



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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CaseID: 9086

Date: Friday February 12, 2016  
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## Letter

### In terms of Section 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  
South Africa

**The new hominin species, *Homo naledi* (Berger et al 2015) has as yet not been analysed for DNA. This is a crucial step in fully understanding the place of this species within what is currently known about human origins. As this material is still largely organic with little or no fossilisation, there is a good possibility that DNA may be extracted. As the number of specimens are plentiful, and much of the material is fragmentary, they are very suited for destructive sampling without the need to damage morphologically meaningful specimens. This application requests permits to carry out sampling and export for DNA.**

Dear Drs Bernhard Zipfel and Lee Berger,

Thank you for your application to sample 15 bone fragments of *Homo naledi* and temporarily export samples thereof for DNA analysis at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany, from February 2016 to 30 June 2017. 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.

Yours faithfully



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Ragna Redelstorff  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
SAHRA Head Archaeologist (Acting)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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**ADMIN:**  
Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/356177>

**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.