Southern Tanzania

Songwe River Valley, Lake Rukwa drainage

(Atlasi kwa shule ya Tanzania)
Lacustrine Deposits

Mapogoro rockshelters

Limestones and travertines

Terrace sites

Songwe highway sites

The Songwe River Valley

Mbeya City
Songwe MSA / Mode 3 cores and tools
MSA / Mode 3 retouched tools: backed awls (top left), burins (bottom left), points (top right) and crescents (bottom right)
Songwe MSA / Mode 3 sites - Iclu4

[Image of bar charts showing artifact types and raw material compositions for Iclu4]

[Image of a close-up photo of a stone tool or artifact]
Songwe LSA Artifacts
– top left - microburins, top right - points, bottom left - bladelet cores, bottom right - endscrapers
Idlu22 test pit 4 – LSA stone artifacts (n=21,358)
Idlu22 test pit 4 – LSA tools (n=1978 or 9.3% of total)
Idlu22 test pit 4 – Mode 5 raw materials (n=21,358)
Mapogoro village and rockshelters in 2005

Mbeya Range

Rockshelters

North

Mapogoro Village
Fieldwork in 2005

- Returned to Mbeya for two weeks in June 2005
- Some surface collections and then continued test excavations at IcIu18, one of the rockshelters at Mapogoro
- 8°44.058’S, 33°9.589’E
Ic1u18 - Two 1 m² test pits excavated in 2005 in 10 cm levels – MSA artifacts in deposit extending to 80 cm below surface

Artifacts from one level

Some LSA pieces on surface
Iclu18 surface collections in 2005 (n=337 stone artifacts)
Iclu18 surface collections in 2005 – Tools (n=151)
MSA / Mode 3 Tools from the surface of Iclu18
Top left – bifacial point; bottom left – discoids; Right (top and bottom) – point roughouts
Ic1u18 surface collections in 2005 – Cores (n=122)
Iclu18 surface collections in 2005 –
Raw materials
Iclu18 test pit 1 – Artifact types by level (n=396)
Iclu18 test pit 1 – Tools by level (n=185)
Iclu18 test pit 1 – Cores by level (n=101)
Iclu18 test pit 1 – Raw materials by level
Results from IcLu18

- Surface and test pit artifacts are similar
- Both MSA and LSA types are represented
- In cores, bipolar most abundant (due to pebble raw material)
- Most likely this site is a (accidental?) mixture of MSA and LSA material
Iringa Rockshelters in 2005

- Also visited Iringa to test the possibility of investigating some of the numerous granite boulders and rockshelters within and around the city.
Already known for Acheulean korongo (gully) sites - Mgongo (left) and Isimila (right)
Mlambalasi

- Mlambalasi, 50 km west of Iringa
- Burial site of Chief Mkwawa (1858-1898) of the Wahehe

Emmanuel Bwasiri, Antiquities Officer

Mkwawa’s skull from the museum at Kalenga
Mlambalasi rockshelter—Iron Age and LSA on surface

Potsherd, left
Grindstone, right
Mlambalasi

- Possibly also MSA / Mode 3 component
- Organic remains including fauna appear to be well preserved
- As in the Songwe sites, LSA predominantly in white quartz
- MSA artifacts larger, in both cryptocrystalline silica and quartz

A selection of MSA artifacts?
Magumbike (Iron Age, LSA and possibly MSA; also rock art)

Shakila Mteti – National Monuments Officer
Kitelewasi, SE of Iringa (LSA and MSA)

Breccia with artifacts

Normal surface
The potential of Iringa

- Iringa has numerous rockshelters that are accessible and available for research.
- Plan to survey and to record sites in late July and August 2006, as well as to conduct test excavations at Mlambalasi.

Top – near Kitelewasi; bottom – large quartz core from Mlambalasi 1.
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