

Our Ref:



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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Interim Comment

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

Attention: SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd

On 14 June 2018 De Beers Consolidated Mines (Pty) Ltd (De Beers) lodged an application for a Prospecting Right with the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) to undertake offshore diamond prospecting activities in Sea Concession 6C (see Figure 1) . The application was lodged in terms of Section 22 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA), as amended. Sea Concession 6C is situated approximately 400 km north of Cape Town; with the inshore boundary located 5 km seaward of the coast between Hondeklip Bay in the south and Kleinsee in the north. The offshore boundary is located between approximately 70 to 100 km offshore (refer to Figure 1). Sea Concession 6C has a total extent of 345 746 hectares (ha).

The South African Heritage Resources Agency would like to thank you for submitting the Draft Scoping Report for the Environmental Impact Assessment for Bulk Sampling for Offshore Marine Diamonds, West Coast, South Africa.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA), Sections 2 and 35 stipulates that any wreck, being any vessel or aircraft or any part thereof older than 60 years old lying in South Africa's territorial waters or maritime cultural zone is protected and falls under the jurisdiction of SAHRA's Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit. These heritage sites or objects may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority.

SAHRA has previously commented on the Basic Assessment Report produced as part of the application for a prospecting right proposed to be undertaken in Sea Concession 6C which focused on the geophysical and sampling activity. The proposed bulk sampling application requires Environmental Authorisation and as such has triggered the need for a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

The need for a specialist study for the underwater cultural heritage was identified during the 2018 Basic Assessment report for the proposed geophysical and sampling activities. A Maritime and Cultural heritage Impact Assessment was produced and mitigation measures recommended.

De Beers offshore diamond prospecting activities in Sea Concession 6C, West Coast

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As part of the Draft Scoping Report it has been recommended that the Maritime HIA produced for the earlier stage of this work be included as a specialist study in the Environmental Impact Assessment. SAHRA supports this recommendation as the HIA addresses the area of the proposed work and is up to date with any recent developments. The HIA must set out any mitigation measures to avoid damage to any maritime cultural heritage during the proposed bulk sampling.

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

Yours faithfully

Briega Williams
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Lesla Grange
Acting Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/527475>

Terms & Conditions:

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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.