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10 December 2015

Stephany Potze
Collections Manager Plio-Pleistocene Palaeontology Section
Department of Vertebrates
Ditsong National Museum of Natural History
Pretoria 0001
Republic of South Africa

Letter of Request for Extension of Current SAHRA Temporary Export Permit (Permit # 1958; CaseID # 6712)

Dear Stephany,

This letter serves as a formal request to extend the loan of fossil materials from the Haasgat fossil locality that I currently hold beyond their current 31 December 2015 due date. These specimens originate from calcified sediment blocks excavated from Haasgat (SAHRA Permit #08/10/03/010/51 and Permit # 917/CaseID #3597) and processed by the Plio-Pleistocene Section, Department of Vertebrates of the Ditsong National Museum of Natural History (Pretoria, South Africa).

This request for an extension of the loan being requested because of exigent circumstances that limited my ability to complete the research originally proposed in my loan request. In sum, due to staffing changes in the Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology (in which I hold a teaching and research position) resulting from the unexpected departure of another Senior Lecturer who coordinated one of our largest courses (e.g., BMS 2011, enrollment >350 students). I was tasked with not only coordinating this project at the last minute, but also guiding major curriculum changes due to increased enrollment. In short, I undertook 180 contact hours in early 2015 that I was not expecting to undertake, resulting in significant delays in undertaking the faunal analysis proposed by my initial loan (and exportation application with SAHRA).

To date, more than 75% of the analyses have been undertaken, but several months of concentrated research are required to complete the cataloging and identification of the materials. Returning the loan at this point would represent a significant burden on progressing analysis to publication and accessioning the materials for access; likely resulting in completion of this project only taking place in very late 2016 or even 2017. I am therefore requesting an extension of the above referenced loans to finalise the originally proposed research goal; namely loan and exportation of the fossil specimens to both facilitate and expedite the identification of mammalian fossil specimens processed from Haasgat. My active research role at Haasgat centers on providing the primary identification and analysis

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of fossil specimens resulting from acetic acid processing of calcified sediment blocks. This process requires a significant investment of time and financial resources to accomplish, and as a foreign scientist it is increasingly difficult to consistently acquire the external funding required undertake this baseline activity.

Granting of this loan extension, coupled with application for a temporary export permit from SAHRA for these fossil specimens to my home institution in Australia, will ensure that these specimens are properly identified and catalogued into the Ditsong National Museum of Natural History Plio-Pleistocene Section collections. It will also ensure that these specimens are expeditiously integrated into publications and into the preexisting Ditsong collections.

All specimens will be maintained in my secure lab facilities at the Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology (Monash University, Clayton Campus) during their extended temporary export to Australia. My Department has furnished extensive lab space, access to comparative specimens, and all infrastructure and equipment necessary to undertake the basic cataloguing and identification of fossil specimens under this loan. I will cover all funds for the hand-transport (and return) of the loaned specimens from South Africa to Australia prior to August 1, 2016. I am happy to accommodate any specific requests for the care, transport, and security of these specimens during their export.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments about this letter of request. I look forward to our continued collaboration in the development, curation, and research on the Plio-Pleistocene Section collections at the Ditsong Museum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Adams'.

Justin W. Adams, Ph.D.