

Letter

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

Attention: Dr Emmanuel Discamps
University of Bergen
Postboks 7805
5020 Bergen
Norway

Is there variability in Stillbay subsistence strategies? Higher-resolution zooarcheological and spatial analyses of Blombos Cave faunal material

Dear Dr Discamps and Ms Keene,

SAHRA has received your application requesting the export of 40 bags of faunal material from Blombos Cave for higher-resolution zooarcheological and spatial analyses.

SAHRA would like to request that additional motivation is submitted in relation to this application. We understand that, as mentioned in your original application, your *analyses require important lab space (e.g. for systematic refitting) and are extremely time-consuming, so that space must be specifically attributed to the researcher for several months. Adequate microscopic equipment is also necessary for taphonomical observations.*

The SAHRA Guidelines to archaeological permitting explain that temporary export is permitted only:

- *if the material cannot be studied or analysed in South Africa because the necessary technical equipment, comparative collection or expertise is not readily available here; (...)*

After assessing your application, it is SAHRA's perception that the technical equipment and the comparative collection are available in South Africa and as such it would be detrimental to the material to be exported. We are also aware of scientists belonging to foreign institutions who have previously undertaken the same type of analyses in South Africa in collaboration with local institutions.

SAHRA would like to request that, in the light of the above, the applicant submits additional motivation for the export to explain and take the following points into consideration:

- whether the technical equipment is available in SA;

Permit: Analysis of Blombos Faunal Material

Our Ref: ID_5254

Enquiries: Mariagrazia Galimberti
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: mgalimberti@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 5245

Date: Thursday May 15, 2014

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- whether a comparative collection is available in SA;
- whether additional space can be sought in SA to allow for the analyses to be undertaken within the Country (e.g. Iziko Museums of South Africa, the Archaeology Department at the University of Cape Town, or the repository of the Blombos material in Cape Town and the Evolutionary Studies Institute at the University of Witwatersrand, to which both Ms Keene and Prof. Henshilwood are associated);
- whether Dr Discamps research grant may not allow for his temporary relocation to SA.

SAHRA will further assess the application once the additional information is submitted.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

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

Yours faithfully

Mariagrazia Galimberti
Heritage Officer: Archaeology
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer
SAHRA Head Archaeologist
South African Heritage Resources Agency



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/160595>



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