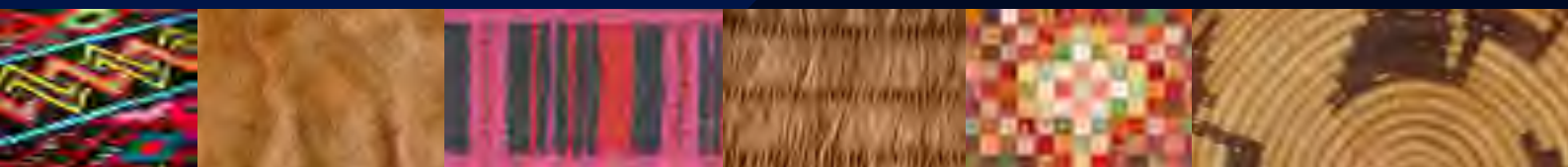




# MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA



ANNUAL REPORT  
01 APRIL 2015 – 31 MARCH 2016



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# INTRODUCTION

The 2015-2016 Financial Year was an extremely challenging one for the Museums Association of Namibia. MAN has responsibility for regional museum development and has argued for a grant-in-aid from the relevant Ministry of around N\$5 million. In 2013-2014 our core funding from the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture rose to N\$4.6 million. On that basis we increased our staff to full full-time members of staff and acquired a vehicle to facilitate work in the regions. However, in 2014-2015 our grant fell to N\$3.0 million. At a meeting with the Permanent Secretary and the Director we were informed that our budget for 2015-2016 would be N\$2.7 million. However, in fact, at the start of the financial year we were informed that we would only receive N\$1,070,000. In the end MAN only received N\$1 million.

MAN remained committed to trying to implement its Work Plan and to serve its members. It adopted a three point strategy. Firstly, it tried to economise as far as possible on costs. Secondly, it sought external, donor funding to support activities. Finally, it sought to create partnerships so that costs would be shared on activities. However, it seems likely that if MAN's core funding provided by the grant-in-aid from the Namibian Government remains at the current level in 2016-2017 MAN may have to significantly reduce its activities. We understand that the Government faces financial pressures and must prioritise. However, we believe that the dramatic reduction in our grant-in-aid is unfortunate for three reasons.

## Three Reasons Why the Grant-in-Aid to MAN is Necessary

**1. Delivery.** MAN has an impressive record of delivery on the activities that it has undertaken and has put together and trained a skilled and dedicated team.

**2. Demand.** MAN faces a tremendous demand from the regions for assistance. The demand reflects the confidence member museums have in our support services and the growing importance of new types of Namibian museums as educational resources and for national-building as well as their traditional role as 'tourist traps'. Our mandate as reaffirmed in the, recently validated, National Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy is to support regional museum development. We need to be able to maintain our current staffing levels and resources to meet this demand and fulfil our mandate.

**3. Value for Money.** The fact that MAN is an NGO means that the team is able to bring funding into the sector from external donors. MAN has raised at least one dollar for every dollar that it has received from the Government and this has significantly increased the impact of Government funding to MAN. Recent funding partners have included: UNESCO, UNDP, UN-Habitat, ILO, Embassy of Finland, British High Commission, American Embassy, Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.

*The format for MAN's Annual Report for 2015-2016 is based on a, generally, chronological summary of our activities.*

# VISIT TO KEETMANSHOOP AND LÜDERITZ

29th March – 2nd April, 2015

A MAN team consisting of Dr Jeremy Silvester, Ms Ndapewoshali Ashipala (Human Resources and Administration Officer) and Ms Charmaine Tjizezenga (Project Officer: Exhibition Development) visited the National Maritime Museum (on the invitation of Mr Angel Tordesillas). The trip was combined with a visit to Keetmanshoop Museum as part of the 'Exhibition Development' project.

- Keetmanshoop Museum. At the Keetmanshoop Museum, the team facilitated a planning meeting on 30th March, 2015 with the Municipality. Discussion included possible solutions to a disputes regarding the ownership of the museum building. They also advised the museum curator on best possible display techniques and the proposal for the revision of the Nama Culture Exhibition at the museum. The team spent a day measuring the museum and photographing objects to facilitate an Exhibition Evaluation Report.

- Lüderitz. The National Maritime Museum at Lüderitz is currently under construction. A section of the Old Power Station is being converted into a four –storey National Maritime Museum. The MAN team were given a tour of the construction site and viewed the storage facilities with the collection of the museum. Dr Silvester met with Mr Tordesillas and Mr Fluksman Samuel and advised on the need for improved fire preventative measures in the storage area, on 1st - 2nd April, 2015.

- Aus POW Camp. The team also used the opportunity when driving from Keetmanshoop to Lüderitz to visit the remains of the graveyards at Aus and Lüderitz to obtain photographs for the 'Changing History' mobile exhibition.

A full report on the visit was submitted to MAN's Executive Committee and is available for consultation by members on MAN's web site.





# NATIONAL ARTS & CULTURE POLICY CONFERENCE

13th-17th April, 2015

The Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture organised a Conference that was aimed to review and revise the outdated Arts and Culture policy of 2001. The conference was held on the 13th – 17th April 2015. MAN contributed by writing a document on the inclusion of the Museums sector, which seemed to be not well defined. [Note: All the recommendations made by MAN have now been incorporated into the new Policy Document. A summary of the main points made by MAN was provided to members in Museum Matters No. 27]

Dr Silvester was requested to Chair one session of the Conference on the importance of museums and heritage sites as 'spaces of dialogue'. Dr Silvester was also requested to make a presentation about the challenges of digitalisation for Namibian museums and archives. MAN was requested, at short notice, to invite regional museum representatives to the Conference. The MAN delegation consisted of Dr. Jeremy Silvester, Mrs Hilma Kapuka, Ms Albertina Nekongo, Ms Lucia Hafeni, Mrs Helvi Mbualala, Ms Saara Ilovu, and Florence Kauxas. MAN also facilitated the payment of expenses that enabled 14 Culture Officers from the regions to participate in the Conference.



# RESTORATION OF HISTORICAL STEAM TRAIN AT ARANDIS

18th May, 2015

International Museum Day (18th May every year) was commemorated at Arandis for 2015. The Namibian Institute for Mining and Technology provided a complete restoration to the old steam train and carriages that had been parked next to the National Museum of Namibia in Windhoek. Members of the Museums Association of Namibia travelling to the coast for the AGM were invited to attend the unveiling of the completed work. The event was attended by around 500 NIMT students and guests. Dr Jeremy Silvester from MAN was invited to be the keynote speaker at the unveiling. He spoke about the importance of the conservation of historical artifacts, but also of 'object biographies' ie. One of the men who had driven the train was at the launch and was able to share his memories.

## 25TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & CONFERENCE, SWAKOPMUND

19th-20th May, 2015

The Museums Association of Namibia had its AGM and Conference marking its 25th Anniversary on 19th-20th May, 2015. Papers addressed at the AGM, focused on the theme 'Museums for a Sustainable Society' which was ICOM's theme for International Museum Day on 18th May. The keynote address was given by Ms Rooksanah Omar (Chief Executive Officer of IZIKO Museums and President of Commonwealth Association of Museums). A speech by the new Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Hon. Katrina Hanse-Himarwa was read on her behalf by the Director of Life Long Learning for the Erongo Region, Mr Manga. The Conference was also attended by Ms Catherine Snel, the President of the South African Museums Association. The AGM re-elected Ms Stella Imalwa and elected Ms Desiree Nanuses to serve a three year term on the Executive Committee.



# AWARD OF CERTIFICATES IN MUSEUM STUDIES BY THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

19th May, 2015

The President of the Commonwealth Association of Namibia, Ms Rooksanah Omar attended the 25th Anniversary AGM awarded certificates to 12 Namibian museum curators who had been sponsored by the Museums Association of Namibia to study the one year Certificate in Museum Studies. The successful students were: Ms. Golda !Ha-Eiros (National Art Gallery of Namibia), Ms. Luness Mpumwa (National Art Gallery of Namibia), Mr. Gebhard Shiimbi (Ombalantu Baobab Tree Heritage Centre), Ms. Inga Nyau (Teacher), Ms. Revekka Haufiku (former MAN Intern), Mr. Edward Mukoya (Tumahuke Cultural Village), Ms. Naiti Iizyenda (Museums Association of Namibia), Ms. Magdalena Kanaante (Nakambale Museum), Ms. Olivia Nakale (former MAN Intern), Ms. Valerie Kleintjie (Keetmanshoop Museum), Ms. Helvi Mbwalala (Kavango Museum), Ms. Lucia Hafeni (Onandjokwe Medical Museum). We would also like to specially congratulate Ms Revekka Haufiku, who upon the successful completion of the CAM course obtained a bursary to travel to Cape Town to successfully complete the one year Postgraduate Diploma in Museum and Heritage Studies at the University of the Western Cape.





# LAUNCH OF 'MUSEUM MONEY MATTERS'

19th May, 2015

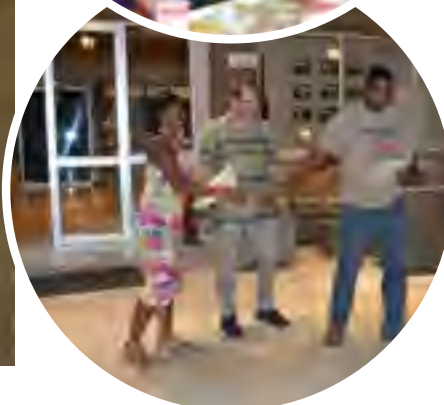
One of the biggest challenges facing all our museums is financial sustainability. Income generation to supplement entrance fees are crucial to the survival of many museums, but there is also a need for improved financial management of the funds that are received. A Handbook on Financial Management for Namibian Museums co-authored by Ms Ndapewoshali Ashipala and Ms Bertha Indongo was completed, printed and launched on 19th May 2015, at MAN's Annual General Meeting in Swakopmund. The book is designed for use by Namibian Museums, particularly community-based museums, to strengthen their financial management. The authors are both MAN staff members. The manuscript was developed from the training workshop held in 2014 and submitted to the printers. A total of 200 copies were printed and distributed for free to all Namibian Museums.



# LAUNCH OF 'MAKING AN IMPACT: EXHIBITION PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR NAMIBIAN MUSEUMS'

19th May, 2015

The Handbook was completed, printed and launched on 19th May, 2015. The Handbook was developed in collaboration with District Six Museum of Cape Town and funded by the Embassy of Finland. The Handbook was developed at the workshop that took place in Tsumeb in February, 2015. The Handbook provides a 'tool kit' to encourage the critical review of existing exhibitions and the development of new exhibitions. Topics covered include image selection and the development of an exhibition storyline and shopping list. The workshop was visited by two representatives from the Embassy of Finland.



# OFFICIAL OPENING OF ONANDJOKWE MEDICINAL GARDEN

13th May, 2015

The landscaped garden, which is an organic exhibition consisting of medicinal plants used in northern Namibia was developed to serve as an educational tool on the history, importance and effectiveness of traditional medicine. The garden was officially launched by the Ambassador of Finland in Namibia, Her Excellency, Anne Saloranta on the 13th May, 2015. The opening was attended by the Chairperson, Mr Aaron Nambadi, who spoke on behalf of MAN and Ms Hilma Kapuka and Ms Charmaine Tjizezenga from the MAN Office.

An initial inspection of the garden, a month before the launch date, had indicated that the garden was not sufficiently awesome. After consultations, the Onandjokwe Medical Museum, therefore, requested that some of its RMD grant money be used to make some features for the garden. A Namibian artist, Alpheus Mvula, was commissioned to make a sculpture of the 'Onandjokwe' bird from which the place obtained its name. Mr Mvula also assisted to decorate the tables and to install an artwork in the garden path.





# EXHIBIT FUNDAMENTALS COURSE

4th April – 17th May, 2015

An online course; Exhibit Fundamentals was completed by Dr. Jeremy Silvester, Mrs Hilma Kapuka, Ms Daphney Eichas (National Museum of Namibia) and Ms Charmine Tjizezenga. The six weeks course is run by the Northern States Conservation Institute, and educates on the principles of exhibition design, planning, and development. The course began on the 4th April, 2015, and ended on the 17th May, 2015. The course involved assignments and online chat sessions which enabled the Namibian participants to engage with museum workers in Hawaii (!) and ask questions. All the Namibian participants successfully completed the course and received certificates. It will significantly enhance our ability to develop existing and new exhibitions for Namibian museums. The training was sponsored by the Embassy of Finland.





# MAN DELEGATION VISITS FINNISH MUSEUMS WITH NAMIBIAN COLLECTIONS

4th April – 17th May, 2015

A MAN team consisting of Dr. Jeremy Silvester, Mrs Magdalena Kaanante, and Ms Charmaine Tjizezenga travelled to Finland (6th-16th June) as part of the Exhibition Development project funded by the Embassy of Finland. The purpose of the trip was to obtain information about Namibian collections in Finnish Museums and explore the possibilities for developing collaborative exhibitions and other forms of partnership.

The team visited the Rautanen Collection and the Kumbukumbu (Finnish Mission Museum) collections held by the Museum of Culture (National Museum of Namibia), the Photograph Archive of the National Board of Antiquities, the Finnish Museums Association, the University of Oulu Museum, the Liljeblad Collection at the University of Oulu, the Northern Ostrobothnia Museum, the Amos Anderson Art Museum, the Namibian Collection in the Parish of Lammi, the Provincial Museum of Western Nyland and the Namibian Embassy to Finland. The team also attended a supper which included former staff members of the Kumbukumbu Museum and Dr Eirola – one of the founders of Nakambale Museum.

Note: Whilst on holiday in Sweden, Dr Silvester was also able to visit and meet with Swedish colleagues and visit the Namibian bird collection at Vanersborg Museum and the Museum of Ethnography in Stockholm. The documentation of Namibian collections held by museums in Europe contributes to the 'Africa Accessioned' project initiated by ICME and the SADC Heritage Association.



# TOURISM EXPO AND ROAD SHOW: COLLABORATION WITH NACSO

10th-13th June, 2015

MAN had an opportunity to market its activities as well as those of its members at the national Tourism Expo and Roadshow; 10th – 13th June 2015, in Windhoek. This year, MAN partnered with a sister Association, the Namibian Association of CBNRM (Community Based Natural Resources Management) Support Organization (NACSO), an umbrella body for conservancies and other community based resources management agencies in Namibia. Some conservancies with cultural and natural heritage resources are interested in developing museums as community-based tourism. The MAN stall was staffed by enthusiastic student volunteers from UNAM History Society and MAN staff. The stall won one of the top 'Gold' awards from the organisers of the Tourism Expo as visitors rated it as one of the most interesting and interactive stalls at the Expo. The opportunity was taken to conduct a survey of the views of tour operators and tourists on the museum sector.



# OFFICIAL OPENING OF USAKOS EXHIBITION

27th June, 2015

A collaborative project between the University of Basel, the University of Namibia and the Museums Association of Namibia resulted in the opening of a significant exhibition at Usakos Town Hall on Saturday, 27th June. MAN supported the exhibition as it fits our philosophy of encouraging community-based exhibition development which will help to highlight the unique history and resources of a community and increase the sense of local 'ownership' of their local museum.

The photograph exhibition features images from the collections of four elderly ladies who lived in the Old Location in Usakos and provides an insight into the social life in the town in the 1960s and before. The exhibition also includes interpretive panels providing an overview of the history of the town and particularly its important role in Namibia's railway industry. Dr Jeremy Silvester was invited to officially open the exhibition which was attended by the Minister of Finance and a number of other dignitaries. Usakos Town Council requested MAN's assistance with the development of new exhibition and the transformation of the old Town Council Offices into a museum when the employees move to new offices in 2016.



# ANNUAL PLANNING WORKSHOP

29th-30th June, 2015

The APW took place at Okapuka Lodge on 29th-30th June, 2015. The minutes of the meeting were circulated to all members of the Executive Committee and formed the basis for the budget (of almost N\$5.5 million) for 2016-2017 that has been submitted to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture.

# USAKOS MUSEUM PLANNING WORKSHOP

1st July, 2015

A Planning Workshop for the development of a new museum took place on Wednesday, 1st July, 2015. The workshop was facilitated by Dr Jeremy Silvester and Dr Martha Akawa (who had been working with the collaborative exhibition development project). The workshop was attended by members of the Usakos Museum Advisory Committee. A workshop report has been produced and circulated to all participants.

# TEACHERS EXHIBITION TRAINING WORKSHOP

7th July, 2015

The Workshop took place on 7th July, 2015 at Arrebusch Lodge in Windhoek. Teachers from all eighteen schools participating in SCAMX 2015 attended the workshop and received copies of the Making an Impact Handbook. The teachers requested that the displays should be anonymous for the initial round of judging. Teachers received training on research and exhibition design and individual meetings were held with each teacher to discuss the research topic chosen by their History Club and the challenges they faced.



# ARTS SECTOR SYMPOSIUM

13th-14th July, 2015

The symposium was facilitated by the John Muafangejo Arts Centre and brought together workers from art galleries and training institutions. The workshop ran from Monday, 13th July – Wednesday, 15th July, 2015. The workshop was attended by Ms Hilma Kapuka and Dr Jeremy Silvester from the MAN Office. It provided an opportunity to network with the art sector and discuss potential collaboration. The workshop was led by two facilitators from South Africa (including Mike de Graaf, who has drafted the new National Arts and Culture Policy for Namibia) and the Chief Curator of the National Art Gallery of Zimbabwe.

## HISTORY SECTION STAKEHOLDERS MEETING, UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

16th July, 2015

The stakeholders meeting took place on Thursday, 16th July, 2015. The meeting included a presentation from Mr von Harte from NAMCOL who tabled the new history curriculum for Grades 8 and 9. Discussions took place about the way in which postgraduate students might work on research projects with the Museums Association of Namibia and the possibility of museum internships. A review was also held of the new Postgraduate Diploma in Heritage Conservation and Management to suggest improvements that might be made. It was agreed that Dr Silvester of MAN would be invited to teach the course on Exhibition Planning and Design on the Postgraduate Diploma.



# 'CHANGING HISTORY' OFFICIAL LAUNCH AND WINDHOEK LAUNCH

9th July & 30th July, 2015

The British High Commission sponsored the design of a mobile exhibition called 'Changing History: World War One & Namibia' as part of the global commemoration of the centenary of the First World War. The exhibition was symbolically launched at Khorab (near the site of the German surrender) on 9th July – exactly 100 years after the surrender of German forces in Namibia. Representatives of both the British and German Governments attended the event and, symbolically, shook hands at the site of the end of the war in Namibia. The exhibition was mounted outside by members of UNAM History Society who also set up lighting and visited local schools and heritage sites. The event was also attended by the Mayor of Otavi who welcomed the participants.

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany then sponsored a Windhoek launch of the exhibition. This took place at a packed event at the Namibia Scientific Society on Thursday, 30th July, 2015. MAN added an additional display board with a quiz for visitors. The exhibition was complimented by photographs from Swakopmund Scientific Society and a book display. The launch was sponsored by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. Speakers included the British High Commissioner, H.E. Young, Mr Kinne from the German Embassy and Mr Nambadi (speaking on behalf of MAN). The launch was extremely well intended by diplomats, local history teachers and students from UNAM History Society.



# PREPARATORY VISIT TO TSUMEB AND GROOTFONTEIN

4th-7th August, 2015

A team from MAN visited Tsumeb to evaluate the accommodation and preparations for SCAMX 2015. Ms Ashipala and Dr Silvester met with the Mayor of Tsumeb and inspected the venues for the exhibition and the prize-giving ceremony. The team also set up a performance evening at the APC. The team also met Dundee (who run the mine at Tsumeb to discuss possible sponsorship of t-shirts for the competition). The team did checks on all the accommodation establishments that had been booked and recommended that the booking at Sindano Court be cancelled and that Copper B&B should be used instead. The team then travelled to Grootfontein to evaluate accommodation options there and to visit the Grootfontein Museum. A report on the trip was produced and circulated to the Executive Committee.

## SCHOOL CULTURE CLUBS FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING WORKSHOP

3rd-7th August, 2015

MAN was requested, at short notice, to attend a planning workshop with Culture Officers in Mariental on Monday, 3rd – Friday, 7th August. Ms Hilma Kapuka and Ms Bertha Indongo attended on behalf of MAN. It was agreed that one section of the clubs would be 'Orature and History Societies', whilst others would cover 'Crafts and Collecting', 'Performing Arts' and 'Environment'. Ms Kapuka and Ms Indongo were appointed to serve on a working group to develop an activity handbook for Orature and History Societies. MAN has already provided the Ministry with copies of its model constitution for school history clubs and guide to possible activities for clubs. The possibility of MAN's school competition (which will be in its 10th year in 2016) might be funded from the SCCD budget.



# SCHOOL CLUBS AND EXHIBITIONS COMPETITION (SCAMX)

10th-11th September, 2015

A total of 18 school History Clubs participated in the school competition on 10th-11 September, 2015. The schools put up their displays in the community hall in Nomtsoub. The theme of the competition for 2015 was 'Forgotten Heroes' with the History Clubs being asked to identify and research somebody from their community who they felt had made a contribution to the development of the region, but was not yet well known. All participating History clubs received books bags sponsored by the Namibia Scientific Society, UNAM Press, School Library Service of the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and Ndaponah Shikangalah. The Minen Hotel in Tsumeb also assisted by providing subsidised accommodation.

Third place went to Negumbo Secondary School from Omusati Region who won rucksacks with promotional materials for museums. Second place went to Delta Secondary School who won an environmental education weekend sponsored by the Cheetah Conservation Fund. The winning school was Fridrich Awaseb Secondary School from Otjozondjupa Region and as a prize they will participate in the Spring School sponsored by Robben Island Museum in South Africa in October. As the winning school was from Otjozondjupa it is planned that the 10th edition of the School Clubs and Exhibition Competition will take place in Grootfontein in 2016, conditional on funding being available.





# SUPPORT FOR HERITAGE WEEK ACTIVITIES (2015) IN THE REGIONS

22nd-28th September, 2015

The Museums Association of Namibia provided ten small grants to support museums and associate members organising activities to take place during heritage week. Events included an activity day for schools in Otjiwarongo organised by the Cheetah Conservation Fund, a programme of events at the UNAM campus in Rundu organised by UNAM History Society, story-telling and cultural performances at Onandjokwe Medical Museum and cultural performances and activities organised by Keetmanshoop Museum with four local schools.



# PUBLICATION OF A REPORT: MUSEUM COLLECTIONS MAKE CONNECTIONS: NAMIBIA AND FINLAND

September, 2015

The Museums Association of Namibia published and distributed 100 copies of a report on the visit that a MAN delegation made to Finland in June. The report contains a set of 25 recommendations for potential partnerships between Namibian and Finnish museums. The recommendations include the establishment of an agreement between MAN and its sister organisation, the Finnish Museums Association. The report also highlighted the existence of a fragment of the Ondonga 'Power Stone' and this matter was brought to the attention of the relevant authorities.



# CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

26th September – 2nd October, 2015

Ms Hilma Kapuka (MAN), Ms Naitzikile Izyenda (UNAM PRESS), and Mr Sackaria Siranda (NIED) were invited to attend a Conference on International Holocaust Education organised by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The main aim of the conference was to explore education as an avenue to address and prevent genocide worldwide.

The team obtained support for the a workshop with NIED on the use of MAN's mobile exhibition on The Holocaust and the development of MAN's mobile exhibition on the Namibian Genocide. Ms Kapuka also visited some museums in Washington D.C. and our sister organisation, the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) to get ideas on improving Namibian museums and explore possible future collaborations.

## 'BLACK AND WHITE' EXHIBITION AT NAKAMBALE

8th October, 2015

The 'Black and White' photograph exhibition was installed as a new permanent exhibition at Nakambale Museum by a team consisting of Ms Hilma Kapuka, Dr Jeremy Silvester and Ms Helvi Elago (a volunteer). The installation took place on 13th-16th September, 2015. As Nakambale Museum is a national heritage site and frames could not be hung on the walls, a framework of scaffolding (and hessian cloth to create internal walls) was constructed. The exhibition features 32 photographs of northern Namibia taken by the early Finnish Missionaries that came to the area. The exhibition was officially launched on the 8th October 2015, by his Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba with the Chairperson, Mr Aaron Nambadi speaking on behalf of MAN. Ms Kapuka and Ms Tjizezenga also attended the launch.





# INTERNS WORK ON MUSEUMS AND TOURISM PROJECT

October, 2015

Three interns from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) were tasked to help MAN design a strategic marketing plan, focusing on international tourists. The Interns completed the first phase by conducting a survey to find out which tour operators currently visit historical sites or museums. A questionnaire was then sent to about thirty tour operators, with the main objective of finding out on how to improve Namibian museums. A couple of surprising points that emerged were that a significant number of tourism companies are focusing solely on hunting, and that the NTB list of tour companies needed updating as a number of companies listed were no longer operating. Identifying tour companies with a particular interest in cultural tourism and mapping the routes followed by these companies will enable us to provide considerable assistance to increase the effectiveness of the marketing of our regional museums

## PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTION OF MUSEUM MATTERS NO. 27 & 28

May and December, 2015

As MAN's newsletter, Museum Matters, is a major marketing tool for MAN and produced two editions (27 and 28). The 27th edition marked the 25th Anniversary of MAN, the Namibian museum sector and thus additional print was made of this edition (300 copies in all). In order to raise MAN's profile at national level copies of the newsletter were distributed to every member of the Namibian Parliament





# STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP ON A GROWTH STRATEGY FOR THE HANDICRAFTS INDUSTRY

26th-27th October, 2015

Dr Silvester and Ms Ashipala attended a workshop organised to present a growth strategy for Namibian handicrafts which had been developed by South African consultants working for the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The Namibian participants did not feel that the strategy presented would work well in Namibia and expressed concern that there had been a lack of consultation with those working in the crafts sector.

## EMBASSY OF FINLAND ROUND TABLE

27th-28th October, 2015

The annual 'Round Table' meeting between the Embassy of Finland and local partners took place on 26th-27th October, 2015. The meeting took the form of a workshop on good governance and financial management for NGOs. The workshop was attended by Dr Silvester, Ms Lindongo and Ms Tjizezenga.

## CHANGING HISTORY EXHIBITION TRAVELS TO !KARAS REGION

17th-19th November, 2015

The German embassy provided funding to enable the Changing History: World War I and Namibia to travel to Keetmanshoop Museum. The target group was school going youth. Two members of the UNAM History Society built the exhibition and acted as tour guides for groups from four primary and six secondary schools from !Karas region



# CONSULTATIVE MEETING FOR KHOMAS REGION ON DRAFT NATIONAL ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE POLICY

19th November, 2015

Ms Ashipala represented MAN at a consultative meeting held at the National Theatre of Namibia to review the new draft National Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy. MAN had made a submission expressing its concern about the very limited references to the museum sector in the initial draft. Ms Ashipala reported that all MAN's recommendations had been included in the revised draft of the policy.

# MAN STALL AT CONFERENCE OF UNESCO CONVENTION ON INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

29th November – 4th December, 2015



The Museums Association of Namibia, led by the Finance Officer, Ms Bertha Indongo worked with a team of student interns to market MAN at the meeting of the State Parties on the Committee for the implementation of the 2003 UNESCO Convention at Windhoek Country Club from 29th November – 4th December, 2015. The stall encouraged visitors to exchange greetings in local languages, play Owela and learn about the diversity of museums in Namibia. MAN was encouraged to apply to be recognised as an NGO involved in the safeguarding of ICH.

# EXHIBITION PLANNING AND DESIGN WORKSHOP

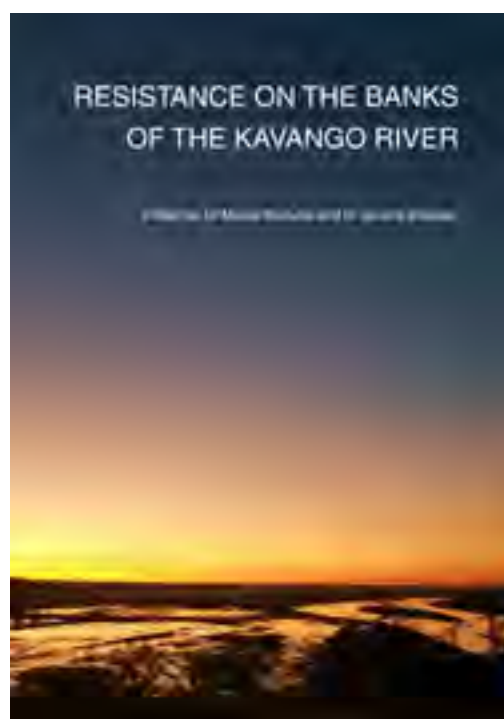
23rd November – 3rd December, 2015



The Museums Association of Namibia organised and facilitated a 10 day exhibition design and planning session between 23rd November and 3rd December 2015 at Midgard Country Estate. The session focused on practical exhibition development of four mobile exhibitions: Namibian genocide, Baobab, traditional medicine, Nama culture. The first week was focused on working on exhibition content, whilst, in the final week, exhibition-makers worked with graphic designers to develop a design concept for each exhibition. The workshop was visited by a delegation from the Embassy of Finland (who funded the training workshop) including the Finnish delegates to the Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage. A full report on the Workshop and Conference was submitted and is available from MAN's web site.

## COMPLETION OF MANUSCRIPT 'RESISTANCE ON THE BANKS OF THE KAVANGO

A manuscript with ten chapters edited by Dr Jeremy Silvester (Project Development Manager) and Dr Marius Kudumo (Namibian University of Science and Technology) was completed. MAN obtained 'InDesign' software and Ms Ndapewoshali Ashipala has been learning to use it. MAN is, therefore, aiming to design the whole manuscript 'in house'. The graphic design skills will also enable MAN to design exhibitions themselves without having to 'outsource' this to graphic designers – and will thus be able to significantly lower costs. The publication will be linked to the launch of a new exhibition at the Kavango Museum at the Maria Mwingere Cultural Centre and it is hoped that this will provide an opportunity to stimulate the development of the museum.



# FUND-RAISING SUBMISSIONS

MAN has, over the last three years experienced a dramatic reduction in the size of our grant-in-aid from Government. In the 2015-2016 financial year a budget of over N\$5 million was submitted, but only N\$1 million received. The Executive Committee, therefore, decided that priority and time should be given to the submission of funding applications in order to strive to maintain our activities. Six small project applications were submitted to Turkey, UNESCO (2), America, Germany and the Ministry of Veterans Affairs.

## RMD GRANTS AWARDED

5th February, 2016

Due to the decrease in funding the number of regional museum development grants available for the 2015-2016 financial year was reduced from eight to three. A total of 10 applications were considered and so, unfortunately, the majority of applications could not be supported. The RMD Grant Sub-Committee met on 13th January, 2016 and its recommendations were approved by MAN's Executive Committee at its meeting on 5th February, 2016.

The successful applicants were the Earth Science Museum which received funding to create new models for the museum consisting of a replica of a palaeontological excavation and an earthquake simulation. Eduventures received a grant to purchase equipment for the mobile museum laboratory that is taking science to rural areas. Finally, a grant was awarded to an associate member, Usakos Museum, to develop materials with the aim that a new museum can be launched at the end of 2016 or early in 2017. Due to the reduction in funding no 'Signing Ceremony' was held this year, but it is hoped that photographs can be sent to the press as activities take place to obtain publicity.

## ERECTION OF ROAD SIGNS IN OUTAPI

After significant delays with the manufacturers new road signs were delivered to help direct visitors to Ombalantu Baobab Tree Heritage Centre and Outapi War Museum. The sites where the signs will be erected have to be approved by Outapi Town Council.



# PLANNING MEETING FOR NAMIBIAN HERITAGE WEEK 2016

27th January, 2016

The Namibian Heritage Week Team met for the first time on Wednesday, 27th January. The dates of Namibian Heritage Week (2016) were set for 19th-24th September, 2016 with a focus on intangible cultural heritage. Ms Ashipala represents MAN on the Heritage Week Team which has been meeting regularly. MAN informed its members that it would not be able to provide small grants for regional activities at museums for Heritage Week 2016. However, MAN has designed a poster that can be distributed to encourage nationwide participation.

## MEETING WITH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF USAKOS TOWN COUNCIL

20th January, 2016

Dr Jeremy Silvester met with the Management Committee of Usakos Town Council on 20th January, 2016. The Council confirmed its commitment to the establishment of a new museum in the town and to the appointment of a curator. The museum will be in the historical offices of the Town Council after their new offices are completed.

## PLANNING MEETING FOR THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

25th January, 2016

The PDHMC at the University of Namibia will run for a second year. MAN has been part of the team planning the diploma which is aimed at developing the capacity of Namibians working in the museum and heritage sector. A total of 12 students are enrolled this year and it is hoped that they can be directed towards research projects (as part of their course) that will assist museums and heritage sites. Dr Silvester will supervise some of the research papers and teach on courses on Curatorship and Exhibition Planning and Design. Students will be encouraged to choose research topics that will support the development of the museum and heritage sector in Namibia.

# INTERNSHIPS

In service training is an effective way of offering students job and career development options that benefit both the student and the organisation. The Museums Association of Namibia 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. Over the course of this financial year, MAN has had twelve (12) interns in total, all based at the MAN office. The length of the internships varied between 3 and 6 months.

Two of the students were studying towards a Bachelor of Arts in Visual Culture, Museum Studies and Creative Expression at the University of Namibia. Three were studying towards a Bachelor of Tourism Management at the Namibian University of Science and Technology.

Similarly, three students were studying towards a Bachelor of Arts in Tourism Management at the University of Namibia. A UNAM History student finished a shorter internship at the end of February.

At the start of 2016, two history graduates who volunteered to work for MAN to gain work experience. Mr Haitula worked on the Omukwa launch whilst the Exhibition Development Officer, Ms Tjizezenga, was on study leave. Ms Winnie Kanyimba is working with the Exhibition Development Officer to develop the Kavango history exhibition.

Currently, there are two interns namely Ms Kanyimba and Mr Bradford Morbeck who is a second year History and Anthropology student at Haverford College in the USA.



# '1884 TO 1915: AN ARTISTIC POSITION' EXHIBITION LAUNCH

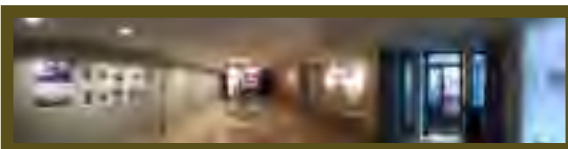
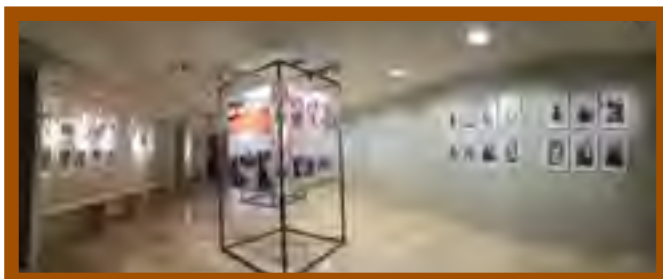
4th February, 2016

Ms Hilma Kapuka, Project Officer: Museum Development spoke at the launch of a new exhibition at the National Art Gallery of Namibia - '1884 to 1915: An Artistic Position' She emphasised the importance of involving Namibian artists in new museum exhibition development and introduced a new mobile exhibition being developed by MAN.

## LAUNCH OF MOBILE VERSION OF 'USAKOS' EXHIBITION AT DISTRICT SIX MUSEUM

16th February, 2016

A mobile version of the Usakos exhibition was launched at District Six Museum in Cape Town on 16th February, 2016 as part of the Cape Town Arts Week. Mr Goodman Gwasira, a member of MAN's Executive Committee, spoke at the launch. Ms Bernadette Hunkeler Brown, the Swiss Consul-General also spoke. Mr Omar Badsha, the famous South African documentary photographer, launched the exhibition whose full title is: Usakos - Photographs Beyond Ruins: The Old Location Albums, 1920s-1960s Dr Silvester was invited to participate in a panel discussion on 20th February (with all expenses covered by District Six Museum). The exhibition drew praise for highlighting the issues of urban apartheid, identity and social life in small towns. The exhibition is booked to travel to a number of venues in South Africa before being donated to the Museums Association of Namibia to supplement the new museum being opened in Usakos.





# TRAINING ON NAHRIS HERITAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

22nd-25th February, 2016

Ms Nehoa Kapuka, Dr Jeremy Silvester and two interns (Ms Kanyimba and Ms Ephraim) received training through the National Heritage Council. The NAHRIS system will enable objects held by museums to be listed on a national inventory. MAN staff will be able to train the curators of member museums to use the new internet-based system.

## LAUNCH OF MOBILE EXHIBITION - OMUKWA: AFRICA'S TREE OF LIFE

26th February, 2016

A new 12 panel mobile exhibition about Baobab Trees was launched by Hon. Anna Shiweda, the Deputy-Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry at the University of Namibia. The exhibition focused on the historical fortress baobabs of Ombalantu and plans to create a permanent museum at the site. The exhibition is linked to a campaign to combat deforestation and a new copse of trees were planted on campus as part of the launch. The exhibition is currently on show in the foyer of the UNAM library and will move to Otjomuise Secondary School after the new school is officially launched. Ms Ashipala and Mr Haitula appeared on Good Morning Namibia on Monday, 29th February to talk about the exhibition and MAN's work in general.





# SCHOOL CULTURE CLUBS FOR DEVELOPMENT

29th February – 4th March, 2016

Ms Kapuka and Ms Kanyimba attended a meeting with Culture Officers from the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture that took place in Rundu from 29th February to 4th March. The clubs were an activity within the Ministry's Strategic Plan for 2013-2017. It is proposed that schools should have one School Culture Clubs for Development, under which four societies affiliate: 1) Environmental; 2) History and Orature; 3) Craft and Culture Collections and 4) Cultural Performances. It is hoped that MAN's School Clubs and Museums Exhibition (SCAMX) Competition will be included in the annual budget for School Culture Clubs.

## AGREEMENT WITH THE EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

16th March, 2016

The Chairperson of the Museums Association of Namibia signed an agreement with the German Ambassador at the Embassy on Wednesday, 16th March 2016. The agreement provides funding to enable the 'Changing History' exhibition to travel to four regions. The venues will be Swakopmund and Gobabis in June and Tsumeb and Ondangwa in September, 2016. The funding covered the cost of printing an additional 40 copies of the 'Teachers' Handbook produced to accompany the exhibition and for two history students to travel with the exhibition and act as tour guides. The exhibition will be mounted for three days in each venue and the students will make appointments for teachers to visit the exhibition with groups of learners.

