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DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

NO. 1359

18 DECEMBER 2020



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

DECLARATION OF THE SIBHUDU CAVE; KWADUKUZA MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resources Agency, in terms of section 27 (5) of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999), SAHRA hereby declares the Sibhudu Cave; located on portion 10 of the Farm Sinembe No 16902-FU, KwaDukuza Municipality, Kwazulu-Natal as a National Heritage Site.

Statement of Significance

“Sibhudu Cave contributes to human evolutionary history through its archaeological evidence of Middle Stone Age occupation which dates to between 100 000 and 38 000 years ago. Archaeological excavations in the shelter have revealed evidence of some of the earliest examples of modern human technology. It is one of only three sites in Africa with evidence of early sea-shell beads older than 70,000 years ago. Sibhudu Cave also has a rare collection of bone tools dating between 77,000 and 62,000 years ago. It has the world’s oldest bone arrowheads that imply that bow and arrow originated in Africa and was in use more than 30,000 years before they were used elsewhere. According to Geoarchaeologists, the Sibhudu Cave sediments are remarkable and amongst the best in the world for identifying behavioural moments in time. Among other finds, Sibhudu Cave has the world’s oldest evidence for bedding made from sedges, grass and leaves. The shelter is currently used for spiritual purposes while the forest around the site is utilized for herbal medicines by the local community. Due to its uniqueness, Sibhudu Cave received international recognition as one of the most important sites of its kind, and has been nominated as a World Heritage site as part of the “Emergence of Modern Humans: The Pleistocene Occupation sites of South Africa” serial nomination.”

Schedule

The demarcation of the site is as follows:

Site Name	Farm Number	Town	Municipality		Province	SG Diagram	Title Deeds
			Local Municipality	District Municipality			
Sibhudu Cave	Portion 10 of the Farm Sinembe no 16902 – FU	Tongaat	KwaDukuza	iLembe	KwaZulu-Natal	3282/1998	T3284-1988

The declared area of portion 10 of the Farm Sinembe no 16902 – FU is bound by coordinates as outlined below;

Co-ordinates

Points	Latitude	Longitude
1	-29.52356820	31.08772868
2	-29.52236616	31.08637526
3	-29.52162512	31.08527291
4	-29.52103288	31.08484845
5	-29.52291109	31.08429992
6	-29.52274022	31.08465158
7	-29.52259663	31.08515359
8	-29.52254569	31.08542993
9	-29.52258137	31.08567686
10	-29.52273126	31.08593637
11	-29.52289070	31.08611437
12	-29.52310878	31.08624552
13	-29.52337098	31.08633739
14	-29.52367132	31.08634879
15	-29.52407393	31.08629062
16	-29.52466018	31.08603824