



Annual Report of the Museums Association of Namibia (2009-2010)

1. Budget Overview

The Museums Association of Namibia submitted a budget of N\$1,127,100.00 for the 2009-2010 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. Our Annual Report has, therefore, been written to cover the same period.

A grant of N\$564,000.00 was received. The first instalment of N\$183,000.00 was only received on 1st June, 2009 and the second instalment of N\$381,000.00 was received on 14th December, 2009. 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 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.

External funding could not be found to enable all the activities set out in MAN's 'dream budget' for 2009-2010 to be completed. However, a number of additional activities were facilitated with the assistance of external donors. The Museums Association of Namibia had considerable success over the financial year in obtaining external support and received funding from five external donors during the course of the financial year amounting to N\$448,410.00

2. Programmes and Achievements

2.1 Appointment of Full-time Operations Manager

At the start of the financial year MAN was able to appoint its first full-time member of staff, Ms. Naitsikile lizyenda. Ms lizyenda is a graduate of the University of Namibia and has a Postgraduate Diploma in Museums and Heritage Studies from the University of the Western Cape. Ms lizyenda replaced the previous Administrator, Mr Alfons Thaniseb, who completed his contract. Ms lizyenda joined Dr Jeremy Silvester who works three days a week as MAN's Project Planning and Training Officer. Ms Elize van der Westhuizen replaced Mr Gunter von Schumann as Treasurer. Mr von Schumann stood down after almost twenty years of committed work for MAN due to ill health.

2.2 National Computerised Cataloguing Training.

The Museums Association of Namibia received funding through the MDG-F Programme for Sustainable Cultural Tourism to provide training in computerized cataloguing. A training workshop was organized at the Computer Laboratory of the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development of the Polytechnic of Namibia on 11th-12 January, 2010. Curators from 26 museums participated in the workshop:

Ms Zodidi //Gaseb(National Art Gallery), Ms Edelgartha Cito-Simana (Gobabis Museum), Ms Daphney Eichas (History Dept, National Museum of Namibia), Ms Helvi Elago (Intern)Mr Floris Guntenaar (CulturalHeritage.com), Ms Revecca Haufiku (Intern (Tsumeb)), Sergt. Victor lita (Military Museum, Okahandja), Ms. Naitsi lizyenda (Museums Association of Namibia), Ms Emma Imalwa (Archaeology Dept, National Museum of Namibia), Ms. Valerie Kleintjie (Keetmanshoop Museum), Ms Sandra Menne (Grootfontein `Alte Feste' Museum), Ms. Antoinette Mostert(Walvis Bay Museum), Ms Luness Mpunwa (National Art Gallery of Namibia), Ms Limba Mupetami (Intern), Ms.Selma Salmon (Intern (Swakopmund), Ms Rauha Shuuya (Uukwaluudhi Royal homestead Museum), Dr Jeremy Silvester (Museums Association of Namibia), Ms Elize van der Westhuizen(Arts Association of Namibia), Ms Jutte Tietz (Grootfontein `Alte Feste' Museum)

Additional visits were made to nine heritage institutions to discuss, install and demonstrate the MD-System software.

Mr Eugene Marais (National Museum of Namibia), Ms Minette Greeff (Kristal Gallerie), Mr Konrad Schullenbach (TransNamib Museum), Ms Grace Kamuingona (City of Windhoek), Ms Anneliese Bruns (Tsumeb Museum), Ms Rebekka Kalolo (Tsumeb Cultural Village), Mr Werner Hillebrecht (National Archives of Namibia), Mr Gunter von Schumann (Marine Archaeology Society/Namibia Scientific Society), Mr Peter Brüggemann, (Swakopmund Museum & Sam Cohen Library)

2.3 Building Cross-Border Museum Partnerships Workshop

The workshop took place in Windhoek on 23rd-24th October, 2009 and was co-hosted by MAN and ICOM-Namibia with financial support from UNESCO. The workshop made 22 recommendations and established a Task Team to develop a proposal for the re-establishment of a museums networking organisation for Southern Africa to replace SADCAMM which had become dormant. A total of 24 people took part in the workshop. Participants at the workshop were:

Mr Pascal Taruvinga (International Council of African Museums (AFRICOM)), Prof. Ciraj Rassool (University of the Western Cape), Prof. Henry Bredenkamp (ICOM South Africa/Robben Island Museum), Mr Ishmael Mbhokodo (South African Museums Association (SAMA)), Mr Terry Nyambe (ICOM Zambia/Livingstone Museum), Mr George Mudenda (Lusaka National Museum), Mr Joseph Muringaniza (Museum of Human Sciences Zimbabwe), Ms Winani Kgwatalala (ICOM Botswana/Botswana National Museum), Ms Stella Imalwa (Museums Association of Namibia), Mr Werner Thaniseb (National Theater of Namibia), Mr Andre Strauss (Directorate of National Heritage and Culture Programmes), Ms Grace Kamuingona (City of Windhoek), Mr Joseph Madisia (National Art Gallery of Namibia), Mr Werner Hillebrecht (National Archives of Namibia), Mr Erling Kavita (UN Joint Program on Sustainable Cultural Tourism), Mr Damir Djakovic (UNESCO), Mr Digu Naobeb (Namibian Tourism Board), Mr Manfred Gaeb (Namibian Tourism Board), Ms Emma Imalwa (National Museum of Namibia), Mr Gerhardt Gurirab (National Museum of Namibia), WO II Lazarus Julus (National Military Museum, Okahandja.), Ms Antoinette Mostert (Walvis Bay Museum), Dr Jeremy Silvester (Museums Association of Namibia), Ms Naitikile Ilyenda (Museums Association of Namibia).

2.4 Writing Funding Proposals for Namibian Museums Workshop and Manual.

The Museums Association of Namibia organized a two day workshop in partnership with the Institute for Management and Leadership Training (IMLT). A total of 26 heritage workers participated in the workshop that took place on 20th-21st May, 2009 at the Alte Brucke Conference Centre in Swakopmund. After the workshop the Museums Association of Namibia produced a manual that is available to members to assist them with writing funding proposals.

2.5 Regional Museum Development

Gobabis Museum. The Municipality of Gobabis requested help with renovating the old library building, building an electrified security fence around the plot and installing a security system. The quotations obtained were greater than the amount that MAN could provide as a grant. MAN successfully applied to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to obtain co-funding that enabled all the work to be completed.

King Mandume Museum. The Museum Advisory Committee was provided with an ACER Aspire 5332 Laptop, a HP Deskjet C 4783 Printer, Microsoft Office Software (containing Word, Powerpoint, Excel and OneNote), Norton Anti-Virus Software (valid for one year), a carrying bag for the laptop computer and 3G internet connection. In addition the Museums Association of Namibia provided funding for the Secretary of the Committee to receive computer training and for the Committee to visit Nakambale Museum, Ombalantu Baobab Tree Heritage Centre and the Uukwaluudhi Royal Palace at Tsandi to learn from the experience of other MAN members.

Military Museum. The Museums Association of Namibia arranged for two curators from the Military Museum established by the Ministry of Defence in Okahandja to attend a four week internship at the South African National Museum of Military History (SANMMH) in Johannesburg. A programme was drawn up, in consultation with the museum that allowed the two interns to experience and learn about four different aspects of work in a military museum. MAN received reports on the internship from both the interns and the SANMMH.

2.6 Kolmanskop Museum

NAMDEB requested the Museums Association of Namibia to provide advice on the future development of the Kolmanskop 'Ghost town' – an open air museum on the outskirts of Lüderitz. The Project Planning and Training Officer and the Operations Manager travelled to Lüderitz on the 18th-23rd October, 2009 and produced a report for NAMDEB - 'A Report on the Historical and Conservation Issues associated with the Kolmanskop Heritage Site'.

2.7 SCAMX School Competition

The SCAMX competition took place in Windhoek on 10th-11th July, 2009. History Clubs from 22 different schools representing 11 of Namibia's 13 regions took part. The exhibition produced by the learners was visited by a number of local dignitaries including the Honourable Prime Minister, Nahas Angula and Hon. Toivo ya Toivo. The winning school was Lüderitz Secondary School from Karas Region who researched and created a display about the history of Shark Island and won a trip to the Spring School at Robben Island Museum.

2.8 Conference and AGM (2009)

The Conference and AGM took place at Swakopmund Museum on 22nd-23rd May, 2009. The theme of the Conference was 'Museums, Heritage and Cultural Tourism in Namibia'. As part of MAN's strategy to build stronger regional partnerships in Southern Africa, Ms Beverley Thomas, President of the South African Museums Association was invited to be the keynote speaker. A total of 56 members representing museums and heritage institutions from all over Namibia attended the Conference.

2.9 MDG-F Programme for Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Namibia Annual Planning Workshop

The Programme for Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Namibia is a three year programme funded by the Spanish Government worth US\$6 million. An annual Review and Planning Workshop had to take place at the end of the first year, but the programme faced problem in releasing in time to meet the deadline for the submission of reports on Year One. The Museums Association of Namibia, therefore, agreed to assist to cover the costs of the three day workshop that involved members of the Programme Management Committee and representatives of Regional Councils and Pilot Projects. Funding from UNESCO will be received in the next financial year to reimburse MAN for the costs of this workshop.

2.10 Museum Matters

During the financial year, MAN produced editions 16 (June, 2009) and 17 (December, 2009) of its bi-annual newsletter, *Museum Matters*. The newsletter was distributed to all members of MAN as well as to sponsors and international organizations such as the African Council of Museums (AFRICOM), the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the South African Museums Association (SAMA)

2.11 MAN Office and Resource Centre.

The Museums Association of Namibia negotiated a further three year lease on its office space from the Namibia Scientific Society. MAN's office space consists of two offices and a bathroom with a security system and water included. The office is centrally located near the National Art Gallery of Namibia and the rent is extremely economical as it works out at N\$1,312.50 per month. The lease will expire on 15th June, 2012.

3. Challenges

3.1 Lack of Transport

The staff of the Museums Association of Namibia is required to travel extensively to provide support and training to museums and new projects throughout Namibia, but does not have a vehicle. At present MAN relies on public transport or has to use members private vehicles. As MAN is seeking to encourage the circulation of mobile exhibitions it would like to obtain a vehicle that could also be used to take small travelling exhibitions to the regions. Efforts to obtain private sponsorship were unsuccessful.

3.2 Funding for Regional Museum Development.

The Museums Association of Namibia budgeted to provide six grants of a maximum of N\$20,000.00 each for regional museum development. However, the Advisory Committee has argued that MAN needs more financial resources to assist new community-based museum projects to be launched. It has been recommended that MAN should seek the resources to be able to provide two annual grants of N\$100,000 to provide start-up funding for new projects that have been approved by MAN.

3.3 Office Space and Staffing.

MAN's office and resource centre is well situated, but is already too small. Museum curators often come to the office to read the materials available or for meetings. MAN has two work stations and a meeting table, but one of the rooms also serves as a kitchen. MAN has a small library, a photocopier, a laminating machine and a binding machine as well as a large number of files. MAN has experienced a rapid increase in the demand for its services and is receiving project funding from an increasing number of sources. Ideally MAN would like to expand its staff with a staffing structure for three full-time posts. The Project Planning and Training Officer would become full-time and a full-time Finance and Admin & Membership Secretary would also be appointed. The increase in staff would also require MAN to move to a new building that could provide three rooms.

3.4 Lack of a National Heritage Plan

The Museums Association of Namibia believes that Namibia needs a co-ordinated approach to the development of heritage sites and museums. At present a number of initiatives are underway with funding from different sources and the danger of duplicating projects that are unsustainable or will burden the Government with significant, long-term financial commitments. We believe that a national Conference or 'Heritage Forum' that could allow each region to identify a 'unique' heritage attraction that could receive Government support would help to shape a national plan. Such attractions could include natural and cultural heritage and might, for example, include a 'Meteorite Centre'. We believe such an initiative would help develop regional identities and encourage greater tourism mobility within Namibia.