



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 15161

Date: Wednesday January 20, 2021

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Final Comment

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

Attention: Mr Shaun Macgregor
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants
PO Box 9005
NELSPRUIT
1200

The dam remediation is to ensure the continued safe operation of this Category III dam and the stability of the main and right flank embankments and its foundations. The scope of construction works to be included in the rehabilitation and to be authorised is: 1. Stabilizing berm on the downstream face of the main embankment to RL 941.3 m, including approximately 30 000 m³ of earthworks, a new internal drainage system (sand & gravel filters, rock toe and drain pipes with inspection concrete manholes) and gabion retaining walls. 2. Subsoil pipe drains above the berm of 133 m length with inspection concrete manholes. 3. Raising of the right flank embankment to prevent overtopping and failure during large floods and to improve the stability of the embankment (earthworks to be confirmed).

Sappi Paper and Paper Packaging have appointed Ecoleges Environmental Consultants to undertake the Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Sappi Ngodwana Dam remediation on Farm Ngodwana 1030 JT located on a tributary of the Elands River, Mpumalanga Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (dBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014).

The water surface area of the dam at the Full Supply Level of 959.8 masl is 87 ha

The dam wall is going to have an expanded footprint 10 or more square metres. The access roads will require upgrading, including improvements to existing and creation of new watercourse crossings. There will be more than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation to be cleared as part of the scope of the project. These activities will take place within 32m of a watercourse, outside an urban area.



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Kudzala Antiquity CC and Professor Marion Bamford were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EA application as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Celliers, J.P. 2020. Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment on the farm Ngodwana 1030 JT in respect of proposed Remediation work to the Ngodwana Dam, Mpumalanga Province

No sites of archaeological or heritage significance was located. A number of survey orientation sites were mapped for survey purposes.

Recommendations

- The contractors and workers should be notified that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction work.
- Should any heritage artefacts be exposed during excavation, work on the area where the artefacts were discovered, shall cease immediately and the Environmental Control Officer shall be notified as soon as possible;
- All discoveries shall be reported immediately to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available, so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made. Acting upon advice from these specialists, the Environmental Control Officer will advise the necessary actions to be taken;
- Under no circumstances shall any artefacts be removed, destroyed or interfered with by anyone on the site; and
- Contractors and workers shall be advised of the penalties associated with the unlawful removal of cultural, historical, archaeological or palaeontological artefacts, as set out in the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999).

Bamford, M. 2020. Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed remediation project for Ngodwana Dam, Mpumalanga Province

The dam site lies on the non-fossiliferous lavas of the Godwan Group and the arenites and quartzites of the Black Reef Formation (basal Transvaal Supergroup). Based on experience and the lack of any previously recorded fossils from the area, it is extremely unlikely that any fossils would be preserved in the Black Reef Formation (basal Transvaal Supergroup). It is recommended that no palaeontological site visit is required and,



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as far as the palaeontology is concerned, the project may proceed. A Chance Find Protocol has attached and should be added to the EMPr

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA: 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;

- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
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The SAHRA notes the final BAR has already been submitted, it is therefore requested that the comments be sent to the decision making authority to be included as part of the Environmental Authorisation in a form of conditions.

The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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

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above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
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/537435>

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.