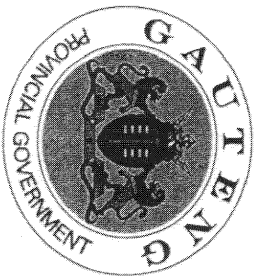


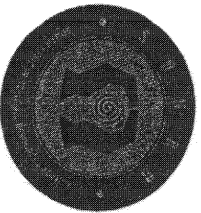
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FOSSIL SITE INSPECTION
Kromdraai Report
May 2007



Cradle of Humankind®
World Heritage Site



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE
RESOURCES AGENCY

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SITE INSPECTION TEAM

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This document presents the outcome of the fifth Monitoring and Evaluation site inspections of the thirteen fossil sites of the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site (COH WHS) carried out between 7 and 11 May 2007.
2. The May 2007 Fossil Site inspection was commissioned by the Management Authority (COH WHS MA) for the COH WHS (Currently the Office of the CEO, Blue IQ Projects, Department of Finance and Economic Affairs) and was carried out by officials of the COH WHS MA, Mr P Mills and Mr J Sibanyoni; Ms M Leslie from the national office of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA); Ms J Kitso from the Gauteng office of SAHRA; Mr E Seamark of the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment (GDACE) and, on occasion, Dr. K Mbatha and Ms M Langa from GDACE, and Dr J Maguire, a professional specialist service provider
3. The brief remains unchanged from previous reporting exercises, namely:
 - a) To carry out inspections of the thirteen fossil sites with comprehensive reporting on site conditions
 - b) To make recommendations on issues identified based on best practice
 - c) To develop a checklist for each fossil site for use in future Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) inspections
 - d) To provide advice and inputs into the compulsory Periodic Reporting required by UNESCO from the COH WHS MA.
4. The results of the site inspection are reported in a 3-part document for each site: an introductory section dealing with generic issues which are common to most of the fossil sites; a site-specific report for each site which provides an update on the previous report and notes new issues that have arisen, and a cumulative checklist of monitoring criteria for each site.
5. Continuity is provided by carrying forward all unattended issues from previous reports into the current report.
6. On account of administrative delays, the report generated by the October 2006 site inspection had not yet been actioned at the time of the current inspection, resulting in many of the issues, whether generic or site-specific, remaining unchanged. These have been carried forward into this report as items in the cumulative checklists, and generic issues as yet unattended have been listed in the 'list of actions required' prepared for each management role-player presented below. Generic issues, with the exception of those that are new, have not been discussed again in detail as such detail is available in the October 2006 report.
7. New generic issues include:
 - a) The process of scrutiny, comment, approval and circulation of site inspection reports
 - b) Policy issues which affect site management
 - c) The presence of resident farm workers within the fossil sites (not a new issue but some developments)
 - d) The need to foster palaeontological research and palaeontologists
 - e) The requirement for annual site safety inspections of the caves and fossil sites – timing of inspections by the site safety officer
 - f) Cave monitoring equipment for use in subterranean environments

- g) Tourism: Tour operators and tourists on the fossil sites
- h) The erection of site plaques (not new, but there have been some new developments)
- i) Updating the site management plans, which process is now seen as incorporating the generic issues of the need for site plans, status quo reports, photographic and document archives
- j) The Heritage Agreements, which are due for revision shortly

SITE INSPECTION PROCESS

The Site Inspection Process will in future entail the submission of a draft site inspection report, by the specialist service provider, to the site inspection team for comment within 5 working days of inspection. Team members will return the report with comments within 5 working days, with collated comments from the COH WHS MA and GDACE, which field more than one site inspection official. The service provider will collate and include comments and return the final document to the COH WHS MA, within 3 working days. The final version of the report will be approved by the CEOs of the COH WHS MA and SAHRA prior to circulation to landowners and scientists. Issues relevant to each site will be communicated to the landowners by the COH WHS MA and to the scientists by SAHRA, immediately after the approval of the report.

ISSUES FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Arising from the fossil site inspections the COH WHS MA will give attention to the following mostly generic issues, old and new:

- a) A review of policy to change the perception of the declared fossil sites from ‘privately-owned land’ to ‘irreplaceable part of the national estate’
- b) Addressing the issue of resident farm workers within the heritage boundaries of certain fossil site properties, in conjunction with the Department of Housing and the relevant Local Authorities.
- c) To initiate dialogue (with GDACE) to ensure that landowners comply with the terms of the Heritage Agreement (HA), particularly with regard to control of alien invasive plants, weeds, fire control, littering and education of resident communities (‘duty of care’, HA, Clause 2.1)
- d) Proactive planning of the changes needed in an updated version of the HA, especially with regard to the turn-around time of fossil site inspection reports
- e) Engagement with landowners regarding frequency and timing of the site inspections
- f) Decisions regarding the obligatory cave and fossil site safety inspections, remembering to make a recommendation that the ensuing site safety reports become Annexures to the Fossil Site Inspection report (HA, clauses 6.1.3 and 6.1.4)
- g) A review of appropriate cave monitoring requirements, equipment, and recording of data (with GDACE). This would include the bat monitoring equipment needed at Gladysvale.
- h) Proactive planning to compile an updated version of the site management plans ahead of submission of the Periodic Report to UNESCO in 2009. This should include proper site plans, a status quo report and the beginnings of an archive of photographs for each site.

The COH WHS MA will also consider the following issues:

- a) The need to promote scientific research and palaeontologists. Cessation of or lack of research would be seen as a threat to the long-term sustainability of the COH WHS
- b) Recommendations to tour operators on the fossil sites (mostly permitted scientists) with regard to authorization, accreditation and compliance with the terms of the HA and insurance requirements – some are obliged to do this to support their research

- c) Addressing the need to incorporate recording and documentation of the COH WHS mining heritage: Iron Age sites, lime-mining and old wagon routes into planning
- d) Protecting 'sense of place' not only within each fossil site but the viewshed from each site
- e) Consideration of the presentation of the full suite of heritage values present in the COH WHS which currently omits mining and natural assets

ISSUES FOR THE ATTENTION OF SAHRA

Arising from the fossil site inspections SAHRA will give attention to the following mostly generic issues, old and new:

- a) Planning for the technical workshop with permit holders, past and present. Key issues to be discussed are listed in section 2.2.2.6 below
- b) Submission of details of selected plaque erection sites as per agreed priority list for approval by landowners where applicable.
- c) Permit applications for site plaques to be erected
- d) Relocation and permanent marking of heritage boundary site beacons – decide on a priority list
- e) SAHRA will collate available data for site plans for the fossil sites as submitted to SAHRA permitting committee by permit holders, for use in updated management plans, and compilation of site plans. Further information may need to be sought by the MA who may need to provide surveyed diagrams. SAHRA will also collate a photographic archive from SAHRA records at all inspections and other photographs that can be acquired
- f) Draw up a checklist by which problematic vegetation can be identified in excavation areas, brecciated pits and old kilns – a 'justification for eradication' guideline.
- g) Arrange for the annual cave and fossil site safety inspection (with COH WHS MA as per clause 6.1.3 and 6.1.4 of the HA).
- h) Inputs into a Signage Policy which relates specifically to the fossil sites but also to the COH WHS environment
- i) Investigate having the requirements for management of the fossil sites written into the title deed of the property so that these do not have to be renegotiated each time a property is sold

ISSUES FOR THE ATTENTION OF LANDOWNERS

It is recommended that the following mostly generic issues, old and new, receive attention by the landowners:

- a) Control of alien vegetation and weeds
- b) Control of littering and dumping of waste – provisions for waste management to be discussed
- c) Explaining the heritage values and appropriate behaviour to resident workers where applicable
- d) The need for proper fire management
- e) Approval and written consent of landowner for tourism on the property where applicable.
- f) Updating the agreements with current and future permit holders when the HA comes up for review
- g) Control over movement of local residents that might adversely affect fossil site integrity – includes housing on or near the sites.

ISSUES FOR THE ATTENTION OF PERMIT HOLDERS

It is recommended that the following mostly generic issues, old and new, receive attention by the permit holders:

- a) It is recommended that SAHRA request that the permit holders record all dumps within the fossil site and annotate them according to whether or not they were there prior to commencing their excavation, or whether they were generated by the permit holder. All dumps to be annotated according to history, source and content.
- b) It is recommended that SAHRA collate what has been submitted regarding witness sections at those sites which are being actively worked, and request the permit holders to provide information, where deficient. Permit holders to respond
- c) Site plans: permit holders often have the best available site plans. It is recommended that SAHRA request updates on site plans submitted with new permit applications.

ISSUES FOR THE ATTENTION OF GDACE

It is recommended that GDACE give attention to the following issues:

- a) Compiling of a set of guidelines for the removal of trees from sensitive heritage sites, a supervision process and follow-up monitoring. Details in section 2.1, recommendation 3
- b) Compiling a guideline document for the use of herbicides on heritage sites, the supervision process and follow-up monitoring. Details in section 2.1, recommendation 2
- a) Engaging with landowners via the COH WHS MA to ensure that the terms of the Heritage Agreement are adhered to.

I INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the site monitoring and evaluation inspection programme is to safeguard the heritage values of the sites, to check compliance with the Heritage Agreement and the accepted Site Management Plans, and to check for, note and make recommendations on new issues arising.

1.1 INSPECTION TEAM STRUCTURE AND SITE INSPECTION PROCESS

If the permit holder and/or landowner were available on site, they were given an opportunity to discuss progress of their research work and excavation, or problems experienced as a landowner. The Site Inspection team would observe research work in progress, ask questions and any problem areas were noted and captured on the cumulative checklist.

The permit holders are in a privileged position to give inputs as to problems that are being encountered as often these would not be apparent to someone just visiting the site, for example, the problem of warthogs damaging the excavation at one of the sites. The inspection team would not guess this. Scientists are generally in a better position to draw the attention of monitors to issues that may threaten the heritage value of the sites. They also need to be present to comment on issues that may affect the heritage value of the sites, for example to point out that applying chemicals to the breccias to eradicate weeds may not be appropriate. This emphasizes that it is essential to have permit holders present at the site inspection and this is a prerequisite for in-depth, meaningful reportage. It is equally important to have landowners present at the site inspection and they must be encouraged to attend these meetings at least once a year as this enhances good relations and co-operative management of the sites.

It is also important that both authorities are represented at all site visits, or this may cause misunderstandings at subsequent visits.

At site inspections the monitoring and evaluation team would then go through the cumulative checklist with the permit holder and landowner if they were present and note progress or completion of issues in hand and capture new issues. The site inspection team could consult together and with the scientists make notes for inclusion in the next report.

Every site has administrative (COH WHS MA), environmental (GDACE), heritage (SAHRA), site safety, landowner, permit holder and scientific issues to be dealt with. It is therefore essential that representatives of the COH WHS MA, GDACE, and SAHRA, the permit holder (essential) and preferably the landowner be present at every inspection. A site safety officer would be useful at several of the key sites where site safety is an issue.

It is recommended that at future site inspections the team be supplemented by the site safety inspector for at least as long as it takes to inspect for this at each site. The site safety report can then become part of the Fossil Site Inspection report. This aspect is not equally important for all sites and should be prioritized.

1.2 STRUCTURE OF REPORT AND THE NEED FOR CONTINUITY

This site inspection report comprises three sections: an introductory section which provides an executive summary and discusses new generic issues – those issues which affect several or all of the sites. New generic issues are discussed in some detail, and unattended old generic issues are

carried over from previous reports into the cumulative checklists for each site. In this way, continuity is maintained, progress reported, and the need, where appropriate, for ongoing monitoring recorded.

Maintaining the checklist by updating from one report to the next is crucial in order that items do not 'drop off the Agenda'. The checklist, as a record of what is happening and what needs to happen on each site becomes the backbone for site management plans.

2 GENERIC ISSUES AFFECTING THE FOSSIL SITES IN THE CRADLE OF HUMANKIND

2.1 POLICY ISSUES WHICH AFFECT MANAGEMENT ON THE GROUND

Each State Party to the World Heritage Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory belongs primarily to the State (Article 4). Article 5 requires that appropriate financial (amongst others) measures be taken for the protection, *conservation, rehabilitation and presentation* of this heritage.

Five Fossil Site Inspections have taken place (September 2004, February 2005, August 2005, October 2006 and May 2007) and a number of issues still require attention. The issues identified in the five reports as requiring attention remain almost identical. The COH WHS MA and SAHRA have undertaken to ensure that the Fossil Site Inspections and the ensuing 'Management' are not just a bureaucratic paper exercise and that the fossil site inspections result in positive outcomes in the areas of conservation, rehabilitation and presentation.

The inspection team would not guess this. The following challenges require creative solutions:

- 1) Particularly in the case of the COH WHS MA and GDACE, public sector policy limits public money being spent on private land. Unlike most (if not all) the other World Heritage Sites in South Africa and indeed elsewhere in the world, the fossil sites of the COH WHS happen to be situated on private land. A policy review is needed with respect to the landowner 'duty of care' and the public responsibility to safeguard an 'irreplaceable national heritage asset'
- 2) The areas that the designated fossil sites themselves cover are small. Personnel, expertise and resources are available within GDACE, to manage several relatively minor environmental issues such as checking for Red Data species, snares, control of alien invasive plants and removing certain indigenous trees which are impacting on heritage fabric. Consideration of increased use of the personnel and expertise of GDACE to enhance the management of the designated fossil sites would be of value.
- 3) Before any alteration of the fabric of the declared sites can be undertaken, a permit from SAHRA is required. Submission by GDACE of a 'Tree removal policy within the fossil sites" and a "Use of herbicides policy within the fossil sites" which sets out the circumstances, manner and supervision of tree removal and the same for the use of poisons (it was recognized that no chemicals of any kind should be deployed within the brecciated areas of fossil sites) would be of value. SAHRA would need to approve these. Any delay for this process to reach finality could mean further deterioration of heritage assets will occur. The need for a SAHRA permit to effect changes on the fossil sites need

not inhibit landowners from doing anything and permitted scientists (where these exist) often apply on the behalf of landowners. As indicated elsewhere in the report, it is therefore important for landowners to attend site meetings.

- 4) Lack of implementation of the accepted Management Plan is considered a 'potential danger' (paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention). The management plan ascribes certain responsibilities to various parties and implementation of these responsibilities is a priority.

2.2 ADMINISTRATIVE OBLIGATIONS: HERITAGE AGREEMENT

The purpose of the Heritage Agreement is to provide for implementation of the site management plans. The objectives listed include conservation and total protection of the National Heritage Site, and its appropriate use, improvement and presentation.

2.2.1 THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE COH WHS MA

2.2.1.1 Annual report to SAHRA

Clause 2.4 of the Heritage Agreement requires that GDACE (responsibility since transferred to the COH WHS MA) submit a report at least annually to SAHRA. This report needs to address the following:

- a) Issues relevant to the National Heritage Sites of the COH WHS, the maintenance of their heritage value and their interpretation
- b) Achievements
- c) Agreements undertaken with landowners
- d) Problems that have arisen in respect of management
- e) Potential areas of concern requiring further co-operation and management
- f) The management of tourism and other impacts upon these sites and the potential for funds derived from tourism to be used to maintain the sites
- g) Contributions to scientific endeavours through the Trust
- h) Areas of concern with regard to compliance with and implementation of the management plans

It is clear that this reporting (called for in terms of clause 2.4 of the HA) is not the same as the Site Inspection Report as mentioned in clause 6.5.2 of the HA, as pointed out by the SAHRA representative on the team. SAHRA would like to be kept informed of administrative and other changes to site management structures as part of such a report.

Recommended action:

- a) It is recommended that the COH WHS MA send the required reports, and that SAHRA ensure that such reports have been received and are on file

2.2.1.2 Updating of the Heritage Conservation Management Plan ("The Management Plan")

SAHRA requires that Heritage Conservation Management plans are drawn up for all National Heritage Sites and that these are updated at least every 5 (five) years. It is not clear whether or not

this dates from the date of acceptance by SAHRA of the management plan as the Heritage Conservation Management Plan or from the date of signature of the Heritage Agreements, or from the date of acceptance of the management plan by the World Heritage Committee. Whatever the case, the updated management plan is due or almost due. Clause 3.5 of the HA notes that the review and updating of the Management Plan is a COH WHS MA function, in consultation with SAHRA.

The four (and with the current report, five) existing Fossil Site Inspection Reports, collation of the information included in the permit applications and the photographic archive that is being developed will go a long way towards compiling the required update.

Recommended action:

- a) It is recommended that the COH WHS MA take steps to ensure that an updated version of the management Plan is compiled. Submission date is ahead of the ICOMOS site inspection, due in 2009.
- b) It is recommended that the site plans and status quo reports together with the archive of monitoring photographs be compiled as soon as possible. The details of what is required have been noted in the October 2006 report and need not be repeated here
- c) SAHRA has indicated that it will collate available information on site plans submitted by permit holders for those sites that are being actively worked. Scientists can also be requested to submit published work as this is in any case a condition of the permit. Details concerning witness sections should be included. It will also set up an archive of photos taken during site visits
- d) It is recommended that steps be put in place by the COH WHS MA to acquire suitable site plans for those sites which have no active researcher. This exercise should start with a 'gap analysis' – see exactly what is required by doing the collation first.

2.2.2 THE OBLIGATIONS OF SAHRA

2.2.2.1 Annual Site Safety Inspection: Caves and National Heritage Sites

Clauses 6.1.3 and 6.1.4 of the Heritage Agreement call for the COH WHS MA and SAHRA to appoint inspectors to undertake inspections of the safety of caves and to inspect the safety of the National Heritage Sites. Such specialist personnel are expensive. The suggestion was raised that the Safety Inspector be present with the other team members and the permit holder (where applicable) at the site inspection of some of the key sites. The reason for this is that the permit holders often know the site very well and can best point out problematic areas without time being wasted by an outsider looking for these. SAHRA needs to know what safety interventions might be necessary. The Site safety official might consult with the team, inspect the site, and then leave.

Sites with no active permit holder are less problematic in that worked faces do not constitute a danger, or they have relatively stable subterranean areas. The Site Safety inspector can visit these with a GDACE or MA official.

Site safety reports should be filed together with the Fossil Site Inspection reports. This has not been done in the past, so that this element of monitoring and reporting is missing from the fossil site reports.

- Recommended action:
- a) It is recommended that the COH WHS MA and SAHRA ensure that the annual Site safety inspections of caves and of the National Heritage Sites take place and that the reports appear as an Appendix to the Fossil Site Inspection Report.

2.2.2.2 *Distribution of Excavation permits*

SAHRA has undertaken to furnish both the COH WHS MA and the Landowner with copies of any excavation permit within 30 days of issuing such a permit.

Recommended action:

- a) It is recommended that the COH WHS MA ensure that copies of excavation permits forwarded by SAHRA become part of the archive that is being developed for each fossil site as in effect, the excavation permits are a record of the systematic excavation (and inevitable destruction) of the fossil deposits. Such records, together with permit holders' reports, are necessary for the compilation of the updated management plans and Periodic Reporting required by UNESCO and SAHRA would need to be involved in this process.

2.2.2.3 *Site beacons*

Site beacons were not established as part of the original survey of the sites. Considerable expense was incurred in surveying in the points defining the extent of the fossil sites. At many places, boundary markers could not be found, and at others, the markers were merely a stick painted white stuck into the ground (which will burn off in veld fires) or a small pile of stones painted white. As the HA (Clause 5.1) states that "The National Heritage Site will be officially surveyed and the boundaries marked with beacons as specified in the NHRA, by SAHRA" this responsibility now falls to SAHRA. All the sites need to be permanently marked in some way, preferably with an inconspicuous low beacon and metal dropper, or by a flat cement disk with steel dropper if this is acceptable in terms of the NHRA. The mode of marking will also need the approval of the landowner, and SAHRA.

There are two aspects to this task: re-location, and permanent marking.

Recommended action:

- a) The co-ordinates for the site boundary are recorded on the site survey diagrams. It is recommended that the beacons be re-located using a GPS as a first guide. Then the surrounding area should be examined for surveyor's markings.
- b) It is recommended that this be done at the same time as the site plans are established by the COH WHS MA and possibly by the same person *so that the site plans can be related to the site boundary* – similar skills are involved
- c) Before such a task is outsourced an attempt should be made using a GPS to relocate the original beacons some of which may merely be concealed by vegetation. This could be done by GDACE and would save professional time and help with defining the TOR for a surveyor or similar contractor

2.2.2.4 Site plaques

Site plaques are a SAHRA responsibility. The SAHRA representative has the matter in hand. SAHRA has had the text of the site plaques approved by the scientists. Plaques have already been mounted at Sterkfontein and Motsetse. Plaques will need to be mounted vertically or near-vertically in a protected position. Positions for plaques have been chosen at most sites and a priority list drawn up so that plaques can be installed as funds become available – see individual site reports.

Recommended action:

- a) SAHRA has compiled a list of sites that need to be prioritized and will need to make provision for a budget for these
- b) The positions for most plaques have been agreed between SAHRA and the scientists but as most landowners were not at the meetings, SAHRA will need to confirm their approval, except where this has already been done.

2.2.2.5 Reporting on researchers in terms of the permit conditions

After each inspection report has been approved, SAHRA will, as necessary, communicate with the APMHOB permit committee and will send letter to the scientist explaining what needs to be addressed in terms of the permitted conditions, together copy of the report.

2.2.2.6 The SAHRA workshop with permit holders, past and present

SAHRA has already convened workshops with the permitted scientists, addressing various issues that have arisen and during the October 2006 Fossil Site Inspection report it was agreed that at the next workshop, planned 2007, several issues concerning excavation and research taking place on the fossil sites would be discussed.

Recommended action:

The programme will be set by SAHRA after discussion with the scientists. SAHRA has indicated it may include the following items for discussion at the workshop:

- a) Promotion of palaeontological research in the cradle:
 - i. Concerns and possibilities
 - ii. Students and transformation
- b) Stabilization:
 - i. Friable excavation walls in decalcified breccia
 - ii. Friable excavation edges
- c) Closure procedures after pausing or discontinuing an excavation:
 - i. Backfilling: materials and methods
 - ii. The use of different types of sandbag and discussion of when are sandbags called for or other methods available?
- d) The choice and rationale for selecting witness sections:
- e) Sampling protocols:
 - i. Sampling procedures (physical) for different sample types
 - ii. Recording of sample sites (what are all those holes?)
 - iii. Curation of sample remainders and 'other halves' for independent verification
 - iv. Export permits for samples tested overseas

- v. Central archiving of sampling results (dating)
- f) Permits and Export Permits
- g) Contribution to Site Plan
- h) Photographic archives to record change
- i) Methodology pros and cons, use of drills for removing fossils acid preparation, etc.
- j) Dumps: the best way to construct them, the best way to record their status
- k) Recording techniques, old and new
- l) Preserving and archiving organic remains

2.2.3 THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE LANDOWNER

The landowner has a duty of care in terms of the Heritage Agreement and the landowner is required to adhere to regulations for the management of Conservation, Environment, Water and Agriculture. This includes the control of alien vegetation, weeds and littering on the property. In the case of many properties, weeds, alien vegetation, littering and uncleared rubble remains an unaddressed problem. Educating workers with regard to appropriate sanitary and littering behaviour is also necessary.

Recommended action:

- a) The COH WHS MA address this ongoing management issue by engaging with the landowner to encourage that action should be taken in this regard. The terms of the HA (clause 7.4) state that clearing may be done by any one of the other parties (other than the party in default, e.g. the landowner) and the costs recovered, but this has never been done. A follow-up strategy for those landowners who do not attend to litter, builders' rubble, invasive aliens, etc should be implemented. Such issues are perennials on the site inspection reports.

2.3 RESIDENT COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE FOSSIL SITE BOUNDARIES

The issue of resident communities within the fossil sites is a looming problem. Working partnerships to achieve the protection of World Heritage values in areas of multiple land use together with environmental preservation and rehabilitation will need to be implemented.

The problems associated with the issue of internal residents are unrestricted access to fossil sites, site security, sanitation and waste management, littering, dumping, environmental impacts such as fire, and on-site infrastructure, which may be inadequate or inappropriate. It also raises the issue of community benefits, which need to be addressed in terms of both the World Heritage Convention and the local NHRA.

The issues of resident communities at the site-specific level are discussed in the relevant site reports and cumulative checklists.

Recommended action:

- a) It is recommended that the COH WHS MA address the issue of resident communities within the fossil sites using existing policies, legislation and resources available jointly with the Department of Housing and the Local Authorities

2.4 MONITORING SUBTERRANEAN ENVIRONMENTS

Sites with subterranean environments which are utilized by researchers, students and tourists are relevant here. The subterranean environments require monitoring for a variety of factors, not only CO₂ concentrations. There are several important areas for monitoring including the cave atmosphere, the surface of speleothems and the substrate condition, all of which will provide indicators of tourist impacts on cave environment. A fourth area for monitoring is bats and the cave biota, macro and micro.

Recommended action:

- a) It is recommended that the COH WHS MA contact an international tourist cave expert and a cave inspector for information on appropriate monitoring equipment for monitoring these caves.

2.5 EXISTING AND EXPECTED TOURISM WITHIN THE FOSSIL SITES

It has come to the attention of the site inspection team that several of the permit holders operate tourism 'businesses' on the heritage site for which they are permitted as well as on other fossil sites for which they may not have permits. Some have websites which advertise their tours.

However, the Heritage Agreement has several clauses which place restrictions on the manner in which tourism may be conducted on the Heritage Sites. The content of these clauses may be summarized as follows:

- a) Any tourism operator must have the written consent of the Landowner
- b) Consent to operate tours, in the form of a contract, must be sought from the COH WHS MA in which the terms, conditions and obligations of operation are specified.
- c) Other terms will include that the tourism operator will be accountable for the discipline, behaviour and safety of the tourists and visitors whom the operator brings to the site
- d) Sections 10 and 11 of the HA deal with provisions for liability loss and damage, and insurance. The HA requires tourism operators to provide for Public Liability insurance cover for an amount of not less than R1 000 000.00, with written proof
- e) Adequate infrastructure in accordance with a permit issued by SAHRA to ensure the protection of the sites from the impacts of tourism and for the comfort and safety of tourists is required
- f) Records of tourist numbers must be kept and submitted to SAHRA and to the COH WHS MA for reporting purposes.
- g) The impacts of tourism must be monitored and monthly data forwarded to SAHRA and the COH WHS MA on a six monthly basis.
- h) The tour guide should be registered with the Gauteng Tourism Authority and the tour guides should be trained in terms of accredited courses recognized by the Gauteng Tourism Authority or SETA.

As tourist guides, the permit holders would almost certainly qualify for RPL status, that is, 'recognition of prior learning', but there are many other unit standards and outcomes in the tourist guide training course which would not normally be part of the permit holders expertise, such as a valid First Aid Certificate, Level One. Without such a certificate, registration cannot take place.

However, it is almost certain that the permit holders are unaware of the terms of the HA tourist guide registration compliance details and should be informed of these. They should be requested to provide details of their tourism operations. This is also required to record tourist numbers and to monitor the impact of tourism, if any, on the sites.

Recommended action:

- a) It is recommended that the COH WHS MA take up the issue of tourism with tour operators and/or tour guiding or both with the permit holders and anyone else who takes tourists onto the sites. Such activities need to be in accordance with the requirements of the HA and management plan.

2.6 THE NEED TO FOSTER RESEARCH AND RESEARCHERS

A recent study commissioned by the Department of Science and Technology (2004, see list of references) suggests that the number of formal palaeontological posts has halved over the last 10 years, and this from a very small starting level. There are today simply very few posts to be had, as Universities are obliged to rationalize and combine or close Departments and Museums also. Well-trained and experienced palaeontologists competent to do excavation on hard breccia deposits at World Heritage Sites are consequently very scarce. Paleontologists and their research are crucial to the Cradle of Humankind – without their input there would be no story to tell, no site significance, and nothing of interest to show or tell.

Recommended action:

It is recommended that ways and means of fostering and facilitating research be used wherever possible, and steps be taken to assist researchers to achieve their research goals.

2.7 STATUS QUO REPORT, SITE PLANS, PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

These generic issues have been discussed under section 2.2.1.2. The items required to be committed to the site plans have been listed in the October 2006 Fossil Site Inspection report.

3 SITE REPORT FOR KROMDRAAI

The May 2007 Fossil Site inspection was commissioned by the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site Management Authority (COH WHS MA) - currently the Office of the CEO, Blue IQ Projects, Department of Finance and Economic Affairs) and was carried out by officials of the COH WHS MA, Mr P Mills and Mr J Sibanyoni; Mrs M Leslie from the national office of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA); Ms J Kitto from the Gauteng office of SAHRA; Mr E Seamark of the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment (GDACE), Dr. K Mbatha and Ms M Langa from GDACE, and Dr J Maguire, a professional service provider.

Dr Francis Thackeray's permit for the site expired in June 2006. However it has been extended to the end of July to enable SAHRA to process his current application. No active excavation was

carried out at the site, either at Kromdraai A or Kromdraai B. Dr Thackeray was available on site at the time of the fossil site inspection visit and was able to clarify a number of issues.

Unavoidable administrative delays in distributing the October 2006 fossil site inspection reports has resulted in few of the issues noted being actioned. Unaddressed issues have been carried forward into the current report and as a consequence the two reports differ in only slight details. Progress that has been made on both generic and site-specific issues has been noted in the text and cumulative checklist.

3.1 KEY ISSUES AT KROMDRAAI

1. Many issues are arising due to the death of the site caretaker, who is no longer there to oversee the site. Theft of equipment is a problem and a generator and power drills have been stolen from the storage shed on site. This is a serious loss to the excavation programme.
2. The pit toilet has been filled in and the hole covered. The permit holder has been requested to remove the remains of the structure that were lying around and to level the site and seed with *Cynodon* which will soon cover all traces.
3. The site for the WHS plaque was re-located and photographed
4. The researcher pointed out the preserved witness section and noted that much of the site stratigraphy has been published
5. The site is backfilled and neat. Grass had been encouraged to grow on trench fillings
6. Unstable decalcified breccia has been backfilled and sandbagged. The decay of the sandbags due to UV was noted (Kromdraai A) and the researcher will attend to this.
7. The green metal huts mentioned in the management plan will be removed in time, but they still have a function to perform
8. The wire-mesh store has been ear-marked for a simple on-site museum in order that the site can be interpreted for tourists and visitors
9. The researcher has repaired the road as best as he is able
10. The researcher has undertaken to furnish the team with as much information concerning the history of the site, including mining history, as possible.
11. The large pile of dumped builders' rubble has been removed from outside the front gate
12. It would appear that the cow issue is not as serious as it was at Coopers and that a fence around the excavation is not necessary
13. A toilet will be brought in if further research is to be undertaken

3.2 GENERIC ISSUES AT KROMDRAAI

These remain largely unchanged since the last report.

1. Permanent site beacons demarcating the heritage boundary are necessary. These need to be re-located and permanently marked
2. A suitable place for a plaque on a cairn has been selected and photographed. The permission of the landowner will need to be sought.
3. Site plan for management purposes (see generic issues Section 2.1.4, October 2006 report)
4. A site status quo report describing site conditions and stage of excavation, including photographic archive against which change can be assessed is required.
5. There is a need to review the Site Specific management plan and update it as it is 5 years old.
6. Site safety – compliance with terms of Heritage Agreement clause 6.2.2 required.
7. Stabilisation of excavation edges – not presently a problem but needs to be considered – see checklist
8. Stabilisation of high excavation faces – see checklist

9. Stabilization of abandoned excavations and ongoing work faces - not yet a major problem at Kromdraai where the excavations are not deep – see checklist
10. Sampling procedures and protocol (see Generic Issues section 2.4, October 2006 report)
11. Criteria for the selection, recording and preservation of witness sections – see checklist
12. Recording of mining history of site
13. Compliance with Heritage Agreement clauses
14. Compliance with requirements of World Heritage Convention

Recommendations concerning generic issues are listed in the cumulative checklist for the site – see appendix.

3.3 SITE-SPECIFIC ISSUES AT KROMDRAAI

3.2.1 INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING WORKERS' TOILET

The resident caretaker died recently and the premises are unoccupied. The toilet has not been replaced with an Enviroloo.

Recommendation:

- a) As research goes on at Kromdraai from time to time, the erection of an Enviroloo on a suitable site needs to be pursued. A permit to erect such a structure must be procured from SAHRA.
- b) The fate of the present infrastructure should be reconsidered in terms of recommendations made in the original management plan and particularly in view of the fact that they are no longer occupied. Comment: The pit toilet has been removed and the site is in the process of being rehabilitated. Toilets will be brought in when work re-commences

3.2.2 SAPLINGS IN EXCAVATION AREAS

The site was neat and tidy but there are new saplings sprouting in the excavation areas.

The re-growth of saplings needs to be controlled. Since there is not at present a researcher on site, this task will have to be attended by GDACE or SAHRA. The researcher has agreed to control the sapling growth which he can see is going to become a problem to the conservation of the site.

3.2.3 SAMPLING PROCEDURE

There are a great number of sampling holes in the breccias. These need to be committed to plan or recorded in some way, in order that independent verification of results is possible. Samples sent overseas require a permit from SAHRA and a record of the repository of samples needs to be kept, as well as details of sample remainders.

Recommended action:

- a) Protocol for sampling procedure needs to be drawn up by SAHRA. Researcher to be invited to attend workshop on excavation and research issues to be convened by SAHRA.

3.2.4 APPROACH ROAD

This is very eroded. This road is primarily to give access to the fossil site and is not used by the landowner. Therefore it becomes the responsibility of the permit holder. Dr Thackeray had in fact upgraded the road as best as he was able and it was in a much improved condition relative to the previous site inspection, however his permit has expired and therefore he can no longer be held responsible for maintenance which is an ongoing problem.

Recommended action:

- a) SAHRA to investigate and effect repairs in terms of clause 9.3.2 of the Heritage Agreement - there is no researcher on site at present. The matter should be reviewed as a policy issue.

3.4 ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE COH WHS MA

1. Although site safety is not an issue at this site, an annual site safety inspection seems to be obligatory
2. The site management plan requires an update
3. A site plan required for management and reporting purposes
4. Photographic archive for the site needs to be set up
5. Status quo report needs to be set in motion

3.5 ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY SAHRA

1. SAHRA has undertaken to finalise the erection of the site plaque
2. The heritage boundary heeds to be found and permanently marked – it is possible that permanent markers already exist

3.6 ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY GDACE

1. Monitoring and removal of invasive aliens of which there are many. A policy change might be necessary before this can be done

3.7 ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE PERMIT HOLDER

1. The permit holder will have to take steps to counteract theft at the site.
2. The permit holder has been requested to remove the remains of the pit toilet superstructure and to rehabilitate the site. His action in removing the pit toilet was commended. A sealed toilet will have to be brought on site when work resumes.
3. The researcher was asked to monitor the sandbags used for supporting excavation edges as they are deteriorating
1. The researcher undertook to provide the team (SAHRA) with as much information on the mining history of the site as he had available.

4 CUMULATIVE CHECKLIST FOR KROMDRAAI FOLLOWING MAY 2007 FOSSIL SITE INSPECTION

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>ACTION TO BE TAKEN</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>FIRST NOTED</i>	<i>PROGRESS</i>	<i>DONE</i>
ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERIC ISSUES					
Site beacons	Beacons demarcating heritage site boundaries to be re-located and made permanent. Record on site plan	SAHRA	October 2006	SAHRA is aware of this requirement. The researcher has agreed to help with site plans, several of which have been published	
Site plaque	Suitable site has been chosen in conjunction with permitted scientist. Install plaque after landowner approval	SAHRA to approve, check with landowner, and install	February 2005, October 2006	SAHRA is aware of this requirement	
Site plan	Site plan as specified in generic issues chapter of October 2006 report is required for management use. Separate plan for excavation area required	COH WHS COH WHS MA SAHRA to request detailed excavation site plan from permit holders	October 2006	SAHRA and permit holder to co-operate	
Status quo report	Status quo site report to be compiled with supporting photographic record, to function as a framework against which change can be measured	COH WHS COH WHS MA and SAHRA to initiate	October 2006	COH WHS MA and SAHRA are aware of this requirement	
Photographic record	Photographic record from	COH WHS MA,	October 2006	COH WHS MA and	

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>ACTION TO BE TAKEN</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>FIRST NOTED</i>	<i>PROGRESS</i>	<i>DONE</i>
	previous reports to be included in Status Quo report, with dates, photographic archive to be initiated to record systematic excavation (and destruction) of deposit.	SAHRA		SAHRA are aware of this requirement	
Heritage Agreement compliance	In terms of this, the COH WHS MA has to submit an annual report on the site to SAHRA	COH WHS MA, SAHRA to check for compliance	Original Heritage Agreement	COH WHS MA and SAHRA are aware of this requirement	
UNESCO compliance, periodic reporting	COH WHS MA to ensure that the periodic report is submitted by the deadline date	COH WHS MA	World Heritage Convention requirement, dates set by WHC	COH WHS MA and SAHRA are aware of this requirement	
Management Plan update	SAHRA and World Heritage Convention require and update every five years and update is now due	COH WHS MA to ensure that the updated management plan is ready on schedule	Condition of Heritage Agreement, World Heritage Convention	COH WHS MA and SAHRA are aware of this requirement	
Copies of permits	Copies of permits need to be submitted to landowners and COH WHS MA by SAHRA	COH WHS MA to ensure that this has been done	Heritage Agreement condition	SAHRA is aware of this requirement	
Copies of inspection visit reports	Copy of site inspection report to be handed to landowners within 21 days of inspection	COH WHS MA to ensure that this is done	Condition of Heritage Agreement	COH WHS MA has this in hand	
Action required	Actions need to be set in motion within 30 days of receipt of inspection report unless an appeal is lodged with SAHRA	COH WHS MA to ensure that recommendations are actioned or appealed	Condition of Heritage Agreement	COH WHS MA is aware of this requirement	

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>ACTION TO BE TAKEN</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>FIRST NOTED</i>	<i>PROGRESS</i>	<i>DONE</i>
Mining history and heritage of site	Record and photograph. Include relevant items on site plan	COH WHS MA	October 2006	COH WHS MA and SAHRA are aware of this need	
Site safety: excavation area, subterranean areas and public walkways	Ensure that a site safety inspection of the entire property is done annually in compliance with the Heritage Agreement	COH WHS MA	Condition of Heritage Agreement	COH WHS MA and SAHRA are aware of this need	
ENVIRONMENT AND EXCAVATION AREAS					
Toilet – pit type	Replace with Enviroloo as suggested in Feb 2005	SAHRA to encourage permit holder to pursue	End 2004, February 2005	The pit toilet had been filled in the site is undergoing rehabilitation. Monitor site clearance and re-vegetation	
Fence around immediate excavation area	Cattle are at risk of falling into excavation trenches	SAHRA to investigate necessity of fence with permit holder and landowner	2005	This is no longer considered an issue	
Lack of site supervision	Previous caretaker has died leaving site, installations and infrastructure vulnerable to theft and interference	Permit holder to be asked for comment	October 2006	Theft is taking place and valuable equipment has been stolen No replacement as yet	
Site infrastructure	Death of caretaker opens question of fate of sheds, toilet and other infrastructure	Permit holder to be asked for comment	End 2004, 2005	Sheds still fulfill a purpose and will remain in the medium term. In the long term they will be removed	
Approach road – badly eroded	Used almost exclusively by	Permit holder as the main user is liable in	Original management plan	Road has been repaired as far as possible.	

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>ACTION TO BE TAKEN</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>FIRST NOTED</i>	<i>PROGRESS</i>	<i>DONE</i>
	researchers. Repair erosion damage. Create meter drains and keep clear	terms of Heritage Agreement		Monitoring ongoing	
Rubbish in avens	Ongoing problem exacerbated by lack of site supervision SAHRA, COH WHS MA to educate local farm residents	SAHRA, COH WHS MA and Landowner will need to address problem	End 2005	Littering may possibly be caused by residents living nearby. Domestic waste removal is an ongoing problem	
Unauthorised dumping of builders' rubble	Unightly dumping just outside access gate is taking place – see site photographs	?	October 2006	The dumped material has been removed almost entirely	
Concerns of landowner regarding access	Ongoing problem – no cubicle has been set up as mentioned in	Permit Holders, GDACE and inspectorate to negotiate a <i>modus operandi</i> with landowner	End 2004	This issue was not discussed at Kromdraai because the permit holder is not active – only at Coopers. The entrance point is the same. Continue to monitor.	
EXCAVATION AREAS					
Saplings growing in excavation trenches	Permit holder to remove	SAHRA to request permit holder to attend.	Ongoing, monitor	Ongoing. Researcher will remove problem plants before they get too big	
Friable edges	Neglected edges adjacent to excavation pits can become friable and tend to collapse	Researcher has cut back to stable areas or has sandbagged or	2004	SAHRA is planning a technical workshop to discuss such issues. The	

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>ACTION TO BE TAKEN</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>FIRST NOTED</i>	<i>PROGRESS</i>	<i>DONE</i>
		backfilled		permit holder will be invited to attend.	
High excavation walls	High excavation walls become unstable without support because large rocks embedded in the breccia fall out leaving undercuts, etc.	Methods of addressing this problem need to be discussed at a forum organized by SAHRA	October 2006	SAHRA is planning a technical workshop to discuss such issues. The permit holder will be invited to attend.	
Sampling procedures	Standard procedures and permitting requirements are required.	Sampling needs to be discussed at a forum to be organized by SAHRA	October 2006	SAHRA is planning a technical workshop to discuss such issues. The permit holder will be invited to attend.	
Witness sections	The need for witness sections and the criteria by which such sections are selected and preserved require discussion	Researcher pointed out the witness section which is published	Original management plan	SAHRA is planning a technical workshop to discuss such issues. The permit holder will be invited to attend.	
Closure procedure	Closure procedures after excavation projects are halted or concluded need to be discussed	As above	October 2006	SAHRA is planning a technical workshop to discuss such issues. The permit holder will be invited to attend.	

5 GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Archaeology</i>	The study of ancient cultures and their physical remains
<i>Artefact</i>	Something that has been man-made or modified by people, like a stone tool, a ground piece of ochre, a wooden awl, etc
<i>Artefact assemblages</i>	Collections of stone that have been modified and /or transported by people
<i>Best practice</i>	The most effective actions which minimize human impact on the environment
<i>Biodiversity</i>	All living things and the environment in which they live, biological diversity
<i>COH WHS</i>	Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site
<i>COH WHS MA</i>	COH Management Authority
<i>Conservation</i>	The management of natural resources in a way that will benefit both present and future generations
<i>Cumulative checklist</i>	Checklist containing all the issues from previous and current site inspection reports, for use by heritage monitors of fossil sites
<i>Curated</i>	Material that has been collected, arranged, catalogued, recorded, maintained and stored.
<i>Ecology</i>	The relationship between living things and their environment
<i>Fossil Site Inspection Report</i>	Report generated after each fossil site inspection – these take place twice or thrice annually
<i>GDACE</i>	Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Land Affairs
<i>Generic Issue</i>	Issue which affects several or all of the fossil sites, such as the requirement for a site safety report
<i>Guiding Principles</i>	Rules that guide how the COH WHS should be managed – SAHRA has defined some
<i>Heritage Resource</i>	Things and places of value which are inherited
<i>HA</i>	Heritage Agreement
<i>Heritage Agreement</i>	The Heritage Agreement signed by the representatives SAHRA, GDACE and landowners of individual properties
<i>Infrastructure</i>	Permanent or semi-permanent installation, building, sewerage management structure, water management structure, road or excavation equipment
<i>Interpretation (with regard to sites)</i>	A means of communicating ideas and feelings which helps people to enrich their understanding and appreciation of their world, and their role within it
<i>Issues</i>	Problems for which there may be more than one solution which affect the fossil sites in the COH WHS
<i>ICOMOS</i>	International Council on Monuments and Sites, an NGO based in Paris. The role of ICOMOS in relation to the WHC is to evaluate and monitor WHS like the COH WHS. The inspectorate is drawn from ICOMOS officials.
<i>IUCN</i>	International Union for the Conservation of nature, now known as the World Conservation Union. Provides inspectorate for WHS, natural heritage.
<i>MA</i>	Management Authority, CEO Dr P Hanekom

<i>Management Plan</i>	The Management Plans, both generic and site-specific, accepted by SAHRA as the Heritage Conservation Management Plan for purposes of the Heritage Agreement and in terms of the WHCA. This requires updating every 5 years.
<i>Monitoring</i>	A method of checking to detect and observe short- or long-term trends in the state or condition of a site
<i>National Heritage Site</i>	A Category 1 Heritage Site in terms of the NHRA which indicates that the site has received formal protection at the highest national level and which has been formally surveyed and gazetted as such (published in the Government Gazette)
<i>NHRA</i>	National Heritage Resources Act No 25 of 1999
<i>Palaeontology</i>	The study of early, often extinct life forms by the examination of fossils
<i>Permit</i>	Permit issued by SAHRA to the excavator in terms of the NHRA
<i>Permit holder</i>	A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist who has a valid permit issued by SAHRA to carry out permitted excavation, exploration or research work on site in terms of Section 35 and 48 of the NHRA
<i>Policy</i>	A determined course of action
<i>Protocols (for activities)</i>	A way of carrying out certain activities which are agreed to by the community involved – e.g. sampling protocols for scientists
<i>SAHRA</i>	The South African Heritage Resources Agency, a statutory body established in terms of the NHRA
<i>State Party</i>	A country which is a signatory to the World Heritage Convention and has agreed to accept the duty to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit to future generations the natural and cultural heritage located within its territory
<i>Structure</i>	
<i>Tourist</i>	A person who is not connected with the excavation team or a student undergoing training on site; a person entering the site as an intellectually curious visitor or for recreational purposes
<i>UNESCO</i>	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
<i>Value</i>	Qualities of a World Heritage Site which we wish to protect and enhance
<i>WHCA</i>	World Heritage Convention Act No 49 of 1999
<i>World Heritage Centre</i>	The secretariat within UNESCO which provides administration services to the World Heritage Committee
<i>World Heritage Committee</i>	Committee comprising 21 State Parties which is responsible for administering the World Heritage Convention
<i>World Heritage Convention</i>	An international agreement that aims to promote co-operation among nations to protect areas that have natural or cultural values of outstanding universal significance
<i>World Heritage Convention Act No 49 of 1999</i>	WHCA. The legislation through which the South African WHS are administered.
<i>WRDM</i>	West Rand District Municipality

6 REFERENCES CONSULTED

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