

Museum Matters

The Newsletter for the Museums Association of Namibia

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Museums Association of Namibia
Making Museums Matter - Since 1990

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

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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

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Thank you for your continued support.

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DISCLAIMER

Museum Matters is published by the Museums Association of Namibia but is not the voice of the association. The information contained in this newsletter is intended to inform members (and the general public) about our past and future activities. It is also a platform for sharing ideas and experiences. MAN members are encouraged to submit articles and suggestions to help us improve Museum Matters for you. No person, organisation or party can copy or reproduce the content of this newsletter or any part of this publication without a written consent from the publisher and the author of the content as applicable.

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FROM THE EDITOR

NDAPEWOSHALI NDAHAFASHIPALA – OPERATIONS MANAGER

It goes without saying that 2020 has been an interesting year, to put it mildly. We, as individuals, families, organizations, communities and as a nation, have been forced to truly evaluate the meaning of the word “normal” and our connection to it. From the day that the first COVID-19 cases were reported in Namibia, we have gone from “waiting to return to normal”, to “embracing the new normal”, to “what is normal...really?”. As I’m writing this, I think most of us have come to realize that, as the old adage reminds us, change is the only constant. Change is the only normal.

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. With the feature on Namibian Heritage Week 2020, you will read about how different museums, heritage and arts institutions worked together to ensure that not only was culture kept alive, but through the use of both social and formal media, reach new audiences.

With the country locked down for part of the year and restrictions that continue until present, the MAN team was motivated to find innovative ways to ensure that we do what we do best... make museums matter. Through donations from the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, MAN was able to provide hand sanitizer and cleaning material to member museums in need. We also learnt that the inability to travel does not mean the inability to connect with our members. We therefore hosted numerous meetings, workshops, and even our Annual General Meeting (AGM) via the Zoom online platform. In as much as this technology is not available to all our members, the AGM had a large member turnout with 44 members attending the meeting. We have also strived

to ensure that all current projects are completed, even though slightly delayed. And, as usual, we have pushed forward in seeking future projects that will continue to Make Museums Matter.

As you probably know by now, MAN turned 30 this year! We celebrated this giant milestone in May 2020 and we have published a 30th Anniversary publication which is available for free download from our website, under the “Journals and Publications” tab. If you haven’t seen it yet please do take a look. The last 30 years of Making Museums Matter have been truly interesting with many exciting stories, projects and work done.

“ From the day that the first COVID-19 cases were reported in Namibia, we have gone from “waiting to return to normal”, to “embracing the new normal”, to “what is normal...really?”. ”

With that said, in this issue, you will find interesting updates on past, present and future projects, as well as submissions from our members and youth reviews from our student interns. You will also find information on the new email addresses and new membership forms for 2021, amongst lots more.

We hope you find this jam-packed issue to be educational and interesting and if anything catches your eye, please feel free to let us know. Wishing you and your loved ones a happy, safe and COVID-19 free festive season.



Museums Association of Namibia

Making Museums Matter - Since 1990

The Museums Association of Namibia (MAN) is a Section 21 Company not for Gain and was launched in 1990 after Namibia's independence as an Association representing the interests of museums in Namibia. Since 2002 it has been given responsibility by the Government of Namibia to facilitate local and regional museum development and receives an annual grant-in-aid from the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture.

The MAN manages regional museum development grants, organises planning workshops for individual museums and national training workshops on specialist areas of museum work. MAN also organises an Annual General Meeting and Conference which gives an opportunity for colleagues from museums and heritage institutions all over Namibia to meet and discuss the latest developments in the heritage sector. MAN produces a biannual newsletter that is distributed to heritage institutions throughout Namibia and also to all the important international museum networks.

The Executive Committee (EC) is the decision-making body of the Museums Association of Namibia. The Committee provides leadership and overall strategy for the organisation as well as assuring everyone that the organisation's finances are sound, its operations are legal and that 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 a voluntary one. The current EC consists of, Ms Nehoa Hilma Kautondokwa (Chairperson), Mr Elliot Mowa (Vice Chair Person), Mr Werner Hillebrecht, Ms Ndeenda Shivute, Ms Chisengo Nikanor and Mr Aina Paulina Muulila.

The secretariat consists of Dr Jeremy Silvester (Director), Mr Tuuda Haitula (Museum Development Officer), Ms Ndapewoshali Ndahafa Ashipala (Operations Manager) and Mr Naphtali Chipasha (Part-Time Bookkeeper). Additionally, the project staff employed by 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 (WT) Project are Ms Johanna Nghishiko (Conservator), Ms Randy Mwatondange (Documentalist) and Mr Alfred Muifi (Curator – Museum of Namibian Fashion).

The MAN team is currently working on numerous, exciting projects with different partners which include, but are not limited to;

1. European Union - Museum Development as a Tool for Strengthening Cultural Rights in Namibia
 - Oombale Dhi Ihaka Mobile Exhibition and Catalogue
 - Stand Together Mobile Exhibitions and Catalogue
 - Museum of Namibian Music
 - Zambezi Museum
2. National Arts Council of Namibia – Partnership to promote Namibian Heritage Week regionally.
3. 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 (WT)
 - Museum of Namibian Fashion and the Virtual Museum of Namibian Fashion (MAN)
 - 2x MA Scholarships – Material Culture Research (UNAM)
 - Conservation + Documentation of ethnographic collection (NMN) – Return of objects from Berlin
4. Hedmark County Municipality – Renovations to Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo Cultural Village
5. Museum Outreach

- Editor

WHAT HAPPENED?

Covid-19 caught the museum sector in Namibia and across the world by surprise and unfortunately, unprepared. The guidelines set out in the Museums Association of Namibia (MAN)'s "Dodging Danger - Emergency Planning and Response for Namibian Museums, Art Galleries, Archives and Libraries" handbook (available for download on the MAN Website) did not envisage the possibility of a pandemic as, historically, such an event only takes place around once every hundred years.

On Saturday the 14th March 2020, President Hage Geingob announced the first two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Namibia and announced numerous measures to combat the spread of the disease, including the cancellation of all public gatherings. MAN responded by circulating the official statement by the president, as well as a booklet that provides guidance on the actions that should be taken to avoid the spread of COVID-19, to all its members via email. MAN continued to circulate updated, verified information about COVID-19 to its members via email and all social media platforms.

On Monday the 16th March 2020, in compliance with the announcement made by President Hage Geingob on Saturday 14th March 2020 canceling all public gatherings in response to the COVID-19 virus, MAN received a directive from the Director of Heritage and Culture Programs to instruct all museums to close for the public, to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 virus. MAN then shared the directive with all member museums via email, the website and all social media platforms.

WHAT NOW? WHAT NEXT?

Namibia was under a state of emergency for six months during 2020. The country experienced, initially, a partial lockdown and then a full lockdown from 28th March. The lockdown ended on 4th May, however cases and, sadly, deaths continue and we have to monitor the situation closely. In this context MAN continues to advise caution and compliance with all Government regulations to help us fight the pandemic.

We also encourage our members to find creative ways to take our exhibitions to our audiences as museums can play an important national educational role in these difficult times.

Therefore, MAN implores all its members to please adhere to the restrictions and regulations as set by the government.

Across the world the culture sector is developing ways of making available virtual versions of their exhibitions. This is an important way of ensuring that people still have access to culture at a time when there is increased stress and severely limited access to mental health support services. On Friday the 3rd April, MAN started a "featured" series on all its social media platforms in which it features a different Namibian Museum every Friday, giving a short summary about the museum, where it can be found, images of exhibitions and contact details for the museum.

MAN would like to, once again, encourage museums without social media pages, to take the opportunity to create, at the very least, a Facebook page. Where possible Namibian museums should share existing materials on their websites and social media. Any museum that does not yet have a strong internet presence should make use of MAN's platforms and use the lockdown as an opportunity to create a website and social media pages.

Apart from strengthening our digital presence, the MAN team has been working on research and content development for its existing projects such as the Museum of

Namibian Music, the Museum of Namibian Fashion and the Zambezi Museum, amongst others, in preparation for the end of the lockdown, which will once again provide the opportunity for in-depth, stakeholder engagement.

MAN MEMBER INFO WHATSAPP GROUP

Due to these uncertain times, which have led to many people working from home and sometimes not having access to the work emails or stable internet access, we have created a WhatsApp group for MAN members (strictly) in order to be able to share information about MAN activities with you.

We would like to keep the group for information sharing purposes only therefore, please note that the group is set so that only the admins can post. If you have any questions or comments, you can message the admins privately.

Please join the group using this link <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KyetW5GOVyVBvUbcDrd37f>

Please feel free to share the link with your colleagues and any other MAN members.

NB: We will still be communicating via email, website and other social media platforms. Therefore, no members will be disadvantaged if they choose not to join the WhatsApp group.

- Editor

Ms Kautondokwa has been appointed as Chief Education Officer for Culture at the Namibia Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM), Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation.

In the words of Dr Silvester “As the world faces new and unexpected challenges, I believe that our mission to promote positive values and to combat prejudice, hate and injustice will be more important than ever. We will continue to believe that our goal is not simply to make museums, but to Make Museums Matter. Whilst, in the future, we may sit in different offices I believe that we will still share the same vision!”

-Editor

It is with a heavy heart, and simultaneously, great joy, that on the 14th of July 2020, we bid our Museum Development Manager, Ms Nehoa Hilma Kautondokwa, farewell. Ms Kautondokwa has been with MAN since 2014 but her relationship with MAN began years before when she participated as a history teacher in MAN's national School Clubs and Museums Exhibition (SCAMX) competition.

While at MAN, Ms Kautondokwa poured her heart and soul into ensuring that MAN projects were successful. As part of “Team No Sleep”, she has worked day and night and has gone far beyond the call of duty, to make sure that whatever she touched, she did so with excellence and precision, basically, making the impossible happen!

Ms Kautondokwa has played an integral role in every exhibition and publication produced by MAN during her tenure. Together with Dr Silvester, she has co-authored many exhibition displays and a number of exhibition catalogues, most recently - Oombale Dhi Ihaka: 'A Bond that cannot be Broken' (2019) and //Ha//xae (!Xung) Ma/aos (Hai//om) G!a !Kae (Ju'/hoansi) T! /xai (Khwe) Dea /Xae (Naro) Stand Together (English) (2020). The two catalogues were both written in two languages (English and Oshindonga and English and Ju'/hoansi) to promote mother tongue which is central to the safeguarding of culture.





WELCOME TUUDA!

With the resignation of Ms Kautondokwa, the position of Museum Development Manager became vacant. The Executive Committee of MAN resolved that the position should be amended to Museum Development Officer and made an entry-level position, in order to meet MAN's mandate to facilitate the career development of professionals in the sector. It was therefore resolved that the position would be advertised as such. The position was advertised on MAN's website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram platforms and circulated via WhatsApp on Wednesday 29 July 2020. It was further advertised in The Namibian Newspaper, the New Era, Namibian Sun and Allgemeine Zeitung Newspapers on Friday 07 August 2020. The deadline for applications was 31 August 2020.

To ensure the independent, impartial and fair selection of the best candidate, the recruitment process was carried out in three stages namely; shortlisting, written tests and oral interviews. At each stage, the candidates were evaluated by a different panel (therefore, three different panels formed of experts and academics within the sector). The final assessment was therefore based on the collective decisions of these three independent panels.

With that said, it is our pleasure to announce that as of the 01 November 2020, Mr Tuuda Haitula has been appointed as the Museum Development Officer. With an Honours Degree in History and Industrial Psychology, a Post-Graduate Diploma in Heritage Conservation and Management and a Diploma in Labour and Employment Studies (all from the University of Namibia), Mr Haitula makes a great addition to the MAN team. He is fluent in English, Afrikaans, Oshikwanyama and Rukwangali and has worked as a history teacher, payroll clerk, industrial relations officer and human resource officer, before joining MAN.

However, Mr Haitula is not a stranger to MAN or the sector. As a student, he volunteered, through his membership with the UNAM History Society, to assist with numerous MAN projects such as the stall at the Namibia Tourism Expo and the Changing History: WW1 and Namibia, mobile exhibition and teacher's handbook. From 2015 to 2016, he carried out an internship at MAN and in 2016, he was temporarily employed as the Acting Project Officer: Exhibition Development for the Exhibition Development in Namibian Museums Project.

At MAN, his main duties will include tasks related to providing support to member museums through administration and operations, museum and exhibition development and the MAN resource Centre. You can reach Mr Haitula for MAN related enquiries at mndo@museums.com.na.

-Editor

In service training is an effective way of offering 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.

In September 2017, MAN signed an MOA with Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST) in which MAN agreed to provide a placement for students of NUST for the purpose of Work Integrated Learning (WIL). 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 for the attention of Ms Ndapewoshali Ashipala, Operations Manager.

- Editor



Name: Laina Gwendy Kavara
Course: Degree in Bachelor of Tourism Management
Institution: Namibian University of Science and Technology
01 February 2019 – 30 June 2019



Name: Samora Cloete
Course: Degree in Bachelor of Tourism Management
Institution: Namibian University of Science and Technology
01 February 2019 – 15 August 2019



Name: Anna Haitembu
Course: Degree in Bachelor of Tourism Management
Institution: Namibian University of Science and Technology
01 February 2019 – 30 June 2019



Name: Katrine Hoandi Vigne
Course: Master of Arts in Sustainable Heritage Management
Institution: Aarhus University (Denmark)
01 September 2019 -15 December 2019

Name: Josef Hangula
Course: Degree in Bachelor of Tourism Management
Institution: Namibian University of Science and Technology
01 September 2020 – 30 October 2020



Name: Justin Diaz-Haingura
Course: Degree in Bachelor of Tourism Management
Institution: Namibian University of Science and Technology
01 September 2020 – 31 January 2021



Name: Jahanika Hengombe
Course: Degree in Bachelor of Tourism Management
Institution: Namibian University of Science and Technology
01 September 2020 – 31 January 2021

INTERNSHIPS





WE'RE CHANGING OUR EMAIL ADDRESSES!

Please note that effective **04th January 2020**, the **Museums Association of Namibia** will be changing our email addresses to make us more accessible to our members. Please take note of the following primary email addresses;

GENERAL INFORMATION AND QUERIES:

info@museums.com.na

DIRECTOR:

director@museums.com.na

OPERATIONS MANAGER:

om@museums.com.na

MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT OFFICER:

mdo@museums.com.na

MAN turned 30 this year! We celebrated this giant milestone in May 2020 and we have published a 30th Anniversary publication which is available for free download from our website, under the "Journals and Publications" tab. If you haven't seen it yet please do take a look. The last 30 years of Making Museums Matter have been truly interesting with many exciting stories, projects and work done.



ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION FOR THE
MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

1990 - 2020

MAKING MUSEUMS MATTER¹⁴

MAN received a grant of N\$ 150,000.00 this year from the National Arts Council. Not all regions applied for funding but out of the 20 institutions that applied for and received funding, 19 events were successfully organised and all progressed successfully in 8 regions namely Khomas, Erongo, Otjozondjupa, Karas, Ohangwena, Hardap, Oshikoto and Zambezi regions. The theme this year was “Ombazu Ndjiritutumuna” meaning “Building cultural resilience-the new normal” and was well incorporated into each event. Face masks agreed upon by the National Heritage week team and designed by Ms. Ashipala from the Museums Association of Namibia were distributed free of charge to participants this year contributing once again to the enhancement of the week.

This year there was not much change compared to last year in terms of regional participation with 8 regions having participated. Khomas this time around dominated in terms of heritage week funding applications.

For future years Omusati, Omaheke and Kunene must be encouraged because they have never applied for funding.

Heritage week facemasks gave unity for the national event and the Heritage week team provided them for free.

Marketing via social media was successful and participants are encouraged to provide MAN with accurate information in good time so that they can be provided with promotional posters. TV marketing was very successful this year, but more needs to be done on radio for the future.

The newspapers this year also captured the event more and the video that was produced by NBC that was on YouTube also helped a lot to market the event successfully.

The pandemic was a challenge throughout the country but luckily measures were put in place and protocols were followed and as a result Heritage week still successfully took place uninterrupted this year unlike many events that had to be postponed. It was proven that as long as measures are put in place and strictly adhered to, there should never be problems.









Whilst it was also a handicap that due to the limitations on crowds not as many people as during previous normal years could attend the various events. It was also the case that far more people joined Heritage Week virtually on social media than in previous years.

Overall, Namibian Heritage Week 2020 was a great success.

Mr Justin Diaz-Haingura
Intern
Museums Association of Namibia




NAMIBIAN HERITAGE WEEK
21 – 27 September 2020

 Windhoek, Khomas	 Omuthiya, Oshikoto
 Omhedi, Ohangwena	 Swakopmund, Erongo
 Oniipa, Oshikoto	 Keetmanshoop, //Karas
 Mariental, Hardap	 Okahandja, Otjozondjupa
 Katima Mulilo, Zambezi	 Windhoek Rural, Khomas
 Rehoboth, Hardap	 Grashoek, Otjozondjupa
 Karibib, Erongo	 Tsumeb, Oshikoto

Powered by **ARTS & CULTURE** COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

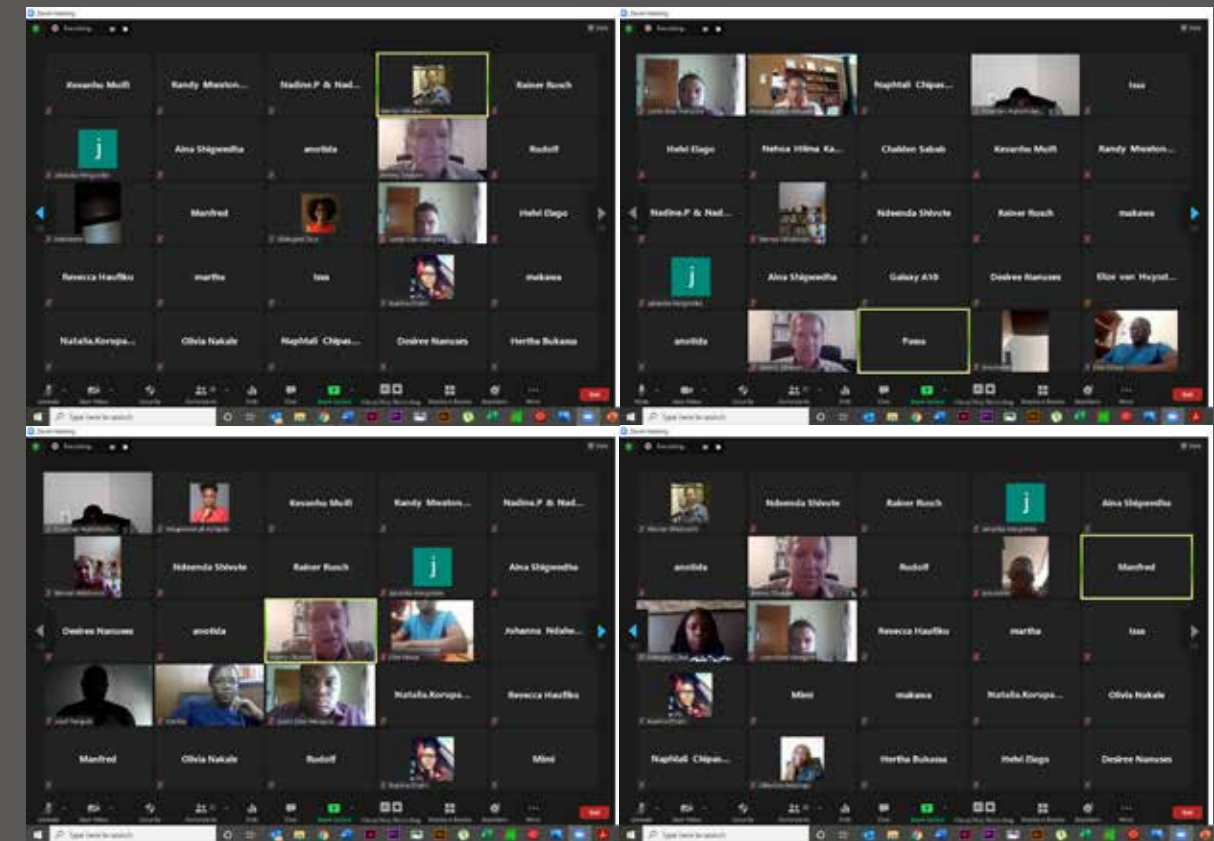
Ombazu Ndjiritutumuna | Building Cultural Resilience - The New Normal

 @namibian_heritage_week  Namibian Heritage Week  @NamHeritageWeek

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATIONS OF NAMIBIA 30TH CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PROGRAMME

Date: 28th October 2020 Venue: Zoom Time: 09h00 – 13h00

- 08h00 MEETING OPENS** Promotional Videos Playing until program starts
- 08h15 – 08h30** Welcome and Introductions
Ms Golda Ha-Eiros | Chairperson – Museums Association of Namibia
- FROM THE SECRETARIAT**
- 08h30 – 08h45** Directors' Report
Dr Jeremy Silvester | Director – Museums Association of Namibia
- 08h45 – 09h00** Finance Report
Ndapewoshali Ashipala | Office Manager – Museums Association of Namibia
- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**
- 09h00 – 09h30** EC Manifesto Presentations (5 mins per presentation)
- 09h30 – 09h45** Voting for EC members (Google Docs)
- 09h45 – 09h50** *BREAK | Video: Namibian Heritage Week 2020
MAN @ 30 Orders*
- 09h50 – 11h50 MAN MEMBER AND GUEST PRESENTATIONS**
5 min presentation, 5 min for questions and answers per speaker
- Introducing the Museum Outreach Programme**
Mr Goodman Gwasira – University of Namibia
- ICOM Namibia and the Definition of Museums**
Ms Johanna Nghishiko ICOM Namibia Chairperson – ICOM Namibia
- Documenting the Ethnographic Collection at NMN & the return of objects from Berlin and**
- Building our capacity for Preventive Conservation in Namibian Museums**
Ms Randy Mwatondange – Documentalist
- 10h40 – 10h45** *BREAK | Video: Museum of Namibian Music*
- A sonic mix of sourced archived sounds from Berlin and Namibia**
Mr Rudolf Dantago Schimming
- Creating the Museum of Namibian Fashion**
Mr Kevanhu Muifi – Curator
- Museums serving as Educational Platforms**
Ms Nadine Phiri – Swakopmund Museum
- Namibian museums and inclusive interpretations of historical objects**
Mr Eliot Mowa – Individual Member
- A overview of the Walvis Bay Museum's collections**
Ms Antoinette Mostert – Walvis Bay Museum
- Challenges facing Community Based Tourism Projects**
Ombalantu Baobab Tree and Heritage Centre
- 11h45 – 11h50** *BREAK | Video: Zambezi Museum*
- 11h50 – 12h40 PANEL DISCUSSION: SHOULD CURT VON FRANCOIS FALL?**
5 min presentation, 5 min for questions and answers per speaker
- Manfried Gaeb - Regional Heritage Officer, National Heritage Council
- Hildegard Titus - Heritage activist and curator
- Ruprecht von François - Great Grandson of Curt von François
- Werner Hillebrecht - Retired Head of the National Archives of Namibia
- 12h40 – 12h45** Announcement of EC Elections Results
- 12h45 -13h00** Final Remarks/Comments and Closing



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Museums Association of Namibia was duly called and held on 28 October virtually (on Zoom). The meeting ran from 08h00 to 13h00. A total of 44 MAN members attended the AGM.

Executive Committee Elections

Seven candidates stood for executive committee namely;

1. Ms. Aina Paulina Muulila
2. Ms. Antoinette Mostert
3. Mr. Eliot Mowa
4. Ms. Hertha Kauna Bukassa
5. Ms. Luness Mpunwa
6. Ms. Nadine Phiri
7. Ms. Nehoa Hilma Kautondokwa

During the AGM, each MAN member present was requested to vote for three candidates.

The three new EC members are therefore:

1. Ms. Aina Paulina Muulila
2. Mr. Eliot Mowa
3. Ms. Nehoa Hilma Kautondokwa

- Editor

In 2016 I attended the first African World Heritage Regional Youth Forum for African Anglophone countries. It was held on one of South Africa's World Heritage sites: Robben Island. After the week long forum we came up with a declaration that was shared at the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) & African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) meeting that preceded the Youth Forum.

The declaration stipulates the following:

- The experience was engaging and opened our minds to procedures and discussions related to the significance of heritage conservation for sustainable development in implementing the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention.
- Moreover, we learned the importance of perseverance in addressing the many challenges facing Africa.
- We consider that the lack of investment in African youth is one of the biggest constraints limiting our participation in the efforts to balance development and conservation.
- We shall take it upon ourselves to engage other youths, heritage experts and national and local governments in our respective 23 countries to pursue conversation around heritage conservation.
- We adopted the philosophy of Robben Island inmates of “each one teach one”
- More than often local communities are excluded in decision-making processes.
- We propose that State Parties raise awareness among youths in local communities through cross-cultural exchange training programmes, scholarships, internships, online engagement and workshops to increase their capacity to advocate for World Heritage conservation and sustainable management.
- Youth from local communities should be given priority in employment processes.
- Also in accordance with the 1970 UNESCO Convention on illicit trafficking and the upcoming African Union model law on the Protection of Cultural Property and/or Heritage.
- Youth should also be responsible for developing an African Youth Model of the World Heritage Committee as well as creating and monitoring heritage awareness projects and activities in all African countries.
- Also provide adequate information on heritage and creating innovative extracurricular activities that engage young people.
- We therefore recommend that States Parties introduce and/or emphasize heritage education from basic to secondary levels.

A youth forum for African Francophone countries was held in Burkina Faso, 2017 and then a youth forum for African Lusophone countries was held in Mozambique, 2018. The forum that brought most of the participants of all the previous forums together was the 4th African World Heritage Regional Youth Forum under the theme “Harnessing Youth Creativity and Innovation for Safeguarding and Promotion of African World Heritage” was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was held from the 28th April to the 5th May 2019, leading up to the celebrations of African World Heritage Day which was on the 5th of May 2019 under the theme “Heritage and Innovation in Africa”.

During the week long forum we worked and presented on the following issues:

1. World Heritage, Media and Innovation in Africa,
2. Evaluation of the Implementations of the Youth Forum Declarations (2016 – 2018),

3. Action Plans involving the Youth in Conservation and Promotion of African World Heritage and

4. Influence of the 2019 Forum on Social Media using the hash tags #MyAfricanHeritage #innovate4Africa & @African_WH_Fund

The Director of the United Nations Educational and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) - Liaison Office to the African Union (AU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa and UNESCO Representative to Ethiopia, Ms. Ana Elisa Santana Afonso. Stated that, “African youth are not the future, they are the present building for the future”. She further said that, “Heritage is love and love is the only way to bring Africa together”.

Head of Programmes at the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), Dr. Albino Jopela reminded participants of the 2019 Forum “To be tough on discussions of African World Heritage whilst remaining kind to each other”.

The Deputy Director General of Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH) in Ethiopia, Prof. Abebaw Ayelew explained to us how Ethiopia is the “Cradle of Mankind”, home to the formidable and conquering black-mane lion & that the 5th May 2019 marked the 78th Anniversary of Ethiopia's victory against colonialism. Ethiopia is the only country in Africa that was never colonised.

We as the participants of the 4th African World Heritage Regional Youth Forum would like to thank the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and ARCCH for hosting us, the AU and the AWHF under the auspices of UNESCO for funding the forum. We collectively pledged to the continued sustainable safeguarding and promotion of Africa's World Heritage by innovatively implementing the (2016 -2019) youth forum declarations, because “Heritage is Everything”.

Mr. Asser Manyà

Cell: +264 81 33 27 516

Email: assndeuman@gmail.com

Website: www.asmaratours.com





As soon as the first COVID-19 cases were reported in Namibia (14 March 2020), museums, and libraries had to close. Two weeks later the official country-wide lockdown started. Swakopmund was in lockdown much longer than e.g. Windhoek. Thus, the Swakopmund Museum did not only lose the 1000s of international visitors, but also the national ones. This was devastating for the Scientific Society Swakopmund, since most of its income, sustaining also the Sam Cohen Library, comes from the Swakopmund Museum entrance fees and shop sales. Staff had to go home, most not able to work remotely. Others worked harder than ever before to keep the ship sailing.

We had to find novel ways to convey the importance of Namibian heritage, culture and scientific development. We increased our web-presence with regular posts ("Did you know..." and "Behind the scenes..."). We had to abandon many exciting plans, such as "Curiosity Week" – a holiday event for scholars, but we pulled off "Ocean Month" and the "Namibian Heritage Week". We ventured on to new paths and went virtual on Facebook as well as creating our own YouTube Channel. We fostered new collaborations and partnerships during these special-themed events. The planning of Heritage Week was more challenging than ever, since we did not know until the last minute whether we would be allowed to have live events.

Thus, for every event we had to have a plan A and a plan B: either live or virtual events, guessing restrictions that might be in place. Nonetheless, it was another successful Heritage Week thanks to the financial assistance of MAN, MEAC and the Municipality of Swakopmund, and the good teamwork between the

Scientific Society Swakopmund, COSDEF Arts & Crafts Centre, Swakopmund Municipality, the Namibian Film Commission and the Ministry of Arts and Culture and the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology, Erongo Region. The Swakopmund Museum gave all citizens of Swakopmund a voice in the "Stories of Hope" exhibition (challenging them to express hope during COVID-19), and a chance to learn from the past in the "Beacon of Hope" exhibition (comparing the 1918 Spanish Influenza with COVID-19). The interesting workshops offered (mask making, gardening, online teaching) received positive feedback.

Though the year was tough, we still have energy for another novel idea: the "Creative Competition". People from all walks of life, from age 5-99, are invited to recreate objects that can be found in the Museum with whatever medium they feel comfortable with (art or writing). This competition is offered in collaboration with the Art Association Swakopmund and exciting prizes can be won.

2020 was an extremely challenging year, in every aspect - emotionally, financially and physically. The Scientific Society Swakopmund suffered great financial losses. The financial strain will most likely be felt for years to come, since we cannot rely on things to jump back to normal. Nonetheless, we are proud to say, we made the best of 2020, we tried new ways successfully, made new connections and we PERSERVERED! We are still here to serve you.

The Tsumeb Cultural Village under Tsumeb municipality was founded in 1996. It was the idea of Tsumeb council to bring together and to display the diverse traditional homesteads of the indigenous people of Namibia. Funding from the Norwegian Twin Town of Elverum had made it possible to start with the work in 1995, with the help of workers from the various regions who build the homesteads in their own manner under the leadership of Meme Susana Nghidinua. (former mayor of Tsumeb Municipality 1993/1995/1996).

It was the wish of the council to promote, preserve and document the unwritten history of the different tribal groups' way of life and a vital Namibian project.

A Cultural Village is the community-based project. In 2009 it was renamed Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo Cultural Village. Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo was the mother of the founding President of the Republic of Namibia and father of the nation.

My experience to work at the museum:

Although I worked at the cultural village for more than ten years as a cleaner, I got an opportunity to help here and there in the office which gave me more interest to work at the cultural village, until I got a position as a clerk in 2019.

Some of the experience I have are as follow;

1. I am able to provide information services to Tsumeb Municipality on tourism and museum related matters.
2. Guiding visitors in the village.
3. Handling visitor's questions.
4. Daily cash up on revenue received from the entrance, curious shop etc.
5. Responding to incoming correspondence regarding provision of museum information.
6. Supervising the daily activities at Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo Cultural Village.

Helvi Mpingana Cultural Village unique in Namibia with almost all traditional homesteads at one village. Currently there is project under way to uplift all the traditional homesteads, funded by Hedmark County Council (Norway).

The village is located at the juncture that enters into Tsumeb if you are from the east, south and north where tourists pass daily en-route to and from Etosha National Park. Inside the building there is an area where we exhibit the traditional artifacts for the different tribes of Namibia. There is also a curios shop and outside there is a village where you find examples of different homesteads for different tribes of Namibia.

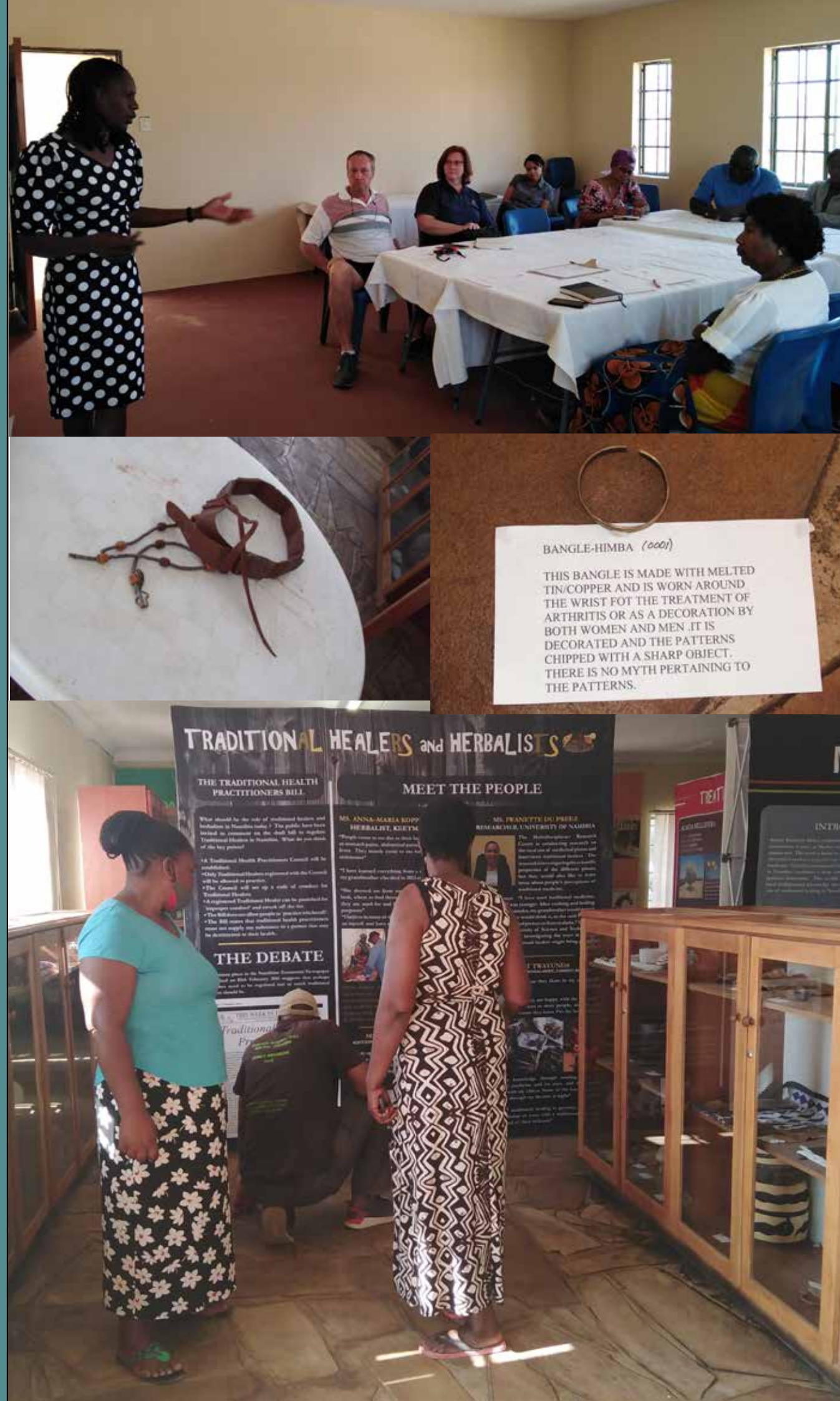
The current entrance fee to view the village is: N\$23.00 (Namibian) and N\$ 34.50 International visitors per person. A person can book in advance for the village tour.

WORKING HOURS

Monday to Friday: 08:00 to 16:00 and Saturday 08:00 to 13:00

Ms. Wilma Shilamba

Contact number: 067-220787 or 0811482391



The Social Sciences sub-section of the National Museum of Namibia (NMN) has embarked on an ambitious programme which seeks to decolonize the museum through a reinterpretation of collections to enhance visitor experiences. Decolonization is also about Africanizing the interpretation of collections by recognizing that local communities are producers of cultural objects. The objects are rich sources of tangible and intangible heritage knowledge vital for safeguarding, promoting, management and sustainable utilisation of the environment.

For example, in the NMN collection are wonderful tortoise shell containers used to store ground aromatic herbs and the fur used as a 'powder puff' and or Shaman's containers. These containers have a rich and deep history. They are widely used by the San/Bushmen, Herero, Himba and Mayeyi communities. Those objects were collected by the Ethnologist of National Museum of Namibia formerly known as the State Museum during colonial times. As with colonial collections practices, the names of the makers were not recorded; only that of the collectors. Decolonising museums involves giving voice to such creators of objects, who are now forgotten.

The powder box were used to store powerful herbs and supernatural substances used for healing and purification ceremonies. The box is adorned with strings and glass beads. The string with beads ring on top is for hanging the powder box from a tree or on a peg in the house or anywhere it is to be kept. Peeking out of the box is a scruff of animal fur. The part where the beads on string is attached is the lower part where the rear legs of the tortoise are located when it is alive. This part is normally sealed with beeswax as the base of the container. The top part is where the head of the tortoise was and this part is left open for powder to be filled into the box. Other magical substances can also be stored inside. It is believed that when a stranger uses or touches the powder or the container itself, one disturbs the spirits of the Shaman! Artefacts such as these were not made for tourists but for personal use. They tell stories of their owners and the communities at large especially belief systems and aesthetics. By getting new meanings especially those provided by the descendants of the San/Bushmen, Herero, Himba and Mayeyi communities, the meaning of this artefact and others will be decolonised bringing into the mainstream community views, understandings and beliefs into narratives we tell about the past. This also highlights indigenous knowledge systems developed by locals as they sustainably lived in different environments often considered as marginal by observers and scholars alike.

Students, researchers and communities are encouraged to study the objects in order to decolonise the museum collections.

Ms Nzila Marina Mubusisi
Chief Curator for Social Sciences, National Museum of Namibia

The aim of the research is to decolonize museum collections through studying collections in the National Museum of Namibia through community and Africa-centred lens.

ICOM-Namibia (National committee) is a membership association and a non-governmental organisation which establishes professional and ethical standards for museum activities. Moreover, as a forum of experts, it makes recommendations on issues related to cultural heritage, promotes capacity building and advances knowledge. Therefore, ICOM is the voice of museum professionals on the international stage that raises public cultural awareness through global networks and co-operation programmes.

ICOM Namibia is a private entity serving as a national committee under ICOM's umbrella, which was established over 15 years ago. It serves as the voice for Namibian museums and museum professionals to be heard in ICOM's International Committees and Secretariat and network to get support on capacity building to effectively continue managing our museums and heritage sector. Currently it consists of 15 paid up members, which are members of different ICOM international committees such as: 1. Conservation 2. Documentation 3. Museums and Collections of Archaeology and History 4. Education and Cultural Action 5. Museums and Collections of Ethnography 6. Museums and Collections of Decorative Arts and Design etc. ICOM has more committees that Namibian heritage professionals can benefit from.

ICOM Namibia is therefore inviting all Namibian heritage professionals, and heritage students to become associate members in order to enjoy the benefits and opportunities which includes: Regular training and professional development opportunities; a great support for museums in fulfilling their missions; access to more than 2000 publications by ICOM Committees through the online database; ability to attend conferences on various museum - related subjects; take advantage of funding opportunities to attend conferences and meetings etc. The annual individual Membership fees is as little as N\$ 500.00, and institutional membership is N\$3500-00 with unlimited members.

ICOM Namibia have taken its first step to partake in "ICOM Solidarity Projects 2021" in collaboration with other African committees, which include ICOM Zambia, ICOM Tanzania, ICOM Botswana, ICOM Cameroon and ICOM Senegal. The focus projects are on museum education and training of museum professionals.

Ms Johanna Ndahekelelewa Nghishiko
ICOM Namibia Chairperson



MUSEUM SAM COHEN LIBRARY

Arts Association
Kunstvereinigung
Swakopmund

**invent
discover
Re-interpret
create
flect**

1-23 Dec 2020

**Prize giving:
29 December 2020
17:00 at the Museum**

Categories:
Group 1: 5-11 years old
Group 2: 12-18 years old
Group 3: 19-99 years old
Group 4: Groups of up to 5 persons

We invite artists to choose an object in the Swakopmund Museum to recreate artistically or in written form — drawing, painting, collage, mixed media, short story or poem

The best three will win attractive prizes!
For T&Cs contact the Swakopmund Museum at 064-402046 / 0812947344 or nadine.p@sciswk.com

**Swakopmund Museum
Creative Competition**

Museum Opening Times: 10:00 –17:00 daily except 24, 25, 31 Dec 2020, 1 Jan 2021

“Our National Treasure”

National Museum of Namibia (NMN) established in 1907; is a permanent non-profit governmental institution based in Windhoek, Namibia. The NMN is dedicated to preserving collections of artefacts and objects of artistic, cultural, historical and scientific importance. It serves as a central hub for research, education and public outreach. The museum also exhibits tangible and intangible materials for the purpose of education, research and enjoyment. The NMN is currently headed by the Director of National Heritage and Culture Programmes. The NMN has three subdivisions; mainly the extension & information subdivision, the social science subdivision and the natural science subdivision.

The focus of this article will be on the natural science subdivision. The natural science subdivision is composed of 5 departments; namely Entomology (insects collection), Arachnology & Myriapodology (spiders, scorpions, ticks, mites, millipedes and centipedes collections), Ichthyology (fish collections), Herpetology (reptiles and amphibians collections) and Mammalogy & Ornithology (mammals & birds collections). Collectively, the departments houses approximately $\pm 1,244,500$ specimens in their collections. The subdivision has a staff compliment of 7; a Chief Curator, a Senior Curator, a Curator, 2x technicians and 2x technical assistant.

The Entomology department houses the largest number of accessioned (recorded) specimens in the subdivision. It has a total of approximately $\pm 1,045,000$ insect specimens, of which approximately $\pm 1,000,000$ specimens are found in the dry collection and $\pm 45,000$ specimens in the wet collection. All the wet collection specimens are preserved in 75% ethanol (alcohol). The department has one of

the largest insect collections in Africa. The Herpetology department houses approximately $\pm 11,000$ reptiles (e.g. snakes, lizards, geckos, etc.) and amphibians (e.g. frogs). The bulk of the specimens are formalin fixed and preserved (stored) in 70% ethanol (alcohol) for reptiles; and 60% ethanol (alcohol) for the amphibians. The Mammalogy & the Ornithology department houses approximately $\pm 40\,000$ accessioned specimens. The Mammalogy section consists of the wet and dry collections. The Mammalogy section houses most of the common small and large mammal species found in Namibia. Ornithology section houses most of the common bird species found in Namibia. The Ichthyology department houses approximately ± 3500 accessioned specimens. The department consists of the freshwater fish, marine water fish and aquatic invertebrates sections. The Arachnology & Myriapodology department houses approximately $\pm 121\,000$ accessioned specimens. It houses most of the common spiders, sun-spiders scorpions, pseudo-scorpions, ticks, mites, millipedes and centipedes found in Namibia.

Challenges faced by the subdivision; include the limited number of staff employed, and budget constraints, which in turn affects the workflow and operations. Public awareness should also be raised about the importance and relevance of national museums. Multi-faceted research with other institutions of research in Namibia and abroad should also be highly encouraged, and such collaborative researches should yield research output in the form of scientific publications, books, posters and informational brochures.

Nanguei Karuaera

Senior Curator

Natural Science Subdivision,

National Museum of Namibia

Acknowledgement: Natural Science

Subdivision Team



Display of Honey badgers arranged in the Mammalogy collection



Display of the birds in the Ornithology Collection



Display of specimens in the Mammalogy Collection during heritage week 2009



Display of Antelopes Horns in the Mammalogy Collection



Display of a tortoise species from the Herpetology Collection



Following its discovery on April 01, 2008; the National Museum of Namibia took custody of the Oranjemund Shipwreck. Discovered by a NAMDEB employee Tate Kaapandu Shatika in the process of alluvial diamond mining, this was a surprise find which turned out to be The Bom Jesus- the oldest shipwreck to be discovered in Southern Africa. This was a 16th century Portuguese nau (trading vessel), travelling from Lisbon to the Indian sub-continent through the Cape. According to the historical information, the ship sank in 1533 presumably due to the strong currents of the Southern Atlantic.

Subsequent to the discovery, the excavation ensued spearheaded by marine archaeologists from Spain and Portugal. Amongst the invaluable artefacts discovered in The Bom Jesus are such as Portuguese and Spanish gold and silver coins dating as far back as 1525, 20 tons of copper ingots linked to the Fugger family from Germany, Lead ingots, Ivory from West Africa and astrolabes. Other artefacts include the ship structure, armaments, nautical instruments and the cargo of the ship.

The Bom Jesus Shipwreck collection is to be found in Oranjemund in the //Kharas Region, it is located within the protected diamond mining area at Ubvley a few kilometres from the site where it was discovered. The main activities that take place at the Oranjemund Shipwreck Collection are; preventive conservation of the artefacts and research. The Shipwreck collection is equipped with a laboratory, which is furnished with modern equipment allowing experts a conducive environment for advanced research and preservation of the aesthetic value of all the objects.

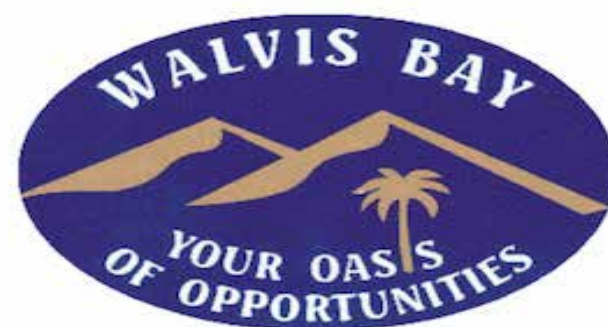
Even though it is not open to the general public, people intending to visit The Bom Jesus can obtain permission in writing from the National Museum of Namibia that will enable them to apply for a permit from NAMDEB to enter the mining area.

Mr Eino Ngesheya

Curator

Telephone: +264 63 23 7466

Email: ngesheyaeno@gmail.com



A BRIEF STORY

The Walvis Bay Museum was established in 1978 by the late Mr. Jan Wilkens who served for many years in the position of 'Town Clerk' (a post designation now known as the Chief Executive Officer or CEO) of the Walvis Bay Municipality prior to Namibian independence and the reintegration of Walvis Bay. Mr. Wilkens had a passion for history and heritage and saw the need for a town museum where the Walvis Bay's culture historical and natural heritage could be preserved for posterity. He collected many of the museum's culture history artefacts and natural sciences specimens which are now on display inside the museum, while some of the collections were donated by local residents and obtained through field collections undertaken by museum staff members. After many a search for a suitable building to house the collections, the basement area of the public municipal library was allocated for this purpose where the museum is currently located. Today the museum resorts under the Community & Economic Development Division of the Walvis Bay Municipality and is open to the public on week days showcasing the history, culture of Walvis Bay and its environment. It is also a major tourist attraction to both foreign and local Namibian visitors from all over the world and the country. The Walvis Bay Museum has national and international affiliation through the Museums Association of Namibia (MAN) and the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

Ms Antoinette Mostert
Curator, Walvis Bay Museum, Municipality of Walvis Bay

WHAT TO SEE

- Pictorial history of Walvis Bay, the harbour and development of the fishing industry.
- Dioramas of the Atlantic coast marine and bird life.
- Namib archaeology.
- Ethnography of the !Aonin (Topnaar) people.
- Military memorabilia.
- Home ware nostalgia.
- Namib antique bottle collections.
- Minerals and rocks.
- Municipality memorabilia.
- And lots more...

WHAT WE OFFER

- Information to the public.
- Organizing heritage events.
- Assistance with research projects.
- Conservation advice to the public.
- Internships for university students in museum studies.
- Guidance and assistance in exhibition planning & design
- Public educational talks and publications on various heritage topics.
- Guided tours for schools, tourists, corporate delegations and other interested groups.

OPENING HOURS & CONTACT

MONDAYS TO THURSDAYS

09:00 -13:00 & 14:00 -17:00

FRIDAYS

09:00 -13:00 & 14:00 -16:30

WALVIS BAY MUSEUM

TEL. NO. 064 2013273

C/O PUBLIC LIBRARY

FAX. NO. 064 209714

PRIVATE BAG 5017

EMAIL: M@WALVISBAYCC.ORG.NA

NANGOLO MBUMBA DRIVE

WALVIS BAY



Two Cities, the Cities of Windhoek, Namibia and the City of Vantaa, Finland have co-operated since the year 2002 within the North-South Local Authorities Co-operation programme. The Vantaa-Windhoek co-operation is in line with the transition strategy in the way the Finnish Government supports development related initiatives in Namibia. This cooperation had various components namely:

- City Planning
- Economic and Community Development (ECD)
- Libraries
- Good governance
- Cultural Heritage

THE CITY CULTURAL HERITAGE

The City Heritage Cultural Component supports the City of Windhoek with the aim of preserving and promoting the history of Windhoek and to advance the tourism potential of the City.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The component specifically aims to:

- To collect, preserve, document and exhibit the history of Windhoek and Namibia
- To ensure a good start for the Windhoek City Museum through capacity building activities
- To support the preparations of the first exhibition of the museum

As a result, the Municipality of Windhoek with professional assistance from the Museums Association of Namibia has developed the Windhoek City Museum. The Municipality identified an old house in 2011 which was converted into a Museum. The identified building, built in 1907 is situated at the corner of Robert Mugabe Avenue and Schwerinsburg Street.

The Windhoek City Museum consists of the following galleries:

1. The Reception
2. Pre/colonial Windhoek
3. Flora and Fauna Windhoek
4. The Audio visual
5. Windhoek Today
6. Temporary exhibition
7. Life and times in the Old Location

The Windhoek City Museum includes displays on, the early writings by various explorers, the early inhabitants of the City, the City's environment, flora, fauna and its surroundings. The Museum also depicts some of the notorious, unsolved assassinations in Windhoek. The Museum has a temporary gallery, that aims to host temporary exhibitions, and currently host the Municipality's Emergency Service exhibition. The final gallery, the Life and Times in the Old Location gallery depicts life in the Old Location, it depicts history of the Old Location and eventual forced relocation to Katutura and Khomasdal.

Outside the Museum, one will find a beautiful indigenous garden which supplements the Flora and Fauna gallery, and soon the Museum will be opening a Museum Café.

The Museum was officially launched by the Founding President and the Father of the Namibian Nation on the 4th November 2020. The launch was attended by various invited guests, including the Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Honourable Faustina Caley, former residents of the Old Locations, the National Heritage Council, the Museums Association of Namibia, Church leaders, members of the media, the University of Namibia, the National Museum of Namibia and many others.

The Museum will rely on donations of artefacts relating to the various galleries, thus we are requesting for donation of photographs, artefacts and any relevant documents.

Contact Details

Name: Mr. Aaron Nambadi
 Position: Curator
 Tel No. Office: +264 290 2502
 Email Address: Aaron.Nambadi@windhoekcc.org.na
 P.O Box 59
 Windhoek



On the 11th and 12th of November 2020, the Museums Association of Namibia (MAN) showed the 'Stand Together' mobile exhibition at Khomas High school, in Windhoek. The exhibition was accompanied by Ms. Tertu Fernandu from the Namibia San Council, Ms. Jahanika Hengombe (a MAN intern) and Mr. Tuuda Haitula from the Museums Association of Namibia.

The exhibition was available to learners from 08h30 to 11h30 on both days and was held in one of the classrooms provided by the school. The exhibition was open to the grade 10 history teachers and their learners. Due to the COVID 19 rules and regulations, the learners were divided into 8 groups, each group had 7 to 8 learners plus a teacher. Each day about 30 learners were given guided tours of the exhibition. During the exhibition the students were taken around the Stand Together exhibition banners for a 15-20 minute tour, the learners were then given the opportunity to ask questions. On the 11th November 2020, the One Africa news crew were present at the school and captured some moments of the exhibition, to incorporate it into a short documentary that they are making for the European Union on EU projects in Namibia and also featured as a story on the evening news. The news crew interviewed two learners and their history teacher, as well as the Operations Manager at MAN, Ms. Ndapewoshali Ashipala and Ms Tertu Fernandu.

The exhibition focuses on the different San groups in Namibia, and tries to break the prejudice and discrimination that they face within our communities. The exhibition was very informative for the learners, they got to learn about aspects of San people that they didn't know, such as the different San groups that exist (!Kung, Hai//om, Ju'hoansi, Khwe, Naro etc.). Many learners, previously, believe that the San are just one identical group of people.

The response from the history learners, teachers and principal was very welcoming. The exhibition was posted on MAN's social media pages. MAN has encouraged other schools to contact MAN should they wish to have one of our mobile exhibition presented at their schools.

Ms Jahanika Hengombe
Intern
Museums Association of Namibia



USAKOS MUSEUM

The biggest handicap I saw with the upcoming Usakos museum building is space. Though there might be enough rooms for all the needed exhibitions but there still needs to be enough space so that all the parts of those exhibitions can fit and also so that after having had the full tour, visitors can really have a full outline of the history of Usakos but the main challenge will just be to do all that needs to be done with that little available space.

When making changes and renovations, it requires that some of the doors will need to be removed but since it is a building of historical significance and a monument it would really be best to leave everything as it is only paint, the municipality should clean thoroughly, and cover up any holes in the walls and also fix and cover up electrical wiring but all natural elements of the building such as doors and so on must just be left as they are so that, just like the new Windhoek City municipality museum, the building can still have the exact same structure from its original establishment all doors in place as have always been so that even visitors can get a feel of what it was like when it used to be a house.

The parking is also small and would only take an extremely limited amount of vehicles; the same with the space where a cafe will be built meaning it will be a problem when for example a bigger group wants to come such as a tourist group in a bus or even a school. Parking for huge vehicles like buses also does not seem to be there. It would also be a good idea for shades to park vehicles to be put there as well as shades for the outside cafe because the hot Summer Usakos sun is a killer.

In regards to the space inside the building, corridors are a bit narrow and it will make it easier for people to accidentally bump into or accidentally knock over certain objects and damage them especially children. A place also needs to be identified inside the museum where children can be kept and also be kept busy so as not to make any noise or start tampering with any of the exhibits.

Quite a substantial amount of funding will also be needed to give the entire place a good security system with reliable monitoring cameras both inside and outside. Security lights outside and perhaps an electric wall to surround the property as well as a fully reliable alarm system to detect any suspicious activity inside or outside. If permission is obtained, the old fire truck will be parked in the yard and historical paintings of the town will be made on the wall between it and the neighbours house if permission is obtained, there needs to be a system put in place to make sure no one from outside can get in anyway and try to damage the fire truck by removing some parts or even using it as a rest room or making graffiti on it or damage the paintings.

In regards to the locomotive, there is definitely not enough space in the yard so it will force the locomotive to be outside of the yard and it will also require lots of protection from any elements who might take important parts, paint graffiti, or use it as a rest room so if possible a security system maybe consisting of barbed wires will need to be put around it so that visitors will be able to view it but no one can get close to it, whether visitors or ordinary people from outside.

I also think since Usakos receives a lot of sunshine annually since rain falls rarely, the museum can also be made environmentally friendly by making use of solar power.

Lastly since it will be a history museum to make it more interesting, an exhibition of pictures of animals from the area or that used to be in that area which people use to battle with even before the town started growing such as leopards that used to trouble the livestock farmers. Displays could show pictures of the environment and geography maps showing the climate and type of vegetation zone and land use as well as showing significant historical sites and places of interest that were there for many years such as the lakes and other geographical areas in the surroundings. It should not just be exhibitions of all manmade structures and also locals who were of significance in the area but natural and geographical features must also be exhibited and maybe local birds too and other endemic creatures that have been in the area for years.

Justin
Diaz-Haingura



WINDHOEK CITY MUSEUM

One of the best things of living in Windhoek is all the museums; there are many museums to explore and new exhibits to see. On the 04th November 2020 the new “Windhoek City Museum” was officially launched. The Museum is situated on the corner of Robert Mugabe and Schweringsburg Street and has an accessible entrance for all. The Curator for the museum is Mr. Aaron Nambadi. The Museum is open during the week from 07h30 - 16h30. On Saturdays the museum opens between 08h00 – 13h00 and it is closed on Sundays as well as on public holidays. The entrance to the museum is free and it also offers free parking for everyone. According to the Curator they are planning to open a café at the Museum for visitors to sit and enjoy themselves.

The Curator hoped that with the opening of the Windhoek City Museum it will help the communities to understand the history of the city much better and its strategic partners. The Curator further also stated that he wanted to contribute to the understanding of the functions of the various departments of the Windhoek Municipality.

The museum is mainly focused on the history of Windhoek. The Windhoek City museum has 5 permanent galleries namely: Pre-colonial Windhoek & Windhoek during the German Period, Life in the Old Location, Voices of the Past, Windhoek today, Wild Windhoek and one temporary exhibition.

I visited the museum twice as I wanted to be a critical visitor as I think that this can help us to make our museum better.

The first thing that caught my eyes when I got to the museum was the windows; the windows are of

unique style. All the windows are printed with pictures of past events that took place in Windhoek.

There are a few artifacts in the yard of the museum, but with no information attached to them. As for some objects one can clearly see what it is, as for the rest the visitor will just be left wondering. Preferably each object should have a brief description of what it is, what it is used for and where it came from. It is the story behind the object that makes the object more interesting.

The exhibition rooms have very beautiful lighting with a lot of different objects being exhibited. Most of the objects being displayed in the display windows are well labeled. I found the flora and fauna exhibition very interesting as they had the real weather instruments outside for visitors to view them.

There was one exhibition that left me thinking. In the Pre-colonial Windhoek Exhibition room there was a glass display table with a map of Windhoek showing the different residential areas within Windhoek and on this map there were color coded pins, what this pins stand for I still do not know as there was no guide that could explain to me and there was no map key or whatsoever. The curator should add captions or some sort of map key to explain what the color coded pins on the map indicate.

There were two things that I was really looking forward to seeing when I went to visit this new museum for the second time. The first thing was the audio visual room, I was really expecting to be able to watch videos of past events that took place in Windhoek and to also hear some voices from the past. But once I got to the museum the audio visual room was still not working at all. The second thing that I was excited about was the Map in the reception area that was meant to have a list of names of the people who had lived in the different erfs within the old location. Once again I got disappointed because the list of

names was still not there.

I would suggest that the Windhoek City Museum gets a sign on the door where they can state their working hours, because without this the visitor will not be able to know the operating hours of the museum.

I would also like to suggest that the Windhoek City museum replace the stickers on the doors with something that will last longer, because those stickers are already starting to peel off and these do not look nice for an establishment that has not even been open for over 5 months. I would also suggest that the Windhoek City museum should at least open up a temporary kiosk for now, till the café opens for guests to even be able to purchase something to drink.

I would also suggest that the Windhoek City museum hires a guide or even an intern that can assist with giving guided tours to visitors or they can make pamphlets that can assist with self-guided tours around the museum. This will help reduce the pressure put on the curator and also make the visitors' tour around the museum more enjoyable.

Overall the Windhoek City Museum is very beautiful and has interesting exhibitions to see. The Windhoek City museum would be a great place for those who want to learn more about Windhoek. I believe that the Windhoek City Museum paints a good image of the history of the city.

Jahanika
Hengombe



IMPROVING THE USE OF CULTURE AND HERITAGE TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON TOURISM

To begin with, culture is best defined as all the intangible aspects that make up certain traditional groups or communities unique and distinguishable from others, whereas heritage involves all of the tangible, physical aspects such as craftwork, food, traditional homes, traditional clothes and dress.

Now for the strategies:

1. Successful marketing plans. Professional help must be used and consulted, strong action plans are also very important to ensure success. The various media sources print: brochures, magazines, mail, directory and news columns as well as electronic such as television, radio and online should be used to get the message across to more people. It would also help a lot to send messages in all local languages as well as the languages of our tourism markets (Germany, South Africa and Angola as well as Italy, France) numbers to Namibia who come in smaller numbers once the services of professional translators are sought. All that will help get the messages to more people. In Namibia there are very few billboards. If more billboards are put up across the country it would also help to get the message out even to ordinary people on the streets who might not have all the fancy technology and do not buy newspapers. Making films and CDs on the life of different Namibian cultures would also help create more awareness. For example, when the Mad Max film was shot in Namibia, many people who watched it who never experienced the vast Namib Desert before were more strongly motivated to visit Namibia as well as several other smaller documentaries that were done in Namibia and are shown on the international geographic channels.

2. Making the environment more Namibian. At the Hosea Kutako International Airport, the environment needs to be changed to be similar to OR Tambo airport in South Africa in the sense that real, organic, Namibian cultural music should be played so that all visitors and tourists immediately upon arrival are already greeted by the Namibian flair. Most tourists coming from overseas want to experience real African environments when they visit African countries, they would not be interested in being greeted by the same music which they already know but want

to hear music played by local artists. Cultural groups should also be available to perform and showcase their culture to arriving tourists and visitors so that anyone who arrives immediately sees, I am truly in Namibia. A first impression is always very important. If it is positive it creates enthusiasm and passion. This would also be beneficial to the culture groups themselves. It could lead to more income generation.

3. Giving tourists exposure and firsthand experience. Tourists who visit Africa, want to experience how it feels to sleep in a hut which is why all of the best lodges countrywide have accommodation establishments made from real, organic African material. They can also be educated and their knowledge increased on the different artefacts so that if they want to buy souvenirs to take back home, they fully know their significance as well and are encouraged to buy which would also be a bonus for all those who make a living on selling artefacts. Locals can also be encouraged to make more traditional wear which they can sell to tourists.

4. Namibia has a unique, vibrant and rich history as well. The peak tourist season falls from July to September which is also the time of year Namibia experiences excellent weather and the best time to visit open air museums. The 26th August is the date when the heritage week falls and tourists can be given opportunities to experience all the various activities happening across the country during that week with the locals. This is also the period Namibia celebrates Heroes day. Namibia has a long history with Germany, Germany is also the biggest tourism market. There is a huge possibility that in Germany in history in schools and university, relations with Namibia must also be taught. As a result, many younger Germans with historical interests when visiting Namibia and even older ones will have increased interest in visiting various museums and various other burial sites and monuments including forts, the jetty, castles, churches, statues, old houses and so forth as well as natural features like the various baobab trees with historical significance. Same with local Namibians and South Africans, who are the second biggest tourism market, will also be interested in visiting Heroes Acre, Omugulugwoombashe and others.

5. Questionnaires are very important and useful. Several of the best local lodges and other accommodation establishments always distribute them to visitors upon departure to fill in and later these will be helpful on how to make improvements and eliminate any problems so that perfection will be increased and visitors will always be motivated and encouraged to return. Museums, archives, libraries and other heritage sites must also make use of them in the same way.

6. Lastly when it comes to museums, libraries and archives as well as various other heritage sites, most modern day young people are not interested in visiting them. This is where the museums on fashion and music are crucial, these will attract a larger younger market, same if there was a library or books or archives anywhere based on this. Other museums and historical significance places mostly only attract the older people, but if they added activities such as fashion shows and musical displays this would also attract the younger generation including school children. Maybe games and competitions related to heritage can also be included.

Justin
Diaz-Haingura



Season's Greetings

Please note that we will be closed for the festive season as from **Friday 18th December 2020** and we will reopen for the new year on **Monday 04th January 2021**. We wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy festive season and we look forward to working with you towards Making Museums Matter in the new year.

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