



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: 12407

Date: Tuesday July 03, 2018
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(8), 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Dr Farai Tererai
Working for Wetlands Programme

The WfWetlands Programme is currently managing 37 WfWetlands Projects countrywide, including projects in the Limpopo Province. WfWetlands has actively been rehabilitating wetlands in the Limpopo Province since the early 2000s. Priority wetland systems requiring rehabilitation were identified during Phase 1 of the WfWetlands Programme.

Working for Wetlands is proposing to rehabilitate various wetland areas within the Limpopo Province. They plan on accomplishing this by constructing weirs/gabions that will create a barrier that will allow for sedimentation build-up to slow the water flow and re-wet the wetland area. The proposed projects will be located in Sekhukhune district, Waterberg district and Mutale district.

Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd is undertaking a Basic Assessment process on behalf of Working for Wetlands, in respect of listed activities in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014, that require an application for Environmental Authorisation, in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA).

The BAR states that the work will not impact on any cultural resources as they are only rehabilitating wetland area. The overall impact on cultural heritage resources will be minimal and if any artefacts are identified then a heritage specialist will be consulted.

Interim Comment

SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit disagrees with the impact assessment for the cultural heritage section of the BAR. It does not specify if that section and its recommendations were made by a professional heritage specialist, qualified to undertake archaeological impact assessment. Water courses, wetlands are sensitive areas for heritage resources. Furthermore, the Sekhukhune area has a long and significant heritage, which the project may impact

Therefore, SAHRA requires a Heritage Impact Assessment to be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist, and the HIA report must be submitted to the relevant case on SAHRIS.

A .kml file of the proposed wetland rehabilitation locations must be uploaded to the palaeosensitivity map. Since the project areas were not mapped, SAHRA is unable to determine the potential impacts to

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palaeontological resources. Once the project areas are mapped, SAHRA will assess the need for a PIA as part of the EA application.

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

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/503078>