

Name: Ssemulende Robert (2017/HD03/19257U).

Department: History, Archaeology and Heritage Studies.

Title: Situating the Sangoan Techno-Complex into the Stone Age Context at Sango Bay, Southern Uganda.

Abstract: The Sangoan position industry in the Stone Age nomenclature generated heated debates arising from its stratigraphic composition. This study purposed to situate the Sangoan techno complex into Stone Age nomenclature at Sango Bay, the type site of the Sangoan lithic industry located in southern Uganda. Situating the Sangoan entailed examining if the Sangoan techno-complex was Acheulean, Middle Stone Age or an independent Stone Age industry. Therefore, the study was guided by three specific objectives that were: (a) To examine the typological and technological characteristics of the Sangoan lithic industry; (b) To investigate the environmental conditions under which the Sangoan existed and (c) To establish the chronological sequence of the Sangoan industry. The study utilised a multidisciplinary approach that entailed using archaeological, historical paleoenvironmental sources. Archaeological data collected from archaeological surveys in Sango Bay and four excavation units formed the principal primary data. Other primary data were obtained from archives and oral interviews. The key informant interviews were utilised to identify the sites, provide information for documenting the history of Sango Bay and interpretation of the archaeological, cultural materials. Paleoenvironmental proxy data using fossil and contemporary plant phytoliths was used to examine the environmental characteristics of the Sangoan. This study is significant because it addresses the Stone Age nomenclature and the chronological sequence gaps that are still problematic in Uganda and the world over. The results suggest that heavy-duty and light-duty tools characterised the Sangoan typology dismissing the traditional view of the Sangoan as predominantly heavy-duty since the light-duty tools dominated the Sango Bay. Technologically the Sangoan predominantly employed the *Levallois* technology, which entailed the preparation of the platform to produce flakes of a predetermined size. The size, amount of cortex, and nature of the Sangoan tools depended greatly on the environment, behavioural characteristics, and availability of raw materials. Chronologically using relative dating through stratigraphy, the Sangoan was an Early Middle Stone Age. Nevertheless, the absolute dates indicated that the Sangoan was dated 12500 ± 1000 to 9600 ± 600 years, implying that the Sangoan flourished during the terminal Pleistocene the period characterised by the Later Stone Age. The Sangoan inhabited a woodland environment punctuated with fire regimes and human activities with intervals of aridity. Therefore, the Sangoan was neither Acheulean nor Middle Stone Age and not even an independent industry but a post-Acheulean techno-complex with traces in the LSA.

Supervisors: 1. Dr. Elizabeth Kyazike

2. Dr. Ejju Julius Bunny

Opponent: Dr. Ephraim Kamuhangire

Date: 28th July, 2022

Time: 9.00am

Venue: Smart Room CHUSS