

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  
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Enquiries: Elijah Dumisani Katsetse

Tel: 0214624502

Email: ekatsetse@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 18996

Date: Thursday September 08, 2022

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## Letter

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

Attention: Zahra Haghighi

Centre for Early Sapiens Behaviour University of Bergen, Norway

The processes that have led human populations of the past to develop the cultural innovations that make us different from our phylogenetically closer relatives (e.g., making composite tools, creating symbolic items, developing numerical symbol systems etc.) are the subject of intense debate. The emergence of cultural innovations implying the use of organic material (resins for hafting, poison for hunting, binders to produce paints, etc.) are highly relevant to these debates since the preparation of such compounds is often cognitively demanding and complex to transmit to new generations. We know that complex organic compounds were produced by both Middle Stone Age (MSA) populations in Africa and Neanderthals in Europe and the Near East since at least 180 ka, but evidence for these innovations remains circumstantial.

Dear Zahra

#### **RE: Identification of Protein Residues from Material at Blombos Cave.**

Thank you for your permit application for the temporary export 39 archaeological material from Blombos Cave to identify protein residues. SAHRA has successfully reviewed your application and approved it. Kindly note your permit is valid until 30 September 2023.

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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# Identification of protein residues in several materials found at Blombos Cave

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Elijah Dumisani Katsetse  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

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## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/600502>

## 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.