CHAPTER 7
CONSERVATION POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES / STRATEGIES

INTRODUCTION

RIWHS has important memory places that include the built fabric, routes and paths, gardens, views and vistas. It has within it many and varied layers of history that are at times contested. Furthermore it is an island of many voices, including the disadvantaged, the oppressed, the sick, the privileged few, the religious, the imprisoned and the free, among others. Its conservation therefore possesses unique challenges. The present chapter provides strategies for addressing this.

CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES

Four main conservation principles underlie the approach to conservation management of RIWHS:

- There is an evolving understanding of Robben Island's meaning and value which has both tangible and intangible manifestations in cultural and natural contexts;
- Robben Island’s heritage value is both local and universal;
- Robben Island’s heritage value is related to current social debates about, for example, stigma, human rights, reconciliation and healing;
- Robben Island Museum is committed to a conservation-based approach to development and to a transparent use-based, policy-based and process-driven management that seeks to balance the Island’s tangible and intangible heritage resources.

Robben Island’s conservation approach takes guidance from, among others the Burra Charter of 1999, but it also places special emphasis on the intangible qualities of the Island, for example, symbolism, oral memories and place quality. The conservation policy seeks to protect both the tangible and intangible significance of the Island. However, due to the Island’s complex and layered history, the intangible significance of the place is difficult to protect. Therefore there is a need to limit interventions and changes to the Island’s cultural and natural fabric. This will be achieved through the implementation of Interpretation and Visitor Management Plans (see Addenda 4 and 5), which will protect and enhance the intangible values associated with the site. The following principles set out in the ICMP define the approach to conservation in general and influence conservation decision-making.

Principle 1: Minimal intervention

Conservation is based on respect of the existing fabric and should involve the least possible physical intervention. The principle is that it is better to preserve the existing fabric than to restore it, better to restore than to reconstruct, and better to reconstruct than to adapt. However, there is also an understanding that certain development and sustained use will be necessary. A preventive approach to conservation is better than a reactive one. Any intervention must not be motivated by conjecture, but must rather be based on evidence and thorough research and analysis. Intervention is thus limited to ‘as little as possible and as much as is necessary’.

Wherever possible, interventions and methods of interpretation should be reversible. Ignorance of significance does not justify removal of fabric. Removal of fabric can only be justified if such removal reveals more significant fabric, or extensive research shows that what was removed is of little significance. New work should follow the legal requirements established by the relevant legislation, and Heritage Impact Assessments must be carried out with every intervention.

Principle 2: Authenticity / Integrity

Robben Island is a site of rich tangible and intangible heritage and the definition of authenticity here is based on that given by the Nara document. Authentic fabric and meaning associated with the site is that which is considered to be original and true in relation to the significance of the site. This comprises all the layers of accumulated memory and fabric on the Island up to the point at which it became a museum and heritage site in 1997. Research and interpretation of the site must rest on a full understanding and evaluation of what happened on the site and what makes it significant. This includes immovable and movable historical fabric, its place quality, individual and collective memories, and symbolic associations.

Principle 3: Contribution of all periods

The contribution of all periods is respected. The Island includes the fabric of different periods. This means that revealing the fabric of one period at the expense of another can only be justified when what is removed is of less cultural significance, and the fabric which is to be revealed is of greater cultural significance. Levels of significance relate to how early, intact, representative, or rare the relevant fabric might be, and how it relates to the Statement of Significance. Judgements are often subjective and the multiplicity of meanings should be acknowledged.

Principle 4: Consideration of all aspects of cultural and natural significance

Conservation should take into consideration all aspects of cultural and natural significance. Symbolic and historical significance are particularly important, as is the quality of the place. The concern for traditional consideration of aesthetic beauty should not override these values.

Principle 5: An appropriate visual setting

Conservation requires the maintenance of all existing and culturally significant visual settings, for example, form, scale, mass, the fine and broad grain of buildings and open spaces, colour, texture and material. Construction,
demolition, modification or environmental intrusions should not adversely affect the setting and qualities of the site.

**Principle 6: Oral histories, intangibles and memory**
Intangible significance is strongly linked to symbolic values. Conservation of intangible significance requires the use of oral histories and personal recollections to inform our understanding of the Island as a whole and to interpret and conserve the physical elements that relate to these memories. Conservation practice and policy should be informed by researching and presenting routines, everyday practices, and the sounds and smells associated with the physical fabric of the Island.

![EPPs that quarried the Bluestone Quarry record their memories of their everyday working life in the MSP period](image)

**Principle 7: Determining compatible use**
Compatible uses are those uses that involve either no change to the culturally significant fabric, or changes that are substantially reversible, or changes that have a minimal impact. Determination of compatible use should take into account the significance of the site (from the Statement of Significance and Site Register), historical use of the site, the mandate of the Museum, and the strategic directions approved by its Council. The major factors in deciding whether the new use is compatible with the conservation of the site or not, include the extent and reversibility of changes required by a proposed new use for a site or a proposed new structure, and their impact on the significance of the site.

**Principle 8: New construction**
A policy will be drafted listing factors to consider when assessing the impact of new structures on the site, and the processes by which decisions on new structures should be made. This process will be congruent with the decision-making process outlined below.

**Principle 9: Interiors, wall coverings, fittings and furnishings**
Those interiors, wall coverings, fittings and furnishings that were present on the Island in 1997 constitute original fabric and cannot be altered or removed without permission from the RIM Management Committee (MANCO). All the provisions of minimal intervention and other policies regarding fabric apply to these elements. A specific policy will be developed to guide decisions on these elements in the future.

**Principle 10: Documentation**
A full inventory and documentation of all heritage resources on the Island needs to be created. Prior to any intervention on the heritage resource a work plan must be prepared which clearly defines the following: the resources and their context; the objectives and extent of the document and recommended levels of documentation; the technologies available or that will be required; the time frame; and the requirements for the organisation and execution of the project. All changes to the project, including the landscape, will not use the presence of documentation as a justification for the alteration or the removal of significant fabric.

**Principle 11: Interpretation**
Robben Island will use the interpretation of RIWHS as a means of conserving the tangible and intangible values associated with the site, and as a way of developing appropriate products, programming and marketing strategies, based on these products and programmes, to ensure sustainable use of the site. Education programmes will use the site as a teaching resource on democracy and human rights issues.

**Principle 12: Public participation**
Robben Island will continue to engage in dialogue with all stakeholders, including ex-political prisoners and their families, on appropriate management approaches.

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**CONSERVATION OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Robben Island has an immense amount of built heritage that requires large amounts of resources to maintain. During the Prison Services era these resources, in terms of labour, was provided by the prisoners. However after the Prison Services left, the heritage could only be maintained through capital intensive activities.

After the release of political prisoners in 1991 little or no investment was made towards the development of the Island’s infrastructure, for example, the provision of power, potable water, tarred roads and sewerage. All of this was of a limited nature and so it was necessary for RIM to negotiate for a major investment in the infrastructure of the Island for its new purpose as a museum and heritage site. This investment in the form of upgrade of roads, power supply, provision of potable water, and a sewerage system, began in 1999. Since then major investment in infrastructure and refurbishments of buildings has taken place on Robben Island.

It is important to note that the site maintenance and protection takes two main forms:
- Capital works projects: These refer to the rehabilitation of infrastructure, buildings and structures on Robben Island. The implementation of these projects is facilitated by DPW through the appointment of independent contractors.
- General maintenance: This refers to the daily routine and activities related to the upkeep of the site by DPW and the RIM Estates and Services Department.
In the light of the harsh environmental conditions that the built fabric is exposed to on Robben Island, it is essential that the built environment is rehabilitated and conserved in order to maintain the significance of the site. To meet this demand RIM, together with DPW has been implementing programmes to rehabilitate the built fabric on the Island. Buildings and sites that have been rehabilitated include, the Church of the Good Shepherd, Garrison Church, Medium Security Prison, Logistics Complex, and the harbour and harbour wall.

The ICMP identifies the Political Imprisonment Landscape as a priority for 2007 to 2012. The identification of this particular landscape was done through a rigorous exercise of grading and prioritising the different landscapes on the site. Elements reflective of the other landscapes will be placed on a maintenance programme to ensure that all other heritage not part of priority 1 continues to be maintained.

The following is already planned:

- The MSP, Sobukwe Complex, Administration Complex, the parking area at the harbour, and the road leading to the Limestone Quarry are earmarked for rehabilitation within the next two years. Permits for these works have already been obtained and work is to be initiated in 2007.
- The Bluestone and Limestone Quarries, their respective pathways, and identified buildings in the Village area, are earmarked for permit applications and rehabilitation work later in 2007.
- Buildings and sites that represent other layers will be subjected to maintenance programmes, as noted above, to ensure their continued contribution to the significance of Robben Island.

The South African government, through WHS DAC, has provided the WHS with funds for major works like the ones mentioned above that have gone a long way in improving not only the condition of the site but also access and anchorage for the RIM ferries. Some of the capital works investments have facilitated the improvement of the visitor experience and access (floating jetty) and meeting the objective of lifelong learning (Medium B Security Prison), among others.

The capital works projects were initiated to address both conservation challenges as well as interpretation and visitor management. Thus some parts of the site have been subject to deliberation because they required conservation intervention, while in the other parts, such as the MSP and Sobukwe Complex, there was a need for a new visitor experience through restoration and development of new exhibitions. Another reason for identifying capital works projects as a priority was the need to meet the national objective of the creation of employment. The last objective also meets the World Heritage committee’s objective of making World Heritage Sites become centres of growth for local communities.

For more detailed information refer to Addendum 2.

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**Management of the Terrestrial, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems**

Robben Island has a unique and active environment that has undergone changes over the years due to human intervention. The landscape that visitors see today is one that reflects the impact of humans on the Island since the first historical records of the Island. The introduction of various fauna such as deer, ostrich and rabbits over the years, as well as the introduction of alien vegetation which constitutes much of the present landscape, has vastly altered the experience of the Island from that of the early traveller. This landscape is an integral part of the changing aspect of the Island, and is regarded as significant to the history and development of the site.

RIM will pursue the objective of maintaining the historical and cultural character of the Island, while restoring and enhancing the naturally occurring biodiversity so that the Island ecosystem can be maintained. RIM will strive to retain as much as possible of the human-altered landscape that reflects elements of different historical and cultural periods. Management decisions and actions will aim at minimising the cost of maintaining natural environments in the medium- to long-term; in particular, the following components:

- Indigenous and alien vegetation;
- Indigenous (not necessarily to the Island) and alien vertebrates;
- Feral animal control and eradication;
- Marine and coastal environment;
- Bees.

**Management of Sea Birds**

The Island is a home to sea birds that now form part of the rich heritage of this unique WHS. They are part of the landscape and play their role in the complete understanding of the micro-environment of Robben Island as well as demonstrate the role of the Island as a breeding space and colony of various bird species. The management of sea birds is administered in terms of the Sea Birds and
Seals Protection Act 46 of 1973, and in terms of policy which is in agreement with the aims of international conventions to which South Africa is a signatory.

Eight species of sea bird (sensu stricto) currently breed on Robben Island, and six of these are endemic to southern Africa. In terms of criteria that include the presence of endemic and rare and threatened species, Robben Island is an Important Bird Area (IBA). Bird species for which Robben Island is of global importance are the African Penguin, Bank Cormorant, Crowned Cormorant, Hartlaub’s Gull, Swift Tern and African Black Oystercatcher, all of which need to be most intensely monitored.

The situation is as follows on Robben Island:

- Currently, the African Penguin colony is the second largest for the species, which is classified as vulnerable;
- For many years the colony of Hartlaub’s Gull has remained the largest for the species, which is the tenth most rare of approximately fifty species of gull in the world;
- Similarly, for many years the Island has supported the largest colonies of Crowned Cormorant and the southern African type of Swift Tern;
- In 2000, the colony of Bank Cormorants was one of only three in South Africa to number more than one hundred pairs; it is also listed as vulnerable;
- About 2 per cent of the world population of African Black Oystercatcher breeds at Robben Island;
- In addition, the Island shoreline is visited by a large numbers of migrant birds each summer;
- The Island also has a variety of terrestrial birds;
- During 2005 the number of bird species recorded on Robben Island reached 148.

The sea bird colonies at Robben Island should be managed and seen as contributing to the overall species’ populations in southern Africa, and not in isolation. There is a need to retain stands of exotic vegetation to provide habitat for sea birds of conservation concern. It will be necessary to remove feral cats that damage some sea bird breeding colonies and this process is already underway. The removal of the Struthio camelus Ostrich is also desirable on grounds of safety as they are likely to be a hazard to visitors on foot, and their removal will further facilitate research on bird species of conservation importance. The population of the introduced House Rat will be controlled, as it has potential to impair breeding by sea birds.

**MANAGEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

Robben Island has a rich recorded history going back centuries and even millennia. In presenting the complete story of Robben Island it is necessary to identify all sites of potential archaeological interest. Specialist investigations on selected sites are being conducted to uncover layers of the past and to provide information, both as an education resource and for scientific research and advancement.

A Conservation Management Plan will be developed for each site before any excavations occur. This is however a long-term programme that is not among those prioritised, as the sites face no danger at present or in the foreseeable future. In case of any developments however, preventive archaeological work will be carried out together with appropriate impact assessments.

**Terrestrial Archaeology**

Three pre-colonial archaeological sites have been found on Robben Island, two containing stone tools and the third containing fossilised mammal bones. The former are very ephemeral stone artefact scatters, consisting of quartz irregular cores and flakes. The sites with stone tools are close to each other, situated in an area west of the Maximum Security Prison (MSP). The third site, containing fossilised mammal bones of Eland and the now extinct Rhebok, is below ground level adjacent to the waste management plant in the northeastern area of the Island.

**Underwater Cultural Heritage (Maritime Archaeology) Assessment and Management**

The Island has an inhospitable coastline that has posed many serious dangers to sailors with many ships running aground during the very long period of its association with sailing vessels. Research indicates that there are 68 ships that have foundered on the rocky shores or have sunk off the inhospitable coastline of the Island. These wrecks are protected in terms of the NHRA and access to them is restricted by both SAHRA and RIM.

A survey of these wrecks was carried out in a joint operation between the National Monuments Council (NMC) and the South African Navy in 1992, code-named ‘Operation Sea Eagle’, and the findings documented. The Maritime Archaeology Unit of SAHRA has carried out further investigations as recently as 2005 and there is also documentation of this.

SAHRA considers the wrecks around the coastline of Robben Island to be worthy of conservation. To date SAHRA has rejected permit applications for exploration on the grounds that the long-term historical value of the wreck resource outweighs the short-term commercial gain that might be achieved through the recovery of scrap iron and other metals from the more modern wrecks, and the recovery of objects of curiosity from the older wrecks. Another concern is the presence of unsupervised recreational divers who are capable of removing objects from the wrecks.
The wrecks around Robben Island offer an opportunity to expand maritime archaeological knowledge, as well as general archaeological knowledge in southern Africa. Artefacts, such as ceramics from the wrecks, have assisted in dating archaeological sites on the mainland. The personal belongings retrieved from the older ships can reveal the personalities and activities of individuals who helped shape southern African history.

It is recognised that the wrecks around Robben Island:

- Are an integral part of the history of the Island and of South Africa’s cultural heritage;
- Are a non-renewable and limited resource and are not available for commercial exploitation;
- Have historical, cultural, scientific, recreational and educational value that varies from site to site;
- Have already been disturbed by legal and illegal salvors, although they have been relatively well protected by virtue of being in a security area;
- Include wrecks that are sufficiently intact to warrant being used for recreational visits under controlled conditions;
- Would be enhanced in value if retained in situ;
- Could be maintained as a maritime archaeological reserve if proper controls are implemented.⁹

To this end the management and interpretation of the underwater cultural heritage of the WHS will be further developed along the lines and recommendations contained within the SAHRA report. The policy to manage underwater cultural heritage will also incorporate certain archaeological principles and ethics. It will recognise the importance of the historical wrecks around the Island as a cultural heritage resource of national and international importance.

For these principles to gain recognition, RIM will strive to integrate the Island’s maritime history with the more well-known political, social and cultural history. This integration can be accomplished by incorporating maritime displays, interpretative signage and shipwreck tours. The integration of the Island’s maritime history into the mainstream story will further encourage research into the wrecks and the land-based results of the shipwreck events. This is however a long-term programme that has not been prioritised for this phase of the ICMP.

### FRAMEWORK FOR COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT

The RIWHS with its rich history of colonisation, imprisonment, banishment, discrimination, spirituality and military activities, has a rich and diversified collection that consists of both immovable and movable heritage. The movable collection consists of artefacts directly related to the Island space and material acquired related to the apartheid struggle. In addition the collected memories in tapes, letters, and items associated with the memories, also form a rich part of the collection. This calls for the development of a framework to supplement the Collections Management Policy already in place and currently under review. This framework is intended to describe the background of the collections, the legislative and policy framework, the existing collection, appropriate structures, and future developments.

#### Background to the Collections

The RIWHS is custodian to a large archive of artefacts, historical documents, photographs, artworks and audio-visual materials depicting South African culture and chronicling the struggle for freedom and justice with regard to apartheid. The collections include extensive historical material from the 1920s to the 1990s. These materials are housed at the UWC-Robben Island Museum Mayibuye Archive.

RIM itself has a collection of site-based movable artefacts that are found in various buildings on the Island, and at the building known as Jetty 1 at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront. Some artefacts are also on display at the Nelson Mandela Gateway to Robben Island on the Waterfront, Cape Town.

The initial Mayibuye materials were collected by the International Defence and Aid Fund (IDAF) based in London. Following the unbanning of anti-apartheid organisations and literature in 1990, the collection was relocated to South Africa to form the initial deposit of the Mayibuye Archive. Other collections were added as people and organisations became aware of this important historical resource.

The Mayibuye Archive was handed over to RIM in 2000 after UWC and RIM entered into a 99 years’ loan agreement. It is managed by members of the Collections Unit of the Museum’s Heritage Department. The agreement between UWC and RIM is subject to certain conditions as set out in the legal agreement signed between the two institutions. The Mayibuye Archive was also mandated to manage the site-based Robben Island movable artefact collection.

The Collections Management Policy was established as a framework for the acquisition, disposal, documentation,
loan, care and use of the movable resources and collections of RIM in accordance with international standards of museum and archival practice. The current Collections Management Policy which is under revision, was drawn up in 2000 in compliance with the following Acts:

- World Heritage Convention Act 49 of 1999;
- National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999;
- Cultural Institutions Act 98 of 1978;
- National Archives and Records Services Act 43 of 1996.

The following international conventions and laws guided the development of policy:

- UNESCO’s recommendation concerning the safeguarding and contemporary role of historic areas, 1976;
- UNESCO’s recommendation for the protection of movable cultural property, 1978;
- Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972;
- Berne Convention, as amended and revised in 1979.

The Collections

For management purposes the material in the Mayibuye Archive is divided into five groups of collections according to media or format – oral history and sound, historical papers, photographic, film and video, and artefacts, art, posters and banners; in addition there are also RIM collections.

Oral history and sound archive

This archival collection includes recordings of many interviews with ex-political prisoners, former exiles and political activists; radio broadcasts of Radio Freedom; and unique recordings of speeches and lectures. The collection requires proper management that includes the provision of environmental controls.

Historical papers archive

Key collections in this archive include extensive records of political and labour organisations; the personal papers of important persons, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu and prison letters of Ahmed Kathrada; and many documents in the Robben Island collection recording recreational and education activities of prisoners on the Island. These are delicate collections that require both short and long-term management strategies, including the provision of controlled environments.

Photographic archive

The archive comprises approximately thirty thousand negatives, seventy thousand prints and four thousand transparencies, covering the period from the 1940s to the 1980s. The subjects covered include: history of colonialism; history of apartheid; images of apartheid; liberation movements; forced removals and resettlement; repression; political prisoners; trials; labour and trade unions; women; culture; education; armed struggle; and biographies of political activists. Important collections within this archive are the IDAF, Billy Paddock, and South and Grassroots Collections. All this material, like the rest in the Archives, require special protection.

Films and video archive

This archive is a unique resource of footage, consisting of approximately one thousand documentary productions, and six thousand recordings of unedited footage. It includes archival footage on 8 and 16 mm film formats, and U-matic, Beta and VHS video formats. Important components of this archive include films and videos produced and collected by IDAF and the Afravision collection of raw footage and films. Due to the nature of the collection and the prevailing climatic conditions in the Cape, there is a need to put in place proper environmental conditions for their upkeep. All these will be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Artefacts, art, posters and banners

The artefact collection includes other historical memorabilia that was used as forms of political protest during the anti-apartheid struggle. These include t-shirts, stickers, badges, jewellery, among other items. Ex-political prisoners from Robben Island also donated some personal items used by them during their imprisonment on the Island.

The art collection includes paintings, lithographs, etchings and sculptures that were acquired by UWC and the Mayibuye Archive over time. The art collection primarily serves as a visual record of resistance to the apartheid system and thus all of the works precede 1994. Important components of the art collection include the UNESCO Artists Against Apartheid Exhibition; Albie Sach’s Mozambique Collection of Art; the Transitions Series by the community-based Visual Arts Group in Cape Town 1992; the Abe Berry political cartoon collection; and a collection of banners and posters, produced both locally and internationally, that tell the story of mass resistance inside South Africa.

RIM historical artefacts

The historical artefact collection includes more than three thousand accessioned objects, which were left on the Island by the prison authorities. It includes prison clothing, items manufactured in the prison workshop, workshop tools, prison registers, a music collection of LP records, sporting equipment and furniture, among other items. The accessioned paper-based material and music collection has been moved to the Mayibuye Archive for preservation reasons due to the harsh environmental conditions on the Island.

Institutional archive collections

Apart from documenting the Museum’s history and development as a national and international heritage and a best practice conservation, the institutional archive also serves as a copyright holding for all material produced by RIM. It includes organisational records of each Museum department; publicity and educational materials produced by RIM; proceedings of conferences organised by RIM; and copies of publications and productions commissioned to outside agencies by RIM.
The Two Collections Managed by the Education Department

**Education collection**
The Education Department manages a small education collection, used primarily by the Department in its outreach programmes, and in most cases are of lesser archival value. The collection includes replicas of original items and objects, which are well represented in the permanent collection, as well as materials which are in a presentable format for external audiences, such as portable exhibitions. The Education Department also collects materials, for example art, which have been generated during its Spring School and other programmes, and therefore it is a growing collection.

The Spring School programme is one of the most important RIM programmes that bring young people from different parts of South Africa as well as Namibia to the Island to mix, share experiences and work with well-known artists in a number of fields. It is one of the programmes that empower the youth to use this WHS, and as such, forms one way of addressing the issue of universal access and living heritage. These collections are managed by the Education Department according to procedures and guidelines provided by the Collections Unit.

**Resource centre collections**
The core of the original collection of heritage and museum studies material in the Resource Centre in the Medium B / Multi-Purpose Learning Centre on the Island has grown to include: management; archaeology; South African politics; art; biographies; and easy readers in all of South Africa’s languages. The Centre also houses a special collection of books and pamphlets donated by the veteran anti-apartheid activists, Ray and Jack Simons. This collection covers a significant period in South African history, politics and the labour movement, as well as many other parts of Africa and the Soviet Bloc.

**Collections Management Issues**
Due to the nature of collections, they require attention and a professional approach to their handling. Collection is one of the backbones of RIM and an information base needs to be given priority in the development of an ICMP. There are a number of collections management issues for the WHS that include but are not limited to the following:

- Revision of the Collections Management Policy;
- The need for comprehensive inventories;
- The need for improved storage facilities on Robben Island;
- The need for a new building at UWC constructed specifically for the Mayibuye Archive;
- An updated collections acquisitions policy;
- Putting in place an appropriate management structure for the Mayibuye Archive;
- Review and implementation of the agreement between RIM and UWC;
- Transforming the Archives into a fully fledged unit;
- Approval of the Disaster Management Plan.

**Collections Disaster Management Plan**
A draft Collections Disaster Management Plan has been prepared and is awaiting consideration and approval by the RIM Council. The Plan addresses safety and security concerns for all the collections located at the Mayibuye Archive, Robben Island and the Nelson Mandela Gateway in case an emergency situation arises. The enabling national legislation is the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002. Aspects of this plan are already operational.

The proposed plan identifies and assesses potential risks and spells out various strategies to prevent disaster from occurring in the first place, and to enhance security of the collections. The Plan contains a rescue strategy and also deals with recovery. Post-disaster planning deals with possible reviews and improvement of disaster management planning arising from experience gained when a disaster has occurred.

In summary, the Robben Island collection, comprising both movable and immovable objects, consists of, among others, artefacts directly related to the Island space and material acquired related to the apartheid struggle. It is a rich and valuable collection of intangible heritage of memory and peoples’ experience that must be protected at all costs for the benefit of South Africa and for humanity in general.

**CONCLUSION**
Among the key issues to be addressed that arise out of this chapter include a proper conservation management programme to address all aspects of significant cultural, natural, and intangible heritage, including the site and associated documentation and collections. The survival of the collections needs to be ensured through the provision of adequate collection and storage facilities; and through RIM continuing to play a role in knowledge-generation through collections and other resources.

**ENDNOTES**


2 - Extract of Environmental Management Plan is attached as addendum 3.

3 - Extract from ‘Maritime Archaeological Assessment of Robben Island, Table Bay’ SAHRA in association with Wreckseekers. Undated.
