

# Museums Association of Namibia Activity-based Annual Report

*1<sup>st</sup> April, 2005- 31st March, 2006*



*Repairs to a hut in the traditional homestead at Nakambale Museum. One example of the way in which regional museum development grants administered by the Museums Association of Namibia have helped regional museums.*

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**Project Planning and Training Officer**  
**Museums Association of Namibia**

**18<sup>th</sup> September, 2006**

# **Contents**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Executive Committee (2005-2006)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Calendar of activities</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Annual General Meeting and Executive Committee Meetings</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Delegates to SAMA Conference &amp; CAM Workshop</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Museum Planning Workshops in Okakarara and Gibeon</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>MAN's National Museum Education Training Workshop</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>School Clubs and Museums Project</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Regional Museum Development Grants</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>!Nanseb Exhibition</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Heritage Hunt</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>National Paper &amp; Photograph Conservation Workshop</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Support for New Museum Development</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Attendance at 2005 MAN AGM (Tsumeb)</b>	<b>42</b>

## Introduction

The 2005-2006 financial year saw a dramatic increase in the activities of the Museums Association of Namibia, although it continued to operate with only part-time staff members. The most significant achievement was that it became apparent towards the end of the financial year that the Museums Association of Namibia would, finally, be able to establish its own office and resource centre.

The Museums Association of Namibia mounted two important national training workshops during the financial year. The first was aimed at encouraging museums to view themselves as educational resource centres, and not just tourist attractions. The second (at the very end of the financial year) gave some very practical advice about the conservation of documents and photographs held by a variety of museums and archives.

The Heritage Hunt, that sought to encourage members of the public to provide information about sites that they felt were of importance to their communities, was a great success. The first two stages of the project had to be completed with less money than had initially been requested from donors. The campaign, funded by UNESCO (with additional sponsorship from Nampost and Standard Bank) resulted in a national public awareness campaign and the creation of lists of heritage sites being produced for Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto Regions. It is unfortunate that the campaign has had to be put on pause whilst the Museums Association of Namibia waits for UNESCO to allocate its funding for the new triannual funding period.

Our Annual General Meeting took place in Tsumeb this year and was, once again, an important opportunity for all the stakeholders in the heritage sector to meet and exchange ideas and knowledge. Museum development workshops were organized in Gibeon and Okakarara with additional meetings taking place in Grootfontein and Omaruru. Regional Museum Development grants were provided to six different institutions. In addition the Museums Association of Namibia worked with the Gibeon Unemployed Youth Forum and Hendrik Witbooi Centenary Committee to produce and mount an exhibition to mark the death of Kaptein !Nanseb Hendrik Witbooi. The exhibition has been designed in a mobile format in order to enable it to travel to other regional museums.

One important innovation in this financial year was the holding of an Planning Workshop for the Executive Committee of the Museums Association of Namibia which resulted in a detailed Action Plan covering a 12 month period. The workshop and Action Plan has provided the organization with a sense of direction and a clear set of goals that it wishes to achieve over a fixed time period. The Museums Association of Namibia was represented internationally at the South African Museums Association AGM in Bloemfontein and a Commonwealth Museums Association workshop in Malawi at which work was conducted on the creation of a Handbook for African Museums that will suggest ways in which more children can be encouraged to become involved in museums. In short, given the limited resources available to the Museums Association of Namibia, the organization achieved an incredible amount during this financial year.

## **Executive Committee of the Museums Association of Namibia, 2005-2006**

The Executive Committee for 2005-2006 consisted of the following members:

Ms Anneke Blizard	Walvis Bay Museum
Ms Betty Hango-Rummukainen	History Department, National Museum of Namibia
Ms Magdalena Kanaate	Nakambale Museum, Olukonda.
Ms Hertha Lukileni	National Archives of Namibia.
Mr Joseph Madisia	Director, National Art Gallery of Namibia
Ms Antoinette Mostert	Keetmanshoop Museum
Ms Chisengo Nikanor	Anthropology Department, National Museum of Namibia
Ms Karen Rudman	Outjo Museum
Mr Thomas Sharpi	Senior Cultural Officer, Kavango Region.
Mr Vilho Shigwedha	History Research Facilitator, UNAM Northern Campus, Oshakati.
Ms Martha Strauss	Otjiwarongo Heritage Explorium.
Mr Werner Thaniseb (Chairperson)	Director, National Theatre of Namibia.
Mr Gunter von Schumann (Treasurer)	Namibia Scientific Society, MAN Treasurer.

## Calender of Activities

**Note:** *Activities printed in bold are those for which seperate individual reports or publications are also available upon request.*

7 <sup>th</sup> April, 2005	Meeting with City of Windhoek re. development of Old Location museum.
11-13 <sup>th</sup> April, 2005	MAN delegate attends Rock Art Conference in Windhoek.
15 <sup>th</sup> April, 2005	Meeting of MAN Executive Committee.
22 <sup>nd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> April, 2005	<b>MAN Museum Planning Workshop, Gibeon.</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> May, 2005	<b>National Training Workshop on Museum Education, Tsumeb.</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> May, 2005	<b>Annual General Meeting of the Museums Association of Namibia, Tsumeb.</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2005	Meeting at Grootfontein Museum.
23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> May, 2005	<b>Hendrik Witbooi Exhibition Planning Workshop, Windhoek.</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> May, 2005	<b>MAN delegate attends South African Museums Association AGM, Bloemfontein.</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> June, 2005	MAN delegate attends opening of Okakarara Community, Culture and Tourism Centre.
24 <sup>th</sup> June, 2005	Meeting of MAN Executive Committee.
27 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> July, 2005	<b>MAN Museum Planning Workshop at Okakarara Community, Culture and Tourism Centre</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> August, 2005	<b>Official launch of the Heritage Hunt campaign (funded by UNESCO) by the Hon. John Mutowa, Minister of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture.</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> August, 2005	MAN delegate attends community meeting in Gibeon.
24 <sup>th</sup> August, 2005	Heritage Hunt meeting with Oshikoto Regional Council.
24 <sup>th</sup> August, 2005	Heritage Hunt meeting with Tsumeb Town Council.

17 <sup>th</sup> September, 2005	<b>Executive Committee Annual Planning Workshop, Waterberg.</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> September, 2005	MAN Executive Committee tours Okakarara.
10 <sup>th</sup> October, 2005	Meeting of MAN Executive Committee.
27 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> October, 2005	<b>MAN delegate attends centenary of Death of !Nanseb and opening of exhibition by Hon. Hendrik Witbooi.</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> November, 2005	Heritage Hunt meeting with Omusati Regional Council.
22 <sup>nd</sup> November, 2005	Heritage Hunt meeting with Ohangwena Regional Council.
26 <sup>th</sup> November, 2005	<b>Heritage Hunt Phase Two Evaluation Meeting, Oshakati.</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> December, 2005	Meeting of MAN Executive Committee.
6 <sup>th</sup> February, 2006	Meeting of MAN Executive Committee.
14 <sup>th</sup> February, 2006	Meeting with National Museum of Namibia.
18 <sup>th</sup> February, 2006	AGM Planning Meeting in Walvis Bay.
1 <sup>st</sup> March, 2006	Meeting with Commissioner of Prisons re. National Prison Museum.
17 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	Meeting of MAN Executive Committee.
23 <sup>rd</sup> March, 2006	Meeting of MAN Finance Committee.
24 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	MAN delegate attends briefing session for UNESCO National Commission.
24 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	MAN delegate attends briefing session by City of Windhoek on proposed hot springs development and increasing tourism revenue in the city.
30 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006	<b>National Training Workshop on Paper and Photograph Conservation.</b>

## **Administration**

The most important decision-making body of the Museums Association of Namibia is the Annual General Meeting. It is only this body which can make changes to the constitution and elect new members to the Executive Committee. The Chairperson of the Museums Association of Namibia must also be an elected member of the Executive Committee. Issues raised by members at the AGM, in the form of resolutions, provided guidance for the Executive Committee on the priorities for action.

The Executive Committee of the Museums Association of Namibia consists of nine elected members (who are elected for three year terms). The elected members elect a Chairperson and can also co-opt up to six other members. The term of co-opted members automatically expires at the next AGM. The Executive Committee normally meets once every two or three months. During the twelve month period covered by this annual report the Executive Committee met six times (in addition to the annual planning workshop).

The Executive Committee has established a number of standing Sub-Committees with particular terms of reference. These are the Finance Sub-Committee, the Museum Education Sub-Committee and the Regional Museum Development Sub-Committee. The Museums Association of Namibia also establishes working groups, as required, to deal with particular projects. In the period under review these consisted of an AGM working group and working groups preparing an exhibition about !Nanseb and a Liberation Struggle exhibition. In addition the Executive Committee effectively devolved some authority for the running of the Heritage Hunt project to a Steering Committee which included a number of other stakeholders, although the Museums Association of Namibia remained responsible for the financial management of the campaign and was provided with regular progress reports.

The work of the Museums Association of Namibia has been carried out over the last twelve months by two part-time staff who both work for the equivalent of one day a week. Dr Jeremy Silvester serves as the Project Planning and Training Officer, whilst Ms. Fransiska Kangombe (and then Napandulwe Shiweda have served at the Administrator).

The National Museum of Namibia has been generous in allowing the Museums Association of Namibia to make use of office space. Dr Jeremy Silvester was also employed for four days a week from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2006 to work as the Project Co-ordinator of the Heritage Hunt project. It is anticipated that he will continue to work on this project as soon as the funding from UNESCO for the next stage of the campaign has been received. The National Monuments Council (renamed the National Heritage Council from September, 2005) generously provided an office, desk and chair for the Heritage Hunt campaign and made its board room available for meetings of the Heritage Hunt Steering Committee.

## **Annual General Meeting of the Museums Association of Namibia, Tsumeb, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May, 2005.**

The Annual General Meeting of the Museums Association of Namibia took place in Tsumeb in Oshikoto Region (continuing MAN's policy of holding the AGM in a different region of the country every year). The AGM demonstrated the continuing healthy growth of the museum sector with more museums than ever before being represented at the AGM. All the museums and related heritage organisations present at the AGM tabled their Annual Reports. Museums were asked to highlight their achievements over the last twelve months and the major challenges that they will face over the next twelve months. The Annual Reports provide the Museums Association of Namibia with useful guidance about the state of the museum sector in Namibia and also the concerns of its members.

Annual Reports were tabled and/or presented by Grootfontein Museum, Keetmanshoop Museum, Marine Archaeology Society, Nakambale Museum, Namibia Scientific Society, National Archives of Namibia, National Art Gallery of Namibia, Outjo Museum Rehoboth Museum, Swakopmund Museum, Trans Namib Museum, Tsumeb Cultural Village, Tsumeb Museum, Walvis Bay Museum and Warmbad Museum.

In addition to the Annual Reports presented by functioning museums a number of development proposals were presented. Mr Sebùlon Chicalu, the Marketing Manager of Namibia Wildlife Resorts spoke about their plans to develop the display centres at a number of their venues. He pointed out that four sites had been prioritised for development and that these were Etosha, Waterberg, Gross Barmen and Duwisib Castle. The Gibeon Unemployed Youth Forum spoke about the progress of their plans to establish a permanent museum in Gibeon and the Omaruru Heritage Council spoke about plans to develop a museum and a heritage tour in the town. Discussion also took place about the plans of the City of Windhoek to establish an 'Old Location Museum'.

The AGM also provided an opportunity for other stakeholders in the heritage sector to share information and knowledge. As always the AGM is an extremely important networking event and many useful informal contacts were made between participants from different organisations. The Director of the National Monuments Council, Mr Karl Aribeb explained the implications of the new National Heritage Council Act. A presentation by the former Director of the National Art Gallery of Namibia, Mrs Annaleen Eins gave advice and guidance for museums on how to make successful funding applications to donors.

Hertha Lukileni of the National Archives of Namibia informed members about training opportunities and scholarships for heritage workers. In addition the members were briefed by Dr Jeremy Silvester, the Project Planning and Training Officer, about the Heritage Hunt campaign, a new project to involve communities in nominating heritage sites all over the country. Mr Werner Thaniseb explained the philosophy and vision behind the School Clubs and Museums project which sought to involve young people



directly in the making of exhibitions for display in their local museums. An important session in the AGM saw the delegates adopt a series of resolutions which were used to shape MAN's Action Plan for the next twelve months.

### **Executive Committee Annual Planning Workshop, Waterberg. 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2005**

For the first time in the history of the Museums Association of Namibia a one day workshop was organized to enable the Executive Committee to draw up an Action Plan to enable the organization to tackle the tasks that had been presented to it at the AGM. The workshop resulted in a detailed Action Plan which identified the objectives that the Museums Association of Namibia hoped to achieve over a twelve month period, set out a time frame and listed the activities that would be required to achieve each objective. The annual planning workshop is intended to provide the opportunity to draw up a coordinated forward plan for the organization, but will also provide an opportunity each year to monitor the organisation's progress in achieving its goals and identify any problems that are being experienced.

**Please Note:** The document that follows was tabled at the 2006 (Walvis Bay) AGM in which MAN members were provided with an update on the progress that had been made by MAN's Executive Committee in response to the resolutions drawn up from the Tsumeb AGM and also appears in Volume 11 of our newsletter, *Museum Matters*. The document, therefore, refers to some activities that have taken place after the accounting period covered by this Annual Report ie. after 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2006, but it is felt that it should be included in this report as it provides the best overall summary of MAN's stated objectives and activities during the accounting period.

## **Review for MAN members of Action taken in response to the Consolidated Resolutions from the 2005 (Tsumeb)AGM.**

The Executive Committee of the Museums Association of Namibia drew up a set of resolutions on the basis of proposals presented by four discussion groups at the MAN AGM in Tsumeb. The resolutions were adopted by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2005. The resolutions formed the basis of the MAN Action Plan for 2005-2006 and reflects a direct response to the concerns raised by members at the Tsumeb AGM. A summary of the agreed action decided upon in response to each of the resolutions at the Annual Planning Workshop is provided here with a further 'update' on progress to date in carrying out the agreed activities:

1. *The Museums Association of Namibia should hold consultative meetings with the municipalities and Regional Councils to lobby them to commit themselves to the provision of core support and services to museums.*
  - 1a) It was agreed that the Regional Museum Development Working Group should be tasked to take this task forward.
  - 1b) It was agreed that the support provided by Outjo and Otjiwarongo Municipalities to their museums should be used as a model.
  - 1c) It was noted that Issue No. 8 of *Museum Matters* had contained a summary of the package of the support given to museums by a range of municipalities. It was agreed that the Regional Museum Development Working Group should use this to draw up a set of standards which could be used to lobby municipalities and Regional Councils to provide a uniform level of support

Proposed: Ms. Antoinette Mostert      Seconded: Mrs. Karen Rudmann

**Update:** A set of draft guidelines have been drawn up by the Museum Association of Namibia's Regional Museum Development Working Group. It is proposed that these guidelines will be circulated to local authorities.

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2. *The Museums Association of Namibia should organize a national training workshop on conservation. [See below for amended version]*
  - 2a) It was noted that Ms Nikanor had been tasked to conduct an assessment of the conservation needs of Namibian museums and that there had, initially, been a plan to use a Zimbabwean expert to conduct the workshop. However at the last Executive Committee an alternative suggestion had been made, namely that the national training workshop should be used to review the progress on museum education made by museums since the previous national training workshop. The motivation for this was that concern had been expressed by members of the Executive Committee that improved systems should be put in place to monitor the

extent to which the training workshops were changing policies and practices in museums and the extent to which participants were implementing changes as a result of training workshops.

- 2b) It was noted that one of the aims of the Regional Museum Planning Workshops had been for museums to identify any particular conservation and training needs and to contact the National Museum of Namibia and the Museums Association of Namibia for assistance to deal with specific problems. Museums were also encouraged to draw up conservation plans.
- 2c) It was agreed that the Project Planning and Training Officer should provide an article in the next edition of Museum Matters providing the contact details of people with specialist conservation training at the National Museum of Namibia and other institutions.
- 2d) It was agreed that the resolution should be changed in order to reflect the agreement of the Executive Committee that the next national training workshop should provide a review of Museum Education in Namibia. It was agreed the revised resolution should read:

*The Museums Association of Namibia should organize a national training workshop on Museum Education (Phase Two).*

- 2e) It was agreed that the Museum Education Working Group should be tasked with planning the programme for the national training workshop.

Resolution 2 (as amended above)

Proposed: Mr Werner Thaniseb                      Seconded: Ms Hertha Lukileni

**Update:** The International Federation of Libraries and Archives (IFLA) sponsored a one week course on Photograph Conservation at the National Archives of Namibia for delegates from all over Southern Africa on 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March, 2006. MAN was able, in partnership with the National Archives of Namibia, to take advantage of the presence of these experts in Namibia and to arrange for the IFLA Conservation expert for the region, Mr Johann Maree of the University of Cape Town, to provide a one day workshop for museum workers on 'Paper and Photograph Conservation'. The workshop took place on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006 at the Namibia Scientific Society.

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- 3. *The Museums Association of Namibia should organize a training workshop for museum workers providing computer training and guidance on the use of software to create a computerized catalogue.*

- 3a) It was noted that the new National Heritage Act requires the establishment of a National Heritage Inventory listing places **and objects** of significance. It was noted that MAN should therefore closely co-operate with the National Heritage Council on the introduction of a standard computerized cataloguing system.
- 3b) It was noted that a copy of the Museum-D cataloguing software had been obtained from AFRICOM and that this had been reviewed by MAN and recommended for use in Namibian museums. It was noted that at MAN's 2005 AGM twenty Namibian museums had requested copies of the software.
- 3d) It was agreed that the MAN Secretariat should contact AFRICOM to see whether copies of the software can be obtained for all the museums requesting it and/or whether permission can be obtained to burn copies of the cd-rom.
- 3e) It was noted that museums need computers if they are to computerize their collections. The Regional Museum Development Working Group were, therefore, requested to give priority to well motivated proposals from functioning museums to enable them to obtain the necessary computer equipment.
- 3f) It was agreed that the AGM Working Group should investigate the possibility of inviting Mr David Hart of the South Africa Heritage Resource Agency to make a presentation at MAN's next AGM.

Proposed: Ms Hertha Lukileni                      Seconded: Mr Gunter von Schumann

**Update:** Copies of software to support a computerized catalogue of museum artifacts have been distributed to all museums that requested it at last year's AGM by MuseumDepot. In addition a three day training workshop provided by MuseumDepot for representatives of these museums took place at the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development at the Polytechnic of Namibia on 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May, 2006. A representative of the National Heritage Council was among those to receive training in the new system. The facilitators also made a short presentation about the software at the AGM. Mr David Hart from SAHRA also gave an overview of the system used for documenting heritage sites and objects in South Africa to the AGM in Walvis Bay. MAN has been given authorization to distribute copies of the MuseumD cataloguing system to museums in Namibia.

4. *The Museums Association of Namibia should develop a display about museums in Namibia and seek to participate in promotional events such as the annual Holiday and Travel Expo.*

- 4a) It was agreed that it was not necessary to establish a specialized working group to produce the display.

- 4b) It was agreed that the Administrator should be tasked with the collection of two or three good photographs, up-to-date contact and staff details and a short description for each museum. It was agreed that the Administrator should ask for assistance in information-gathering, when required, from the Executive Committee members according to their regional responsibilities.

Proposed: Ms Hertha Lukileni                      Seconded: Mrs Anneke Blizard.

**Update:** Information files have been established for each museum in Namibia and a digital photograph archive has been established containing images that may be used in exhibitions. Museums have been encouraged, through Museum Matters, to provide new photographs and information about their museums and their collections.

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5. *The Museums Association of Namibia should lobby NIED and the Ministry of Education to increase the role of heritage and museums on the national curriculum.*

- 5a) It was agreed that the National Museum of Namibia has primarily responsibility for this task. It was agreed that the Chairperson should investigate which members of the National Museum of Namibia are represented on curriculum panels at NIED and report back to the next EC meeting.

- 5b) It was agreed that MAN could help raise awareness of the potential of museums as educational resources by inviting representatives of NIED and the Ministry of Education to participate in the national training workshop on museum education. The Museum Education Working Group was tasked to identify those to be invited during the programme planning for the national training workshop.

Proposed: Mrs Martha Strauss                      Seconded: Mr Gunter von Schumann

**Update:** The decision to prioritise the training workshop on paper and photograph conservation means that the second museum education workshop is now being planned to take place at a later date.

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6. *The Museums Association of Namibia should establish its own office and resource centre to serve members.*

- 6a) It was noted that the National Heritage Council had provided an office to MAN to use for the Heritage Hunt project, but that this was a temporary measure that would come to an end when the project was completed.

- 6b) It was noted that an initial request to the Ministry of Basic Education, Sport and Culture for an office space had been unsuccessful. However it was agreed that the Chairperson should resubmit the application.

Proposed: Mr Werner Thaniseb                      Seconded: Mr Gunter von Schumann

**Update:** Funding to enable the Museums Association of Namibia to obtain an office space was included in the current budget submitted to the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture and this was approved. A number of options were considered and a 3 year lease has been signed which will provide M.A.N. with a three room building opposite the National Art Gallery of Namibia in Windhoek City Centre from 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2006. The official opening of MAN's new Office and Resource Centre took place on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2006.

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7. *The Museums Association of Namibia should produce institutional membership certificates which can be displayed by museums and cards for individual members which may be linked to discount prices on museum entry prices and products.*

7a) It was noted that these items could be produced under MAN's existing 'communications' budget as it would help to market museums.

7b) It was agreed that the certificates should be linked to a graduated registration scheme and should be issued annually and linked to MAN membership.

7c) It was agreed that the Secretariat should draft an economical MAN membership card.

Proposed: Mr. Thomas Shapi                      Seconded: Mr. Gunter von Schumann

**Update:** Certificates of membership for museums and individual membership cards have been designed and were issued at the 2006 AGM.

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8. *The Museums Association of Namibia should ensure that Namibia is adequately represented at all meetings of international museum and heritage organisations and that the reports and recommendations of any meetings attended by Namibian delegates are made available to all members.*

8a) It was noted that MAN would not be able to send representatives to ALL relevant international meetings and that other Namibian organisations also sent representatives to such meetings. It was also noted that MAN should encourage the principle that the information obtained by Namibians attending international meetings, conferences and courses should be disseminated to MAN members.

- 8b) It was agreed that the Secretariat should monitor attendance by Namibian heritage workers at international events and strive to obtain copies of materials and reports for the resource centre and that summaries of reports on such events should be provided by the Project Planning and Training Officer in MAN's newsletter.

Proposed: Ms. Hertha Lukileni    Seconded: Ms. Betty Hango-Rummukainen

**Update:** Reports by Mr Werner Thaniseb on the SAMA AGM and by Ms Chisengo Nikanor on the Commonwealth Museums Association meeting have been published in *Museum Matters*. A delegation from M.A.N. met with the Chief Curator of the National Museum of Namibia on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2006 to discuss future co-operation and agreed that M.A.N would deposit copies of all its reports in the library of the National Museum of Namibia. It was agreed that MAN should facilitate a Namibian delegation to attend the Africom Conference in Cape Town in October, 2006.

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9. *The Museums Association of Namibia should seek to establish an email list for members to enable the rapid and economical communication of information to members.*

- 9a) It was agreed that the Administrator should obtain the email addresses of as many members as possible and set up a group list for MAN members at MAN's iway email site.

Proposed: Ms Hertha Lukileni                      Seconded: Mrs Anneke Blizard

**Update:** Email addresses have already been obtained from many members (with a fresh request in the latest newsletter) and a group list will be established shortly to enable news flashes to be circulated and to encourage information sharing and discussion amongst members.

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10. *The Museums Association of Namibia should assist all member museums to obtain computers and internet/email access.*

- 10a) It was agreed that the Administrator should compile a list of museums that do not yet have computers.

- 10b) It was agreed that MAN should submit this list to the MYNSSC with a request for the provision of computers to museums to facilitate computerized cataloguing and email communication.

Proposed: Ms. Hertha Lukileni                      Seconded: Ms. Anneke Blizard

**Update:** Any established museum that does not yet have a computer with internet access is being encouraged to apply for funding to obtain one through the Regional Museum Development Grant scheme.

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11. *The Museums Association of Namibia should seek funding to continue and expand the SCAM project so that ten, rather than five, school-museum partnerships can be supported.*

11a) It was noted that the budget to MYNSSC includes provision for seven SCAM projects. It was agreed that the expansion of the project should be gradual and that the resolution should be amended as follows:

*The Museums Association of Namibia should seek funding to continue and expand the SCAM project so that seven, rather than five, school-museum partnerships can be supported.*

11b) It was noted that Resolutions 11 and 12 could also be consolidated (see below).

RESOLUTION FALLS AWAY.

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12. *The Museums Association of Namibia should host an annual workshop for the SCAM project with a display competition and prizes for the best entries.*

12a) It was agreed that the Resolution 12 should be combined with Resolution 11 as an objective and should read as follows:

*The Museums Association of Namibia should seek funding to continue and expand the SCAM project so that seven, rather than five, school-museum partnerships can be supported and host an annual workshop for the SCAM project with a display competition and prizes for the best entries.*

Proposed: Ms. Hertha Lukileni                      Seconded: Ms. Anneke Blizard

**Update:** This year fifteen schools with established History or Environmental Clubs were invited to enter the SCAM competition. The best seven proposals received small grants. MAN's Museum Education Working Group is currently working on a funding proposal to enable one school from each of the 13 regions to compete in an annual event which might take place separately from the AGM.

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13. *The Museums Association of Namibia should advertise its willingness to act as a mediator in cases of disputes and development problems involving museums.*



- 13a) It was noted that the resolution simply emphasised one of the core aims of MAN. [One of the functions of MAN as stipulated in Article 4.2 of the constitution is “To establish, maintain and strengthen relations between all concerned with the study, practice, preservation, protection, dissemination and promotion of national heritage in Namibia”].
- 13b) It was noted that the Regional Museum Planning Workshops provided an opportunity to identify organizational tensions.
- 13c) It was agreed that the Project Planning and Training Officer would insert a short piece in the next newsletter reminding members of MAN’s willingness to assist with the mediation of disputes.

Proposed: Mrs Martha Strauss                      Seconded: Ms Hertha Lukileni

**Update:** A short article was carried in Museum Matters 10.

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14. *The Museums Association of Namibia should encourage regional strategic planning of heritage sites and conservancies through dialogue and/or workshops.*

- 14a) It was noted that the regional responsibilities of Executive Council members should include the identification of areas of possible co-operation and/or competition between sites in each region.
- 14b) It was noted that concerns had been particularly expressed from the regions about the need to co-ordinate the role of existing museums and local initiatives with plans for the development of display centres at resorts run by Namibia Wildlife Resorts and the construction of cultural centres by the MYNSSC.
- 14c) It was agreed that the Chairperson should write to the MYNSSC with recommendations for a strategy to increase the role of regional stakeholders in decision-making through the establishment of regional heritage development committees and/or workshops.

Proposed: Mr Thomas Shapi                      Seconded: Mr Werner Thaniseb

**Update:** The Museums Association of Namibia facilitated a one day planning workshop for Ohangwena Region on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2006 and plans to repeat this type of workshop in other regions which do not currently have museums. It will aim to target a different region each year.

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15. *The Museums Association of Namibia should initiate a media campaign to increase public awareness of the importance of heritage preservation.*

- 15a) It was noted that 'The Heritage Hunt' had already been launched [on 4<sup>th</sup> August] and that this would help to identify and publicize the importance of heritage sites in the regions through the provision of information on heritage sites to Regional Councils, the creation of educational booklets on sites in each region and the provision of information to the new National Heritage Council for possible inclusion on the National Heritage Inventory.
- 15b) Concern was expressed about a number of cases where buildings or trees of historical importance had recently been destroyed. It was agreed that the regional responsibility of Executive Members should include raising concern about such threats to the nation's heritage. Letters could be written to the media and cases could be referred to the National Heritage Council [Regional Facilitators on the Heritage Hunt should also be briefed to report any cases of urgent concern]
- 15c) It was agreed that, given the above, it was not necessary in this year's action plan to create an additional media campaign on heritage preservation.

RESOLUTION FALLS AWAY.

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16. *The Museums Association of Namibia should start an initiative that will lead to the production of informational materials to help control the traffic in Namibia's cultural property.*
- 16a) It was noted that there was no legislation preventing the sale of cultural objects (such as *Ekipa*), so prevention would require increasing public awareness.
- 16b) It was agreed that the responsibility for the production of such awareness-raising materials would need to involve a number of different stakeholders and that the Secretariat should draw up a list of stakeholders and draft a letter of invitation for a meeting to discuss the problem.

Proposed: Ms. Betty Hango-Rummukainen. Seconded: Mr. Werner Thaniseb.

**Update:** The issue was discussed at the meeting held with the National Museum of Namibia on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2006 and it was agreed that the National Heritage Council should take the lead on this issue. It was suggested that the way forward might be for the various stakeholders to meet and draw up a short brochure that could be used to raise public awareness of the problem.

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17. *The Museums Association of Namibia should consider using its internship programme to enable learners involved in School Clubs to work in local museums during their school holidays.*

17a) It was agreed that the scheme should be open to a wider range of groups and that the resolution should read as follows:

*The Museums Association of Namibia should consider using its internship programme to enable learners, students, friends of museums, youth and senior citizens involved in School Clubs to work in local museums during their school holidays.*

17b) It was agreed that member museums should be asked by the Secretariat to submit requests for short-term assistance that might be supported by the scheme.

Resolution 17 (as amended above)

Proposed: Hertha Lukileni

Seconded: Gunter von Schumann

**Update:** The Museums Association of Namibia has established a small budget and will consider requests from museums to provide assistance to cover the costs of an internship.

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18. *The Museums Association of Namibia should organize a meeting with the management of Namibia Wildlife Resorts and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to set up a series of workshops which can be used to plan the development of new display centres at a number of NWR sites.*

18a) It was agreed that the Secretariat would draft a letter requesting a meeting between a delegation from MAN and the management of NWR to discuss possible future co-operation.

Proposed: Mr. Werner Thaniseb Seconded: Ms. Betty Hango-Rummukainen

**Update:** A meeting with the new Managing Director of Namibia Wildlife Resorts, Mr Tobia Aupindi, took place in July 2006 and it is hoped that MAN will be able to assist NWR in its plans to redevelop its sites.

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19. *The Museums Association of Namibia will produce a Handbook on Museum Education for Namibian Museums.*

19a) It was noted that a handbook had been produced following the national training workshop on museum education and had been distributed to all participants.

RESOLUTION FALLS AWAY.

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20. *The Museums Association of Namibia will create a list of temporary exhibitions created by different museums that would be available on loan to other museums.*

20a) It was noted that no known temporary exhibitions were currently available for loan, but that MAN wanted to encourage the development of this practice. It was noted that museums producing such exhibitions should provide suitable packaging for the exhibition so that it could travel without being easily damaged.

20b) It was agreed that the Administrator should establish a register where temporary/mobile exhibitions would be listed.

20c) It was agreed that the Project Planning and Training Officer would provide an article in the next edition of the newsletter encouraging museums to create small mobile exhibitions.

Proposed: Mrs Anneke Blizard                      Seconded: Ms Hertha Lukileni

**Update:** Museums have been requested to provide information about any mobile exhibitions in their collection. Discussions have taken place with the National Art Gallery of Namibia about sharing resources through use of their truck and driver to take exhibitions to the region. The !Nanseb exhibition produced by MAN in partnership with the Gibeon Unemployed Youth Forum will tour a number of museum venues this year through this arrangement. The Museums Association of Namibia is currently facilitating working groups that are seeking to produce mobile exhibitions on 'Namibia's Night Skies' and 'Images at War'. All these exhibitions will be available to regional museums in Namibia.

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21. *The Museums Association of Namibia should provide support to enable every institutional member that does not yet have a promotional leaflet or brochure to create one.*

21a) It was agreed that the Secretariat should compile a list of museums that do not yet have promotional brochures and that an article should be provided in the next edition of the newsletter providing advice on the production of brochures and examples of existing leaflets produced by museums.

Proposed: Mr Thomas Shapi                      Seconded: Ms Betty Hango-Rummukainen

**Update:** A short article highlighting this issue appears in Museum Matters 10 and the new resource centre will feature a collection of brochures from different museums which will be available for viewing. In addition museums have been encouraged to apply

for assistance with marketing their museums through the Regional Museum Development Grants.

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22. *The Museums Association of Namibia should investigate the available options to enable each and every museum in Namibia to be represented on a web site that showcases Namibia's museums and heritage sites.*

22a) It was agreed that the Secretariat would produce a written briefing on possible partners for the development of a web site for presentation at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Proposed: Ms Hertha Lukileni                      Seconded: Mrs Anneke Blizard

**Update:** A short paper listing the different options available was presented to the Executive Committee. The Administrator attended a course on ICT options for NGOs on behalf of the Museums Association of Namibia.

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23. *The Museums Association of Namibia should provide advice and support for regional museums on policy-writing and producing funding proposals.*

23a) It was noted that guidance on policy-writing was contained in MAN's Regional Museum Training Handbook and the drawing up of policies was being included in the action plans being drawn up with museums.

23b) It was agreed that the Project Planning and Training Officer would produce a leaflet on writing funding proposals based on the presentation made at the 2005 MAN AGM.

Proposed: Mr Werner Thaniseb      Seconded: Mr Thomas Shapi

**Update:** A handout has been produced and made available to MAN members.

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## **Delegate from the Museums Association of Namibia attends the AGM of the South African Museums Association.**

The 69<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the South African Museums Association was held from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2005 in Bloemfontein and attended on behalf of the Museums Association of Namibia by Mr Werner Thaniseb. The theme of the Conference/AGM was 'Bridging the boundaries: Integrating collections, curators and communities and it was an opportunity for participants to socially network with peers and partake in crucial museological discussions. One of the problems raised at the Conference was the tendency for 'museum education' to be linked exclusively to the subjects of 'Arts and Culture' which resulted in a failure to develop the clear links between the objects in collections and the broader curriculum. The Chairperson's report on the meeting led the Executive Committee to seriously reconsider the way in which it stages its own AGMs and also encouraged MAN to develop stronger partnerships with SAMA and other regional partners.



*The South African Museum Association meets at Bloemfontein. Mr Werner Thaniseb (Chairman – MAN,) Deidre Prins-Solani (newly elected Chairperson - SAMA) and Kanyile Jezi (former Chairman – SAMA). The Conference inspired MAN to consider redesigning the format of its own AGM and also provided a great opportunity to network with colleagues from museums in South Africa.*

## **Delegate from the Museums Association of Namibia attends `Group for Children in African Museums' Workshop in Malawi.**

Ms Chisengo Nikanor, a member of the Executive Committee of the Museums Association of Namibia was sent to Malawi to attend a workshop that took place 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June, 2005 with the Group for Children in African Museums (GCAM). The workshop was organised by the Commonwealth Association of Museums. The GCAM was launched in 1997 at a meeting held in Nairobi in Kenya and has been working to develop a Handbook for African Museums to give guidelines on ways in which museums can be more `learner-friendly'. The Commonwealth Association of Museums covered all the costs of the workshop and accommodation for the delegate from the Museums Association of Namibia, but the Museums Association of Namibia provided the airfare to enable Ms Nikanor to attend.



*Ms Lovisa Ndaoya, Mr Vilho Shigwedha and Ms Lovisa Nampala. Three of the four regional facilitators involved in Phase Two of the Heritage Hunt campaign.*



## **Museum Planning Workshops in Gibeon and Okakarara.**

An exhibition/museum planning workshop took place at the W.M Jod School Hall, in Gibeon on 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> April, 2005. The workshop was supported by a number of different stakeholders. The Archives of Anti-Colonial Resistance and the Liberation Struggle project provided funding for the core costs of the workshop, whilst, the Museums Association of Namibia paid for the production and distribution of the workshop report. the GTZ provided transport which enabled participants from Windhoek to attend the workshop, the National Archives of Namibia assisted with the scanning of images that were used in the workshop and the National Museum of Namibia helped by laminating the photographs and images that were shown at the workshop.

The workshop involved 22 participants and was facilitated by Dr Jeremy Silvester, the Project Planning and Training Officer of the Museums Association of Namibia. A detailed report on the findings of the workshop concerning plans to establish a museum in Gibeon was produced and a second planning workshop was also supported which took place at the National Archives of Namibia on 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May, 2005 and which produced a detailed skeleton plan for the exhibition that was mounted to mark the centenary of the death of Hendrik Witbooi in 1905.



*Some of the participants at a museum planning workshop in Okakarara photographed outside the OCCTC.*



A second museum planning workshop took place at the Okakarara Community, Cultural and Tourism Centre (OCCTC) on 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July, 2005. The exhibition hall was officially opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2005 with a photograph exhibition that features images from the huge commemorative event that took place at the Centre on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2004 to mark the centenary of the battle of Ohamakari which took place a short distance from the Centre (on what is now the neighbouring farm of Hamakari). The Centre has a range of activities including theatrical and cultural performances and during August, 2004 hosted a youth camp for German and Namibian youth.

The historical significance of the site was given added weight by the fact that the German Minister for Development Co-operation, Ms Heidemarie Wiczorek-Zeul, took the opportunity of the commemorative event at the OCCTC to give an official apology to the Namibian people for the atrocities carried out by German troops during the German colonial period. Ms Wiczorek-Zeul stated that: “We Germans accept our historical and moral responsibility and the guilt incurred by Germans at that time. And so, in the words of the Lord’s Prayer that we share, I ask you to forgive us our trespasses.” The planning workshop involved 11 participants and was facilitated by Mr Werner Thaniseb and Dr Jeremy Silvester of the Museums Association of Namibia. The workshop resulted on a comprehensive report on the problems facing the Centre and an Action Plan.



*One of the signposts for the OCCTC.*

## **The Museum Association of Namibia's National Museum Education Training Workshop**

One of the most significant and successful events organised by the Museums Association of Namibia has been the first major national museum education training workshop. The workshop lasted four days and involved 15 participants and two facilitators. The participants consisted of 11 representatives from museums and heritage centres and 4 teachers. The aim of the workshop was to encourage museums to develop stronger services for local schools and to see themselves as educational resources for the local community as well as tourist attractions. The workshop itself sought to initiate a direct dialogue between teachers and curators and museums were encouraged to set up museum education working groups in their museum which would involve teachers directly in planning an educational programme of events to take place at each museum.



*Participants at the Museum Education Workshop pictured during an exercise at Tsumeb Museum.*

The workshop was divided into a number of sessions. The first session asked the participants how they would define 'museum education' and how important they felt it was in their own museums. The next session discussed an 'internal audit' of the museum in terms of the assets that it possessed that could contribute to a museum education programme. The facilitators urged participants to focus on three dimensions of the museum – its collections, its location and its network of contacts. Participants were then split into small groups that focused on each of the museums represented. The first task was for the groups to identify five resources at each museum that they felt could provide a focus for an educational activity or event. Museums were encouraged to think about the

main items in their collection and objects which might be used to illustrate a historical, scientific or environmental point. For example, a rock sample display might be used to explain some principles of geology and the different ways in which rocks are formed, whilst an old gun might be used to explain aspects of physics, engineering and chemistry as well as history!

The second task was for the participants from each place represented at the workshop to think in regional terms and to identify three sites in the surrounding area that they might link to an educational activity or event. Regional museums should try to emphasize the original features of their region and act as showcases for their regions. Museums could make the most of local knowledge to produce displays that featured a site in their region. Such displays not only add a local flavour to subjects on the national curriculum for learners, but can also travel to other museums and be used to help promote the region in other parts of Namibia.



*Small group work at the workshop as participants discuss the purpose of museum education.*

Emphasis was placed on the importance of building up a network of contacts with teachers in different disciplines at local schools and colleges. A form and model letter was provided to encourage curators to build up a formal network of contacts, so that they would immediately know who to contact if they wanted to develop a particular science or history project or involve a group of students in an activity at the museum.

The important point was made that museums should be aware of the contents of the school curriculum and think of ways in which new exhibitions or displays might link to this. An open dialogue with local teachers would greatly assist museums in achieving this goal, but it was also useful for them to obtain copies of the school curriculum. The participants were divided into small groups which looked at different sections of the

school curriculum in different subjects and then drew up a proposal for a project that would compliment the teaching on that subject.

On the second day, participants were encouraged to complete a critical checklist of their institution in order to answer the question 'How learner friendly is our museum ?' Another exercise took place next in which small groups were asked to work with a single object from the collection of Tsumeb Cultural Village in order to see the ways in which a artifact could be used with learners. A session discussed the science of writing labels for objects which would be educational, and another session discussed the provision of worksheets and quiz sheets for learners visiting a museum. The final session before lunch on the second day explained the importance of creating an 'educational space' in the museum which could be a focus for educational activities. In the afternoon the workshop participants went on a tour of Tsumeb Museum in order to produce a critical review of its facilities and provision for learners.

On the third day the participants debated the reasons why a museum should have a 'museum education policy' and what it might contain. A group exercise was completed which encouraged a heated debate about the role of education in museums. Participants were provided with a 'model' museum education policy to study and criticize. A further session discussed the ways in which museums might be more effectively marketed in the educational sector. At the end of the afternoon the participants were given a tour of Tsumeb Cultural Village and, once again, encouraged to provide critical feedback on the provision made for learners.

On the final day participants were given a range of ideas about the type of activities and events that might be included in an educational programme for their museum. Small groups presented a draft plan for an activity and then each museum was encouraged to draft a five point 'museum education' programme for their museum. After the end of the workshop all the materials and texts created during the workshop were compiled into a Museum Education Handbook for Namibian Museums. Copies of the Handbook can be ordered from the office of the Museums Association of Namibia.

## **The School Clubs and Museums (SCAM) project: 2005.**

During 2004 MAN invited proposals from school clubs to enter the School Clubs and Museums project. The best five proposals obtained small grants to help them create and mount an exhibition. The aim of the competition is to not only build stronger links between schools and museums in the regions, but also to encourage young people to become interested in working in the heritage sector. The displays produced were presented to the delegates and guests attending the 2005 AGM where they were judged.

Three of the SCAM projects featured exhibitions produced by History Clubs. Learners from P.K. De Villiers School and Keetmanshoop Museum made a display about the guerrilla leader Hendrik Witbooi which included a model of the Heroes Acre. Walvis Bay Museum and Kuisebmond Secondary School produced a detailed exhibition about the history of the old migrant workers' compound in Walvis Bay. Learners had conducted interviews with former residents and collected old photographs and artefacts from them. Dr Lemmer High School and Rehoboth Museum produced a beautifully presented, bilingual, display about the history and commemoration of the Battle of Sam Khubis.



*A section of the exhibition produced by Dr Lemmer High School.*

The other two exhibitions that featured in the final were created by Environmental Clubs. Otjiwarongo Heritage Explorium and Paresis Secondary School presented a display which explored the cultural significance of the calabash, including the names given to the vegetable in all the local languages. Outjo Museum and the Environmental Club from



Moria School created an impressive three-dimensional display stand out of sheets of steel. The circular display stand was divided into sections, like the slices of a cake, and combined art and science to show the different types of environment that can be found in the Kunene Region.



*A section of the circular display unit constructed by learners who worked with the curator of Outjo Museum.*

The competition was very tight, but the project designed by Walvis Bay Museum and the History Club at Kuisebmond Secondary School was judged to be the best. As a prize four learners from the school travelled to Cape Town for a week to take part in the Spring School organised by Robben Island Museum. The creativity and effort put into the SCAM projects was impressive and the judges expressed their wish that each of the finalists would have an opportunity to put up their displays in a public space in their home towns.



*The team from Kuisebmond Secondary School's History Club who were the winners of the 2005 Scam Project :Anna Amuthenu, Menethe Hiyavali, Avelinu Justinu and Melvin Swartbooi with Ms Anneke Blizard (Curator of Walvis Bay Museum).*



*The learners from Walvis Bay who attended the Spring School on Robben Island stayed on the island, and were able to explore it in a way that would have been impossible for the political prisoners who were formerly imprisoned there.*

## **Regional Museum Development Grants.**

During the current accounting period a total of five grants were approved and allocated as budgeted. The grants consisted of the following:

**Marine Archaeology Museum.** A grant of N\$16,800.00 was provided to enable the purchase of shelving and storage facilities for artifacts as the collection was to be moved from the National Museum of Namibia to new premises. The grant is also to be used to renovate the old diamond prospectors' hut at the Conception Diamond field which is used to display artifacts from the diamond fields.

**Walvis Bay Museum.** A memorandum of understanding has been drawn up between the Museums Association of Namibia and the Municipality of Walvis Bay (as the body responsible for the museum). A grant of N\$16,800.00 has been agreed to finance the restoration (by the Namibia Institute of Mining and Technology at Arandis) of a wagon recently recovered from the sea that used to be used in the historical guano industry at Sandwich Harbour.

**Namibian Scientific Society.** A grant of N\$16,800.00 was awarded to enable to library to upgrade its ISIS computer software and equipment to provide easier access for researchers to the material held at the library. In addition funds have been used to obtain copies of MA and Phd dissertations produced by Namibians studying outside of Namibia and to bind them and make them available to the public and researchers.

**Otjimbingue Windmill and Museum.** A project to develop a museum and tourist attraction at Otjimbingue is currently being developed by the Namibia Nature Foundation and a number of other stakeholders. The plan includes the restoration of the old windmill (declared a national monument in 1963) and the establishment of a museum. It has been agreed that a grant of N\$16,800.00 will be made available to assist with the restoration of the windmill, once the Museums Association of Namibia is satisfied that a suitable association (involving all relevant stakeholders) has been established.

**Services to Regional Museums: National Archives of Namibia & Museums Association of Namibia.** In order to improve the facilities available to regional museums to assist them with the production of exhibitions and preservation of artifacts and to facilitate communication a number of small grants were made. A grant of N\$5,070.00 was made to the National Archives of Namibia to enable it to purchase a specialist scanner to scan the glass plate 'negatives' held by several regional museums. As the plates are fragile this will make an important contribution to the preservation of important historical images. The Museums Association of Namibia received a grant of N\$9,042.80 to enable it to purchase a binding machine in order to save costs when producing training manuals and reports for regional museums and a laminating machine to help with the production of small mobile exhibitions. A total of N\$1,539.85 was spent on a telephone and fax machine for the new MAN office to enable MAN to communicate with our regional museums and a further N\$1,147.35 was used towards the cost of installing an alarm system to protect newly purchased equipment.



## ***/Gamab !Nanseb: The Life and Times of Hendrik Witbooi and His People.***

The 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 marked the centenary of the death of Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi, leader of the */Khosobesin* after he was mortally wounded in battle against the German *Schutztruppe*. Hendrik Witbooi is not only a 'local hero', but a figure of national significance. Evidence of this is found in the fact that Witbooi is symbolically buried at the national Heroes Acre and provides the image on all Namibian paper currency.

In early 2003 the Gibeon Unemployed Youth Forum raised the idea of creating a 'Hendrik Witbooi' museum to mark the centenary of his death. During the discussions that followed it was agreed that the plan to build a museum in time for the anniversary was too ambitious, but that an exhibition could be created to mark the centenary and also to promote the dream of a permanent museum in Gibeon. However it was only in April, 2005 that initial funding was finally secured by the Museums Association of Namibia to enable the planning of the exhibition to take place, whilst funding to construct the exhibition was only obtained a month before the centenary itself was due to take place.



*Under-Captain Christaan Rooi explains the significance of an archival photograph to participants at the exhibition planning workshop in Gibeon.*

A detailed plan for an exhibition about Hendrik Witbooi was produced with funding from the Archives of Anti-Colonial Resistance and the Liberation Struggle (AACRLS) project. A grant of N\$13,556.00 was initially provided to enable two planning workshops to be held in Gibeon and Windhoek. The workshops enabled consultations with the Gibeon

community to take place (23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> April, 2005) and photographs to be selected for use in the exhibition. It also enabled the involvement of four members of the Gibeon Unemployed Youth Forum who participated in a second workshop in Windhoek (23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May) where a title and skeleton outline of the themes to be covered in the exhibition was developed. It was agreed that Ms Memory Biwa (an MA history student from Gibeon) and Dr Jeremy Silvester, the Project Planning and Training Officer of the Museums Association of Namibia should draft the text for the exhibition which would then be sent to Gibeon for comment.

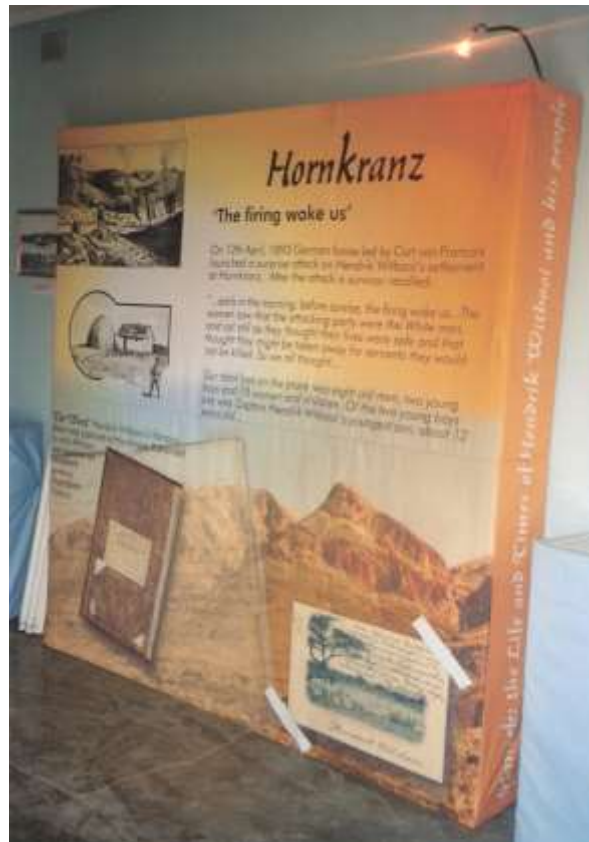
On 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2005 the project was presented to the German Ambassador, His Excellency Ambassador Manning of the Federal Republic of Germany. Further consultations took place with the Gibeon Centenary Commemorative Committee in Gibeon on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2005 where it was agreed that the exhibition should feature in the main programme of centenary events. On 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2005 the National Steering Committee of the AACRLS project agreed to provide a grant of N\$63,000.00 to support the production of an exhibition and t-shirts to mark the centenary of the death of Hendrik Witbooi and to promote the idea of eventually creating a permanent 'Hendrik Witbooi Museum'. The exhibition, therefore, had to be assembled in four weeks which put a considerable strain on the organisers. However the exhibition was completed on time and officially opened on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 by the former Deputy Prime Minister and *Kaptein* of the */Khosobesin*, Hon. Hendrik Witbooi.

The exhibition had a drop down banner with a timeline, five panels each with a major theme, a map of Central and Southern Namibia and a blown up photograph of Gibeon. The themes on the five panels were 1) !Nanseb: the Life and Times of Hendrik Witbooi and his people; 2) Where the Zebras Drink; 3) Hornkranz; 4) Collaboration? and 5) Remembering Hendrik Witbooi. However the simple structure partly reflects the shortage of time available for the production of the exhibition. A far more detailed text was provided in a brochure that was produced to accompany the exhibition and the detailed plan that was drawn up includes sufficient images and text for a complete museum exhibition once a museum building has been obtained by the Gibeon community. The exhibition is therefore an 'appertiser' that suggests what might be possible if funding could be secured to enable Gibeon to renovate or build a suitable building.

The exhibition also featured Nama traditional items such as medicines and clothing found in a typical traditional Nama household. A competition was also held where visitors had to answer five questions about the exhibition. The visitors were also asked to write (on small cards) their views as to what they would like to see in a Museum in Gibeon and to pin their thoughts on a polystyrene 'Ideas Board' that was provided for this purpose. Visitors could also write in the Comments Book at the exit point of the Exhibition. The supporting promotional materials produced for the exhibition consisted of 140 t-shirts, 250 exhibition brochures and 800 postcards.

The opening of the exhibition took place as part of the Centennial Heroes Day Celebrations at Gibeon. Dr Jeremy Silvester provided an overview of the way in which

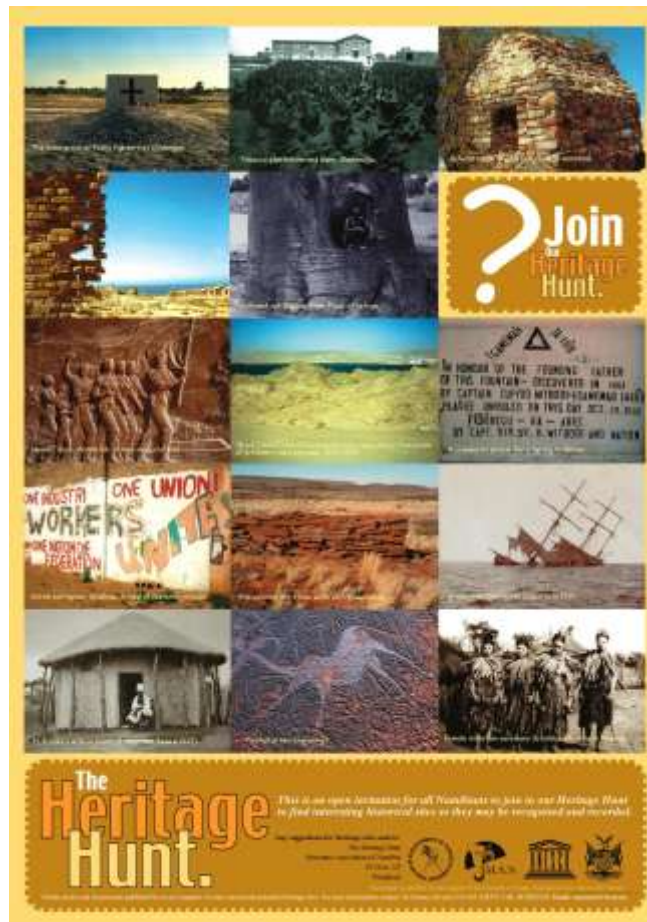
the exhibition had been produced and motivated the importance of establishing a museum in the town. Ms Valencia Karigus then spoke on behalf of the Gibeon Unemployed Youth Forum to give a vote of thanks to all those who had sponsored and supported the project. The exhibition was then officially opened by Hon. Hendrik Witbooi. The commemoration and the exhibition received extensive media coverage. The exhibition has been deliberately constructed as a mobile exhibition which will enable it to travel to museums and venues in other regions in Namibia once sufficient funding has been obtained to support a tour.



*One of the five large display panels in the exhibition. The light fittings attached to the panels meant that the exhibition can also be clearly seen after dark.*

# The Heritage Hunt Campaign: Reviewing our landscape.

The aim of the campaign is to encourage people to suggest places in their community that they feel are important for historical, cultural or environmental reasons. The project seeks to produce a list of sites in each of the thirteen regions in Namibia. The information will be provided to Regional Councils to help them with the planning of heritage development in their region (and the possible nomination of selected sites to be added to the inventory of 'National Heritage Sites' being drawn up by the National Heritage Council). It is hoped that the information will also, eventually, be used to produce a series of educational publications for use in schools which will showcase the variety of important heritage sites that can be found in each of Namibia's thirteen regions. One of the aims of the project is to diversify the notion of heritage (that before independence tended to focus excessively on buildings dating from the German colonial period) and to encourage greater recognition of other sites of importance to local communities.



*Draft of the poster designed to advertise the Heritage Hunt campaign.*

Whilst funding for the Heritage Hunt campaign was administered by the Museums Association of Namibia it was decided that a special Steering Committee should be established to coordinate the campaign and to facilitate cooperation and partnership with other stakeholders in the heritage sector. The Committee is chaired by Mr Karl Aribeb (Director of the National Monuments Council of Namibia). The Museums Association of Namibia made its Administrator, Ms Fransiska Kangombe, available to serve as the Secretary to the Committee. The other members of the Committee consisted of Ms Emilia Joao (Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing and Rural Development), Ms Fousy Kambombo (Archaeology Laboratory, National Museum of Namibia), Olga Katjiungua (Director, Namibia Community-Based Tourism Association), Mr André Strauss (Deputy-Director of Arts and Culture, Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture/National Committee, UNESCO), and Mr Werner Thaniseb (Chairperson, Museums Association of Namibia and Education Officer, National Museum of Namibia). The Heritage Hunt greatly benefited from the support of the National Monuments Council (renamed the National Heritage Council) from September, 2005 which provided an office and furniture in their building for use by the Museums Association of Namibia for the campaign.

Phase One and Phase Two of the project were successfully completed on schedule and covered the period August, 2005 – January, 2006. Full financial and narrative reports were provided to the donor, UNESCO. The first phase of the project involved a widespread public awareness campaign that was launched by Hon. John Mutowa, the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture. The public awareness campaign consisted of the distribution of postcards which could be used by members of the public who wished to suggest sites, a set of 100 t-shirts which were distributed to stakeholders, the production and distribution of brochure (in cooperation with the National Monuments Council) which provided information about the Heritage Hunt and about the significance of the new National Heritage Act and the design and distribution of posters to publicise the campaign.

The second phase of the campaign covered four regions in central northern Namibia and resulted in draft lists of the heritage sites suggested by the community in those regions. A total of 155 potential heritage sites were suggested in the four regions covered (Ohangwena – 36, Omusati - 39, Oshana - 25, Oshikoto - 55). The Museums Association of Namibia has been waiting to receive further donor funding in order to complete Phase Three of the Heritage Hunt which will cover the remaining nine regions of the country.

A total of N\$34,800.00 was provided by UNESCO to fund Phase One of the project. The success of the Heritage Hunt was a substantial achievement given the fact that whilst the Museums Association of Namibia had budgeted that it would require N\$104,358.50 to achieve the goals set for Phase Two of the project, but was only able to obtain a grant from UNESCO of approximately N\$61,750.00. The Project Co-ordinator, therefore, had to make drastic budget cuts of N\$42,608.50 which included the reduction of the hours of the Project Co-ordinator post from full-time to part-time, travel by public transport to attend meetings with Regional Councils and the removal of the budget to enable visits to



sites suggested by members of the community in order to obtain complete photographic and documentary evidence about each site.

In the face of these financial restraints it should be stated that it would not have been possible to achieve the success that we did without the dedication of the four regional facilitators appointed for this phase of the project. Ms Lovisa Nampala, Ms Lovisa Ndaoya, Mr Barnabas Nuuyoma and Mr Vilho Shigwedha only received a small honorarium for their work, but sacrificed considerable amounts of their time to the project and, at times, even provided transport and accommodation to the Project Coordinator to support the continuing gathering of information despite the limited funding available. The work on Phase Two of the project concluded with an Evaluation Workshop that was held in Oshakati on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2005. Copies of the four regional lists were provided to the National Heritage Council.



*Draft copies of the set of postcards produced to enable members of the public to provide information about places that they felt were important to their communities.*

## National Paper & Photograph Conservation Workshop

A national workshop on photograph and paper conservation was organised in partnership with the National Archives of Namibia on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2006. The workshop was able to take place as the National Archives of Namibia was hosting a 4 day regional training workshop on photograph conservation (sponsored by the International Federation of Librarians and Archivists) bringing together archivists from all over southern Africa. However places on this course were limited, the Museums Association of Namibia, therefore negotiated for one of the facilitators to arrive early in order to conduct an introductory workshop that would be available for more people to attend.

The workshop took place in the meeting room of the Namibia Scientific Society and was facilitated by Mr Johann Maree (University of Cape Town), an expert on the conservation of photographs and other paper materials and the designated IFLA regional adviser for Southern Africa. The workshop provided a unique opportunity for museums and other organizations with photographic archives and/or photograph albums in their collections, or those planning to start a photograph archive featuring local history to receive a basic introduction to the best conservation techniques for these materials.



*Many of the participants at the workshop bought examples of the conservation problems they faced to show to Mr Marais.*

Mr Maree answered concerns about the best environmental conditions for storage, ways to monitor light, heat and other hazards, recommended materials for the storage of a photograph archives and many other issues (such as the advantages of digitalization of an archive). The workshop was attended by sixteen participants from institutions who had significant collections of documents and photographs and who were unable to attend the larger regional training workshop being sponsored by IFLA. The participants were: Helga Blume, Das Alte Fort Museum, Grootfontein, Ulli Prickett, Das Alte Fort Museum, Grootfontein, Hellen Rossouw, Das Alte Fort Museum, Grootfontein, Anneke Blizard, Walvis Bay Museum, Magdalena Kaanante, Olukonda Museum, Iita Victor M. M, Military Museum, Okahandja, Karen Rudman, Outjo Museum, Ellynda Haraes, Outjo Museum, Rezell Louw, Keetmanshoop Museum, Tanja Bause, The Namibian, Wiebke Schimdt, Allgemeine Zeitung, Luzell October, Republikein, Gunter von Schumann, Namibia Scientific Society, Jeremy Silvester, Museums Association of Namibia, Napandulwe Shiweda, Museums Association of Namibia, Hertha Lukileni, National Archives of Namibia. Mr Maree also offered to ensure that interested museums would receive a free subscription to 'Conservation News' and copies of two guidebooks on paper and photograph conservation from IFLA. Copies of the guidebooks were subsequently received, bound together and distributed to museums by the Museums Association of Namibia.



*Ellynda Haraes of Outjo Museum works with a beautifully illustrated bible from their collection dating from 1806.*



## Support for New Museum Development

The Museums Association of Namibia has, over the last few years, been strengthening its links with existing museums throughout Namibia and been concentrating on the development of existing museums. However, recently it has become clear that there are a number of new museum initiatives that should be supported. The members of the Museums Association of Namibia have also expressed concern that there are still regions in Namibia that do not yet have a functioning museum and have urged the Executive Committee to be more pro-active in encouraging the development of new museum projects.

During the period under review the Museums Association of Namibia met with the Commissioner of Prisons (1<sup>st</sup> March, 2006) who are seeking to develop a proposal for a national prison museum. A delegation from the Museums Association of Namibia also went to Omaruru to meet with Councillors and other stakeholders for a one day workshop to discuss the potential for the development of a museum and other heritage resources in the town. The Museums Association of Namibia also attended a workshop organized by the City of Windhoek (24<sup>th</sup> March, 2006) concerning the promotion of tourism in the city and participated in ongoing discussions concerning the development of an 'Old Location' museum and heritage tours in the city. The museum planning workshop held at Gibeon (and described in detail elsewhere in this report) was linked to a community initiative to establish a new museum in the town.



*Working with members of Gibeon Unemployed Youth Forum to make a plan of the old prison which they propose to turn into a Hendrik Witbooi Museum.*

## **Appendix 1: Attendance at MAN's AGM, Tsumeb, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May, 2005.**

Since it might be said that the slogan of the Museums Association of Namibia is 'Partnerships for Progress' we are enclosing a copy of the attendance list from the 2005 AGM (and contact details as provided on the registration sheet) as we hope that this Annual Report, like all other activities undertaken by the Museums Association of Namibia will encourage further cooperation between the different museums and other stakeholders working in the heritage sector.

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