

MUCH Regional Group Collaboration Statement

Participants (including institutions, government departments, parastatals, experts/specialists from sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere) attending the Regional MUCH workshop, 17-19 February 2010, Cape Town, hosted by SAHRA, CIE and Robben Island Museum with support and guidance from the Africa World Heritage Fund and the Department of Arts and Culture, commit to the following:

1. To foster and strengthen regional collaboration through a network of willing and active partners: the MUCH Regional Group;
2. To achieve this the following activities will be pursued:
 - 2.1 Active information sharing through dissemination of reports, seeking and responding to requests for advice and creative use of websites.
 - 2.2 Capacity-building through seeking opportunities to open national and local programmes in the region, as well as exploring partner training and joint projects.
 - 2.3 Members of the MUCH Regional Group recognise the key role of communities in protecting and conserving MUCH and therefore, the importance of community awareness and education, and will advocate a high degree of involvement of local communities in these capacity-building initiatives and projects.
 - 2.4 Developing agreements amongst institutions, regionally and nationally, that can facilitate a stronger regional awareness and cooperation.
 - 2.5 Support lobbying and public awareness programmes or initiatives, noting that this is country specific. Members of the MUCH Regional Group will utilise regional experiences in this regard and tailor them to their national situation.
 - 2.6 Identify country specific projects and needs within the region, and work towards the formation of a sustainable, long-term programme that might result into a sustainable regional centre for MUCH.
 - 2.7 Develop frameworks for national and regional MUCH strategies, and a regional MUCH database.
 - 2.8 Members of Group will encourage and lobby political decision-makers to ratify the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, 2001.
3. The members of the MUCH Regional Group shall endeavour, through partnerships with academic institutions, to develop accredited graduate and post-graduate programmes that will build the capacity of the region.
4. The following resources are made available to support this initiative:
 - 4.1 Robben Island as a facility for educational and capacity-building programmes

- 4.3 Advice and support opportunities from specialist such as CIE, African World Heritage Fund and UNESCO.
- 4.4 CIE commits to make its experiences with the development of national capacity-building programmes available for the development of a regional programme.



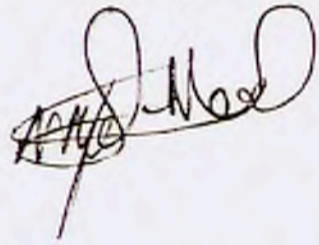
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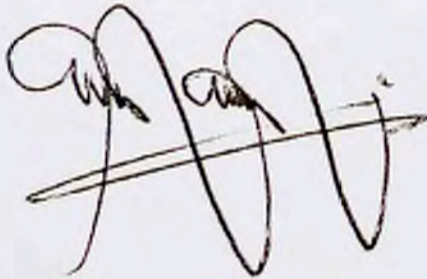


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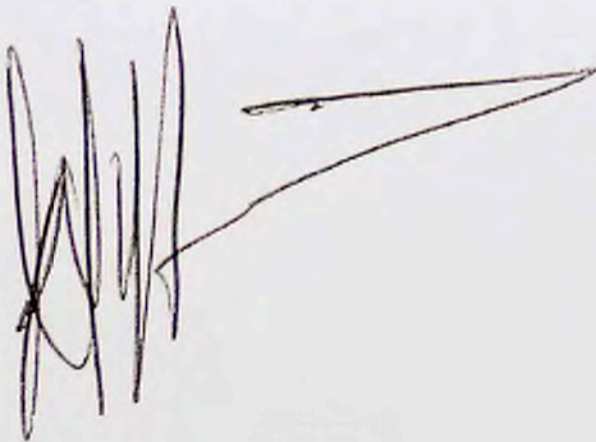


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