



Controlled burning of vegetation on Robben Island Museum

Media Alert

Friday, 14 March 2014

Robben Island Museum is a World Heritage Site with a complex and sensitive eco-system. As part of the Conservation Management Strategy, the Museum will be conducting controlled burns to reduce deadwood debris on the Island. One of the single biggest threats to the Island's built and natural environment is the fire risk presented by the accumulation of deadwood and dry shrubs. The domination of Acacia thickets makes the site more vulnerable to fire. Controlled open burning is crucial in reducing this fire hazard as part of disaster risk management for the Island.

The period between March and May is considered the 'burn season' for most of the City's nature reserves and other areas within its jurisdiction.

Robben Island will conduct controlled burning from Tuesday 15th to Friday 18th April 2014, between 05:00 and 20:00. The burns will take place when weather conditions are most favorable and considered safe.

The Museum has obtained permits from the City of Cape Town and South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) to conduct controlled burns. SAHRA is the national heritage agency responsible for management of national heritage sites.

The open burn project will be executed under the watchful eye of the City of Cape Town's Fire and Rescue and Environmental Resource Management Department. Thirty fire-fighters with all the necessary equipment will be deployed by the City to the Island during the burn period as part of control measures.

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