

Permit Application for Destructive Sampling and Analysis of the Hanging Remnant Stratigraphic Unit at Swartkrans Cave, South Africa

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: Elijah Dumisani Katsetse

Tel: 0214624502

Email: ekatsetse@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 16910

Date: Wednesday September 15, 2021

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Letter

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

Attention: Dr Matthew V. Caruana

University of Johannesburg-Palaeo-Research Institute (P-R I)

University of Johannesburg

The Member 1 sedimentary infill at Swartkrans is comprised of two, chronologically distinct units, the Lower Bank and the Hanging Remnant (HR). The HR deposit has been suggested as being younger than the Lower Bank, although attempts at dating it have either relied on inferences from faunal assemblages or bounding flowstones (see Pickering et al. 2011). Recently, Kuman et al. (2021) have used cosmogenic nuclide dating to produce an age for the Lower Bank at ~2.2 Ma, which is coherent with past uranium series and cosmogenic dating results (Pickering et al. 2011; Gibbon et al. 2009). To build upon our chronological research of the Member 1 sedimentary unit, we proposed to use previously collected samples (permit# 2598) of natural chert and quartz clasts (non-artefactual), along with breccia debris to date the HR. Results will test the hypothesis that the HR is in fact younger than the Lower Bank and provide much needed insight into the accumulation history of the Member 1 infill at Swartkrans.

Dear Matthew,

RE: Permit Application for Destructive Sampling and Analysis of the Hanging Remnants Stratigraphic Unit at Swartkrans Cave, South Africa.

Thank you for your permit application for destructing sampling and analysis of hanging remnants stratigraphic unit at Swartkrans Cave, South Africa. SAHRA has successfully reviewed your application and approved it. Kindly note your permit is valid until 30 September 2022.

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

Elijah Dumisani Katsetse
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/579459>

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.