

# A Case for Place:



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**Field site:** Ntloko, Peddie District, Eastern Cape, South Africa



place → an event, an interaction between people and the world around them, through which meaning is constantly recreated. It is a reciprocal relationship, with each playing a part in constructing meaning

NB! of **bodily emplacement**: as place is sensed, senses are placed; as places make sense, senses make place. (feld, 1996)

Inter-animation → places animate the feelings and ideas of people, and these same feelings and ideas animate places as well. (Basso, 1996)

Place → dynamic and fluid, as meaning is not hegemonic or static, but shifts constantly, depending on the individual and context.



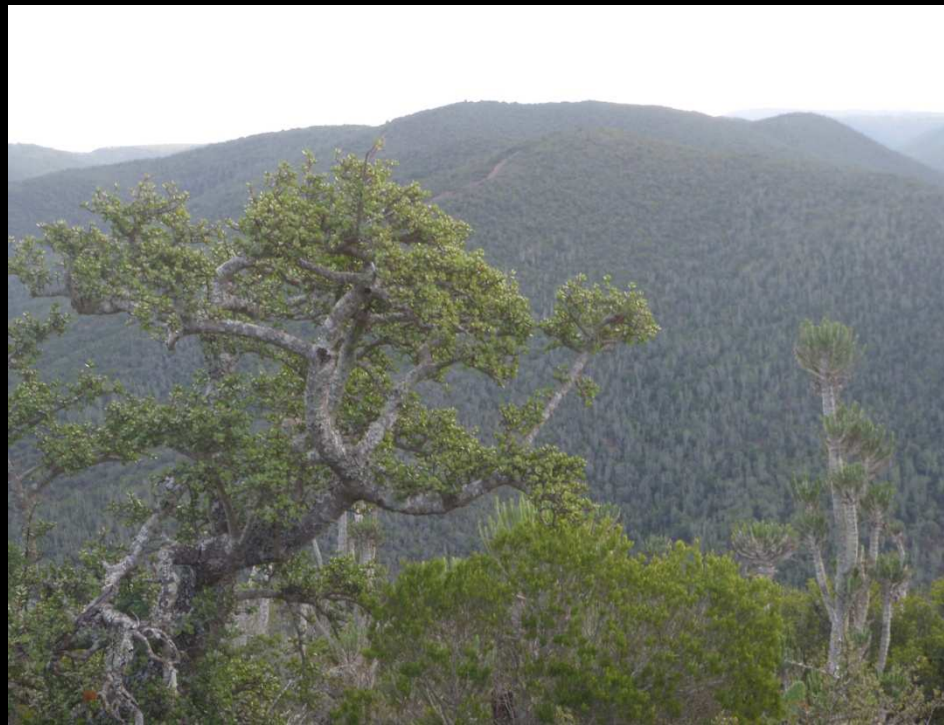
“The environment is not an inert, physical entity “out there” with trees, water, animals, and the like, but a dynamic system of interconnected, meaning-laden places.” (Cheng *et al*, 2003)



“The concept of place embeds natural resource attributes back into the system of which they are a part, reminding managers that resources exist in a meaning-filled spatial (and temporal) context. Recognizing and understanding this context is one of the principal contribution of social science to ecosystem management.”  
(Cheng *et al*, 2003)







“you don't love your mother just because she feeds you”







“Outside the plays over traditional economic and environmental policy positions conducted by interest groups in legislatures, formal agency planning processes, or courtrooms, conservation politics involves citizens whose expressions of value for natural resources are rooted in connections with places, connections that define in part who they are.” (Cheng *et al*, 2003)



Sleeping in the thicket with Sangoma while thunder and lightening accompanied the rituals, chanting, and dancing... a very good sign.

“Research that is sensitive to place becomes more than just data collection to fulfill policy-maker requirements, but it has the potential to transform the decision-making process by redistributing power to voices often unheard.”

