

FOREWORD

by Minister Z Pallo Jordan



This year marks the 10th anniversary of Robben Island as a heritage site and museum. The Island has transformed from a place of isolation, hardship, degradation and human atrocities to a place representing resistance, resilience and the triumph of the human spirit over hardship and that enshrines values of nation building, human rights and national reconciliation.

In 1997 a museum management framework (Robben Island Museum) was introduced to monitor and manage the increasing number of visitors. The Island received UNESCO designation as a World Heritage site in 1999. Subsequently the site has faced a variety of conservation challenges that will be addressed within the framework of an Integrated Conservation Management Plan (ICMP).



It is within this context that South Africa as a State Party through its various stakeholders that include among others national departments, statutory bodies, local government, non governmental organisations, community based organisations, representatives of ex-political prisoners and RIM management and staff have drafted this ICMP.

It is important to note that recommendations that were suggested by WHC advisory bodies that have been implemented to date include substantial strengthening of RIM's management framework through the alignment of its management structure.

In addition the ongoing removal of threats to the natural heritage on the site and the forging of multidisciplinary sustainable partnerships which has and will continue to benefit and improve conservation practice on the Island and benefit the wider community, as periodic clearing and removal of alien vegetation, maintenance and infrastructure upgrades provide much needed employment for community members.

To ensure a proper national legal framework for the management of these sites the government has adopted the World Heritage Convention into its own national legislation by promulgating the South African World Heritage Convention Act. South Africa is currently reviewing heritage legislation, a process which aims to align legislation affecting heritage closer to the principles and objects of the World Heritage Convention.

The South African government is committed to its world heritage sites and will ensure the protection of the site and its universal access. This commitment is demonstrated in RIM's ICMP.

The South African government recognises that the ICMP is a working document which will guide RIM to realise its set objectives and fulfill its core message, namely that of the triumph of humankind in the face of adversity, over the next five years.

Sincerely
Z Pallo Jordan

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Z. Pallo Jordan".

Minister of Arts and Culture