

**Indigenous Mammals' Terminology
September 2018**

Term	Definition /picture	Sesotho equivalent
Aardvark	The aardvark is a nocturnal mammal whose diet consists mainly of ants and termites. It uses its excellent sense of smell to find food, and its long, sticky tongue to capture its prey.	Thakadi
Adaptation	The process of change by which an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment	Ho itlwaetsa
African Bush Elephant	The African bush elephant, also known as the African savanna elephant, is the larger of the two species of African elephants, and the largest living terrestrial animal	Tlou ya Afrika
African Civet	The African civet is the largest representative of the African Viverridae and the sole member of its genus	Tjhipa
African wild cat	The African wildcat, also called Near Eastern wildcat is a wildcat species that lives in Northern Africa, the Near East and around the periphery of the Arabian Peninsula	Thiane
African Wild Dog	The African wild dog, also known as African hunting dog, African painted dog, painted hunting dog, or painted wolf, is a canid native to Sub-Saharan Africa	Lefiritshwana
Alligator	A large semi aquatic reptile similar to a crocodile but with a broader and shorter head	Mankgweshepe/ Pholomakgwashe
Allopatric	Of animals or plants, especially of related species or populations) occurring in separate non-overlapping geographical	Mohlape/Dimela

	areas	
Alpha diversity	In ecology, alpha diversity (α -diversity) is the mean species diversity in sites or habitats at a local scale	Phapano ya Tlholeho
Angelfish	Pterophyllum is a small genus of freshwater fish from the family Cichlidae known to most aquarists as angelfish	Tlhapi
Antelope	It's a member of a number of even-toed ungulate species indigenous to various regions in Africa and Eurasia. They eat grass, have horns,	Diphofu
Baboon	Baboons are Old World monkeys belonging to the genus Papio, part of the subfamily Cercopithecinae which are found natively in very specific areas of Africa	Tshwene
Badger	Badgers are short-legged omnivores in the family Mustelidae, which also includes the otters, polecats, weasels, and wolverines	Sele
Bat	Bats are mammals of the order Chiroptera; with their forelimbs adapted as wings, they are the only mammals naturally capable of true and sustained flight	Mankgane
Bear	Bears are carnivoran mammals of the family Ursidae. They are classified as caniforms, or doglike carnivorans	Bere
Beaver	The beaver is a large, primarily nocturnal, semiaquatic rodent	Lebodi
Black backed jackal	The black-backed jackal is a canid native to two areas of Africa, separated by roughly 900 km. One region includes the southernmost tip of the continent, including South	Phokojwe

	Africa, Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe	
Blesbok	An antelope with a mainly reddish-brown coat and white face, found in south-western South Africa. It belongs to the same species as the bontebok	Phale
Bobcat	A small lynx with a barred and spotted coat and a short tail.	Qwabi
Brown fur seal	The brown fur seal (<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>), also known as the Cape fur seal, South African fur seal and the Australian fur seal is a species of fur seal.	Phathakalle
Buffalo	The African buffalo or Cape buffalo is a large African bovine. <i>Syncerus caffer caffer</i> , the Cape buffalo, is the typical subspecies, and the largest one, found in South and East Africa	Nare
Bull Terrier	The Bull Terrier is a breed of dog in the terrier family. There is also a miniature version of this breed which is officially known as the Miniature Bull Terrier	Ntja
Caiman Lizard	The caiman lizard is a medium sized species of lizard.	Mokgodutswane
Cape porcupine	The Cape porcupine or South African porcupine, (<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>), is a species of Old World porcupine native to central and southern Africa	Noko
Chimpanzee	A great ape with large ears, mainly black coloration, and lighter skin on the face, native to the forests of west and central Africa. Chimpanzees show advanced behaviour such as the making and using of tools	Chimpazee/Tshwene

Cougar	Another term for puma.	Katse
Coyote	A wolf-like wild dog	Khoyote
Crocodile	Crocodiles are large, meat-eating reptiles, and are among Africa's most dangerous animals. These ambush predators lie in wait in shallow water for their unsuspecting prey to approach.	Kwena
Deer	hoofed grazing or browsing animal, with branched bony antlers that are shed annually and typically borne only by the male	Kgama
Dog	A domesticated carnivorous mammal	Ntja
Dolphin	A small gregarious toothed whale which typically has a beak-like snout and a curved fin on the back	Tlhapi/Dolfini
Duiker	A small African antelope that typically has a tuft of hair between the horns, found mainly in forests	Phuthi
Mongoose	One of the best-known species of mongoose is the meerkat, which lives in desert habitats in southern Africa.	Mosha
Elephant	Elephantidae is a family of large, herbivorous mammals collectively called elephants and mammoths	Tlou
Fairy Penguin	A small penguin with bluish plumage	Phengwini
Giraffe	One of the most distinctive of all animals, this long-necked creature is the world's tallest land animal	Thuhlo
Gorilla	Gorillas are members of the great ape family Hominidae, and are the largest living primates	Gorila
Grey Seal	A large seal with a spotted greyish coat and a convex profile	Phathakalle

Guinea Pigs	A domesticated tailless cavy	Tweba ya Guinea
Hedgehog	A small nocturnal Old World mammal with a spiny coat and short legs, able to roll itself into a ball for defence	Tlhong
Hippopotamus	Commonly known as 'hippos', these herbivorous animals spend most of the day bathing in water or mud, only emerging at dusk when the temperature is cooler.	Kubu
Honey Badger	Another term for ratel.	Sele
Hyena	Hyenas may look like a mixture between a dog and a wolf, but they are more closely related to cats and viverrids (cat-like mammals).	Phiri
Hyrax (Dassie) - Rock	Is commonly referred to in South African English as the dassie. It is one of the four living species of the order Hyracoidea, and the only living species in the genus Procavia.	Pela
Jaguar	A large heavily built cat that has a yellowish-brown coat with black spots, found mainly in the dense forests	Jwaqwa
Klipspringer	A small rock-dwelling antelope with a yellowish-grey coat, an arched back, and a stiff bouncing gait, native to southern Africa	Phofu ya thaba
Kudu	An African antelope that has a greyish or brownish coat with white vertical stripes, and a short bushy tail. The male has long spirally curved horns	Tholo
Leopard	The leopard is a fast and powerful big cat that is found in Africa and Asia. Its coat is dotted with distinctive rings known as 'rosettes	Nkwe

Lion	Although known as the 'king of the jungle', the lion is actually the second biggest of the big cats (the tiger is the biggest).	Tau
Meerkat	A small southern African mongoose, especially the suricate	Mosha
Mongoose	A small carnivorous mammal with a long body and tail and a grizzled or banded coat, native to Africa	Mosha
Monkey	Africa is home to many species of monkey, including the black-and-white colobus monkey, mandrill, de Brazza's monkey and the vervet monkey	Tshwene
Nyala	Nyala, is a spiral-horned antelope native to southern Africa. It is a species of the family Bovidae and genus Nyala, also considered to be in the genus Tragelaphus	Nyala
Okapi	These shy, rarely-seen African animals live in the forests of central Africa. They have zebra-like stripes, but in fact are more closely related to the giraffe. The okapi's markings provide camouflage in the forest environment.	Okapi
Oribi	A small antelope of the African savannah, having a reddish-fawn back, white under parts, and short vertical horns	Oribi
Ostrich	A flightless swift-running African bird with a long neck, long legs, and two toes on each foot. It is the largest living bird, with males reaching a height of up to 2.75 m	Mptjhe
Pangolin	The pangolin's most distinctive feature is its	Kgwara ya phoofolo

	thick, armored coat, which is made of keratin – the same substance out of which fingernails and hair are made	
Porcupine	A large rodent with defensive spines or quills on the body and tail.	Noko
Puku	An antelope with a shaggy golden-yellow coat and short thick horns, native to wetland areas of southern Africa	Phuku
Reindeer	A deer of the tundra and subarctic regions of Eurasia	Kgwama
Rhino	A rhinoceros, commonly abbreviated to rhino, is one of any five extant species of odd-toed ungulates in the family Rhinocerotidae, as well as any of the numerous extinct species	Tshukudu
Rhinoceros	The rhinoceros is another creature that is sure to appear in any list of African animals. These big, powerful animals are unmistakable due to their bulk and distinctive nose horns.	Tshukudu
Sea Lion	An eared seal occurring mainly on Pacific coasts, the large male of which has a mane on the neck and shoulders	Phathakalle e Kgolo
Serval	The serval is a medium-sized wild cat that is closely related to the African golden cat. Servals are tall, with small heads and big ears	Kotsi
Squirrel - Ground	An agile tree-dwelling rodent with a bushy tail, typically feeding on nuts and seeds	Letodi
Squirrel - Tree	An arboreal squirrel; especially : a typical squirrel of the genus <i>Sciurus</i> as distinguished	Letodi

	from a ground squirrel or a flying squirrel	
Steenbok	The steenbok is a common small antelope of southern and eastern Africa	Phuth
Suricate	A gregarious burrowing meerkat with dark bands on the back and a black-tipped tail, native to southern Africa	Mosha
Tsessebe	A topi (antelope) of a race found mainly in southern Africa	Tshesebe
Warthog	The warthog is a member of the pig family, Suidae. It lives in grassland and savanna habitats. There are two species of warthog, the common warthog and the desert warthog.	Kolobemoru
Waterbuck	A large African antelope occurring near rivers	Phofu ya metsi
Whale	A very large marine mammal with a streamlined hairless body, a horizontal tail fin, and a blowhole on top of the head for breathing	Leruarua
Xerus	Xerus are a genus in the squirrel family, Sciuridae. They are commonly called African ground squirrels	Letodi
Zebra	The zebra is one of the most distinctive African animals. Its black and white striped coat is famous throughout the world	Qwaha/Qwakga
Wildebeest	A large African animal with a long tail and horns that curve to the sides that lives in areas covered in grass	Pudumo
Springbok	The springbok (/ˈsprɪŋˌbɒk/; Antidorcas marsupialis) is a medium-sized antelope found mainly in southern and	Letsa

	southwestern Africa.	
Impala	A graceful antelope often seen in large herds in open woodland in southern and East Africa.	None
Eland	A large spiral-horned African antelope which lives in open woodland and grassland	Phofu e kgolo