

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 16852

Date: Friday August 06, 2021
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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Wessel U Nel

Opencast mining for alluvial diamonds on Grootderm, Namaqualand, Northern Cape

Wadala Mining and Consulting (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Coptra-SA (PTY) LTD to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for proposed mining activities on a portion of the remainder and portion 3 of the farm Grootderm 10, near Alexander Bay, Northern Cape Province (NC30/5/1/2/2/10190 MR).

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 EIA Regulations for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (MPRDA)(As amended). The proposed mining activities will include strip mining, water distribution pipelines, clean and dirty water system, possible storage dam and tanks, possible excavation within the 1:100-year floodline, access and haul roads, diesel storage, residue deposits, office complex, workshop facilities, stockpiles and storage facilities.

The DSR states that a heritage and palaeontological impact assessment will be conducted as part of the EIA phase of the application process.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit notes the pending assessment of the impact to heritage resources and requests that the assessment comply with section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). Additionally, the assessment of the impact to archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and comply with the 2007 SAHRA Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessments.

As the mining rights application area is located in an area of moderate sensitivity for palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map, a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be required to be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

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Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested reports and the draft EIA inclusive of appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/578792>