

HAI||OM TRADITIONAL PLACE NAMES

OF PROMINENT LANDSCAPE FEATURES

IN THE ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

As recounted by Hai||om Individuals in the Etosha National Park

Hai||om are the original inhabitants of the lands that lie to the south and east of the Etosha Pan. Today, this part of Hai||om traditional territory lies within Etosha National Park. The German Colonial Administration established the Park as a game reserve in 1907. From that date onward, the Hai||om gradually lost their freedom to use the Etosha Pan area for hunting and the gathering of wild plants and for maintaining their seasonal camps and more permanent settlements at the water holes. Then in 1954, the Hai||om were no longer permitted to live in the Park except as workers. The image of Etosha National Park has been built around protecting wildlife in its original natural setting. It is an image that offers no visible sign of the Hai||om heritage and no recognition of the fact that the animal and Hai||om populations once co-existed within the lands now bounded by the fences that separate the Park from the surrounding farms.

The Hai||om place names shown on this map, provide a tangible record of the Hai||om use of the Etosha Pan area and now remain simply as invisible markers for the long human and cultural history of this region. They are the original place names as still known and used by a number of Hai||om who lived and worked in the Etosha National Park. The names reveal the close connection of Hai||om with their natural environment. They give identity to areas important for water, to landscape features such as hills or pans and to important areas of trees or bushes and even to individual trees. To Hai||om the names brought meaning and order to the vast landscape of Etosha.



Willem Dauxab



Hans Haneb



Kadisen ||Khumub



Ticki ||Noboses



Jacob ||Uibeb



Jan Tsumib and Jacob ||Uibeb

The Hai||om names were based on the knowledge of Kadisen ||Khumub, Willem Dauxab, Hans Haneb, Ticki ||Noboses, Axarob ||Oreseb, Jacob ||Uibeb and Jan Tsumib.



Axarob ||Oreseb

Kubus



||Khaütgoab

This means place of the mud (±Goas). It is known by the Hai||om as an important hunting place, but the people did not live here. There are many stories about hunting here.



Goanas

This name means the place with white ground. When you are sleeping here and sweat from the heat, the white powder sticks to your skin. Every man getting up early has a white face. It was a beautiful place but no longer has water and the elephants crushed everything.



||Gome-ais
[Gome-ais can be translated as meaning "you can not enter, there is too much bush." Hai||om gathered together here in large numbers when they were told to leave the Park in 1954.]



±Arolgaralgarases

±Aro: Buffalo Thorn, *Ziziphus mucronata* trees. The name seems to imply a "playful" swear word for the tree because it appears to be easy to reach for a rest, but it is really far away so when you can not reach it quickly you get mad.



±Homob

±Hom: grasshopper, ±Homob: no grasshoppers. The waterhole at the left hand side was mainly drinking water. The other was for hunting. When walking from Halali to Okaukuejo Hai||om would rest at ±Homob.



||Khumub & ||Nuaiseb

These two distinct hills are visible for long distances across the flat landscape of the Etosha Pan. The two hills are known for being a place to collect bushfood and the names are based on an ancient Hai||om story.

LEGEND

- Permanent Water
- Bushes
- ▲ Hills
- Trees
- Other
- Other (feature) names
- The Etosha National Park