

# Narrative Report of the Museums Association of Namibia (April 2011- March 2012)

## 1. Introduction and Budgetary Overview

The Museums Association of Namibia submitted a budget of N\$2,965,480.00 for the 2011-2012 Financial Year to the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture. The activity-based budget was based on the priorities set by MAN members at the previous Annual General Meeting (through a series of resolutions) and developed by MAN's Advisory Committee at the Annual Planning Workshop.

The first instalment of N\$195,360.00 (one-third of MAN's grant-in-aid) was only received on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011. The second instalment of N\$420,640.00 (two-thirds) was received on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012. The Museums Association of Namibia uses Government approved auditing firms, but has found that they give priority to larger contracts and thus the audits have often taken several months to complete leading to uncertainty about the date of the release of funding.

The fact that the bulk of the funding for each financial year is only received at the very end of the financial year means that activities often have to 'overflow' into the next financial year and uncertainty about the date on which funds will be received also makes planning difficult. It would be preferable if the full grant was received at the start of the financial year and our auditors have also requested that the Ministry should provide a written letter with the payment (at present we simply pick up a cheque with no written indication of what the payment constitutes).

External funding could not be found to enable all the activities set out in MAN's 'dream budget' for 2010-2011 to be completed. However, a number of additional activities were facilitated with the assistance of external donors.

## Programmes and Achievements

### 2.1 Regional Museums Development Grants

The Executive Committee approved the RMD grants to museums as recommended by the Grants Committee. The following museums received grants, Walvis Bay Museum (Laptop, Digital recorder, printer), Swakopmund Museum (Camera and lighting equipment), Kavango Museum (Computer Equipment), Gobabis Museum (Exhibition planning and development), Das Alte Fort Grootfontein (Shelving), Gobabeb Training and Research Centre (Development of Topnaar Exhibition), Munyondo gwaKapande Cultural Village (Security Fence) and Ombalantu Baobab Tree Heritage Centre (Computer Training, Logo, internet connection and marketing material).

### 2.2 Consuming Culture: Marketing Namibia's Cultural Tourism Products.

The Museums Association received funding to evaluate and redraft the '*Analysis of the market for cultural tourism worldwide and in Namibia*' handbook, an ongoing project with the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The final report is titled 'Consuming Culture, Marketing Namibia's Cultural Tourism Products' and was officially launched on 18<sup>th</sup> May. The Report is currently being distributed to the relevant stakeholders.

### 2.3 Planning Workshops

The City of Windhoek held a Planning workshop that was facilitated by the Museums Association on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. The workshop was attended by various stakeholders and former residents of the Old location and aimed to inform participants of the various galleries to be included in the proposed City Museum

MANs **Annual Planning Workshop** took place on 24<sup>th</sup> June. During the Workshop the new Executive Committee is elected. Ms Stella Imalwa and Mr Aaron Nambadi are re-elected as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively. Dr Martha Akawa and Ms Edelgartha Cito-Simana are ordinary members. Subsequently MANs Three Year Development Plan is drafted.

#### **2.4 Training Workshops**

A one day training workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and Museums was held in Okahandja on 20<sup>th</sup> May. The workshop was facilitated by Mr Stephen Chifunyise, a renowned expert on ICH and was attended by 40 members. (*A Workshop Report is available*). A second workshop 'Photography for Namibian Museums' with support from the National Arts Council took place on 25-26 November 2011.

#### **2.5 Annual General Meeting**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting took place in Okahandja on the 21<sup>st</sup> May. The AGM was well attended by 56 members and several students from UNAM. A small signing ceremony also took place for the RMD grant recipients. Voting also took place for three new members for the Advisory Committee

#### **2.6 Munyondo gwaKapande Cultural Village**

The architects plan for the Munyondo gwaKapande Cultural Village is presented and approved. A contractor is appointed for the construction of Phase 1 of the cultural village. Phase 1 includes the cultural village component, 6 display huts, a performance arena and a storytelling area.

#### **2.7 International Networks**

Dr Jeremy Silvester attends the Commonwealth Association of Museums Triennial Conference 2011 where he presents a paper titled '*Trading in Tradition: The Development of Cultural Villages in Namibia*'. Report Available

Ms Naitsikile lizyenda is awarded an ICOM travel grant and attends the Inclusive Museum Conference in Johannesburg, SA from the 28<sup>th</sup> June – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011. (Report Available)

#### **2.9 Exhibitions.**

MAN was invited to submit a project proposal on ways in which the Office of the Prime Minister could disseminate information and create awareness on the different marginalized communities in Namibia. MAN submitted a project proposal for a mobile exhibition and the proposal was accepted. A mobile exhibition and compliment catalogue was created and launched by the OPM.

### **3. External Funding from Embassy of Finland**

MAN was approached to manage 3 projects funded by the Embassy of Finland through the Fund for Local Cooperation. The three projects are,

- Renovations and the development of a business management plan for Nakambale Museum.

- Renovations to the first building at Ondandjokwe Hospital for development of the Ondandjokwe Medical Museum and Exhibition planning (for the 100<sup>th</sup> Centenary of the hospital)
- The research and Writing of the biography of Andimba Toivo ya Toivo

The signing ceremony for the **‘Promoting and Preserving Cultural Heritage in Northern Namibia Projects’** (as they are called) takes place at the Embassy of Finland on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

MAN is also assisting with the development of the Onandjokwe Medical Museum and created a temporary exhibition for the Onandjokwe Hospitals Centenary on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011

### **3.2 Heritage Week**

Heritage Week took place on 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> July. MAN facilitated the Heritage Week Working Group which includes representatives from various heritage and tourism institutions (including, NMN, NTB, NWR, NHC, NAN) to create more awareness about the week. A Heritage Week Poster was designed and distributed, (with funding from the MDG-F Programme for Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Namibia) to promote the week.

### **3.3 The Heritage Handbook**

The production of the ‘Our Heritage Our Pride: A Heritage Handbook for Namibia’ is complete. The handbook contains information about the laws and guidelines in place to help Namibians protect and preserve both our natural heritage and our cultural heritage. A simplified version of the handbook was also produced and translated into 7 local languages, English, Afrikaans, Oshindonga, Otjiherero, Khoekhoegowab, Rukwangali and Silozi. The Handbook has been distributed to all relevant stakeholders.

### **3.4 ICOM International Committee for Museums of Ethnography**

The second meeting of the ICME working group took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> January. It is reported that the Annual Conference for International Committee for Museums of Ethnography will take place in Namibia from 12-14 September 2012 with a possible four day post conference tour. MAN is the Namibian partner assisting to organise the conference

### **3.5 UNESCO NATCOM**

The UNESCO National Committee recommends a proposal submitted by MAN for a Training workshop on Disaster Planning for Namibian Museum. The proposal will be submitted to UNESCO headquarters by the National Committee (NATCOM) for UNESCO as one of its top projects for culture.

## **4. Museum Matters**

The 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the newsletter was produced and distributed to members and the 21<sup>st</sup> edition is currently being printed. The newsletter is also used to promote Namibian museums in international networks such as ICOM, AFRICOM and SAMA .