CONCLUSION

The ICMP provides a survey of the Island's enduring and multiple histories and introduces the Strategic Objectives for the next five years which will help RIM to retain its significance through among others the Interpretation and Visitor Management Plans and implementing best conservation practices with regard to the tangible and intangible resources.

The ICMP identifies the significance of the site and use the Statement of Significance as a lens through which the history of Robben Island can be explored. It demonstrates that the Island has been a place of banishment, isolation, incarceration and how the numerous occupations have shaped the built environment and impacted on its landscapes. It further shows that the MSP, quarries, cemeteries and graves, the kramat and churches, as well as associated memories of these sites, are some of the main features that contribute to the significance and uniqueness of Robben Island as a World Heritage Site.

In its comparative chapter, resistance and spirituality emerge as two major themes. Both are indicative of RIM's commemoration of suffering as well as the celebration of the triumph of the oppressed.

The ICMP also outlines the main legal obligations that RIM must abide by for effective and viable management of the WHS. It further covers interpretation, visitor management, and principles of conservation and their application. It also recognises the importance of education and public programming as well as lifelong learning, the latter of which is engrained in the experience of the Island.

Highlighted in the document is the importance of creating sustainable management, partnerships, socio-economic benefits and empowerment of communities around the site, with an Action Plan based on key issues that have emerged during the development of the ICMP and to be implemented between 2007 and 2012. Addressing and implementing these key issues will ensure that the significance of the WHS, based on the triumph of the human spirit over adversity, is maintained.

Bluestone Quarry reference group