

Further Details on Zulu Place Names in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park

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Zulu Place Names in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park: Some Recurring Features

This appendix presents a list of Zulu place names and their location in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park that probably originated during the pre-Colonial era and thus are relics of the Late Iron Age (Tables 0.1–0.3; see also a map with these Zulu names in the online Supplementary Material). It excludes names from the twentieth century. There are recurring features in the Zulu place names in the Park which refer to topographic features or to wild animals (see below). Among the old names are those of the Park itself: Hluhluwe probably referring to the climbing plant *Dalbergia armata* (thorny rope), and Mfolozi to the zigzag pattern on baskets and pottery, among other meanings. The game reserves were named for the main rivers traversing the park, the Hluhluwe and Mfolozi rivers. Both river names are probably very old, so that now there can only be speculation concerning any connection between them and their meaning. The climbing plant, for example, is distributed along many rivers in KwaZulu-Natal, so why is this one so-named?

Topographic Features

(S) from Black Mfolozi river southward, (C) between Black Mfolozi river and Hlabisa-Mtubatuba road (R618), (N) from Hlabisa road northward.

Cairn (stones) *isivivane*, accumulated by travellers along a footpath, usually over a hill, to avoid bad luck on a journey: (S, C, N) *eSivivaneni* (3).

Table 0.1 *Places southward of Black Mfolozi river^a (Magqubu Ntombela)*

Place name	Feature	Place name	Feature
uBhocozi	stream	iMbulunga	hill
uBizo	thicket/stream	uMduba	hill
eCekaneni	ridge	uMeva	area
iChibi elibomvu	pan	iMfolozi eMhlophe	river
iChibilembube	pan	iMfolozi eMnyama	river
iChibilentungunono	pan	uMfulamkhulu	stream
iChibilenyathi (2)	pans	eMgqizweni	area/pan
iChibilethangwe	pan	uMhlanganobhedu	stream/area
iChibilokumbiwa	pan	eMhlanganweni	confluence
uCiyane	hill	uMhlolokazana	hill
uDadethu	stream/pan/area	uMhlolwana	hill
oDakaneni	stream	uMhluzi	stream
uDengezi	hill	eMndindini	area
iDlaba	stream	uMomfu	hill/stream/cliff
eDuduseni	area/ridge	uMpekwa	area
eFuyeni	stream	uMphafa	stream
uGidiyoni	stream	uMphanjana	hill/area
uGome (2)	streams	iMpila	ridge
eGqolweni (= eMapulankweni)	ridge	iMpila encane	hill
oGqoyini	stream	iMpila enkulu	hill
oGunqweni	area	eMsasaneni	hills
kwaHlathikhulu	bush	uMthombokandleke	spring
iKhandaledube	stream	eMthonjenikakhaya	stream
oKhetheni	stream	iMunywane	stream
uKhukho	hill	eMzaneni	area
uLubisana	hill/stream	uNcoki	hill
uLuthelezi	hill	uNdleke	hill
eMachwetshaneni	hill	iNdllovuma	stream
eMachitshaneni	area	uNdllovusiyashikana	stream/area
uMadlozi	stream	uNdomba	stream
eMadwaleni	ridge	eNgonyamaneni	hill
eMahobosheni	ridge/area	iNgwenyama	stream
uMagunda	area/bush	iNgwenyemqini	pan
kwaMakhamisa	place (R. H. T. P. Harris' camp)	uNkawu	stream
uMakhamisa (= uBulunga)	stream (Harris worked with donkeys)	uNkobenkulu	area/stream/thicket
uMakhokhelweni	ridge/area	uNobiya	stream
iMantiyana (2)	hills	uNoma	hill
uManya	hill/stream	uNozibunjana	bush
uMasango	stream	eNqabaneni	hill
aMatshemhlophe	hill	uNqokotshane	stream
aMatshemnyama	hill	uNqolothi	hill
eMawuzi	area	eNqutshini	area
iMbhuzane	hill/stream	eNselweni	ridge/area

Table 0.1 (cont.)

Place name	Feature	Place name	Feature
eNsikaneni	stream	iSivasempila	cliff
iNtabayamanina	hill	uSokhwezele	hill
iNtabayamaphiva	hill	uSoncunda	hill
uNtoiyana	hill	uSontuli	hill/area
uNtshiyana	stream	uTeke	stream
iNyamakayithengwa	stream	uThobothi	stream
uNyonikazana	stream	iThumbu	stream
uQaqalwempisi (3)	hills/ridges	iTshele likaFosingi	hill
iSabokwe	hill	eTshenilentombi	area
iSalathiyela	stream	iTshenteka	cliff
uShoshangesisila	hill	uTshokolwana	hill
uSilevana	hill	eZigubeni	area
eSivivaneni	hill/stream	eZikhayenizenkosi	hill
iSivasamagunda	cliff	eZimbokodweni	area
iSivasamsasaneni	cliff	eZiminyaneni	hills
iSivasamanqe	cliff	eZintunzini	range of hills
iSivasamhlosheni	cliff	eZintuthwaneni	area
iSivasemfene	cliff		

^a eNgilandi was on this list and the map in error, and has been removed. This area is in the Hluhluwe sector. No member of NPB staff from the 1950s to the 1970s, including me, knew of such an area in Mfolozi GR (J. Anderson, J. Forrest, P. Hitchins, R. Porter, J. Vincent, A. Whately, *in litt.*, 2015).

Table 0.2 *Places northward of Black Mfolozi river to main road (R618) (Magqubu Ntombela)*

Place name	Feature	Place name	Feature
eBhavulomu	area	eMpindisweni	ridge
oBhembedwini	stream	uMsinyane	stream
uBhokosa	stream	eMsokosokweni	stream
uCaya	hill	uMtshongweni	stream
uDlogodlo	ridge	uNcengeninhliziyi	hill
uDomu	stream	eNdlovaneni	stream
uDonsagolo	hill	iNdondwane	stream/hill
eDuduseni	ridge	iNgcoba	ridge
esiFusamvini	ridge	oNgeni	hill
eGobhe	stream	eNhlonhleniyamathonga	area
iGoqo	ridge	uNkonyane	hill
eGwalagwaleni	stream	uNondubela	ridge
uHlathikhulu	ridge	uNonqishi	area
uHlaza	hill	eNqunyeni	stream

(cont.)

Table 0.2 (cont.)

Place name	Feature	Place name	Feature
uHlebomunye (= Mshukulo)	area	iNtabakamayanda	hill
uHlekuzulu (= eNtuzuma)	ridge	iNtabakamthwazi	hill
iHlengwa	stream	iNtabayamaphiva	hill
iKhandalomuntu	ridge	iNtabayentombi	hill
eKushesheni	ridge	uNxabo	stream
Kwesemvivi	ridge	iNyalazi	stream
Kwesogada	ridge	uNyongwana	stream
eLabelweni	stream	uPhondo	stream
uLubisana	stream	uQikiyana	area/stream
eMadotsheni	stream	eSangcobeni	ridge/stream
uMagqayiza	area	uSangobo	stream
uMagula	area	uShiyane	ridge
eMashashangeni	ridge	eSigoqweni	hill
uMajojoyi	stream	uSikhovana	hill/stream
eMakhandeni	stream/ ridge	eSivivaneni	col on hill
ezindlovu	ridge		
eMalalaneni	stream	eSiyembeni	hill
aManzimhlophe	stream	uSokosoko	stream
uMasi	ridge	uThekwane	stream
uMasimba^a	hill/stream	iTshelamabhunu	ridge
uMasimba	hill	eTsheni	ridge
omncane			
eMasundweni	hill	eTshenteka	ridge
uMatelebana	stream	iTshevu	stream
aMatshemnyama	ridge	iZalani	ridge
eMazondweni	hill	oZengwaneni	ridge/stream
uMchachazo	stream	eZibozini	stream
uMcibilindi (2)	streams	eZihlabeni	ridge/stream
uMcobosi	ridge	eZiklebheni	area
uMcumane	stream	eZimambeni	stream
uMfulawembuzi	stream	eZinhlonhlwaneni	stream
eMguthwaneni	stream	eZinqunyeni	stream
iMona	stream	eZinqwambeni	ridge
eMondini	stream	eZinsisheni	stream
iMpelenyane	stream	eZishamashameni	ridge
emhlophe			
iMpelenyane	stream		
emnyama			

^a Ntombela suggested *Masinda* for the visitor facilities, as an inoffensive alternative to *Masimba* (dung heap) nearby. This was not traditional, as Ntombela acknowledged (I. C. Player, *in litt.*, 2014).

Table 0.3 *Places from Hluhluwe Sector southward to main road (R618) (Thembeni Mthethwa)*

Place name	Feature	Place name	Feature
uBelebane	stream	iMpongo	forest
eBomvini	stream	uMthole	hill
uCakula	stream	uMuntulu	area
iCalalendlu	area	uMunywana	stream
eCekaneni	area	eMunywaneni	area
iChibilamanqe	pan	uMzini	stream
iChibilezangoma	pan	oNcobeni	stream
oDakaneni	stream	iNdabakazipeli	ridge
eDubeni	hill	uNdantsha	stream
uFuzula	stream	uNdimbili	stream
uGontshi	hill	iNdlunkulu	stream
eGunjaneni	stream	iNdodanye	stream
uHidli	hill	uNgalonde	ridge
uHlathikhulu	thicket	eNgilandi^a	area
uHlaza	hill/stream	iNgqungqulu	stream/ridge
uHlokohlolo	hill/stream	iNgwenyaneni	stream
iHluhluwe	river	iNhlabashana	stream
uKubi	stream	uNhlayinde	hill
uMabombothelana	stream	uNkonono	hill
uMacabuzele	stream	uNkwakwa	hill
eMagangeni	ridge	uNomageje	stream
uMagwanxa	hill/stream	uNombali	ridge
eMahlabathini	area	uNqodi	hill
aMahlungulu	hill	eNqoklweni	area
uMahwanqana	ridge	iNqumela (2)	streams
uMakhokhoba	hill	iNsizwa	hill
uMalikayiko	stream	uNtabamhlophe	hill
aMansiya	stream	iNzimane	river
aManzamnyama	stream	uQholwane	hill
aManzibomvu	stream	uQololenja	hill
aMaphumulo	ridge	eSaheni	area
uMaqanda	stream/thicket	uSankoya	ridge
uMashiya	hill	uSeme	hill
uMatikalala	ridge	eSikeleleni	stream
aMatshemhlophe	hill	iSikhalasomoya	hill
aMatshovozo	stream	uSiqwashu	stream
aMawane	forest	uSisuze	area
aMawuzi	forest	iSitezi	hill

(cont.)

Table 0.3 (cont.)

Place name	Feature	Place name	Feature
uMbango	area	uSithole	hill
uMbhombe	forest	iSivivaneni	hill
eMcibilindini (2)	streams	iSiwasamakhosikazi	cliff
uMcincinya	ridge	uSomaxekwane	ridge
eMfukuzweni	stream	oThiyeni	bush
uMgovuzo	stream	iTsheliyamfoma	stream
uMjantshi	hill	iTshempofu	hill
uMkhombe^b	hill	iVivi	hill/forest
uMlebezi omkhulu	stream	uVumbe	stream
uMlebezi omncane	stream	uZangomfe	hill
uMnqabatheki	ridge	eZidonini	area
iMpanzakazi	hill	eZimbokodweni	stream
iMpisaneni	stream	eZincakeni	hill/dam
iMpolomba	stream	eZiqhumeni	ridge
		eZisengeni	ridge

^a Eastward of the confluence of the Hluhluwe and Manzibomvu rivers; omitted from the original list. It refers to where Captain H. B. Potter attempted to introduce English fallow deer and pheasant in the 1940s. They did not survive for long.

^b Westward of the confluence of the Hluhluwe and Manzibomvu rivers. Vaughan-Kirby (1920) records that Zulu guards in Hluhluwe used this name for large male black rhino. They had never seen a white rhino, because they did not occur north of the Black Mfolozi river early in the twentieth century. However, the name could derive from an even earlier time when white rhino probably occurred there. They are there now.

Cliff *isiwa*, usually on the outside of the bend along a major perennial stream: (S) *iSiwasamagunda*, *iSiwasamsasaneni*, *iSiwasamanqe*, *iSiwasamhlosheni*, *iSiwasemfene*, *iSiwasempila*, (N) *iSiwasamakhosikazi*.

Hill (mountain) *intaba*: (S) *iNtabayamanina*, *iNtabayamaphiva (2)*, (C) *iNtabakamayanda*, *iNtabayentombi*, (N) *iNtabamhlophe*.

Pan (pond) *ichibi*, with temporary water after rain, used as a wallow by elephant, rhinos, buffalo and common warthog, thus enlarging with time: (S) *iChibi elibomvu*, *iChibilembube*, *iChibilentungunono*, *iChibilenyathi (2)*, *iChibilokumbiwa*, (N) *iChibilamanqe*, *iChibilezangoma*.

Stream *amanzi* (water), minor perennial: (C) *aManzimhlophe*, (N) *aManzibomvu*, *aManzannyama*.

Total 27 places.

Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles Occurring in Place Names

imbube, lion; *indlovu*, elephant; *idube*, zebra; *imfene*, baboon; *uhobosha*, puff-adder; *igwalagwala*, purple-crested turaco; *ingonyama*, lion; *ingqungqulu*, bateleur eagle; *ingwe*, leopard; *ingwenya*, Nile crocodile; *inkawu*, vervet monkey; *umkhombe*, white rhino; *i(ama)nqe*, vulture(s); *inyathi*, buffalo; *iphiva*, waterbuck; *impisi*, spotted hyena; *impofu*, eland; *iseme*, Denham's bustard; *uthekwane*, hamerkop; *intungunono*, secretary bird. Total 19 taxa.

List of Place Names (June 1968)

The Zulu spelling of the place names in Tables 0.1–0.3 accords with the list produced by Magqubu Ntombela, Thembeni Mthethwa, and Reg Mayne at Hluhluwe Hilltop Camp in June 1968 (338 places, provided by John Vincent *in litt.*, 2014). This list gives an average of around one place name per 2.7 km² in the Park, as shown on the 1979 map (see online Supplementary Material). It was duplicated for official use by the Natal Parks Board, although not published before. These names omit the initial lower-case vowel and have the initial consonant capitalized.

Magqubu Ntombela¹ and Thembeni Mthethwa² provided an oral rendering, in each other's hearing, of the Zulu place names in the southern and northern sectors, respectively, of the Hluhluwe–Mfolozi Park (P. M. Hitchins *in litt.*, 2014; J. Vincent *in litt.*, 2014). This was done at a two-day meeting arranged by the Natal Parks Board (NPB) at Hluhluwe Hilltop Camp in June 1968. They were illiterate men in their 60s who spent their working lives as game rangers in the Park. The former was stationed in the Umfolozi Game Reserve and the latter in the Hluhluwe Game Reserve, as the southern and northern sectors of the Park were then known. For management purposes these sectors included the intervening unreserved State land known as 'the Corridor', with each sector extending to the Mtubatuba–Hlabisa main road (R618).

Indeed, Ntombela was born and grew to manhood in the southern Corridor, at his father's homestead on a hill (*oNgeni*) overlooking the Black Mfolozi river, at the turn of the twentieth century. His father, a member of the iNgobamakosi regiment who fought at Isandlwana in 1879 (I. C. Player, pers. comm., 1979), would have been born around 1853

¹ Hugh Dent, a fluent and literate Zulu linguist who knew him well, corrected the spelling from 'Maqubu Nthombela' that was used in earlier documents (H. R. Dent, pers. comm., 1973).

² Mthethwa or Mtetwa in earlier documents.

(Faye, 1923). He and Mthethwa acquired their knowledge in the traditional way by remembering precisely: (1) the teaching of their parents and other elders, and (2) the information provided by their contemporaries as well as their own observations while walking over the ground for many years. Their memories were prodigious and reliable.

The place names were transliterated by Reg Mayne, a retired high court interpreter of Zulu–English who was fluent and literate in each. He listened carefully to the spoken names and their discussion of them, in order to spell them correctly and learn their meaning where known. These he dictated to John Vincent and Peter Hitchins of the NPB scientific staff, emphasizing the importance of distinguishing the prefix from the stem of a noun. They compiled his spellings in an alphabetical list based on the first consonant, and prepared a map with these place names (P. M. Hitchins *in litt.*, 2014; J. Vincent *in litt.*, 2014). The list and map were duplicated for the use of NPB staff. This use must have been discontinued because at a meeting in 2008, staff members of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife seemed to be unaware of either (N. Turner *in litt.*, 2014).

The list in Tables 0.1–0.3 is resurrected from Peter Hitchins' notes and a copy held by John Vincent. As an archive of indigenous knowledge obtained up to a century and more ago (mid-nineteenth century), it cannot be replicated. As such, this list can be regarded as a more reliable record of tradition than any obtained in the present century. The names in the list below are given on a map available through the online Supplementary Material of this book (made in 1979 by Hitchins and Vincent).

There is a notable difference between the orthographic convention used in this list and in the standard dictionary (Doke and Vilakazi, 1953). The latter gives *im-Foloz*i as the name of the second river for which the Park is named. However, Ntombela gives *iMfoloz*i in Mayne's transcription (below). Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi also used *iMfoloz*i, rather than *imFoloz*i, in having the name of the game reserve corrected from Umfoloz*i* (I. C. Player, personal communication, 2014). Both probably follow the accepted spelling convention of the time, capitalizing the initial consonant. However, the Park's legal name is Hluhluwe–Imfoloz*i* (KZN Provincial Gazette Extraordinary, Vol. 6 No. 799, Provincial Notice No. 83, 30 August 2012). The dictionary has no entry for the Hluhluwe river. It has *um-Hluhluwe* for: (1) the thorny rope, a climbing plant (*Dalbergia armata*), and (2) the spur on a cock's leg (that the plant's thorns resemble).

Official policy in KwaZulu–Natal (KZN) is to include the whole prefix in the writing of isiZulu place names. This is not so in the Eastern Cape Province. There, official policy continues to omit the lower-case initial

vowel from the written prefix in an isiXhosa place name, e.g. *Mthatha*, *Mzimvubu*, *Dutywa*.

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- Vaughan-Kirby, F. (1920) The white rhinoceros, with special reference to its habits in Zululand. *Annals of the Durban Museum* 2: 223–242 (footnote 6, p. 4).