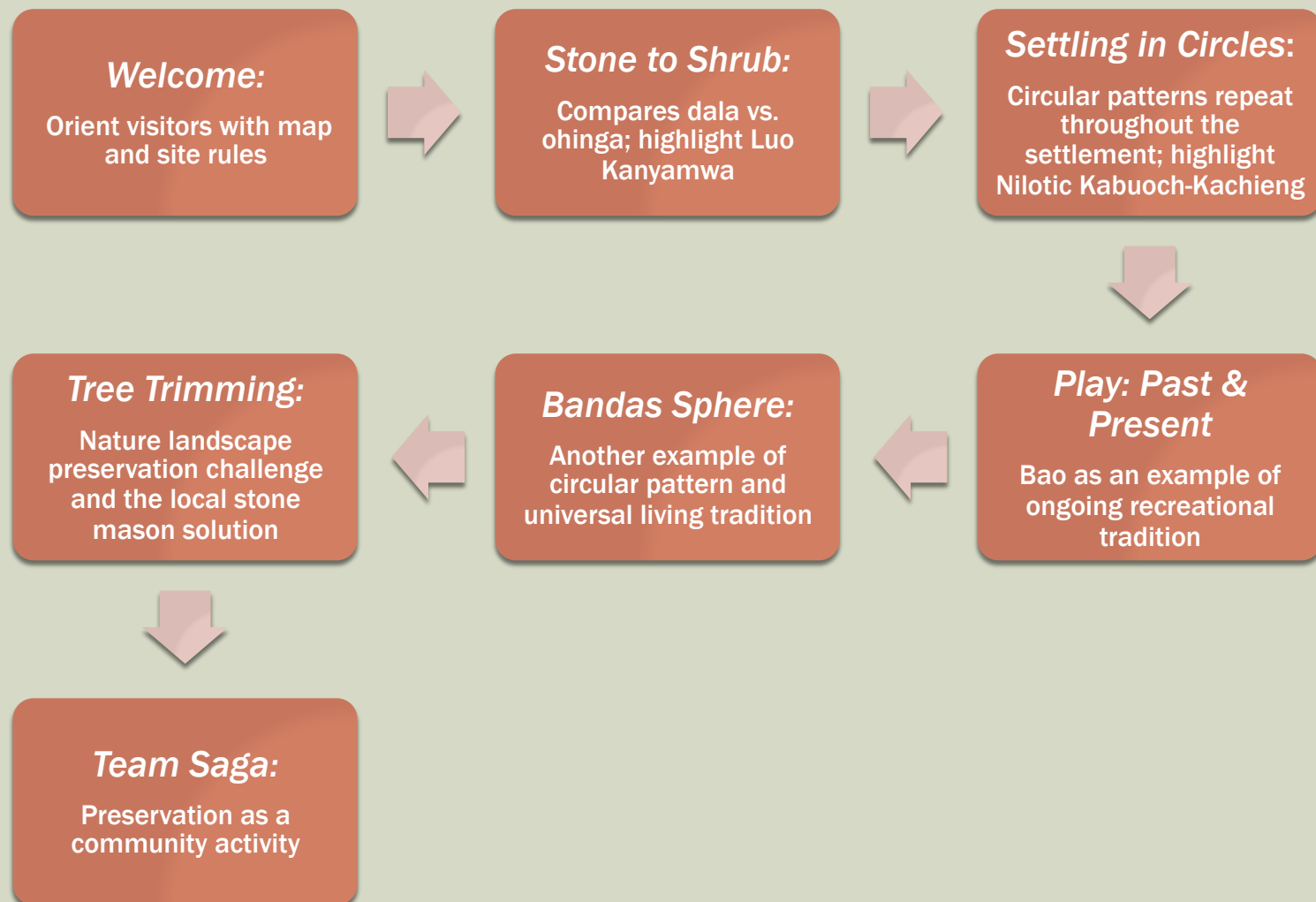


# THIMLICH OHINGA

*To promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of national heritage*

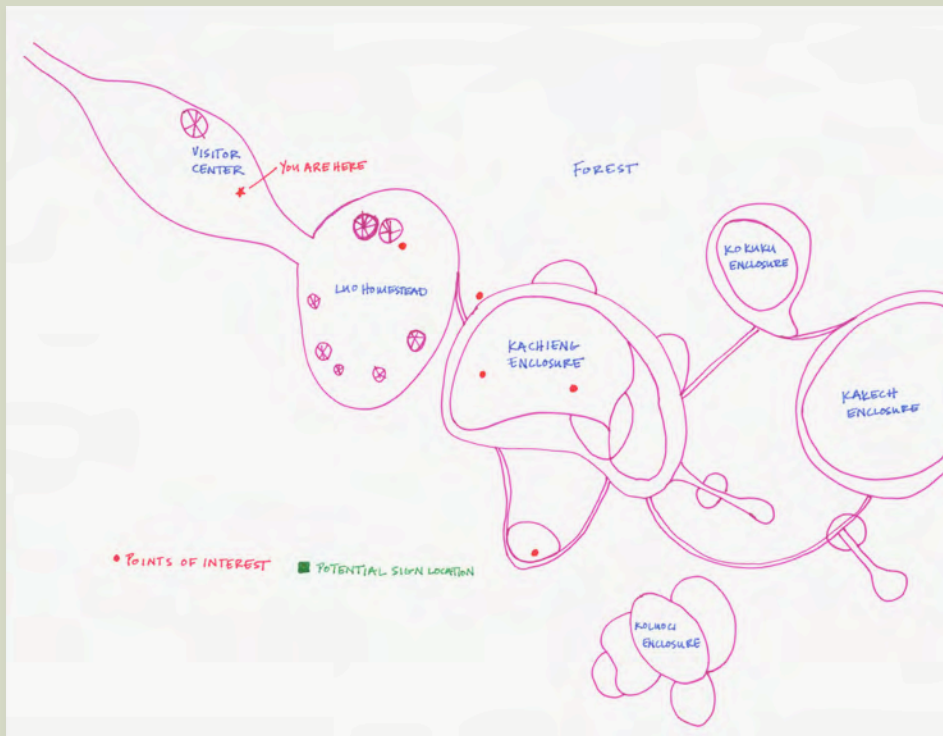
# THIMLICH OHINGA: WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON



Welcome to

# Thimlich Ohinga

where heritage lives on



*Ohinga* is a local word for settlement.

The stone enclosures that you are about to visit were home to several groups throughout the site's 500 year history.

Today, Thimlich Ohinga is an internationally recognized 52-acre heritage site managed by the National Museums of Kenya.



This park protects our natural and cultural heritage.

Please take care and enjoy.

# Stone to Shrub

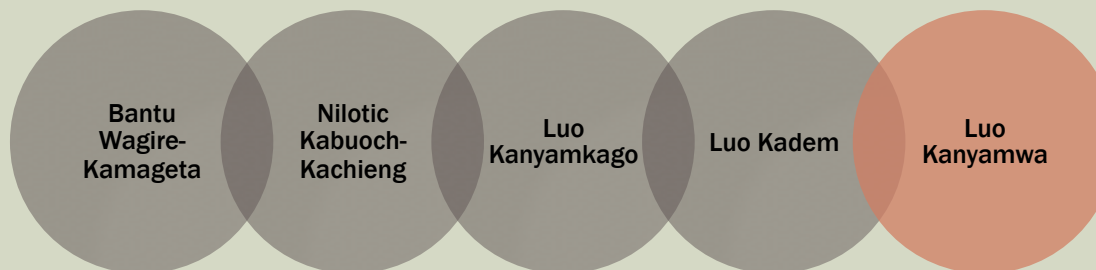
Oral history and archeological research tells us that the stone enclosures were built to keep out dangerous animals.

In the early 1900s the threat of wild animals declined and hedge enclosures called *dalas* replaced traditional stone ohingi.



The euphorbia plant acts like a fence around the dala.

The generations of people who called Thimlich Ohinga home



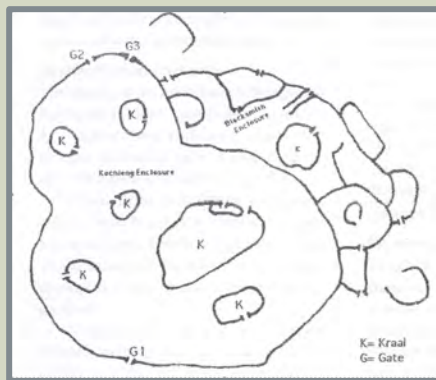
Thimlich Ohinga was inhabited by the Luo people well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

During that time, this dala homestead was used as the main living quarters. The ancient stone ohingi served as a medicinal plant garden and home for cattle

# Settling in Circles

Did you notice that the huts in the dala formed a circle?

Depressions of earth indicate that ancient houses were also built in a circular pattern.

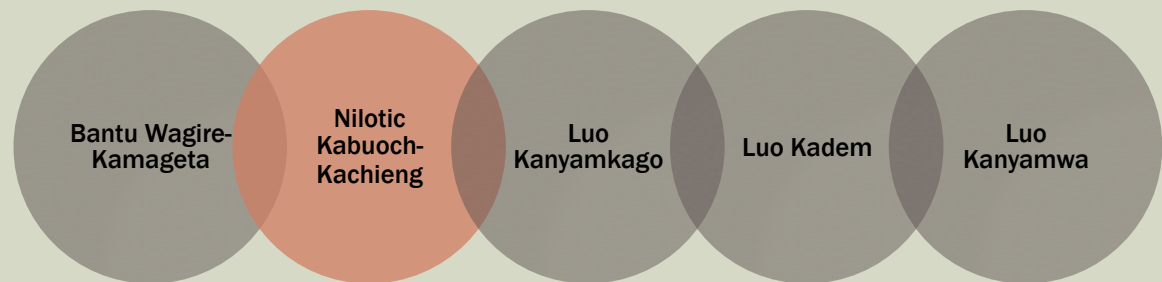


Circular patterns are repeated throughout the Thimlich Ohinga settlement

The prefixes *ka* and *ko* mean “home of.”

In 1688, the Kachieng people migrated into the settlement.

They expanded this ohinga by building *kraals*, small enclosures for livestock.



The generations of people who called Thimlich Ohinga home



# Play: Past & Present

This stone slab is an ancient version of the game *Bao*.

Sometimes also called mancala, this game was at the heart of social life in the ohingi.





# Bandas Sphere

Are you camping at Thimlich Ohinga?

Camping is an important living tradition in Kenya. *Bandas* are round sites where ceremonies, celebrations and special food is prepared.

What is your favorite way to camp?





# Tree Trimming

Maintenance of the wall is a daily chore at Thimlich Ohinga. The dense forest grows quickly in this tropical climate.

Look at the wall before you.

Do you see plant life growing between the rocks?

Are there fallen stones on the path?

Local stone masons regularly replace stones that are pushed out of the wall as trees, shrubs and other plants sprout.





# Team Saga

Before colonial rule, elders took daily walks around the walls searching for loose stones.

When damage was spotted, elders called on the community to repair the wall together.

This team approach to preservation is known as *saga*.

Work together to repair the sample wall.

Like pieces of a puzzle, can you fit the stones securely together?



## SAMPLE WALL

- open-faced / top-less box  
(could be made from sheet-metal or other sturdy material)
- sample stones 1 kilo or less  
(so children & visitors of  
varying skill level can  
participate)

