



Ref: Burning of deadwood on Robben Island  
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## PROJECT PLAN

### RE: BURNING DEADWOOD ON ROBBEN ISLAND WORLD HERITAGE SITE

#### 1. BACKGROUND

Robben Island World Heritage Site has accumulated tons of deadwood and dry shrubs from aging trees and invasive alien plants control projects.

In consultation with the City of Cape Town (Fire & Rescue and Environmental Management Units) and South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), RIM has opted for a viable, cost effective, safe and efficient solution of burning deadwood onsite as opposed to disposing deadwood offsite. This project aims to achieve the following:

- ✓ Reduction of fuel load and mitigation of fire hazards.
- ✓ Protection and conservation of the sensitive biodiversity, cultural landscapes and built environment from irreparable fire damage.
- ✓ Disposal of cleared invasive alien plants
- ✓ To ensure that the site is in compliance with the National Veld and Forest Fire Act No. 101 of 1998 and Community Fire Safety By-law of the City of Cape Town.
- ✓ To improve the site's tourism carrying capacity.

RIM has identified various sites on the Island where deadwood will be burnt with the assistance of the City of Cape Town's qualified Firemen, using appropriate firefighting equipment.

This document aims to profile procedures and resources that will ensure that the objectives of the scheduled controlled burn are realized and all undesired incidents are eliminated during the implementation of the project. It also aims to guide Competent Authorities *i.e.* City of Cape Town and South African Heritage Resources Agency in issuing authorization(s).

## 2. METHOD STATEMENT

The project is scheduled for three days, with effect from the 28th of September 2015.

In addition to the City of Cape Town's Firemen to be based onsite during project execution, RIM has 14 Horticultural Assistants to assist with the site preparation. Cleared deadwood will be collected from sensitive areas, transported and stockpiled at less sensitive sites of the Island (*see Fig 1*); where it will be burnt. Piles of deadwood that are closer to the African penguin breeding sites will be fenced off and checked thoroughly before each burn activity.

The project will be implemented under the supervision of the Fire & Rescue Senior Official and only on calm weather conditions (as per the conditions of the control burn permit to be obtained from the CoCT).

In ensuring that the site is well prepared for the project, the City of Cape Town's Fire and Rescue Senior Officials are scheduled to visit the Island to assess preparatory work and give further advice. They will also assess RIM's firefighting equipment that will be utilized during the implementation of the project.

A media statement will be issued 3 weeks prior the project implementation by RIM's Marketing and Communications Department and a formal letter placed at public spaces on the Island to notify residents and visitors about the scheduled activity.



Figure 1: Site plan for controlled burn project



Figure 2: One of the controlled burn sites: Vegetation cleared around the buildings.

### 3. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

| Resource required                   | Use   | Stakeholder       |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Truck and bakkie                    | To transport deadwood from cleared sensitive areas of the island to various burn sites.                 | RIM               |
| Diesel                              | To fuel vehicles and firefighting equipment on site.  |                   |
| Water                               | To supply fire fighting vehicles.   |                   |
| Cargo vessel                        | To transport two firefighting vehicles, digger loader and petrol for the project to and from the island |                   |
| Craning services                    | For the loading and offloading of goods.  |                   |
| Boat                                | To ferry participants back and forth the island   |                   |
| Accommodation                       | To accommodate all the participants ONLY in the second week of the project (28-30 September 2015)       |                   |
| Firefighters                        | To assist in controlling fire and be ready for any unfortunate event.                                   | City of Cape Town |
| 2 Fire fighting vehicles            | To assist during the implementation of the project  |                   |
| Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) | To mitigate health and safety hazards.  |                   |

#### 4. STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

| Stakeholder   | Responsibility   |
|---|--|
| RIM   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project management</li> <li>• To give the enabling environment for the project to take place</li> <li>• Funding of the project</li> <li>• Supervision of the General Assistants</li> <li>• Compilation of the closeout report</li> <li>• Provide accommodation</li> <li>• Appoint a caterer to provide meals to the team</li> <li>• Ensure that the project adheres to the permit conditions</li> </ul> |
| Fire and Rescue<br>(City of Cape Town)                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist in supervising the project</li> <li>• Provide and supervise 35 Firemen</li> <li>• Provide and operate firefighting vehicles</li> <li>• Ensure that the project adheres to the permit conditions</li> </ul>   |
| Environmental Management division<br>(City of Cape Town ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisting RIM to secure the permit</li> <li>• To advise and supervise during the project implementation</li> </ul>  |
| South African Heritage Resources<br>Agency                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the project and issuing of the consent letter to the competent authorities</li> </ul>   |

#### 5. HEALTH AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- All the participants will have a "toolbox talk" every morning.
- The use of PPE will be enforced during the implementation of the project.
- RIM's Clinic on the Island will provide basic medication when required.

#### 6. ESTIMATED BUDGET

| PROJECT ITEM                           | COST               |
|--|--------------------|
| Fuel supply                            | R800.00            |
| Catering                               | R60,000.00         |
| Crane Hire                             | R15,000.00         |
| Accommodation                          | R10,395.00         |
| Ferry costs                            | R34,000.00         |
| Transportation of goods                | R30,000.00         |
| Human resources (including CoCT)       | R200 000. 00       |
| Equipment (CoCT)                       | R50, 000. 00       |
| Control burn permit application (CoCT) | R1912.90           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           | <b>R402,107.90</b> |

## **7. REPORTING**

The Project Manager shall:

- Facilitate planning and quality assessment meetings with Senior Officials from the City of Cape Town.
- Submit a closeout report to RIM Management, City of Cape Town and SAHRA