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**Title:** The management of the Matobo Hills in Zimbabwe: perceptions of the indigenous communities on their involvement and use of traditional conservation practices

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Propositions


PROPOSITIONS

1. The study of archaeology alone cannot explain the disappearance of the hunter-gatherer communities from many cultural landscapes in southern Africa about 1800 years ago.

2. Indigenous archaeology is an academic term that does not exist among many local indigenous communities in southern Africa.

3. Indigenous communities should be involved in the practice of indigenous archaeology, but their involvement does not always result directly in accurate answers for reconstructing their past cultural lifeways.

4. For decolonising the practice of archaeology the involvement of indigenous peoples can only be a first step. Other decolonising measurements in the education system are needed as well, in particular the creation of adequate opportunities for indigenous students to become professional experts in the matter.

5. After gaining independence, the Matobo national park which is now part of the local World Heritage Site was not abolished and European approaches of managing the area continued without critical reflection.

6. The management of the Matobo Hills in Zimbabwe today only benefits government departments, tour operators and a few individuals who are able to set up business ventures in the cultural landscape.

7. Local indigenous communities in the Matobo Hills cannot be expected to support the reintroduction of traditional conservation practices if issues that affect them are not addressed.

8. Traditional conservation practices in the Matobo Hills need to be well identified, studied and preserved before heritage managers can begin to advocate that they be used to protect World Heritage cultural landscapes.

9. In discussing heritage management plans it is important to take into account that in many countries the side of an issue someone is on (and what opinion or argument is considered correct) may depend on local and national partisan politics.

10. As a result of partisan politics, many African countries have not experienced stable rapid socio-economic development.

11. Partisan politics is a source of politically motivated violence, character assassination, blood-shed, vote rigging, malicious lies with the sole objective of making opponents disliked in the eyes of the voters.

12. Revolutionary political parties in southern Africa are at the forefront of partisan politics.