



MEMORIALISATION PROJECT – A FIVE YEAR VISION [2019 – 2024]

'Honour all those who suffered for freedom and justice in our land'
The South African Constitution

The Purpose of this document

Over the years' thousands of people, from all over the world have visited Robben Island and many more will still come. Now, 20 years on, as a World heritage site, Robben Island Museum has taken this opportunity to 're-envision' our museum into the future – to set the foundation of a story that will inspire future generations. We want visitors to experience Robben Island as dynamic space, where they can journey into history and return transformed.

The purpose of this document is to outline Robben Island Museum's Memorialisation Project for the next 5 years. It outlines the exhibitions and visitor experiences that will undergird, the museums core offering. These exhibitions/experiences can be divided into 2 broad categories; the outside component; The Memory and Landscape Trail, and the inside component; Prison/s Exhibition (with a focus on the Maximum Security Prison, Die Ou Tronk and Sobukwe House). Denoting exhibition and experiences as inside and outside, gives us an opportunity to mark the sites that are of historical and memorial significance that must be kept in an exhibition ready state. These are not tour packages. Tours may combine different elements of inside and outside depending on the tour goals and the routes selected.

Memorialisation – a conceptual framework?

Memorialisation is a living process, put in place to remember and honour different groups of people who lived on the Island [especially those brought here and kept here against their will.] Concretely, memorialization is expressed through the activities and processes set in place to remember those who suffered on Robben Island – across time. The foundation of the memorialization process is the historical timeline, from prehistoric times, to the present. Memorialisation becomes concrete when the stories come alive in the exhibitions, rituals [intentional moments of remembering], and the creation of symbolic objects [sculptures, walls of honour] and so on. These combine to make history come alive for the visitor. The people they encounter, the images they see, the words they read, the sounds they hear, the physical objects they see, the buildings they enter and the land they walk on; all these are the ingredients needed for the visitor/pilgrim to unlock the door of the imagination, enter the past and be affected in the present.

What will the memorialisation plan deliver – Outcomes?

Outcome One

Transformation of the Maximum Security Prison: The Maximum Security Prison will be fully restored and 20 exhibitions have been installed in the different spaces – Admin Block, Amoury, Reception, Censors, Office, Section B, Hospital, A section, C Section, the Courtyards, the Communal Cells [DEFGH], the Kitchen, The Fields. **(The phases are broken down in the MSP master-plan.)**

Improved Visitor Experience

Visitors will feel what it might have been like to be a prisoner [or warder] in the MSP. This experience will may be guided by an EPP. It will rely on an incremental journey of discovery through well-placed touch screen text panels, video monitors, interacting with special objects and artifacts.

Outcome Two

The Memory and Landscape Trail: 15 different sites, across the Island have been marked and prepared. There is a well-cordoned scape using material found on the Island, memorial seating, and interpretive text explain the story. And in other cases a *Wall of Names* – such as at Die Ou Tronk, Field of Banishment, The 1st Quarry, The Harbour etc.

Improved visitor Experience

The visitor will get to experience the natural environment and have a physical feeling of what it means to be on the Island and to be part of is landscape. They will be enriched by the stories and connect with the different ‘spirits’ of history.

Outcome Three

Visitors are able to go on a special tour of the 2nd World War relics: A narrative on Robben Island developed. A vivid story of war, technology and world politics will be told in restored spaces such as A2 Generator Room using touch screens and projectors and sounds.

Improved Visitor Experience

Visitors will know about the role of Robben Island in the 2nd world war. They will also have a physical experience of being inside the relics [ones prepared for safe exploration by visitors) and the fully restored ones.

Outcome Four

The Historical Boats, Diaz and Susan Kruger have been restored and are being exhibited. The Diaz, will be used as a boat to ferry high paying special tours and for educational tours. The Susan Kruger will be exhibited on land (at Murray's Harbour, or in the envisaged land based museum)

Improved Visitor Experience

Visitors will get to experience what it was like to travel in the boat as a prisoner.

Outcome Five

RIM has created a Climate Controlled Museum Storage and Restoration Centre (Matlotlo), in a section of Die Ou Tronk, to house the special objects and artifacts.

Improved Visitor Experience

Visitors have an authentic experience through the special objects and artifacts they encounter (the restoration and proper allocation of objects to their spaces), will improve the value of the experience.

Outcome Six

Robben Island Museum has a dynamic **(Digital memorial platform -Robben Island TV-a web-based channel)** dedicated to the natural, political and social history of the Island. Through this platform, Robben Island will produce a documentary series with a suitable broadcast partner.

Improved Visitor Experience

Visitors and other audiences will be able to learn about the many different people who were incarcerated on Robben Island. Even for those who do not physically visit Robben Island, they can access the stories and have an experience on a digital platform.

Outcome Seven

Robben Island has produced a 3part publication [three part photos and essays] on telling the story of Robben Island. An artistic and academically sound, but accessible coffee table books (and smaller pocket size exhibitions.) will be produced. The creation of the material will be based on contributions from leading writers, photographers, and visual artists.

Improved Visitor Experience

The Visitor will get a chance to **take away a compelling artistic product** from Robben Island that will deepen their experience and continue to affect them well after they have left Robben Island.

Outcome Eight

Robben Island Annual Art and Freedom Festival: Through its Creative Team, Marketing department and Mayibuye Archives, the museum will collaborate with Cape Town International Jazz Festival and a Chosen Gallery, City of Cape town and others to host an annual Jazz and Art Exhibition on Robben Island to coincide with the Cape Town International Jazz Festival. A leading South African artist working with an international counterpart will be invited to perform a bespoke work live on Robben Island **[These Songs of Freedom]**. Mayibuye Archive will curate selected artworks from the collection. This will be internationally streamed, with further broadcast rights and online distributions.

Improved Visitor Experience

The moment and the resultant product will give visitors an artistic product to take home while reaching an influential audience. The annual moment will contribute to the positive portrayal of Robben Island in the media.

CONCLUSION

We seek to make Robben Island a top class, world heritage site offering experiences that can immerse visitors in the different layers of history, from prehistoric times, to the present. Giving people an opportunity to go on a mindful exploration of carefully curated spaces is the basis transformative journey into the past.

<p style="text-align: center;">VISION</p>	<p>Robben Island is a top class African site of memory and world heritage site.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">THE MANDATE Of the CREATIVE TEAM</p>	<p>To curate a series of exhibitions (experiences) that covers the multi-layered history of Robben Island from pre-historic times to the present.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PURPOSE OF THE JOURNEY</p>	<p>To honour those who suffered for freedom and justice in our land</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">THE MISSION</p>	<p>To give visitors a transformative experience through the spaces, the stories, and the people they will encounter</p>
<p>CURATORIAL PRINCIPLES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site/Island is the first artifact and exhibition • Let the natural environment/built environment speak (minimal intervention and through compelling content) • Create participative/responsive and accessible modes of communication • Create and inclusive narrative (privilege the personal register – across time and across politics) • Protect the unique natural environment (especially the endangered African Penguin and other species) • Affirm the spiritual dimensions (of all communities) • Always celebrate the triumph of the human spirit 	

OUTCOMES/ DESIRED CHANGE/RESULTS for 5 YEARS	OVI/Objectively Verifiable Indicators
<p>1. TRANSFORM THE MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON EXPERIENCE</p> <p>The Maximum Security Prison (MSP including the Harbour, Visitor's Centre and Jetty One) have been fully interpreted and Visitors have a dynamic experience based on the exhibitions and with the interactions with EPP's</p>	<p>20 Number of Exhibitions/visitor experiences have been curated in the MSP.</p> <p>Visitor Feedback</p>
<p>2. MEMORY AND LANDSCAPE TRAIL</p> <p>Visitors to Robben Island are able to visit specially prepared memorial sites, mainly, 'outdoors'.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jetty One 2. Murray's Harbour 3. The first Quarry 4. Krotoa's Garden 5. The Field of Banishment 6. The Leper Graveyard/bath ruins and church) 7. The Second World War relics 	<p>15 exhibitions/memorial spaces have been installed and utilized.</p> <p>Visitor Feed back</p>

<p>8. Die Ou Tronk (including A2 building, Bamboo Span houses, and Lucifer) 9. Maximum Security Prison [various spaces] 10. Visitor Center 11. Sobukwe House 12. The Blue Stone Quarry 13. Lime Stone Quarry 14. The LandBou and Bouspan (fields) 15. The Garrison Church [locus for village, Houses, Insane Asylum, School and Guest House]</p>	
<p>3. ESTABLISH THE 2nd WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE Visitors are able to go on a special tour of the 2nd World War relics [as a stand alone tour or as part of the Memory and Landscape Trail]</p>	<p>X of exhibitions Visitor Feedback</p>
<p>4. THE RESTORATION AND INTEPRETATION OF THE DIAZ and the SUSAN KRUGER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robben Island Museum has restored the Diaz. It is fully interpreted and it is being used for special tours • Robben Island Museum has restored the Susan Kruger and it is being utilized as part of land based exhibitions (On the Island or in the New Land based Museum) 	<p>Number of tours undertaken on the Diaz and income Number of Visitors going through the Susan Kruger experience</p>

<p>5. ROBBEN ISLAND HAS PRODUCED A 3 PART PUBLICATIONS [three- part book of photos and essays]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collaborative product of artists, writers, photographers working with Robben Island to create a product. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of copies produced and sold (income) • Number of launches and reviews
<p>6. Robben Island Museum has a dynamic (Digital Memorial Platform -Robben Island TV-a web-based channel)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create short clips for YouTube Channel • Produce a multipart documentary series with a broadcaster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Clips on the internet • Number of hits • Number of documentaries flighted • Number of people viewing the content and clips on the RIMTV
<p>7. MUSEUM STORAGE and RESTORATION CENTRE (Matlotlo) Robben Island Museum has a central, climate controlled museum storage and restoration facility (MATLOTLO, a dedicated space at Die Tronk on Robben Island)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register of artifacts and special objects • Audited reports of artifacts and special projects

<p>8. Robben Island Annual Art and Freedom Festival The public (audiences worldwide) get to be part of an artistic meditation/celebration of all the people who struggled for freedom.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of attendees• Number of marketing hits• Number of streams, clips etc.• Number of 'products' sold