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**Re: Return of specimens of the Langebaanweg Collection, Iziko South African Museum, currently on loan**

Dear Dr Galimberti,

I am very thankful to Dr Romala Govender for her kind support of my ongoing studies on the fossil birds from the early Pleistocene of Langebaanweg and to SAHRA for the permission to study specimens from the Langebaanweg Collection, Iziko South African Museum, here at the Senckenberg Research Institute at Frankfurt/Main.

During the past four years, I was able to describe new species of swallows, a nightjar, two species of parrots and in co-operation with Antoine Louchart (CNRS Lyon) a new species of woodpecker (see list of published papers at the end of this letter). An updated review on the avifauna of Langebaanweg and its implication for palaeoenvironmental reconstructions will be published later this year. A manuscript on the honeyguides from Langebaanweg is almost finished, though Antoine Louchart's contribution to it is still pending.

In co-operation with Pippa Haarhoff (West Coast Fossil Park), and Marco Pavia (Museo di Geologia e Paleontologia, Torino), I finished the study of the vulture material from Langebaanweg. It turned out to be the earliest substantial evidence for *Aegyptius* vultures in Africa south of the Sahara and sheds new light on the early evolution and distribution of these birds. We have submitted this manuscript to the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology in September.

The description of the owls from Langebaanweg, again in co-operation with Pippa Haarhoff and Marco Pavia, is almost completed. We were able to distinguish at least four species of owls, among them the first record for a certain owl genus south of the Sahara. We plan to submit this manuscript to Acta Palaeontologica Polonica in November.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to return the specimens I have on loan in 2013 as I originally intended, and I would like to ask for a slight extension of the loan. I have agreed with Dr Govender to do so in January 2014. I have already received the necessary funding for all travelling expenses and I am about to arrange flights and accommodation.

I hope you will approve my request, which would also help me with the finalization of my projects on fossil birds from Langebaanweg.

Sincerely, yours



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## List of references

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- Manegold, A. 2010b. First evidence for a nightjar (Caprimulgidae, Aves) in the early Pliocene of Langebaanweg, South Africa. *Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments* 90, 163-168.
- Manegold, A. 2013. Two new parrot species (Psittaciformes) from the early Pliocene of Langebaanweg (South Africa) and their paleoecological implications. *Ibis* 155, 127-139.
- Manegold, A. & Louchart, A. 2012. Biogeographical and palaeoenvironmental implications of a new woodpecker species (Picidae) from the early Pliocene of South Africa. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* 32, 926-938.
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- Manegold, A., Pavia, M., Haarhoff, P. (submitted; 17/09/2013). A new species of Aegypius vulture (Aegypiinae, Accipitridae) from the early Pliocene of South Africa. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.
- Pavia, M., Manegold, A., Haarhoff, P. (in prep.). Early Pliocene owls from Langebaanweg (South Africa) (working title). We aim to submit this manuscript to *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*.