



**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 (OUV).

The OUV of Robben Island is anchored on several landmarks associated with the use of the Island by the state for political imprisonment and isolation of people who were considered as undesirable. These landmarks include the Blue Stone Quarry (BSQ) located on the northwest coast of the Island. Prisoners using hand tools mined dolomite in the quarry for the construction of many buildings on the Island. The prisoners also built the stone wall or dyke which flanks the Quarry on the seaside. The wall was originally built to prevent the ingress of seawater into the quarry area.

The Quarry and stone wall are, therefore, highly treasured as heritage and are significant to the Island's history of imprisonment with hard labour. BSQ and wall, and the prison precincts are the foundations for the statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Subsequently, placing Robben Island on the UNESCO World Heritage list as a site of memory and conscience.

Quarry activities began in 1963 and ceased in 1978 as a result of pressure from the International Committee of the Red Cross who advocated for the rights of prisoners. The BSQ was consequently closed, and the Department of Correctional Services took over maintenance of the site until 1997 when the responsibility was transferred to Robben Island Museum.

The BSQ wall was made from materials available on the site which included quarry stone waste, sand, seashells and beach pebbles. As a result of the ephemeral nature of some of the construction materials the wall was impacted by the wave action of the ocean and thus required to be constantly watched and repaired.

In September 2001, a maritime storm destroyed a middle section of the wall resulting in a deluge of seawater into the quarry. The tidal action created a gap in the wall approximately 15m wide. In 2012, there was another severe tidal event and a large section of the wall collapsed extending the breached section to 82m. Currently, the breached section of the wall can be described as a pile of stones with a 1:4 gradient slope on the side facing the sea.

Responding to the disaster, Robben Island Museum has prepared a remedial plan which requires the following tasks to be undertaken (based on the 2020 Implementation Plan, Appendix A):

- Reinstating the breached section of the BSQ wall (approximately 77 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 adheres to conservation guidelines as set out in international conservation charters such as the Burra Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (1999). The aim of the project is to maintain the integrity of the BSQ by means of restoration. Suitable debris from the collapsed wall will be recycled. Additional stones may be required to strengthen the wall and to compensate for an anticipated shortfall of façade stones. These stones will be sourced from an already existing stockpile adjacent to the site (Figure 4).

To cut the stones in the stockpile to the right size and shape to place in the wall, a jackhammer will be used. A site, such as a warehouse, will be allocated at the harbour of Robben Island (i.e., off site) for this purpose. Material will be moved around the site using wheelbarrows, and to and from the warehouse by means of a 4x4 vehicle.

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.

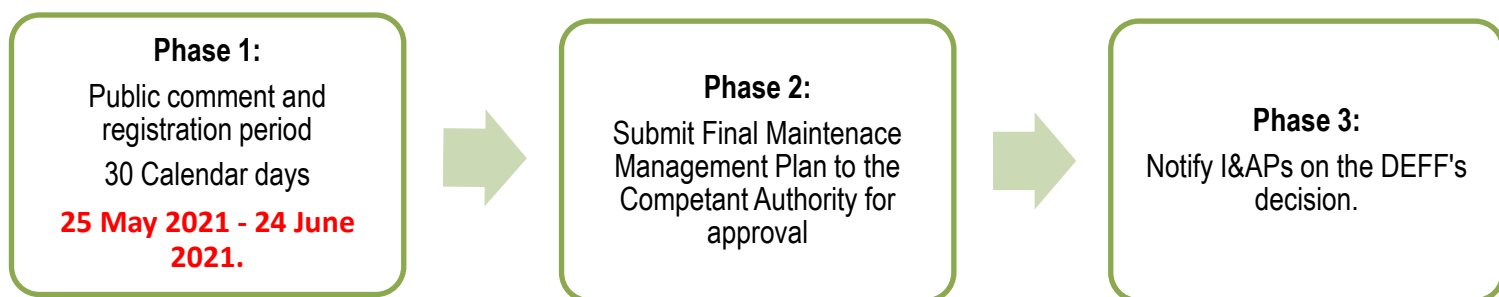
The Public Participation Process will commence on **25 May 2021** and end on **24 June 2021**.

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 **24 June 2021**.

All documentation regarding the MMP for the proposed project, will be available on the Enviroworks' website: **www.enviroworks.co.za** from **25 May 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, ROB BEN 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 **24 June 2021**

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

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