (1) the Minister

may, after consulting the advisory body, make regulations for the sake of implementing the purpose of this Act.

Despite these good sections for the preservation of the documentary heritage of Zanzibar, the Records and Archives Act. No. 3 of 2008 still has some weaknesses. These weaknesses, including that the Act focuses more on the records than archival heritage documents (documentary heritage). The Act prescribes punishment for those who move the records or archives without official permission and those who intentionally tears or destroys the records while it does not say anything to record creators.

Moreover, the advisory body has less power over the director and many of the duties are left in the hands of the director. This environment may threaten the management activities as it may influence the director to be biased and even to undertake a one-sided decision which may be harmful to the survival of documentary heritage. Finally, only one director is dealing with both records and archives, which hampers the effective handling of the archival and record matters. This situation implies that the archives legal framework dealing with the management and preservation of archives resources in Zanzibar Island has done little to recognise archival heritage documents (documentary heritage). Owing to this circumstance, it has led to the problems in the preservation of these archives heritage resources and even some of the heritage documents being stolen in 2013 (Chami 2016; 2017).

To complement this, the director said, Records and Archives Act. No. 3 of 2008 is less effective as it focuses more on the records and not archives. He added, even how it operates, for instance, the entire responsibilities and decisions are

left to be in the hands of the director, and the advisory board has less power. This situation threatens the survival of archival documents in the situation if the directors are not wiser enough and have less interest in archival documents. In addition, the director said:

*“I think we need to have two-three directors one for records, another one for archival heritage and the top should be the director general who will be responsible to oversee the two departments”.*

### **6.3 The connection between the archival heritage and other cultural heritage of Zanzibar Island**

In this section, the researchers examined if there is any connection between the archival heritage in Zanzibar and other cultural heritage sites found on the Island. During the discussion and interview with all six participants, they revealed that there is a powerful connection between the archival heritage of Zanzibar and other cultural heritage places, monuments, ruins, and historic buildings distributed across both Pemba and Unguja Islands. This connection also exists even on the World Heritage Site of Stone Town, Zanzibar, which inscribed in the World Heritage list in 2000. Respondents went further and pinpointed that archival heritage documents in ZNA have been the benchmark for making the renovation and restoration of the many old buildings of Zanzibar Island. Usually, the constructors and different engineers come to the Archives to find various documents, which have information on the historic building before undertaking conservation or preservation projects. These archival heritage documents helped the constructors and other Mason to renovate and restore the old historic building in a way that their authenticity and integrity is maintained and not jeopardised. The archival heritages are connected with other heritages found in Zanzibar Island. Their connections are that archival heritage complements the history of Zanzibar, which embedded in the buildings and other assets. So seeing the old building, monuments, caves without information is incomplete their history of

such buildings and assets are found in the archival of ZNA, therefore keeping buildings alone without its documents is senseless.

Furthermore, the respondents revealed that the presence of old building design, plans, photographs, and materials are significant in the understanding of the history of architecture of Zanzibar Island. Documents and other technical reports for many old historic buildings, especially in Zanzibar Stone Town kept as an archival heritage vital during the urban development project plans.

During the interview, the Director of Archives in ZNA said:

*“The information on the design, plan, materials and other technical reports useful for the ongoing renovation and restoration of the House of Wonder Museum building in Zanzibar Stone Town are sourced from our archives. The documents were taken by constructors to help them in restoring the museum to its original appearance without changing its authenticity and integrity”.*

Archival heritage documents contain information that complements other heritage assets like archaeological sites and historical buildings and monuments. In most cases, information about these buildings and sites are in writings kept in the ZNA. These documents are an important source of information researchers from both within and outside Tanzania who are coming to conduct archaeological investigations (excavation) in Zanzibar Island. Moreover, information stored in the ZNA is also regarded as a bank of knowledge and information to tour guides within Zanzibar Island who uses such sources for the sake of getting accurate and genuine information about different historic places, sites and buildings found in Zanzibar Island and the history of Zanzibar in general for tourism sake. Archival heritage is also crucial in raising public awareness by giving them information about their history, which is also found in the ZNA and therefore motivating them to preserve and conserve their heritage resources. These responses from the respondents imply that archival

heritage documents in ZNA have a significant connection with other cultural heritage resources in Zanzibar Island ranging from old historic buildings (Architecture) to archaeological sites and historical ruins.

## 7. Discussion of findings

This study sought to report on the preservation of archival heritage resources of ZNA in Zanzibar Island. It focused specifically on the methods used in the preservation of archival heritage, the effectiveness of the legal framework in governing archival heritage, a connection between the archival heritage and other cultural heritage of Zanzibar Island and challenges facing the preservation of archival heritage manuscripts in ZNA. Regarding the methods used in the preservation of archival heritage, the results of this study have shown that the National Archive of Zanzibar is taking measures to preserve documentary heritage. The measures employed include both precautionary and rehabilitation measures depending on the preservation state and the nature of the documents (Ikegune 2016; Motsi 2017; Chami 2017). Despite the importance that documentary heritage has to the community and the nation at large, problems remain apparent. The ZNA has failed to employ an up to date scientific technologies in the management and preservation of documentary heritage owing to budgetary limitations and instead continued to rely on simple and less effective methods such as binding, photocopying and laminations. This tendency has also strongly supported by Ekwelem *et al.* (2011) who felt that in most occasions the binding of loose sheets had commonly used in many places in favour of other advanced techniques owing to a shortage of fund for incorporating advanced techniques such as digitalisation, de-acidification and

using dehumidifiers. As it has been the case for many African Archival departments, the majority of political leaders and community, in general, think that archival department is there to accommodate the non-valuable material and therefore receives less attention and budget from political leaders (Okello-Obura 2007).

On the aspect of the effectiveness of the legal framework for archival heritage in Zanzibar, the study revealed that the Records and Archives Management Act No. 3 of 2008 is ineffective especially when it comes to govern and recognise documentary heritage and therefore need to be amended. With the failure of the Act to speak anything on the management and conservation of documentary heritage, it has even put these heritage resources in the danger zone. Usually, the conservation and preservation of heritage resources without being recognised by the law can be cumbersome and trick. This Act has several weaknesses; for example, the Act focuses more on the records than archival heritage documents (documentary heritage). The Act is also too old to handle the emerging or contemporary issues such as the inclusion and usage of digital methods in the conservation and preservation of documentary heritage. As such, Hamooya, Mulauzi and Njobvu (2011) revealed that in most occasions many archival acts is not updated to include electronic devices for storing documentary heritage and therefore reducing their longevity. In addition, the mechanism regarding its implementation and enforcement is not defined/stated. Similarly, the Act prescribes punishment for those who move the records or archives without official permission and those who intentionally tears or destroys the records while it does not say anything to record creators who may also in one way or another destroy the documents intentionally for security sake. Therefore, it is important that the Act should include a section that addresses the does and



undoes of the creators of the records. This will help to reduce negligence and miscellaneous by the record creators.

Moreover, the advisory body has less power over the director and many of the duties are left in the hands of the director. Finally, only one director is dealing with both records and archives; this hampers the effective handling of the archival and record matters. Whatever reason one should provide, it is sufficient enough to say that the Records and Archives Management Act No. 3 of 2008 should be amended and recognised and protect archival documentary heritage. The paper can further argue that the failure to acknowledge and recognise the archival documentary heritage, perhaps, has accelerated illicit trafficking in the institution which led to some of these documentary heritages to be stolen and disappeared entirely in 2013 (Chami 2017).

Regarding the issue of connectivity between the archival heritage and other cultural heritage of Zanzibar Island, this study revealed the existence of a very strong tie between documentary heritage and the rest of heritage assets of Zanzibar Island. This connectivity is in the areas of referencing, history, missing information about heritage assets and complementing to the history of Zanzibar and the available heritage resources. This connection is worth taking for the survival of the ZNA. The result has also revealed an active role that the ZNA has in the community, organisations and other heritage assets such as buildings, monuments, ruins and so on. Often the ZNA enriches other heritage assets by providing rich information regarding the permits, official reports, photographs, maps and design of the many of old buildings used in the rehabilitation and renovation exercise. This reference helps to maintain the authenticity and layout

of the Stone Town World Heritage Site of Zanzibar that in turn attract more visitations.

Additionally, the ZNA has a vital connection with other relevant groups in the community who serves as tour guides by giving them an authentic source of information regarding Zanzibar Island for tourism purposes. The findings further suggest that ZNA has been the centre of historians and archaeologists who often come to find more information on the history of Zanzibar Island before going or after coming out from the field. This finding appears to support those of Motsi (2017) who found a strong connection between the manuscripts of Timbuktu and the rest of the ancient history, people and cultural heritage resources found. The manuscripts of Timbuktu complement the broader cultural heritage of the area for tourism, conservation, and security as well. Therefore, we can argue that any danger facing other archival heritage resources in ZNA might have a significant negative impact on the history of the cultural heritage of Zanzibar Island and the Swahili Coast of East Africa in general.

Lastly, on the question of challenges facing ZNA, the findings depicted several problems ranging from natural, environmental, social, and political issues. It includes inadequate and lack of qualified conservator, tropical climatic challenges, illicit trafficking, and lack of awareness of the community on the use and values of ZNA as the severe threat to the archival documents of Zanzibar (Bonn *et al.* 2017; Chami 2017; Segaletsho & Mnjama 2012). For example, it was revealed that ZNA has a serious shortage of skilled personnel trained in repairing and treating documents. For instance, the entire department has only one staff who was trained in the 1980s who unfortunately died in 2014 (Chami 2017). The absence of time-to-time training and enough personnel affects the

efficiency and effectiveness of experts in the adoption and use of technology in the preservation and rehabilitation of documentary heritage in ZNA.

Furthermore, on the issue of unqualified personnel, Ekwelem *et al.* (2011) revealed that well-trained staff will always depict a tremendous impact on their knowledge of preservation of documentary materials as it has shown in South East Nigeria. At the top of this is the shortage of funding and illicit trafficking of the documentary heritage as a commodity. The two has been affecting the ZNA for decades now leading to the loss and poor handling of documentary heritage. This situation has even caused a big challenge in the preservation of archival documents in ZNA. The above explanations concur with Motsi (2017) who found similar results for the Timbuktu manuscripts.

Similarly, ZNA is threatened by insecurity problem, lack of a well-defined disaster preparedness plan, weak application of technology and ineffective legal framework governing documentary heritage of Zanzibar. This finding concurs with the results obtained by researchers from different areas such as Sagaetsho and Mnjama (2012) from Botswana who include theft, pests and absence of disaster preparedness plan as a severe challenge in the preservation of library materials at the University of Botswana. This situation is worse in ZNA whereby the archives legal framework has failed to recognise the importance of archival documentary heritage. This perhaps has provided a loophole for things like illicit trafficking and damage of the documents to occur in Zanzibar National Archives. In addition, there is a concern from political leaders and the public who perceived the archives as a place for keeping old and non-valuable documents and therefore giving a limited priority when compared to other institutions (Ngoepe & Keakopa 2011:157). This also can be seen on Zanzibar Island

whereby the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has given much priority to other cultural heritage resources such as museums and historical sites. These places usually bring foreign currency and income to the government, which depends much on tourism industry activities on the Island. In this alert, the government has even neglected the other side of archival heritage and institution which provides very little income or foreign currency to the government. However, researchers can urge that all these challenges facing the ZNA in Zanzibar Island have perhaps been owing to the lack of support from the revolutionary government, which prioritise and support other departments such as Zanzibar Commission for Tourism, museums and antiquities department which believed are the source of the country's income compared to archives department.

## **7. Conclusions and recommendations**

Based on the findings, the study concludes that the Zanzibar National Archives is still using outdated means or methods of preservation of archival heritage documents like binding, photocopying and laminations. In addition to that, lack of qualified staff (conservators) and the failure of archives legal framework to recognise archival heritage resources (i.e. documentary heritage) have also accelerated the preservation problems and illicit trafficking of these documents. However, an interesting discovery was the connection which these archival heritage resources of ZNA have to the other cultural heritage sites in Zanzibar Island. Many archaeologists, historians and architects come to ZNA to find the information on architectural buildings and the history slave trade along the Swahili coast of India Ocean in East Africa. For that reason, whatever reason one could provide, it is enough to understand that though ZNA is the richest

institution with archival heritage resources in East Africa. Nevertheless, the Institution is still facing challenges in the preservation of archival heritage resource. This is owing to the lack of support from the government, which gives priorities to the other departments and institution such as antiquities and museums which bring foreign currency and income to the government.

The study suggests several recommendations that will help revitalise the situation of the archival heritage of ZNA in the future. Adequate funding is vital for the effective operation of the ZNA preservation and even conservation activities. The availability of enough funding will enable the ZNA to employ enough and qualified personnel, purchase modern machines and chemical for repairing and conserving documentary heritage. It will also empower the institution to adopt updated technology related to the digitalisation of documents. To afford this, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar should allocate more funds to ZNA. This will help the institution to buy modern equipment which will help to ensure better conservation and preservation of the archival heritage resources for the future generation.

Furthermore, the study recommends that the staff members especially conservators be given an opportunity for training both short courses and full programmes even if it is outside the country. Many of the workers especially conservators have not been able to attend any training or short courses on preservation and conservation of archival heritage resources. This situation made the conservators remain using the old techniques and experience acquired from their colleague who was Archivist specialist died in 2014. These courses will help them to get more skills and knowledge on the conservation and preservation of heritage documents and records in Zanzibar National Archives.

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar is required to amend the existing Records and Archives Act No.3 of 2008, which have proven to have weaknesses on the management and preservation of Archival heritage resources. It is beyond reasonable doubt that the absence of a good policy and effective archives legal framework can have big negative impacts on the way archival documents are gathered and preserved. The failure of Zanzibar archives legal framework to recognize the archival heritage resources especially documentary might have caused big challenges in the management and preservation of these valuable heritage assets. The legal framework needs to be amended and harmonise with the documentary heritage.

Raising awareness among the government officials, politicians, organisations and the community at large on the role and value of the archival heritage documents and the need to conserve should be exercised in a wider framework. This exercise will expose the role and responsibility of each domain in the conservation and preservation of archival heritage. The government should use different platforms such as the media (Radios, TVs), newspapers, workshops and more to educate the public, and other stakeholders and give them awareness on the importance of archival heritage resources in the history of Zanzibar, tourism activities, renovation of old buildings and its connection to the history of Zanzibar and the rest of the world. Awareness will, in turn, helps in reducing vandalism, destructions and raise the sense of care from people with authority. Therefore, the ZNA is supposed to be given with equal weight as for the Museums and Antiquities departments as they all serve for the same purpose.

## References

- Bang, A.K. 2011. Textual sources on an Islamic African Past: Arabic Material in Zanzibar's National Archive. Jeppie and Diagne, Meanings of Timbuktu, In Bang, A K (ed.). *Authority and Piety, Writing and Print: A Preliminary Study of the Circulation of Islamic texts in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth-Century Zanzibar* 81(1): 89-107.
- Barritt, M.R. 1993. Coming to America: Dutch Archivistiek Andamerican Archival Practice. *Archives Issues* 18 (1): 43-54.
- Bonn, M., Kendall, L., & McDonough, J. 2017. *Libraries and archives and the preservation of intangible cultural heritage: defining a research agenda*, (pp 1-61). A White Paper from the School of Information Sciences. Available at: <https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/bitstream/handle/2142/97228/PICH.WhitePaper.pdf> (Accessed 10 December 2018).
- Boyatzis, R.E. 1998. *Transforming qualitative information: thematic analysis and code development*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, Incorporated.
- Braun, V. & Clarke, V. 2006. Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology* 3 (2): 77-101.
- Chami, F. 2009. *Zanzibar and the Swahili Coast from c30, 000 years ago*. Dar es Salaam: E&D Vision Publishing.
- Chami, M., & Lyaya, E. 2015. Assessment of tourist satisfaction in cultural heritage tourism destination in Tanzania: the case of Zanzibar Stone Town Tourism. *Studies in the African Past* 12: 259-276.
- Chami, M. 2016. Challenges facing conservation and management of documentary heritage in Zanzibar National Archives. *Tanzania and UNESCO Magazine* 13: 120-122.

- Chami, M. 2017. Community Awareness and Challenges facing Archives in Tanzania: a case study of Zanzibar National Archives. *Journal of the South African Society of Archivists* 50: 56-66.
- Chami, M. 2018. Sacred Limestone Caves: Effectiveness of Heritage Legislation and Institutions in Managing Sacred Heritage Places in Tanzania. *South Asian Journal of Tourism and Heritage* 11(2):5-15.
- Chami, M.F. 2018. Tourist touching loyalty in cultural heritage sites in Tanzania: a case of Zanzibar Stone Town, Zanzibar Island. *International Journal of Economics, Business and Management Research* 2(4): 306-316.
- Ekwelem, V.O., Okafor, V.N., & Ukwoma, S.C. 2011. Preservation of cultural heritage: the strategic role of the library and information science professionals in South East Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-Journal)* 562.
- Forde, H. (1998). Preservation and conservation of documents: problems and solutions. *Lligall* 2: 33-48.
- Graham, L.R. 2009. Problematizing technologies for documenting intangible culture: some positive and negative consequences. In D. Fair Child Ruggles & Helaine Silverman (Eds.) *Intangible Heritage Embodied*. New York: Springer.
- Hamooya, C., Mulauzi, F., & Njobvu, B. 2011. Archival legislation and the management of public sector record in Zambia: A critical review. *Journal of the South African Society of Archivists* 44: 116-123.
- Ikegune, D.O. 2016. Management and preservation of non-book materials in academic libraries: a case study of three University Libraries in Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)* 1371.
- Juma, A. 2004. *Unguja Ukuu on Zanzibar: archaeological study of early urbanism*. Uppsala: University of Uppsala.



- Juma, A., Ali, K., & Khamis, A. 2005. *Management of Zanzibar Cultural Heritage*. In Mapunda, B. B. & Msemwa, P (Eds). *Salvaging Tanzania's Cultural Heritage*, Dar es Salaam University Press: Dar es Salaam.
- Kamamba, D. 2005. Conservation and management of immovable heritage. In Mapunda, B.B.B and Msemwa, P (Eds.). *Salvaging Tanzania's Cultural Heritage*, Dar es Salaam University Press: Dar es Salaam.
- Matero, F. n.d. Heritage, conservation, and archaeology: an introduction. AIA Site Preservation Program. Retrieved from:  
<https://www.archaeological.org/pdfs/Matero> (Accessed on 24 April 2018).
- Mkuwira, R.M. 2015. Preservation of documentary heritage in Malawi. *Journal of the South African Society of Archivists* 48: 55-65,
- Motsi, A. 2017. Preservation of endangered archives: a case of Timbuktu manuscripts. *Journal of the South African Society of Archivists* 50: 56-66.
- Ngoepe, M., & Keokopa, S. 2011. An assessment of the state of national archival and records systems in the ESARBICA Region: a South Africa-Botswana Comparison. *Records Management Journal* 21 (2): 145-160.
- Ngulube, P. 2006. Nature and accessibility of public Archives in the custody of selected national archival institutions in Africa. *ESABRICA Journal* 25: 106-124.
- Okello-Obura, C. 2011. Records and archives legal and policy frameworks in Uganda. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-Journal)* 608.
- Onuoha, U.D. 2013. Awareness and Use of the National Archives in Nigeria. *IOSR Journal of Research & Method in Education* 3 (4): 64-68.
- Otu, B.O. & Asante, E. 2015. Awareness and use of the national archives: evidence from the Volta and Eastern Regional Archives, Ghana. *Brazilian Journal of Information Studies: Research Trends* 9(2): 21-25.

Segaetsho, T, & Mnjama, N. 2012. Preservation of Library Materials at the University of Botswana Library. *Journal of the South African Society of Archivists* 45: 68-84.