

**UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE/ROBBEN ISLAND MUSEUM
AFRICAN PROGRAMME IN MUSEUM AND HERITAGE STUDIES 3013
HERITAGE MANAGEMENT-SITES**

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE LEPER'S GRAVEYARD AT ROBBEN ISLAND

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1. INTRODUCTION

The leper's graveyard located at Robben Island Museum, is one of the most significant places on the island. The site is a relic of the leprosarium period that lasted from . As such, the leper graveyard contributes significantly to the cultural landscape of the island. Its tangible and intangible heritage is in keeping with the symbolism attached to the island capture in the museums motto, 'The triumph of the human spirit over adversity and suffering.' The leper graveyard's significance is enhanced due to its associated landscape which include among others, the Church of the Good Shepherd, the remains of the leper colonies and the leper wards.

This Integrated Conservation Management Plan for the leper graveyard has been developed in recognition of the significance of the leper graveyard to the intangible and tangible heritage of the Robben Island as well as to the cultural landscape of the island. It should be read and implemented not in isolation, but in the general framework and as a part of the ICMP of Robben Island.

2. DESCRIPTION THE LEPER GRAVEYARD

The leper graveyard is located along road,. The extent of the leper's graveyard is vast. The leper's graveyard consists of hundreds of graves. A fraction of these graves are in a wire fenced area while the majority of the graves are in the thickets surrounding the fenced area to the North, West and South. The entry to the fenced area is a gate located to the North of the fence. The wire fenced area has more than 20rows of about 13 graves per row. The fenced area contains approximately 250-300 burials.. Apart from the graves in the fenced area, there are hundreds of graves in the thickets surrounding the fence prominently on the North and West of the fenced area. The graves in the North of the fenced area extend as far (and possibly beyond?) the road separating the grave area with the prison, and to the North East as far as Rd. A mere glance of how near some graves are to the roads makes one wonder if the roads were not constructed on graves. Evidence of graves was also noticed on the South of the fenced area but the area is extensively overgrown with trees. There are also a number of pathways around the graveyard, the most

prominent leads from the gate to the Northern Side of the fenced area, it was difficult to discern the patterns of the pathways due to overgrown vegetation. The pathways are made of compacted mortar and there are pebbles lining them. Similar pathways were also noted between the rows and columns of graves. It is difficult to determine the burial patterns of the graves. This is especially true for the graves that are located outside the fenced area. A detailed analysis could be helpful in discerning the burial patterns in the fenced area. As the table below reflects, most of the graves are made from concrete. In the majority of cases where the remains are clear, the plinth is made of concrete, there is usually a U shaped concrete headstone whose base is rectangular concrete on which is a copper plate with the names and dates of the deceased, a few graves had cross shaped concrete headstone but with the same base as above. In other cases, the plinth is concrete with marble headstone containing information written on lead. In some cases where the headstone is marble, the base was granite. There were a few graves (not more than five) whose concrete plinths were decorated with cast iron.

No.	Description	Name	Dates	Material	Condition	Comments
1.		E J M Smith	1908-9-12	PL- Concrete B- Concrete HS- Concrete	Poor-	
2.		Elizabeth Collins	1908-8-7	PL- Concrete B- Concrete HS- Concrete		
3.		B P Geldenhuts	1908-7-17	PL- Concrete		

				B- Concrete HS- Concrete		
4.		Louisa Little	1908-	PL- Concrete B- Concrete HS- Concrete		
5.		NN		PL- Concrete B- Concrete HS- Concrete		
6.		K J Lardmah		PL- B- HS- concrete cross		
7.		Edward Feihy		PL- B- concrete HS-		
8.		NN		PL- B- HS-		
9.		NM		PL- B- HS-		

10		Andres Petrus		PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
11		NM		PL- B- HS-		
12	There is just a concrete remain of the horizontal part of a cross shaped headstone	NM	-	PL- B- HS- concrete	Very poor	
13	The headstone in marble is designed by Cane and Son, pieces are missing	Willie Wesedy	1879-06-20	PL- concrete B- concrete HS- marble, lead lettering	Cracks on the base, algae on the HS	
14	HS cracked, just remains of concrete pieces and small metals pieces that must have supported the headstone	NM		PL- B- HS- concrete		remaining
15	Concrete plinth is cracking and	John Rossouw	1909-09-4	PL- concrete		

	falling apart,			B- concrete HS- concrete		
16	The plinth is falling apart, the marble is also falling, the lead letters which should have given the same and dates have faded	NM	-	PL- concrete B- concrete HS- marble		
17	Elaborate tombstone with surrounded by a pattern of cast iron, the iron is heavily rusted	A A La Roux	2stb mei 1909	PL- concrete B- concrete HS- marble	Cast iron showed evidence of active rusting, marble headstone falling apart	
18	Remains of only concrete	NM	-	PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
19	Just the horizontal remains of a cross shaped headstone	NM	-	PL- B- concrete HS- concrete	-	-

20	Only the remains of the headstone	H. S Nel	1907-5-4	PL- B- HS- concrete	The headstone is almost falling	
21	Only the plinth has remains	NM	-	PL- concrete B- HS-	Evidence of growth of vegetation	
22	Elaborately decorated plinth with heavy cast iron decorated rods	MC Botha	Ceboren- 1860	PL- concrete decorated with cast iron B- concrete HS- marble		
23		N W Van Wyk	1908-12- 13	PL- concrete B- concrete HS- concrete	Growth of vegetation affecting the foundations of the plinth	
24	The cross headstone has totally collapsed	Go Goosen	1908-11- 25	PL- concrete B- concrete HS- concrete		
25		James Daniel Martiz	19-08-11-	PL-		

			15	concrete B- HS-		
26	Only the horizontal part of the cross shaped headstone as remained, the concrete from this part has fallen off leaving juts the metal that was inside,	Bruce Woodhouse	1908-9-25	PL- concrete B- concrete HS- concrete		
27	Just scattered remains of concrete and the metal inside of what must have been a cross shaped headstone	NM	-	PL- B- HS- concrete		
28	Only the stump of the base has remained	NM	-	PL- B- concrete HS-		
29	Concrete plinth and Italian marble tombstone all in good condition	Gabriel H Loubser	1853-09-2	PL- concrete B- concrete HS-	Relatively good	

	decorated with flowers			marble		
30	Concrete plinth and Italian marble tombstone all in good condition, marble decorated with figure of angel	Johannes Rossou	Born 1867-02-08 Died- 1911-03-27	PL- B- HS-	Relatively good	
31	Just remains of a base, copper plate where information is intact	A M Carter	1911-12-17	PL- B- concrete HS-		
32	The concrete plinth , small part of the marble headstone remaining	NM	–	PL- B- HS-	Poor condition	
33	Concrete plinth with elaborate decorations in cats iron, totally collapsed marble headstone	NM	–	PL- concrete B- HS- marble	poor	
34		Nicholas Johannes Heyns	Born- 1892-07-10 Died- 1910-11-	PL- concrete B- concrete HS-	Base intact Only part of headstone remains	

			19	concrete		
35	Only concrete base and concrete headstone remaining	B Klassen	1910-10-1	PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
36		Mary Cholwich	1910-9-20	PL- B- HS-		
37		Francois Jacobus Retief	Born- 1873-11- 15 Died- 1910-07- 16	PL- concrete B- concrete HS- marble		
38		J. O. P Smal	1910-6-12	PL- concrete B- concrete HS- marble		
39	The is evidence of the headstone which has collapsed on its face	NM	-	PL- B- HS- concrete		Likely the information could be on the base which is covered by the collapsed tombstone
40	The place is		-	PL-	Very poor,	only pieces

	proceeded by an empty space that must have burials on them but there is no clear evidence to this effect	NM		B- HS-		of concrete have remained to mark it as a burial
41	The vertical part of the cross headstone and the base are the only remains	George Cooper	1912-12-12	PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
42	The headstone has collapsed, base intact, no plinth	A greyling	1912-10-10	PL- B- HS-	Very poor	
43	The plinth is broken but base is intact			PL- B- HS-		
44	Big Concrete Plinth, marble headstone with a decoration of an angel,	Friedrich Gustav Ferner aged 75 Wilhelmina Ferner, aged 62	Friederich 1912-07-31 Wilhemina 1912-08-01	PL- concrete B- concrete HS- Marble		the place contains 2 burials with the same surname, the first names indicates that the two are of different gender

						aged 75 and 62 respectively,
45	Just concrete pieces/remains	NM	-	PL- B- HS-		
46	Just concrete pieces/remains	NM	-	PL- B- HS-		
47	The plinth is concrete, the headstone is a cross made from marble	Vera aged 21	1912-05-8	PL- B- HS-		This is the only cross made from marble in the graveyard
48	Concrete plinth and base	JanettaDebora Coetzee	Born- 1885 Died-	PL- concrete B- concrete HS-		
49	Concrete plinth with marble headstone with engraving of angel	TergedavChtenisaan M D Otto	Born- 1882-09- 16 Died- 1912-02- 19	PL- concrete B- concrete HS- marble		
50	All concrete-	Jan Cooper	1912-08- 11	PL- concrete B- concrete HS-		

				concrete		
51	Concrete pieces only evidence of grave no information available			PL- B- HS-		
52	Concrete pieces only evidence of grave no information available			PL- B- HS-		
53	Concrete pieces only evidence of grave no information available			PL- B- HS-		
54	Concrete base only			PL- B- HS-		Plague were the name should have been written missing
55	Only small concrete piece , no information			PL- B- HS-		
56	Only left side of the concrete plinth,concrete base and vertical iron rod remaining	Johannes J Heyns	Born- 1849-07- 04 Died- 1913-08- 06	PL- concrte B-base HS- Marble		

57	Just base no information			PL- B- HS-		no information
58	Only base and plinth no information			PL- B- HS-		no information
59	The whole burial area is covered in a huge concrete plinth attached to which is the plaque on which information is written		Died- 1920-02 aged 40years	PL- B- HS-		
60	Concrete plinth	Kitty	Born- 1885-01- 07 Died- 1914-11- 18	PL- concrete B- concrete HS-		
61	Concrete remains			PL- B- HS-		no information
62	Only a small portion of the plinth and two iron rods that must have supported the			PL- B- HS-		No information

	headstone-					
63	Bid elaborate concrete plinth decorated with elaborate cast iron , headstone is elaborate marble	AlithaJacoba McDalinaMaree		PL- concrete B- HS- marble		
64	All concrete Headstone, plinth, base			PL- concrete B- concrete HS- concrete		no information
65	Small concrete pieces			PL- concrete B- concrete HS- concrete		no information
66	Concrete plinth and base	Fredrick Thomas Lange	Born- 1871-05-19 1917-09-26	PL- concrete B- concrete HS-		
67	All concrete tombstone with marble, some of the information is not readable		Died- sept 1917, aged 31	PL- concrete B- HS- marble		no information

68	Remains of concrete plinth and a small iron rod that must have supported the headstone			PL- concrete B- HS-		No information
69	Remains of base, plate were information was written missing			PL- B- concrete HS-		No information
70	Grave is surrounded with big pebble stones			PL-stone B- HS-		No information
71	Just remains of the concrete plinth			PL- concrete B- HS-		No information
72	Concrete plinth, white marble			PL- concrete B-marble HS-		The writings cast in lead are unclear
73	Just concrete plinth and base			PL- concrete B- concrete HS-		No information
74	Concrete plinth and marble headstone and concrete base	Amerenthia F J Fouries	Born- 1878-01- 16 Died-1916- 07-22	PL- concrete B- concrete HS-		

				marble		
75	Concrete plinth and base			PL- concrete B- concrete HS-		No information
76	Concrete base with copper plate were information should have been missing			PL- B- concrete HS-		No information
77	Concrete base only	G Mamanilla	1910-5-1	PL- B- concrete HS-		
78	Concrete base	L amhall	1908-12-29	PL- B- concrete HS-		
79	Just concrete base and plinth			PL- concrete B- concrete HS-		No information
80	Just concrete base and plinth			PL- concrete B- concrete HS-		No information
81	Just concrete base and plinth	D Plagtjes		PL- concrete		

				B- concrete HS-		
82	Concrete base and plinth	Hans Tukme	1910-09- 09	PL- concrete B- concrete HS-		
83	Just broken pieces of base and concrete			PL- B- concrete HS-		No information
84	Base plus a vertical iron rods			PL- B- concrete HS-		No information
85	Concrete base			PL- B- concrete HS-		No information, copper plate mssing
86	Concrete base and plinth			PL- concrete B- concrete HS-		No information
87	Broken plinth			PL- concrete B- HS-		No infromstion
88	Concrete base and plinth, no			PL- concrete		no infromation

	information			B- concrete HS-		
89	Concrete base and plinth, base buried in sand			PL- concrete B- concrete HS-		Information buried in sand with the base
90	Just concrete base			PL- B- concrete HS-		No information
91	Just concrete base			PL- B- concrete HS-		No information
92	Concrete base, concrete cross headstone	Katrina Willaim	1910-4-3	PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
93	Base and headstone			PL- B- concrete HS-		No infromation
94	Just concrete base	S Solomon	1910-03- 16	PL- B- concrete HS-		

95	Just concrete base	A M Songo	1910-03-13	PL- B- concrete HS-		
96	Base and	C Swatz	1910-03-9	PL- concrete B- HS-		
97	Just base			PL- B- concrete HS-		No information
98	Concrete base			PL- B- concrete HS-		Name not visible
99	Concrete Headstone			PL- B- HS concrete -		No name
100	Concrete headstone and base	Singer R	1910-02-21	PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
101	Rectangular concrete plinth with a headstoone			PL- concrete B- HS- concrete		

102	Concrete headstone			PL- B- HS- concrete		
103	Base and part of cross headstone			PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		No information
104	Concrete Base and headstone	John Lewis	1910-10-17	PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
105	Disintegrated concrete base and headstone	J George	1910-08-29	PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
106	Base and headstone			PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		No information
107	Concrete Base and Headstone	K Kauwa	1910-08-08	PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
108	Concrete, base and headstone			PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		Part of headstone missing, no information
109	Badly damaged			PL-		No

	concrete plinth			concrete B- HS-		information
110	Badly damaged concrete plinth			PL- concrete B- HS-		
111	Badly damaged concrete plinth			PL- concrete B- HS-		
112	Badly damaged concrete plinth			PL- concrete B- HS-		
113	Badly damaged concrete plinth			PL- concrete B- HS-		
114	Barely visible plinth			PL- concrete B- HS-		No headstone, no base
115	Just few remains of the plinth and headstone			PL- concrete B- HS- concrete		
116	Concrete plinth, no headstone, barely visible base	D jonker	1910-06- 15	PL- concrete B- concrete		

				HS-		
117	Assumption of grave			PL- B- HS-		No other evidence except the empty space

118	Assumption of grave			PL- B- HS-		No other evidence
119	Covered with an indigenous grass like plant			PL- B- HS-		
120	Concrete base	Klaas A Donis	1910-12-4	PL- B- HS-		Overgrown with the grass
121	Broken cross with a base	Chrstian Davis	1910-11-21	PL- B- HS-		
122	Broken concrete cross headstone with a concrete base			PL- B- HS-		No information
123	Just concrete base	J Slogioloe	1910-06-05	PL- B- HS-		
124	Headstone broken, base barely visiblle but buried in the soil			PL- B- HS-		
125	Cross			PL-		

	headstone broken, only small part of concrete base visible			B- HS-		
126	headstone broken, only small part of concrete base visible			PL- B- HS-		
127	Plinth visible, headstone broken, only small part of concrete base visible			PL- B- HS-		
128	Plinth broken, only small part of concrete base visible			PL- B- HS-		
129	Cross headstone broken, only small part of concrete base visible			PL- B- HS-		
130	Concrete with rocks, cross headstone visible			PL- B- HS-		
131	headstone			PL-		

	broken, only small part of concrete base visible, overgrown with plants			B- HS-		
132	Nothing visible-			PL- B- HS-		Assumption of grave
133	Concrete stamp of base visible- buried in earth			PL- B- HS-		
134	Site overgrown with the grass, base visible			PL- B- HS-		Grass needs to be cleared away to get to the information on the base
135	Base visible			PL- B- HS-		Information not visible
136	Just base			PL- B- HS-		
137	Concreyte base and headstone	John	1911	PL- B- HS-		
138	Evidence of plinth and base headstone broken	N G Ano	1911-04-03	PL- B- HS-		

139	Just base	G gollath	1911-03-30	PL- B- HS-		
140	Broken pieces	Skip Jack	1911-03-30	PL- B- HS-		
141	Concrete slab with cross			PL- concrete HS- concrete		No name
142	Concrete headstone and base	HendrickBaatjes	1911-01-30	PL- concrete B- concrete HS-		
143	Collapsed plinth no base and headstone	NM		PL- concrete B- HS-		No name
144	Plinth collapsed, concrete cross as headstone	NM		PL- B- HS-		No information
145	Assumption of grave	NM		PL- B- HS-		No information
146	Concrete headstone and base	Flora Carolessen	1911	PL- B- HS-		
147	Headstone and base	Ludwig Lewis		PL- B- concrete HS-		

				concrete		
148	Concrete headstone	NM		PL- B- HS-		
149	Broken concrete base	Nm		PL- B- HS-		

150	Broken concrete headstone	Nm		PL- B- HS-		
151	Concrete headstone and base	Hessy Monday	1910-6-2	PL- B-Concrete HS- concrete		
152	Concrete Base	William	1911-06-14	PL- B- concrete HS-		
153	Concrete headstone and base	Jacomona	1911-2-9	PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
154	Fallen concrete headstone	PetrosWaterboil	1911-05-18	PL- B- HS- concrete		
155	Broken	John Fola	1911-05-1	PL-		

	concrete headstone and concrete base			B- concrete HS- concrete		
156	Concrete headstone and base	FredrichGollioth	1911-05- 18	PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
157	Fallen Broken Headstone	SturmanManzi	1911-05- 03	PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
158	Concrete Headstone and base	James House	1911-5-2	PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
159	Collapsed concrete headstone base intact	KivediLudik	1911-04- 23	PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
160	Collapsed concrete headstone base intact	Philip MaCbeth		PL- B-- concrete HS— concrete		
161	Just concrete plinth and it is			PL- B--		No information

	overgrown with vegaetation			concrete HS— concrete		
162	Concrete base	Henry September	1911-09- 23	PL- B-- concrete HS—		
163	Concrete base	Lizzie Smith	1911-10- 17	PL- B-- concrete HS		
164	Vertical part of a cross headstone and concrete base	Nettie Alcock	November 1911	PL- B-- concrete HS— concrete		
165	Concrete Base and headstone	Joseph Solomon	1911-9-13	PL- B-- concrete HS— concrete		

166	Concrete base	Griet Bernadine	1911- 11-05	PL- B-concrete HS- concrete		
167	Concrete base and headstone	Adrian Fortein	1911- 08-22	PL- B- HS-		
168	Concrete base	Mietje Haas	1911-	PL-		

	and headstone		08-08	B- HS-		
169	Concrete base and headstone	SeduliThorolang	1911- 08-18	PL- B- HS-		
170	Concrete base and headstone	Marsh	1911- 18-19	PL- B- HS-		
171	Concrete base and headstone	Zungas	1911- 08-12	PL- B- HS-		
172	Concrete base and headstone	Jacob uveldtNie	1911- 08-11	PL- B- HS-		
173	Concrete base and headstone	KaefibjeThembu	1911- 08-10	PL- B-concrete HS- concrete	poor	
174	Assumption of grave			PL- B- HS-	Very poor	No visible remains
175	Assumption of grave			PL- B- HS-	Very poor	No visible remains
176	Assumption of grave			PL- B- HS-	Very poor	No visible remains
177	Assumption of grave			PL- B-	Very poor	No visible remains

				HS-		
178	Assumption of grave			PL- B- HS-	Very poor	No visible remains
179	Assumption of grave			PL- B- HS-	Very poor	No visible remains
180	Concrete base and headstone in poor condition	Billiant Mint		PL- B-concrete HS- concrete	poor	Name and date not clear
181	Assumption of a burial			PL- B- HS-	Very poor	No clear evidence
182	Concrete base and headstone still intact but disintegrating	Mathew Holt	1912-11-18	PL- B-concrete HS- concrete	Poor	

183	Base and headstone collapsed	M Berlin	1912-12-21	PL- B-concrete HS- concrete	poor	
184	Base flat on the ground Evidence of collapsed headstone	Jacobus Abrahams	1911-12-3	PL- B- HS-	poor	
185	Concrete base and headstone in very bad	Joseph Slinger	1911-12-2	PL- B- HS-	Very poor	

	condition					
186	Base and headstone still there	NM		PL- B- HS-	In very poor condition	
187	Base and headstone lying on the ground	NM		PL- B- HS-	Remains collapsed	
188	Assumption of grave			PL- B- HS-		No clear remains
189	Broken Headstoen	NM		PL- B- HS-		
190	Concrete base attached to which is a cross headstone visible are metal rods	Huys Christian	1912-7-15	PL- B- HS-		poor
191	Only concrete stamp of concrete base			PL- B- HS-		
192	Headstone fallen base intact, writing unclear, remains of cross headstone	Golda Dapar		PL- B-concrete HS-		
193	Headstone and base visible but barely			PL- B-concrete HS-		

				concrete		
194	Assumption of grave			PL- B- HS-		No clear evidence
195	Assumption of grave			PL- B- HS-		No clear evidence
196	Assumption of grave			PL- B- HS-		No clear evidence
197	Plinth visible			PL- B- HS-		
198	Assumption of grave			PL- B- HS-		No clear evidence

199	Base and headstrong visible but overgrown with grasss			PL- B-concrete HS-concrete		
200	Concrete base and headstrong	AndriesFarling		PL- B-concrete HS-concrete		
201	Plinth cracked no headstone but base present	WillaimKroster	1911-12-23	PL- B-concrete HS-concrete		
202	Just base	Jacobus Gall	1912-12-11	PL- B- concrete HS-		

203	Just base	GertKlasse	1912-9-23	PL- B- concrete HS-		
204	Just base copper plate missing			PL- B- concrete HS-		
205	Just base	FrancinasSt okter	1912-09-10	PL- B- concrete HS-		
206	Broken base	Petrus Norman	1912-09-09	PL- B- concrete HS-		
207	Just base	Catherine Poole	1912-09-06	PL- B-concrete HS-		
208	Just base	Roro	1912-08-17	PL- B- concrete HS-		
209	Just base and vertical remain of iron rod for cross headstone	Dominic Titus	1912—08- 22	PL- B- concrete HS-		
210	Big concrete tombstone	Lizzie Lizani	1912-07-31	PL- concrete B- concrete HS- concrete		
211	Just base	Salmon	1912-07-25	PL- B- concrete HS-		
212	Destroyed grave, assumption of grave			PL- B- HS-		
213	Destroyed grave,			PL-		

	assumption of grave			B- HS-		
214	Concrete stamp visible			PL- B- concrete HS-		
215	Evidence of the metal supporting the cross headstone			PL- B- concrete HS- concrete		
216	Plinth broken, base visible	Jacobus ZINC	1912-12-25	PL- concrete B- concrete HS-		
217	Base visible	Magdalen Rhodes	1912—12- 14	PL- B- concrete HS-		
218	Headstone broken, base visible	Dora M Noesa		PL- B- concrete HS-		
219	Grave destroyed but base visible	Noculula	1912-12-15	PL- B-concrete HS-		
220	Headstone broken	Faaltein	1912-12-15	PL- B- HS-		
221	Headstone broken but base visible	C Sturman	1912-11-29	PL- B- HS-		
222	Destroyed grave			PL- B- HS-		No clear evidence,

223	Concrete base	Johannes Jabus	1912-11-17	PL- B- HS-		
224	Headstone partly destroyed	GrouldSohn	1912-11-5	PL- B- HS-		
225	Destroyed grave			PL- B- HS-		No clear rema
226	Headstone in pieces, base intact	AndriesPaulse	Died-1915-4-14	PL- B- HS-		
227	Headstone and, base intact	Rosie Swart	1915-4-11	PL- B- HS-		
228	Assumption of grave			PL- B- HS-		No clear rema
229	Base and headstone severely damaged	Morobu Tanana	1913-03-29	PL- B- HS-	Base and headstone severely damaged	Base and headstone severely damaged
230	Base and headstone intact	William Kiki	1913-03-29	PL- B- HS-	poor	
231	Headstone and base collapsed on one side	Robert Manto	1913-03-19	PL- B- HS-		

232	Just base	Phakwana	1912-2-19	PL- B- HS-		
233	Base and headstone falling apart	James Tademe	1913-09-29	PL- B- HS-	Base and headstone severely damaged	Base and headstone severely damaged
234	Just base	Paar Oliphant	1913-02-11	PL- B- HS-		Just base, no headstone
235	Base and headstone disintegrating	Ian Smit		PL- B- HS-	Base and headstone severely damaged	Base and headstone severely damaged
236	Base and headstone disintegrating	Makalong	1913-01-03	PL- B- HS-	Base and headstone severely damaged	Base and headstone severely damaged
237	Just Base	SodakaMasi	1913-01-03	PL-		Severely

		nuni		B- HS-		destroyed
238	Just base	Jan V N Rool	1913-01-2	PL- B- HS-		Severely destroyed
239	Concrete headstone, base obscured			PL- B- HS-		No informatio
240	Broken concrete base			PL- B- HS-		
241	Broken concrete headstone			PL- B- HS-		
242	Just base			PL- B- HS-		
243	Broken bent headstone	HermannsVi ssier	1913-08-25	PL- B- HS-	poor	Headstone damaged
244	Broken base	T Villader	1913-08-05	PL- B- HS-		
245	Broken headstone			PL- B- HS-	poor	Information n visible
246	Broken headstone	Letetia Moses	1913	PL- B- HS-		
247	Broken Base	Katrina Armstrong	1913-05-17	PL- B-		

				HS-		
248	Rectangular shaped concrete plinth	Maria	1913-04-04	PL- B- HS-		

3. GENERAL STATE OF CONSERVATION

The general state of the Leper's graveyard is poor. While a portion of the grave is fenced, the vast portion is not fenced. This unfenced portion holds the largest number of graves and its general state of conservation is deplorable. The graves are overgrown with thick alien vegetation on the West, North and south. Some of the big trees are falling on the graves. The roots to the trees and vegetation are a danger to the graves as they will uproot them. The vegetation is also obscuring a lot of graves. Most of the graves have plinths or headstone. However the inscriptions on the graves are faded, while some of the graves do not have any writing at all. In the fenced area, a good number of graves have clear information either on the marble headstone or concrete bases. Some vegetation was noticed in a number of graves. Some areas very few remains are remain. All the marble is overgrown with Algae and the lead on all the, marble is faded.



Fallen marble headstone



General view of a few graves



The deceased's details written on copper plates, attached to a concrete base

4. METHODOLOGY

The following methodologies were used

1. A site survey was done on the site. The graves in the fenced area were recorded as reflected in the table below. The counting was started at the North Eastern corner of the fence and ended on the south west corner.
2. A library desk research was also done. Various publications and books were consulted in the Robben Island Library
3. A snap survey was also done
4. A satellite image of the site could not be included due to problems with the internet source
5. In the table below the following abbreviations, NM-MISSING NAME, PLPLINTH, B-BASE, HS-HEADSTONE, have been used

5.POLICY

The policy and legal frameworks guiding the management of the leper graveyard falls within the generay policy of management of the Robben Island World Heritage sites. Therefore, the following policy and legeslative framework, copied wholly from the Robben Island ICMP accrues to the managemnt of the Lerper graveyard:
Adequate and up-to-date legal instruments, relevant and appropriate policies and well structured administrativeframeworks are imperative for good management of

World Heritage Sites. This applies to all sites, including Robben Island. For the effective protection of the World Heritage status of Robben Island it is important for the State Party to put in place legislation to supplement conventions, in order to provide a legally sound framework within which to conserve the cultural and natural heritage of the Island. In South Africa, however, if there is any cause for concern, it is that there are many laws and bodies vested with the responsibility of ensuring heritage management, and that there is a need to ensure that their roles are not competitive, but complementary. The bodies responsible for heritage management and whose authority does impact on Robben Island include South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), and Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), among others. In addition, RIM's legal obligations in respect of the management and maintenance of the Island arise from international conventions, the common law, the South African Constitution and various domestic statutes, which include the following:

- Public Finance Management Act 1 of 1999;
- National Environment Management Act 107 of 1998;
- National Heritage Resource Act of 25 of 1999;
- World Heritage Convention Act of 49 of 1999;
- World Heritage Convention of 1972;
- World Heritage Operational Guidelines revised in 2002;
- The South African Constitution 108 of 1996;
- Municipal By-Laws and Provincial legislation.

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6. PREPARATION OF PLAN-STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Leper's graveyard is highly significant to the Cultural Landscape of Robben Island. 'A cultural landscape refers to tangible human modifications of a natural environment and the intangible meanings associated with that modified landscape.' (Robben Island Museum: 2008,). The cultural landscape of Robben Island goes as far back as pre-colonial South Africa and is layered with a lot of other significant events in South African human History. The Leper period is one of the most significant periods in the history of Robben Island.

6.1 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The leper graveyard is important in the understanding of the leper period in Robben Island History which dates between 1931 and 1946. This historic significance is because firstly, the graveyard has high potential to understanding key issues regarding the leper period in Robben Island History. It has high potential for historical research which would add on to knowledge on Robben Island in general and the leper period in particular. Secondly, the leper graveyard is connected with other sites within Robben Island such as the Church Of The Good shepherd (leper church), the leper wards and the female and male leprosarium. Therefore, the graveyard adds significance to these other sites. Furthermore, the leper graveyard represents the deep rooted history of incarceration at the Island and therefore adds to the general understanding of Robben Island History as a place of incarceration, isolation and oppression.

6.2 SPIRITUAL/SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The leper graveyard is one of the sites that have spiritual significance. It is the most significant burial grounds among others which include the Irish graveyard, Kramat and Dutch Reformed Parsonage (1895), Tomb of Prince of Madura and Dutch graveyard in prison precinct. Furthermore, as a spiritual site, the site is a site for spiritual reflection and pilgrimage. Therefore, the leper graveyard has the potential to contribute to the Spiritual Tourism of Robben Island.

6.3 ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural features of the graves and pathways are significant. The architecture of the graves can be put into three or four distinct categories: concrete plinth and Italian marble headstone with concrete or granite, concrete plinth, base(with copper plate) and headstone, concrete plinth decorated with iron, marble and marble headstone, and the use of pebbles and shells to construct the plinth. The decorations on the Italian marble are of great architectural interest. The pathways were constructed using compacted mortar. In summary, architecturally, there are features in the construction of the graves and pathways that are similar with other architectural features on the island.

6.4 ASTHEATIC SIGNIFICANCE

Some of the graves are extremely beautiful. The architecture of the marble headstone is unique and impressive. On some of these, there are engravings of different decorations such as angels, flowers etc.

6.5 AUTHENTICITY AND INTERGRITY

The leper's Graveyard has to a large extent maintained its authenticity and integrity because no significant alterations have been made to the site and to the individual graves. Apart from the construction of the Diamond mesh fencing on a small portion of the grave site, no significant changes have occurred.

7. PREPARATION OF PLAN –VISITOR MANAGEMENT

This part of the plan will identify potential visitors' to the leper graveyard. It will also suggest plans for how the site can be interpreted or presented to visitors. Finally, under this heading, an assessment of the impact that visitors are likely to have on the site will be noted o be minimal.

7.1 POTENTIAL VISITORS TO THE LEPER GRAVEYARD-the potential visitors to the site are:

1. the bus tour with the tourists
2. Tombstone tourists interested in **cemetery or graveyard tourism**
3. researchers such as physical anthropologists
4. individual visitors whose ancestors may be buried there

7.2 SUGGESTIONS FOR INTERPRETATION

'The Triumph of the human spirit over adversity'- During the bus tour, there is need to have a connection between what Robben Island represents and the place of the leper graveyard in this presentation. As the motto for Robben island notes, the museum represents 'The Triumph of the Human Spirit over Adversity.' The leper period suits perfectly in this representation of Robben Island, therefore the bus tour guides should emphasis this representation. There are individual stories of leper's

who achieved a lot during the time at the island despite the deplorable conditions of living which would be very interesting to tourists.

Tombstone Tourists- these would be interested in the cemetery itself. Hence, individual on site tours can be arranged for these interested especially in graves. The history and architectural features of the graveyard and graves can be highlighted.

Researchers-The leper cemetery has unlimited potential in this area as it is one of only two specifically leper graveyards in the world today.(I read this somewhere, quotation needed?). Therefore researchers from wide range of fields would be interested in carrying out research there. However, a policy need to be developed on how to deal with various researches on the cemetery particularly if exhuming and archaeology is involved.

7.3 VISITOR MOVEMENTS

Visitors to the site need to have a clear indication of the routes to take when on the site. The following points are noted:

1. The leper graveyard already has pathways. These are found inside the fenced area as well as for some parts of the unfenced area. Due to neglect, the paths are impassable. A survey of the site needs to be made to establish the pattern of pathways. Using the 'minimalist approach', the pathways should be restored to their original look. Therefore, I highly recommend that where possible visitors should follow the original routes as shown in the pathways.
2. As noted earlier, a large part of the unfenced area is overgrown with vegetation. Therefore, this should be cleared to allow visitors easy access to the graves.

RISKS TO VISITORS

1. The vegetation is not only a risk to the site, but to the visitors as well.
2. Due to the dense vegetation around the leper graveyard, it is a possible habitat of animals that might be a danger to visitors.

IMPACT OF VISITORS TO THE SITE

Visitors can impact the site variously. Firstly, since the graves are in the open, it is possible that visitors may vandalise the graves. Hence guides need to be stationed there in case of such risks.

PREPARATION OF PLAN-MAINTANANCE

IMMEDIATE

- Systematically clear all the vegetation around the cemetery and the graves
- Renovate the paths to their original state to make the site passable

LONG TERM-EVERY 3 YEARS

- comprehensively document the entire cemetery
- clearing of vegetation
- renovation of any fallen graves

SHORT TERM

- Cleaning around the cemetery

2013-05-06, Mary 5-leper graveyard

PREPARATION OF PLAN – RISK MANAGEMENT

PREAMBLE- In this section I will look at various factors which put the site at risk and where possible I will attempt to recommend the management of this risk. There are various risks that where identified at the site. These are:

Vegetation. High risk-Alien vegetation has overgrown a large portion of the site. The risk from the growth of vegetation is very high. Inside the fenced area, there is a glasslike plant that has overgrown a large section of the North-west corner, while a number of graves show evidence of vegetation inside the plinth. However, the biggest risk caused by vegetation is on the graves outside the fenced area on all

sides except the eastern side. Here huge trees have overgrown the area. In many places, dense and thick shrubs have completely covered the graves. Some big trees were seen to be falling on some graves. The damage to the graves caused by tree trunks is massive. In many areas, the trunks have totally uprooted the graves. The biggest danger is that where there is dense vegetation some graves maybe be lost.



graves overgrown by vegetation

Management- The problem of alien vegetation at the leper graveyard needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency

- I. Firstly, there is need to make a comprehensive assessment and documentation of the growth of vegetation on the leper graveyards especially in the unfenced area. The impacts of the growth of vegetation should be assessed and documented accordingly
- II. A systematic project should be carried out to remove the vegetation from the whole area of the graveyard. Most important, this process should draw upon the services of a trained and experienced site conservator so that graves are not compromised during the exercise. This is because the impact of the growth of vegetation

has been so much that an untrained person cannot tell the presence of graves in some areas.

- III. Another project should be initiated to restore graves that have been disturbed by vegetation and to record graves that were hidden by vegetation.



grave totally

overgrown with vegetation

1. **Risk due to Developments -Medium to High risk-**the developments such as the construction of the road on the Northern part of the graveyard and the maximum security prison were done too close to the graveyards. Some graves were observed just a few centimetres from the road on the Northern part of the graveyard. These developments put the site at risk of extinction



Developments pose a risk to the graveyard. Here electricity poles built right in the middle of graves. Note the closeness of the road to the graves

Management-

- I. an impact assessment should be done

II. further developments near the graveyard should not be done

2. Theft of copper plates covering the bases-Medium to high risk. In a significant number of instances, the surveyor observed that some copper plates covering the concrete bases were missing. All factors indicate that the copper was stolen. A larger number of bases still have the copper plates intact but these are at risk of been stolen.

Management- increase security or even routine patrols on the site.



Place showing were the copper plate should have been

3. Risk As a result of natural factors- As reflected in the table on description, most of the graves were constructed before 1920. Due to weathering, some of the components of the graves e.g. plinths, headstones and bases have broken. This poses a threat to the continued existence of the graves.



Broken marble headstone



Broken Cross Headstone far right and top left broken plinth with red burnt pan bricks inside

Management-The most important aspect of managing this risk is to restore the ones that are already broken using the *minimalist approach*. For example the broken pieces could be recast in concrete similar to the original.

- 4. Animals**-evidence was seen that animals frequent the graveyards. In the fenced area evidence of this was seen through the animal droppings below. At present this does not seem to be a pressing problem, however, if the animals colonise the site it will be a bigger problem.



Animal droppings

Management-identify factors on the site that attract animals and remove them, e.g. vegetation which animals may want to eat, possible breeding grounds etc.

5. Risk of fire due to dry wood all over the site



Easily flammable dry

wood surround the site

The site is surrounded by dry wood which puts the site at risk of fire breaking out. The extent of the damage that fire can cause on this site is significant. (am not sure how fire would affect the marble and concrete specifically)

Management:

- I. The dry wood needs to be systematically removed to minimise the threat
- II. Provision in the Robben Island risk preparedness for fire should be made for the graveyard

PREPARATION OF PLAN-DEVELOPMENTAL IMPACTS

ALIEN VEGETATION-the greatest impact on the site has been the growth of alien vegetation which has grown uncontrollably in the larger portion of the graveyard. The growth of the vegetation has distorted the site. Graves have been hidden by the vegetation, while most parts of the cemetery are inaccessible because of the vegetation. Vegetation has uprooted some components of the graves like plinths, which has contributed to their collapse. Alien vegetation also makes it impossible to discern the patterns and locations of the pathways which must have formed a unique part of the cemetery. Because of their vegetation visitors cannot access most parts of the cemetery

Management-an impact assessment of the growth of vegetation needs to be made. Thereafter informed decisions involving a heritage consultant need to be put in place to deal with the impacts of the vegetation

CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON-Evidence points to a high likelihood that the maximum security prison located to the North-west of the leper cemetery was built on part of the cemetery. During the construction of the prison, skeletal remains were unearthed.

ROAD ON NORTH-WEST OF THE CEMETERY-The road that is located on the North-west of the cemetery between the cemetery and the Maximum Security Prison was most likely built on graves; the road is less than 30 centimetres from the next visible graves.

ELECTRICITY POLES-there are some electricity poles constructed right inside the cemetery on the North-West side of the cemetery. Graves were mostly likely destroyed when they were put up. Additionally, the impact of the poles will continue

because their maintenance will most likely involve workman stepping on the cemetery and causing further destruction to the graves.

Management-if possible the poles could be removed and placed somewhere else. If not, then an assessment of their impact should be done, and a heritage consultant should be on site anytime maintenance work is carried out on them.

10. CONCLUSIONS-RECOMMENDATIONS

The implementation of the ICMP for the leper graveyard should be implemented as a matter of Agency. As noted in the maintenance plan, a qualified site conservator should be consulted and a survey done as an immediate first step to the implementation of the plan. The implementation of an ICMP for the leper graveyard will ensure that the site is well managed and that it will continue to contribute to the cultural resource of the island that has made it one of the most desired tourist destinations in South Africa.

12. REFERENCES

Deacon Harriet, (2004) , 'Intangible Heritage in Conservation Management Planning: The case of Robben Island' in *International Journal of Heritage Studies'* 10:3 , pp309-319

Fielden, Bernard M. and JukkaJokilehto: *Management Guidelines for World Cultural Heritage Sites*. ICCROM, Rome, 1998.Chapter 1.

Semple Kerr, James: "Opening Address: The conservation Plan." *Proceedings of the Oxford Conference*. English Heritage.1999.pp.9-19

Robben Island Museum integrated Conservation management Plan.

ADDENDUM TO THE TABLED INFORMATION AND METHODOLOGY

Some inaccuracies might be contained in the information contained in the above table due to the following limitations when the site was surveyed and the information contained in the table was collected:

1. About three rows contained spaces with no clearly defined evidence of graves, at the time of collecting the information; I assumed that meant there were no graves contrary to the pattern of the arrangement of graves.
2. There were 2 columns that had unclearly defined stone remains. I was later advised that the stone remains were in fact evidence of graves there. From my analysis of the columns which had complete clearly marked graves, the two columns that I assumed did not have graves must each contain between 11 to 13 burials. These are not reflected in the above table
3. In some places, the Base was made of granite to which the headstone was attached (in these unique cases, the headstone was marble). However, I recorded all the bases as concrete because while noting some differences between the few granites and concrete, I assumed there were all concrete.

4. There wasn't enough time to recheck the information therefore there is need to go back and correct the above inaccuracies

Other relevant information is;

5. All the marble headstones were designed by Cane and Sons
6. The writings on all the marble are written on lead
7. On the concrete bases which did not have a marble headstone, all the information except in very few cases were written on Copper plaques, on some of these bases the copper plaques are missing