

Museums Association of Namibia
Annual Report
2012 -2013

Introduction

The 2012-2013 Financial Year was an extremely busy and productive year for the Museums Association of Namibia (MAN). The greatest highlight of the year was the realisation at the very end of the financial year that our Grant-in-Aid from the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture had been dramatically increased. The increase means that MAN will be able to re-introduce activities such as its annual school competition, expand the size of the regional museum development grants that it manages, increase the capacity of the organisation and improve our financial management. Perhaps the most significant event that MAN was involved with during the course of the year was the Annual Conference of the International Committee of Museums of Ethnography (ICME). The Conference provided an opportunity for Namibians to engage with curators from all over the world on the relationship between museums and the new phenomena of 'Living Museums' and 'Cultural Villages'.

Regional Museum Development Grants

Ten member museums and heritage institutions were awarded Regional Museum Development Grants. The recipients were:

Nakambale Museum and Rest Camp,
Ombalantu Baobab Tree Heritage Centre,
Gobabis Museum,
Onandjokwe Medical Museum,
Kavango Museum,
Arts Association Heritage Trust,
Gobabeb Training and Research Centre,
Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo Cultural Village,
Namibia Scientific Society and the
Namibia Underwater Federation -Marine Archaeology Section

The Regional Museums Development Grant Committee also adopted a set of guidelines to assist with the award of grants.

Business Analysis for Nakambale Museum and Rest Camp

MAN successfully conducted a brief business analysis on the organisational efficiency of Nakambale Museum. The report covers the last three full calendar years (2009, 2010 and 2011). An overview is provided in the report whilst more detailed museum management guidelines and statistics are provided as appendices. The report was submitted to the Finnish Embassy (as Funding Partners) and The Gondwana Collection of Lodges as Nakambale Museum are investigating the possibility of establishing a joint venture.



MAN representative Mr. Barnabas Nauyoma
inspects the work done on the huts



Representatives from the Museums Association of Namibia and the Nakambale Museum and Rest Camp meeting with the delegation from the Finnish Embassy at Nakambale

Ombalantu Baobab Tree Heritage Centre (OBTHC) Marketing Materials

As part of the Regional Museum Development Grant received from MAN, OBTHC requested assistance in creating a logo, brochures and t-shirts as part of their marketing campaign. The Centre received t-shirts for resale to provide additional income. The t-shirts are for sale for N\$100 and are proving to be popular within the region. OBTHC used the profits generated from the sale of the t-shirts to order a second consignment.



Consultation with the Finnish Colleague on the Lilleblad Collection

MAN held a consultative meeting with a Finnish colleague on the digitalisation of the Lilleblad Collection. The Collection comprises photographs of Owamboland taken in the 1930's.

Heritage Awareness for Namibian Museums Workshop

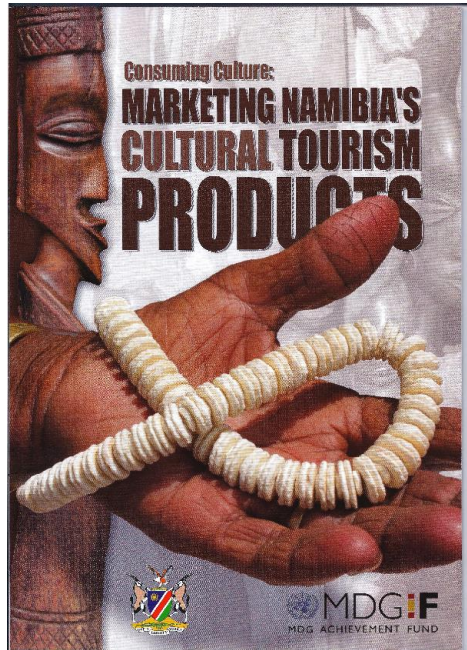
MAN facilitated a workshop on *Heritage Awareness for Namibian Museums* on 17th May, 2012. Members received a copy of the handbook, *Our Heritage Our Pride: A Heritage Handbook for Namibia*. The workshop takes place with funding support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through the MDG Fund for Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Namibia.

Annual General Meeting

MAN's Annual General Meeting took place on the 18th May, 2012. The Annual Report was tabled and elections took place to elect three members to the Advisory Committee. Mr Aaron Nambadi (City Museum), Ms Antoinette Mostert (Walvis Bay Museum) and Mr Goodman Gwasira (UNAM) were elected to the Advisory Committee.

Consuming Culture: Marketing Namibia's Cultural Tourism Products Launch

The report produced by the Museums Association of Namibia with the ILO *Consuming Culture: Marketing Namibia's Cultural Tourism Products* launched at Studio 77 on 18th May, 2012. The report provides an analysis of the potential market for cultural (and heritage) tourism and also makes recommendations about the ways in which Namibia might improve the viability of community-based tourism.



Finnish Embassy Round Table and Training Event

MAN attended the Finnish Embassy Round Table Event. The Meeting is for all organisations who receive funding from the Finnish Embassy under the Local Cooperation Fund. MAN also qualified for training in Capacity Development for its staff from PACT Namibia. The organisational support is funded by the Finnish Embassy.

Office Lease Renewed

MAN renewed its lease with the Namibia Scientific Society. Although a bigger office space is required for MAN to function more efficiently, the current office is affordable and easily accessible to members and partners. NSS included an additional storage space in the rental agreement. The storage space has been used to archive MANs Files and store unused material

Heritage Awareness for Regional Councils Workshop

MAN holds a workshop on Heritage Awareness aimed at officials responsible for Economic and Planning Development within the Regional Councils. The workshop included presentations from a number of stakeholders in the heritage sector and was aimed at raising awareness of current heritage legislation and the role that Regional Councils might play in identifying and preserving the heritage within their regions.

UNESCO/CHDA Workshop

Dr Silvester (who was teaching Public History at UNAM on a part-time basis) was selected to take part in a training course on the 2003 Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention in Mombasa for people teaching museum and heritage studies at African Universities. The course was useful as helped MAN to reflect on the ways in which ICH might be incorporated more within museum activities and to encourage museums to play a larger role in documenting regional ICH.

Annual Planning Workshop

The Annual Planning Workshop took place in Swakopmund on 6th July 2012. The workshop was used to draft the action plan for the next financial year and to draw up a plan for the use of the funds remaining for use in the current financial year.



PACT: Consultative Meetings

MAN qualified for training in Capacity Development for its staff from PACT Namibia. The organisational support is funded by the Finnish Embassy. Initial Meetings are held between MAN and PACT to discuss priority areas for training. The areas identified are ***Financial Management, Governance, and Human Resources.***

Onandjokwe Medical Museum Planning Workshop

MAN staff travelled to Oniipa to conduct the OMEM Planning Workshop. The workshop was well attended by hospital staff and former nurses as well as by representatives

PACT Training on Financial Management

MAN partakes in training on Financial Management at PACT offices. The training is conducted by Mr Eben de Klerk

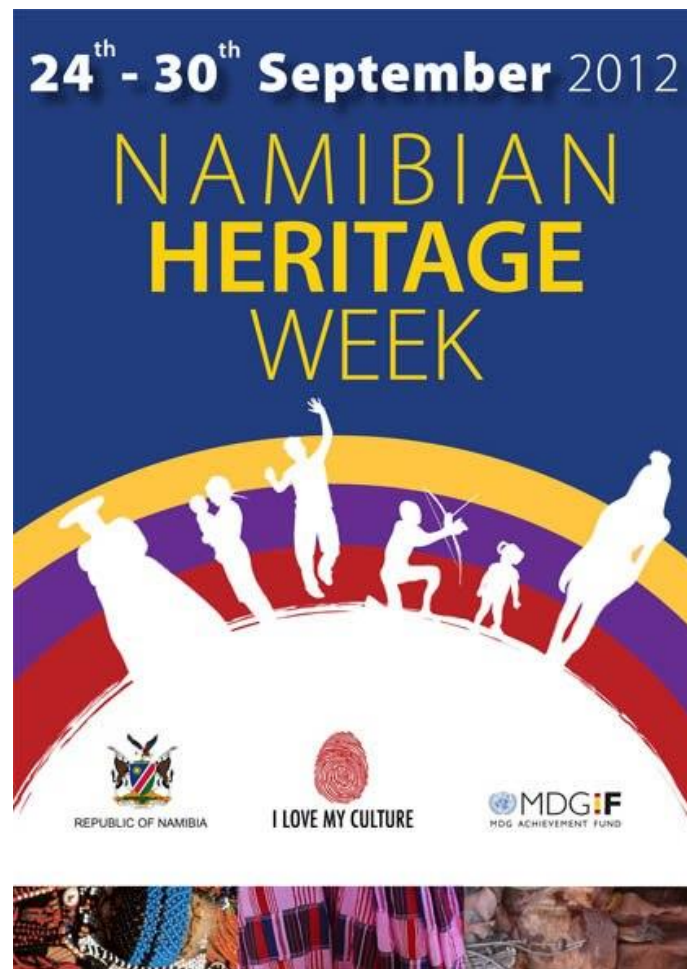
ICOM's International Committee for Museums of Ethnography Annual Conference 2012

ICME held their annual conference in Windhoek at the Safari Court Hotel from 12-14 September 2012. The Conference discussed the issue of '*Consuming Culture: Living Museums and Cultural Villages*'. The conference was hosted by the Museums Association of Namibia and was well attended by both international and local guest. The conference was followed by a post-conference tour where over 30 international guests from different countries visited Namibian museums and heritage sites.



Heritage Week

Heritage Week took place (24th-28th September). MAN chaired and facilitated the Heritage Week Working Group which includes representatives from various heritage institutions 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. In addition, t-shirts with the heritage week slogan 'I Love My Culture' and a thumb print were produced and distributed to frontline staff at all institutions involved in promoting the week



Heritage Week Poster 2012

MAN Poster Series.

As its contribution to Namibian Heritage Week MAN launched the first four posters in a series that will promote Namibian museums. The first four posters cover, Keetmanshoop Museum, Nakambale Museum, Ombalantu Baobab Tree Heritage Centre and Swakopmund Museum.

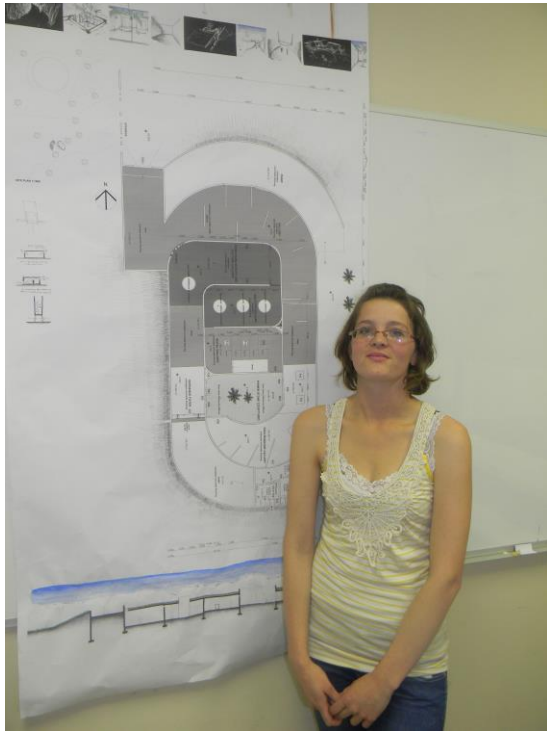
Opening of Onandjokwe Medical Museum

The Medical Museum was officially opened by the Minister of Health, Hon. Richard Kamwi, on Friday, 22nd March, 2013. The occasion also saw the launch of a commemorative book about the history of Onandjokwe which was launched by the Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of Finland, Her Excellency Madam Anne Saloranta. The museum opened with two permanent exhibitions featuring the History of Onandokwe Hospital and Health during the Liberation Struggle.



King Mandume Museum Commemoration and Ground Breaking Event

Dr Napandulwe Shiweda, who worked as MAN's Project Office, attended the commemoration of King Mandume and the ground breaking ceremony of the construction of the museum. The event took place Museum on 02 March 2013 at Omhedi, the seat of Oukwanyama Kingdom. MAN also worked with students from the new Architecture Department at the Polytechnic of Namibia to develop possible designs for the new museum.



Munyondo gwa Kapande Cultural Village

The Cultural Village neared completion by the end of the year. Achievements included the final registration of the project as a Section 21 Company. Assistance was also obtained from colleagues from the National Botanical Research Institute to produce outdoor signs identifying some of the most culturally important plants at the site. A total of four display huts were completed. The site faced the challenge of repairing erosion to the river bank, but this was repaired with compressed earth. A land dispute involving the traditional authority was also finally resolved by swapping a piece of land at the east of the site for an additional piece at the west. The security fence and entrance gate was extended to include the new piece of land and a building that will be used as the office, shop, reception and store room was successfully completed. The remaining challenge will be to provide toilets for the site.

