

It is the hope of our group that our activities will stimulate others especially young Zambians into taking an interest in archaeology. We now understand that the need to have more written history of many Zambian peoples is great. Some of the Zambian groups have no real written history because of the limited number of historians available. We hope that our work proves that the National Monuments Commission could work more often in conjunction with interested secondary schools in doing some basic research that might aid later projects.

REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ETHNOLOGICAL AND
ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN BOTSWANA

by James I. Ebert, Melinda C. Ebert and
Robert K. Hitchcock

The Kalahari Project is a regional, interdisciplinary ethnological, archaeological and ecological research project sponsored by the United States National Science Foundation being conducted in the Central District of Botswana. Faculty members and doctoral students from the Department of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico U.S.A., are carrying out fieldwork there oriented toward the Bushmen (Basarwa), the archaeological record, and the relationships between the two from June 1975 to about March of 1977.

Ethnological studies focus on Basarwa populations in the central sandveld and Nata River regions of the Central District; many of these people are still dependent upon a majority of wild resources for subsistence, while others have to some extent adopted agriculture and herding. Research among the Basarwa is geared toward subsistence ecology, settlement patterns, material distributions, technology and its organization, and other data compatible with archaeological analysis. A special focus in the Nata River area is the ethnoarchaeology of sedentism; a number of changes in behaviour which appear when groups settle down, such as increased territoriality, greater social differentiation, and more intrasite complexity are being investigated in present-day groups, recently abandoned campsites, and prehistoric archaeological distributions.

The archaeological phase of Kalahari Project research began with a regional survey sample of the Central District, an area only sporadically investigated archaeologically in the past. To date, 107 sites have been recorded; these range from Early Stone Age through Iron Age in time. Sampling areas which have been intensively surveyed include the hardveld/sandveld ecotone near Serowe, the central sandveld, and the basin and drainage of ancient Lake Makgadikgadi, which once covered much of central Botswana. The Lake Makgadikgadi area, which is today represented by the almost dry Sua Pan, is especially interesting in that its parallel shorelines, discovered through the interpretation of NASA Landsat space imagery, abound in Middle and Late Stone Age materials and should allow both relative dating and association of sites with past climatic conditions. A series of stone tool analyses designed to emphasize the organizational properties of stone tool assemblages suggests that MSA people in the central basin area were probably more sedentary, lived in larger groups, and exploited resources in a far more specialized manner than either ESA or LSA peoples. The transition from the Late Stone Age to Iron Age adaptations may also represent a series of specializations in technical and social organization, and is a second focus of our archaeological work.

Ecological studies tie together the ethnological and archaeological research mentioned above. A number of data sources are being tapped in the course of Kalahari Project ecological studies, including the climatic and hydrological record provided by the Lake Makgadikgadi shorelines and archaeological assemblages, a series of 200-km vegetation transects designed to point out actual and culture-effective differences in diversity and periodicity of resources, meteorological and historical records of climatic conditions, and a series of twice-daily field measurements of the atmospheric transmission of solar radiation.

One of our primary objects is to gain an understanding of what sorts of past and present dimensions of variability one might expect in climate in southern Africa, and what the effects of these variations might be in terms of hunter-gatherer and early agricultural adaptation. A specific area of ecological interest which seems responsible for many climatic and subsistence food distributional differences across our study area is bush fires, which to a great extent affect solar radiation and plant growth in southern Africa.

Kalahari Project fieldwork and analysis will continue into 1977, and we hope to initiate an ongoing program of Southern African research and a library and research information center for Kalahari studies. Those readers wishing to receive future reports, as well as those with suggestions, bibliographic material and data of which we should be aware are urged to send their names for inclusion in our mailing list to:

Kalahari Project, c/o James I. Ebert, 3100 Ninth Street, NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107 U.S.A.

MIDDLE STONE AGE ANTEFACTS FROM LUMBE RIVER BED AND SINDE FARM IN THE UPPER ZAMBEZI VALLEY

by F.B. Musonda, Livingstone Museum,

Archaeological work on Stone Age in the extreme southwest of the country is primarily restricted to the Zambezi Valley where work on Stone Age sites has been mainly undertaken by Clark^k (1950) and Phillipson (1968, 1975). Clark has conducted a number of excavations in the Victoria Falls region which form the basis of a cultural succession defined for the region which has been substantially proved correct by recent work in the Upper Zambezi Valley. Phillipson has conducted a systematic archaeological survey of the area lying between the Victoria Falls and the Angola/Zambia border at Cholutezi along the Zambezi Valley. In all, more than twenty-four Stone Age sites have been investigated yielding artefacts ranging from Middle Stone Age to Late Stone Age.

Description of Sites

Recent investigations of a number of river gravel deposits in the Upper Zambezi Valley by E.R. Manning¹ of Kabwe have revealed substantial evidence of occupation of the area during the Middle Stone Age Period. One of such sites is Lumbe river bed situated south of Sioma Mission at 16°38'S, 23°35'E about 2 kilometers up the Lumbe river from the point where it joins the Zambezi river. Artefacts were found in a 1.22 m (4 feet) deposit of relatively pure sand.

Another site, Sinda Farm, lies to the west of Livingstone at 17°46'S, 25°46'E, a distance of about 18 kilometers from the Livingstone Museum. Surface collections from this site were made on two occasions by the writer with the aim of studying the archaeological significance of this area which had hitherto been investigated by Mr. R.M. Derricourt and Miss Emily Maluma of National Monuments Commission². The overall aim of this research is to supplement and augment Phillipson's (ibid) work on the Stone Age archaeology in the Upper Zambezi Valley.

Artefacts from Lumbe River Bed

Except for a few eroded or abraded specimens, all artefacts appeared in a fresh condition. The major raw material employed is chalcedony but silicified sandstone was also used. A total of 172 stone artefacts were collected from the Lumbe river bed. (Table 1). These were submitted for analysis.