

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  
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[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Ragna Redelstorff, PhD

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CaseID: 17580

Date: Tuesday December 21, 2021

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## Letter

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

Attention: Dr Julien Benoit

University of the Witwatersrand

Evolutionary Studies Institute (ESI); School of Geosciences, University of the Witwatersrand,  
Braamfontein, 2050, Johannesburg, South Africa

**We are applying for permission to export and scan at the ESRF (Grenoble, France) a range of archosaurian and synapsid fossils at the European Synchrotron and Radiation Facility (ESRF), Grenoble, France. The ESRF is introducing a new and groundbreaking beamline, BM18, in 2022 and 2023. It is a large throughput high energy beamline that scan large specimens (up to 300kg). The ESRF and South Africa have a long and successful history of paleontological and paleoanthropological research, and South Africa stands to benefit greatly from the opening of this new facility. To commission BM18, the ESRF has invited certain high-profile experiments that are not subject to the normal proposal application system. As its long-standing partner, the ESRF has approached the Evolutionary Studies Institute (ESI) with the opportunity to scan a number of scientifically important specimens as part of this process. The scientific inquiry into the fossils requested will involve a multi-national collaborative team, covering a wide range of research topics that will lead to student projects and peer-reviewed publications. The implementation of the beamline is in two stages, first scanning smaller specimens in 2022, and then in early 2023 scanning much larger specimens than have ever been feasibly scanned at a synchrotron (<300kg).**

Dear Dr Julien Benoit,

Thank you for your application to temporarily export four fossil vertebrate specimens from the Karoo for synchrotron scanning at the European Synchrotron and Radiation Facility (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

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Ragna Redelstorff, PhD  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/589294>

**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.