



**Museums Association of Namibia**  
Making Museums Matter - Since 1990

# Annual Report

01 April 2022 - 31 March 2023

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2022/2023



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Ms Nehoa Hilma Kautondokwa – Chairperson

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Envisioning Creative Futures Project

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Museums Association of Namibia Archives

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## DISCLAIMER

While compiling this publication, the secretariat of the Museums Association of Namibia has endeavoured to ensure that all of the information and images are accurate representations of the organization's history. Any omissions or errors are in no way intentional and if any are picked up, we encourage the reader to inform us in order for them to be corrected in the next issue.



TransNamib Museum, Windhoek



# Annual Report

01 April 2022 - 31 March 2023



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## SECTION 2

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#### APRIL 2022

11 April: The (In)Audible Past Zoom Conference

25 April: Talk with University of Namibia Students  
about the importance of joining professional bodies

#### MAY 2022

17 May: Final set-up for the launch of the Museum  
of Namibian Fashion

30 May: Confronting Colonial pasts, Envisioning  
Creative Futures Press Conference

31 May: Confronting Colonial Past, Envisioning  
Creative Futures Stakeholder's Workshop

#### JUNE 2022

01 June: Launch of the Museum of Namibian  
Fashion

02 - 03 June: Capacity Building Workshop in  
preventive conservation and restoration by Eva Ritz  
for colleagues in the Cultural Heritage Sector in  
Namibia, at the National Museum of Namibia

06 June: Capacity Building Workshop in provenance  
research and cooperative exhibition practice with  
Golda Ha-Eiros, Larissa Förster and Julia Binter

15 June: Consultative Workshop on Cultural  
Heritage Management

22 June - 01 July: Learning for exchange (Namibia)

#### JULY 2022

14 - 25 July: Learning for Exchange (Switzerland)



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## AUGUST 2022

02-05 August: National Conference on Education,  
Arts and Culture

## SEPTEMBER 2022

09 - 19 Sept: Humboldt Forum - Germany

19 Sept: Namibian Heritage Week Launch

19 Sept: Namibian Heritage Week at the Museum of  
Namibian Fashion

21 Sept: The University of Cologne archives  
workshop

## OCTOBER 2022

05 Oct: Situation Kritikal on NBC TV

06 - 08 Oct: Otjiwarongo, Tsumeb and Oniipa

16 - 20 Oct: Global Summit for Research Museums -  
Munich, Germany

26 Oct: MAN AGM

28 Oct: Journey of the National Archives of Namibia

## NOVEMBER 2022

01 Nov: Our New Director

01 Nov: Museum Outreach Programme

03 Nov: Visit to the collection at the National  
Museum of Namibia

03 Nov: Museum of Namibian Fashion Outreach  
Program

08 Nov: Windhoek Museums Tour

24 Nov: The Action for Restitutin to Africa (ARA)  
Project

26 Nov: The Second conference by the Arab Culture  
and Arts Network (ACAN)

## DECEMBER 2022

09 Dec: Museum Matters 37

## JANUARY 2023

27 Jan: Annual Planning Workshop

30 Jan: ELCRN Archives Project



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## FEBRUARY 2023

01 Feb: Memorandums of Understanding

02 Feb: CCP, ECF Project Advisory Board

## MARCH 2023

01 March: ELCRN Archives Internships

02 March: NATCOM Orientation date for all  
Programme Committee Members

03 March: Usakos - Making of Common History

21 March: 33rd Namibia Independence Day

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# Section 1

# Finance and Administration

# About Us

Launched in 1990, MAN is a Non-Governmental, community development focussed organisation representing museums and heritage, institutions and practitioners throughout Namibia. MAN is an organization of museums, institutions, and people in Namibia, which aims to promote museology and all matters pertaining thereto. Since 2002, MAN has been officially recognized by the Namibian Government as the voice of Namibian museums and receives an annual grant-in-aid from the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture “... to facilitate the establishment of heritage institutions at the regional and local level and to support such institutions by providing guidance, assistance and expertise where necessary and possible”.

## **The Museums Association of Namibia achieves the fulfilment of its mandate and mission statement by:**

1. Supporting and encouraging the establishment and development of museums throughout Namibia.
2. Promoting the meaningful use of museums in Namibia by emphasizing their existence and crucial role in national, and socio-economic development.
3. Promoting the preservation and documentation of cultural and natural heritage in Namibia.
4. Establishing, maintaining and strengthening relations between all concerned with the study, practice, preservation, protection, dissemination and promotion of cultural and natural heritage in Namibia.
5. Developing and improving professional standards by initiating and coordinating training programmes and workshops for museum personnel.
6. Providing training to museum workers and encouraging young people to consider a career in the heritage sector through an internship scheme.
7. Developing and maintaining a heritage network in Namibia to encourage greater cooperation and communication between stakeholders in the heritage sector.
8. Promoting cooperation between national, regional and international institutions concerned with the use of museums as research, educational and recreational resources and tourist attractions.
9. Forging partnerships between local museums, institutions and government bodies with international museums, bodies and institutions.
10. Seeking the repatriation of cultural property of Namibian origin held in museums outside Namibia and seeking to prevent the illegal trade in cultural artefacts from Namibia.



# Our Mission

*The Museums Association of Namibia (MAN) is a facilitating organisation for museums and other institutions in the heritage sector. It aims to establish, maintain and strengthen relations between all concerned with the study, practice, preservation, protection, dissemination and promotion of national heritage in Namibia in cooperation with regional and international organizations for the benefit of all Namibians.*



MAN strives to define, support and aid museums and museum institutions, establish and reinforce the museum profession in Namibia, and facilitate cooperation and mutual assistance between museums and between members of the museum profession locally, regionally and internationally. Finally, MAN strives to emphasise the role played by museums and the museum profession within each community and in the promotion of greater knowledge and understanding among people.

Our members include museums, cultural villages, art galleries, libraries, archives, heritage sites, companies and individuals who are passionate about our heritage, art and culture.



# Our Team

**The Executive Committee (EC/ExCo)** is the decision-making body of the Museums Association of Namibia. The Committee provides leadership and overall strategy for the organisation and assures everyone that the organisation's finances are sound, its operations are legal, and its procedures work. The EC represents the membership of the organisation and oversees the long-term development of MAN. The Organisation is led and managed in line with its governing documents. The role of an Executive Committee of the Museums Association of Namibia is voluntary. **The current EC consists of, Ms Nehoa Hilma Kautondokwa (Chairperson), Dr Elliot Mowa (Vice Chair Person), Mr Aaron Haufiku Nambadi, Ms Kaarina Efraim, Dr Goodman Gwasira and Dr. Aina Paulina Muulila.**

**The Museums Association of Namibia has two full-time permanent staff and one external consultant. Additionally, the organisation has project staff employed by different projects.**

MAN employs two Project Officers and two research interns for the **"Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures"** Project on a fixed-term basis. The project runs until the 30th of June 2024. MAN also employs two Consultants and three archive research interns for the **"Salvaging the ELCRN Archives and Making them Accessible for Research"** Project on a fixed-term basis. The project runs until the 30th of June 2023. Finally, MAN employs a Project Officer for the **"Usakos, - Making of Common History"** project on a fixed-term basis. The project runs until the 31st of January 2024.

In-service training effectively offers students job and career development options that benefit both the student and the organisation. MAN offers internships to students undertaking courses in relevant fields. MAN tries to accommodate as many interns as possible during the year at both the MAN office and at member museums around the country. MAN continues to provide internships from other universities in Namibia as well as international students studying in the field of History, Tourism, Museums and Culture. Applications for internships can be submitted to the Museums Association of Namibia together with an updated CV to [info@museums.com.na](mailto:info@museums.com.na) for the attention of Ndapewoshali Ashipala.

# Our Team



**Ndapewoshali  
Ashipala**

Director



**Tuuda  
Haitula**

Museum  
Development  
Officer



**Naphtali  
Chipasha**

Accounting and  
Business  
Advisory



**Chalden  
Sabab**

**Project Officer**  
Usakos: Making  
of A common  
History



**Eila  
Mvula**

**Documentalist**  
Confronting  
Colonial Pasts,  
Envisioning  
Creative Futures



**Liina  
Nambahu**

**Research Intern**  
Confronting  
Colonial Pasts,  
Envisioning  
Creative Futures



**Bayron  
van Wyk**

**Research Intern**  
Confronting  
Colonial Pasts,  
Envisioning  
Creative Futures



**Kevanhu  
Muifi**

**Curator: Museum of  
Namibian Fashion**  
Confronting Colonial  
Pasts, Envisioning  
Creative Futures

# Our Team



**Werner  
Hillebrecht**

**Consultant**  
Salvaging the  
ELCRN Archives  
and Making them  
Accessible for  
Research



**Wolfram  
Hartmann**

**Consultant**  
Salvaging the  
ELCRN Archives  
and Making them  
Accessible for  
Research



**Ruiumuini  
Kahuure**

**Archive Intern**  
Salvaging the  
ELCRN Archives  
and Making them  
Accessible for  
Research



**Peya  
Nankulungu**

**Archive Intern**  
Salvaging the  
ELCRN Archives  
and Making them  
Accessible for  
Research



**Romancia  
Uises**

**Archive Intern**  
Salvaging the  
ELCRN Archives  
and Making them  
Accessible for  
Research



# Our Team



**Samora  
Cloete**

**Research Intern**  
Action for  
Restitution to  
Africa (ARA) -  
Africa  
Accessioned



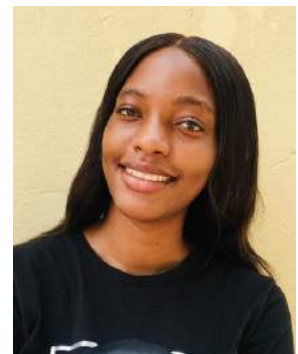
**Laina Gwendy  
Kavara**

**Researcher**  
Hedmark County  
Municipality –  
Helvi Mpingana  
Kondombolo  
Cultural Village



**Joshua  
Joshua**

Internship for  
Bachelor of Arts  
in Visual Culture  
at the University  
of Namibia



**Anna  
Haitembu**

**Research Intern**  
Action for  
Restitution to  
Africa (ARA) -  
Africa  
Accessioned



**Daantje  
van de Linde**

Internship for  
Masters in  
African Studies  
at Leiden  
University



# Our Membership

MAN has four types of membership namely ordinary members, honorary members, corporate and institutional members.

## **Institutional Members**

National and International institutions concerned with issues of Museums and the protection and presentation of Cultural Heritage. Institutions also include the members of local groups, study groups, and branches of MAN. For Corporate and Institutional members, the membership fee is based on whether or not the museum is open to the public.

- Associate membership (Projects or institutions that have not yet opened as museums)
- Museum Members (For fully functioning museums)

## **Honorary life members**

At any annual general meeting of MAN, the Executive Committee may propose one honorary life member to be elected by a majority of the members present at such a meeting, and any such honorary life member shall be subject to the rules and regulations of MAN and enjoy the privileges of membership without payment of subscription.

## **Ordinary Members**

Any person shall be eligible for membership as an ordinary member of MAN.

## **Corporate members**

Any registered company or business wishing to support the aims, objectives, and functions of MAN.



Damara Living Museum, Twyfelfontein  
(c) Living Culture Foundation

# Chairperson's Message

As we enter our 33rd year of Making Museums Matter, we are constantly reminded that the journey of MAN has been one characterised by growth, resilience, and passion. Not only have we weathered many a storm, but we have also thrived. The small MAN team remains devoted to the representation of museums and heritage institutions throughout Namibia. MAN continues to facilitate the establishment of heritage institutions at the regional and local level and to support such institutions by providing guidance, assistance, and expertise where necessary and possible.

In this annual report, you will read about projects that have been completed within the 2022/2023 financial year. You will also read about new projects that have been conceptualised and have begun implementation during the reporting period.

Our Annual Report aims to highlight some of MAN's achievements during the 2022-2023 Financial Year (to accompany our audited financial report). During this period, we received core funding from the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture of N\$1,058,000.00 during the year, which covered just under half of the core costs of the organisation (i.e. our office rental, salaries, and utility bills). However, MAN continued to actively seek external project funding to support activities and regional museum development.



**Ms Nehoa Hilma Kautondokwa**

**Chairperson  
Museums Association of Namibia**



I would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the fact that over the last few years, we have managed to attract external funding that has more than matched the grant-in-aid we receive from the Ministry and brought important foreign exchange into Namibia. It is, therefore, important to highlight that this financial year has seen MAN perform significantly well financially, under the stewardship of the new Director, Ms Ashipala. As you will read in the financial report, MAN is in a healthy financial position for the first time in a long time.

Moreover, as reported last year, the MAN projects and programmes for the next few years are focused largely on the development of new exhibitions in the context of museum education, repatriation and restitution and capacity building for professionals in the sector. In August 2023, MAN will host a one-and-a-half-week conference.

The first week of the conference will begin with a skills mapping and needs assessment session exercise for Namibian museum professionals, followed by training in Museum Management, Governance, Community Engagement and Ethics, Financial Management and Income Generation, and Museum Education and Marketing. The week will end with the Annual General Meeting and Conference for MAN members, under the theme “The Identity of the Namibian Museum” for which MAN members have been invited to submit an abstract for a presentation, paper or performance. The second week of the conference will include training in the fields of Museum Conservation, Documentation and Digitisation. The workshops will be facilitated by the MAN team concerning their different expertise and by invited industry professionals and specialists.

Finally, I would like to thank the team that forms the heart of MAN - Ms Ashipala and Mr Haitula. I know that the young project officers and interns, Mr Muifi, Mr Mvula, Mr van Wyk and Ms Nambahu, as well as all the student interns, will be inspired by the commitment and hard work of the team. I cannot thank you enough for all the work and effort you put into making museums matter. People assume that MAN is a massive organisation, and I am constantly amazed by the incredible work you accomplish with limited resources.

**Keep Making Museums Matter!**

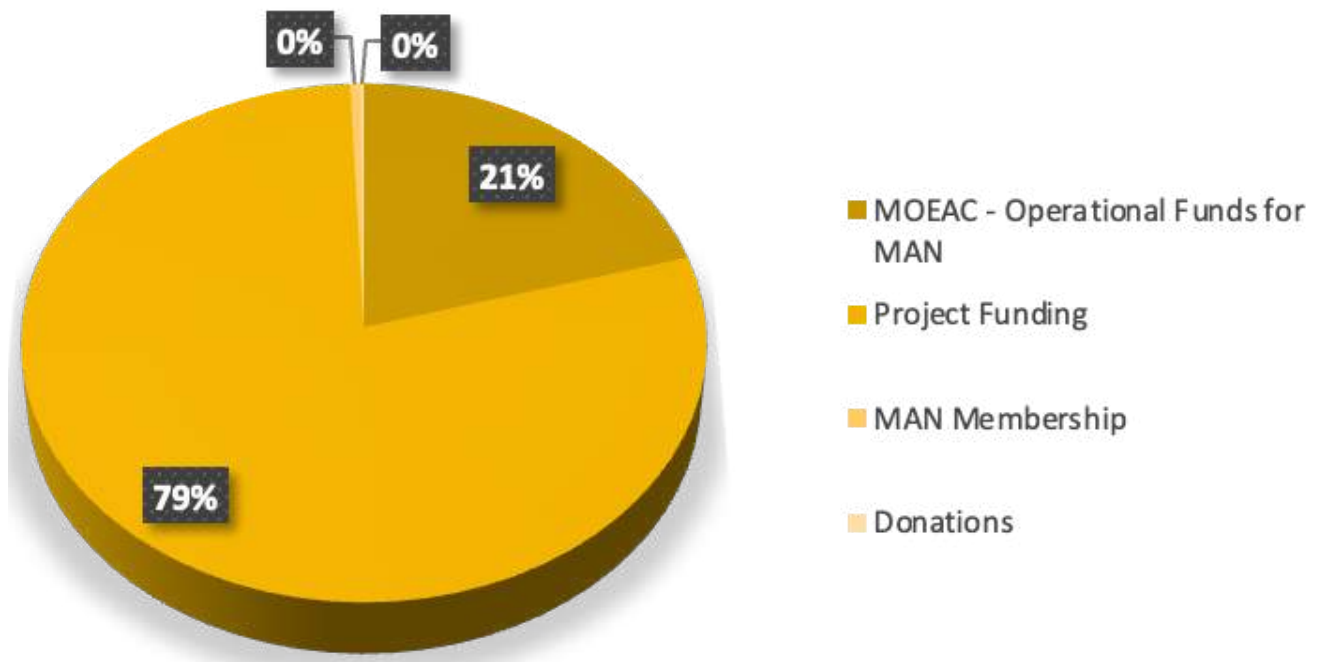
# Financial Report

Below is a summary of the funds raised by MAN for both operational costs and for projects between 01 April 2022 and 31 March 2023.

SOURCE	AMOUNT (NAD)
<b>Projects and Operations</b>	
Ministry of Education Arts & Culture	1,058,000.00
Gerda Henkel Stieftung: Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures Phase 2	2,109,660.32
NAMCOR - Development of a Permanent Exhibition in the National Maritime Museum	206,250.00
University of the Western Cape: Action for Restitution (Africa Accessioned)	550,000.00
RMB: Salvaging the ELCRN Archives and making them accessible for Research	865,000.00
National Arts Council of Namibia – Namibian Heritage Week	300,000.00
Past Present and Future of Namibian Heritage Conference	14,000.00
<b>Subtotal: Projects and Operations</b>	<b>5,102,910.32</b>
<b>Membership Fees, Merchandise and Donations</b>	
MAN Merchandise	1,620.00
ICOM Membership Fees	5,800.00
MAN Membership Fees	19,855.00
Donations	7,911.00
<b>Subtotal: Membership Fees, Merchandise and Donations</b>	<b>35,186.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,138,096.32</b>



# Financial Report



**Going concern** is defined as “the ability of the entity to continue operating in the next 12 months, it is able to meet its obligations and does not face any threat of liquidation.” Is the Museums Association of Namibia a Going Concern as of 31 March 2023? **Yes.**





# Financial Report

MAN believes in community-driven, collaborative sustainable project development and execution and is currently working on numerous, exciting projects with different partners which include, but are not limited to;

1. Namibian Heritage Week, is an annual event hosted by the Namibian Heritage Week team, which is comprised of different organisations and individuals who are committed to the preservation and promotion of Namibian Cultural Heritage.
2. The Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures: Collaborative Conservation and Knowledge Production of the Historical Collections from Namibia held at the Ethnological Museum Berlin and the National Museum of Namibia, Windhoek which includes the Museum of Namibian Fashion and the Virtual Museum of Namibian Fashion (MNF), six Post-graduate Diploma Scholarships in Heritage Conservation and Management at the University of Namibia (UNAM), the Conservation and Documentation of ethnographic collection at the National Museum of Namibia, capacity-building for Namibian Museum Professionals and community-based provenance research.
3. The Revitalisation of the Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo Cultural Village in Tsumeb, in collaboration with Hedmark County Municipality
4. Museum Outreach Programme for the Ovahimba, Damara and Ju/'Hoansi living Museums, in collaboration with the University of Namibia and the Goethe Institut,
5. Salvaging the ELCRN Archives and Making them Accessible for Research
6. NAMCOR - Development of a Permanent Exhibition in the National Maritime Museum in Lüderitz
7. The (In)Audible Past in collaboration with the University of Basel, Namibian artists, researchers and culture professionals, and the University of Namibia
8. Action for Restitution to Africa (ARA) - Africa Accessioned in collaboration with the University of the Western Cape (UWC).
9. Usakos - Making of Common History





## Section 2

# Annual Report

01 April 2022 - 31 March 2023

# April 2022

The 2022/2023 financial year began with the MAN team conceptualising and planning for future projects, while preparing for the return of the 23 artefacts with the Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures Project and the official launch of the Museum of Namibian Fashion in Otjiwarongo.

On the **11th of April**, Ms Ashipala attended The (In)Audible Past Zoom Conference which kickstarted the project.

On the **25th of April**, Ms Ashipala guest lectured at the University of Namibia. She spoke to the students who were registered for the Post Graduate Diploma in Heritage Conservation and Management about the importance of joining professional bodies, networking, and the benefits of continuous professional development.

The students showed a keen interest in the sector and in the manner in which they could both contribute towards the further development of their sector and the development of their own careers.

After the guest lecture, most of the students registered with MAN as individual members and have been active in numerous events and activities within the sector, since.





# MAY

# 2022

Museums are one of the most important institutions and resource centres available to the public. They preserve, share, and bring together some of the most important exhibits, objects, and artifacts known to human history. They not only aim to educate, but to enrich and further a functional democracy. Museums and galleries also generate vast socio-economic benefits through areas such as job creation, tourism, inward investment and regeneration.

**Museums depend on the dedication, hard work and passion of the museum workers!**

The Museums Association of Namibia wishes all our members a  
**HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY!**

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING MUSEUMS MATTER!**



**MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA - MAKING MUSEUMS MATTER SINCE 1990**



Museums Association of Namibia



Museums\_Association\_of\_Namibia



MuseumsANamibia



Museums Association of Namibia



On the **17th of May**, the MAN team embarked on a journey to finalize the establishment of the Museum of Namibian Fashion in Otjiwarongo. The team comprised Ms Ndapewoshali Ashipala, the current director, and Mr Tuuda Haitula, the Museum Development Officer.

Mr Kevanhu Alfred Muifi, the Curator of the Museum of Namibian Fashion, also joined the team for the one-day final set-up of the museum in Otjiwarongo. During this visit, the delegation focused on meticulously arranging the museum's displays and exhibits in preparation for the launch of the museum in June 2022.



Mr Haitula and Ms Ashipala preparing the museum for the launch.

On Monday **30 May 2022**, a press conference was held at 14h00 at the Independence Memorial Museum. The press conference coincided with the return of the 23 Namibian artefacts from the Ethnographic Museum, Berlin. Namibian and German project partners spoke on the significance of bringing home artefacts that are highly significant for Namibia's history and cultural expressions. They also presented the next steps in the collaborative project such as the research on the artefacts in communities of origin throughout Namibia and the creative engagement with the historical artefacts by Namibian artists and designers.

The speakers included the Director of Ceremonies, Mr Boyson Ngondo (Deputy Director, National Heritage and Culture Programmes, Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture) Ms Nehoa Hilma Kautondokwa (Chairperson of the Museums Association of Namibia) who spoke about the future of the Project in the short and long-term and Dr Goodman Gwasira (Senior Lecturer and project partner at the University of Namibia), who spoke about the importance of the project for the educational landscape in Namibia. From the German delegation, the speakers included Dr Anna-Monika Lauter (Gerda Henkel Stiftung), who spoke about the importance of the project to the Gerda Henkel Foundation and Prof. Dr Hermann Parzinger (President of the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz), who spoke about the importance of the project to the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz.

# THE 23 ARTEFACTS THAT RETURNED HOME







Prof. Lars-Christian Koch (Director of the Ethnologisches Museum), spoke about The Role of the Ethnologisches Museum In the Project and Dr Larissa Förster spoke about The Importance of the Project for Confronting German-Namibian Entangled Histories. Finally, Ms Esther Mombolah/Gôagoses (Head of The National Museum of Namibia, Director: Heritage and Culture Programmes) spoke about the Role of the National Museum of Namibia in the Project and the Importance of the Project to the Heritage, Arts and Culture Landscape.

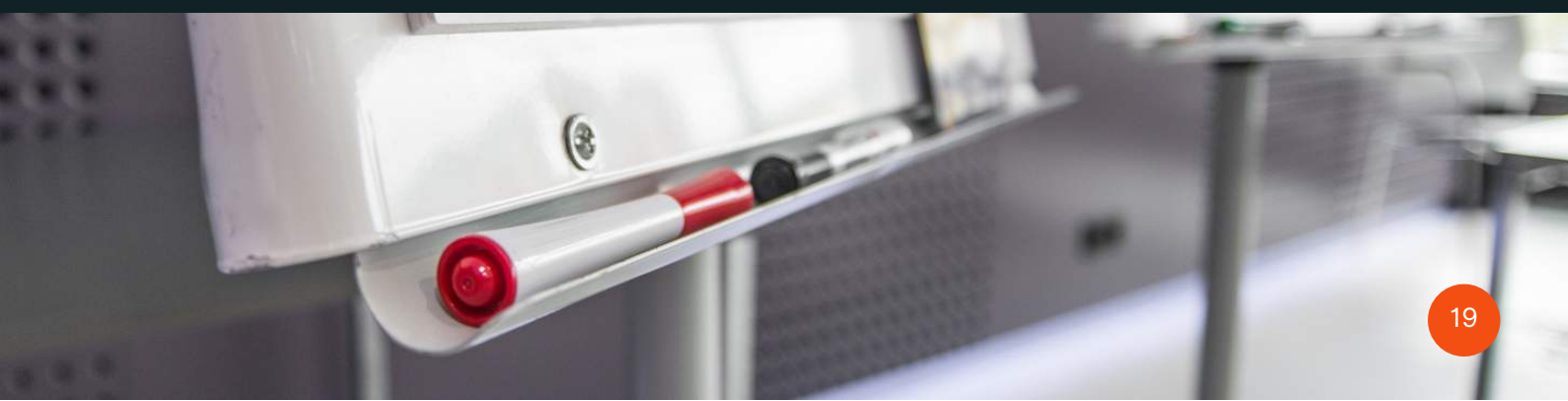
The press conference was well attended with over sixty Namibian Journalists and members of the public, in attendance. The artefacts are now held in the National Museum of Namibia's ethnographic collection, under monitored conditions, to ensure successful acclimatisation.

With the returned artefacts, the involved institutions' aim is to use the processes listed above to reactivate knowledge about the artefacts, document and preserve immaterial and material cultural heritage, and provide a vital source of inspiration for artists and designers. The knowledge thus created, including oral histories, artworks, and documentation, will be shared with the wider public in an online database and in an exhibition at a newly founded Museum of Namibian Fashion in Otjiwarongo (as well as in an exhibition at the NMN in Windhoek and in a joint publication, both to be conceptualized in a subsequent phase of the project).

Finally, a stakeholder's workshop was, therefore, held in Otjiwarongo on the **31st of May**. By reconnecting stakeholders in Namibia with their cultural collections from Berlin and Windhoek, the project seeks to engage with the Namibian community today and to spur new cultural production, and envision decolonial, creative futures.



The participants at the stakeholder's workshop in Otjiwarongo, Namibia, the day before the official launch of the Museum of Namibian Fashion.





# JUNE

## 2022

The physical Museum of Namibian Fashion in Otjiwarongo, Namibia was officially launched and opened by Hon. Faustina Caley (Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture) on the **1st of June**. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the museum launch was both physical (limited to invited guests which comprised the project partners, advisory board, and speakers) and virtual (with pre-recorded speeches and performances and a guided tour of the museum) and aired on the MAN YouTube Channel, Facebook Page and all other online platforms. The museum was only open to the public from 08 June 2022.

The launch included addresses by Honourable James Uerikua (Governor of the Otjozondjupa Region), Mrs Nehoa Hilma Kautondokwa (Chairperson, Museums Association of Namibia), Ms Maria Caley (Chairperson of the Museum of Namibian Fashion Advisory Committee), Ms Esther Moombolah/Gôagoses (Director of Heritage and Culture Programs, Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture), Dr Larissa Förster (Academic Advisor to the Project), Dr Anna-Monika Lauter (Head of Operative Programmes at the Gerda Henkel Stiftung), Prof. Lars-Christian Koch (Director of the Ethnologisches Museum), Prof. Dr Hermann Parzinger (President Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz), Ms Josephine Mutenda (Director of Education, Arts and Culture), His Worship Gotlieb Shivute (Mayor of Otjiwarongo).





The launch also included remarks from Ms Ciska Rukoro (Fashion designer/Mudwaro Workshop Participant), Ms Hertha Bukassa (Culture Officer, Otjozondjupa Region and Advisory Board member), Mr Kavenauare Tjiworo (Former Documentalist at NMN and now a Culture Officer, Otjozondjupa Region), Ms Albertina Nekongo and Mr Ndamian Hangula (Scholarship Recipients) and a guided tour of the museum by Mr Kevanhu Alfred Muifi (Curator of the Museum of Namibian Fashion) and performances by the Otjiwarongo Multi-Cultural Group. The launch of the museum and the teaser for the galleries in the museum are permanently available on the MAN Youtube Channel and MAN Website.



The team of the Museums Association of Namibia provided a guided tour of the museum to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, the Gerda Henkel Foundation, the Fashion Council of Namibia, The Project Advisory Board Members, the Berlin Ethnographic Museum and other project partners on the Museum of Namibian Fashion in Otjiwarongo, Namibia such as His Worship Worship Gotlieb Shivute (Mayor of Otjiwarongo).





Between the **02nd and 07th June**, the Museums Association of Namibia hosted Capacity Building Workshops for Namibian Museum Professionals, at the National Museum of Namibia. The workshops were particularly aimed at MAN member museum workers who are actively working with a collection of artefacts and included 24 Namibian museum professionals from the Khomas, Omusati, Zambezi, !Karas, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, Oshana, Erongo and Hardap regions.

The workshops were comprised of a two-day Capacity Building Workshop in Preventive Conservation and Restoration which was facilitated by Ms Eva Ritz and Ms Johanna Nghishiko and a second Capacity Building Workshop in Provenance Research and Cooperative Exhibition Practice which was facilitated by Ms Golda Ha-Eiros, Dr Larissa Förster and Dr Julia Binter.

The workshops were attended by the following museum and heritage professionals from all over Namibia: Cliff Siambango, Asser Many, Anna Penofina Veijo, Obyster Siyayo, Anne-Marie IssaBrown Garises, Jati Indongo, Kleopas Kondjela Nghikefelwa, Loide Nantinda, Lucia Hafeni, Kevanhu Alfred Muifi, Simon Ndiliputate N.N litula, Ndeenda Shivute-Nakapunda, Noah Nikanor, Peneyambeko Johannes, Tuuda Haitula, Ndapewoshali Ashipala, Nadine Phiri, Serak Shidhudhu, Kaarina Efraim, Aaron Nambadi, Antoinette Mostert, Maria Festus, Olivia Nakale and Eino Ngesheya. The participants also got an opportunity to see the returned objects from Berlin with some very enlightening narratives regarding the objects.

MAN plans to build on these workshops to provide further workshops and equipment to continue to build capacity in the sector.

As of 31 July 2022, Ms Johanna Nghishiko resigned as the Conservator on the project, to take up the position of Conservation Curator at the National Museum of Namibia. This is a positive development as from the inception of the project, the aim was for the National Museum of Namibia to permanently employ the Documentalist and the Conservator at the end of the Project.

MAN has, therefore, employed a new Conservator on a fixed-term basis, until the project ends in June 2024. The Conservator will work alongside Ms Nghishiko at the National Museum of Namibia and will both receive training and provide training to Namibian Museum Professionals across MAN member museums.

Ms Ashipala and Mr Haitula represented MAN at the consultative workshop on Cultural Heritage Management organized by the Municipal Council of Windhoek with UNESCO's support, held on **15-16 June**. The workshop aimed to gather stakeholder input on developing a legal framework for identifying, protecting, and managing heritage sites and objects in Windhoek. The city inherited colonial-era heritage assets, some of which are now tourist attractions, while others are contested.

MAN had a presentation on the role of museums in heritage preservation. Museums were highlighted as important institutions that preserve, research and exhibit cultural artefacts. They provide formal and informal education through exhibitions and programs, contribute to preservation and conservation efforts, conduct research, and engage with communities. The presentation emphasized museums' significance in fostering public understanding, dialogue, and appreciation of diverse cultures.

The workshop facilitated discussions on the challenges and opportunities related to cultural heritage management. It provided a platform for stakeholders to address the need for a legal framework in Windhoek and develop policies, guidelines, and inventories for urban heritage management. The outcomes of the workshop will serve as a foundation for the Municipal Council of Windhoek to effectively protect and manage the city's heritage assets, ensuring their preservation for future generations and promoting community engagement with cultural heritage.



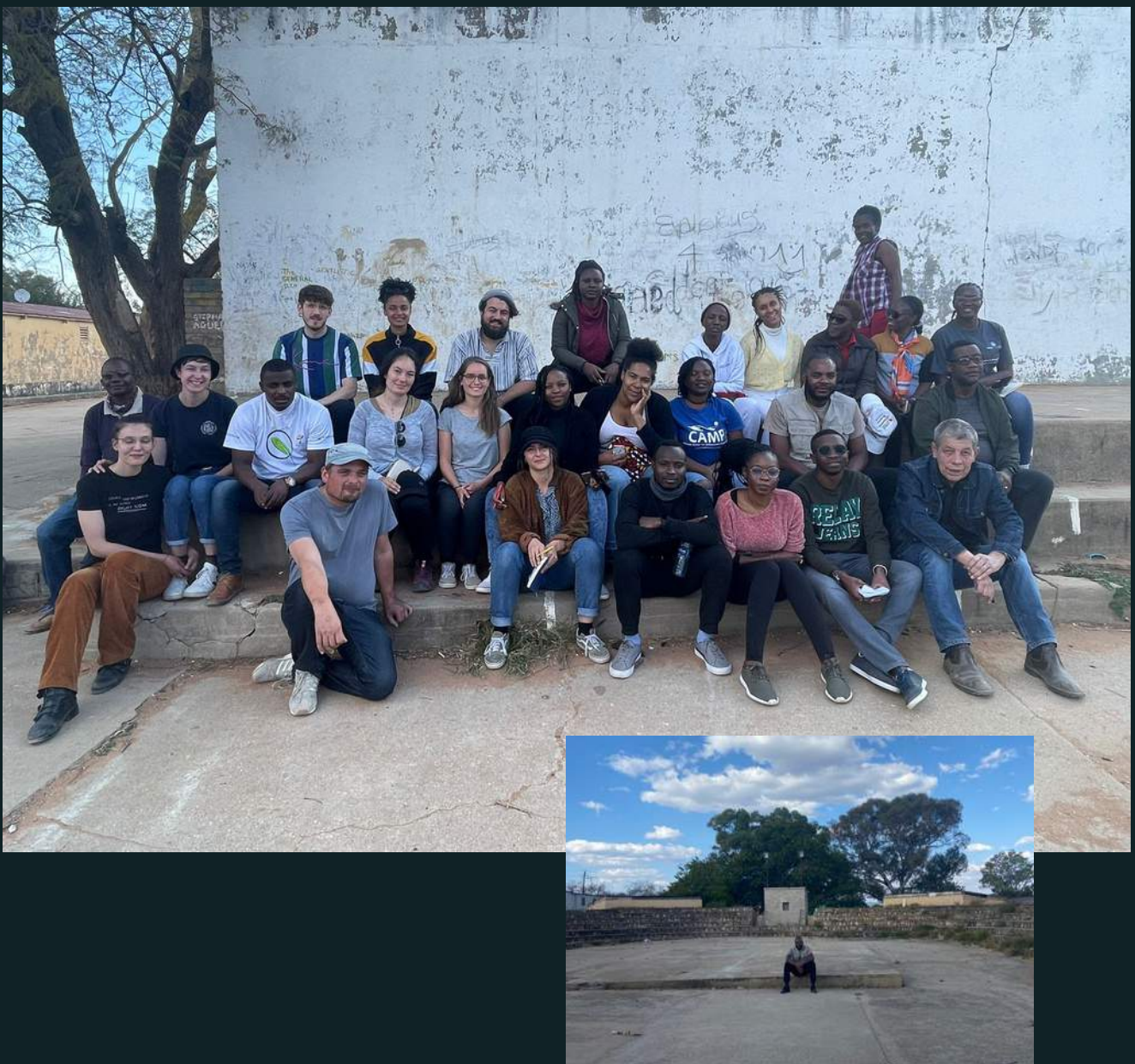


Fellows of the Learning for exchange during the program visiting The Museum of Namibian Music in Omuthiya. Fellows also learned about the migrant labour system in the town of Tsumeb. Ms Ashipala provided guided tours and engaged the students about the museums in Tsumeb and Omuthiya, respectively.

Between the **22nd of June and the 01st of July**, the Namibian leg of a student exchange program between the University of Namibia and the University of Basel. The exchange, centred around the theme "Migrant Labour, Land, and Borders," aimed to facilitate cultural understanding and knowledge exchange. Ms Ashipala and Mr Haitula took part in the exchange program.

The exchange began with visits to the Museum of Namibian Fashion, the Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo Cultural Village, and the Museum of Namibian Music, providing the students with insights into Namibian museum development and exhibitions. Community engagements in Ondangwa focused on the migrant labour system, while a visit to the Namutoni Fort highlighted its historical significance in relation to migrant labour.

Following the path of migrant labourers from northern Namibia, the students traced their route to various institutions in central and southern Namibia. The exchange concluded with a visit to Usakos, where the history of railways in Namibia was examined. This exchange program facilitated cultural exploration, fostered academic growth, and encouraged mutual learning between the participating students.



Mr Haitula and Ms Ashipala with the exchange group at the compound in Tsumeb.



# JULY 2023



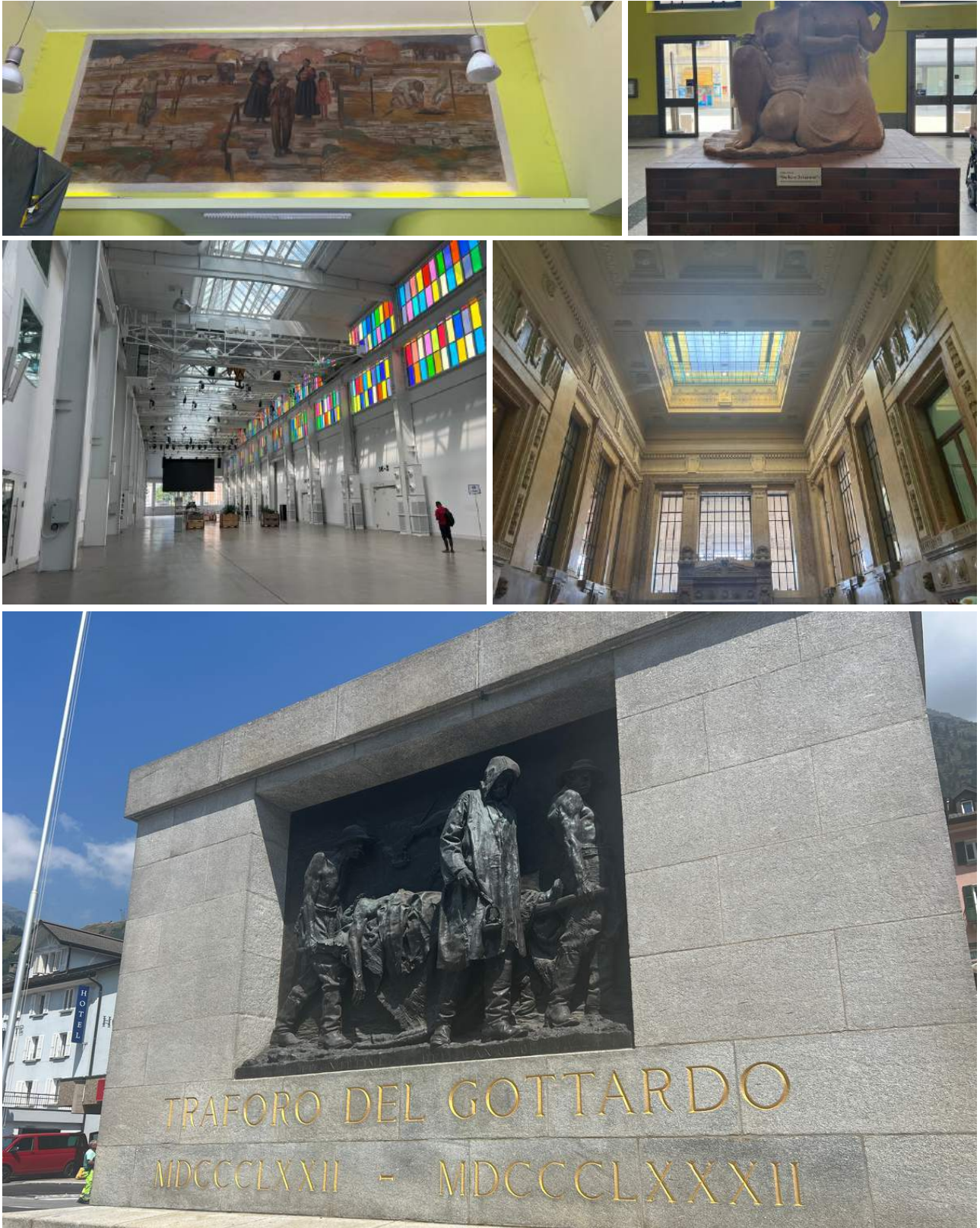
Between the **14th and the 25th of July**, the Swiss leg of a student exchange program between the University of Namibia and the University of Basel. The exchange, centred around the theme "Migrant Labour, Land, and Borders," aimed to facilitate cultural understanding and knowledge exchange. Ms Ashipala and Mr Haitula took part in the exchange program.

The group met in Basel, Switzerland and visited different public and historic monuments linked to the migrant labour system in Switzerland. The first historical stop on the trip was the train station of Chiasso, followed by Milano which is the economic centre of Italy and was the point of migration from southern Italy to northern Italy and from northern Italy to the rest of the world. Milano is still an important area for migration today.

The group then proceeded to Airolo, Switzerland to see the monument which was built at the end of the 19th century and is one of the few monuments that remember migrant workers, who were mostly Italian. This monument remembers the 177 people who died working in the tunnels in the 1890s.

The group then went to Baden, Switzerland to the area which was once housing and workplaces of migrant labourers but there was no sign of this history. The barracks (compounds) were destroyed in the late 1990s.





Overall, the student exchange program between the University of Namibia and the University of Basel provided valuable opportunities for cultural exchange and enhanced understanding of the migrant labour system in Namibia. Through visits to cultural institutions, community engagements, and historical site explorations, the participating students gained insight into Namibian heritage, the challenges faced by migrant workers, and the impact of railways on migration and labour.



# AUGUST

## 2022

From the **02nd to the 05th of August**, Ms Ashipala and Mr Haitula attended the National Conference of Education which was hosted by the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC).

The purpose of the conference was to measure progress made on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2011 National Conference on Education and the SDG4 goals.

While attending the conference, Ms Ashipala was requested to do an interview for Koolike Documentary House's YouTube channel. The interview was done by Frans Koolike and Ngen Chris who interviewed Ms Ashipala and Mr. /Awebahe J. //Hoëseb, Director of Education in //Karas Region Education.

The interview is available on the Koolike Documentary House's Youtube Channel.



Mr Haitula and Ms Ashipala at the conference.



Ms Ashipala being interviewed by Koolike Documentary House together with Mr //Hoëseb.



# SEPTEMBER 2022

From the **09th to the 18th of September**, Ms Ashipala, together with the Namibian delegation comprising of Ms Nehoa Hilma Kauntondokwa, Ms Hertha Bukassa, Ms Esther Moombolah/Gôagoses, Mr Boyson Ngondo and Ms Golda Ha-Eiros travelled to Berlin, Germany to participate in the second exhibition opening of the permanent galleries of the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin-Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz at the Humboldt Forum.

The two German museums considered the exhibition opening, an opportune platform to bring together colleagues and project partners from across the globe. Through internal workshops, the participants networked and engaged in discussions about caring for and preserving objects, collaborative research on collections from colonial contexts, restitution and, ultimately, conceptualised ways in which they can truly decolonize museums.

The Namibian team participated in the internal workshops from Monday the 12th of September until Thursday the 15th of September which ended with the development of proposed terms of engagement for collaborative museum projects and the future of engagements between museums at different stages and spaces within the repatriation, restitution and decolonisation movement. The document which summarised the proposals was signed by each of the workshop participants.





The workshops were then followed by the museum's opening weekend which started with the official opening on Friday the 16th of September.

The official opening was followed by public events at the Humboldt Forum on Saturday the 17th and Sunday the 18th of September which included panel discussions, guided tours and public talks.

The team participated in the public events, by providing guided tours of the Namibian exhibition and spoke on different platforms about the collaborative research, exhibition and repatriation project "Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures" to discuss the next steps of the project.





The official inauguration of the Namibian Heritage Week (NHW) for the year 2022 was held on the **19th of September** at the esteemed Shivute ShaNdjongolo Cultural Village, located in Oniipa within the Oshikoto Region.

Commencing with a vibrant Roadshow that commenced at Onandjokwe Hospital and progressed to Onethindi, diverse cultural groups captivated the audience through their exceptional singing and dancing performances. The festivities culminated at the designated venue, where the NHW launch took place.

The esteemed Mayor of the Oniipa Town Council, Hileni Idhogela, warmly welcomed all participants to the town and emphasized the significance of active involvement in cultural endeavours, not limited to the NHW. During the event, Mrs Aletta Eises, the Director of Education Arts and Culture in the Oshikoto Region, delivered an insightful keynote address, highlighting the paramount importance of national unity amidst our diverse backgrounds.

The week-long celebration of NHW witnessed active participation from 15 prominent institutions representing various regions, including Erongo, Khomas, Oshikoto, Kavango East, Oshana, Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, and Zambezi.







For **Namibian Heritage Week 2022**, the Museum of Namibian Fashion organized a series of engaging activities during Heritage Week with the aim of promoting the newly opened museum and other historic locations. From inclusive after-hours visits to knowledge transfer sessions, the week-long event provided a platform for community members, students, and educators to explore Namibia's rich cultural heritage through fashion.

### **Happy Hour: Connecting with the Community**

On September 19, 2022, the Museum of Namibian Fashion hosted a special happy hour event to accommodate community members who typically work from 08h00 to 17h00. The museum offered tickets that allowed visitors to enjoy two glasses of wine or juice while exploring the exhibits. Attendees, largely comprised of history and life skills teachers, took the opportunity to immerse themselves in the museum's collections. Notably, the Hai//om community graced the event with their presence, captivating the audience with traditional performances and demonstrations of the art of body perfuming. Following positive feedback, visitors suggested hosting the happy hour on month ends to attract a wider audience.



### **Knowledge Transfer Day: Inspiring the Youth**

The Museum of Namibian Fashion dedicated September 20, 2022, to a knowledge transfer day for school children from Otjiwarongo and Kalkfeld. Mrs Regina Maiuongara guided the students in crafting Otjikaiva, a traditional Namibian garment. This hands-on experience allowed the children to learn about the cultural significance and techniques involved in creating traditional attire. In addition to the practical workshop, the students were given the opportunity to explore the museum's exhibits, enhancing their understanding of Namibian fashion heritage. Participating schools included Kalkfeld Primary School, Karundu Junior Secondary School, and Karundu Primary School.







### **Heritage Site Tours: Unveiling Namibia's Historical Gems**

From September 21 to 22, 2022, the Museum of Namibian Fashion, in collaboration with Okahandja School Districts, led tours of Windhoek's renowned heritage sites. Primary and secondary school students from Okahandja and Okandjira (Ovitoto) had the privilege of visiting notable locations such as the Independence Memorial Museum, Heroes Acre, and the National Earth Science Museum. These guided tours provided valuable insights into Namibia's history and allowed the students to appreciate the cultural heritage embedded within these sites.

### **Traditional Attire Performance Day: Embracing Our Diverse Identity**

On September 23, 2022, the Museum of Namibian Fashion organized a special day dedicated to traditional attire performances in Okahandja. Students from Okahandja and Okandjira showcased their vibrant traditional costumes, providing a glimpse into Namibia's diverse cultural mosaic. The event featured captivating storytelling sessions led by Mr Frederick Shimanda and Mr Michael Tjivikua, who shared narratives centred around clothing and its symbolic meanings. To conclude the day, the students were treated to a customary traditional lunch, further immersing them in Namibia's cultural heritage. Schools in attendance included Nau-Aib Primary School, Aurora Primary School, Eden Combined School, K. W. von Maree Combined School, Five Rand Primary School, JG van der Wath Secondary School, and Okahandja Primary School. The event was also graced by the presence of the Okahandja Youth Choir and Ileni Tulikwafeni Culture Group.





POWERED BY



NAMIBIAN HERITAGE WEEK

19 - 25 SEPTEMBER 2022

**!HAO WESE G//E-//XAE**

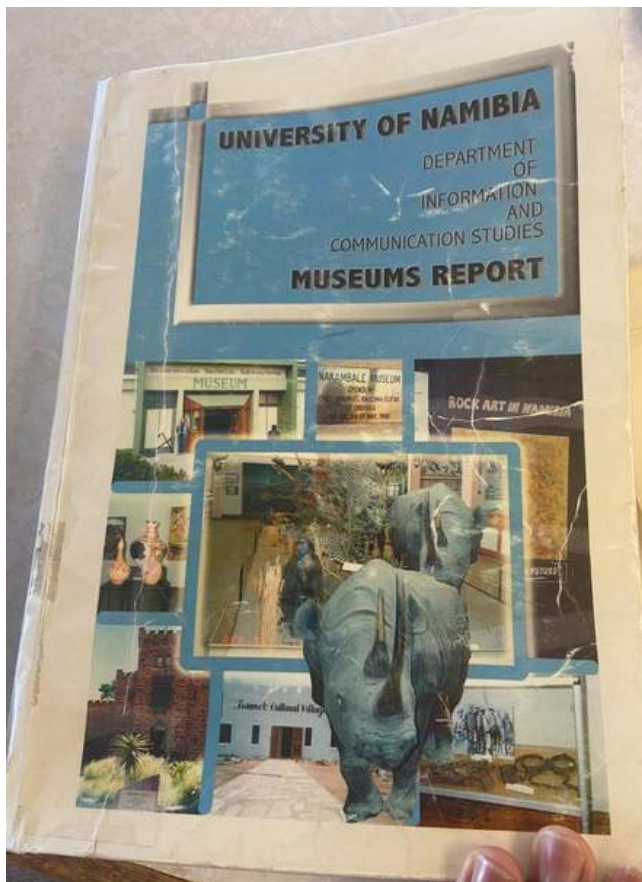
WHICH MEANS "UNITY IN DIVERSITY" IN !XUNG

 @namibian\_heritage\_week

 Namibian Heritage Week

 @NamHeritageWeek



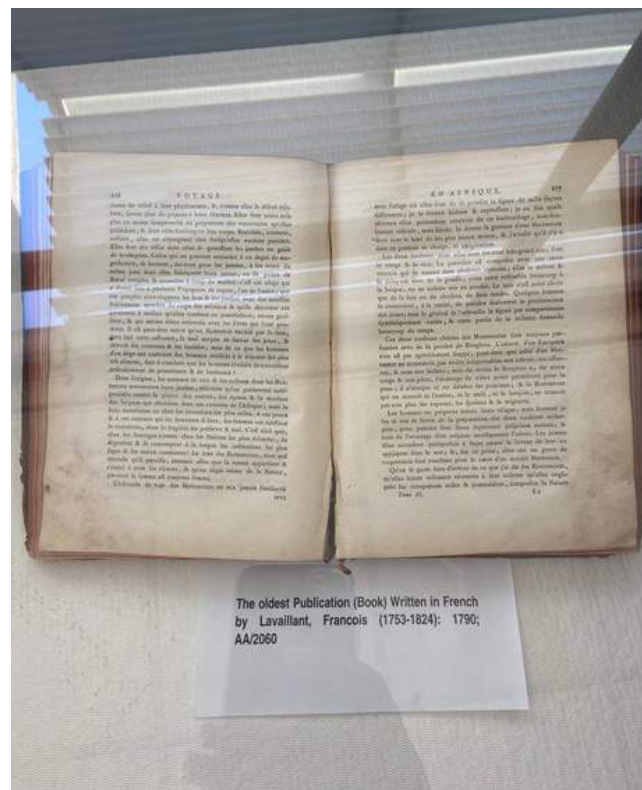


The University of Namibia, in collaboration with the University of Cologne, hosted a comprehensive two-day archive research workshop from **21 - 22 September 2022**.

The workshop aimed to equip participants with essential skills and knowledge in archival research methods. One of the attendees, Mr Tuuda Haitula, eagerly took part in this enlightening event. The workshop offered a well-rounded learning experience. The first day, held in a classroom at UNAM, focused on providing conceptual training to the participants. This segment allowed them to gain a solid understanding of the principles and theoretical frameworks underlying archival research.

The second day, on the other hand, was dedicated to hands-on training at the National Archives of Namibia. This practical session allowed participants to immerse themselves in the actual archival research process, honing their skills in accessing and analysing historical documents.

By organizing this workshop, both the University of Namibia and the University of Cologne provided a valuable opportunity for individuals like Mr Tuuda Haitula to enhance their expertise in archival research methods, ultimately contributing to the preservation and understanding of the nation's historical heritage.



The oldest Publication (Book) Written in French by Lavallant, Francois (1753-1824): 1790; AA/2060



# OCTOBER 2022

On the **05th of October**, Ms Ashipala was invited to the Namibian Broadcasting cooperation (NBC) TV to participate in a live discussion under the theme "Intellectual Property and Cultural Appropriation" together with Ms Cisle Jacobs, on the show titled Situation KriTikal.



Between the **06th and the 08th of October 2023**, the MAN team which comprised Ms Ashipala, Mr Haitula and Mr Joshua visited numerous MAN member museums in central and northern Namibia. The team visited the Museum of Namibian Music, the Museum of Namibian Fashion, the Nakambale Museum, the Onandjokwe Medical Museum and the Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo Cultural Village. The statement below is an extract from Mr Joshua's final internship report.

*"The visit to the different Museums was the highlight of the internship where I got in contact with different people such as the curators, observing different artefacts in the museums that were on display and how these artefacts made me feel like I was out of space and in a new different informative environment, how these objects were used by the ancestors whether, for social and household purposes, many carry a broad cultural history that still has not come to the surface."*

*I was part of the team at the meeting about the Museum of Namibian Fashion that was very interesting and informative as it was about resolutions on different topics that were raised on points such as road signature for the fashion museum of Namibia, housekeeping of the museum, financial budgets, contracts, deadlines for the projects, the lack of curators in the museums, and the low allocation of funds to the heritage sector, the partnership between Museum Association of Namibia and the Government of Namibia is important in keeping Namibian museums alive."*

From the **17th until the 19th of October**, Ms Ashipala participated in the Global Summit of Research Museums II in Munich, Germany. The summit was attended by over 150 high-ranking representatives of over 100 institutions from 52 countries. The participation of museum professionals from South America, Africa and Asia enabled a global discussion, which was an important step towards further expanding cooperation between institutions in the "Global South and North".

The discussions focused on the particular potential, social relevance and global responsibility of collection-based research, which will allow museums to move into their role as strategic places of knowledge production, social participation and international cooperation.



Under the theme "Objects in Motion – Museums in Motion", the summary built directly on the dialogues from a year before with participants being invited to discuss the current challenges and diverse transformations that museums are facing due to the ongoing changes in geographical, political, cultural and virtual spaces.

Ms Ashipala's presentation titled "Sustainability in Practice: Learning Across Cultures" discussed sustainability in the context of the Namibian Museum. The presentation highlighted the sustainability interventions and practices implemented by MAN, within the Museum of Namibian Fashion, the Museum of Namibian Music and the Zambezi Museum. The presentation further discussed the challenges faced within the Namibian museum space, regarding sustainability, especially concerning the environment.

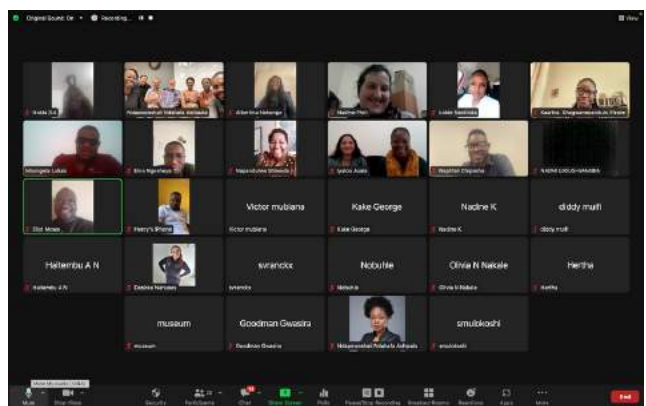


On the **26th of October**, MAN hosted its 32nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) in a hybrid format (members were able to attend either in person at the MAN office or online.)

The AGM included presentations by both the MAN Secretariat and members. It was attended by 36 members from 12 regions.

Three candidates ran for the Executive Committee (EC) which had one vacant slot. The newly elected member was Ms Kaarina Shagwanepandulo Efrain.

While the AGM was well attended, it was agreed that the Secretariat would strive to mobilise enough funds for travel, venue, carting and accommodation subsidies to be able to host the next AGM in person.

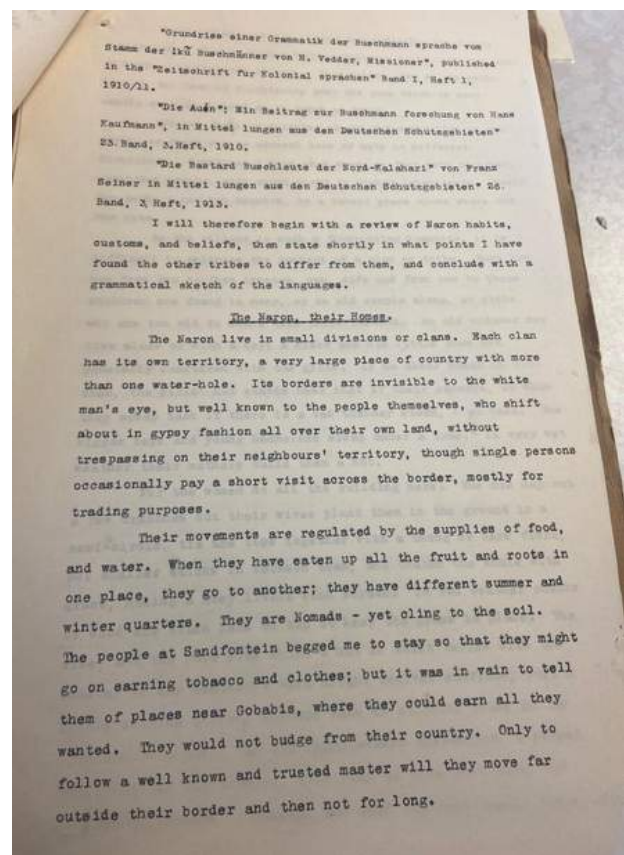
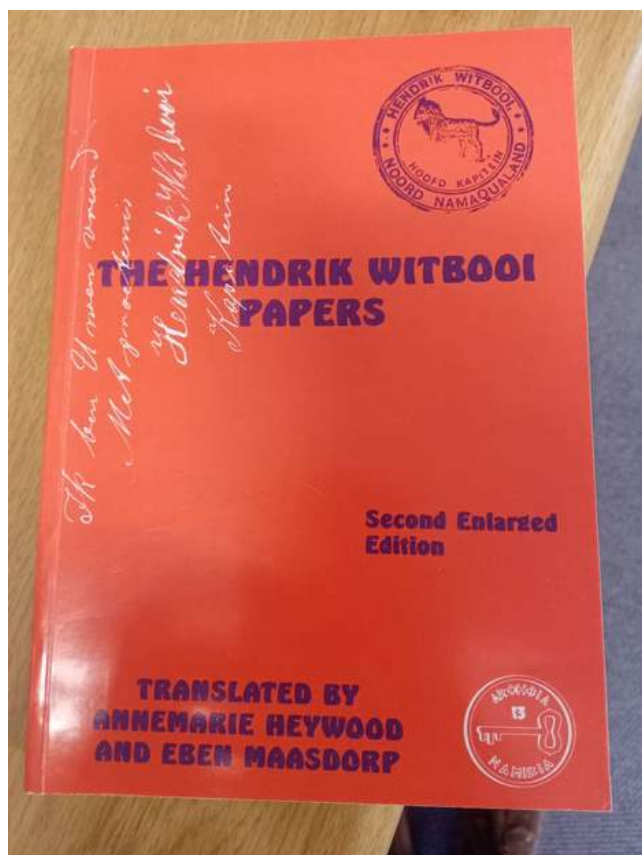




On the **28th of October**, MAN and the National Archives of Namibia (NAN) partnered with Mr Werner Hillebrecht, an archivist, to undertake an exciting project.

Together, they have been contracted to create a concise yet comprehensive book detailing the remarkable journey of the NAN. The book aims to highlight significant milestones in the history of the National Archives, providing readers with an educational and informative narrative.

The publication, anticipated to be a valuable resource for scholars, researchers, and the general public, is scheduled to be completed by August 2023. By capturing the essence of the National Archives of Namibia and presenting it in a captivating manner, this book will contribute to preserving and disseminating the rich historical legacy of the institution, thus fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for Namibia's heritage.



Some of the archival material is available at the National Archives of Namibia.

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**OUR  
NEW  
DIRECTOR**

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# NOVEMBER

# 2022

On the 01st of November 2022, MAN announced that Ms Ndapewoshali Ndahafa Ashipala has been appointed as the Director of the Museums Association of Namibia. She holds an Honours Degree in Finance Management from the International University of Management, a Diploma in Labour and Employment Studies and a Certificate in Accounting and Auditing, both from the University of Namibia.

In addition, she holds a Certificate in Compliance Essentials and a Certificate in Accounting, both from the University of Cape Town and she is currently completing a Master of Arts in History from the University of Namibia.

She also has extensive training in cultural strategy, project management, leadership, and exhibition development from different international institutions. She is fluent in English, Afrikaans, and Oshikwanyama and is conversant in French.





Ms. Ashipala started her career in civil society as an intern at Women's Action for Development where she was subsequently employed as the Finance Officer. Thereafter, she joined MAN in 2014. Since joining MAN, she has been responsible for administration, operations management, marketing and public relations, human resource management, finance management and exhibition development. As a result, she has researched, developed, and curated permanent exhibitions for the Kavango Museum, Keetmanshoop Museum, Windhoek City Museum, Museum of Namibian Music, Zambezi Museum, and the Museum of Namibian Fashion. She has also researched, developed, and curated numerous mobile museums (museums without walls) that cover different themes and areas of expertise while editing and designing all the posters, flyers, newsletters, and publications.

The position was advertised on MAN's website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram platforms and circulated via WhatsApp on Friday, 14 January 2022. It was further advertised in The Namibian Newspaper, Namibian Sun, Die Republikein and Allgemeine Zeitung Newspapers in 2022. The deadline for applications was 15 February 2022. To ensure the independent, impartial, and fair selection of the best candidate, the recruitment process was carried out in four (4) stages namely, shortlisting, written tests, presentations, and oral interviews. At each stage, the candidates were evaluated by a different panel (therefore, 2 different panels formed of experts and academics within and outside of the sector). The final assessment was therefore based on the collective decisions of these 9 independent panellists.

In September 2021, Ms. Ashipala accepted the challenge of accepting the position of Acting Director of MAN, while simultaneously carrying out her role as the Operations Manager. She did so gracefully to not only ensure the successful completion of ongoing projects but also developed proposals for and successfully secured funds for numerous long-term projects that ensure that MAN will continue to fulfil its mandate and work towards the socio-economic development of the country, through the development of the heritage and culture sector. The Executive Committee is, therefore, pleased to welcome Ms Ashipala to the position of Director and will continue to support her and her team to Make Museums Matter.

## OUR NEW DIRECTOR

On **01 November**, MAN undertook an exciting collaborative project known as the Museum Outreach Program (MOP), in partnership with the Goethe Institute and the University of Namibia. This program aims to bring cultural experiences and knowledge to various communities in Namibia. To achieve this, the MOP will focus on three selected living museums: the OvaHimba Living Museum, Damara Living Museum, and Ju/'Hoansi Living Museum.

Central to the MOP's initiatives is the development of exhibitions and museum boxes. These museum boxes will serve as portable showcases, containing artefacts from the living museums. The primary objective of these boxes is to travel to different communities throughout Namibia, including schools, allowing a broader audience to engage with and learn from these cultural artefacts.

Along with the museum boxes, there will be an exhibition that provides in-depth information about the utilization and significance of the displayed artefacts. This exhibition will enhance visitors' understanding of the cultural context and historical importance associated with the items contained within the museum boxes. By combining tangible artefacts with educational exhibitions, the MOP strives to foster a deeper appreciation and awareness of Namibia's diverse cultural heritage among both local communities and visitors. Through this collaborative effort, the Museum Outreach Program aims to create meaningful connections and promote cultural understanding throughout the country. The project is expected to be completed by August 2023.





On 27 May, 23 artefacts from different Namibian communities in the collection previously housed at the Ethnologisches Museum in Berlin made their journey back to Namibia. The collaborative project “Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures” involves the Ethnologisches Museum in Berlin (EM), the National Museum of Namibia (NMN), the Museum Association of Namibia, the Gerda Henkel Foundation, the University of Namibia, and other stakeholders.

On the **03rd of November**, the MAN Team, including the new research interns on the project, Mr Bayron van Wyk and Ms Liina Nambahu visited the collection of the 23 objects which are now housed at the National Museum of Namibia. The section below is a report by Ms Nambahu about her impressions.

*“The collection comprises a diverse range of cultural objects representing different Namibian communities. These include clothing, jewellery, fertility dolls, and more, all of which have deep connections to the Aawambo, Ovaherero, San, and Nama people of Namibia. The significance of the return of these objects lies in their historical context as they were originally taken during the arrival of missionaries and the period of German colonial administration.”*

*The return of the 23 objects from Germany to the National Museum of Namibia was a significant event for the country. The objects which had been taken during the two periods were returned to Namibia as part of Germany’s efforts to acknowledge and address the legacy of its colonial past which resulted in the removal of these objects. The return of these objects to Namibia is a step towards acknowledging and addressing the harms inflicted during the colonial era. The objects are not only valuable in terms of their cultural significance but also represent a symbolic gesture of reconciliation and recognition of past wrongs.”*



Some of the artefacts photographed by Ms Nambahu.

The Museum of Namibian Fashion Outreach program is aimed at creating activities within the museum, organising school programs, and engaging the local community. These activities not only provide educational opportunities but also facilitated research for the expansion of the museum's collection. A comprehensive six-month plan was devised, outlining various activities to be implemented. On Thursday the **03rd of November**, the Museum of Namibian Fashion announced the extension of its operating hours for Thursdays. Starting from that day, the museum opened its doors at 08:00 and remained accessible until 21h00.

The decision to extend the hours was made to provide visitors with more time to explore the museum, learn about its exhibitions, and contribute to the preservation of Namibia's valuable cultural heritage. The hope was that by extending the hours on Thursdays, more people would have the opportunity to engage with Namibia's fashion history and show support for local designers.

As part of the outreach plan, the museum regularly reviewed its effectiveness and made necessary adjustments. Action plans were evaluated every month, while forward plans underwent a comprehensive review every six months. This approach ensured that the museum remained responsive to the needs and interests of the community it served.



**OPEN UNTIL LATE**

**EVERY THURSDAY**

**The Museum of Namibian Fashion will be open from 08:00 until 21:00 on Thursdays.**



**MUSEUM OF NAMIBIAN FASHION**

**Contact: Mr. Kevanhu Alfred Muifi at +264 81 896 4039**  
**Email: [po1@museums.com.na](mailto:po1@museums.com.na)**  
**Website: <https://www.namibianfashion.com/>**  
**Facebook: Museum of Namibian Fashion**  
**IG: @museumofnamibian**



On the **8th and 9th of November**, the Museums Association of Namibia (MAN) team had a tour of the different museums in Windhoek. The team members present were Ms Ndapewoshali Ashipala (Director), Mr Tuuda Haitula (Museums Development Officer) and Ms Anna Haitembu (Research Intern). This was meant to introduce Ms Liina Nambahu and Mr Bayron van Wyk, who started their internships in early October, to the city's museums and (broader) heritage landscape. Nambahu and Van Wyk are presently working on the Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures project, providing administrative and research support to the Project Team. They have also catalogued the historical records of the National Museum of Namibia and created a finding aid, which is now available from the National Archives of Namibia (NAN) database.

Together, the team visited five museums (including the National Earth Sciences Museum, Old Wheelers Museum, City of Windhoek Museum, National Museum of Namibia, and the TransNamib Museum) and one art gallery (that is the National Art Gallery of Namibia).



The MAN team at Old Wheeler Museum

Through the museum visits, Ms Nambahu and Mr Van Wyk were introduced to the curators working at these different museums and art galleries. They met with Mr Henry Nakale (Assistant Curator at the City of Windhoek Museum), Ms Helke Mocke (National Earth Sciences Museum), Ms Kaarina Efraim (Archaeologist, National Museum of Namibia), Ms Beau-Ann Ferris (Marketing Officer at NAGN). Nambahu and Van Wyk received an insider's perspective of the work that curators are engaged in, such as providing guided tours to visitors to the different museums and art galleries. They saw the various exhibitions, located at these museums and art galleries, which covered topics as wide as Namibian history, culture, and arts. For instance, in the City of Windhoek Museum, they were introduced to the history of the city's Old Location and forced removals during the 1950s and 1960s, while in the National Earth Sciences Museum, they saw the rich geomorphological formations of Namibia and at the National Art Gallery of Namibia some of the captivating artworks of the pioneering Namibian artist, John Muafangejo.

Some of these museums were established in recent years, such as the City of Windhoek Museum (which was inaugurated in November 2022) and have adopted innovative curatorial approaches that seek to make museums and art galleries more representative of Namibia's diverse population. This contrasts with how museum work was previously undertaken during the German and South African colonial periods, which emphasized the perspectives of colonial settlers, without regard for the experiences of the indigenous African population.

## THE ARA PROJECT

MAN, together with the University of Namibia, Iziko Museum and The University of the Western Cape are working on the Action for Restitution to Africa project. The project is seeking the repatriation of cultural property held in museums outside Namibia and seeks to prevent the illegal trade in cultural artefacts from Namibia.

By the **24th of November**, 56 Museums were contacted via email: 48 European (Sweden, United Kingdom, Finland, and Portugal) and 8 South African. Museums were provided with an editable "Museum Details Sheet" which requested their contact details, and information about their Namibian collections, if any.



The steps undertaken include:

- Evaluate the current data and information collected by the 'Africa Accessioned' project and develop a database of existing information.
- Create an archive for past and future activities around restitution work in and about Namibia.
- Identify what needs to be assembled from different collections and the relevant institutions that need to be contacted (including in South Africa, such as Iziko Museums).
- Further research on and contact made with relevant museums and institutions as identified.
- Update the database according to findings.

The next steps will include:

- Determine and engage in the next steps for policy development and identify and outline practical steps towards restitution.
- Initiate projects on restitution

During the process of conducting research for the project, a master folder was created on the MAN Drop Box platform. Within this master folder, sub-folders were organized for each country, and within each country folder, individual folders were created for each museum. The museums were contacted and requested to provide their inventory lists in various formats, including Excel sheets, PDF documents, and photographs. Some museums also shared links to their online collections. All the received inventory information was organized and stored in folders corresponding to each individual museum. However, it is important to note that certain museums, such as Dunrobin Castle Museum in the UK, were unable to confirm whether they possessed any objects from Namibia, as they did not have inventory lists available.

Originally scheduled to conclude in March 2023, the project encountered a request from the project partners at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) to extend its timeline. As a result of this extension, the MAN team has been granted an opportunity to participate in a residency at the Iziko Museum in South Africa, taking place from 16th - 30th July 2023. The team, consisting of Mr Tuuda Haitula and Dr Goodman Gwasira, will utilize this residency to delve deeper into the research aspects of the Action for Restitution to Africa project. The primary objective of this initiative is to identify and locate Namibian cultural artefacts that are currently housed in museums and institutions outside of Namibia. This residency will provide a valuable opportunity for the team to further their investigations and contribute to the efforts of restitution and repatriation of Namibian cultural items.

Mr Tuuda Haitula represented MAN at the Arab Culture and Arts Network (ACAN) event held from **26th to 30th November**. Haitula delivered a presentation titled "Researching Cultural Solidarity in Individuals and Institutions Worldwide".

The presentation primarily focused on two key aspects: individual awareness creation and institutional involvement in fostering cultural solidarity.

Regarding individuals, Mr Haitula highlighted the importance of creating awareness about cultural solidarity. By promoting an understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures, individuals can contribute to a more inclusive and harmonious global society. Encouraging active participation in cultural exchange programs and initiatives was emphasized as a means to bridge cultural gaps and build solidarity. Haitula emphasized the need to foster respect for different cultural identities, promoting empathy and understanding among individuals from various backgrounds.

In terms of institutions, Mr Haitula emphasized the importance of working collaboratively with communities to promote cultural solidarity. By actively engaging with local communities and involving them in decision-making processes, institutions can create a sense of ownership and inclusivity. Establishing worldwide networks that facilitate cultural exchange programs was highlighted as a crucial strategy for promoting cultural solidarity on a global scale. Haitula emphasized that institutions should strive to establish multiple cultural exchange programs to facilitate meaningful interactions and mutual learning among diverse communities around the world. To conclude, Mr Haitula highlighted that achieving cultural solidarity requires a collective effort, involving both individuals and the institutions they represent.





# DECEMBER

## 2022

On the **09th of December**, the MAN team published the 37th issue of Museum Matters, the bi-annual newsletter for the Museums Association of Namibia. As usual, this issue included articles submitted by member museums detailing their past year experiences.

With hard work, creativity, and the willingness to step outside our comfort zones, we, as the heritage, arts, and culture sector, have managed to remain relevant and find innovative ways to keep culture alive.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who submitted their articles apart from being a platform to keep our members informed and strengthen collaboration in the sector, the newsletter is also a free platform for our members to advertise their events and museums to MAN members, the Namibian and the International community.



# JANUARY 2023

On the **09th of January**, the MAN team returned to the office, ready to continue serving the sector, Making Museums Matter.

A festive graphic for the New Year. It features a dark blue background with white stars and yellow and white fireworks. A yellow ribbon is draped across the scene. The text "Happy New Year 2023" is prominently displayed in the center.

Happy  
New Year  
2023

The MAN Team is excited to spend another year *Making Museums Matter* with you!



On the **27th of January**, the Museums Association of Namibia (MAN) held its annual planning workshop at the head office and resource centre. The primary aim of the workshop was to review the progress made by the organization in the previous year, identify areas that require improvement, and establish goals for the upcoming year.

The annual planning workshop serves as a strategic planning tool for MAN's current and future business affairs. The workshop was attended by all MAN Executive members and the MAN secretariat. The objectives of the workshop were as follows: To review MAN's progress and achievements over the past year. To review MAN's progress concerning ongoing projects. To identify challenges within MAN and plan how to overcome and tackle those challenges. To set goals for the year and to discuss strategies for executing/achieving those goals.

During the workshop, the MAN secretariat and the MAN Executive Committee (EC) Members discussed various topics. The first topic covered was Governance and Management. The workshop then moved on to discuss the summary of current projects and the progress made thus far, including the Goethe Institute (Museum outreach program), Namibia heritage week, Usakos Museum, NAMCOR, Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo Cultural Village, Action for Restitution to Africa (UWC), RMB salvaging the ELCRIN Archives, Journey of the National Archives, and The (In)audible past. Additionally, the workshop attendees highlighted and discussed projected future projects such as SCAMX, 2023 – CCP, ECF II, Museum Education Training Workshops – CCP, ECF II, Documentation and Conservation Training Workshops – CCP, ECF II, Museum Management Training Workshops (Finance, Administration, and Marketing), the German lost art foundation, Namibia, and Norway project.

Other topics of discussion included the recruitment and appointment of a new Director (Ms Ashipala), finances, and lastly, MOUs. The objectives of the workshop were to review MAN's progress and achievements over the past year, identify challenges, plan how to overcome them, set goals for the year, and discuss strategies for executing and achieving those goals. Overall, the workshop provided an opportunity for the MAN secretariat and MAN EC members to engage on significant topics and develop plans for future organisational endeavours/ventures.

## THE ELCRN ARCHIVES PROJECT



Mr Werner Hillebrecht in the archives.

Since October 2021, historian Dr Wolfram Hartmann and archivist Werner Hillebrecht are working on a project to re-organise the important archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) and its predecessor, the Rhenish Mission. Dating back to the 1840s, this is one of the most important sources for 150 years of pre-colonial and colonial Namibian history. It was established around 1970 by consolidating records kept at various church offices in the country.

Our concern was raised by the (at first) fruitless search for a letter written by Samuel Maharero in January 1904. It had been cited by historians but had disappeared from the file where it should be. This apparent loss sparked the project to put these archives in order.

Financed by the First Rand Foundation through the Museums Association, we first had to clear and sort mountains of disorganised records that had accumulated after 1970. It was exciting and encouraging to find the missing letter (and more) among endless piles of duplicated church newsletters, minutes, and Lutheran World Federation documents.

After months of clearing and cleaning dusty shelves, we were finally able to move our focus in the archival rescue operations to the older documents that had been organised and used by many researchers but had gotten into serious disorder and disrepair. Church registers of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and deaths (often the only sources for family history from a time before there were any state records of the lives of Black people) had to be sorted and checked for their condition.



## THE ELCRN ARCHIVES PROJECT



Dr Wolfram Hartmann in the archives.

Sometimes, heavy use has reduced these books to a pile of loose, torn and jumbled-up pages, which need to be sorted through again. This is a daunting task when even page numbers of the fragile paper have crumbled and broken off. The consecutive numbering of baptisms, confirmations etc. helps to restore this order. In the next step, these materials should be digitised to save them from further deterioration.

Another major task is the ongoing inspection of the correspondence, minutes, reports and statistical materials. These once ordered and categorised properly, have, meanwhile been subjected to heavy usage and at times reckless treatment, and retrieving some of these is at times impossible because the papers are not where they should be. Fine-combing these holdings and listing them in more detail is ongoing and necessary, as this ensures their survival and access for posterity.

A recent highlight was the re-discovery of important materials – minutes of missionary conferences from the 19th century – which seemed lost but had simply been re-shelved at the wrong place after being consulted. Other, still missing documents, misplaced and removed from their contexts, will hopefully turn up in the archival holdings over the course of our ongoing efforts to restore the archives.

# FEBRUARY

## 2023

MAN has embarked on a process of developing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with its stakeholders. These MOUs serve as mechanisms for the formalisation of the intention to build strong relationships between MAN and its stakeholders. MOUs allow the partner organisations to leverage their complementary capacities and networks to jointly pursue and deliver impactful, as well as to streamline the operations of each organisation.

In **February**, MAN finalised its MOU with Joe Vision Productions, adding to the existing MOUs with the Namibia University of Science and Technology, the Heritage Management Organisation, Ditsong and the National Arts Council of Namibia. MAN intends to continue to strengthen its relationship with stakeholders and is in the process of negotiating the finalisation of MOUs with other stakeholders.

### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures (CCP, ECF) advisory board meeting took place on the **28th of February** via Zoom, with attendees including Ndapewoshali Ashipala, Tuuda Haitula, Maria Caley, Golda Ha-Eiros, Lovisa Nampala, M'kariko Amagulu, Jaimee-Lee Diergaardt, and Marina Mubusisi. The meeting focused on the selection process for the board, which aligned with the current board's Terms of Reference. These terms specify the board's role in providing leadership, ensuring project legality, representing Namibian communities, and guiding the Museum of Namibian Fashion. Initially considering a board of 13 members, there was a suggestion to reduce it to 10, but ultimately, it was decided to have seven board members.

To determine the new board members, each current member cast a secret vote for their top seven candidates. The final seven members selected by the current board are Ndapewa Fenny Nakanyete, Helena Hangula, Loini lizyenda, Maria Caley, Moses Mberira, Helen Harris, and Sarah Vranckx.

These individuals will contribute to the project's leadership, strategy, and legal compliance, as well as representing the diverse Namibian communities and providing guidance for the Museum of Namibian Fashion. The meeting concluded with these action points, shaping the direction and composition of the CCP, ECF advisory board.



# MARCH

## 2023

On the **01st of March**, three new archivists in training, Mr Peya Mbushandje Nankulungu, Ms Romancia Rose-Mary Uises, and Ms Ruiumuini Kahuure, joined the project as understudies to Dr Hartman Wolfram and Mr Werner Hillebrecht.

During their internship, their primary task involved salvaging the church archives by meticulously digitizing the existing manuscripts and photographs. The interns will learn the different aspects of archival restoration while on the job and contribute their skills and expertise to ensure the preservation and organization of valuable historical documents.

The three archive interns have all written individual reports about their internships. The reports will be available in the Museum Matters 38 issue which will be published in June 2023. The “RMB: Salvaging the ELCRIN Archives and Making them Accessible for Research” project will end in June 2023.



The three archivists in training: Ms Ruiumuini Kahuure, Mr Peya Mbushandje Nankulungu and Ms Romancia Rose-Mary Uises.

The Namibia National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM) Orientation for Committee Members took place on the **02nd of March**, at the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management.

Mr Tuuda Haitula was nominated to serve on the Culture Programme Committee and as such, it was essential to attend the orientation session to have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities as committee members.

The objectives of the session were to raise awareness and understanding of:

- The mandate, governing bodies, programme, and budget of UNESCO.
- The architecture of the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO.
- The mandate of the Office of the Permanent Delegation.
- Reflect on the experience of serving on the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO Programme Committee.

During the cultural program committee meeting, the committee members established specific objectives that they aim to accomplish throughout the year. These objectives were identified as key goals to guide their activities and initiatives.

The Namibian heritage collection of Victor and Marie Solioz came to the Bernisches Historischen Museum (BHM) in 1906. As chief engineer of the Otavi Railway in what is now Namibia, Victor Solioz was at the forefront of building the colonial infrastructure of the German colonial empire. The claim to re-develop collections from sensitive colonial contexts requires consistent collaboration with representatives of the descendant communities of the affected areas.

On the **09th of March**, MAN and the BHM formalised the collaborative project titled "Usakos – Making of a Common History". While this is only the first phase, building on previous projects facilitated by the MAN in Usakos, the present project, therefore, has the long-term vision that the Usakos Museum will be a self-organized, professionally managed museum by 2025 and that a jointly developed education program can be set up in both Bern and Namibia based on the BHM Namibia collection. The project is funded mainly by the Historisches Museum Bern in Switzerland and co-founded and administered by MAN, with the support of the Usakos Town Council.

The practical goals to be achieved in stages are as follows:

- The joint preservation of Namibian cultural heritage in Bern and Usakos
- The joint research of the entangled colonial history
- The joint communication of this history in Bern and Usakos

The first stakeholder Consultation Workshop will take place at the Usakos Town Council, from Tuesday 04th July until Thursday 06th July 2023.

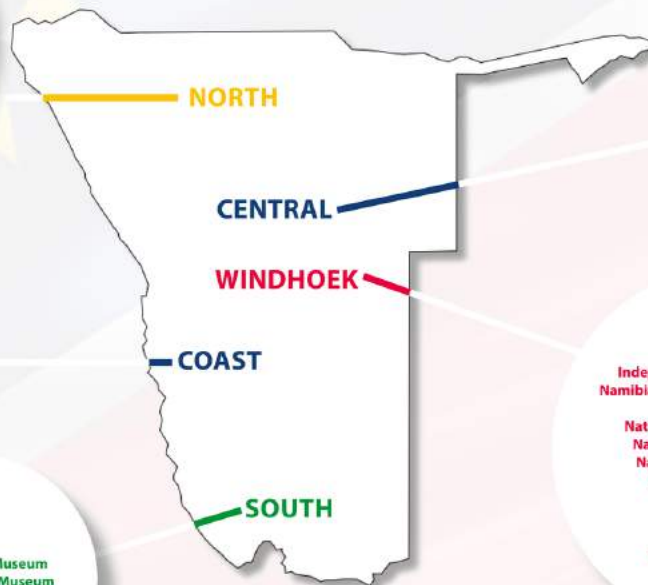


# The Museums Association of Namibia wishes you a **HAPPY 33<sup>rd</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY!**

Bwabwata Living Museum  
JuHoansi Living Museum  
Kavango Museum  
Little Hunter's Living Museum  
Mafwe Living Museum  
Ombalantu Baobab Tree Mbunza Living Museum  
Museum of Namibian Music  
Nakambale Museum  
Ombalantu Baobab Tree Onandjokwe Medical Museum  
Ovahimba Living Museum  
Outapi War Museum  
Uukwaluudhi Royal Homestead  
Shivute ShaNdjongolo Living Museum  
Zambezi Museum

Cape Cross Museum  
Gobabeb Training & Research Center  
Lüderitzbucht Museum  
National Maritime Museum  
Swakopmund Museum  
Walvis Bay Museum

Jasper House Museum  
Keetmanshoop Museum  
Oranjeamund Shipwreck  
Rehoboth Museum



Cheetah Conservation Fund  
Damara Living Museum  
Das Alte Fort Museum  
Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo Cultural Village  
Military Museum  
Museum of Namibian Fashion  
Okakarara Community, Culture and Tourism Centre  
Outjo Museum  
Tsumeb Museum

Erfdeel Museum  
Independence Memorial Museum  
Namibian Arts Association National Art Gallery of Namibia  
National Earth Science Museum  
National Museum of Namibia  
National Theatre of Namibia  
Old Wheeler's Museum  
Owela Museum  
StArt Art Gallery  
TranNamib Museum  
Windhoek City Museum



**MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA - MAKING MUSEUMS MATTER SINCE 1990**



Museums Association of Namibia



Museums\_Association\_of\_Namibia



MuseumsANamibia



Museums Association of Namibia



# Section 3

## **Publications and Exhibitions**



# Our Members

## INDIVIDUAL MUSEUM CONTACT DETAILS

Our member museums provide the information on our website. If you have any queries and would like to visit the museum, don't hesitate to get in touch with the museum directly. You can find the contact details for the museum you would like to contact by:

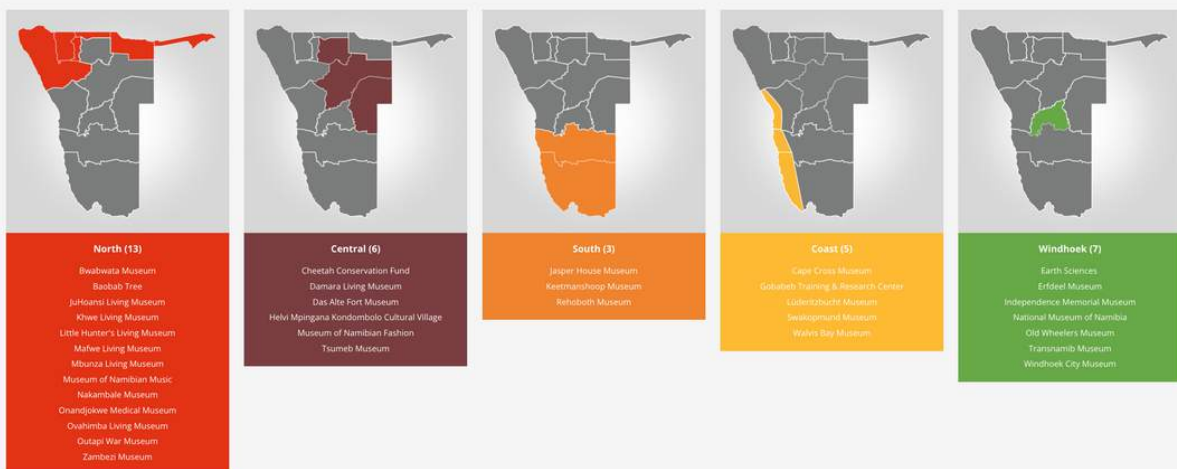
1. Click on “VISIT A MUSEUM” on our website.

Our member museums are divided according to geographic location (Central, Coast, North, South and Windhoek).

2. Select the museum you would like to contact, and if they are MAN members, you will find their contact details on their page.

### Museums in Namibia

An overview of the Namibian Museums which are members of the Museums Association of Namibia.



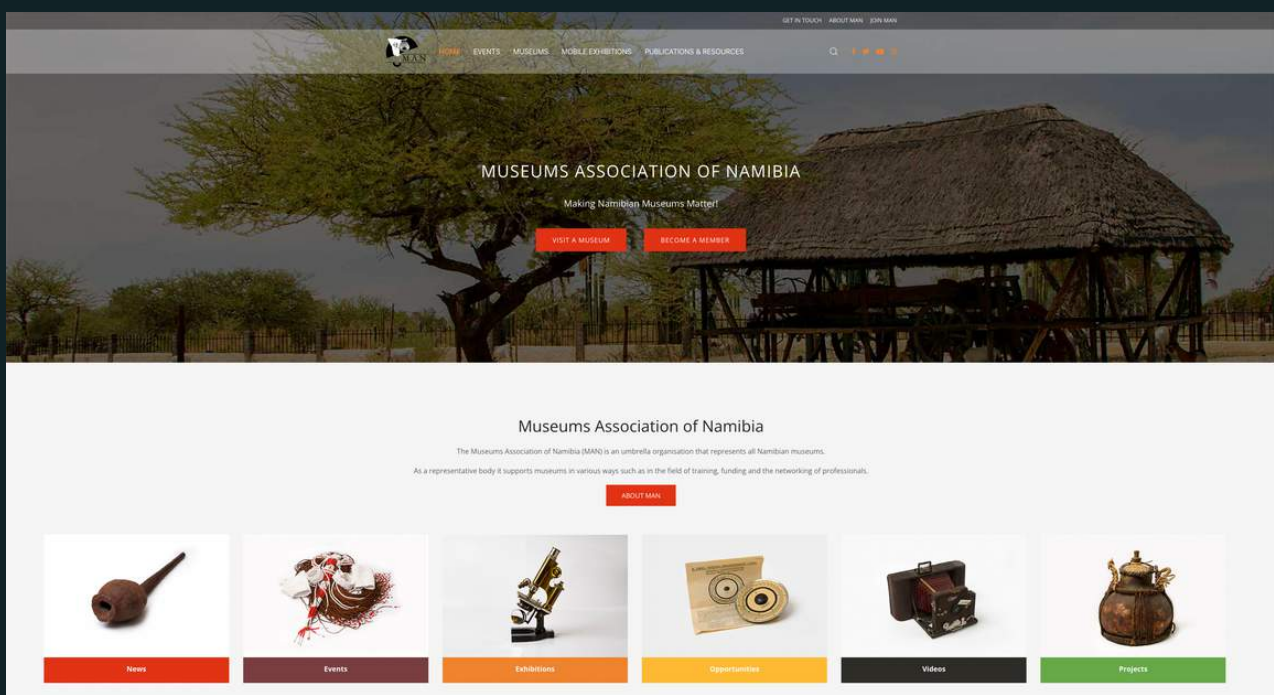
# Our Exhibitions

## MAN MOBILE EXHIBITIONS

The Museums Association of Namibia has developed numerous mobile exhibitions with our aim to have “museums without walls” which is a way to bring museums to the people, no matter where they are. For that reason, we encourage our member museums, schools, and institutions to borrow our exhibitions to showcase in their towns and regions.

To loan a mobile exhibition, complete the MAN Exhibition Loan Form available on the MAN website and send it to [info@museums.com.na](mailto:info@museums.com.na)

Our mobile exhibitions are easy to set up, take down, and transport. To learn how to set up and take down our mobile exhibitions, you can watch a tutorial on our YouTube channel.



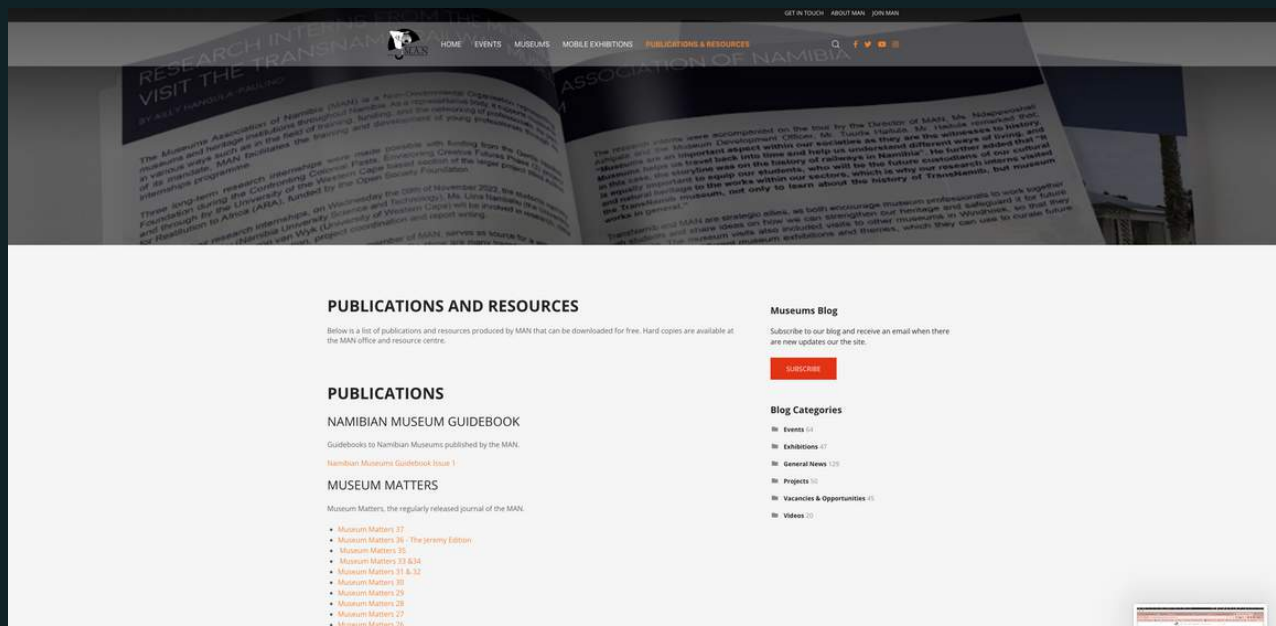


# Our Resources

## MAN PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

Over the years, MAN has made a habit of documenting its work through the Bi-Annual Newsletter “Museum Matters” and its Annual Reports. MAN also produces handbooks after workshops and guidebooks or catalogues to accompany mobile exhibitions. Recently, we have also produced a guide to Namibian Museums which will be updated annually.

You can download the publications, newsletters, exhibition handbooks, templates and catalogues, as well as the Guide to Namibian Museums, for FREE, on the MAN website under the Publications tab. Hard copies are available at the MAN office and resource centre. Below are a few covers of journals and publications produced by MAN. These covers represent a small fraction of the publications produced by MAN over the last 33 years.





# Section 4

## Contact us and Join MAN



# MAN

## Memorabilia

"Things that are remarkable and worthy of remembrance"

"things that stir recollection or are valued or collected for their association with a particular field or interest"

- Merriam-Webster

**Our items are available for purchase at the MAN office and through the Museum of Namibian Fashion's online shop. During MAN events, the items are sold at discounted prices for MAN members.**

### Wrist bands

N\$20.00 each



### Mugs

N\$60.00 each



### Notebooks

N\$100.00 each





# Join MAN

## WHY SHOULD I JOIN MAN?

- All members will receive our bi-annual newsletter, Museum Matters.
- All members will be invited to our Annual General Meeting and Conference.
- Members can apply to participate in training courses organized by MAN.
- Stay updated with what's happening in the industry by receiving online news on events and workshops
- All members may apply for Grants
- All members have access to the materials in the MAN Resource Centre
- Members receive discounted Prices on MAN Merchandise
- Any member may serve as a representation on Advisory Committee and Executive Committee if elected by the AGM
- Members have the opportunity to network with other museum professionals.



## **TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP**

### **1. Ordinary Members - N\$150.00 per year per individual**

Any person shall be eligible for membership as an ordinary member of MAN.

### **2. Honorary life members - No Membership Fee**

At any annual general meeting of MAN, the Executive Committee may propose one honorary life member to be elected by a majority of the members present at such a meeting, and any such honorary life member shall be subject to the rules and regulations of MAN and enjoy the privileges of membership without payment of subscription.

### **3. Corporate members**

Any registered company or business wishing to support the aims, objectives, and functions of MAN.

### **4. Institutional Members**

National and International institutions concerned with issues of Museums and the protection and presentation of Cultural Heritage. Institutions also include the members of local groups, study groups, and branches of MAN. For Corporate and Institutional members, the membership fee is based on whether or not the museum is open to the public.

- Associate membership (Projects or institutions that have not yet opened as museums) N\$250.00 per year
- Museum Members (For fully functioning museums) N\$450.00 per year.





## HOW DO I JOIN MAN?

To become a MAN member or to renew your membership, simply complete the membership form (see next page) complete it and email it to us at [info@museums.com.na](mailto:info@museums.com.na) together with the proof of payment for your membership fee and a certified copy of your ID (not older than 5 years).

Museums in Namibia are generally run with very limited finances. Often their most valuable resource is the support provided by members of the local community.

By joining MAN you will show your willingness to support the development of our museum sector. Whilst your financial contribution will help us to achieve our goals, we hope that the information that you receive from us will also encourage you to get actively involved in museum development.



Museums Association of Namibia  
*Making Museums Matter - Since 1990*

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Source of Funds: \_\_\_\_\_  
ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I declare that the information on this form is true and correct.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Individual N\$150.00 ☐ Associate N\$250.00 ☐ Museum/Institution N\$450.00 ☐

*Please note that Associate Members are museums still in development and not yet open to the public*

Is this a (Choose one): New Membership ☐ Membership Renewal ☐

**PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE TO:**

Museums Association of Namibia, Standard Bank, Gustav Voigts Centre Branch,  
Windhoek, Acc. No. 246311029 (Savings Acc.)

Please reference your name/name of the museum with the payment and email a copy  
of your deposit slip/proof of payment to [info@museums.com.na](mailto:info@museums.com.na)

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Membership category: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership number: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment type: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your continued support.*

# Contact Us



Phone Number

**+264 61 302230**



Email Address

**info@museums.com.na**



Website

**www.museums.com.na**



Postal Address

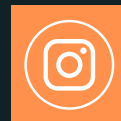
**P.O.Box 147 Windhoek, Namibia**

# Follow Us



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**Museums\_Association\_Of\_Namibia**



Twitter

**MuseumsANamibia**



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## **Museums Association of Namibia**

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Web: [www.museums.com.na](http://www.museums.com.na)

Twitter: @MuseumsANamibia

Post: P.O.Box 147 Windhoek, Namibia

Facebook: Museums Association of Namibia

Instagram: [museums\\_association\\_of\\_namibia](https://www.instagram.com/museums_association_of_namibia)

Office: 131, 2nd Floor, Maeura Park, Centaurus Road, Windhoek

**Making Museums Matter - Since 1990**