

HOW DINOSAUR FOSSILS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO GEO-TOURISM IN MALAWI

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INTRODUCTION

- ◉ The occurrence of Dinosaur remains and other fossils that promote tourism, offer a number of unique treasures of importance to African Prehistory.
- ◉ Most fossilised remains of earliest stages are found in Africa and the Southern part of Eurasia.
- ◉ Malawi in particular has yielded unique and important prehistoric treasures in Karonga District in the Northern region.

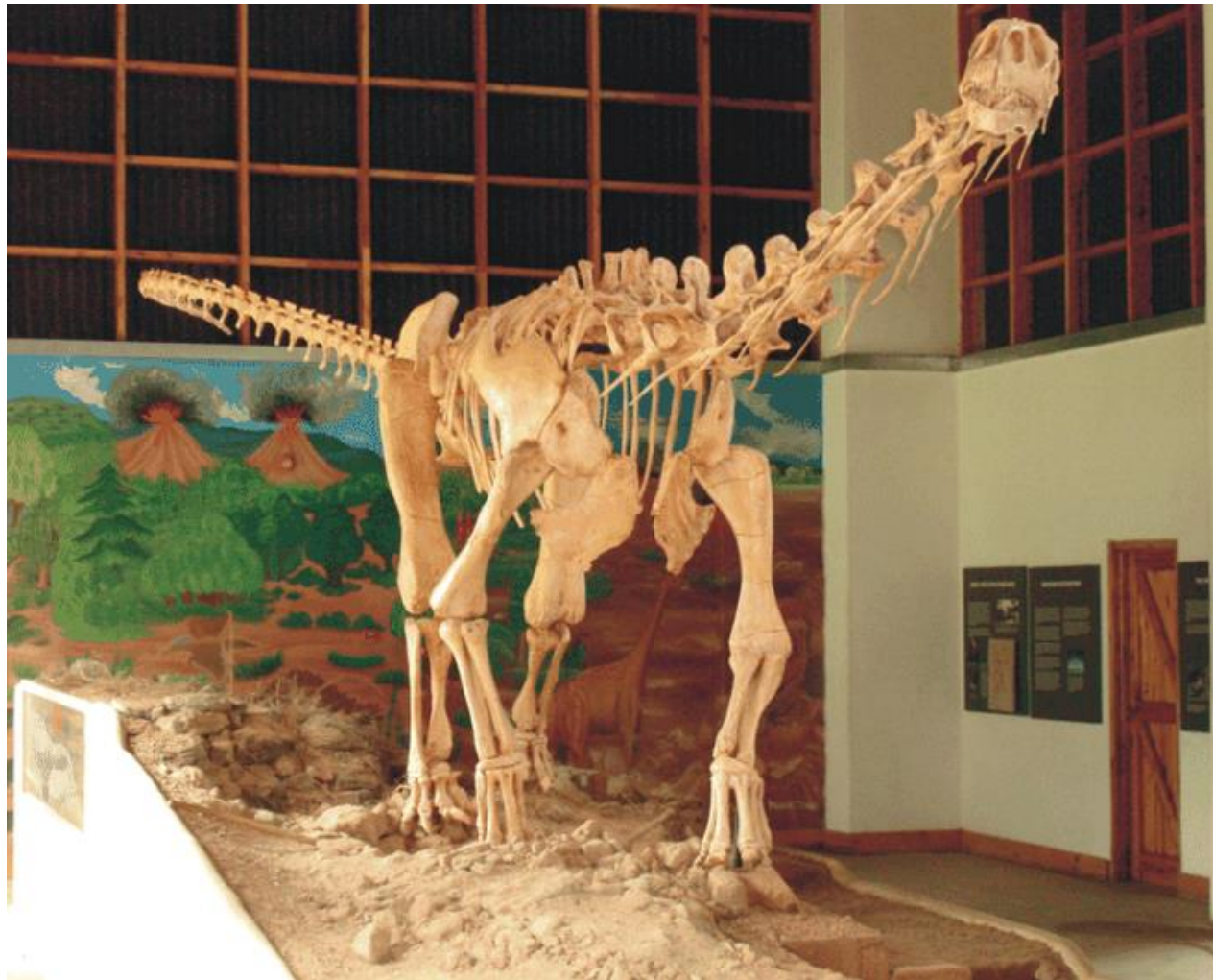
MAP OF THE NORTHERN REGION OF MALAWI



INTRODUCTION

- Karonga is therefore of great importance to the Malawian nation because of the spectacular prehistoric discoveries of dinosaurs and other fossils.
- The skeleton of the famous Malawisaurus, a 12M long dinosaur that stands as a master piece in the Karonga museum gallery is a clear manifestation of the contribution of Geotourism to the area.

MALAWISAURUS



KARONGA MUSEUM



ORIGIN

- ◉ The dinosaurs from Malawi are estimated to be from the Cretaceous period between 145 and 97 million years old.
- ◉ The dinosaurs include both Herbivores and Carnivores. They were named Malawisaurus (after the name of the country plus -saurus, Greek for lizard) and Karongasaurus (after the name of the district where it was found).
- ◉ Malawisaurus, the skeleton mounted in Karonga Museum, constitutes the majority of the fossils collected from Malawi so far.

CONT.

- ◉ The Dinosaur remains were collected at Mwakasyunguti by Dixey in 1928 about 40KM South of Karonga district in Northern Malawi

CONT.

WHAT TYPE OF ROCKS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH
DINOSAUR FOSSILS????????????

GEOLOGY OF KARONGA

- In broad terms, the geology of Karonga district can be divided into the (Precambrian) Basement Complex; Overlain by the Karoo super group and Cretaceous to recent material.
- The major lithological components in this area are the Gneisses and the intrusives of the Misuku Belt

GEOLOGY CONT.

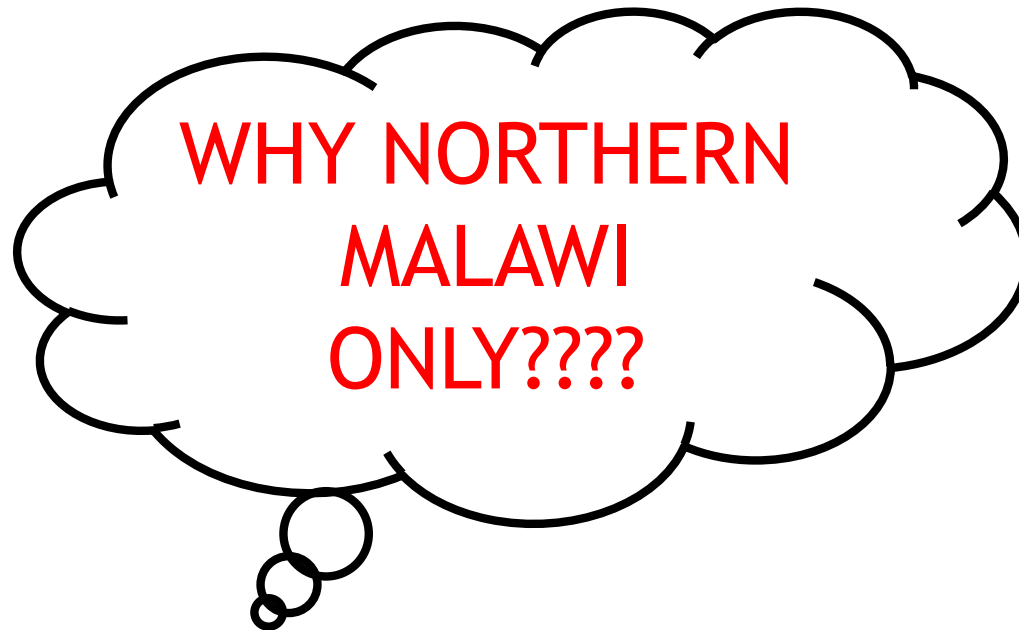
- The Cretaceous material found in Karonga includes Dinosaur Beds which were considered to be of late Jurassic to early Cretaceous age.
- Dinosaur Beds occur unconformably overlying the Karroo of Ngana and Mpata gap areas in Northern Malawi.
- In the Southern region the Beds occur in a series of a narrow graben and faulted Basins which flank the major Rift trough of Lake Malawi

GEOLOGY CONT.

- The Beds comprise of a sequence of at least 366M thick.
- They are divided into the Upper and lower formation. The fossil fragments are distributed through the upper beds, but are usually disarticulated and in a fragmentary condition.
- The upper and lower formation consists of Soft friable Sandstones and Grits, limestone and siltstones respectively.

GEOLOGY CONT.

Food for thought.....



TOURISM

- ◉ The Government of Malawi saw it necessary to build a museum and cultural centre in Karonga to provide unique opportunities for discovering, learning and sharing this endowment with the region and the world.
- ◉ The Dinosaur remains preserve and promote Malawi's rich Geologic phenomenon.
- ◉ The fossils in Karonga and its beautiful scenery provide a considerable potential for great Geotourism development.

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THANK YOU !!!!!