

SECTION 2: THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

2.2 THEME: HERITAGE

OVERVIEW

Krugersdorp was built on the Witwatersrand at an elevation of 1740 meters above sea level and was a mining centre of importance. It is also the starting-point of a railway line to Zeerust and Mafikeng. Krugersdorp, which was founded in 1887 at the time of the discovery of gold on the Rand, was named after President Kruger (President 1883 - 1902).



The chief city of the West Rand District, Krugersdorp, is a centre for the mining of gold, uranium and manganese and has metalworking and tanning industries as well as chemical and paint manufacturing. Krugersdorp opened the first Uranium mine in South Africa in 1952 at the West Rand Consolidated Mines.

In Mogale's history legacy was made. Munsieville was home to Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Kagiso was home to Rev Dr Chikane. Yusuf Dadoo was born in Krugersdorp in 1909 and became a doctor and activist alongside Ghandi (News and Views for Magistrates, August 2002).

The Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai and Environs, known as the Cradle of Humankind, were listed as a World Heritage Site in December 1999 along with Robben Island and the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park. In the same month, the South African government passed the World Heritage Convention Act, which established the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Land Affairs as the management authority for the site. (GDACEL, <http://www.dacel.gpg.gov.za>).

These heritage sites, which can be found throughout Mogale City, make it one of the richest heritage resources in South Africa (refer to Maps 22 and 30). The Sterkfontein Caves are one of the most important fossil places in the world and are situated on the farm Swartkrans. The palaeontological significance and importance of the caves came under international attention during 1934-1949 after the discovery of *Plesianthropus Transvalensis* (Mrs Ples).

One of the first brick buildings in the West Rand, the Witpoortjie Hotel, was built in the middle of the proclaimed

The many caves in the Sterkfontein Valley have produced abundant scientific information on the evolution of modern man over the past 3.5 million years, on his way of life, and on the animals with which he lived and on which he fed. The landscape also preserves many features of that of prehistoric man.

UNESCO: whc.unesco.org/nwhc/pages/sites/main.htm

goldmine fields in 1889. This was the regular coffee place for President Paul Kruger.

Kagiso is situated South-east of Krugersdorp. Due to verbally transferred history, it was ascertained that this town was established around 1926, with the development having commenced with the suburb presently know as Lewisham, with 667 housing units. Today, there are approximately 900 houses in Lewisham. Kagiso 2 came into being in 1958. The name Kagiso means 'Peace'. The population in Kagiso is predominantly Tswana and Xhosa, as well as North Sotho, South Sotho, Zulu, Venda and Shangaan speaking people.

WHAT ARE THE PRESSURES?

- Disturbance of landscape and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage.
- Visitors to cultural heritage sites such as:
 - CoH WHS;
 - Relicts and artefacts from the Anglo Boer War;
 - Second World War graves; and
 - Palaeo sinkholes with heritage significance.
- Poor investment and management of cultural heritage.
- Development encroaching on these sites.
- Sensitive environments, some of which are protected. Palaeo-sinkholes have both biological diversity and cultural heritage significance.

WHAT IS THE STATE?

Mogale City Museums

Mogale City has a rich resource of Museums (MCLM, 2002):

- Krugersdorp museum
- Old police station, built in 1897
- Duplex houses (Luipaard Street)
- Miner's Shack (house)
- Town Hall
- Dutch Reform Church c/o Kruger and President Street
- Dutch Reform Church, Church Street
- Post Office Building
- Catholic Cathedral, Luipaard Street
- Anglican Church, Rissik Street
- Mosque West Krugersdorp
- Mosque Azaadville
- Hindu Temple, Azaadville
- Main building, St Ursula's Convent
- Old Magistrates court, built in 1891



Table 6: List of Mogale City's National Monuments (South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA), 2002)

Government Gazette Notice Number	Monument
529	Paardekraal monument, 1890, Market Street
667	Blockhouse, Hekpoort
2293	Sterkfontein Caves
662	Kromdraai Paleontological Reserve
486	NZASM Station, 1896
487	Blockhouse, Voortrekker square
1584	Town Hall, 1907 Commissioner Street

Heritage Sites

- Heritage sites (locality, function, influence)
- Disturbance of landscape and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage
- Mogale City has a significant range of heritage sites, some of which are the:
 - Cradle of Humankind WHS;
 - Relicts and artifacts from Anglo Boer War;
 - Second World War graves;
 - Paleo sinkholes with heritage significance;
 - CS McLean park, near the station with ornamental fountain, donated in 1970 by McLean family;
 - Blockhouses, 8000 was built during the Boer war, when General Hunter took charge of Krugersdorp in 1900. The concentration camp was managed from here;
 - Water separation point, situated on the highest natural ground level in the West Rand. All water north of Windsor Road flows through the Olifantsriver to the Indian Ocean, and all the water to the south flows via the Vaal and Orange Rivers to the Atlantic Ocean;
 - Quellerie Park hosts the building of the first ever abattoir in South Africa, built in 1907. In 1910, a drinking fountain was erected currently in the Jannie Maree Park to celebrate the Union of South Africa;
 - A Kurk tree in Fontein Street, this was one of 5 trees donated to Krugersdorp to celebrate the ending of the first World War in 1919. This tree is ± 83 years old;
 - Munsieville established in 1911 as part of apartheids housing; and
 - Kagiso, meaning peace, was established as a black township in 1926.
- There is no information available on the economic investment in cultural heritage in the MCLM.

What is a World Heritage Site?

A World Heritage Site is an area that is deemed to have exceptional universal value. It is protected and preserved against threats of changing social and economic conditions and natural decay. It is protected by the World Heritage Committee, in terms of the World Heritage Convention, established in 1972 by UNESCO. Once a site is listed, it receives international recognition. The South African Government, through the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr Valli Moosa, is in charge of all World Heritage Sites in South Africa.

Cradle of Humankind
www.cradleofhumankind.co.za

- Sensitive environments, some of which are protected. According to the MCLM Draft IEM Strategy (2002), palaeo-sinkholes in Mogale have both biological diversity and cultural heritage significance.

Cultural events

- An exhilarating addition to the Gauteng arts and culture calendar, the African Eve Music and Heritage Festival is bound to become a landmark event in South Africa.

WHAT IS THE RESPONSE?

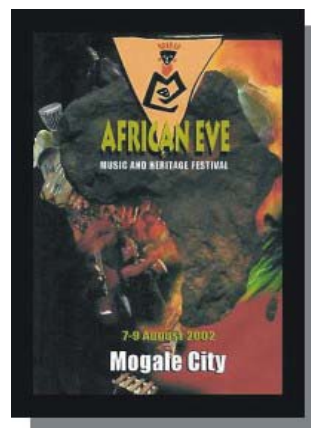
- Section 58 (11) of the National Heritage Resource Act, 1999 (Act 55 of 1999), which states that all buildings and structures older than 60 years as well as all archaeological, palaeontological and meteorite sites should be protected.
- National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 55 of 1999) (authorisation to be obtained for any activities that can potentially impact on heritage resources).

WHAT ARE SOME OF OUR PROPOSED INDICATORS?

1. *Number of protected cultural heritage sites and monuments*
2. *Number of visitors to cultural heritage sites*
3. *Number of protected natural heritage sites*
4. *Number of visitors to natural heritage sites*
5. *Number of people employed through conservation activities and land protection*

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The first annual African Eve Music and Heritage Festival was staged from 7 to 9 August 2002 in Mogale City (annual event). An arts and culture initiative of the Local Municipality of Mogale City, organised and co-ordinated by T. Music man, paid tribute to the role, influence and contribution of women through the ages. Presented annually on and around Women's Day, and staged on the doorstep of the Sterkfontein Caves - Mogale City's famed World Heritage Site where the fossilized remains of some of our earliest ancestors were found - the event focused attention on the importance of nurturing the music arts and preserving the diverse cultural facets of our environment.



As a South African arts and culture platform with a distinct identity and vision, the festival provided timely recognition of the immense contribution of women through the millennia, offered a strong catalyst for the creation of development projects in line with the ideals of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, underscored the nurturing of an 'African spirit' grounded in communication and brotherhood and promoted the upliftment of the youth by exposing them to the vision, strengths, talents and ideals of the role models of the continent.