

MESSAGE

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Dear Colleagues

As the Chief Executive Officer of the first national heritage site of our democratic South Africa, I take pleasure in presenting this Integrated Conservation Management Plan to you, during our 10th anniversary year celebration.

The vision of Robben Island Museum and World Heritage Site is to memorialise and promote its unique universal symbolism of the triumph of the human spirit over adversity and injustice using both its tangible and intangible resources.

Since opening our doors ten years ago in 1997 Robben Island Museum has hosted more than one million visitors. During this time the Robben Island World Heritage Site has undergone many changes and had to face and overcome many challenges. All the activities undertaken have been done with a spirit of our vision and celebrating our unique heritage. As management, we have realised the importance of integrating our planning in order to safeguard the tangible and intangible resources of the Island. This ICMP is a culmination of those experiences and reflects the studies, reports and activities of the Institution.



The statement of significance, embodied in the heritage values of Robben Island, foregrounds the recent political imprisonment landscape which has been prioritised for the next five years from 2007-2012.

The following objectives have been developed by Robben Island Museum, to: retain the significance of the site; gather and curate the heritage resources; provide excellence in heritage management; manage the visitor experience; communicate and interpret heritage values; institute appropriate governance; transform institutional capacity; provide necessary staffing and infrastructure; ensure financial sustainability; improve public awareness; and promote the World Heritage Site.

The Action Plan in this document outlines the activities of the Robben Island Museum in order to achieve the above objectives. Key to the delivery of this action plan is research which will inform our conservation and management of the site, interpretation and public programming. This will enhance universal access to the legacy of Robben Island through a range of new visitor experiences. The educational value of Robben Island will be enhanced through activities that will facilitate critical debate and lifelong learning. There is a need for the Robben Island Museum to contribute to the alleviation of poverty through creating opportunities for sustainable economic development and social empowerment, resource mobilisation; development of appropriate partnerships and regular consultation with our stakeholders. Even though we have practiced many of the afore-mentioned elements it is only now that it is set in a comprehensive document.

The management and conservation of the RIWHS is of primary importance and Robben Island Museum is committed to the implementation of actions outlined in the ICMP in order to ensure that the RIWHS is preserved.

I also wish to extend a sincere thank you to the State Party, its stakeholders, all our stakeholders, consultants, Robben Island Museum management and staff who have contributed to the development of this ICMP.

Paul Langa

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Langa". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Chief Executive Officer
Robben Island Museum