Interactive comment on “A standardized database of MIS 5e sea-level proxies in southern Africa (Angola, Namibia and South Africa)” by J. Andrew G. Cooper and Andrew N. Green

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This is an important review and the historic overview of sea-level studies in South Africa is very well documented, but the last 10 years of this have several relevant studies that have been missed, and as such, a major revision is necessary. Some additional references to check, that contain ages and information on Last Interglacial deposits:


On ‘future research directions’, Swartklip and Nahoon are tagged as ‘priority’ sites but these have already been recently re-addressed. They are published in Roberts et al. 2009 (the paper on West Coast dune plumes) and Morrissey’s 2019 Masters project that was published in 2020.

I found the figures to be of fairly poor quality and some of them (e.g., from Jacobs and Roberts, 2009) are not sufficiently modified from their original form. Runds (2017) is missing a reference in the reference list so I could not compare this to its source.

On coverage and completeness: was Mozambique deliberately left out of Southern Africa? There has been work done there on the Last Interglacial which I would think appropriate to include here.

Not all studies described in the text are given equal consideration, and I felt that the
dated sites that are presented in the database did not receive as much attention in the
main text as undated sites with inferred or relative ages. This seems a bit odd and I
think better cohesion between the two parts of this work is needed.

My overall feeling is that this paper should not be published in its current form as it is
missing too many relevant and recent studies. A lot of literature has been overlooked,
and my impression is that if the authors were not aware of all research going on in other
parts of Southern Africa, they could have approached a more diverse team of people
working in this region to work with them in order to tell a fuller story.

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