



**SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE  
RESOURCES AGENCY**

111 HARRINGTON STREET, CAPE TOWN, 8000  
PO BOX 4637, CAPE TOWN, 8000  
TEL: (021) 462 4502 FAX: (021) 462 4509

DATE: 08 March 2011  
ENQUIRIES: Mrs Colette Scheermeyer  
OUR REF: 9/2/233/0002

Mr. D. Stratford  
School of Geography, Archaeology & Environmental Studies  
University of the Witwatersrand  
Private Bag 3  
WITS  
Johannesburg  
2050

Dear Mr. Stratford

**PERMIT:** No. 80/11/02/008/51

Thank you for settling your permit application fee with SAHRA. I attach as requested a permit to excavate at Maropeng, Cradle of Humankind. We have noted in addition to continuing the research initially undertaken by Dr Kuman, the site will also be used for student training purposes as part of a Third Year archaeology field school in April 2011.

The SAHRA APM Unit wishes you every success with the project.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Nonofho Ndobochani  
SAHRA: Manager of the Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
For CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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9/2/233/0002

### **PERMIT**

No. 80/11/02/008/51

Issued under Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25 of 1999.  
Permission is hereby given:

to: Mr D Stratford (ID: 7903305899187),  
of: the School of Geography, Archaeology & Environmental Studies, University of the  
Witwatersrand, Private Bag 3, WITS, Johannesburg, 2050,  
for: excavation at Maropeng,  
at: Maropeng Interpretation Centre, at approximately 25.58.22.5S, 27.40.2.7E,  
on: the farm Mohale's Gate, neat the town Hekport,  
in: the Krugersdorp District.

The following conditions apply:

1. If the permit holder is not to be present on the site at all times then SAHRA must be provided with the names and qualifications of the authorised representatives.
2. Adequate recording methods as specified in the Regulations and Guidelines pertaining to the National Heritage Resources Act must be used. Note that the position of all excavations must be marked on a plan of each site.
3. A standard site record form must be lodged with the Ditsong: National Museum of Natural History.
4. All material collected and excavated, as well as field notes and records, will be curated by the University of Witwatersrand, who will be responsible for the permanent curation and safekeeping of all artefact and palaeontological material in a condition that allows on-going research.
5. Progress reports must be submitted to SAHRA on or before 01 April 2012, 01 April 2013 and 01 April 2014 and a final report is due on or before 01 April 2015. SAHRA reserves the right to withhold further permits if progress is not deemed satisfactory.
6. Reprints of all published papers, or copies of theses or reports resulting from this work must be lodged with SAHRA.
7. If a published report has not appeared within one year of the lapsing of this permit, the report required in terms of the permit will be made available to researchers on request.
8. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to obtain permission from the landowner for each visit, and the excavator is responsible for ensuring that he or she has an understanding with the landowner concerning: the number of visitors and workers; conditions for camping on the property; speed limits on access roads; possible prohibitions on off-road driving; size, type and number of vehicles permitted; possible prohibitions on trespassing beyond the site; disturbing fauna, flora or substrate; erection and demolition of structures on the Site; appropriate hours of visiting and working on the Site; use of firewood, electricity and water; lighting fires and the prevention of uncontrolled fires and any fencing necessary to protect

- livestock. Conditions of access imposed by the landowner must be observed.
9. The licensed excavator shall be responsible for the activities and impacts of all colleagues, students and employees under his or her supervision and for their compliance with the terms of the Heritage Agreement and the Management Plan for this site.
  10. Excavators must take measures to ensure the safety of any person who may enter the National Heritage Site as part of their excavation team or as their visitor.
  11. All licensed excavators, including colleagues, visitors, students and employees under the direct supervision of the permit holder must carry documents of identification indicating their legitimacy to be on the National Heritage Site.
  12. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to protect sites during and after excavation and to ensure that where appropriate excavations are filled in or stabilized with adequate materials (e.g. Loffelstein blocks or army bags in geotextile) to the satisfaction of SAHRA and the landowner
  13. SAHRA shall not be liable for any losses, damages or injuries to persons or properties as a result of any activities in connection with this permit.
  14. SAHRA reserves the right to cancel this permit upon notice to the permit holder.

This permit is valid until 01 April 2014.

for CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER .....

Date: 08 March 2011



Place: Cape Town

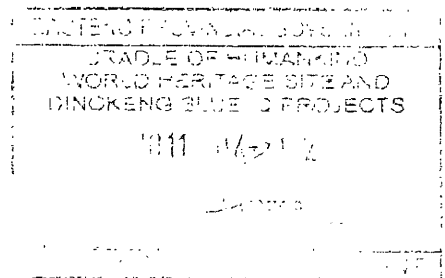


Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act,  
2003 (Act 57 of 2003)

**Archaeological excavations at Maropeng Visitor Interpretation Centre Complex in  
the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site**

**Authorisation - register number:**  
**Holder of authorisation:**  
**Location of activity:**

MA: 8/1/1/6/1-201103/002  
Mr. Dominic Stratford  
Maropeng visitor centre, Cradle of Humankind  
World Heritage Site





**Kgoro ya Tlhabolla ya Ekonomi  
Department of Economic Development  
Departement van Ekonomiese Ontwikkeling  
Umnyango Wezokuthuthukiswa Komnotho**

**Reference:** 8/1/1/6/1  
**Your Reference:** MA: 8/1/1/6/1-201103/002  
**Enquiries:** P Mills  
**Telephone:** 011 – 3551458  
**E-mail:** peter.mills@gauteng.gov.za

Mr. Dominic Stratford  
School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies  
University of the Witwatersrand  
Private Bag 3  
WITS  
2050

**BY REGISTERED MAIL**

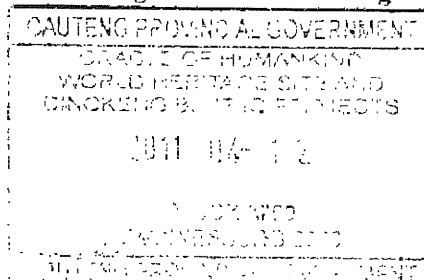
Dear Mr. Stratford

**APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 49(a) AND (b) OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, ACT 57 OF 2003, AND REGULATION 4, 16, 20 (g), 39 (1) (a) (b) (c) and 45 (1) (2) (a) (c) OF THE REGULATIONS FOR THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF SPECIAL NATURE RESERVES, NATIONAL PARKS AND WORLD HERITAGE SITES: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT MAROPENG VISITOR INTERPRETATION CENTRE IN THE CRADLE OF HUMANKIND WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

With reference to the abovementioned application, please be advised that the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site Management Authority has decided to grant your application. The authorisation and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

Yours sincerely

**Mr. F. Jiyane**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Blue IQ Projects: Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site and Dinokeng**  
**Date:** 12/4/2011

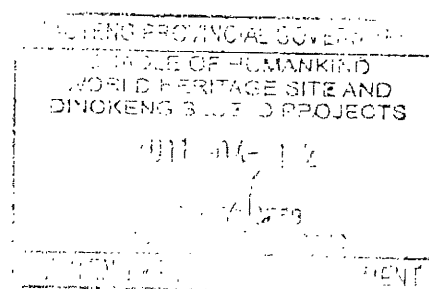


**Office of the Chief Executive Officer : Blue IQ Projects, Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site and Dinokeng, reporting to the MEC for Economic Development**  
Cencairn Building, 73 Market Street, Johannesburg, 2001. P O Box 8769, Johannesburg, 2000.  
Tel: (011) 355-1478 Fax: (011) 333-8648

Management Authority for the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site  
 Authorisation Reg. No. MA: 8/1/1/6/1-201103/002

## DEFINITIONS

- “Authorisation”** means permission, authorisation or licence;
- “COH WHS” or “Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site”** means the Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai and the environs as proclaimed in Government Notice 1197, 18 December 2007;
- “EIA” or “Environmental Impact Assessment”** means a basic assessment or environmental impact assessment conducted in terms of NEMA;
- “EIA Regulations”** means the Regulations and Notices made in terms of Chapter 5 of NEMA and published as Government Notices number 385, 386 and 387 on 21 April 2006;
- “environmental authorisation”** means an environmental authorisation granted by GDARD in terms of the National Environmental Management Act and EIA Regulations;
- “GDARD”** means the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- “MA” or “Management Authority”** means the Management Authority appointed in terms of section 8 of the World Heritage Convention Act responsible for the management of the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site;
- “MCLM”** means the Mogale City Local Municipality;
- “NEMA” or “National Environmental Management Act”** means the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998);
- “NEMPAA” or “National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act”** means the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act 57 of 2003);
- “NEMPAA Regulations” or “Regulations for the Proper Administration of Special Nature Reserves, National Parks and World Heritage Sites”** means the Regulations for the Proper Administration of Special Nature Reserves, National Parks and World Heritage Sites, 2005 published as Government Notice 28181 on 28 October 2005;
- “SAHRA”** means the South African Heritage Resources Agency;
- “Site”** refers to the visitor interpretation centre in the COH WHS known as Maropeng
- “WRDM”** means the West Rand District Municipality; and
- “WHCA” or “World Heritage Convention Act”** means the World Heritage Convention Act, 1999 (Act 49 of 1999)



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## DECISION

The MA is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it, that Mr. Dominic Stratford (hereafter referred to as "holder of the authorisation") should be authorised to undertake the activity specified below, subject to compliance with the conditions of this authorisation.

Details regarding the basis on which the MA reached this decision are set out below.

## ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act and the Regulations for the Proper Administration of Special Nature Reserves, National Parks and World Heritage Sites passed pursuant thereto, the MA hereby authorises:

**Mr. Dominic Stratford** (identity number 7903305899187)

with the following contact details:

School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies  
 University of the Witwatersrand  
 Private Bag 3  
 WITS  
 2050

to undertake the following activity (hereafter referred to as "the activity") in terms of section 50(5) of NEMPAA and Regulations 39(1) (a-c) of the NEMPAA Regulations.

**Excavations at Maropeng Visitor Interpretation Centre Complex in the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site for the purposes of continuing past research at the site and for the purpose of student training during Archaeology field schools**

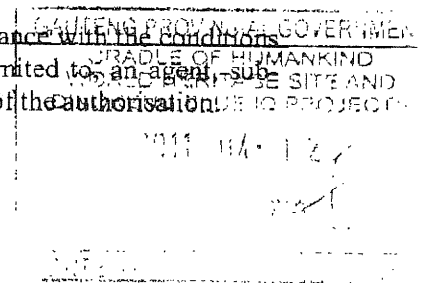
which falls within the jurisdiction of the WRDM hereafter referred to as "the property".

The granting of this authorisation is subject to the conditions set out below.

## CONDITIONS

### 1. Scope of authorisation

- 1.1. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this authorisation, which conditions form part of the authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
- 1.2. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his or her behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, sub-contractor, employee or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.

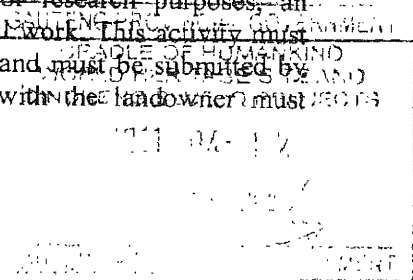


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- 1.3. The activity which is authorised may only be carried out at the property indicated above.
- 1.4. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the MA before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the MA may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations.
- 1.5. This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

## 2. Specific conditions

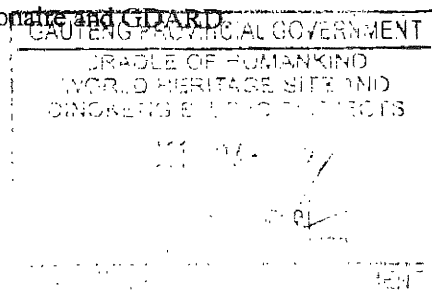
- 2.1. The activity must comply with the conditions contained in the COH WHS MA authorisation for this project as well as any other requirements stipulated by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).
- 2.2. The COH WHS is an international tourist destination and a UNESCO protected area and therefore:
  - 2.2.1. The excavation, collection and removal of any fossil remains must be undertaken in compliance with best practise requirements related to the management of archaeological material as required by SAHRA.
  - 2.2.2. Excavation and general site clearing activities closely related to the site must take place with minimal disturbance to the property and the site in particular.
  - 2.2.3. A detailed plan of the site indicating the extent of the area under investigation and excavation should be provided to the MA within 3 months of this authorisation. This plan must be drafted in consultation with the landowner and must be submitted by the permit holder to the MA. This plan may be added as an appendix to the existing site management plan.
  - 2.2.4. Proof of consultation with the concessionaire, Maropeng a' Afrika, must accompany the submission of the plan to the MA. This plan must be reviewed annually and submitted to both SAHRA and the MA before the end of March each year.
  - 2.2.5. Should the extent of the excavation required exceed the original area indicated, an application needs to be submitted to the MA for consideration before any construction/excavation may take place in excess of the area already approved.
  - 2.2.6. Although the permit requested from SAHRA provides for the excavation of archaeological artefacts and fossils, this authorisation is in respect of the site's land use including any related construction activity which may take place.
  - 2.2.7. This authorisation is in respect of the existing activity/construction on site on the date of authorisation. Should any additional areas be required for excavation, construction, erection or transformation of the site for research purposes, an application must be submitted to the MA prior additional work. This activity must be considered in consultation with Maropeng a' Afrika and must be submitted by the permit holder to the MA. Proof of consultation with the landowner must accompany the submission of the application to the MA.





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- 2.2.8. The removal and transportation of excavated material from the site to any institution must be done in accordance with existing best practice requirements for the management of archaeological material as stipulated by SAHRA. The curatorship of any excavated material once removed from site, is the responsibility of the relevant institution in compliance with SAHRA requirements.
- 2.2.9. It is the responsibility of the holder of the authorisation to obtain permission from Maropeng a' Afrika for access to the site and conditions of access required by the landowner must be observed. The position and extent of the road used to gain access to the site must be clearly indicated on the site plan indicated in 2.2.3 above. A copy of the above access agreement needs to be submitted to the MA within 1 month from the date of this authorisation.
- 2.2.10. This authorisation only authorises the excavation of the site and related scientific activities and personnel closely related to the excavation of fossil remains from the site. This authorisation does include for visits by the general public or tour groups interested in the excavations. Access to the site by tour groups/the general public or groups of students directly involved in the excavation process is authorised.
- 2.2.11. The management of activity at the site during and after excavation is the responsibility of the holder of the authorisation. A plan for the stabilisation of the site and general rehabilitation of the area around the site must be submitted to the MA **6 months prior** to the closure of the site. This plan must ensure that the site will be well preserved for possible future scientific research. This plan should make provision for financial resources to ensure the site is managed and stabilised following closure of excavation. This plan must be agreed to by the holder of the authorisation, Maropeng a' Afrika, SAHRA and the MA.
- 2.2.12. During the period of active excavation (period approved by SAHRA permit), site security is the responsibility of the holder of the authorisation in consultation with Maropeng a' Afrika.
- 2.3. During the excavation process only "down" lighting may be installed for exterior lighting, should it be required. It is preferably that excavations only be carried out during daylight hours. All lights, if required on the site should be portable in nature and switched off during non use.
- 2.4. During the operational excavation phase:
- 2.4.1. Activities on the property may in no way impact on or destroy fauna and flora on the site or exceed the area indicated for excavation
- 2.4.2. Vehicles must be limited to the formal designated parking area at Maropeng.
- 2.5. No advertising signage may be erected on the property without separate approval from the concessionaire and MA.
- 2.6. The site will be subject to at least 2 site inspections per annum by officials from the MA in collaboration with SAHRA, the permit holder, the concessionaire and **GDARD**.



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### 3. General

- 3.1. A copy of this authorisation must be kept at the property where the activity will be undertaken. The authorisation must be produced to any authorised official of the MA who requests to see it and must be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the holder of the authorisation who works or undertakes work at the property.
- 3.2. Where any of the holders of the authorisation's contact details change, including the physical or postal address and/ or telephonic details, the holder must notify the MA as soon as the new details become known to the holder.
- 3.3. The holder of the authorisation must notify the MA, in writing and within 24 (twenty four) hours, if conditions of this authorisation cannot be adhered to.
- 3.4. In all other cases, the holder of the authorisation must notify the MA, in writing, within 2 weeks if a condition of this authorisation is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this condition must be accompanied by reasons for non-compliance.
- 3.5. Non-compliance with a condition of this authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act, the Regulations for the Proper Administration of Special Nature Reserves, National Parks and World Heritage Sites or South African common law.

### REASONS FOR DECISION

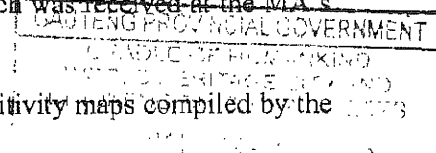
#### 4. Background

- 4.1. The following steps were taken by the applicant to obtain authorisation for the proposed activity:
  - 4.1.1. Application to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) to obtain approval for excavations at Maropeng.
  - 4.1.2. The applicant did not appoint an independent environmental consultant to undertake an environmental assessment for the project as environmental authorisation for the project is not required in terms of the EIA Regulations.
  - 4.1.3. Provision of a detailed curriculum vitae and list of academic publications included with the SAHRA application.

#### 5. Information considered in making the decision

- 5.1. In reaching its decision, the MA took, inter alia, the following into consideration -

- 5.1.1. The application information provided by SAHRA, which was received at the MA's offices on 24 March 2011.
- 5.1.2. The location of the site and land use planning and sensitivity maps compiled by the MA.



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5.1.3. The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including the NEMPAA, the principles set out in section 3 of the WHCA and the relevant principles set out in section 2 of the NEMA.

5.1.4. Mr. Straford is a PhD student at the University of the Witwatersrand. His Masters' degree was based on excavations at Sterkfontein Caves.

5.1.5. Mr. Stratford has excavated at Sterkfontein Caves since 2006 and continues to do so. He has also assisted with excavations at Maropeng during 2006.

## 6. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the MA was taken into account in the MA's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the MA's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

6.1. The activity considered is limited to excavation and collection of lithic material, artefacts or fossils.

6.2. The activity is considered to be valuable to a broader understanding of the prehistoric nature of the COH WHS, and respects the unique characteristics of the site.

6.3. This authorisation will ensure that ongoing activity will be undertaken within a clearly defined management plan by experienced scientists with sufficient expertise and knowledge in the field of fossil excavation.

## 7. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the MA made the following findings -

7.1. No environmental authorisation is required for the proposed activity and sufficient information has been provided for authorisation of the proposed activity.

7.2. Impacts of the proposed development can be mitigated to acceptable levels provided that the conditions of this authorisation are adhered to.

In view of the above, the MA is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in this authorisation, the proposed activity will not conflict with the general objectives of the WHCA or NEMPAA and that any potentially detrimental impacts on the COH WHS resulting from the activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

The application is accordingly granted.

  
 Mr F Jiyane

CEO: Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site Management Authority

Date: 12/4/2011

