



Zambian geographical names as cultural heritage

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By

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A stylized, dark grey leaf graphic with several pointed leaves, positioned in the upper left corner of the slide.

agenda

Name givers

Three levels of names

Miscellaneous sources of
names as CH

Name givers

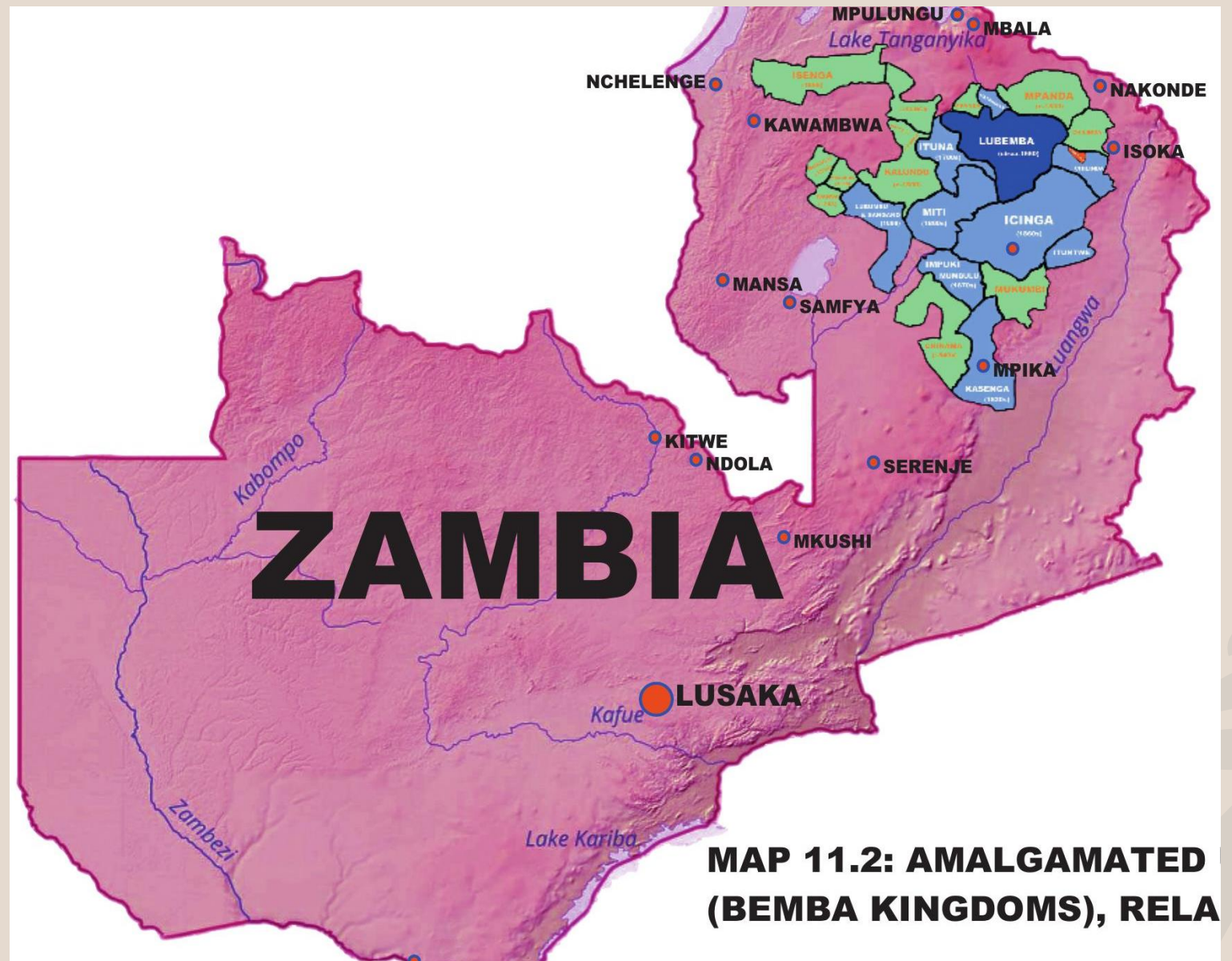
- Zambia has no national authority on names. The surviving evidence of the existence, at the National Archives of Zambia, of such authority dates back to the 1940s, '50s and '60s, from their meeting minutes and gazetteer produced
- Each of the 116 districts/towns/cities have their own place naming practices.
- What is common is stakeholder engagement of local authorities with community leaders, business leaders and other private individuals.



Image Source: <https://www.timeandtideafrica.com/blog/return-of-the-kuomboka-ceremony/>

Three levels of names

- Traditional
- Titular
- Official

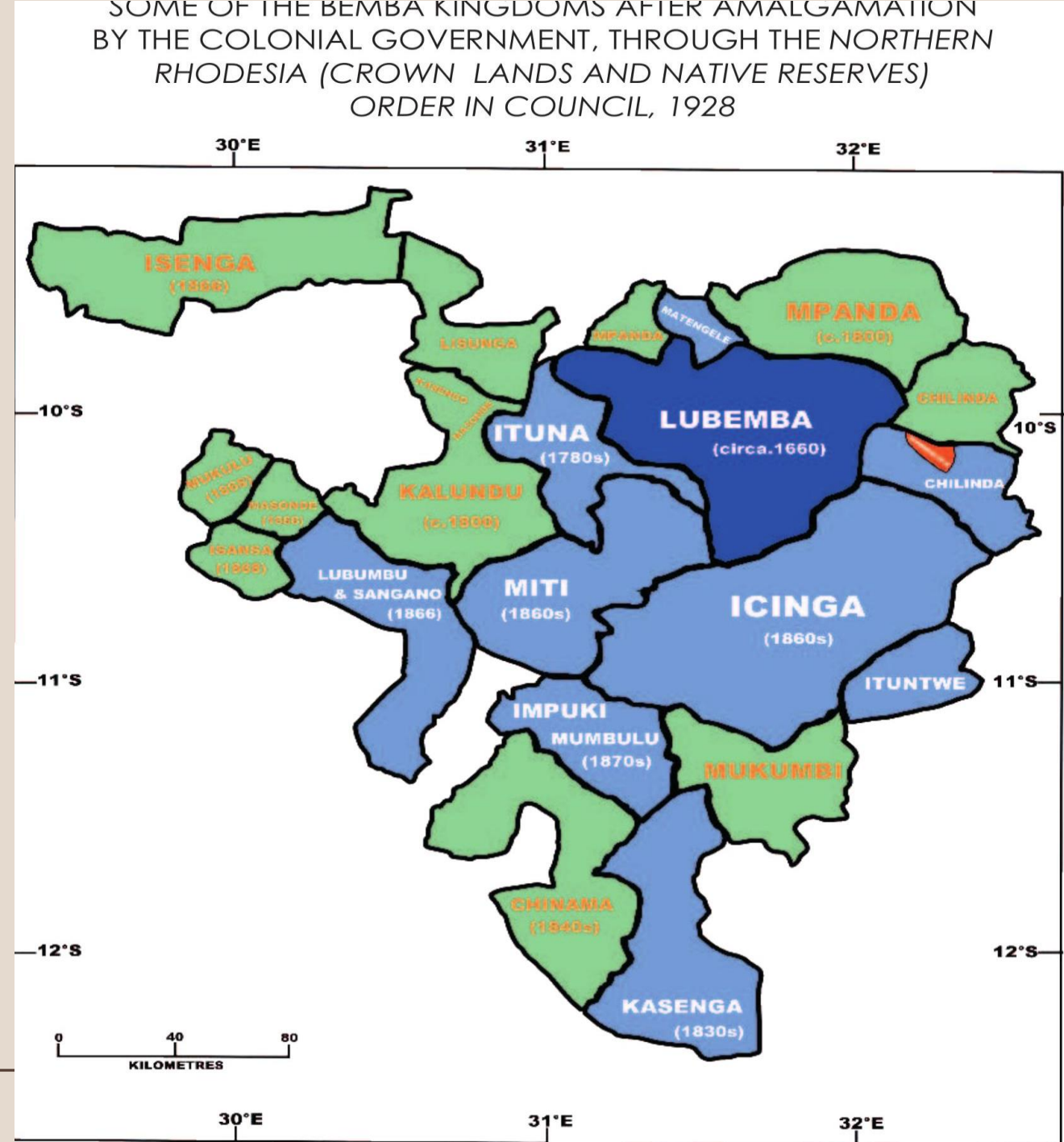


Map Source: Richard Mukuka in *Ababemba no Bubemba*

Examples of Traditional names

- Names typically referring to predominant feature in physical environment

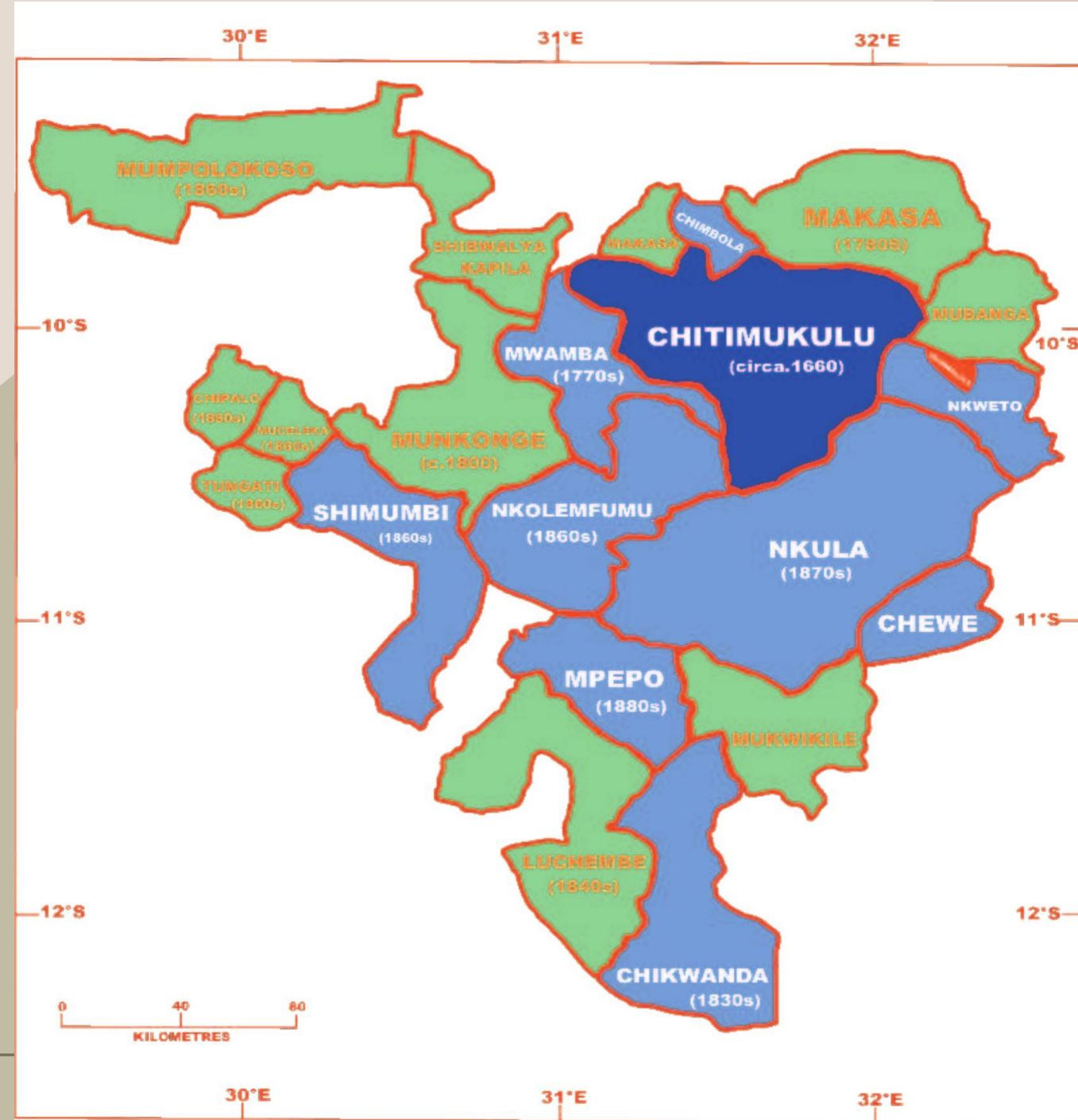
Map Source: Richard Mukuka in *Ababemba no Bubemba*



Examples of titular names

NAMES OF
TRADITIONAL
CHIEFS AS
GEOGRAPHICAL
NAMES

AT LOWER LEVELS,
THE NAMES OF
VILLAGE
HEADMEN/WOMEN
ARE ALSO USED A
GEOGRAPHICAL
NAMESW



Examples of official names

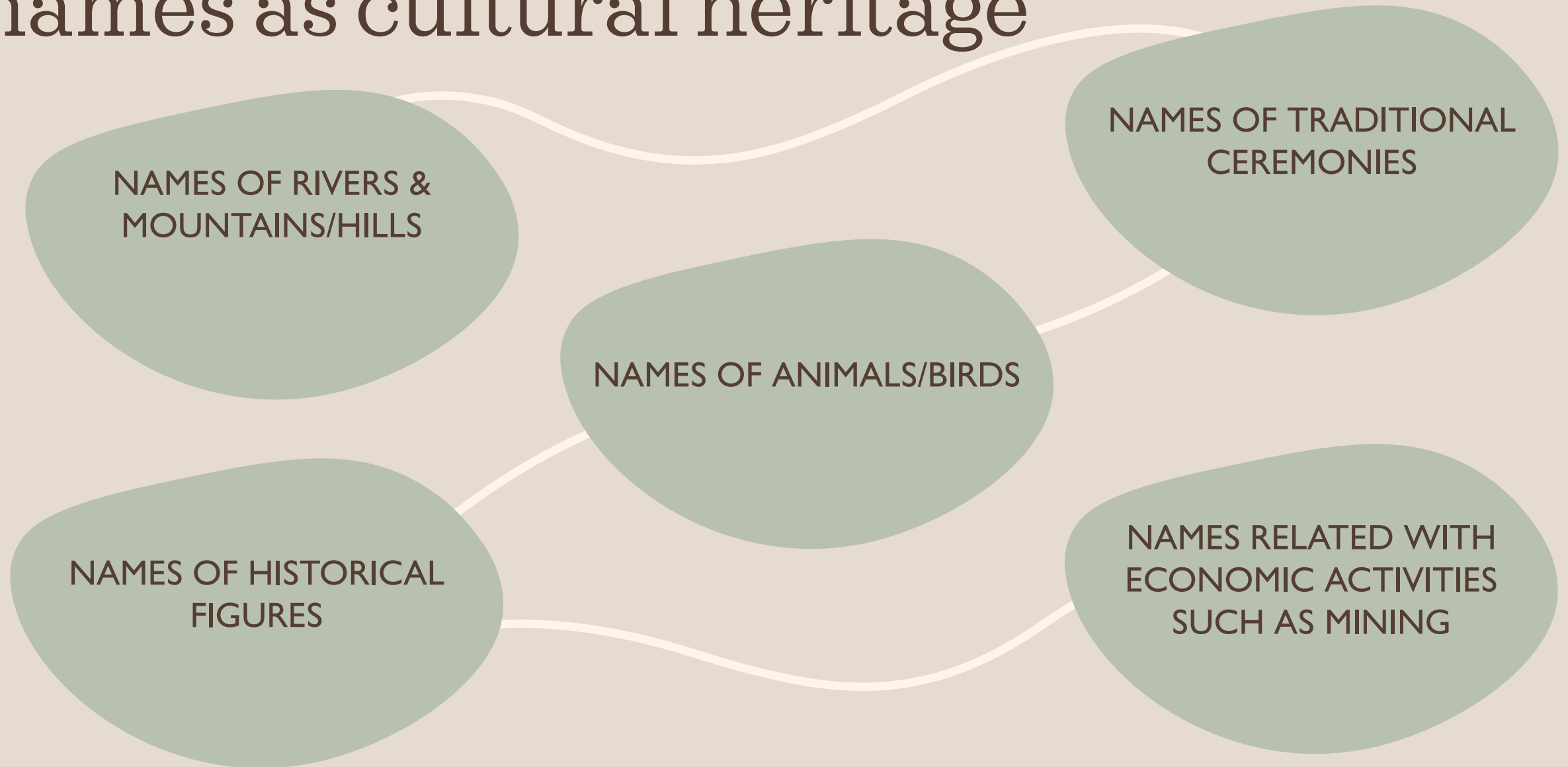


- The same region, North-eastern Zambia, has at least three layers of names: traditional, titular, and official.
- Even the official names are rooted in local history and cultural heritage

Image Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Province,_Zambia

Miscellaneous sources of names as cultural heritage



Miscellaneous examples of names as CH

Kuomboka (to come out of the water) – neighbourhood name

Mosi-oa-tunya/Shungu Namutitima (the smoke that thunders) /
Victoria Falls (former British monarch) - names of roads

Zambezi (name of longest river in Central Africa from which the name **Zambia** was derived) - name used as name of rural town, names of neighbourhoods, roads, schools, hostel blocks in many public boarding schools

Kafue - name of river, name of town, names of neighbourhoods, roads, schools, hostel blocks in many public boarding schools

Luangwa - name of river, name of town, names of neighbourhoods, roads, schools, hostel blocks in many public boarding schools



Image Source: <https://www.twopartsitaly.com/blog/2019/6/15/victoria-falls-a-true-natural-wonder>

Miscellaneous examples of names as CH cont ...

- **Mpelembe** (general name for antelopes) - used as name of school, streets, etc.
- **Roan Antelope** (name of antelope species which helped in the discovery of copper in Luanshya) - name of township, names of roads, schools, hospital, mining company (former)
- **Chembe/Nkwashi/Nkwazi** (fish eagle) – name of rural town, names of schools, name of football club, names of hostel blocks in many public boarding schools.
- **Kansuswa** (a bat) – name of neighbourhood, Kasanka National Park in Zambia hosts the world's largest bat migration, where millions of straw-colored fruit bats gather annually to eat fruit. According to Discover Africa, this migration is said to be a key event in the bats' life cycle, allowing them to gain energy reserves for their long-distance migrations across Africa.
- **Mukuba** (copper) – name of neighbourhood, name of a university, name of a school; derived from Zambia's major export.
- **Muchinga** (protector) – name of mountain, name of a province, traditional name of Bemba region (Ichinga)



Thank you
Gracias
Merci

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