

The African Rock Art Digital Archive
*Standards and best
practice in digital documentation of
cultural heritage from the African
point of view*



Benjamin Smith
President, PanAfrican Archaeological Association

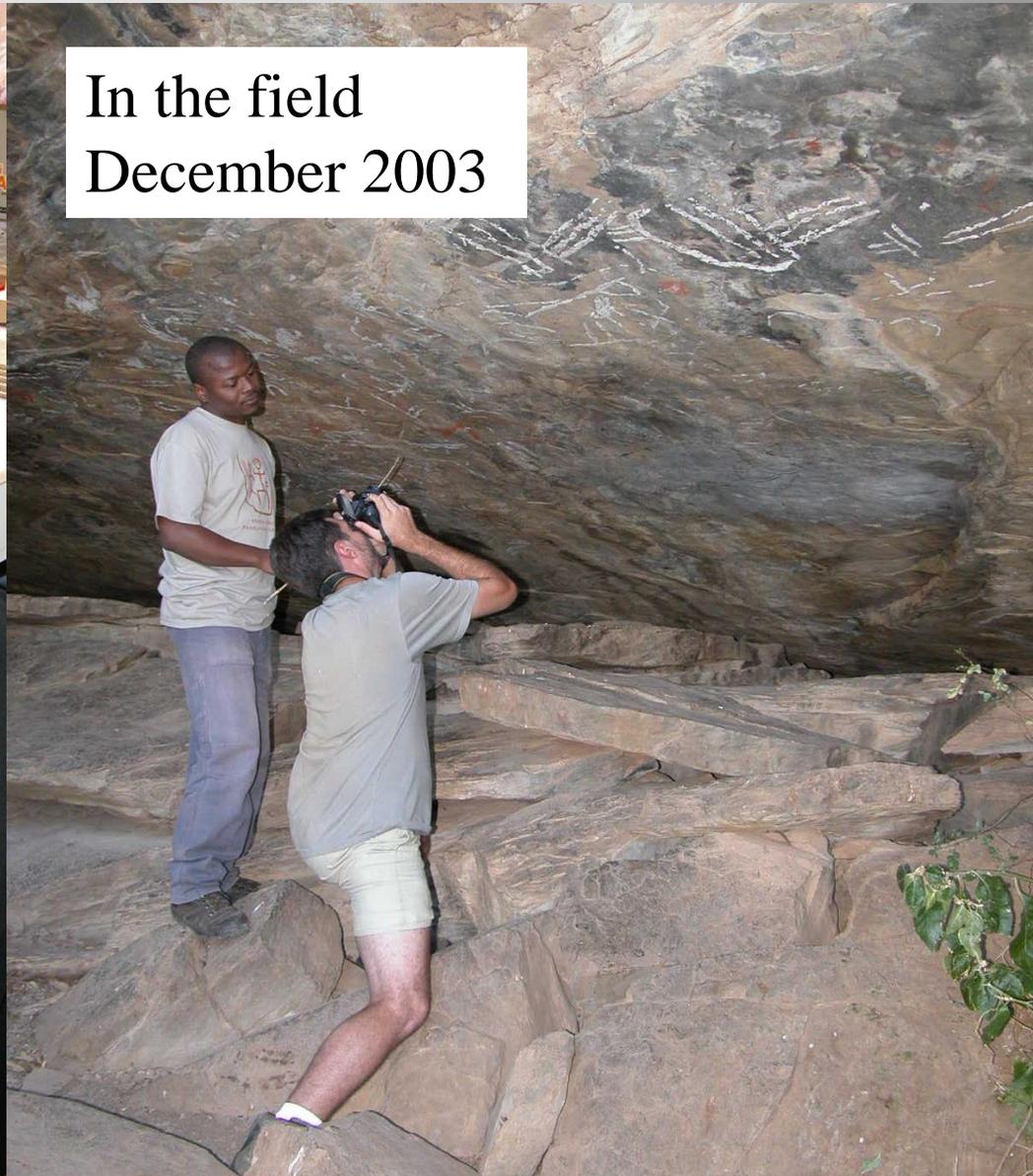


First uses of Professional Digital Archiving Technology in African Rock Art Research

In the lab
July 1991



In the field
December 2003





SARADA

Phase 1 (2000 - 2004)

Funded by the Ringing Rocks
Foundation

Focus:

- To digitise the African rock art records and images created by the work of the Rock Art Research Institute from 1979 until 2000

Scope

- Approx. 150,000 digital objects



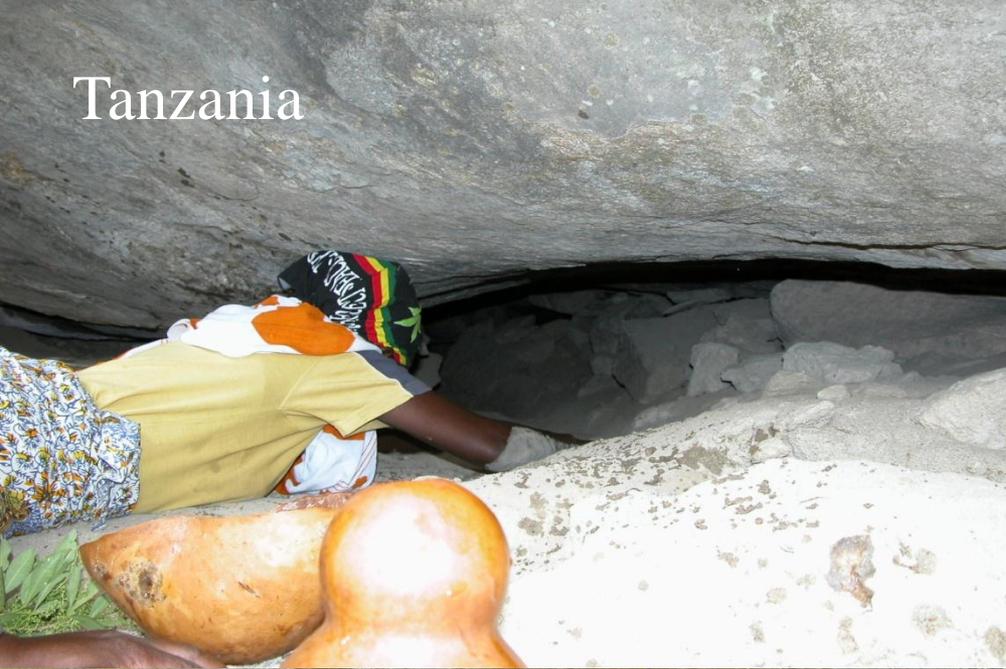
Central Kenya



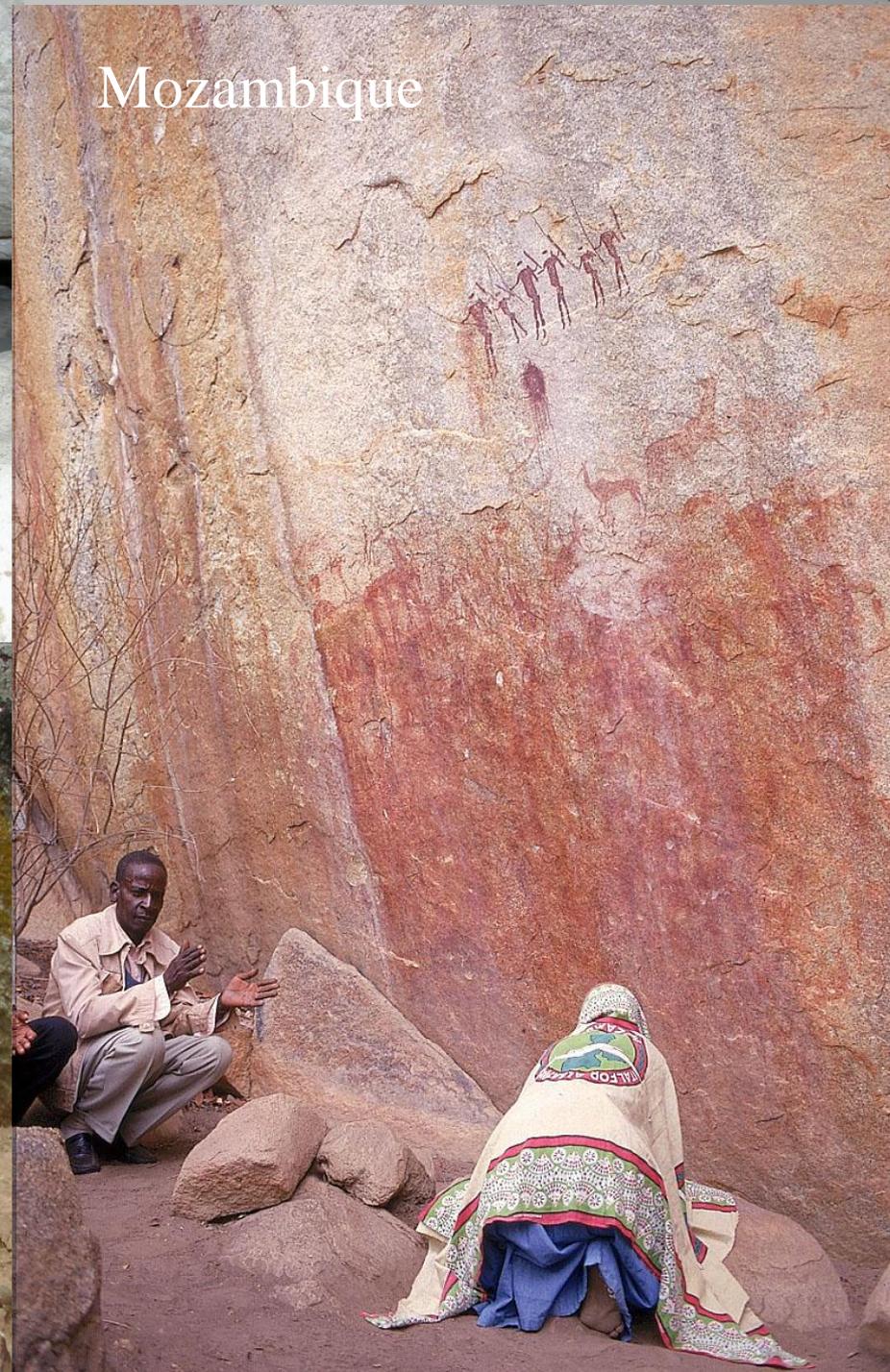
Central
Mozambique



Tanzania



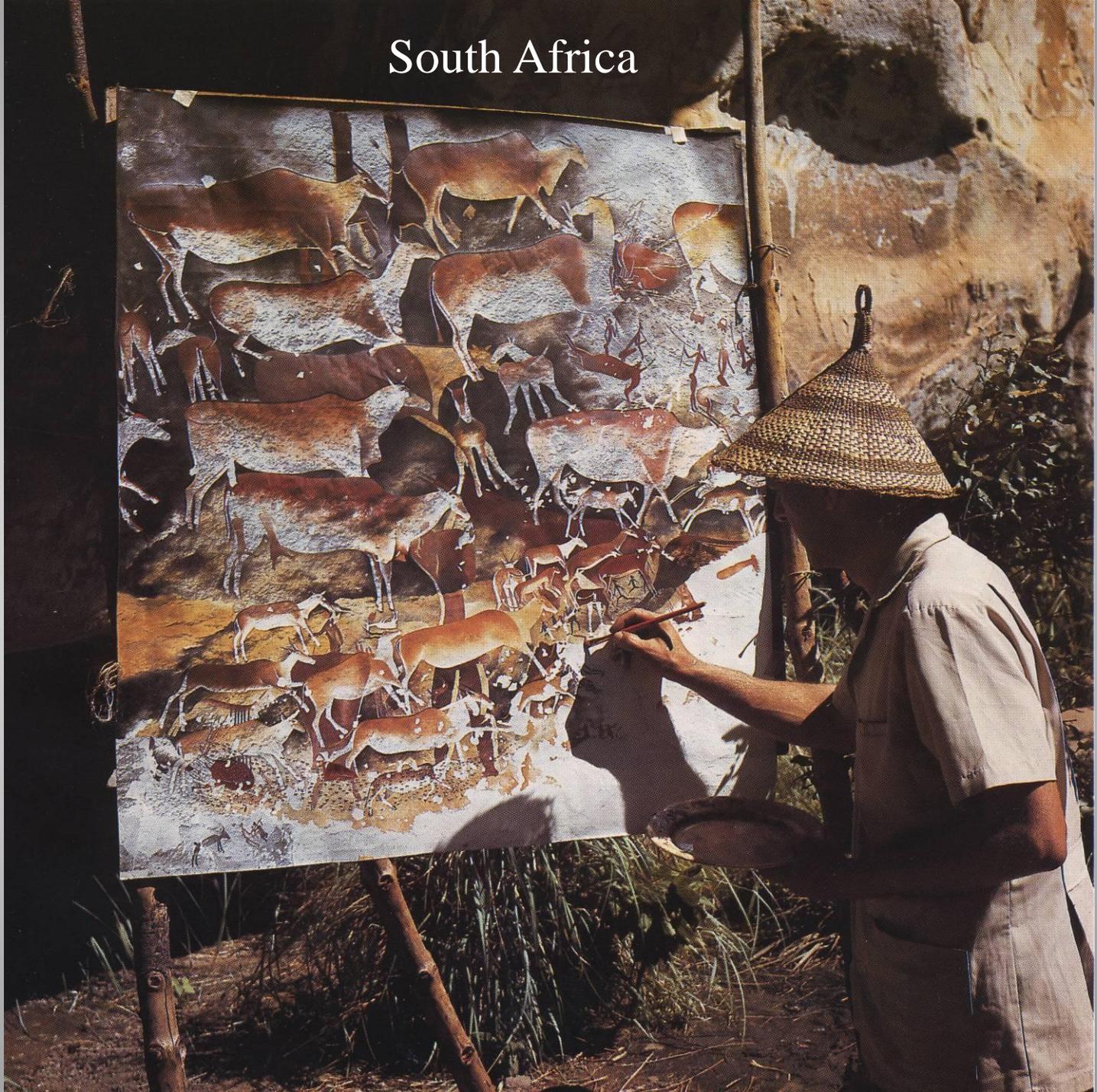
Mozambique



Zambia

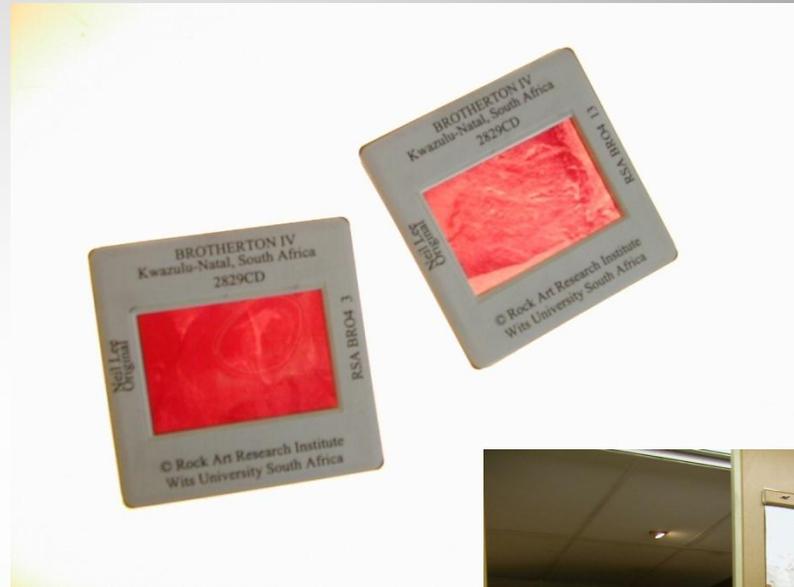


South Africa



SARADA Aims

- To transfer rock art collections from across Africa into digital format
- To make the digital collections widely available through standard internet browsers
- To reduce the physical handling of archives by researchers, students and visiting scholars and thereby prolong the life of the collections
- To consolidate multiple collections within a single integrated search platform (so that even if a site has been given 6 different names, all images and documents of that site can be located by a search using any of those six names).
- To provide a digital rock art data resource that can serve the needs of research, education, management and tourism.



Southern African Rock Art Digital Archive

Physical Infrastructure

Origins Centre
Johannesburg
South Africa





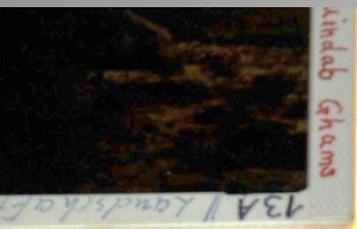
SARADA – 2000 Technical Choices

- To use the highest quality international digitising equipment available
- To digitise everything – no selection
- To capture all data in its original format and original terminology
- To store everything in archivally stable digital formats (.tiff and .pdf) regardless of size
- To have onsite digital and physical storage and offsite overseas back up
- To custom build the digital archive platform using an Index+ database system
- To use a system that structures information at point of search/retrieval, rather than within the database



Slide-Photo Image Scanning

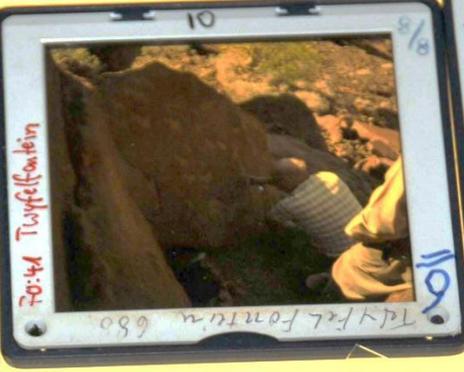




13A // Landschaft
Tisab



10:106 Eremitua
4 Eremitua



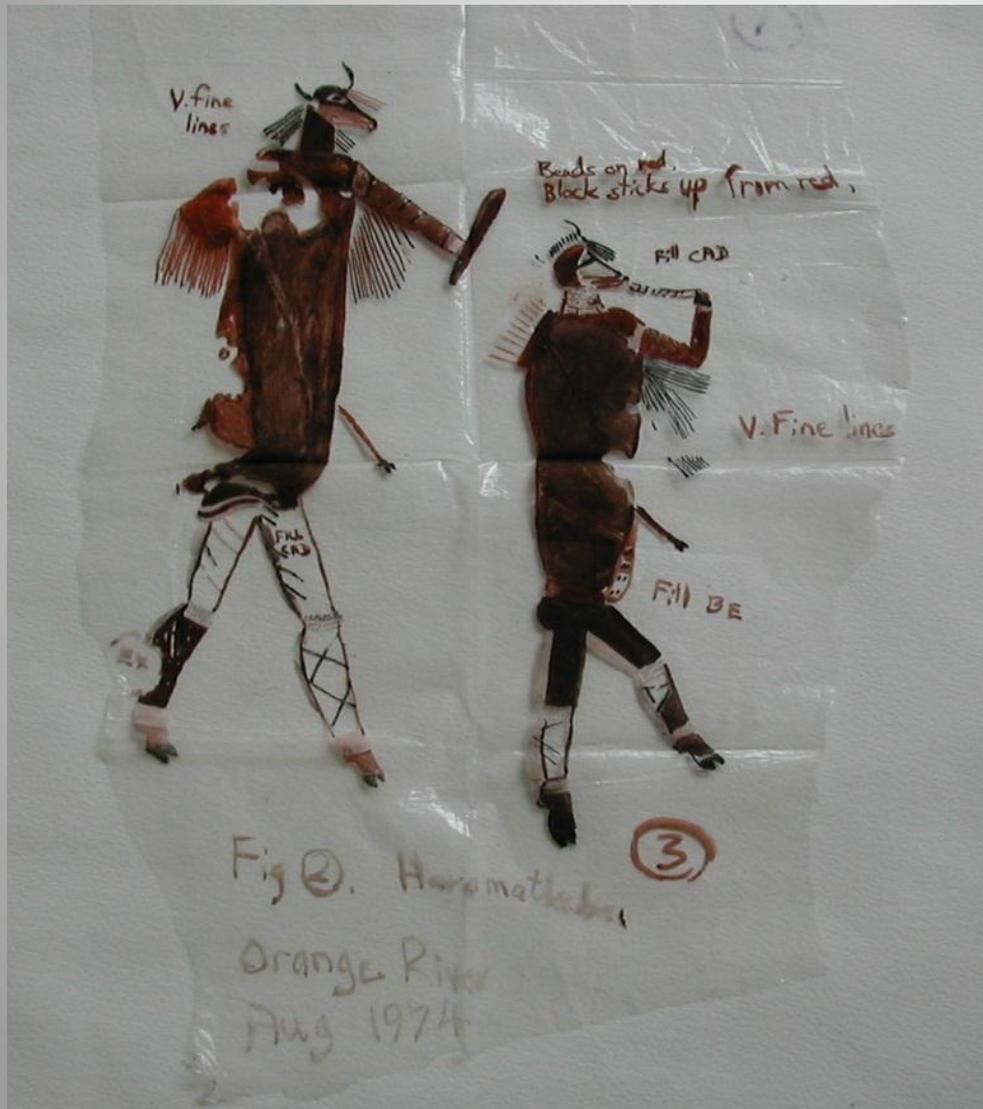
Tracing and Redrawing Scanning



Data Capture, Document Scanning, Data Quality Control



Ownership, Copyright, Reproduction Rights



Ownership and copyright

- Computer network services provided free by Wits University.
- SARADA established as a not for profit company.
- Company directed and owned by all those participating (i.e. those providing images to the archive).
- Copyright and all reproduction rights retained by participant organisations. Wits waived all digital rights.
- One set of digital copies held on server in archive, one with funding partner, one offsite, one physical and one held by each participant organisation

SARADA

Phase 2 (2004 - 2008)

**Funded by Andrew W Mellon
Foundation**



9 Partners:

- Albany Museum, Grahamstown, RSA
- ARAL Project, Lesotho
- Iziko Museums, Cape Town, RSA
- Janette Deacon, Private Collection
- Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, RSA
- National Museum, Bloemfontein, RSA
- RARI, Wits University, RSA
- University of Cape Town, RSA
- University of South Africa, RSA





UNIVERSITY OF GAITHER

Important Dates
Graduation (March 1st)
New Transcripts (March 1st)
Graduation Papers (March 1st)
Commencement (March 1st)

Purco
PREFERRED BRAND FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

SARADA
Phase 3 (2008 - 2012)
**Funded by Andrew W Mellon
Foundation**



34 Partners:

- Alex Willcox, Private Collection, All Africa
- Albany Museum, Grahamstown, RSA
- ARAL Project, Lesotho
- Benjamin Smith, Private Collection, Central Africa
- Bill Barnes Private Collection, RSA
- Conrad de Rosner, Private Collection, RSA
- Corona Thornycroft, Private Collection, Zimbabwe
- Cornelia Kleinitz, Private Collection, West Africa
- David Lewis-Williams, Private Collection, RSA
- Edward Eastwood, Private Collection, Southern Africa
- Harald Pager, Private Collection, Southern Africa
- Henri Breuil Archives, RSA & France
- Iziko Museums, Cape Town, RSA
- Janette Deacon, Private Collection, Southern Africa
- Jean-Loic LeQuellec, Private Collection, France
- John Hone, Private Collection, RSA
- Jurgen Schadeberg, Private Collection, Botswana
- Lucas Smits, Private Collection, World Collection
- Naprstek Museum, Czech Republic
- Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, RSA
- National Museum, Bloemfontein, RSA
- National Cultural History Museum, RSA
- Northern Flagship Museum, RSA
- Neil Lee, Private Collection, All Africa
- Patricia Vinnicombe, Private Collection, African & Australia
- Rock Art Research Institute, Wits University, RSA
- Reuning Family, Private Collection, Namibia
- Stephen Townley Bassett, Private Collection, RSA
- Tommy Topp, Private Collection, RSA
- University of Cape Town, RSA
- University of Cologne, Germany
- University of Rome La Sapienza, Italy
- University of South Africa, RSA
- Walter Battiss Private Collection, RSA

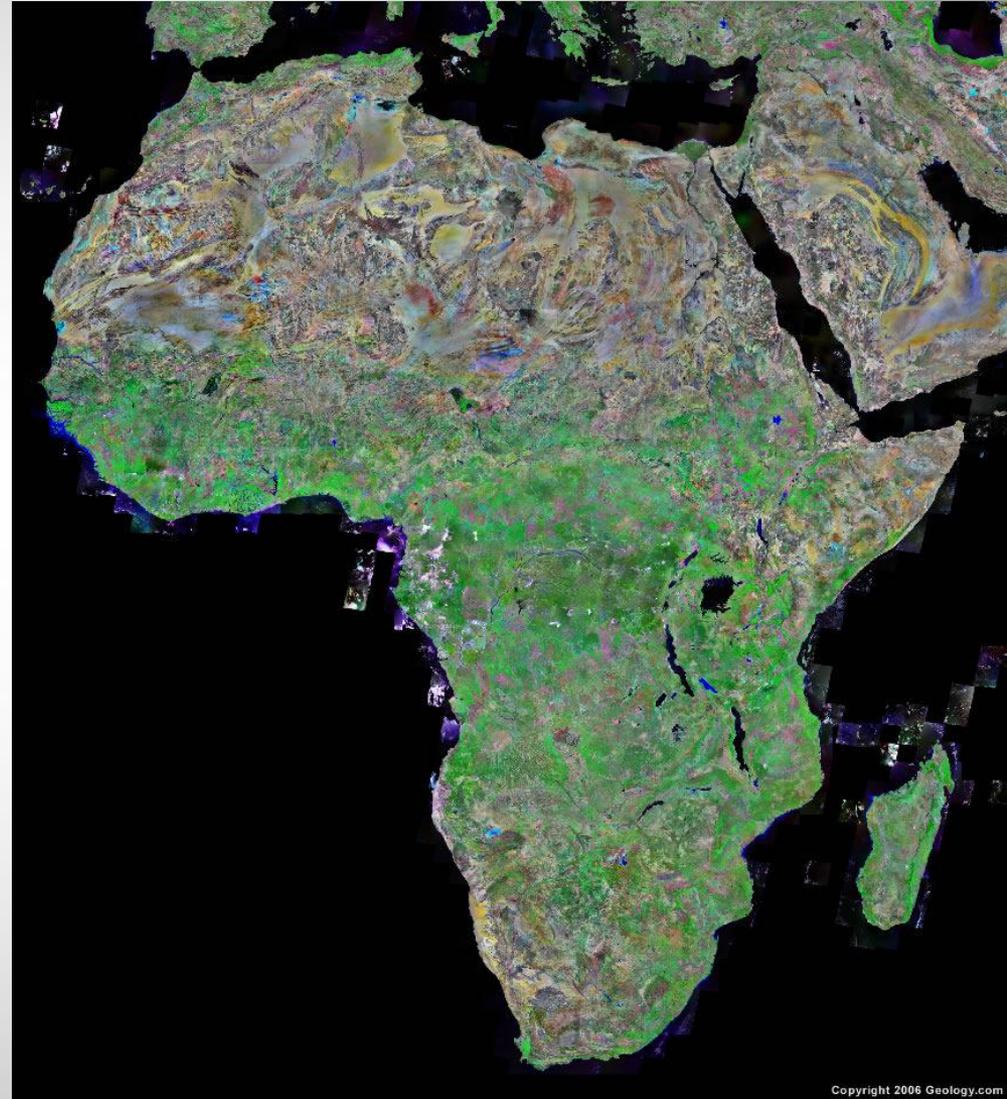
Progress in 2010 after 10 years

Region	Sites completed	Images online
Asia and Australia	171	3582
Americas	72	1192
Europe	112	1828
Africa – Northern & Western	76	795
Africa - Eastern	92	2700
Africa - Central	159	2975
Africa - Southern	4927	152574
TOTAL	5609	193481

SARADA

Phase 4 (2013-2016)

**Funded by the South African
National Lottery**



THE AFRICAN ROCK ART DIGITAL ARCHIVE

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Patricia Vinnicombe born in 1932, perfected a recording technique, by using transparent polythene and watercolour tempera mixed with detergent as a fixative.

WELCOME

Welcome to the largest rock art digital archive in the world. This website brings together the collections of more than 30 institutions and individuals, giving you access to more than 200,000 digital images.

The African Rock Art Digital Archive (SARADA) project is a milestone in the digital preservation of Africa and the world's cultural heritage.

[Read more.](#)

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10 August 2010

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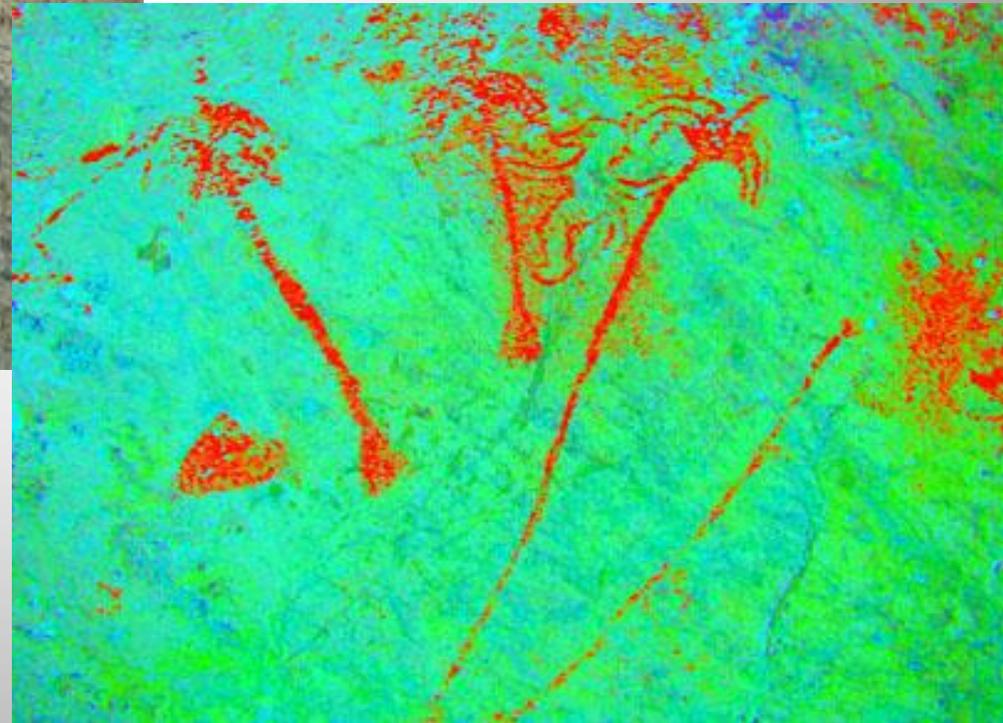


[STOW COLLECTION](#)

Digital Rock Art Enhancement



Digital Rock Art Enhancement



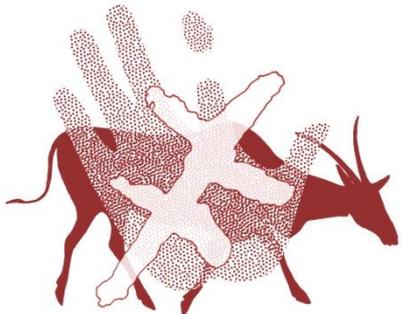


Photo-Documenting & Researching
Rock Art, Archaeology & Palaeontology

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Rock Art Research Institute
University of the Witwatersrand

Analysis Sheet: BattleCave_06

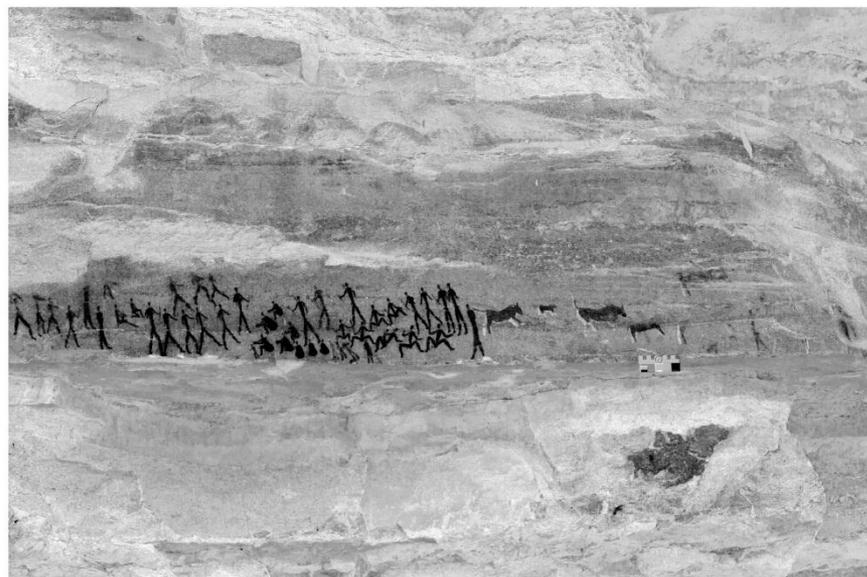
Image data acquired November 2011
CPED Toolset processing April 2012 K. Crause



True Colour Image (Colour Balanced)



CPED Toolset Enhanced False Colour Image



CPED Toolset Enhanced Pigment Colour Range Isolation (Grayscale)

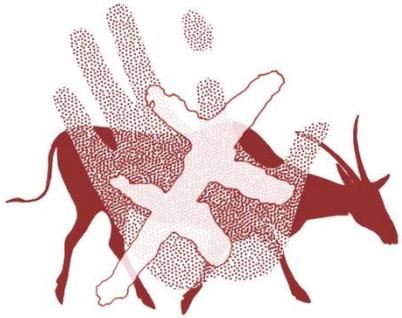


Photo-Documenting & Researching
Rock Art, Archaeology & Palaeontology

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Rock Art Research Institute
University of the Witwatersrand

Analysis Sheet: BattleCave_07

Image data acquired November 2011
CPED Toolset processing April 2012 K. Crause



True Colour Image (Colour Balanced)



CPED Toolset Enhanced False Colour Image



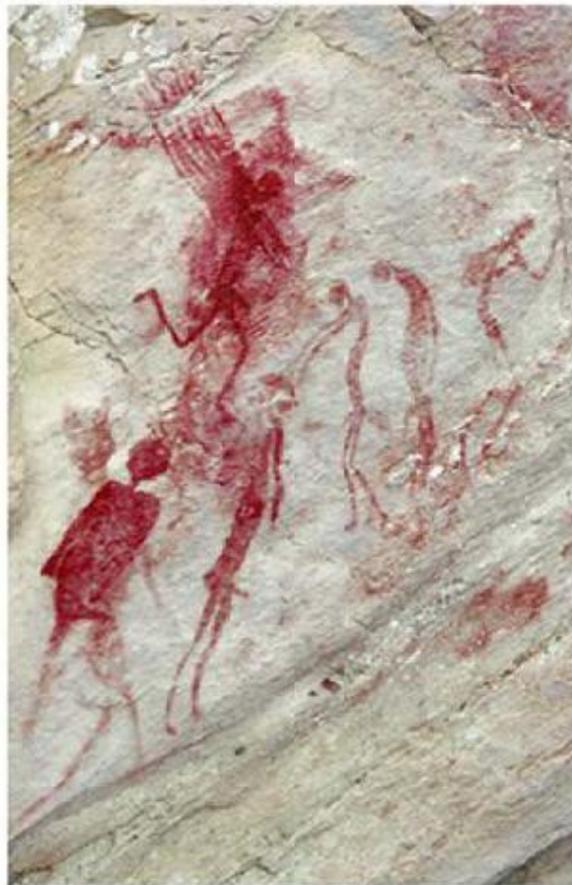
CPED Toolset Enhanced Pigment Colour Range Isolation (Grayscale)

"Mermaid / Swift in Context" Oakhurst Shelter, George, Western Cape

Field Test: CPED Toolset - Digital Pictogram Reconstruction & Enhancement



Colour Balanced Natural Light Photograph



CPED Enhancement



Pigment Colour Range Isolation



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