Mike ‘Ma Xangane’ English (Information provided by Don English, section ranger Malelane)

Mike English had a notable career in the Kruger National Park, starting in 1963 as a Section Ranger in Shangoni and was well known amongst his colleagues for his fluency in the Shangaan language. In 1972 he was transferred to Pafuri Section, where he surveyed the main tarred road from Baobab Hill to Pafuri Gate. In 1977 Mike was on the move again this time to Stolsnek Section where he started the wilderness trails in 1978 (a popular activity to this day) and the documentation of many of the Bushman Rock Art sites in the KNP. In 1991 Mike moved to Satara where at retirement in 1992, Mike was the Regional Ranger for the central region.

He continued his efforts in conservation after this and remained in the Kruger National Park as the caretaker for THEBA in Pafuri, until 1996. Mike’s legacy continues through his eldest son who has been a SANParks employee for 21 years and is currently the Section Ranger at Malelane. Don is married to Sharon the daughter of retired ranger Ted Whitfield who has also had a tusker named after him through this competition.