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Extension of export permit 3041 for stable isotope analysis on enamel samples from Pniel 6

I am applying for an extension of export permit 3041, related to excavation permit ID 2916 (Case ID 10250) and export/analysis of samples CaseID 14153 and Permit 3041, together with co-permit holder Dr David Morris (McGregor Museum).

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Permit 3041 (valid from 25/11/2019 to 31/12/2020) covered the export of 23 enamel samples (5 mg per specimen) from the Beaumont collection (McGregor Museum) from the site of Pniel 6, Northern Cape Province. The study is part of the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Grant Agreement No. 837730 to Michaela Ecker. This project was interrupted in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic when it was not possible to travel to South Africa from Germany to complete the faunal study. It is only possible to be finished now in July 2022. The work this July includes a full description of the faunal material excavated from Pniel 6 and the sampling of a further selection of this material for enamel stable isotope analysis.

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The sampling will take place in South Africa in July 2022 and the enamel powder for stable isotope analysis will be couriered to the University of Kiel, Germany, for measurement in the Leibniz Laboratory for Stable Isotope Research, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Germany. The applied method is destructive and no material is left to be returned to the McGregor museum, however, only a very small proportion of the teeth (5 mg per specimen) will be sampled and more remain in the McGregor Museum. A full list of sampled specimens, as well as pictures of all specimen, will be uploaded to SAHRIS in July 2022 before export.

The results of the analysis will be published open-access in 2023 and will enhance our understanding of the climate and environment in the Northern Cape during the Middle Pleistocene. A full report will be submitted to SAHRA when the study is complete.

A letter from the McGregor museum, supporting the analysis, is attached.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Kind regards,

Michaela Ecker

Dr Michaela Ecker