



## RIM VISION

- RIWHS is committed to making sure that the history of Robben Island is remembered and promoted, as well as its unique symbolism of triumph of the human spirit over hardship and injustice.



## RIM MISSION

- RIWHS will achieve its vision through the following:
  - An Integrated Conservation Management Plan (ICMP), to manage the heritage resources of Robben Island as well as its layered history;
  - An Interpretation Plan, to raise public awareness and communicate Robben Island's heritage resources;
  - A Visitor Management Plan, to encourage visitors to think about their own values and to connect spiritually with the Island;
  - Activities that encourage people to record their memories of different historical periods on the Island;
  - Processes that support democratic principles and human rights;
  - Activities that support debate and lifelong learning; and
  - Activities that provide RIWHS and its local communities with opportunities for economic empowerment both now and in the future.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- There are 11 Strategic Objectives that RIM plans to achieve in the next five years, 2007-2012, to conserve RIWHS.

### They are:

- To protect the heritage resources that make RIWHS such a unique and significant site;
- To collect and curate the heritage resources of RIWHS;
- To provide excellent heritage management;
- To manage the experiences that visitors have;
- To communicate to others the heritage resources and heritage values linked with RIWHS;
- To set up appropriate structures to help manage RIWHS;
- To improve the skills and ability of staff and of RIM to manage RIWHS;
- To provide RIM with enough suitably trained staff and resources to manage RIWHS effectively;
- To ensure that RIWHS is financially secure now and in the future;
- To increase public interest and awareness in the heritage of RIWHS; and
- To promote RIWHS as a place of lifelong learning and as a model of effective and successful management of heritage resources.

## VALUES

### RIM & WHS has value to society

- **A place of resilience:** Robben Island became a symbol of human suffering to all people of the world, but it has also become a place of the triumph of the human spirit over hardship.
- **A place of restoration of dignity:** Robben Island has also become a universal symbol of resistance, transformation and restoration of human dignity.
- **A sacred and spiritual place:** The sacred sites on the Island makes it a place of spirituality and pilgrimage for many people.

## VALUES

The Island itself is a valuable place

- *A dramatic island surrounded by Table Bay:*
- RIM & WHS has educational value
- *A place of learning and hope*
- RIM & WHS has environmental value
- *Natural resources that were found there or brought onto the Island*

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**“As a site of living heritage and a national and international symbol of political imprisonment, Robben Island holds strong symbolic associations for humanity. The site is a universal symbol of hope, solidarity and transformation, a site of spiritual reflection, healing and pilgrimage. As such, it offers a world struggling under social injustices and intolerance, an example of the *indomitable* nature of the human spirit.”**

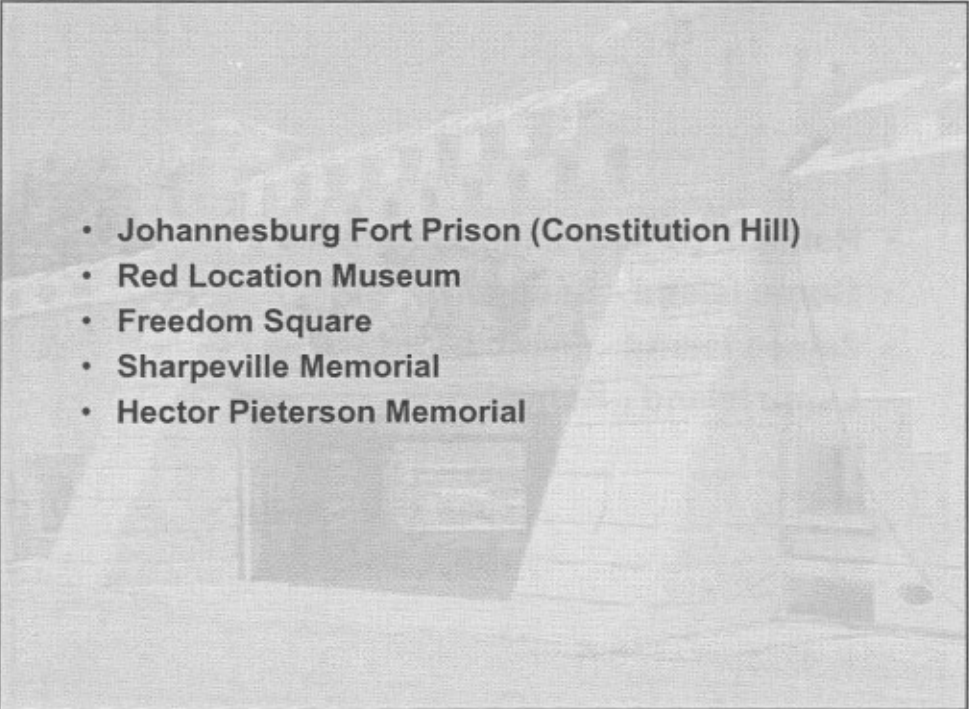




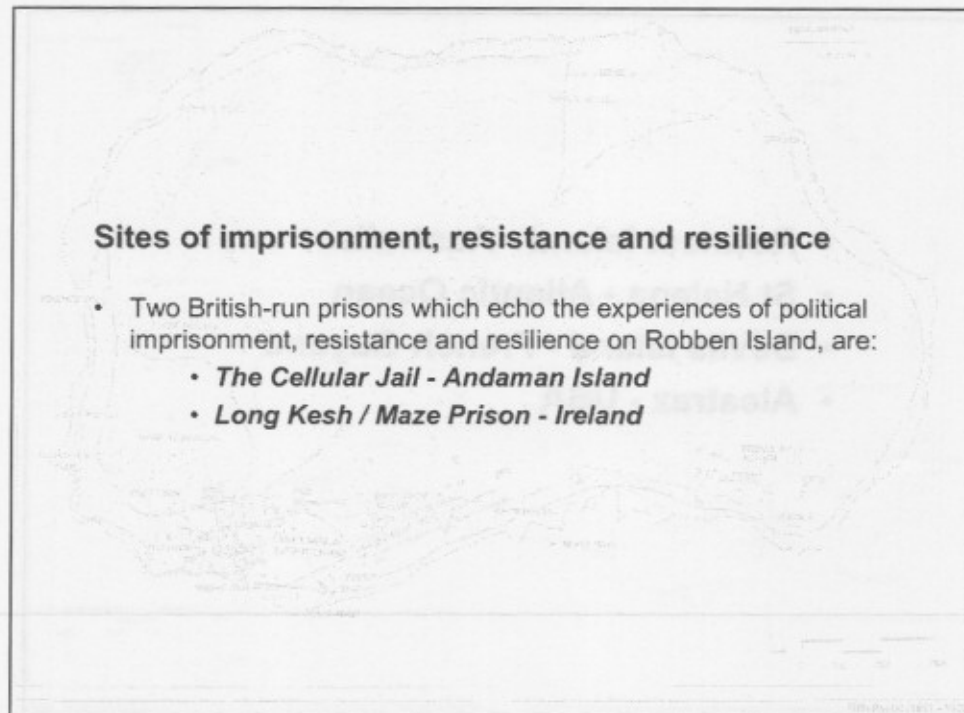
## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

### COMPARISON WITH SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE SITES

- We can compare Robben Island to various local heritage sites and places of **commemoration** or remembrance. Like RIM & WHS, many of these sites are symbols of the contribution made by anti-apartheid activists, and of the struggle for human rights and freedom.

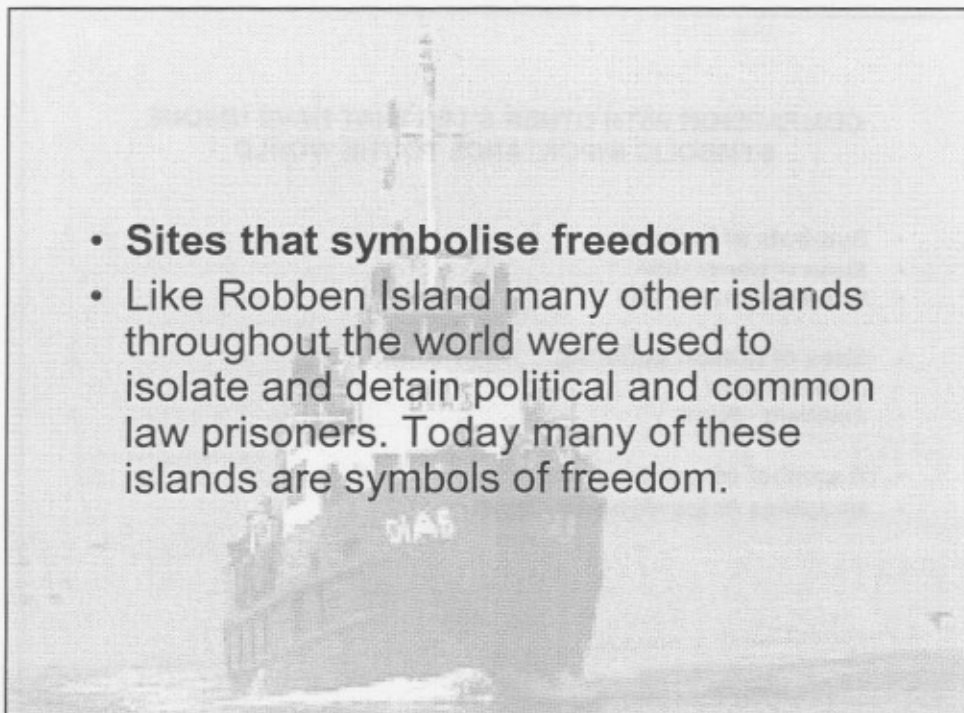
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- Johannesburg Fort Prison (Constitution Hill)
  - Red Location Museum
  - Freedom Square
  - Sharpeville Memorial
  - Hector Pieterse Memorial



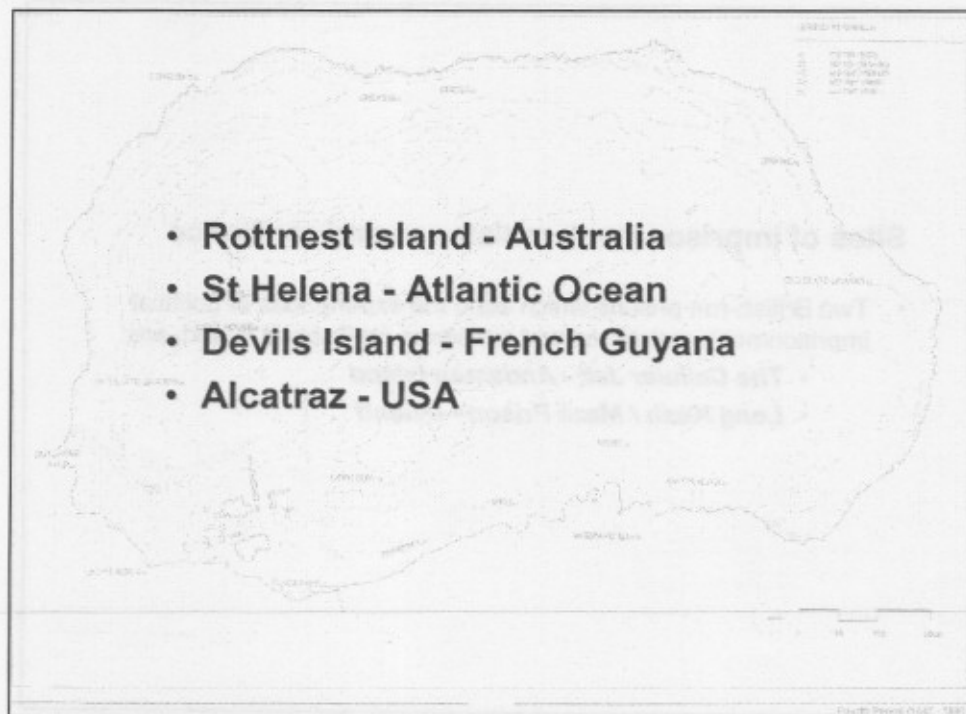


### **Sites of imprisonment, resistance and resilience**

- Two British-run prisons which echo the experiences of political imprisonment, resistance and resilience on Robben Island, are:
  - *The Cellular Jail - Andaman Island*
  - *Long Kesh / Maze Prison - Ireland*



- **Sites that symbolise freedom**
- Like Robben Island many other islands throughout the world were used to isolate and detain political and common law prisoners. Today many of these islands are symbols of freedom.



#### COMPARISON WITH OTHER SITES THAT HAVE UNIQUE SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE TO THE WORLD

- **Symbols of freedom**
  - *Statue of Liberty* - USA
  - *Independence Hall* - USA
- **Sites of human suffering**
  - *Dachau* - Poland
  - *Auschwitz* - Poland
- **A symbol of world peace**
  - *Hiroshima Peace Memorial* - Japan



## INTERPRETATION PLAN

- THE CORE MESSAGE
- One of RIM's core messages communicates the following:
- *The Political Imprisonment Landscape demonstrates the largeness of the human spirit and the capacity of people to overcome hardship through active resistance and nurturing the values of lifelong learning and critical debate.*
- INTERPRETATION THEMES
- One of the themes is:
- *Robben Island – the University of / for Life*

## THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION

- Principle 1: Minimal intervention
- Principle 2: The use of multiple voices and multi-layering
- Principle 3: Ensure universal access
- Principle 4: Respect and strive for authenticity
- Principle 5: Stakeholder participation and transparency in Museum decisions
- Principle 6: Inclusivity
- Principle 7: Ensure compliance to a Code of Ethics
- Principle 8: Integrated interpretation of cultural and natural environment
- Principle 9: Nurture the idea of a living heritage / museum
- Principle 10: Strive for professional excellence
- Principle 11: Theme-based
- Principle 12: On-going relevance



## OVERALL INTERPRETATION OBJECTIVE

- RIM's main Interpretation Objective is: All visitors will understand how the survival and resilience of political prisoners on Robben Island demonstrates the spirit of the South African people; and visitors will be encouraged to show more tolerance towards others in their lives.

The Interpretation Objective has three types of objectives:

- Learning objective
- Emotional objective
- Behavioural objective



## VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

### WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN?

- Manage and conserve RIWHS in a sustainable way and make it accessible to the public;
- Maintain the cultural and natural integrity, and universal symbolism of RIWHS;
- Preserve the authentic experiences that the site offers to its diverse visitors;
- Manage visitor demands, as well as develop the site, in particular the Political Imprisonment Landscape;
- Lessen the threat of overcrowding, so as to ensure that the visitor experience is not compromised;
- Cater for visitor needs within the constraints of the fragile cultural and natural environment; and
- Prevent the negative impact of visitor needs and demands.