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**Supplementary table 1:** List of SAHRA archaeological permits issued in 2023, illustrating local and international researcher connections. This table does not reflect sampling and excavation permits issued by provincial heritage agencies, but does reflect all export permits.

No.	Permit ID	Action	Permit holder 1: Institutional affiliation	Collaboration / On behalf of	Permit holder 2: Institutional affiliation	Permit holder 3: Institutional affiliation
1	4011	Export	University of Liege, Belgium	Collaboration	University of Liege, Belgium	
2	3949	Export	University of Toronto, Canada			
3	3968	Export	University of Tübingen, Germany			
4	3991	Export	University of Toronto, Canada	Collaboration	University of Toronto	
5	3716	Export	University of Bergen, Norway	Collaboration	University of Bergen, Norway; University of the Witwatersrand	University of Copenhagen
6	3950	Export	Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Germany	Collaboration	Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Germany	University of the Witwatersrand
7	4211	Export	CENIEH, Burgos, Spain	Collaboration	National Museum Bloemfontein	
8	4212	Export	CENIEH, Burgos, Spain	Collaboration	National Museum Bloemfontein	
9	4122	Collection	University of Toronto, Canada			
10	3888	Excavation	Université de Toulouse, France	Collaboration	University of the Witwatersrand	University of the Witwatersrand
11	3475	Export	Natural History Museum, London	Collaboration	University of the Witwatersrand	University of the Witwatersrand

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12	3686	Excavation	University of Toronto, Canada	Collaboration	Sol Plaatjie University; McGregor Museum	University of Toronto
13	3676	Dating	University of Toronto, Canada			
14	3566	Export	University of Tübingen, Germany	Collaboration	University of the Witwatersrand	University of Liege, Belgium
15	3564	Excavation	University of Toronto, Canada	Collaboration	Sol Plaatjie University; McGregor Museum	
16	3470	Export	Delft University, Netherlands	Collaboration	National Museum Bloemfontein	
17	3510	Excavation	University of Cambridge, United Kingdom	Collaboration	McGregor Museum	University of Pretoria
18	3998	Export	(Research at Centre de Recherche en Paléontologie, Paris (CR2P), France	Collaboration	Ditsong	University of Johannesburg
19	3983	Export	Austrian Archaeological Institute, Vienna, Austria	Collaboration	National Museum Bloemfontein	
20	4010	Excavation	University of Queensland, Australia	Collaboration	McGregor Museum	
21	3954	Excavation	Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France	Collaboration	Ditsong	University of Johannesburg
22	3955	Excavation	Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France	Collaboration	Ditsong	University of Johannesburg
23	3930	Excavation	University of Tübingen, Germany	Collaboration	KwaZulu-Natal Museum	
24	3879	Export	University of Toronto, Canada			
25	4307	Export	National Museum Bloemfontein	Collaboration	University Potsdam/Natural History Museum Berlin, Germany	University of Potsdam, Germany
26	4114	Export	ASHA Consulting Ltd	Collaboration	University of Wollongong, NSW, Australia	UC Davis, California, USA
27	4113	Export	Iziko Museums of South Africa	On behalf of	University of Zurich, Switzerland	Max Planck Institute of Geanthropology, Jena, Germany

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28	4103	Export	University of the Witwatersrand	On behalf of	University of Arizona	
29	4099	Export	Ditsong National Museum	Collaboration	University of cape Town	Leiden University, Netherlands
30	4097	Export	University of Cape Town	On behalf of	Netherlands	Netherlands
31	4171	Export	University of the Witwatersrand	Collaboration	American Museum of Natural History	American Museum of Natural History
32	4278	Export	New York University & University of Johannesburg	Collaboration	University of the Witwatersrand	
33	4143	Export	KwaZulu-Natal Museum	On behalf of	Senckenberg Centre for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment, Tübingen, Germany	
34	4136	Export	University of the Witwatersrand	Collaboration	University of Glasgow, UK	
35	4095	Excavation	National Museum Bloemfontein	Collaboration	CENIEH, Burgos, Spain	
36	4047	Export	Wits Satellite laboratory, Cape Town	On behalf of	University of Bergen, Norway	
37	4031	Excavation	University of Johannesburg	Collaboration	La Trobe University; Australia	
38	4030	Excavation	National Museum Bloemfontein	Collaboration	CENIEH, Burgos, Spain	
39	4029	Export	University of the Witwatersrand	Collaboration	University of Arkansas, USA	
40	4028	Export	Wits Satellite laboratory, Cape Town	On behalf of	University of Bergen, Norway	
41	4027	Export	National Museum Bloemfontein	Collaboration	University of Utah, USA	
42	4020	Export	Wits Archaeology Collection	On behalf of	Austrian Archaeological Institute, Vienna	
43	4009	Export	University of the Witwatersrand	On behalf of	University of Crete, Greece	Benaki Museum, Athens, Greece

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44	4008	Export	KwaZulu-Natal Museum, PMB	On behalf of	University of Liege, Belgium	
45	4007	Export	University of Cape Town	On behalf of	University of Algarve, Portugal	
46	3978	Export	University of Bergen, Norway; University of the Witwatersrand	Collaboration	University of Bergen, Norway	
47	3788	Export	Iziko	On behalf of	Universidade Federal do Pampa, Brazil	Universidade Federal do Pampa, Brazil
48	3665	Export	ASHA Consulting Ltd	Collaboration	University of Wollongong, NSW, Australia	UC Davis, California, USA
49	3661	Export	CTS Heritage	On behalf of	University of Utah, USA	
50	3553	Export	University of the Witwatersrand	On behalf of	Université de Toulouse, France	
51	3479	Export	University of the Witwatersrand	On behalf of	La Trobe University, Australia	Southern Cross University, NSW, Australia
52	3473	Export	University of Bergen, Norway; University of the Witwatersrand	Collaboration	University of Bergen, Norway	
53	3472	Export	ASHA Consulting Ltd	Collaboration	(University of Wollongong, NSW, Australia	UC Davis, California, USA
54	3864	Export	University of Bergen, Norway; University of the Witwatersrand	On behalf of	University of Bergen	University of Copenhagen
55	3794	Export	University of Cape Town	Collaboration	University of Sherbrooke, Canada	
56	3459	Export	University of the Witwatersrand	Collaboration	University of Tübingen, Germany	University of Tübingen, Germany
57	3968	Export	New York University & University of Johannesburg	Collaboration	University Of Barcelona, Spain	
58	3937	Export	New York University & University of Johannesburg	Collaboration	Australian National University	
59	3935	Export	New York University & University of Johannesburg	Collaboration	University of Tübingen, Germany	

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60	3931	Export	New York University & University of Johannesburg	Collaboration	University of Leicester, UK	
61	4026	Export	Wits satellite lab, Cape Town	On behalf of	University of Bordeaux, France	
62	4019	Export	University of the Witwatersrand	On behalf of	Bryant University, Rhode Island, USA	University of Toulouse, France
63	4028	Export	McGregor Museum	On behalf of	University of Queensland, Australia	
64	3982	Export	University of Johannesburg	Collaboration	La Trobe University, Melbourne & University of Johannesburg	
65	4035	Export	Iziko Museums of South Africa	Collaboration	University of Texas at Arlington, USA	
66	4001	Export	University of the Witwatersrand	On behalf of	Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, USA	
67	3842	Export	University of the Witwatersrand	On behalf of	Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Mainz, Germany	Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Mainz, Germany
68	3872	Export	East London Museum	On behalf of	University of Barcelona, Spain	
69	4013	Export	Ditsong	Collaboration	Pompeu Fabra University, Spain	
70	3884	Export	University of Pretoria & University of Copenhagen			
71	3675	Export	New York University & University of Johannesburg			
72	4164	Export	New York University & University of Johannesburg			
73	3958	Sampling	New York University & University of Johannesburg			
74	4018	Export	New York University & University of Johannesburg			
75	4239	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			

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76	4238	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			
77	4232	Excavation	Archaetnos CC			
78	4146	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			
79	4135	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			
80	4134	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			
81	4118	Collection	University of the Witwatersrand			
82	4117	Excavation	University of the Witwatersrand			
83	4096	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			
84	4026	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			
85	3983	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			
86	3963	Excavation	University of the Witwatersrand	Collaboration	University of Johannesburg	
87	3942	Collection	University of the Witwatersrand	Collaboration	University of the Witwatersrand	
88	3752	Export	University of the Witwatersrand	Collaboration	University of the Witwatersrand	
89	3612	Collection	University of the Witwatersrand	Collaboration	University of the Witwatersrand	
90	3596	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			
91	3569	Excavation	University of the Witwatersrand			

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92	3568	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			
93	3533	Excavation	Albany Museum			
94	3478	Export	University of Pretoria			
95	3474	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			
96	3349	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			
97	3869	Excavation	University of the Witwatersrand			
98	3653	Analysis	University of Johannesburg			
99	3629	Excavation	University of the Witwatersrand			
100	3589	Excavation	ACO Associates CC	Collaboration	University of the Witwatersrand	
101	3561	Export	Iziko Museums of South Africa			
102	3518	Excavation	University of Mpumalanga			
103	3517	Excavation	University of South Africa			
104	3489	Excavation	University of South Africa			
105	3469	Excavation	University of Mpumalanga			
106	4225	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			
107	4163	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			

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108	4084	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			
109	3508	Export	Cape Peninsula University of Technology			
110	3507	Export	Cape Peninsula University of Technology			
111	3506	Export	Cape Peninsula University of Technology			
112	3940	Analysis	University of the Witwatersrand			
113	4022	Collection	Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency			
114	3938	Collection	University of the Witwatersrand			
115	3922	Excavation	University of the Witwatersrand			
116	3923	Sampling	University of the Witwatersrand			
117	3925	Export	University of the Witwatersrand	Collaboration	KwaZulu-Natal Museum	
118	3865	Export	University of the Witwatersrand			
119	3841	Sampling	University of the Witwatersrand	Collaboration	University of the Witwatersrand	University of the Witwatersrand