

Rock Art Landscapes in Erongo region within the context of Southern African Rock Art

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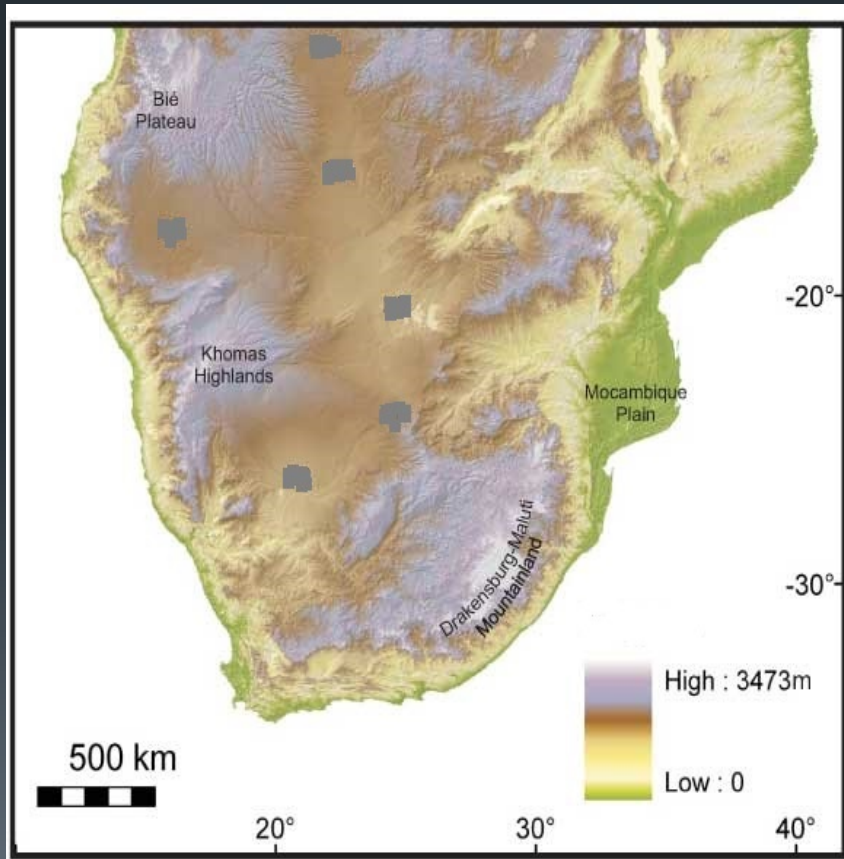
GEOPOLITICAL SETTINGS

- The terrains: from very dense mountainous jungle (rainforest) regions and plain savannah grasslands to dry and arid desert regions
- Precipitation varies: High and low land

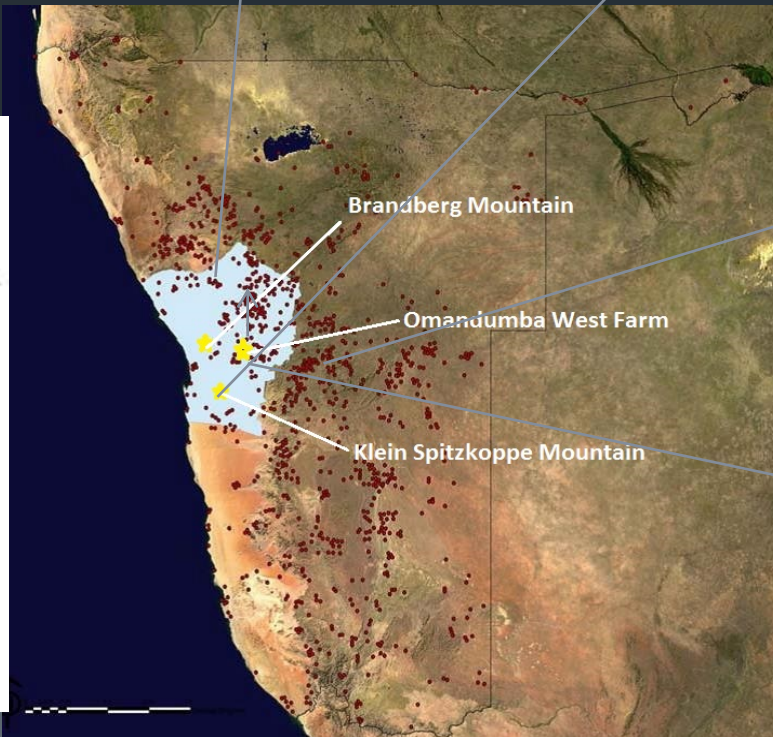
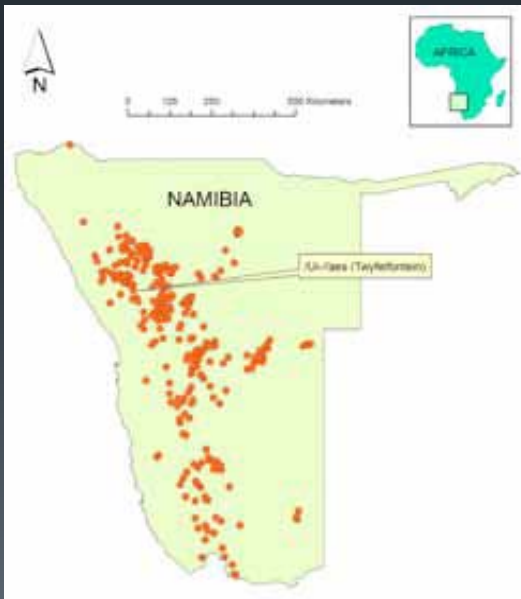
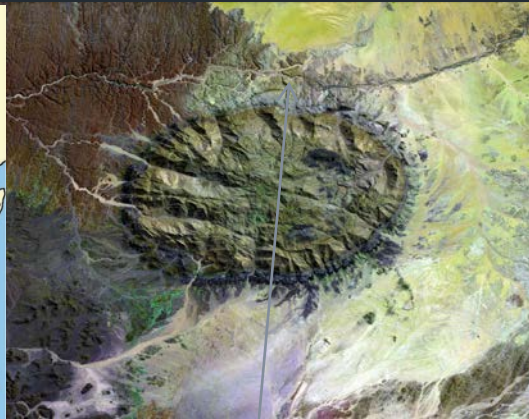


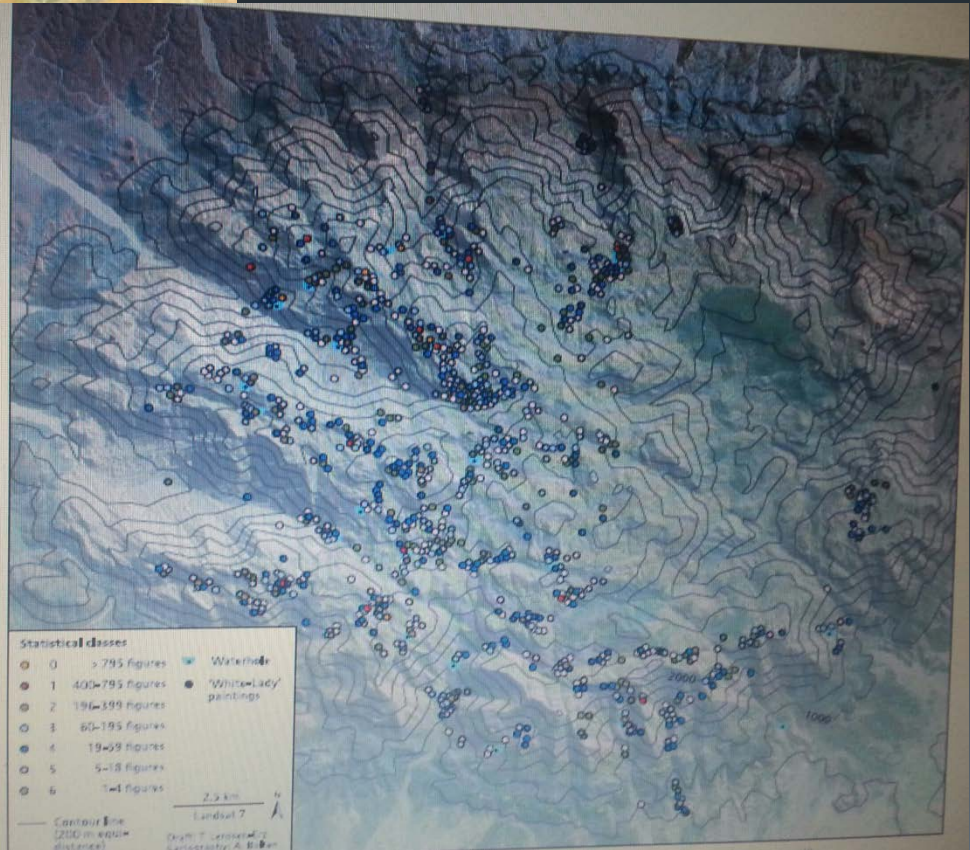
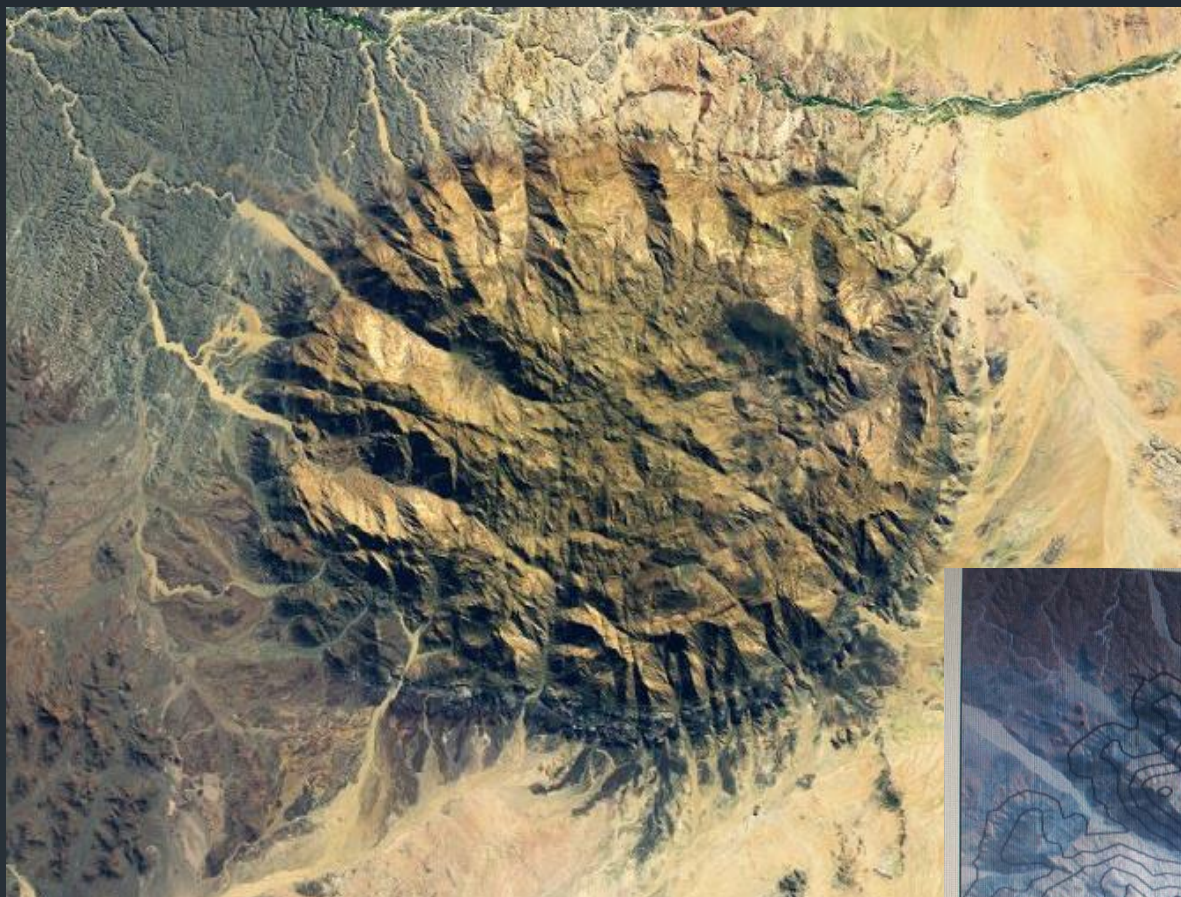
GEOLOGICAL SETTINGS

- S.A geological deposits: associated with igneous intrusive and extrusive (Granites, Basalts, dolerite, diabase) and sedimentary deposits (Sandstones, Lime stones) etc.



ERONGO REGION LANDSCAPES





Statistical classes

○ 0	> 795 figures	Waterhole
○ 1	400-795 figures	'White-Lady' paintings
○ 2	196-400 figures	
○ 3	60-195 figures	
○ 4	19-60 figures	
○ 5	5-18 figures	
○ 6	1-4 figures	

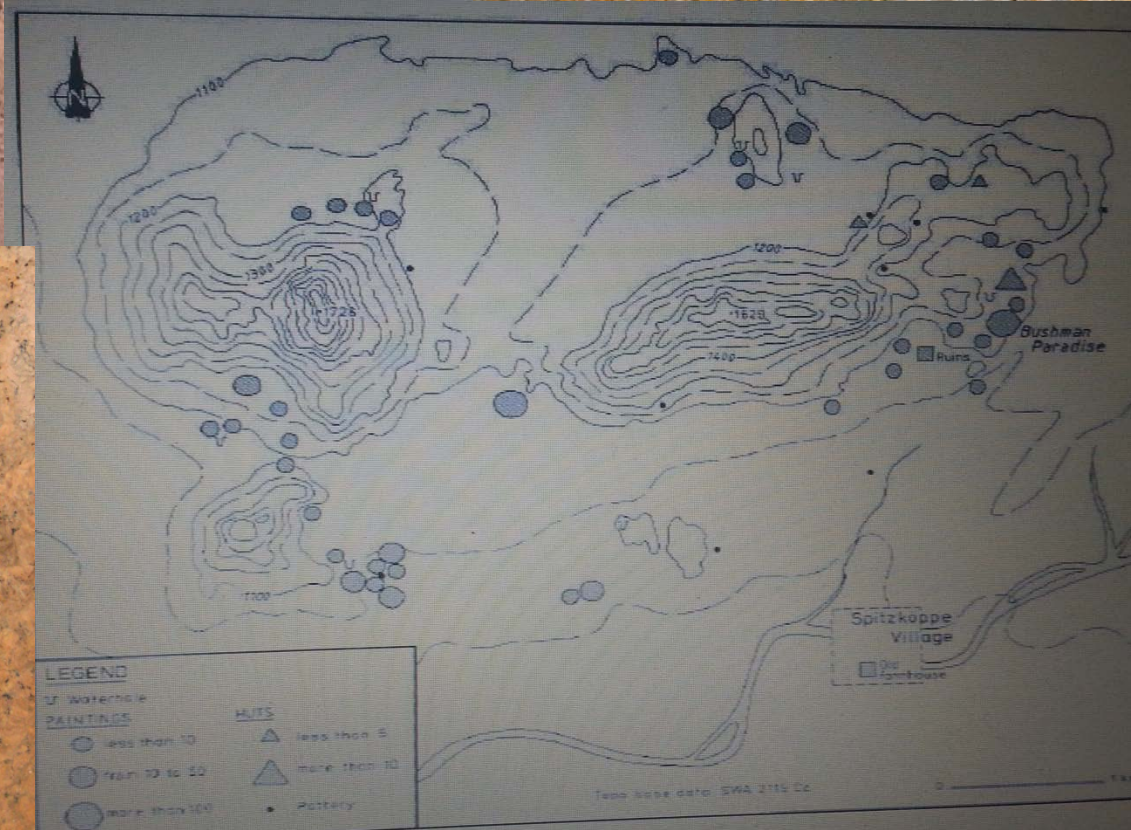
Contour line (200 m equiv. distance)

2.5 km

Landscape 7

Dyck, T. Caravello, M. Caravello, A. B. B. B.









8 000 rock art figures
(Scherz, Pager & Breuil,
1960)





Engravings of Erongo Region

Open air boulders, Pavements, in riverbeds etc.



PAINTINGS

Found: rock overhangs with smooth surfaces i.e. mostly on Granites Basalts, caves, rock-shelters, open high walls, ceilings, boulders etc.



■ Brandberg, Erongo



■ Omandumba West, Erongo



■ Phillip Cave, Erongo



Spitzkoppe, Erongo



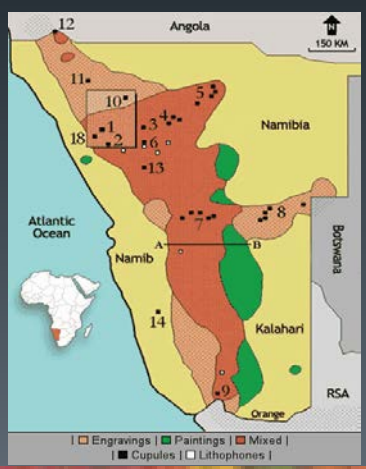
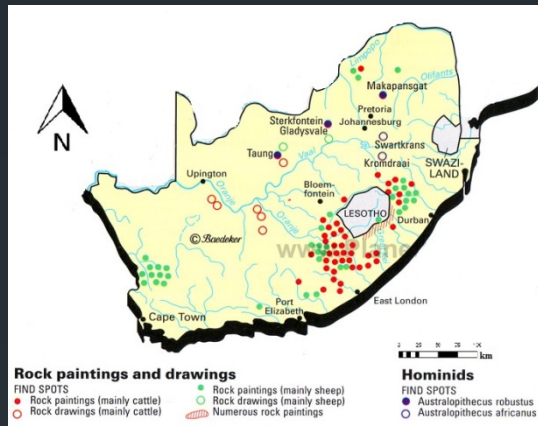
AiAiba, Erongo



Paula Cave, Erongo

ROCK ART: DISTRIBUTION, CONTENT, TRADITIONS & STYLE

- Southern Africa with an exception of the Islands: Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.
- More than 1 Ma individual figures found at more than 50,000 rock art sites (SARADA, 2012)
- Greatest concentrations: S.A, Namibia, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Malawi, Zambia & Botswana
- No reliable records to indicate the relative percentage of paintings to engravings, but painting sites are probably in the majority.



SOUTHERN AFRICAN LANDSCAPES



Drakensburg, South Africa



Tsodilo, Botswana



Tchitundu Hulu, Angola



Matobo Hills, Zimbabwe



Mwela, Zambia



Chongoni, Malawi



Baroana, Lesotho



Nsangwini, Swaziland



Niassa, Mozambique

SOUTHERN AFRICAN ROCK ART SITES

Landscapes: Rock overhangs with smooth surfaces i.e. Granites, Basalts, Schist etc.
caves, rock-shelters, open high walls, ceilings, boulders, Sandstones etc...



Chongoni, Malawi



Mwela, Zambia



Tchitundu Hulu, Angola



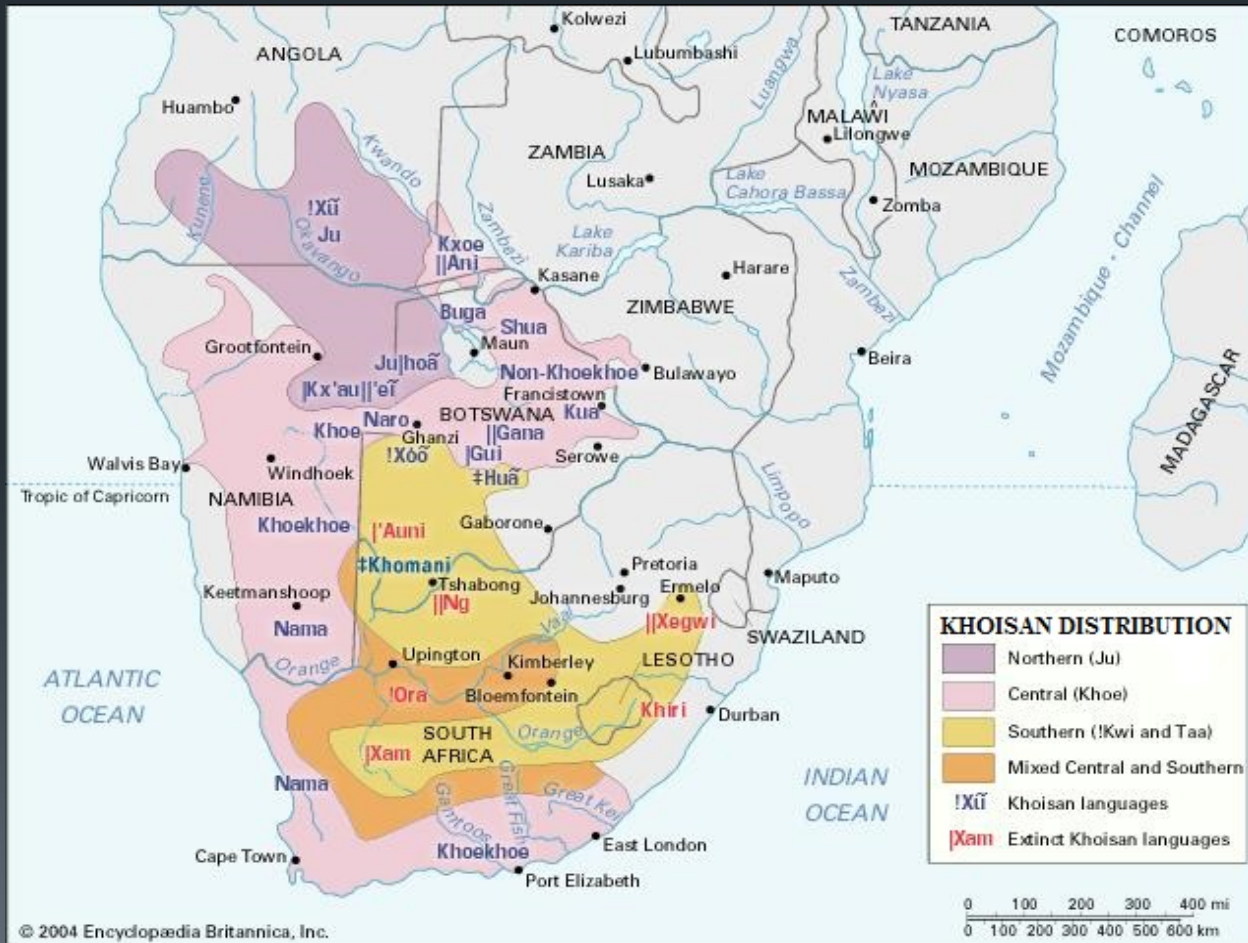
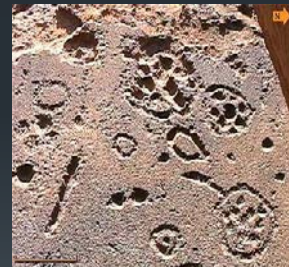
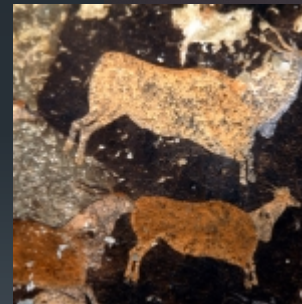
Tsodilo, Botswana



Drakensburg, South Africa

TRADITIONS

Stone Age Hunter-gatherers, Stone Age Herders, and Iron Age Agriculturalists communities in Southern Africa (Lewis-Williams 1983, 1989, 1990, 1996, Anati 1986, Hall & Smith 2000, Deacon 1997, Coulson & Campbell 2001 etc..)



Stone Age hunter-Gatherers

- Associated with religious, social (healings & shamanistic activities), economic, territory
- Pigments done with a brush or other fine line techniques i.e. outline, monochrome, bichrome, polychrome & stamping (handprints) and finger-dots.
- Predominant in many Southern African countries except Malawi and Mozambique (Anati 1986)



■ Spitzkoppe, Namibia



■ Matobo Hills, Zimbabwe



■ Brandberg, Namibia



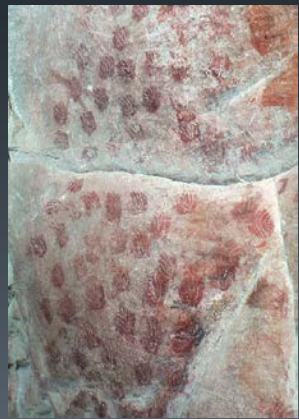
Drakensberg, SA



Tchitundu Hulu, Angola



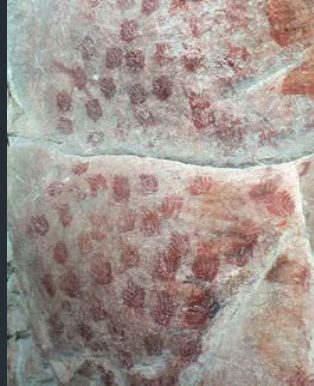
Matobo, Zimbabwe



Elands Bay Cave, SA

Stone Age Herder Rock Art:

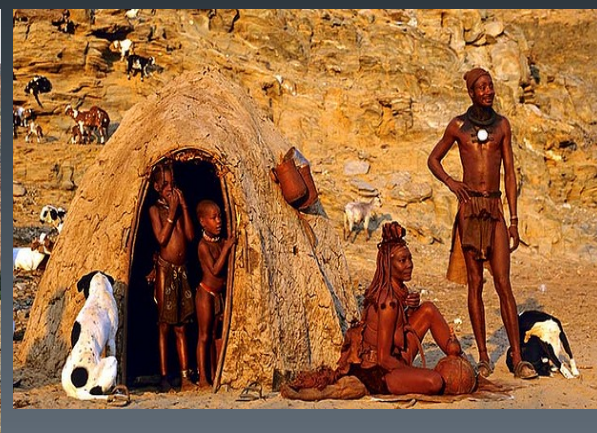
- Displays some general similarities within the region and are quite distinct from the hunter-gatherer & Iron Age art in several respects. It tends to be bolder, less detailed, more schematic, and with a smaller range of colours and subject matter i.e.. geometric designs, finger dots, foot & hand prints.



Iron Age Farmer Rock Art: Bantu

- Are easily distinguished from other art traditions both in its colour (white) & its form. The subject matter is highly varied, but is dominated by humans & animals as well as dominance of settlement layouts. Dominant in South Africa, Zambia, and Malawi.





STYLE

- Broadly similar in subject matter: Anthropomorphic (social life, economic etc.) , Animal (Giraffe), Therianthrope, Cupules, Concentric Circles, Linear and many Abstracts etc.



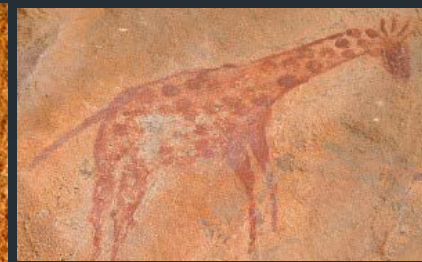
Matobo Hills, Zim



Tsodilo, Botswana



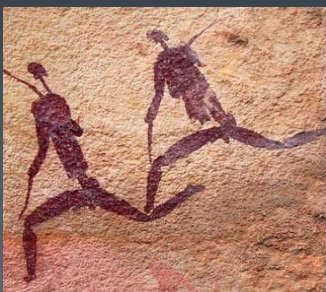
Brandberg, Namibia



Mapungubwe, Swaziland



Drakensberg: SA



Brandberg, Namibia

Regional variation in terms of techniques and styles especially in rock engravings

- Varieties of techniques: deep & shallow pecking, abrasion, polishing, Incised; Scraped etc. Found everywhere: carved into the rock surfaces of sandstones, schist, granite, ochre stones limestone, rocky outcrops (usually of dolerite or diabase), rocky riverbeds , flat veld etc.



Abrasive technique has been used to create the unique *flat polish* at Dancing Kudu, Namibia

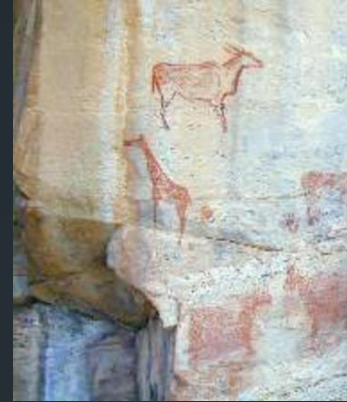
CHRONOLOGY



Middle Stone Age sequence between 70,000 and 100,000 years old.



Apollo 11 plaquettes. 25-30,000 BP



Tsodilo 24,000 BP



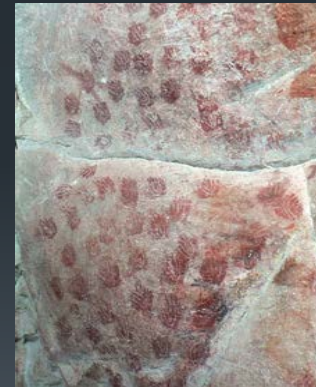
Matobo Hills 13-15,000



Geometric art mobilier Wonderwerk Cave, S.A 10,200 BP



Twyfelfontein 6,000 BP



Drakensburg 4,000 years



Malawi, 1000 years

Concluding Remarks



Link between the landscapes and the content of the rock art varies within the region with several themes that are sufficiently widespread to indicate a broad, high-level geographical and temporal continuity within the Southern African hunter-gatherers, herders, and agriculturist belief systems over the period in which rock art were created.



