



**THE PROPOSED RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE BLUE
STONE QUARRY WALL, ROB BEN ISLAND
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

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Today's Impact | Tomorrow's Legacy



1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Robben Island World Heritage Site, located off the coast of the Western Cape region of South Africa, has been on the World Heritage List since 1999, and is recognised as a place of outstanding universal value.

The Blue Stone Quarry (BSQ) forms part of the Robben Island World Heritage Site because it is situated on the North West side of Robben Island. However, the Quarry is also considered to have significant heritage value in its own context because it was where political and law prisoners were forced to work while servicing their sentence at the Robben Island Prison. Quarry activities began in 1963 and ceased in 1978 as a result of pressure from International Committee of the Red Cross who advocated for the rights of prisoners. The Blue Stone Quarry subsequently closed, but the Department of Correctional Services maintained the quarry until 1997 when Robben Island Museum took over the responsibility of the maintenance activities.

Before the prisoners started working in the quarry, they built the Stone Wall or dyke to separate the sea from the quarry. The wall was built mainly to prevent sea water from entering the quarry and resultantly disturbing the operations on the site. The Wall was made from the locally available materials on the site; for example, sand, sea shells and beach pebbles.

In September 2001, a maritime storm destroyed a middle section of the Quarry's main Stone Wall resulting in the tide breaking into the quarry and creating a wide gap fifteen metres (15m) wide. It was later severely damaged by the actions of sea waves. Since then, the Stone Wall has shown signs of general collapse because of environmental disturbances. The fragility of the Stone Wall rendered it 'sensitive heritage' from a conservation perspective.

As part of preserving the historical significance of the Blue Stone Quarry, the Applicant/Developer (Robben Island) proposes the restoration and maintenance of the Robben Island Blue Stone Quarry (BSQ) wall and limestone pathway that runs along the top of the wall. The restoration and/or maintenance of the Blue Stone Quarry Wall includes conserving the dry-stone walls by:

- Reinstating the breached section of the BSQ wall (approximately 82 m long).
- Repairing damaged sections of the walls that are currently standing.
- Repairing the Quarry Revetment ring walls.
- Repairing any future damages within the next five years to walls and associated infrastructure.

Robben Island Museum aim to maintain the historical integrity of the BSQ wall and thus, will be reinstating the breached section and other damaged areas using restoration methodologies recommended in international conservation charters such as the Burra Charter (1999)¹ for places of Cultural significance. Suitable debris from the collapsed wall will be recycled while new material will be added to strengthen the

¹ Australia ICOMOS. 1999. The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance. Australia ICOMOS Inc., Burwood

wall. New materials, such as tie stones or large barrier stones, will only be introduced as stabilising mechanisms to strengthen the wall. No concrete or heavy machinery will be used as part of the reinstatement.

The reinstatement of the wall will be restoring the quarry environment to its original state and will ensure the future protection of the quarry and its associated heritage value. The proposed activity thus entails a 'like for like' reinstatement of the breached section of the wall.

1.1. LOCALITY

The proposed site is situated on Farm Robben Island 432 and 1436, Robben Island, Western Cape Province. The site is situated on the north west side of Robben Island, approximately two kilometres (2 km) north of the Robben Island Museum. A locality map showing the proposed development area is provided (Figure 1).

LOCALITY MAP

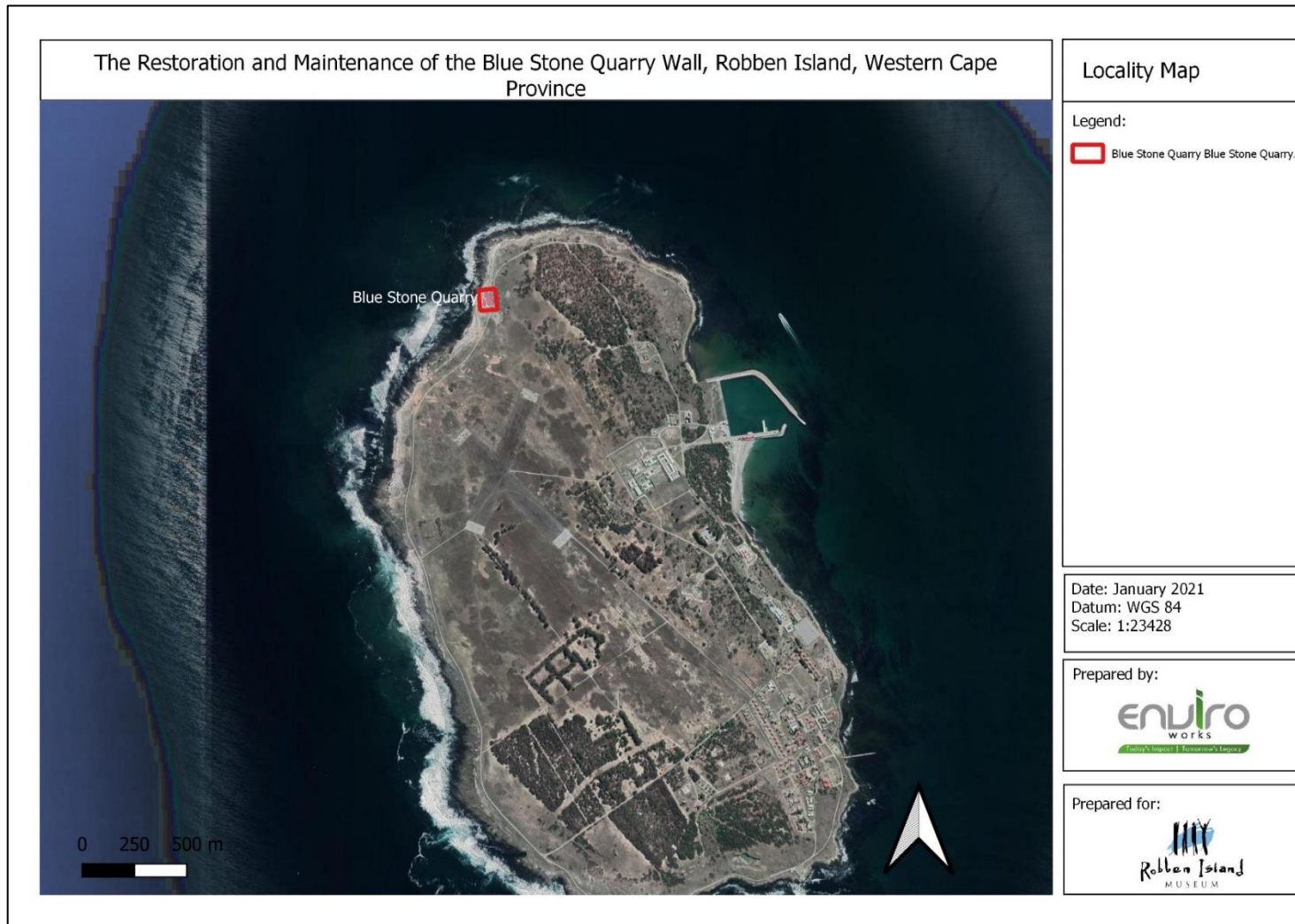


Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed development site.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Because this development involves the maintenance of the Blue Stone Quarry Wall, it requires a Maintenance Management Plan (MMP) to be approved in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA). The following Listed Activities in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2017 are triggered by the proposed developments:

Government Notice No. 327 of 7 April 2017 (Listing Notice 1):

Activity 19A: i. The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from

- i. the seashore;
- ii. the littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater; or
- iii. the sea; —

but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving—

- (a) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It is a legal requirement to engage with Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) as part of the approval of the Maintenance Management Plan.

The benefits of engaging with I&AP's are:

- It creates a platform where project-related issues can be debated and possible solutions can be sought ;
- It reveals “hidden” knowledge of the wider community and their key concerns; and
- It encourages transparency and accountability.

The first step of the Public Participation Process (PPP) is to identify the key stakeholders and I&APs, and to create a registration database, which will be used for ongoing communication during the course of the approval process of the MMP. The identified stakeholders and I&APs are encouraged to register their interests, concerns and issues in writing, so that all comments and/or concerns can be included in the submissions made to the Competent Authority as part of the approval process.

3.1 HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The PPP will be conducted in accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2017, and Guidelines for Public Participation Department of Environmental Affairs, 2017.

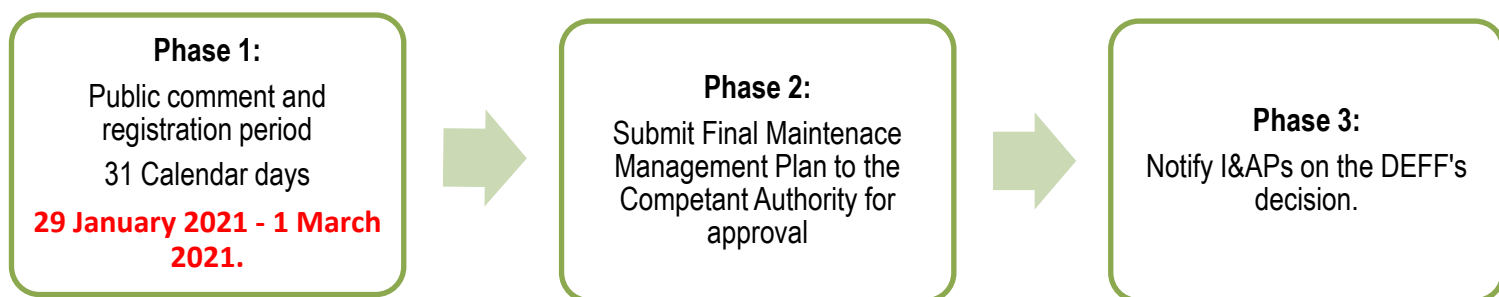
The Public Participation Process will commence on **29 January 2021** and end on **1 March 2021**.

All stakeholders and I&APs is hereby invited to comment on the abovementioned project. All comments and/or concerns (if any) should be communicated to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), in order to address the comments and/or concerns of the I&APs.

Any member of the public that wishes to partake in the PPP should register as an I&AP. An I&AP Registration form is attached on the last page of this document. The I&AP registration form should be submitted to Enviroworks before or on **1 March 2021**.

All documentation regarding the MMP for the proposed project, will be available on the Enviroworks' website: **www.enviroworks.co.za** from **29 January 2021**. All stakeholders, I&APs, Authorities and Governmental Organisations will be informed on the availability all the documentation.

3.2 PUBLIC REVIEW PERIODS



THE PROPOSED RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE BLUE STONE QUARRY WALL, ROBBERN ISLAND

INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY (I&AP) REGISTRATION FORM:

To participate in this public participation process, please complete the following information in the table below.

Name			
Organization			
Telephone			
Fax			
Cell			
Postal Address			
Physical Address			
Email			
Comments:			
Preferred method of report receipt (Please tick)			
Email	<input type="checkbox"/>	Web	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electronic CD	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hard Copy	<input type="checkbox"/>

Upon submission of the registration form to Enviroworks, you will be registered as an I&AP, and be included on an I&APs database which will ensure that you receive all future project information.

Please quote following in correspondence, **Blue Stone Quarry Wall**

Please note that this participation period ends on **1 March 2021**

The project EAP is Megan Smith and can be contacted on the following details:

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