

## **Development, connecting places and cultures in Southern Africa the Kazungula Bridge Project (KBP), Botswana**

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### **Abstract**

The Kazungula Bridge Project is a multi-national project within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. The project, situated on the North-South Corridor (NSC) is part of a corridor-long infrastructure improvement programme standing as an extraordinary milestone in bridge design and construction history of Botswana, a developing country. This paper therefore interrogates 3 issues. Firstly, based on issues of infrastructural development, architectural monuments in Africa are often neglected, not only in the discussions about preservation but also physically. This is a starting point for interrogating approaches proposed for the intended management plan to be developed upon completion of this bridge. The bridge stands as the first of its kind entirely within the construction industry history of the country, it is important to investigate the relevance and sustainability issues connected with management development plan in order to make relevant recommendations for improvement for this developing country. Secondly, the Kazungula Bridge is intended to be an enormous structure whose construction employs advanced civil engineering design principles and construction methods which should in turn produce an innovative design of materials, and scale the paper questions how this bridge can be documented from a valorised perspective of heritage for the country?. In general issues of architectural heritage valorisation have been missed significantly from a planning, legislative and conservation perspective within Botswana. Lastly, the objective of this bridge construction is to ease movement of goods and people and reduce the transit times considerably thereby strengthen regional integration, trade facilitation and sustainable economic growth and development. As this becomes an embedded structure for Botswana and Zambia This paper is significant as analyses and documents the birth of innovative tourism activities that inculcate the use of this bridge, new cultures that will be born of this connective integration with particular emphasis on issues of cultural fission and fusion.