

MAPUNGUBWE WORLD HERITAGE SITE NOMINATION



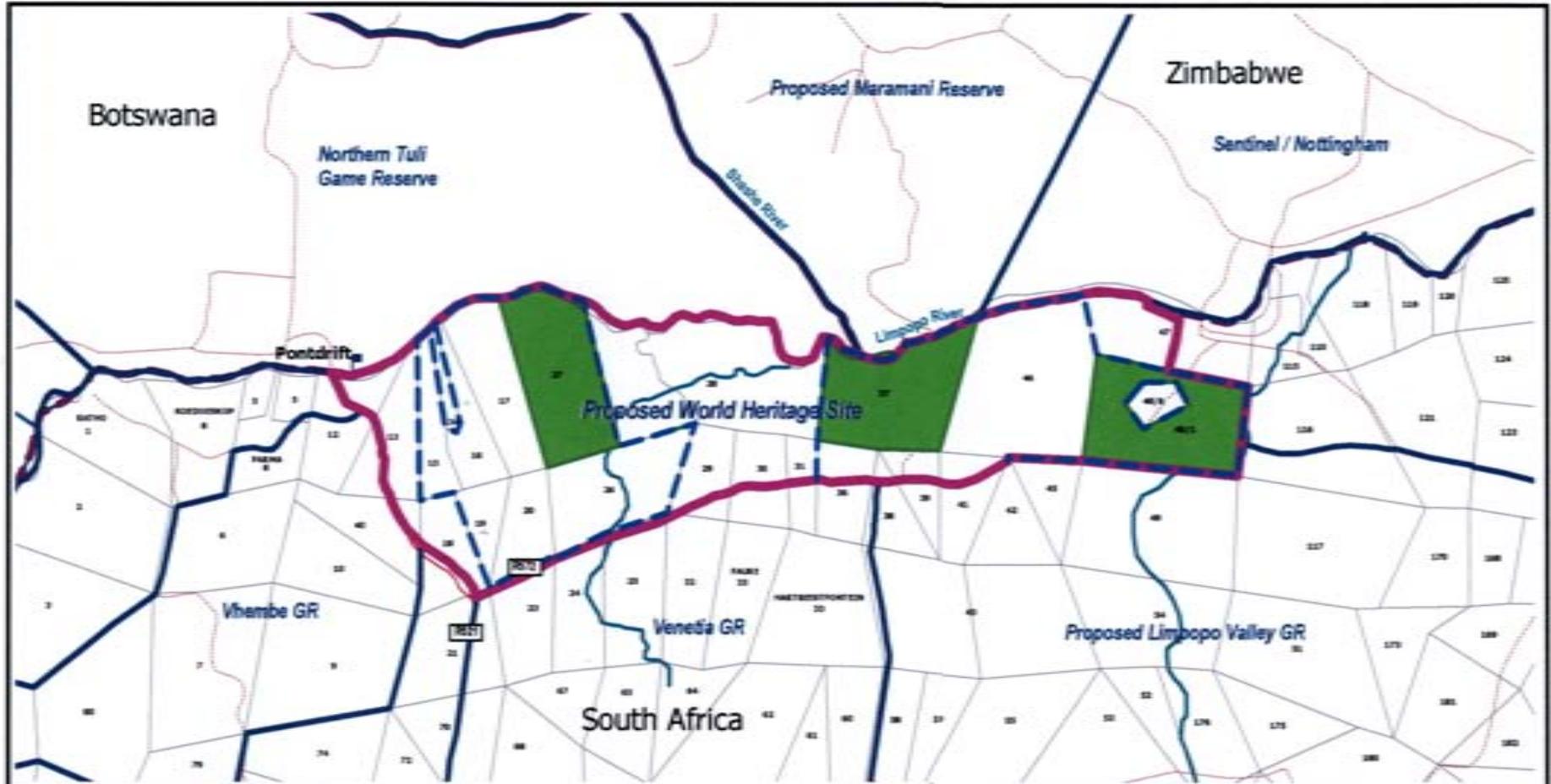
Department of Environmental
Affairs & Tourism
Republic of South Africa



IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY

- Situated to the south of the confluence of the Limpopo and Shashe Rivers on the border of South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe
- The boundaries are the same as the Vhembe-Dongola National Park
- Size 28 168 ha





MAPUNGUBWE WORLD HERITAGE SITE NOMINATION

FIGURE 5

PROPERTIES FOR INCLUSION IN THE MAPUNGUBWE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  International Boundaries  Border Posts  Farm Boundaries  Major Rivers 	<p>Road Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Major Road  Main Road  Secondary Road 	<p>Properties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Category I: Gazetted National Parks  Category II: In Principle Agreement For Contractual Park  Category III: Proposed World Heritage Site  TPCA Areas 	<p>Source: Peace Parks Foundation (2001)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: right;">1:250000 </p>
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Boundaries the same as the Vhembe-Dongola National Park

JUSTIFICATION FOR INSCRIPTION

Mapungubwe is nominated in the category:-

“Cultural landscape”

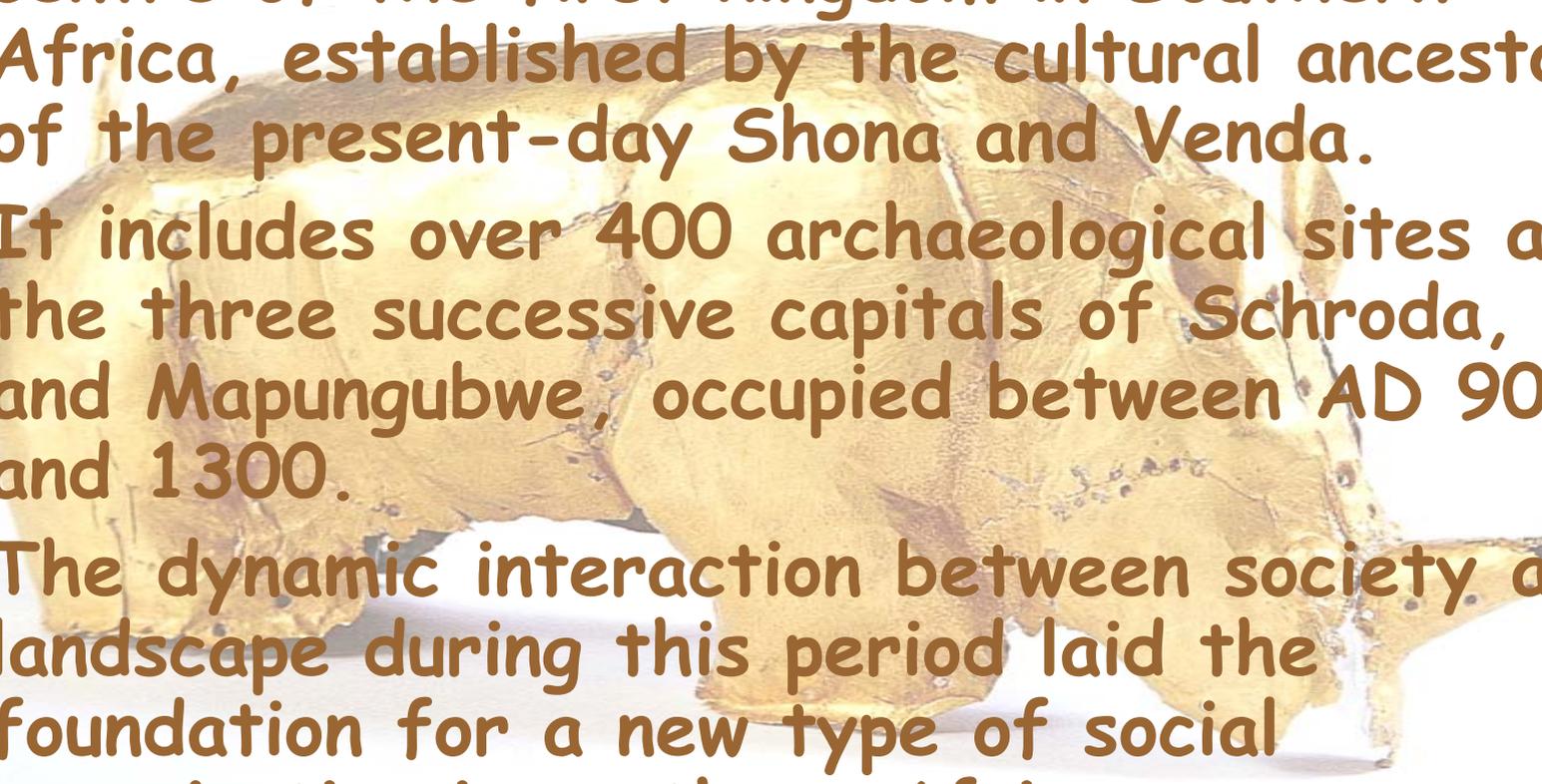
it is “illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical restraints and/or opportunities presented by the natural environment...”





The Limpopo River looking northeast from the Shashe confluence

SIGNIFICANCE OF MAPUNGUBWE

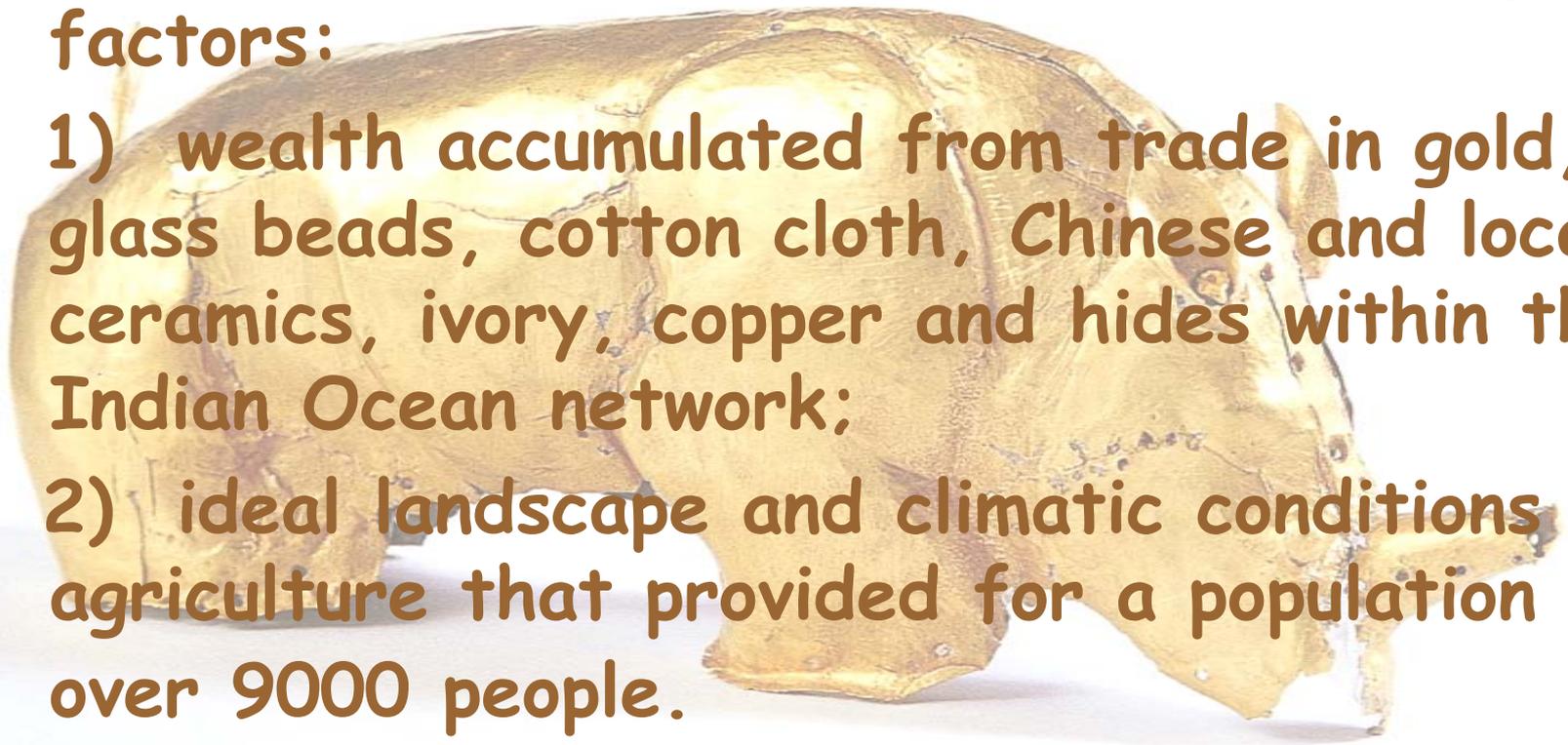
- The Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape was the centre of the first kingdom in Southern Africa, established by the cultural ancestors of the present-day Shona and Venda.
 - It includes over 400 archaeological sites and the three successive capitals of Schroda, K2 and Mapungubwe, occupied between AD 900 and 1300.
 - The dynamic interaction between society and landscape during this period laid the foundation for a new type of social organisation in southern Africa.
- 

SIGNIFICANCE OF MAPUNGUBWE

➤ The kingdom grew as a result of two major factors:

1) wealth accumulated from trade in gold, glass beads, cotton cloth, Chinese and local ceramics, ivory, copper and hides within the Indian Ocean network;

2) ideal landscape and climatic conditions for agriculture that provided for a population of over 9000 people.



SIGNIFICANCE OF MAPUNGUBWE

- East coast trade was established at Schroda by AD 900. During the occupation of K2 wealth and power grew substantially. By the 13th Century AD, a social hierarchy had developed. Mapungubwe Hill was occupied by the king and was modified to separate the elite from the commoners below.
- The onset of the Little Ice Age caused drought and crop failures. The kingdom dispersed after AD 1300, new social and political alliances were formed, and the centre of regional power shifted to Great Zimbabwe.



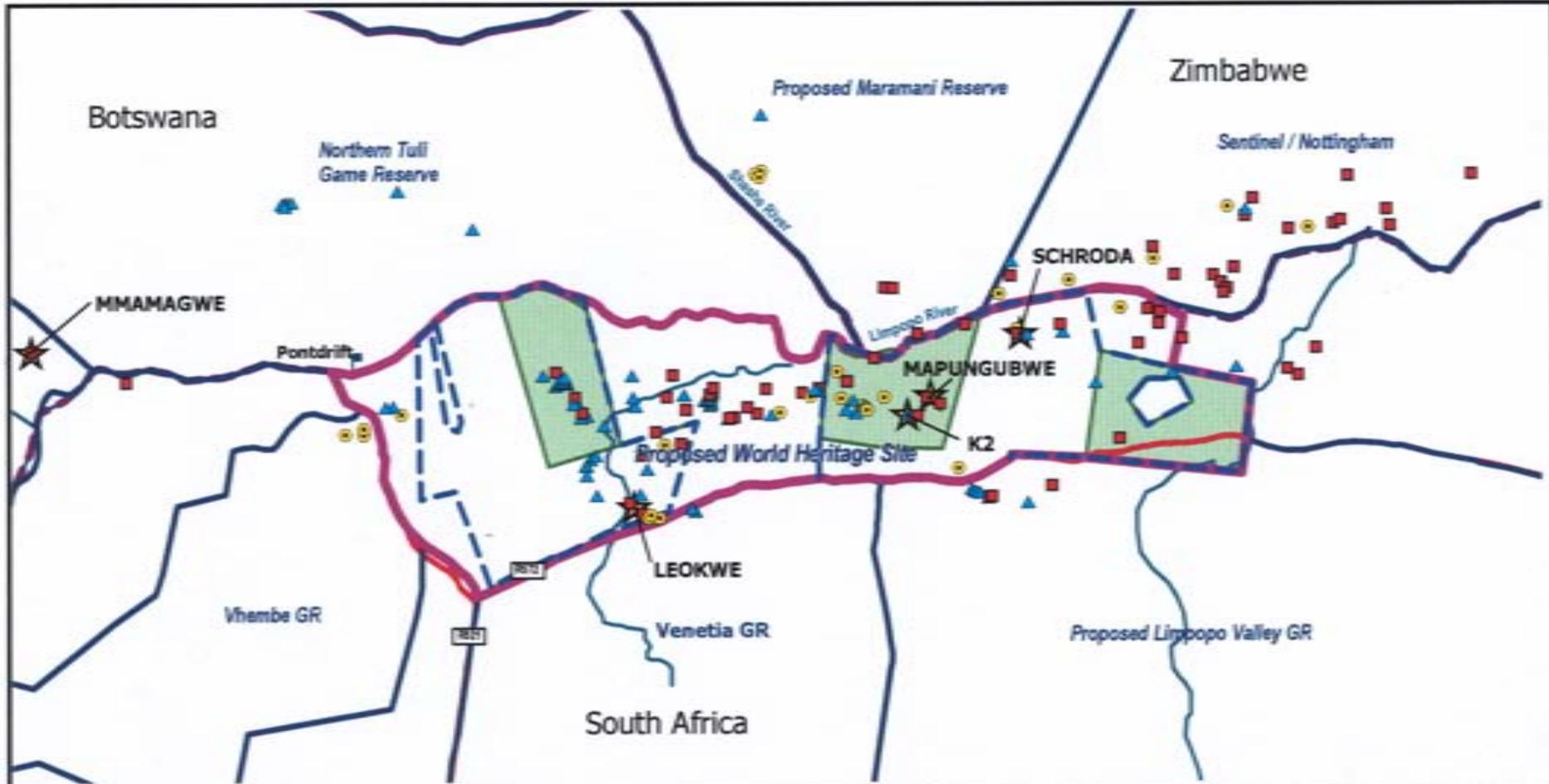
Schroda site, looking north towards the Limpopo



K2 Valley from Bambandyanalo Hill



Mapungubwe Hill from the south west



MAPUNGUBWE WORLD HERITAGE SITE NOMINATION

FIGURE 6

MIDDLE IRON AGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE MAPUNGUBWE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Legend

- International Boundaries
- Border Posts
- Major Rivers
- Major Road

Properties

- Category I: Gazetted National Parks
- Category II: In Principle Agreement For Contractual Park
- Category III: Proposed World Heritage Site
- TPCA Areas

Ceramic Group/Period

- Major Centres
- Zhizo
- K2
- Mapungubwe

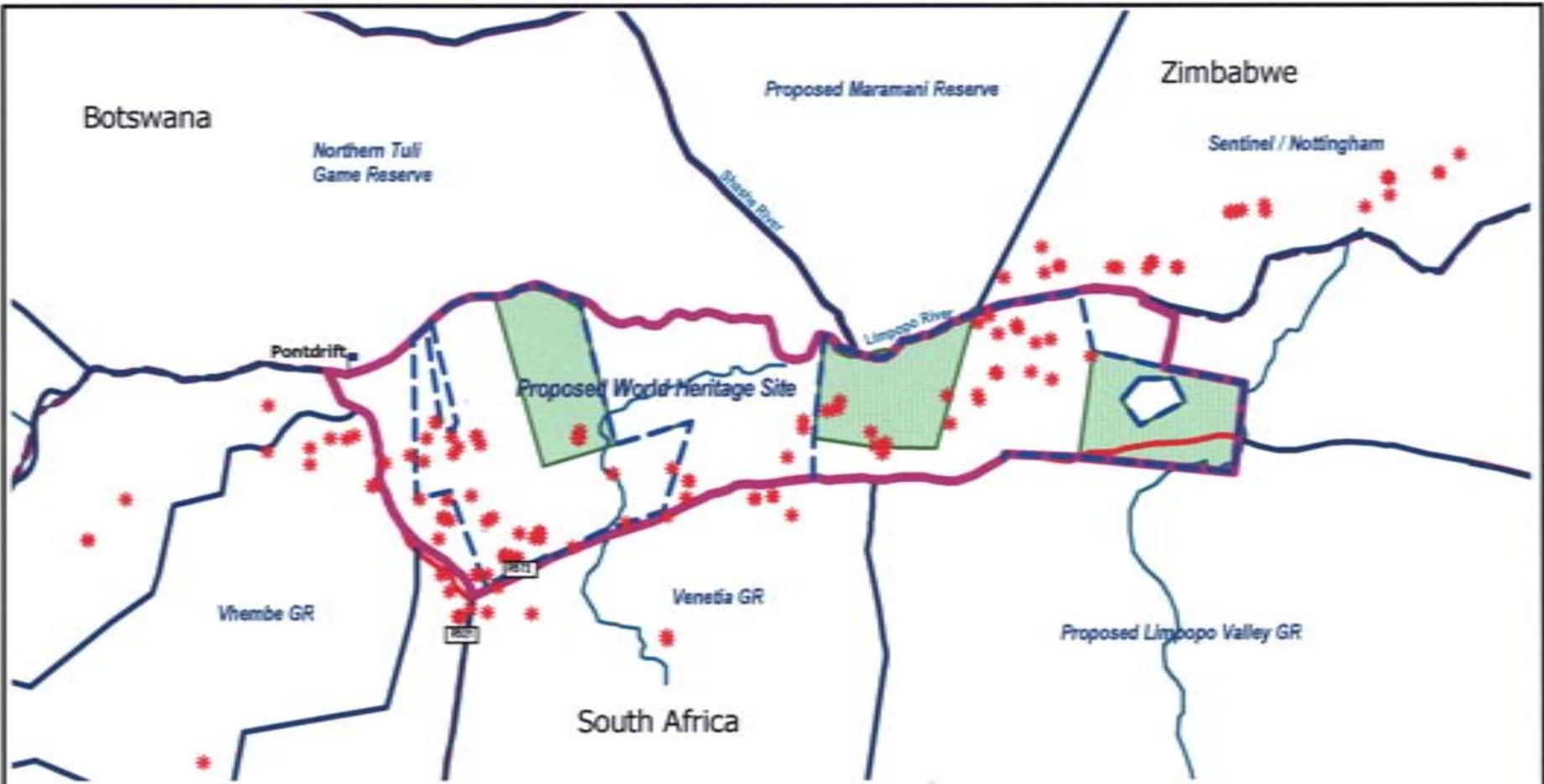
Source: Peace Parks Foundation (2001), Prof T Huffman (2001)



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Zhizo/K2/Mapungubwe sites



MAPUNGUBWE WORLD HERITAGE SITE NOMINATION

FIGURE 7

ROCK ART SITES IN THE MAPUNGUBWE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Legend

-  International Boundaries
-  Border Posts
-  Major Rivers
-  Major Road

Properties

-  Category I: Gazetted National Parks
-  Category II: In Principle Agreement For Contractual Park
-  Category III: Proposed World Heritage Site
-  TFCA Areas

 Rock Art Sites

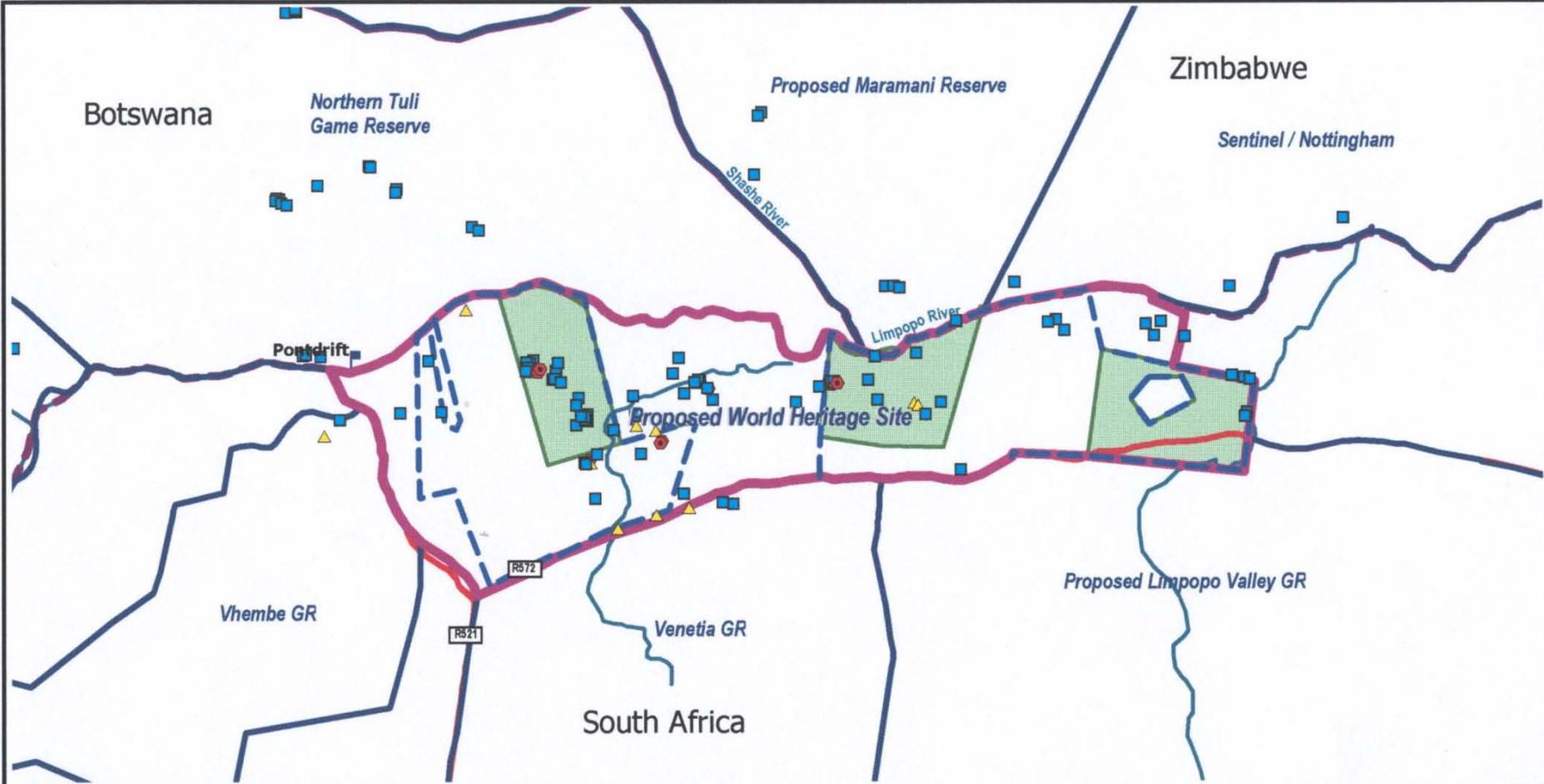
Source: Peace Parks Foundation (2001)
EB Eastwood (2001)



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Rock art sites



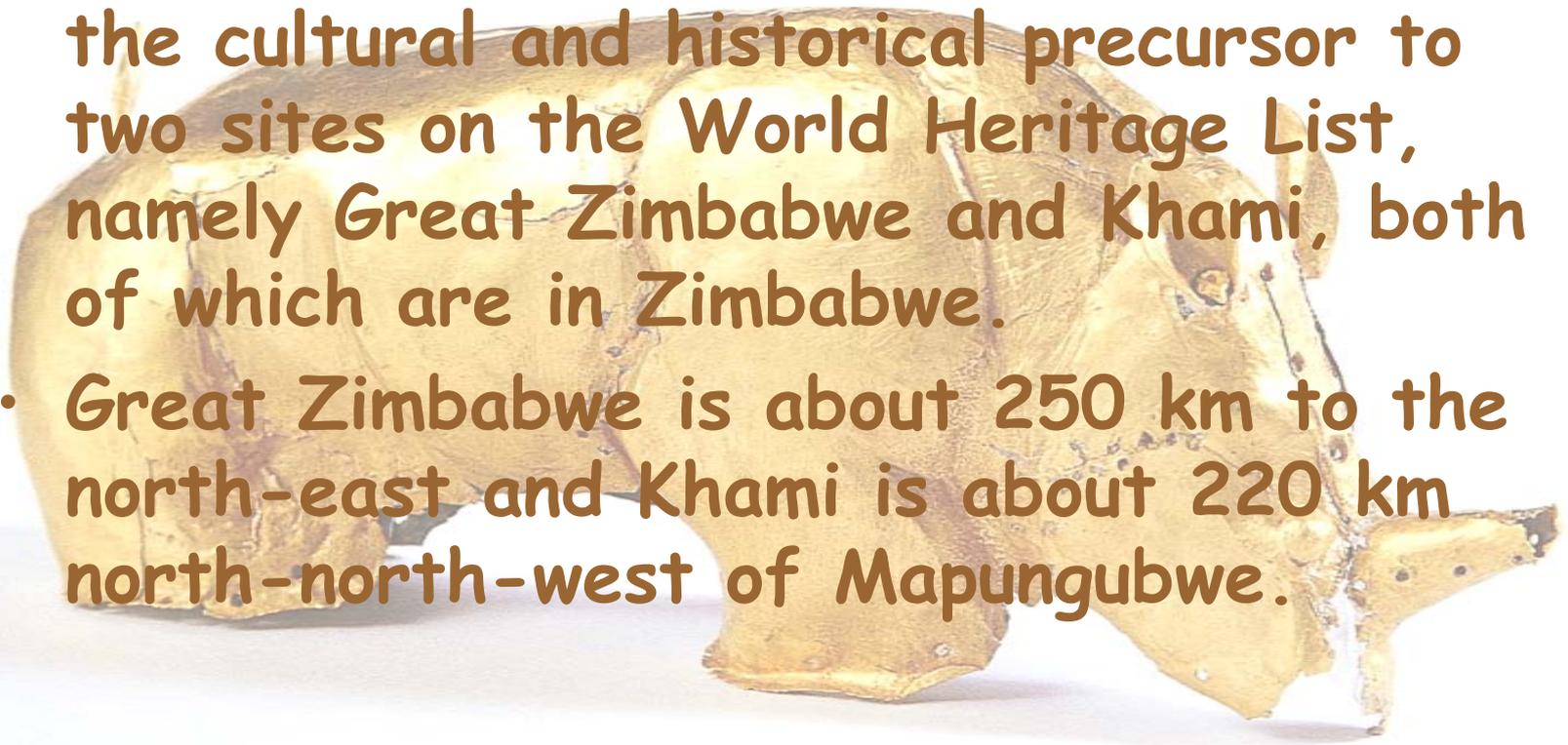
MAPUNGUBWE WORLD HERITAGE SITE NOMINATION
FIGURE 8
 LATE IRON AGE (POST MAPUNGUBWE) ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE MAPUNGUBWE

<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Boundaries Border Posts Major Rivers Major Road 	<p>Properties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category I: Gazetted National Parks Category II: In Principle Agreement For Contractual Park Category III: Proposed World Heritage Site TCCA Areas 	<p>Ceramic Group/Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Icon Khami Venda 	<p>Source: Peace Parks Foundation (2001) Prof T Huffman (2001)</p> <p>1:250000</p> <p>SIVEST</p>
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Khami/Venda/Icon sites

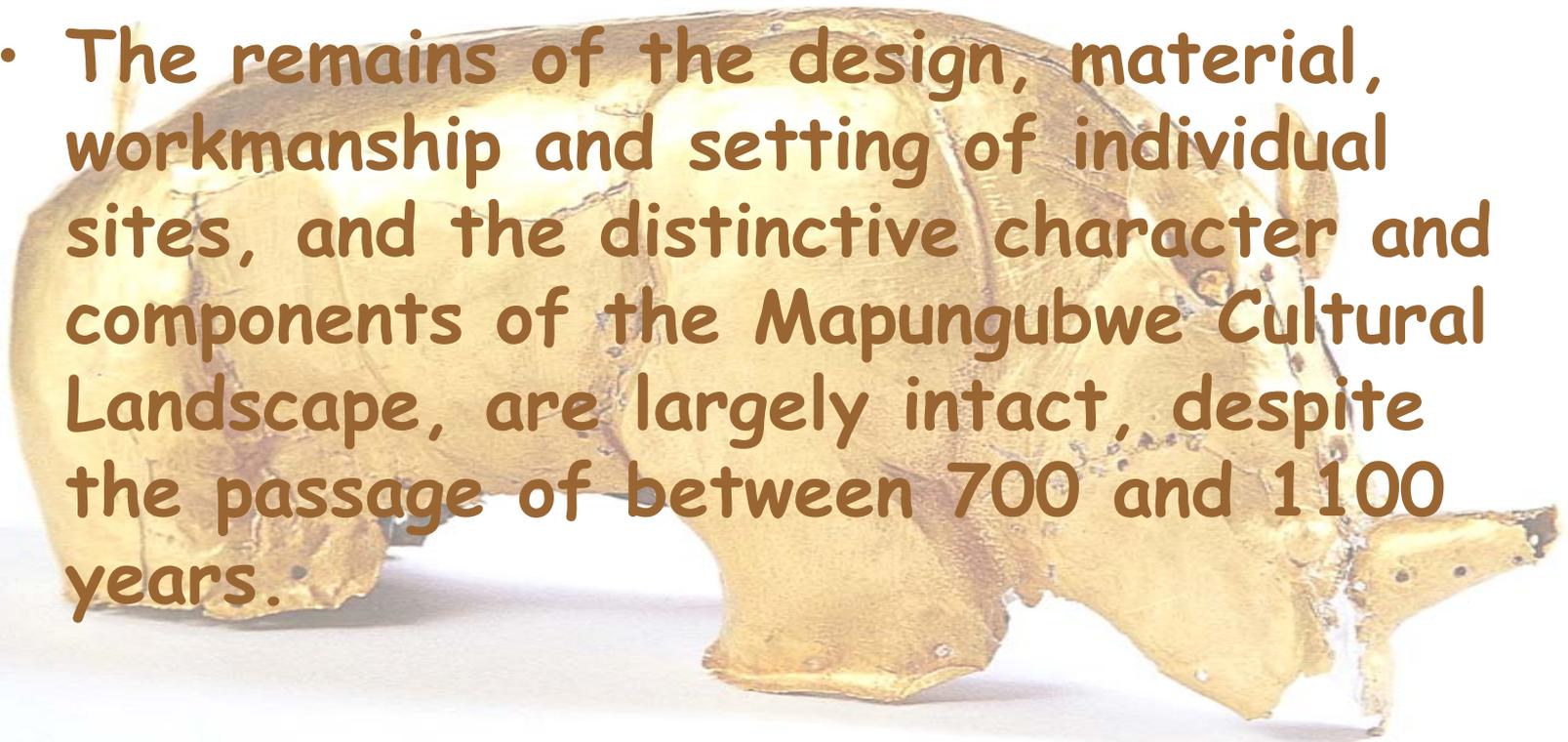
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

- The Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape is the cultural and historical precursor to two sites on the World Heritage List, namely Great Zimbabwe and Khami, both of which are in Zimbabwe.
- Great Zimbabwe is about 250 km to the north-east and Khami is about 220 km north-north-west of Mapungubwe.



AUTHENTICITY/INTEGRITY

- The remains of the design, material, workmanship and setting of individual sites, and the distinctive character and components of the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape, are largely intact, despite the passage of between 700 and 1100 years.





The main approach to Mapungubwe Hill



Special interest group on top of Mapungubwe Hill

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

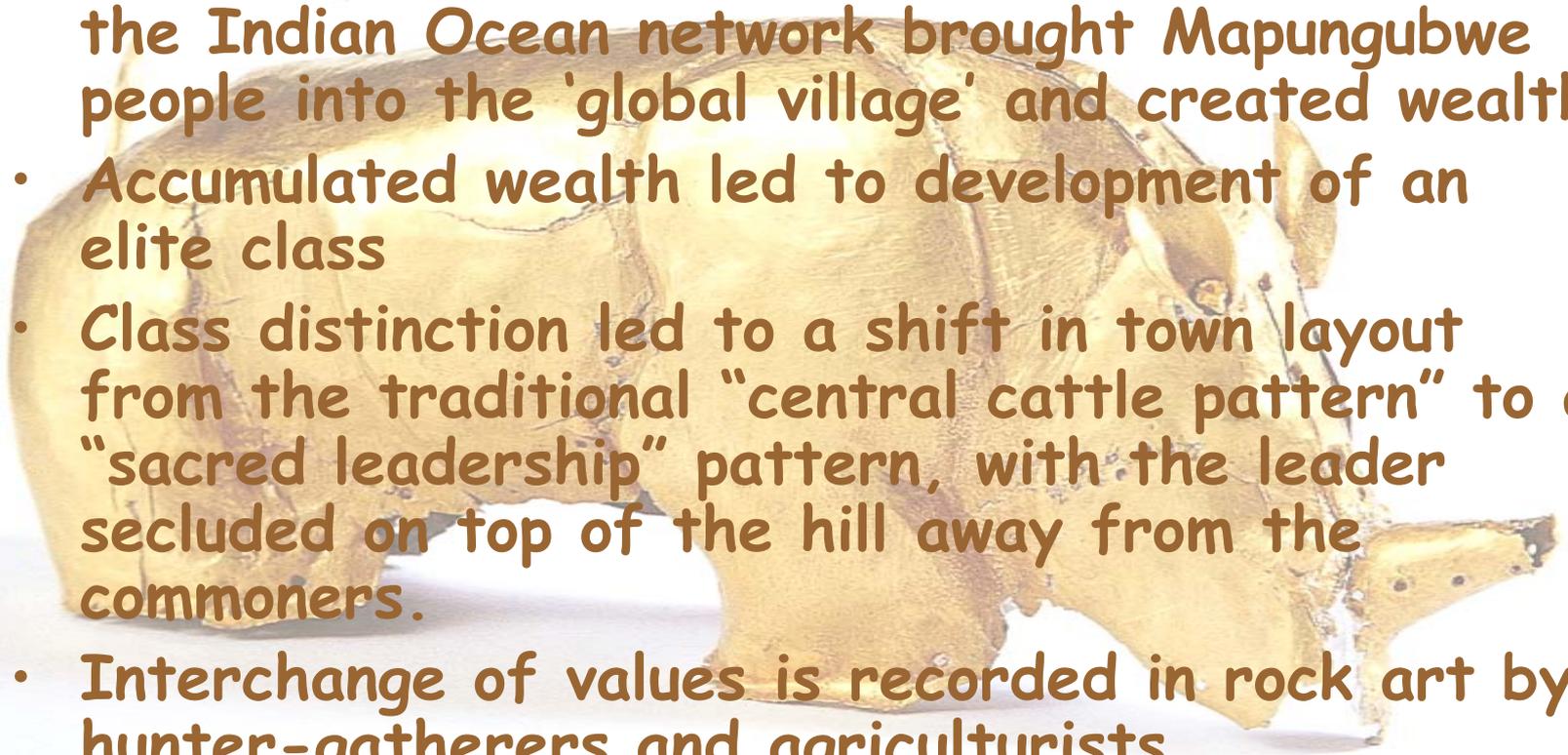
The Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape.....

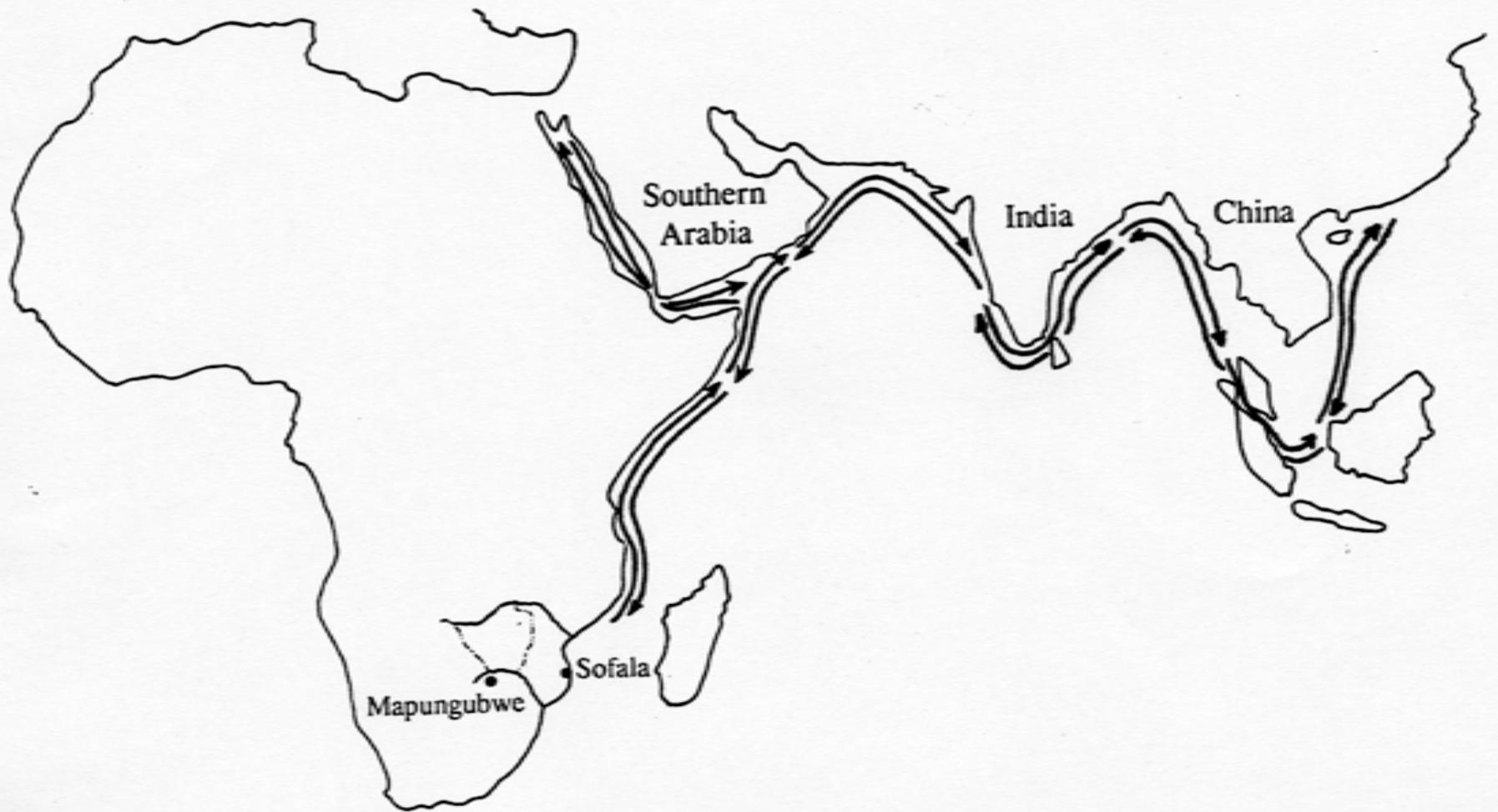
- (ii) "exhibits an important interchange of human values on developments in technology and town planning"
- (iii) "bears a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which has disappeared"
- (iv) "is an outstanding example of a landscape which illustrates a significant stage in human history"
- (v) "is an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement or land-use which is representative of a culture"



"(ii) exhibits an important interchange of human values"

- Trade with East African coastal communities in the Indian Ocean network brought Mapungubwe people into the 'global village' and created wealth
- Accumulated wealth led to development of an elite class
- Class distinction led to a shift in town layout from the traditional "central cattle pattern" to a "sacred leadership" pattern, with the leader secluded on top of the hill away from the commoners.
- Interchange of values is recorded in rock art by hunter-gatherers and agriculturists





From Mapungubwe they traded into the Indian Ocean trade network



Trade beads from Mapungubwe (note the large "garden roller" beads and moulds at the back)

Fragments of Chinese celadon from the Sung Dynasty (960-1279 AD) found at Mapungubwe next to a whole celadon wine kettle from China





From Schroda



From K2



From Mapungubwe

TRADE BEADS



Polychrome giraffes

Khoe herder with fat-tailed sheep



ROCK
ART



An unusually high proportion of aprons & loincloths



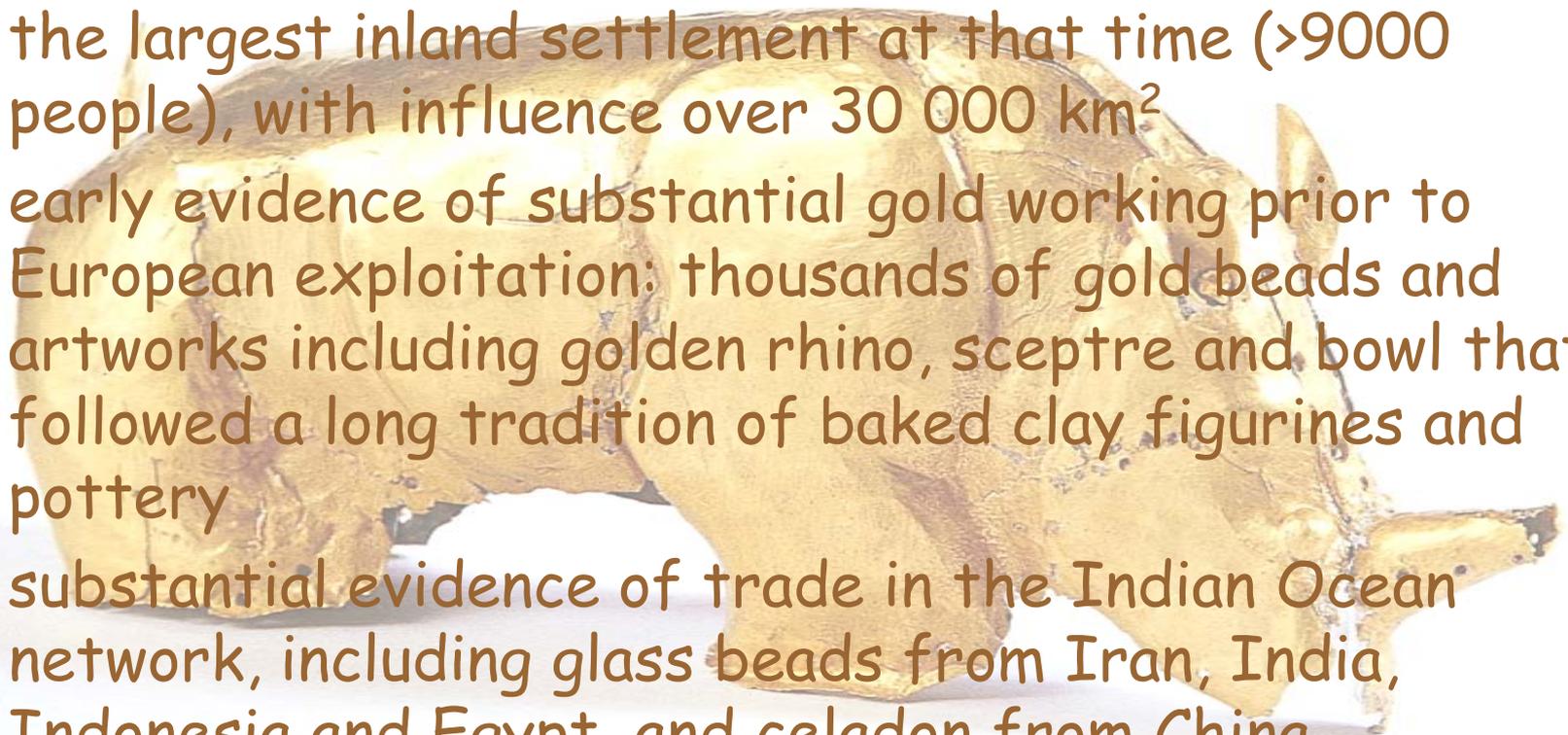
An important San rock shelter



Interpretation board at Kaoxa Rock Shelter

"(iii) bears a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which has disappeared"

- the first southern African kingdom
- the largest inland settlement at that time (>9000 people), with influence over 30 000 km²
- early evidence of substantial gold working prior to European exploitation: thousands of gold beads and artworks including golden rhino, sceptre and bowl that followed a long tradition of baked clay figurines and pottery
- substantial evidence of trade in the Indian Ocean network, including glass beads from Iran, India, Indonesia and Egypt, and celadon from China





Clay figurines; and spindle whorl to make cotton cloth

Decorated ivory arm band



Beautiful ceramic pots from Royal burial sites on Mapungubwe Hill



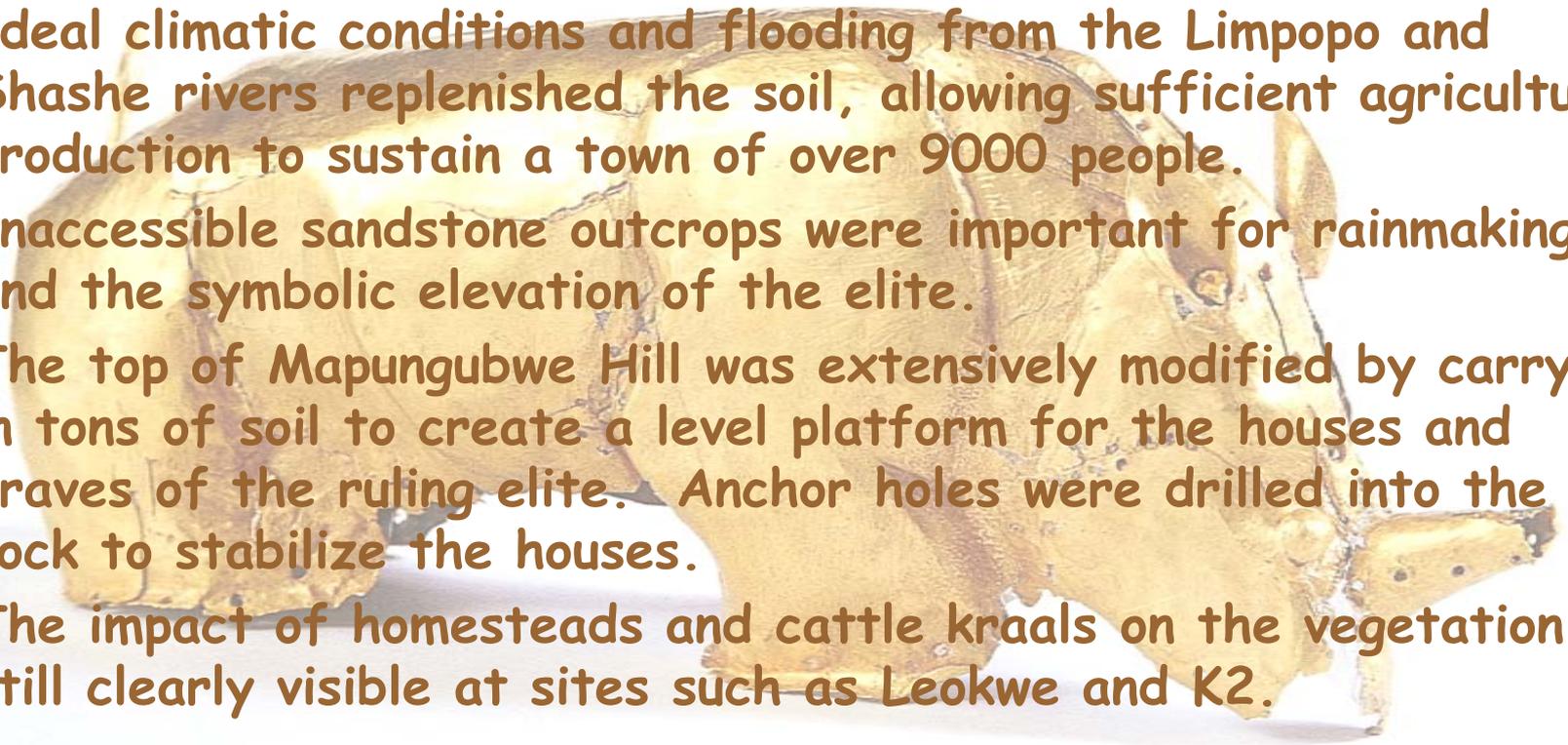


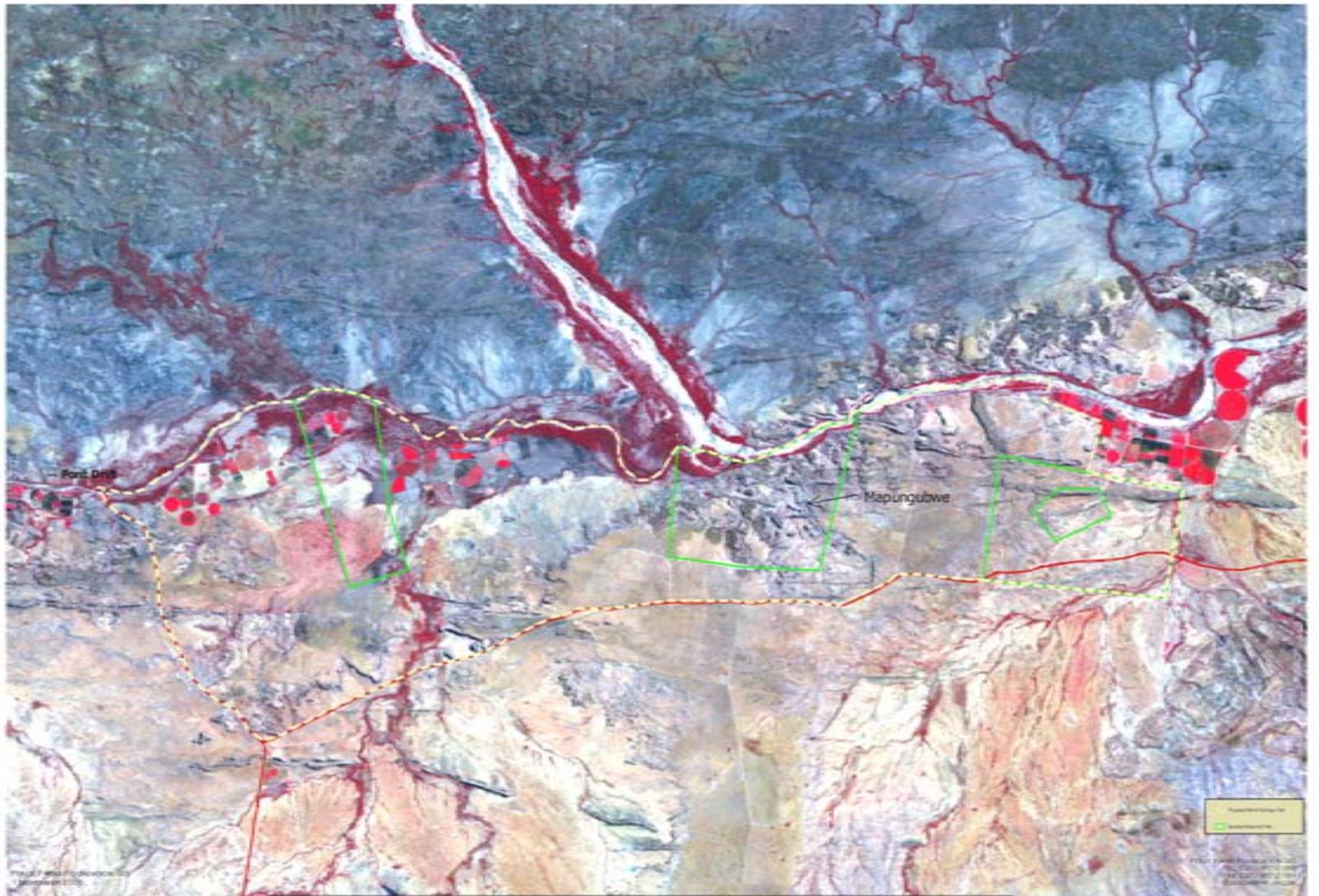
Mapungubwe gold

"(iv) an outstanding example of a landscape which illustrates a significant stage in human history"

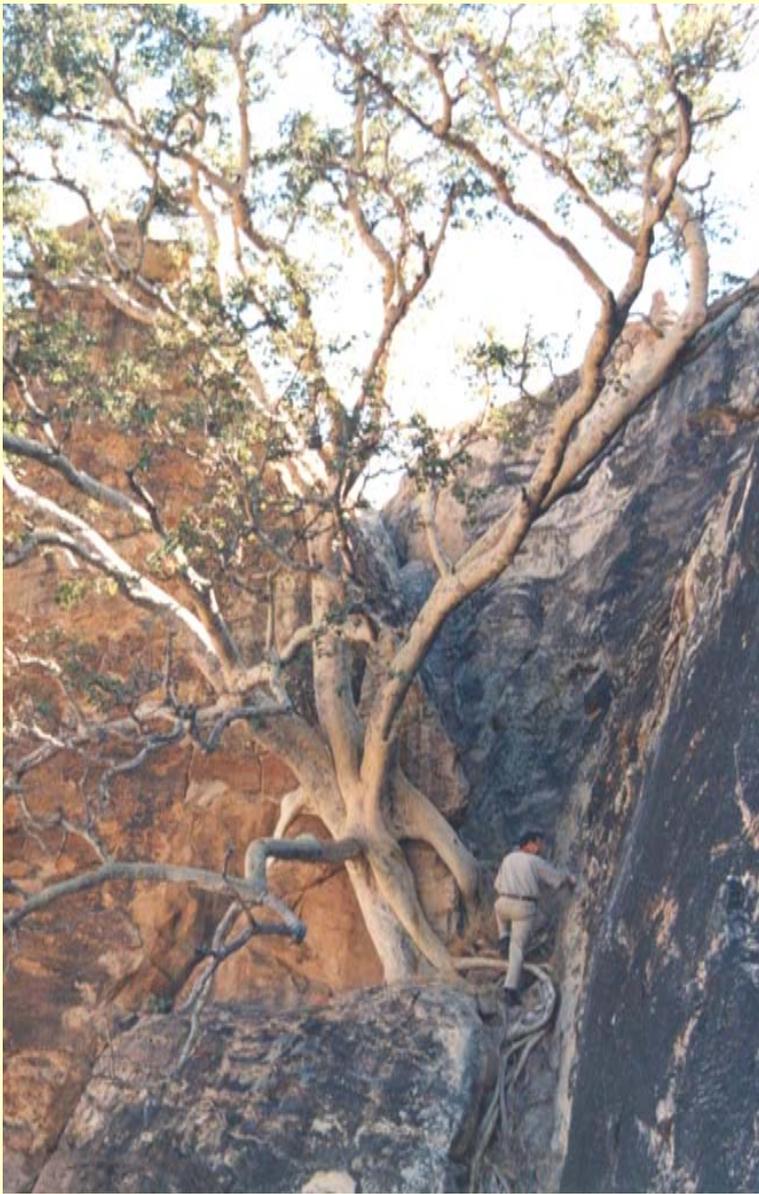
the important components of the landscape that come together at Mapungubwe are:-

- Ideal climatic conditions and flooding from the Limpopo and Shashe rivers replenished the soil, allowing sufficient agricultural production to sustain a town of over 9000 people.
- Inaccessible sandstone outcrops were important for rainmaking, and the symbolic elevation of the elite.
- The top of Mapungubwe Hill was extensively modified by carrying in tons of soil to create a level platform for the houses and graves of the ruling elite. Anchor holes were drilled into the rock to stabilize the houses.
- The impact of homesteads and cattle kraals on the vegetation is still clearly visible at sites such as Leokwe and K2.





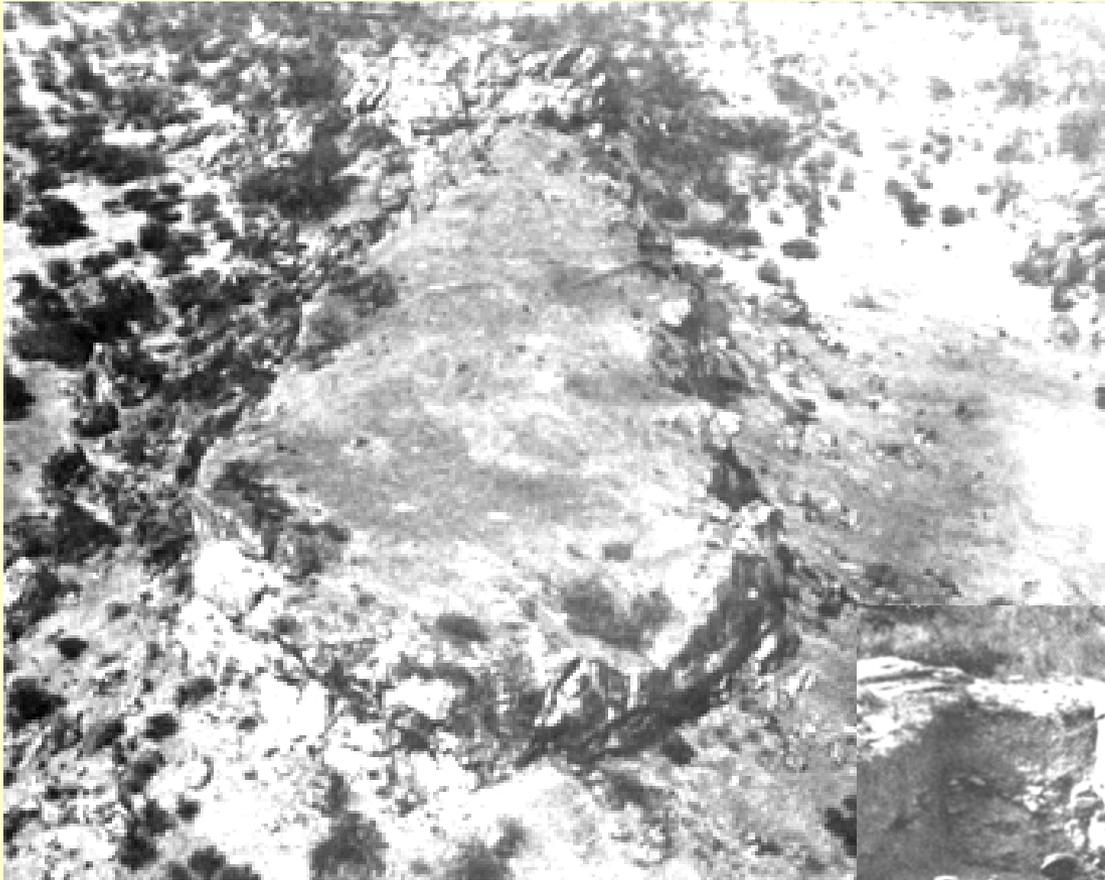
Satellite Image of the Proposed Mapungubwe World Heritage Site



Main access to Mapungubwe Hill was via this narrow cleft



Mapungubwe Period walling on the Southern Terrace



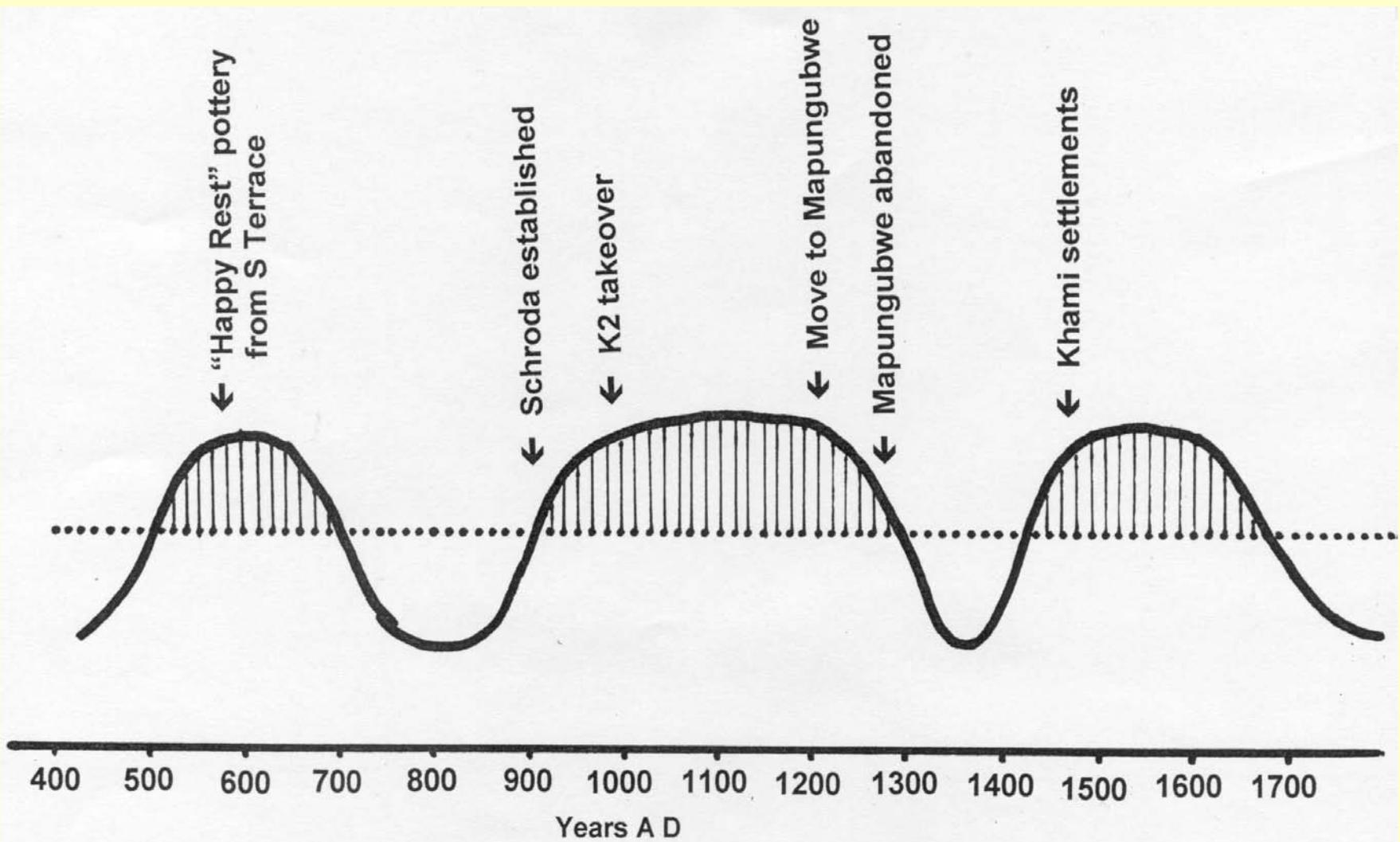
*Mapungubwe Hill
before excavations in
1934 - note rounded
form on top, showing
soil carried in by
people*



*Gardner's excavations on top
of Mapungubwe in 1939 -
note depth of soil*

"(v) an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement or land-use which is representative of a culture, that became vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change"

- The Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape records the sequence of spatial changes that reflect the evolution of class distinction and sacred leadership in the settlements from Schroda to K2 and Mapungubwe. These are the only places in South Africa where exotic trade items have been found in such large quantities.
- The main phase of settlement coincides with a period of prolonged higher rainfall that ceased with the onset of the Little Ice Age after AD 1300
- When agriculture could no longer sustain the large population, the power of the sacred leader declined, people moved away and Great Zimbabwe became the regional centre of power and trade



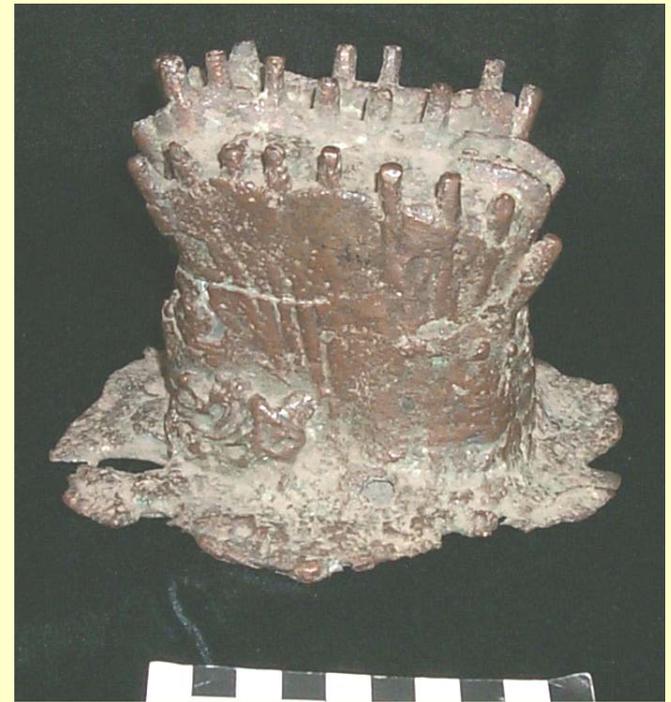
GENERALISED CLIMATE PATTERN RELATED TO SETTLEMENT AT MAPUNGUBWE



*Excavation on Mapungubwe Hill,
showing hut floors and post holes*



*Excavation on the
Southern Terrace,
showing stone
platform features*



*Copper "musuku"
trade ingot from
Samaria*

*Pottery sherds and hut
anchor holes on top of
Mapungubwe Hill*



Grinding scoops



Board game

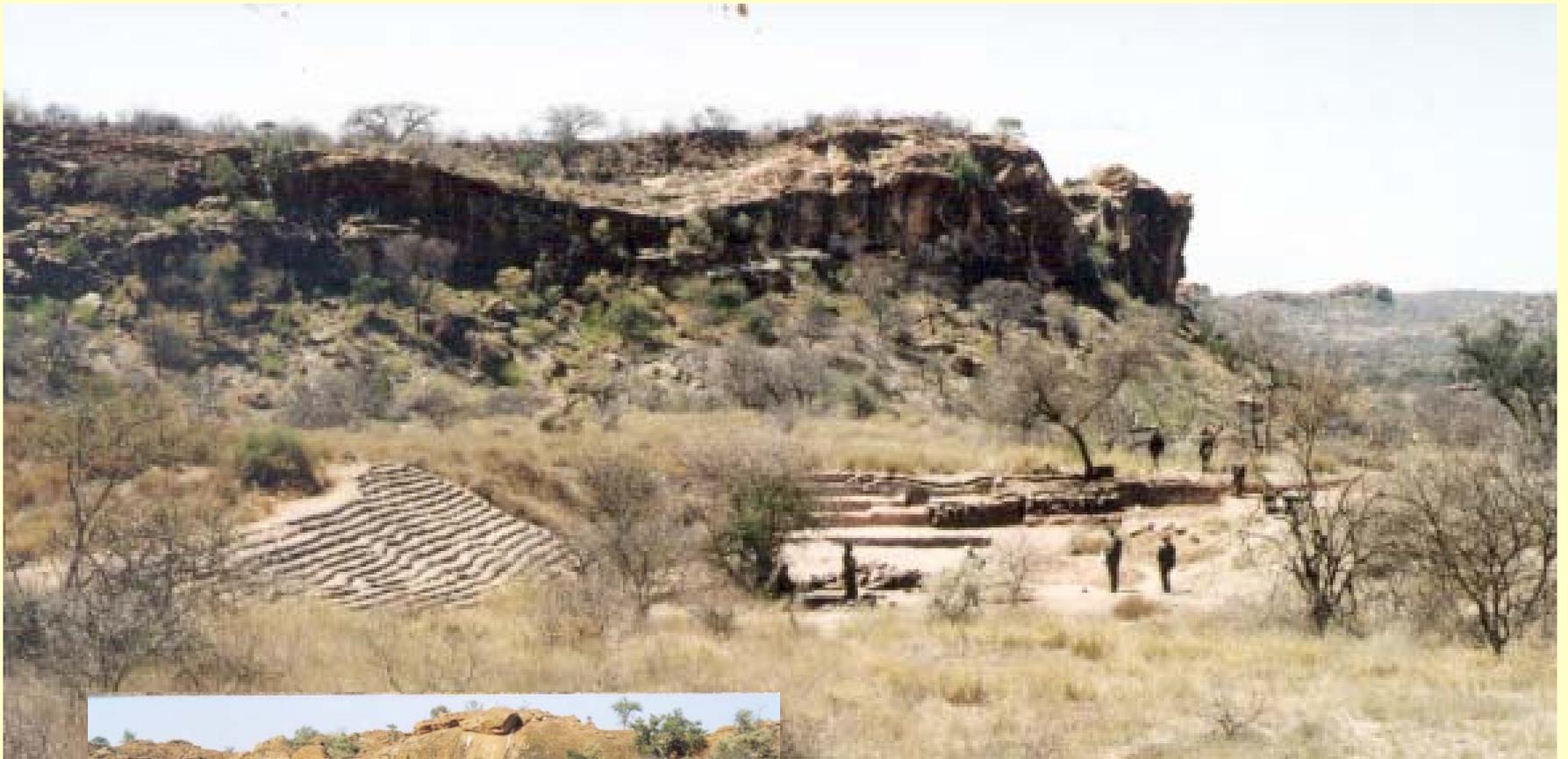
CONSERVATION STATUS

- The area is in the process of being proclaimed a National Park to protect both the natural biodiversity and the cultural landscape
- A Trans Frontier Conservation Area will include properties in South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe
- Proclamation as a National Heritage Site is under way



MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- Consultation with local communities and oral history project completed
 - Land purchase in progress, with Peace Parks Foundation as key funders
 - Three properties have so far been proclaimed as national park
 - The Park Committee and Archaeological Task Group have been established
 - The TFCA will be an effective buffer
 - The Preliminary Park Management Plan is available
 - Site rehabilitation with Poverty Alleviation Funding is in progress
 - The Tourism Plan is due soon
- 



*Site
rehabilitation
work*



In November 2001 approval was given by the South African Heritage Resources Agency to declare the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape as a National Heritage Site, under the new National Heritage Resources Act (No.25 of 1999)"





*Young people rediscovering the rich cultural heritage
of South Africa*



end