

Doispane Road

In the olden days Doispane was a Ranger's outpost halfway between Matimba and Skukuza. A tribesman who returned from working in the gold mines in Lydenburg used to stay there. His name was Doispane, the way he pronounced the nickname "Dustpan", given to him while he was working in the mines.

Dokweni

This name is derived from the Tsonga term: "doko-dokodoko" which can be translated as "to wish for something". Being a perennial spring, this naming could refer to the waiting on the water in arid times.

Duke (waterhole)

An old fellow-campaigner of James Stevenson-Hamilton, Thomas Duke was of late with the Rimington's guides. His parents had immigrated to South Africa from the south of Ireland. His father became a successful farmer in the Eastern Cape up to the native uprising of the 1870s, until his homestead was burned to the ground. Duke was about twelve at the time and was beaten and ill-treated, until, during the night, he was released by one of the family servants who felt pity for him.

He ran for about twelve miles, barefoot and practically naked, until he found safety.

His parents were treated remarkably well and were sent to the nearest safe post where they joined up again. Later Duke joined the Cape Mounted Police and Rimington`s guides, both in which he quickly rose in rank. He joined Stevenson-Hamilton in 1902 as ranger at the Park and was one of the oldest serving, very colourful staff-members.

Dzombo

This small stream runs between the Tsende, Letaba and Shingwedzi Rivers. The name Dzombo was given to the only one of the “Great Seven” elephants shot by poachers. He was fifty years old at the time and was shot with a Russian AK47 rifle. The Tsonga word is derived from dzombolo = “to wait for something that is slow in coming”.

Dzundzwini

This large koppie is situated on the plains south east of Punda Maria and can easily be seen. It also boasts a lookout from your vehicle. The Tsonga word means “at the land belonging to the chief and cultivated by his people”.

The chief of the village at the time was called Matibee, and in 1836, when Louis Trichardt trekked through this area, he called it “Matibeetuin” which translates into “Matibee’s garden”.

Eendrag

The previous government under the National Party’s rule had a motto under their official badge that (since the Union of South Africa) read, “Eendrag Maak Mag”, which directly translates into “Unity is strength”.

During tumultuous times, not necessarily between races, the idea of “Together we stand, divided we fall” was very much of a reality, stemming from the days of the “Great Trek”, during which, even then, white settlers could not, for the life of them, stand together.

The only time when “Eendrag” came into being was during the Anglo-Boer war, when South Africans revolted against British invasion.

Elandskuil

The biggest antelope in the KNP is the Eland. More accurately, the Eland is the biggest antelope in Africa.

The word “kuil” is an Afrikaans word that normally refers to a small waterhole. The insertion of the letter “s” results in the meaning “the waterhole of the Eland”.

In 1960, the evasive Eland was seen as the rarest of the wildlife in the KNP. Today, it is still uncertain which is the rarest of the antelope, but of all the animals it would most certainly be the seldomly seen wolf- specie the Cape hyena / Brown hyena.

The African Eland, *Taurotragus oryx*, has a wide variety of family members. Its family hails from varieties in America (Moose), from the giant Eland in Alaska as well as similar versions in Russia, Scandinavia and Poland. The African version can reach a weight of over 750 kilograms and a lifespan of more than 20 years. Despite the size and weight of the animal, it is still very agile, alert and graceful, and it will clear a fence of two metres in one startled bound.

Many places in South Africa have been named after the Eland, mainly with water connotations, such as Elandskuil (waterhole), Elandsvlei (marsh), Elandsrivier (river), Elandsfontein (fountain) and Elandslaagte (depression). The reason for this would be that the Eland is a thirsty antelope due to its size and diet.

The type of food it prefers is normally found in well-watered areas, and it only eats specific types of grass, which is taken in at staggering quantities. The quality of vegetation is normally watery and Brackish, or with a high mineral salt content.

Engelhard

The Engelhard dam was named after an American millionaire who, after visiting the park, donated the money for the building of the dam after the Park had seen one of the driest seasons in 1961.

In 1968, construction work was started on the then largest dam in the Park, financed by Charles Engelhard. The dam was completed in 1971.

Erfplaas

A borehole at the Xisiwana koppies east of the Phalaborwa Gate. The borehole was unwittingly donated to the Park's Nature Conservation Division by the Park's Road Division, for whom the borehole was originally sunk in 1975. The word is Afrikaans and literally means "inherited farm".