

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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CaseID: 14963

Date: Monday March 09, 2020
Page No: 1

Letter

In terms of Section 32(19) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Prof. Lee R. Berger
Evolutionary Studies Institute
University of the Witwatersrand
PO WITS
2050

The age of death of the Malapa Hominin 1 individual from the Malapa locality, Cradle of Humankind, is unknown. High resolution CT scans have been applied in order to answer this question but without success. There is now an unexpected opportunity to carry out synchrotron studies on mandibular fragments from the skeleton at the facility in Grenoble, France. This skeleton is currently still on display at the Perot Museum in Dallas, Texas, USA. However, Prof Lee Berger has returned three mandibular fragments to South Africa with, with permission, with the view of obtaining a permit to take the to France for synchrotron scanning. In addition, there is another rock from Malapa, and a plaster jacket from Rising Star that are unsuitable for CT scanning, and subjecting them to synchrotron, would tell us is they are worth pursuing as they appear to contain valuable material. This would be a test case for larger blocks in future.

Dear Dr B. Zipfel and Prof L. Berger,

Thank you for your application to temporarily export fossil individual MH1, three mandibular fragments and a fossil-bearing rock from Malapa National Heritage Site as well as a plaster jacket from Rising Star paleontological site within the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site for synchrotron scanning at the ESRF, Grenoble, France.

SAHRA has reviewed the application and has decided to approve it.

We wish you every success with this project.

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

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Yours faithfully

Ragna Redelstorff
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/535191>

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.