



# AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

2001/077745/23

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2005-08-23

## **CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF 15 KM PROPOSED POWER LINE FROM MSAULI SUBSTATION TO JOSEFSDAL BARBERTON**

### **1. DEFINITION**

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of palaeontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

### **2. PHILOSOPHY**

Conservation as a worldwide practice stems from a long history of overexploitation made possible by Western technology and science. Conservation developed in reaction against overexploitation of mainly natural and later cultural resources. Western technology became an enemy of nature, leading to discord between nature and development.

In this sense development is a Western cultural expression. In the African context nature is culture. Places, animals and plants have cultural meanings and values. In this report African values with regard to plants and animals will be taken into consideration. The Western distinction between nature and culture is not made. Intangible heritage is far more important to African people than the tangible heritage, stories about

places, legends, beliefs and cultural processes are more important than objects or sites, which is preserved by Western concepts of conservation.

### **3, METHODOLOGY**

The site was visited and inspected on foot. All appropriate documents on the area were studied.

### **4. RESULTS**

The proposed power line follows the same route as an abandoned telephone line all along the dirt road, which links Diepgezet with Josefsdal Border post. The landscape is very mountainous with steep inclines, which makes human occupation difficult (see photograph 1).

Only one small archaeological site was found in a saddle of the mountain at S25° 51' 57.3" and E31° 04' 31.1". The site consists of one small stonewall circle of approximately 2.5 metre in diameter (see photograph 2).

The proposed power line will pass on the western side of this site, at a distance of some 30-metres. The proposed power line will not have any impact on the site (see attached map).

No other important archaeological or historical sites could be found on the proposed route.

### **5. CONCLUSION**

Only one small archaeological site was found some 30-metre away from the proposed power line.

### **6. RECOMMENDATION**

There is no objection from a cultural heritage resources point of view to the continuation of the power line.

## PHOTOGRAPHS



**No. 1 Mountain landscape with abandoned telephone line visible on the left**



**No. 2 Small archaeological site**

DASHED RED LINE INDICATES POWERLINE ROUTE

