



## San Rock Art Project

### Project:

Validation of San rock art sites and training of park staff in the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park, South Africa

### Duration:

October 2009 – March 2010

**Implementation:** SOS Parks

### Funding:

EUR 10,000 from University KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, EUR 10,000 outstanding!



One of the world's greatest cultural treasures is in danger

**T**he **uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park** is among the few sites worldwide that have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage for both, its cultural and natural values. The cultural heritage mainly refers to thousands of rock art images painted by bushmen, also called **San**. They have been around southern Africa for as long as science can tell and the San rock painting tradition is probably the **longest continuing art tradition**

**in the world** going back 27,000 years. About 550 known San rock art sites are located in the Drakensberg Park. Some of them are severely endangered because they are exposed to water, sun, fire or human destruction. Park management intervention is currently limited due to scarce resources and outdated or unreliable records as most of the sites were documented in the 1970s or earlier.



## Commitment can make a difference

In order to protect and share this cultural asset, the park management needs up-to-date site records as the basis of their monitoring action. To meet this need the SOS Parks team carried out a **self-funded field trip** to the area late last year.

**“This pilot action was carried out in a very professional manner and will be of tremendous value to the Park”** said Charl Brümmer, conservation manager in the pilot area of the Drakensberg Park.

As a result of our success and commitment we have now been given the chance to extend our site validation work to the entire Drakensberg Park – an adventure that takes two validation teams out in the field over the next 6 months, scouting for rock art sites and documenting their location with GPS and digital photography.

## Be part of this adventure!

We have already secured substantial funding from a larger research project on **rock art mapping** conducted by the Programme of Geomatics at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Nevertheless, in order to implement our project as planned, we need another **EUR 10,000**. We call upon people and organisations which still care about ancient heritage in today’s culture of fast moving and throwaway societies. No matter how small your contribution may be, it will be much appreciated!

We will keep you informed as we move ahead - on our **webpage** and our extended awareness raising initiatives. As a special benefit, we offer the opportunity to our donors to voluntarily **participate in field work**. Details on timing, logistics, confidentiality and indemnity issues are to be discussed with the SOS Parks team and are subject to stakeholder confirmation. At the conclusion of this project there will a series of presentations to all the donors and supporters of this project.

## Act now

# We welcome any monetary contributions, because with;



- EUR 20** we can provide food for one whole team for one day
- EUR 150** we can hire a local unskilled person for one month to support us in the field
- EUR 1000** we can pay one of our ‘local or external’ qualified team leaders for one month

Opportunity to sponsor selected field equipment is also given. If you want to donate or become a member of SOS Parks please contact us.

If you are not able to donate yourself but have personal/institutional contacts who/which might be interested and capable of funding, please do let us know.

### Our banking and contact details:

Account holder: SOS Parks  
 Legal status: association registered in Austria (registration number: 936525786)  
 Bank: Raiffeisenbank Finkenstein-Faaker See  
 Bank Address: Mallestiger Platz 4, 9584 Finkenstein, Austria  
 Bank code: 39383 Account number: 19208 (*national transfers*)  
 IBAN: AT233938300000019208, BIC: RZKTAT2K383 (*international transfers*)

Our Address: Hoeflinger Strasse 10, 9584 Finkenstein, Austria  
 Website: [www.sosparks.org](http://www.sosparks.org) email: [info@sosparks.org](mailto:info@sosparks.org)



For any further information, please contact:



**Tommy Topp**  
+43-676-73 08 887  
tommy@sosparks.org



**Barbara Mueller**  
+43-676-45 00 750  
barbara@sosparks.org

## Curious?



**SOS Parks, Austria:**  
<http://www.sosparks.org/>

**University of KwaZulu-Natal, Programme of Geomatics, South Africa:**  
<http://geomatics.ukzn.ac.za/HomePage2247.aspx>

**African Conservation Trust, South Africa:**  
<http://www.projectafrica.com/projects.htm>

**KZN Wildlife, South Africa:**  
<http://www.kznwildlife.com/site>

**AMAFA Heritage KwaZulu Natal:**  
<http://www.heritagekzn.co.za/>

**UNESCO World Heritage Centre:**  
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/985>

**UNESCO Our Place heritage picture gallery:**  
<http://www.ourplaceworldheritage.com/custom.cfm?action=WHsite&whsiteid=985>

**RAMSAR Wetlands of International Importance (including link to Google Earth):**  
<http://ramsar.wetlands.org/Database/Searchforsites/tabid/765/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

