



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: 7890

Date: Friday January 15, 2016
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Final Comment

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

Attention: Tshivhase Traditional Authority

Proposed Establishment of Residential, Tourism Accommodation, Recreational, Educational and Conference Facilities as well as Supporting Infrastructure in the proposed Tshivhase Nature Reserve at Vondo Dam Within Thulamela Local Municipality of Vhembe District Municipality, Limpopo Province

Thulamela Local Municipality, is trying to establish the Tshivhase Nature Reserve resort on state-land near the Vondo Dam. This will include the construction of accommodation houses, offices, hiking trails and bush huts.

Under sections 34, 35 and 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) heritage resources are protected. These resources are for instance burial grounds, unmarked and marked graves that are older than 60 years, built structures that are older than 60 years old, archaeology (stone tools, stone walled sites, prehistoric and historic pottery sherds, ash grounds etc.) and palaeontology (fossils of plant and animal material).

Roodt, F. E. September 2014. Phase 1 Heritage Resources Scoping Report: Tshivhase Nature Reserve Vondo Dam, Limpopo Province.

The field assessment to find any potential heritage resources within the proposed nature reserve found a single grave. No further heritage studies

Final Comment

SAHRA agrees with the recommendations made in the heritage report referenced in this comment as follows:

- The single grave should be fenced along a 10m buffer zone area around the perimeter of the grave, the fence should have an entrance gate to accessed by living relatives of the grave when requested.
- A Site Conservation Plan needs to be submitted to SAHRA in the same case on SAHRIS. The CMP should detail monitoring, conservation and repairs procedure of the fence, as well as grave if damaged by any activities during construction and operation of the Resort.

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF TSHIVHASE RESORT

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- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments and charcoal/ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed activities, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings.
- If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary, and a permit will be needed before mitigation. You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8652),
- and if any unmarked human burials are uncovered then please contact the SAHRA BGG Unit (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490).
- These conditions listed above should be included in the EMPr for this proposed development.

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

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/275110>
(LDEDET, Ref: 12/1/9/1-V85)

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.