



Robben Island
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Robben Island Museum: Priorities and issues relating to the natural environment

13 May 2008



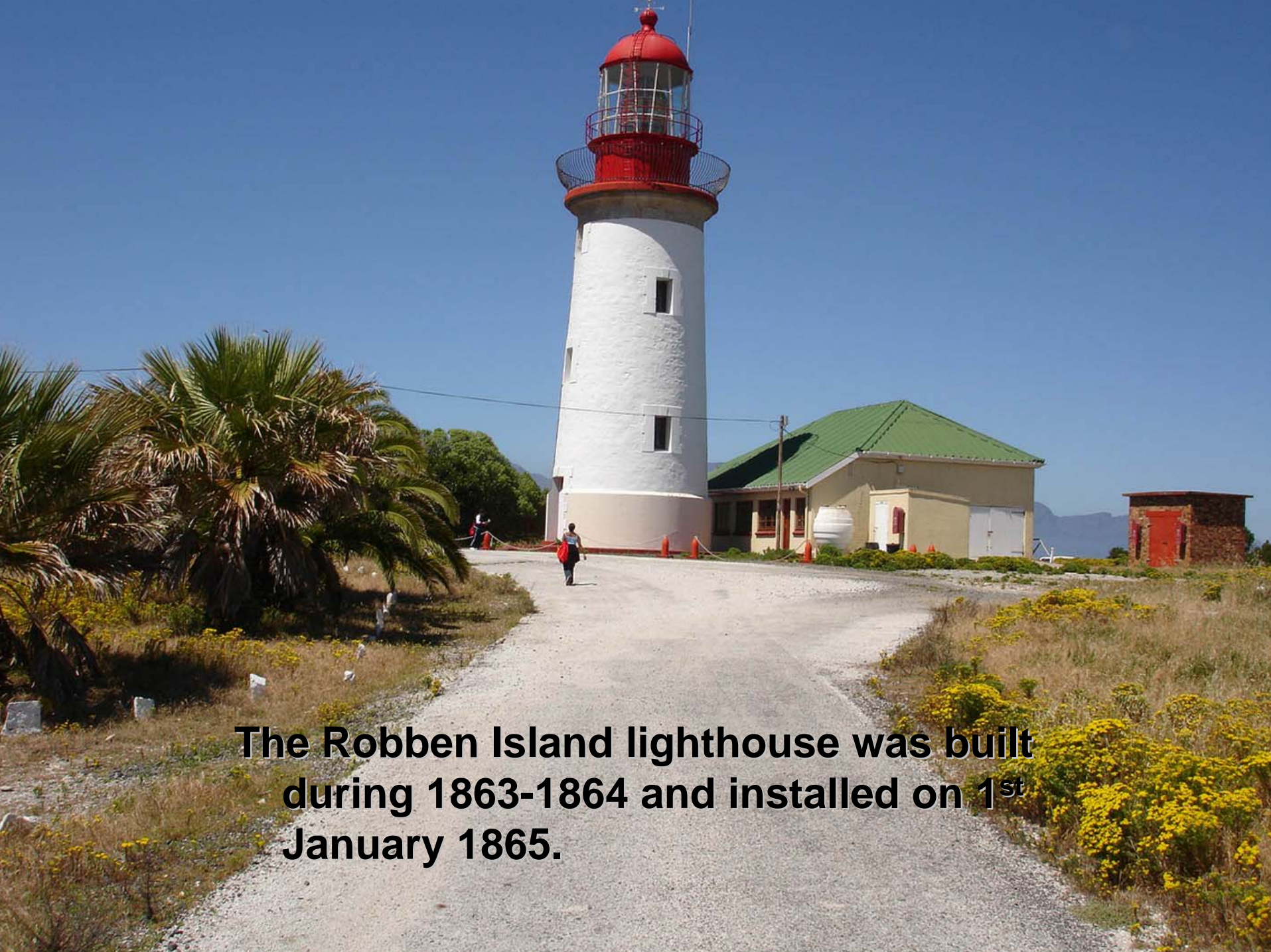


- Robben Island is situated 9.678 kilometres north of Green Point on the mainland.
- Covering an area of some 518 hectares.
- It measures roughly 3.57 km from north to south.

An aerial photograph of a coastal village. The scene shows a cluster of buildings with various roof colors (red, white, grey) and a prominent white church with a steeple. A long wooden pier extends into the blue ocean. The lighting suggests late afternoon or early morning, with long shadows and a warm glow. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, black font.

Diversity of environment includes:

- **Village that includes school, creche, village shop, clinic, post office, leper graveyards, gun emplacements, power station, desalination plant, churches, landing strip, helicopter landing, transport yard, diesel and petrol tanks.**
- **Sites around the Island include Murray's Bay Harbour, Old Faure Jetty, 5 different prisons.**
- **Natural environment which include flora and fauna, both indigenous and exotic.**



The Robben Island lighthouse was built during 1863-1864 and installed on 1st January 1865.

The maximum security prison was built between 1963 to 1964 by both common law and political prisoners.



The landing strip on Robben Island



Key issues to be addressed



- **ICMP and the natural environment**
- **The natural environment - fauna**
- **Current challenges**
- **RIM's underlying principles and approach re: natural environment**

ICMP



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INTEGRATED CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

2007 - 2012



ICMP Strategic Objectives



- Retain the significance of the heritage resource
- Gather and curate the heritage resources
- Provide excellence in heritage management
- Manage the visitor experience
- Communicate and interpret heritage values
- Institute appropriate governance
- Transform institutional capacity
- Provide necessary staffing and other infrastructure
- Ensure financial sustainability
- Improve public awareness
- Promote the WHS



ICMP



- **Chapter 1:** Overview of the Island and its related sites; some of Robben Island's most significant layer; The major strategic objectives of the ICMP which will guide the management of the site over the next 5 years
- **Chapter 2:** The assessment of the significance of Robben Island and its position as a WHS; the values that contribute to the significance of Robben Island's history and multilayered landscapes (historical; social; place; educational and environmental categories)

ICMP



- **Chapter 3:** The impact of the different occupations; cultural settings including the cemeteries, the graves, the kramat and churches and a detailed Political Imprisonment landscape
- **Chapter 4:** The ways in which the different occupations of the Island have impacted on the physical and built environment

ICMP



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- **Chapter 5:** Provides a comparative analysis between Robben Island and other similar sites e.g. Goree Island, James Island and Devils Island among others; also explores other sites such as Auschwitz



- **Chapter 6:** Identifies and discusses the relevant legal instruments and administrative frameworks for the governance and protection of the site and its significance



ICMP



- **Chapter 7:** Elaborates on the conservation policies and principles that will guide RIM in preserving Robben Island's heritage
- **Chapter 8:** Explains the interpretation strategy that includes site interpretation, research, education, exhibitions and public programmes adopted by RIM

ICMP



- **Chapter 9:** Discusses the objectives, challenges and alternatives of a Visitor Management
- **Chapter 10:** Key issues, opportunities and threats
- **Chapter 11:** RIM's operational plan for implementing the ICMP
- **Chapter 12:** Summary of key issues raised and how they will be addressed

ICMP and the natural environment

- Re-establishment of gardens and greening of spaces
- Clearing dense alien vegetation and rehabilitation of cleared areas
- Nests boxes for penguins
- Continuation with program for reducing/ eradication of problem animals



WHS initial reaction to RIM ICMP



“I would like to congratulate Robben Island Museum for having responded to the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee that outlined the necessity to update the management plan of the site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1999” *Francesco Bandarin, Director General of the World Heritage Centre*



WHS initial reaction to RIM ICMP



“I am pleased to note the commitment of the authorities to establish a strategy for comprehensive management plan that has considered all together the main components of the property, namely; the maximum security prison, the Sobukwe complex, the quarries, the cemeteries, the shipwrecks and the natural environment”

Francesco Bandarin, Director General of the World Heritage Centre



WHS initial reaction to RIM ICMP



“I am delighted to note the participatory approach adopted by Robben Island Museum by involving various stakeholders in the development of the management plan. UNESCO experience in managing inscribed properties has demonstrated the importance of the collaboration between communities and conservation authorities to ensure effectiveness of management regimes and implementation of management plans” *Francesco Bandarin, Director General of the World Heritage Centre*



The natural environment

- fauna

Approximate animal numbers

- 15 springbok
- 100 Steenbuck
- 1 Eland
- 200 European fallow deer
- 2 Bontebok
- 4000 rabbits
- Other fauna (ostriches, penguins, black oystercatchers, etc.)



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Bontebok - Antelope



The Island is host to a substantial breeding colony of African penguins.



Endangered Black Oyster Catchers



The natural environment - fauna

- **54 Bontebok captured and relocated 2007**
- **Intention to reduce fallow deer to 10**
- **Dramatically reduce rabbits numbers**
- **Continue feral cat eradication**

Current challenge: overpopulation



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Current challenges

- Not enough natural veld for the antelope
- Excessive numbers of fallow deer
- Excessive numbers of rabbits
- Large pile of dried wood
- Dense alien vegetation
- Presence of “problem animals”



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Current challenges – some options



- **Supplementary feeding**
- **Culling of fallow deer**
- **Culling of rabbits**
- **Warders programme on animals:**
 - **Stock control**
 - **Target shooting & hunting**
- **Usage of wood by residence**
- **Rehabilitation of some exposed areas**
- **Birds nesting and alien trees**

Current challenges –



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Problem animals

Culling a compelling option:

- Feral cats
- Rabbits
- Rats
- Fallow deer

RIM's underlying principles re: natural environment



- The natural environment is crucial to RIM's significance
- ICMP is instrumental for long term management
- Adequate funding is critical for management of both cultural and natural landscapes

Constitutive Laws & Inter-institutional arrangements



Dimension	Laws	Dept Alignment
Island	Marine Laws	DEAT
Museum	Cultural Laws	DAC
Archives	Cultural Laws	DAC
World Heritage Site	ICMP & Conservation	Unesco & DEAT
Tourism Destination	Tourism Laws	DEAT
Business Entities	Treasury Regulations	National Treasury
Estates	Public Works Regulations	Dept. Public Works
Community	Local Government	Cape Town City Council
Ferry Operations	Transport Regulations	Dept. Transport



Unfunded Mandates for RIM Projects

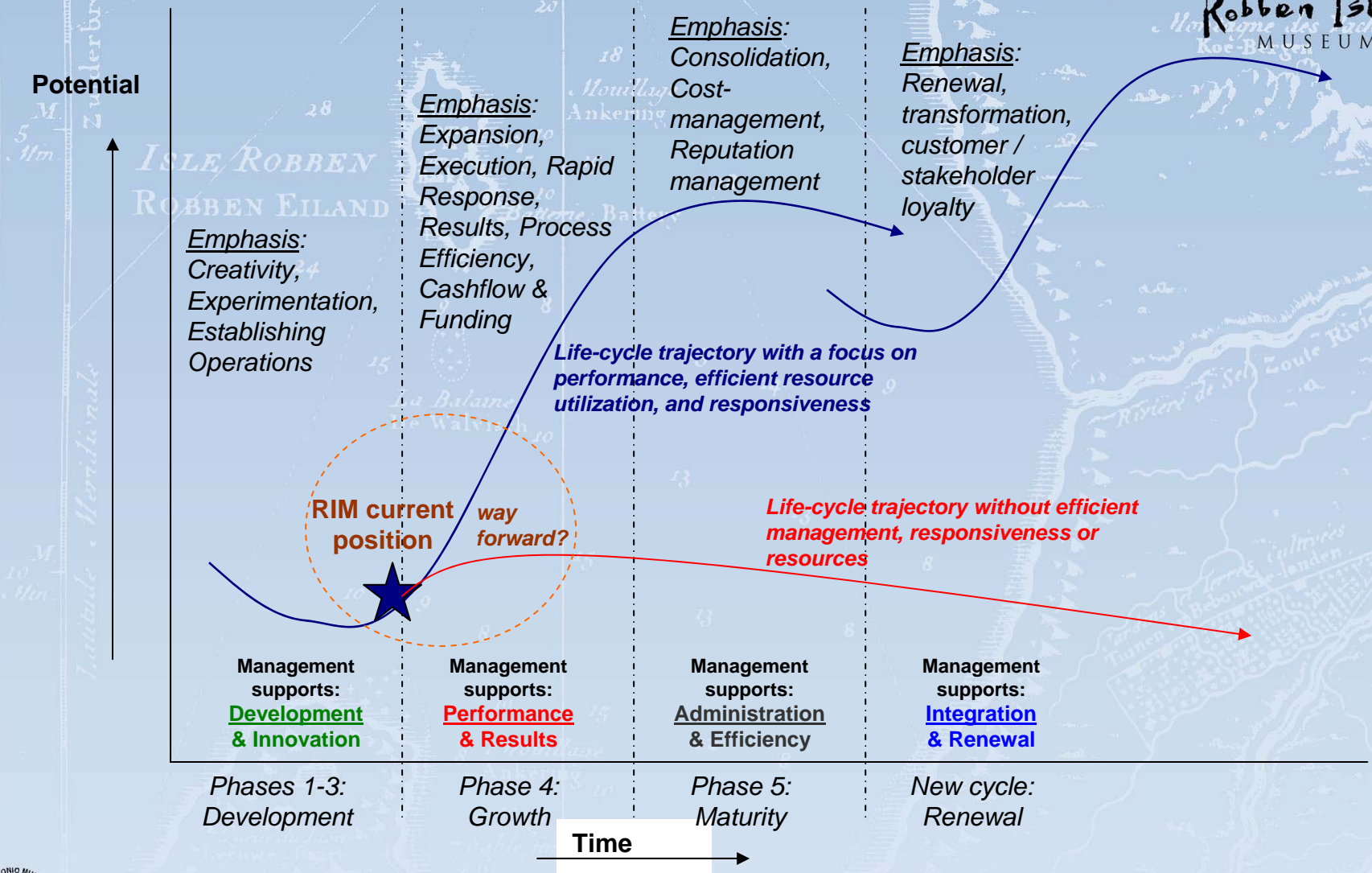
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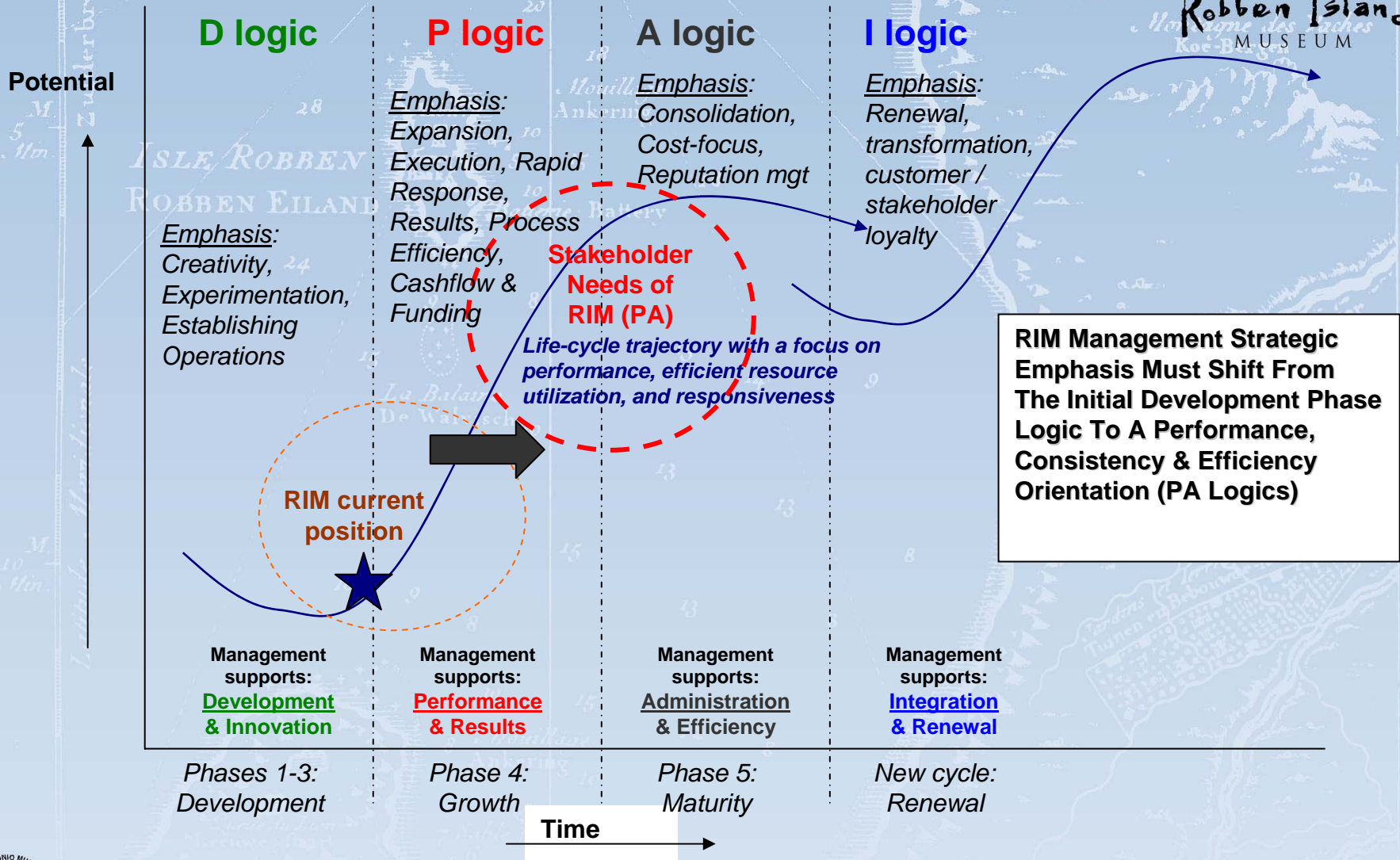
No.	Projects	Who should take responsibility
4.	Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pre-School •School (1 teacher paid by WCED) 	National Education Department and Western Cape Education Department
5.	UWC-RIM Mayibuye Archives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Collections •Archiving 	Department of Arts & Culture
6.	Ferries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Management of Ferries & Budgets •Harbour Management 	National Department of Transports Portnet
7.	Water & Vegetation	Department Water Affairs & Forestry
8.	Post Office (budget)	South African Post Office
9.	World Heritage Site Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •ICMP •Protection & patrolling of nautical mile 	Dept. Environmental Affairs and Tourism (Marine & Coastal Management) and Dept. Arts & Culture



RIM according to Life-Cycle analysis



RIM according to Life-Cycle analysis



RIM Budget



- The RIM Budget 2008/9 – 2010/11 comprise of the following:
 - *Operational Budget*
 - *Capex Budget*
 - *Integrated Conservation Management Plan*



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END

Thank you.

