



## Letter

### In terms of Section 35(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Dr Brian F Kuhn  
Institute for Human Evolution  
University of the Witwatersrand  
The Palaeosciences Centre, 2nd floor  
Pvt Bag 3  
WITS  
2050

### Renewed scientific investigations at the Taung World Heritage Site.

On 19 June 2013, it was brought to SAHRA's attention that samples collected under a permit issued to you were illegally exported for analysis.

The permit issued in 2010 was for excavation at the Taung National and World Heritage Site, a site with well established significance that has been afforded the highest level of protection available in South African (Section 27 of the National Heritage Resources Act) as well as International law (World Heritage Convention Act).

You indicate that you were unaware of the permissions required to export this material and were advised that no permissions were required. Had you contacted the permitting authority at any stage, you would have received advice to the contrary.

On 8 March 2013 you applied for a renewal of the 2010 permit for work at Taung National and World Heritage Site, the final submissions of which were received on 13 June 2013.

Please note that the apparent disregard for the significance of the material emanating from this site evidenced by the above actions will be taken into consideration by the APMHOB Permit Committee of SAHRA when assessing any applications received by you, be they for renewal or for new sites.

For future reference, any material that emanates from work done on a National Heritage Site, as well as any material emanating from permitted excavations at archaeological or palaeontological sites require a permit from SAHRA for export. As such, in order to satisfy the procedural requirements of SAHRA, please apply for a retrospective export permit for the samples in question via SAHRIS.

Should you have any queries in the future regarding any aspect of the permitting process, please contact the SAHRA APM Unit (Mrs C. Scheermeyer at [cscheermeyer@sahra.org.za](mailto:cscheermeyer@sahra.org.za) or at (021) 462 4502).

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.





Yours faithfully

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Jenna Lavin  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Colette Scheermeyer  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/111320>



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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