

2AFRICA (West) Submarine fibre optics cable system to be landed at Yzerfontein, South Africa

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Interim Comment

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

Attention: MTN (Pty) Ltd

Building 1 Commerce Square
39 Rivonia Road
Sandton
0046

Proposed 2AFRICA (West) submarine fibre optics cable system to be landed at Yzerfontein, Swartland Municipality, Western Cape

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) would like to thank you for submitting the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) for the proposed 2AFRICA (West) submarine fibre optics cable system to be landed at Yzerfontein, Swartland Municipality, Western Cape, South Africa.

As part of the Environmental Authorisation process a Scoping Report and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must be completed. The DSR has identified that a Heritage Assessment is to be undertaken as part of the process, and SAHRA supports this.

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.

There are no known wrecks at the landing site of the cable, however the proposed cable runs to the north of Dassen Island which has a large number of known wrecks in the waters surrounding it. Most of the wrecks are close to the island but there is a possibility that unrecorded wrecks may also lie in area of the proposed route north of the island.

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Further away from the island there are a number of modern wrecks (Apollo Sea (1994), Shing Tung Yong (1978) and St Gerard (1983)) that are recorded as possibly lying in the vicinity of the proposed route of the cable. While these are modern, care must be taken to avoid them as they are a potential hazard.

Due to the possibility that heritage resources may be present along the proposed route of the cable, the heritage assessment must include a specialist study of maritime heritage to be undertaken by a suitably qualified Maritime Archaeologist.

On page vii under the section Details of the Public Participation Process, SAHRA must be listed as a key stakeholder.

Section 8.6 indicates that survey data for the alignment of the subsea cable will be provided to the heritage specialist for review, this is supported by SAHRA as it is an important aid to inform the specialist report.

On Page 15 under Section 3.1.5 the last sentence of the last paragraph reads *"It must be noted that SAHRA is the relevant heritage authority for all heritage resources located under the low water mark of the sea up to a distance of 24 Nautical miles seaward from the high-water mark of the sea."* This sentence is somewhat confusing and should read *"SAHRA is the relevant heritage authority for all heritage resources located below the high-water mark of the sea up to a distance of 24 Nautical miles seaward."*

The applicant is advised that a comment on possible terrestrial heritage impacts from the relevant Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (PHRA) must be obtained in addition to this comment.

All correspondence and reports relating to this project must be uploaded to the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) to provide SAHRA with the opportunity to comment. SAHRA does not accept hard copy documents, links to documents, or documents received via post.

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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Briege Williams
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahrissahra.org.za/node/546465>

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.