

Appendix 7: Summary of TSWHS Management Documents

	Document Name	Description of Document
1.	Cultural Heritage Resources Survey (CHRS) for the Taung Skull National Heritage Site 2003	This document provides a well-annotated inventory of the full spectrum of cultural and natural heritage resources of the Taung site and environs, from geological and Precambrian fossil resources to the present. Natural heritage resources, both botanical and zoological, have also been included. Surviving aspects of 'Living Cultural Heritage', such as oral traditions, and indigenous knowledge systems such as ethno-botany, have likewise been recorded. Gaps in the current state of knowledge have been identified for all heritage components. Specialists have commented on the heritage significance, on the scientific and educational potential of heritage elements, and their possible value to envisaged future tourism. Existing threats and risks to the sites have been identified, and suggestions made as to how these might be managed. Finally, the site and all its heritage resources have been assessed for its future possible tourism potential. Since it is the conservation of site significance which drives the Conservation Management Plan, the information contained in the Cultural Heritage Resources Survey forms the crucial frame of reference for the Integrated Management Plan 2010.
2.	Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Taung Skull National Heritage Site 2004	This document provides an extended and elaborate list of management issues, with strategies and outcomes required to improve the conservation of heritage resources. The key management issues identified include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of World Heritage Values and meeting Convention obligations; • Compliance with National Heritage Status and World Heritage Status requirements; • Heritage Site Boundary and Fencing; • Link management of TSWHS to existing structures and previous initiatives; • Heritage Assets – protection, presentation and management issues; • Management of Biodiversity; • Site Specific Protection and Maintenance; • Management of Research; • Access Route; • Water Resource Management; and • Waste Management.
3.	Business Plan for Taung Skull World Heritage Site 2008	This document presents operating plans and costs and provides financial projections, measures for monitoring performance and a risk assessment. Three priority areas are identified for development, for which area sketch plans have been included, being the picnic site area, the entrance and parking area, and the monument area.
4.	Taung Skull World Heritage Site Integrated Management Plan (IMP) 2010 - 2015	This leading document provides an integrated approach to management, planning and implementation. The Implementation Plan identifies priority areas of intervention including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine research priorities; • Install competent Human Resources Capacity to execute management functions; • Upgrade infrastructure such as roads, water reticulation and site safety; • Finalise trails and pathways linking elements of the site; and • Conduct safety assessment and ensure risks are eliminated or mitigated.

	Document Name	Description of Document
5.	Biodiversity Report (as part of IMP 2010 - 2015)	<p>Certain management issues have been raised and these need to be turned into practical, action-orientated projects. These projects are identified and prioritised for the site and are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilise and make safe: unstable and loose areas need to be stabilised to make them safe for fauna and flora to colonise. A specialist will need to be appointed to plan, design and implement the construction of gabions and other structures to stabilise and make the site less hazardous for humans and other biota. • Fencing: it is crucial for the site to be fenced entirely and that this fence is patrolled continuously along with the removal and restriction of domestic animals from the Core Area. This should also help to control the extent of fuel-wood harvesting in the Core Area. • Introduce water points for domestic stock outside the Core Area and away from the river: it will be necessary to put watering points in place before erecting the fence. • Monitoring system for riparian conservation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Red Data species - population census of <i>Rennera stellata</i> or the Daisy; 2. Common reed beds - map of river structure and extent of current Phragmites beds; 3. Water quality - a range of sites to be established by a specialist to monitor water quality; and 4. Loose material stabilisation - construction of gabions to contain loose material and monitoring the extent of river bank vegetation recovery (this includes establishing habitat and if necessary to transplant cuttings of the endangered species into appropriate places). • Monitoring system for terrestrial conservation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alien clearing - alien clearing should target the Pepper trees (<i>Schinus molle</i>), for eradication. In the CHRS, it is suggested that it be preserved as part of the mining history. The wood is hard and durable and could be used for carving, making furniture or as firewood. Its use could be seen as an alternative to harvesting the indigenous trees from the site as is currently the case. - Recovery of unstable and disturbed areas - there are various methods that can be adopted for stimulating the recovery of unstable and barren areas. These should use manual labour if possible. On flat barren areas it is advised that the surface is loosened to make small one metre diameter shallow depressions in the soil scattered on the surface and that brush from the pepper trees is stacked on the ground in an attempt to add organic matter to the soil. This will increase the chance of various plants establishing in these places. • <i>Bio-prospecting</i>: Neighbouring communities have for many years been collecting fuel and medicinal plants from the TSWHS. It is essential that the Management Authority takes a decision on whether or not the continuation of this practice is allowed. From the biodiversity report, this is seen as an unsustainable practice and therefore it should either be stopped or controlled.

	Document Name	Description of Document
6.	Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Report (as part of IMP 2010 - 2015)	<p>The population in the vicinity of the Taung Skull World Heritage Site is rural in nature, with villages concentrated along the Thabasikwa River as well as scattered into the outlying areas. Altogether, there are over 100 villages consisting of more than 80 000 households and an estimated 250 000 people living in the Greater Taung Municipality. The community in the immediate surroundings of the Taung Skull World Heritage Site is an example of a rural community that is vulnerable to poverty, unemployment and destitution. An opportunity to develop the region arose through the discovery of the skull in 1924. The economic, social and human resources elements of the study area are therefore in desperate need of intervention and upliftment. Unemployment in the study area confirms this, with a high level of 57.8% of the sample population.</p> <p>Developmental initiatives are therefore required to effect the transformation of the region from a state of poverty and destitution to a state of livelihood sustainability. The study area in question is poor and rural in nature, and is characterised by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High unemployment; • A high proportion of income-poor households with high dependency levels; • A population with a low educational and skills base; • More than half (56.5%) of the sample population do not have access to transport, and reach their daily destinations on foot; • About 13% of the sample households do not have access to telephones; and • More than half (50.8%) of the sample households earn a maximum of R1000 per month, and 18.5% have no income at all. <p>The age profile statistics indicate a relatively young population, clustered between the 0-4 and the 25-29 age bands. With an overall economic growth rate in the region remaining very low, but with the population growth of economically active people, active efforts to enhance economic growth opportunities are needed in order to prevent increased vulnerability to poverty in this region.</p>
7.	Tourism Marketing Plan (as part of IMP 2010 - 2015)	<p>This document serves as a vehicle to analyse current tourism related developments and trends in and around the TSWHS, through site visits and research of primary and secondary resources. Based on this research and site visits, recommendations were made on the various tourism related aspects which will support the development and implementation of an IMP for the TSWHS. Discussions with various government officials with an interest in the site have identified opportunities through the site which can be summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a second economy through tourism; and • The establishment of public private partnerships.

	Document Name	Description of Document
8.	Water Management Plan (as part of IMP 2010 - 2015)	<p>This document provides a framework for sustainable water resource management for the Taung Skull World Heritage Site. The WMP also ensures compliance with the relevant legislative framework, primarily comprised of the Water Management Act and the National Environmental Management Act, and is designed to be embedded within the existing water resource management framework of the Water Management Authority (WMA) within the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality. The interaction and cooperation between the various role players in delivering a reliable and sustainable water supply to the site is clearly indicated.</p> <p>The site lies on a major Dolomitic zone, which makes it a favourable location for groundwater supply. Data from boreholes in the region indicate relatively high flow rates, in many cases exceeding five litres per second. Specific water quality concerns have been raised in the WMP, with certain water quality constituents measuring above acceptable levels for particular water uses (as per the Water Quality Guidelines of the Department of Water Affairs). These will need to be monitored with requisite interventions, as indicated in the WMP.</p> <p>Currently, the site is supplied from the same source that supplies the Buxton village, <i>via</i> a water supply tank situated on the site. The additional estimated future demand of ten cubic metres per day (m³/day) by the site is not expected to impact on the current demand by the Buxton village households (estimated at 98 m³/day). At the same time, the WMP presents options for improving the water supply system, in view of improving the reliability and security of the water supply to the site. These options have been translated in capital projects for implementation (as part of the Water Services Plan of the WMA). In addition to these capital projects, other cost items relate to associated human capital development, as well as monitoring and maintenance of the water supply system.</p>