

Introduction

This multi-phase project will document, present and interpret key aspects of the archaeological and cultural heritage of Kruger National Park. Apart from our own academic research, our work will be developed in conjunction with scientists at Kruger and serves both scholarly and general public audiences. Using scanning and digital technologies we will develop new techniques for recording and visualizing archaeological sites in conjunction with new pedagogical tools designed for a variety of audiences and stakeholders in and around KNP, in South Africa and internationally. The project will scan and visually record the Iron Age site of Thulamela and its excavated finds. Our work aims to directly enhance the planned interpretive center at Punda Maria, providing visual resources for the site and its artefacts and multiple interpretations of the site's history. Since security for some artifacts is an ongoing issue, 3D visualization combined with a robust database of excavated objects and ethnographic research materials will provide an excellent alternative. We also will promote the significance of the site to a world-wide audience, highlighting the full spectrum of cultural and natural heritage at Kruger National Park. Our work will also enable various local stakeholders, such as local communities, Iron Age archaeologists and SANParks officials, to voice their interpretations and/or cultural connections with Thulamela. It will thus connect Kruger National Park to an even greater pool of tourists, students, schools, archaeologists, academic audiences and the general public in South Africa and abroad.