

AFRICAN CHRONOMETRIC DATING FUND



PanAfrican
Archaeological
Association



SEND YOUR CHARCOAL SAMPLES TO THE POZNAN AMS C14 DATING LAB AND BENEFIT FROM THE ACDF'S NEGOTIATED RATE OF \$272/SAMPLE (256 Euros)

Last year, the African Chronometric Dating Fund represented by Bernard Clist negotiated a rate with the Poznan AMS C14 dating lab of \$272/sample (256 euros), but this requires a minimum number of 100 dates/year to be sent to Poznan. Having funded only 33 dates during our first funding cycle, it is unlikely that the ACDF could fund 100 dates in the near future. Poznan agreed to open this rate to SAfA members, and we are thus reaching out to SAfA membership to see if there is sufficient interest. We would appreciate feedback concerning whether you as an individual or as part of a group project would be willing to participate in this program, and how many charcoal samples would you likely submit.

If you are willing to participate, please respond and indicate the approximate number of dates you would likely ship to Poznan during a 1-year period. Below are listed the conditions that would apply:

1. Only current SAfA members would be eligible.
2. The samples could be from projects run by a single member or those with multiple members, as long as the person taking the lead and ensuring payment is a SAfA member.
3. ACDF awardees must submit all of their charcoal dates to Poznan within 30 days after receiving their award (March 15th) so that the ACDF can receive and pay a single Poznan invoice. This would not be true for SAfA members. They can submit the dates when it is appropriate for their project and pay Poznan invoices directly.
4. If the proposed plan goes forward, we will need a SAfA member who is willing to serve as liaison with the ACDF and Poznan with the key responsibility of tracking sample shipments and paid invoices so that the ACDF can determine when 100 samples have been achieved. That person could become a member of the ACDF to make it official. [Alternatively, perhaps Poznan would agree to tracking the numbers of dates as they come in from SAfA members, but this has not yet been negotiated.] Bernard Clist who has done identical work for the ACDF 2022-2023 funding awards has agreed to volunteer.
5. The Poznan rate is strictly for AMS dating of charcoal (and perhaps other organics that do not involve special processing or specialized services, like *E. guineensis* and *C. Schweinfurthii* carbonized endocarps or *Pennisetum* seeds). It also does not include OSL/TL dates.

If we find that there is agreement for a sufficient number of people/projects to participate, we will seek consent from the SAfA Executive Board. While we are a quasi-independent SAfA service committee, given that we are asking SAfA members as a whole to benefit from the low rate, the Executive Board may want to have a say about this approach.

If we do not get a strong response, we will probably not pursue the matter further, because if we do not reach the 100 date maximum/year, this could result in additional bills of \$19-\$25/sample. This figure is derived from Poznan's scaled rate schedule from its 320 euros per date: 10-24 dates -5%, 25-49 dates -10% (\$297/sample), 50-99 dates -15% (\$278), and if 100 or more -20% (\$272). It is possible to get an even better price if SAFA members can deliver over 150 samples a year; the idea has been briefly discussed in emails but needs confirmation.

The ACDF also will bring up this proposal at the SAfA meeting in Houston via a distributed flyer and at the SAfA Business Meeting.

Philip de Barros
ACDF Chair