

# Settling In: Evidence of Territorial Exclusion in the Late Middle Stone Age of Northern Tanzania

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## Abstract

*This paper documents an investigation that was conducted at the Loiyangalani site, a Middle Stone Age (MSA) archaeological occurrence in the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania. The site's content is of particular interest because of the marked differences between its archaeological content and those of broadly comparable MSA assemblages from adjoining areas. These differences can be interpreted as a reflection of territorial exclusion, such as to control access to crucial resources.*

## Introduction to Loiyangalani Site

The Loiyangalani site (HcJd1) is a predominantly Middle Stone Age (MSA) occurrence located in the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania. The site lies in the floodplain of the Loiyangalani River, a short distance east of the stream's juncture with the Mbalageti River which flows westward to Lake Nyanza (Figure 1.1:). Just upstream of this confluence the Loiyangalani has cut a gap through a quartzite ridge bordering the western edge of the Serengeti Plain, a gap through which the renowned Serengeti ungulate migration passes on its way westward around the end of the annual long rains (Figure 1.2:). Thus, the site is strategically located from a predator's perspective, as is confirmed by the habitual presence of numerous live carnivores in the vicinity of our excavations.

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