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The Significance of Setswana Vocabulary Used in English Taxonomy to Enrich the Language of Biodiversity

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ABSTRACT The paper explores the use of Setswana vocabulary in biodiversity-related English-taxonomy. Its object is to highlight the importance of using names of flora and fauna borrowed from indigenous African languages in biodiversity taxonomy to create conservation awareness. Based on sampled data from archives and documents and applying the theory of knowledge, the study argues that the selected names borrowed from African language are a major influence on increasing an awareness of indigenous knowledge to promote conservation in South Africa. During colonialism Africans were alienated from nature by massive urbanisation and relocation, which in South Africa led to a loss of indigenous knowledge on biodiversity. The use of indigenous names in biodiversity taxonomy may act as a meaningful symbol in the reclaiming of African knowledge and advancing scientific literacy and awareness of communities. The results of the study stress the importance of preserving indigenous nomenclatures in the context of understanding African biodiversity in southern Africa.