

# MUSEUM MATTERS

May 2010



No. 18

N\$20.00



THE CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT (APRIL 2009 - MARCH 2010)



## Membership Form

Please indicate the category of membership that you wish to apply for: (Mark with an X)

Please note: Annual membership of MAN runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Individual	N\$60.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Associate	N\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Membership fees may be paid in cash, by cheque or postal order. Cheques should be made out to the "Museums Association of Namibia" and posted to P.O.Box 147, Windhoek. If you require any further information please contact our Finance Officer, Ms. Elise van Westhuizen on 0812750678

Please note our new email address: [museums@iway.na](mailto:museums@iway.na)

**Cover Photograph:** A detail of the mural on the wall outside the Military Museum in Okahandja.

Note: All photography by Jeremy Silvester unless otherwise indicated.



### MAN Joins Team Namibia

The Museums Association of Namibia is pleased to announce that it has been accepted as a member of Team Namibia. We believe that our cultural heritage as displayed in our museums and heritage plays a vital role in creating our unique Namibian identity and can play a major role in marketing Namibian products and places. We also believe that being members of Team Namibia will help us to link MAN more effectively with the corporate network.



# *The Chairperson's Annual Report*

*April 2009 - March 2010*



*Ms. Stella Imalwa*

The Annual General Meeting of the Museums Association of Namibia (MAN) held at the Auditorium of the Omusati Regional Council in Outapi on 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Association. I think we should be very proud of our members and our organisation for having sustained itself and grown so

far over the last two decades. An interview with one of our founding members, Mr Gunter von Schumann, in this newsletter provides a more detailed overview of the progress that MAN has made over the years, but I would like to acknowledge the fact that our capacity has been dramatically increased in recent years due to the annual grant-in-aid that we have received from the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture. We now have the resources to provide real support to our enthusiastic and committed members.

The past year has seen an explosion of interest in cultural heritage at both the community level and from national and international stakeholders. The importance of museums and heritage sites as educational resources and their potential

role in promoting cultural tourism, local economic development and poverty alleviation has clearly been recognised. However, new opportunities also present new challenges. One of the major ones that MAN is aware of is the challenge of co-ordinating the different initiatives that are being taken by different stakeholders in order to maximise the use of our limited resources, build partnerships and co-ordinate regional development. It is for this reason that MAN has decided to host a 'Heritage Forum' within the framework of our AGM and to mark our twentieth anniversary. We hope that the forum will provide an opportunity for our members to learn more about the roles, activities and plans of different national stakeholders involved in the heritage sector. MAN has, recently, also joined 'Team Na-



*Building Crossborder Partnerships Workshop participants 22-23 November 2009*

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mibia' and we believe that the successful transformation and development of the heritage sector will only be possible if, indeed, we work as a team!

The task of the Annual Report is to summarise MAN's achievements and the challenges that it has faced during the last financial year and, once again, we have used Museum Matters as a platform for the annual report. However, I would like to highlight a couple of MAN's major achievements over the last twelve months (more detailed accounts of each activity can be found in either this edition of the newsletter or in Museum Matters 17).

Capacity-building within the organisation has been one of the major achievements of the past year. After the establishment of the new category of 'Associate Membership' at last year's AGM for new museum projects we have faced growing requests for help from new projects and have tried to improve our ability to meet these demands. We employed our first full-time staff member, Ms Naitsikile lizyenda, and she has done a great job in setting up an efficient system for managing the many different projects that MAN is involved with.

We have also acquired a new desktop computer so that we now have two workstations and a router to enable the internet to be accessed from laptop

computers operating at the office. The office has a new set of shelves which have enabled us to provide a complete set of all the reports produced by MAN over the years and which are available for members to consult. We have also obtained a new faster printer to help us to produce copies of the many reports that we are asked to produce and which can also create double-sided printing, thus helping us to economise on the use of paper.

One of the most significant developments in the heritage sector this year has been the implementation of the MDGF Programme on Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Namibia funded by the Namibian and Spanish Governments. MAN has been asked to undertake a number of activities within the programme which will help to increase our knowledge of Namibia's cultural heritage assets. The training with the MD-System will help us to document artifacts in museum collections throughout the country, whilst the continuation of the Heritage Hunt (in partnership with the National Heritage Council) will help us to map places of importance to communities across Namibia.

Our involvement in the 'Heritage Into Education/Education into Heritage' Report and recommendations will allow MAN to take forward its advocacy

work and develop stronger working relationships with colleagues in the education sector. MAN will also be involved in helping to develop awareness materials to encourage local communities to protect and preserve tangible and intangible heritage.

MAN is also working with the ILO to develop an overview of the supply and demand for cultural tourism in Namibia. The report is ongoing and will provide an opportunity to document the different cultural heritage assets in each region which will provide a useful planning tool. Communication has also been opened up with the tourism industry and the Namibia Tourism Board regarding the demand for cultural heritage products amongst tourists visiting Namibia and the way in which these attractions and destinations might be better highlighted within the marketing of Namibia as a tourist destination.

Finally, subsequent to MAN hosting the Southern Africa Regional Museum Planning Workshop in November 2009, there was a general consensus on the need for building cross-border Museum Partnership across SADC. It is against this background that a four person working group was established to work on the revitalisation of SADCACCAM and set up concrete and achievable goals for such an organisation. At the

moment consultation is ongoing so as heritage workers can create not an aimless bureaucracy, but rather a goals-oriented organisation that facilitates cross-border partnerships in the museum and heritage sector in our respective countries in Southern Africa.

I only hope we can keep this momentum going so as to create a common approach to structures, challenges and possibilities of the museum sector in SADC.

All of these activities will compliment MAN's role of supporting museum development in Namibia and help ensure that the museum and heritage sector plays a leading role in the development of Southern Africa over the next twenty years!

## Colonial Monuments in a Post-colonial Era

*Helvi Elago*

When there is any change of regime after a violent conflict



*The Reiter Statue carefully wrapped before its move*

*Photo: Mr Harald Koch*

the new government is faced with basic decisions concern-

ing the past. It must decide what to do with the visual legacy of the past, the public history - the monuments, memorials and other symbols of the former rulers. In the light of this, whatever decisions the government make will be viewed as reflecting their view of the past and their view regarding reconciliation with their former enemies.



*The Reiter in his new location looks across at the construction work on the new independence Museum.*



In Namibia there has been little removal or destruction of the inherited landmarks of the colonial past. Instead the Government has created new sites to complement the existing heritage landscape; with new public sites (such as Heroes Acre outside Windhoek) commemorating previously ignored events and personalities. One exception is the Equestrian Monument that used to stand next to the Alte Feste in Windhoek, and which has recently and significantly been moved - rather, than removed.

The aim of the relocation is to create a space for a new 'Independence Memorial Museum' that will educate people about the history of Namibia's liberation struggle. The relocation of the monument took place in July 2009 and has raised several questions such as whether the move has changed the meaning of the monument.

The monument had stood at the same site for 97 years; it was erected in 1911 and inaugurated on Kaiser Wilhelm's birthday in 1912 to commemorate Germany's military and civilian casualties who died during battles against local forces (particularly those of the Ova-Herero and Nama) during the period 1903-1907. The 'Reiter' monument has been used as an icon, frequently featuring on postcards and in tourist publications and served for many years, before independence,



*Mr. Guntenaar training Ms. Mostert, the curator of Walvis Bay Museum and Ms. Mupetami, a MAN intern on the MD System*

as the symbol for local beer.

Interviews that I conducted show that the statue is prominent in local peoples' mental picture of Windhoek. The statue is now situated in front of the National Museum of Namibia about 50 metres from its former home.

## Documenting Tangible Heritage Workshop

The Museums Association of Namibia was tasked by the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture, through the MDG-F Programme for Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Namibia, to provide training in the documentation of museum artefacts. We organised a two day training workshop for museum curators to use the MD-System for computerised cataloguing of museum objects. The workshop took

place on 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 at the Computer Laboratory of the Polytechnic of Namibia in Windhoek and was facilitated by Mr Floris Guntenaar. A total of 18 people participated in the workshop.

After the workshop Mr Guntenaar and the Project Planning and Training Officer spent a fortnight visiting seventeen museums to check that the software worked with the computers available in each museum and to provide further training to the curators. A further nine museum staff were shown how to operate the system. The museums and related organisations that benefited from the training and consultations were: Arts Association of Namibia, City of Windhoek Museum, Geological Survey Museum, Gobabis Museum, Grootfontein (Alte Fort) Museum, Keetmanshoop Museum,

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Kristal Gallerie, Military Museum, Museums Association of Namibia, National Archives of Namibia, National Art Gallery of Namibia, National Museum of Namibia (Archaeology, Entomology and History Departments), Swakopmund Museum (and Sam Cohen Library) TransNamib Museum, Tsumeb Cultural Village, Tsumeb Museum, Uukwaluudhi Royal Palace and the Walvis Bay Museum.

A further feature of the workshop was that a number of student interns were trained to operate the MD-System and MAN plans to place them in museums as short-term interns in the next phase of the programme (once funding is received). The interns will provide support and training to museums with significant collections of artefacts that were not able to attend the workshop and assist curators who have already started to create a computerised catalogue of their collections. One of the major advantages of the MD-System is that it can be linked to the internet to enable all the museums in Namibia to share information and to, ultimately, create a national inventory of the heritage objects held in museums across the country.

### **'Building Cross-Border Museum Partnerships' Workshop**

The museum sector in Southern Africa has shared concerns and

overlapping collections that transcend national boundaries. However, we have had limited success in developing partnerships between museums in different countries in the region that might help us address our training needs, increase our knowledge of our overlapping collection or develop trans-border exhibitions that might help build greater public awareness of Southern Africa's entwined history and culture.

One of the greatest challenges to building a functional co-operative network has been the difficulty of meeting colleagues from neighbouring countries within SADC.

In June, 2008 the Chairpersons of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) National Committees of Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe were able to meet during an ICOM Advisory Committee Meeting in Paris.

The major concern that was discussed was the unfulfilled potential to build effective working relationships between institutes in the heritage sector in southern Africa. The ICOM South Africa National Committee subsequently took the initiative to organise a workshop (supported by ICOM) that took place at the National Cultural History Museum in Pretoria, Tshwane, South Africa on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2008.

The workshop enabled ICOM

members to learn about the measures being taken in South Africa to combat the illicit trade in cultural property. However, it also provided an opportunity for the Chairpersons of the ICOM National Committees of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe to meet with the President of the International Council of Museums, Ms Alisandra Cummins.

The meeting emphasised the importance of creating regular opportunities for colleagues within the region to meet and to build a functional regional network of museum and heritage workers to encourage more effective co-operation and collaboration on projects of common interest within the region. The ICOM Namibia National Committee was, subsequently, able to obtain financial support from UNESCO to support a further workshop. The workshop took place in Windhoek on 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 and was facilitated by the Museums Association of Namibia.

The main objectives of the workshop were to provide an opportunity to share information about recent developments in countries neighbouring Namibia, to discuss different areas of museum and heritage work where there is perceived potential for greater cross-border co-operation and to discuss the best strategy for improving communications

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between museum workers in Southern Africa.

As a central focus of the workshop was the discussion about the development of effective structures participants were invited who could provide also provide information on the International Council of African Museums (AFRICOM) and Southern African Development Community Association of Museums and Monuments (SADCAMM) and the relationship between these structures and ICOM. The discussions at the workshop culminated in a set of workshop recommendations and the important decision that participants would actively support the effort to revive SADCAMM.

## Workshop Recommendations

The workshop featured a number of presentations that provided an overview of the structures, challenges and possibilities that are a feature of the museum sector in each of the countries represented. In addition presentations were made about the 1970 UNESCO Convention on Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property and ICOM's Museum Emergency Programme as it was felt that these were two initiatives where a regional approach would be particularly appropriate. A discussion also took place regarding recent developments in the promotion of cultural tourism. The

presentations and discussions formed the basis of a final session which drew up a set of twenty-two workshop recommendations.

### Illicit Trade in Cultural Property

1. Each country in Southern Africa should be requested to create a catalogue of its most valuable artifacts.
2. A guide should be produced summarising the legislation and protocols relating to the illicit trade in cultural property in each country.
3. Regional workshops should be conducted between heritage workers, police and customs officers to review the extent to which the 1970 UNESCO Convention has been effectively implemented.

4. Copies of the UNESCO Handbook: Legal and Practical Measures against Illegal Trafficking in Cultural Property should be distributed to all stakeholders in the heritage sector in southern Africa (2006)

5. The workshop supports Namibia's efforts to ensure the repatriation of the works of John Muafangejo.

### Training & Internships

6. Details of museum training courses available in south-

ern Africa should be collated and circulated to museums in the region.

7. Cross-border internships and staff exchanges should be facilitated between museums with common interests.

8. National directories should be compiled listing the skills of people in the museum sector and forming the basis for a regional list of museums and individuals.

9. Efforts should be made to support the development of specialist training institutes at the regional level.

10. A range of museum training courses at different levels should be developed to serve the region.

### Networking & Regional Co-ordination

11. A mechanism should be established to enable an annual meeting of museum practitioners in southern Africa to take place to consider cross-border projects and regional co-operation in the heritage sector.

12. A Working Group consisting of Ms Winani Kgwatalala, Mr Joseph Muringaniza, Dr Jeremy Silvester and Mr Pascall Taruvinga will review the terms of reference for SADCAMM and circulate these to workshop participants by 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2009. A position paper should



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be drafted for submission to the SADC Secretariat with a proposal for the revival of SADCAMM.

13. A document should be created summarising existing bi-lateral and regional agreements for cultural co-operation.

14. Email group lists should be established to link museum practitioners within the region ie. Geologists, botanists.

15. The meeting calls on UNESCO to support an annual meeting of SADCAMM and the Development of an annual work plan.

### Tourism and Heritage

16. Museums and Heritage Institutions in countries involved in Trans-frontier Conservation Areas should meet to draw up practical proposals for the integration of heritage within this programme

17. On the basis of the different experiences of cultural villages in different countries in southern Africa it is recommended that cultural centres are developed that maximise community involvement and control.

### Cross-border Exhibition Design & Exchange

18. Museums with a shared 'cross-border' interest should

develop proposals for the development of a joint exhibition on that theme.

19. A proposal should be developed for a mobile exhibition showcasing the cultural heritage of the different member states of SADC.

### Repatriation

20. Collections in southern Africa which contain objects from other countries should be identified to facilitate the possibility of knowledge exchange, the repatriation of objects or possibility of shared ownership.

21. Museums should produce a list of any human remains in their collections and their point of origin with the view of the possible return and reburial of the remains.

### Museum Emergency Programme

22. ICOM's Museum Emergency Programme (MEP) should be made available to museum workers in Southern Africa.

### Heritage into Education/ Education into Heritage

The Museums Association of Namibia has been working in partnership with the Namibia Institute for Educational Development (NIED) to conduct a review of the curricula in both schools and institutes of higher

education with the aim of making recommendations about the ways in which heritage can play a greater role. MAN had drawn up a discussion document which will be reviewed by a Working Group that will draw up a set of recommendations. The discussion document has been drafted by our Project Planning and Training Officer, Dr Jeremy Silvester, and Ms. Helvi Elago who recently completed her Postgraduate Diploma in Museum and Heritage Studies. The document argues that in order for heritage to play a more central role in the educational system it is important to develop a dynamic dialogue between educational institutes and the heritage sector.

Many teachers and lecturers are already making use of material that encourages learners and students to appreciate Namibia's rich natural and cultural heritage. However, more could be done to develop the educational potential of museums and heritage sites through the development of educational materials by museums that emphasise the educational lessons that can be drawn from objects in their collections. In other words, the argument is made that the development of a strategy for greater integration of heritage into education should not be limited to those working in the education sector, but should also include curators and heritage practitioners. It is hoped that we will



*Some of the teachers who attended the SCAMX Teachers' Training Workshop at the National Archives of Namibia.*



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be able to include a list of the recommendations of the Working Group in the next edition of Museum Matters. The project is being funded by the MDG-F Programme for Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Namibia.

## Preparing for SCAMX 2010

A one day training workshop was held at the National Archives of Namibia in Windhoek on 29<sup>th</sup> April for teachers from the schools that will be involved in this year's School Clubs and Museums Exhibition (SCAMX 2010) competition. Whilst the competition will be taking part in Lüderitz on 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July, we would like to encourage all our member museums to contact the participating schools from their region to invite them to mount their exhibitions at the museum after the competition as part of Namibian Heritage Week.

Twenty-eight schools have been selected to take part in this year's SCAMX Competition with schools from all thirteen regions of the country being represented (sadly we did not have the resources to include every school that wanted to participate). The school History Clubs have to research and design an exhibition about an aspect of the history of their region. Every History Club whose proposal has been accepted has received a small grant from the Museums Asso-

ciation of Namibia sponsored by the Archives of Anti-Colonial Resistance and the Liberation Struggle (AACRLS) - a project jointly funded by the German and the Namibian Governments. The AACRLS also sponsored the teachers' training workshop. Teachers attending the workshop not only received training in exhibition design, but were also given a guided tour of the Owela Display Centre by Ms Antje Otto of the National Museum of Namibia and the opportunity to view the 'Remember Cassinga' exhibition at the National Archives of Namibia and attend the panel discussion.

Whilst the SCAMX competition is entering its sixth year, Ms. Naitzi lizyenda, the organiser of SCAMX 2010 feels that this year's competition will be the most challenging yet: "Organising the competition in Karas Region presents MAN with particular challenges in terms of transport and accommodation as many of our schools must travel from the far north of Namibia, however one of the primary goals of SCAMX is nation-building and the competition will provide a great opportunity for learners to discover more about the history, culture and warm hospitality of southern Namibia. MAN receives a grant-in-aid from the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture and we are also grateful for the support that the regional offices of

the Ministry of Education have provided to assist with transport arrangements. However, SCAMX 2010 will involve almost 150 people and the challenge of housing and feeding all the participants during the competition is a big one. We are very grateful to Namibia Beverages for coming on board to provide us with some assistance, but we are still seeking other corporate sponsors to help us cover the costs of the competition."

The winners of SCAMX 2010 will be invited to travel to Cape Town in September and to be the only Namibian school taking part in the Spring School organised annually by the Robben Island Museum. The runners-up will win an activity-weekend generously sponsored by the business community of Omaruru. MAN is also grateful to Macmillan Namibia for sponsoring prizes in the competition.

The following schools were selected for 2010: '*Brenden Simbwaye: We Will Never Forget*' (Ngweze Secondary School, Caprivi Region), '*The History of Katima Mulilo*' (Mavuluma Secondary School, Caprivi Region), '*The Liberation Struggle in Walvis Bay*' (Kuseibmond Secondary School, Erongo Region), '*The Hot Springs of Rehoboth*' (Dr Lemmer High School, Hardap Region), '*Ou Lokasie*' (Lüderitz Secondary School, Karas Region), '*Ship-*





A photograph from 2007 of the ruins of the clinic at Cassinga (Photo: Christian Williams)

wreck' (Suiderlig Secondary School, Karas Region), *'Bondelswarts'* (P.K. de Villiers Secondary School, Karas Region), *'The Old Kavango Parliament Building'* (Romanus Kamunoko Senior Secondary School, Kavango Region), *'Christianity and Culture in the Kavango Region'* (Rundu Secondary School, Kavango Region), *'The Role of the Namibian Newspaper in the Liberation Struggle'* (Delta Secondary School, Khomas Region), *'The History of Khorixas'* (Cornelius Goreseb Secondary School, Kunene Region), *'The South African Army In Ohangwena Region, 1970s-1980s'* (Ponhofi Secondary School, Ohangwena Region), *'Om-*

*bala ya Mumbwenge'* (Uukelo Combined School, Ohangwena Region), *'The Battle of Omuhaturua'* (Rietquelle Junior Secondary School, Omaheke Region), *'Ozombu Zovindimba'* (Wennie du Plessis Secondary School, Omaheke Region), *'Mining at Ombuumuu Village'* (Ruacana High School, Omusati Region), *'Comrade Josef Katofa Shikuwa'* (Ongolo Combined School), *'The Magnificent Okahao'* (Shaanika Nashilongo Senior Secondary School), *'The battle of Omdjamba'* (Uukulu Senior Secondary School, Oshikoto Region), *'Grandmother of the Namibian Nation'* (Otjikoto Senior Secondary School, Oshikoto

Region), *'Efundula lomeengoma'* (Hans Daniel Namuhuja Secondary School, Oshikoto Region), *'Olukonda National Monument'* (Etosha Secondary School, Oshikoto Region),

Any individual or company interested in helping to support SCAMX 2010 can obtain a copy of the report on SCAMX 2009 from the Museums Association of Namibia.

## Remember Cassinga?

A small exhibition was mounted at the National Archives of Namibia on 29<sup>th</sup> April to mark Cassinga Day, a day that commemorates the South African

attack on Cassinga that took place on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1978. The exhibition was compiled by Dr Christian Williams a research fellow at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa. The exhibition was created with a minimal budget and consists of a series of photographs and texts that are based on extensive interviews conducted by Dr Williams. The Museums Association of Namibia assisted Dr Williams by enlarging and printing the texts and photographs on A3 sheets and laminating them to create a compact and mobile exhibition.

Three features made the opening of the exhibition particularly interesting. The first was that the exhibition features a number of photographs taken in 2007 showing the gravesites and the ruins of buildings that were destroyed in the attack. Secondly, the exhibition includes two 'Memory Cloths'. One cloth already contains the handwritten names of over a hundred people already known to have died at Cassinga and visitors are invited to add more names. The second cloth encourages people who lived at Cassinga to add their names, whilst a comments book is available to encourage people to respond to the exhibition or to add their own memories of the camp.

The opening was particularly interesting as it was accompanied by a panel discussion

featuring three people directly involved with the history of Cassinga: Hon Charles 'Ho Chi Minh' Namhola who helped establish the camp in 1976, Mr Darius 'Mbolondondo' Shikongo who served as the base commander and Mr Per Sanden who was one of the first journalists to arrive at the camp after the attack and photograph the destruction and one of the two mass graves.

Dr Williams has donated the exhibition to the Museums Association of Namibia so that it can form part of our 'Exhibition Bank' and will be available for loan to our institutional members. We would recommend that museums that wish to mount the exhibition might also think of creating a panel discussion that includes local people who have their own stories to tell about Cassinga as these personal stories add insight to the history of the event. We also support Dr Williams' call that the exhibition that he has created might be expanded. A larger and more durable mobile exhibition could be created for display on Cassinga Day and to include even more images and more of the stories of those who remember Cassinga.

## Gobabis Museum Update

The new Gobabis Museum is taking shape. The old library building in Gobabis that will



*Mr. Guntenaar and Ms. Edelgartha Cito-Simano training with new computer equipment provided to the new Gobabis Museum by MAN.*

house the new museum has been painted and new blinds fitted to all the windows. In addition the substantial yard that surrounds the new museum has been landscaped so that larger objects can be displayed outside. The security system and electric fence that were paid for with the support of the German Embassy and a grant from the Museums Association of Namibia has been erected. The challenge now for Ms. Edelberth Cito-Simano, the curator of the new museum, is to work on the design of the new exhibitions for the museum and to arrange for the gradual transfer of objects into the new building. Ms. Cito-Simano will work in co-operation with Mr and Mrs Einbeck, who have been running the private museum in Gobabis for many years, to develop the new museum which will be operated by the Municipality. The museum will not only feature the history of the town, but will also highlight some of the other attractions to be found in the Omaheke Region.





*Ms. Antje Vanselow from the German Embassy, Ms. Cito-Simano, Mr. von Schumann and Mr. Marenga at the new Gobabis Museum.*

## Executive Committee Meets New Minister

A delegation from the Executive Committee of the Museums Association of Namibia paid a courtesy visit to the new Minister of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture, Hon. Kazenambo Kazenambo on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.

## Regional Museum Development Grants (2009-2010)

The Regional Museum Development Sub-Committee consisting of representatives of the major national heritage organ-

isations met in January to consider the proposals that had been received by the deadline. The recommendations of the sub-committee were approved by the Executive Committee at their meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2010. In many cases grants were made on a conditional basis and letters have been sent to the successful applicants setting out the terms of each proposed RMDG Agreement.

A couple of applications were received after the deadline had passed and will be considered if the RMDG funds for 2009-2010 are not all allocated or will be considered in Janu-

ary 2011 when the next round of grants are made. The status of the current round of grants is as follows:

1) **The Sports Museum.** A grant of N\$20,000 was awarded to this new museum project to assist with the creation of new exhibitions on the condition that a Museum Board was established and effective financial systems established. The Project Planning and Training Officer was invited to the second meeting of the Sports Museum Advisory Board and the grant will now be used with the particular aim of creating a mobile exhibition on Football to be launched during the FIFA





*Hon. Kazenambo Kazenambo with (left to right) Mr. Aaron Nambadi, Mr. Gerhard Gurirab, Ms. Stella Imalwa of the Executive Committee and Ms. Naitzikile Iizyenda, MAN's Operations Manager.*

World Cup in June, 2010.

**2) Kapiringi Museum Project.** A grant of N\$20,000 was awarded to this new museum project on condition that part of the money should be used to support a meeting of stakeholders in Otjinene on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2010 so that the development of the museum can be co-ordinated with other heritage projects in the region.

**3) Das Alte Fort Museum Grootfontein.** A grant of N\$20,000 was awarded to this museum to assist with the purchase of a new desktop computer and glass display cabinets for book displays. If additional funds remain after the purchase of a desktop computer then the display cabinets will be purchased.

**4) Gobabeb Research and Training Centre.** The centre was awarded a grant of N\$10,000 to purchase materials in order to extend its information displays. The Centre received a grant in the previous financial year and is commended for the quality of its narrative and financial reporting.

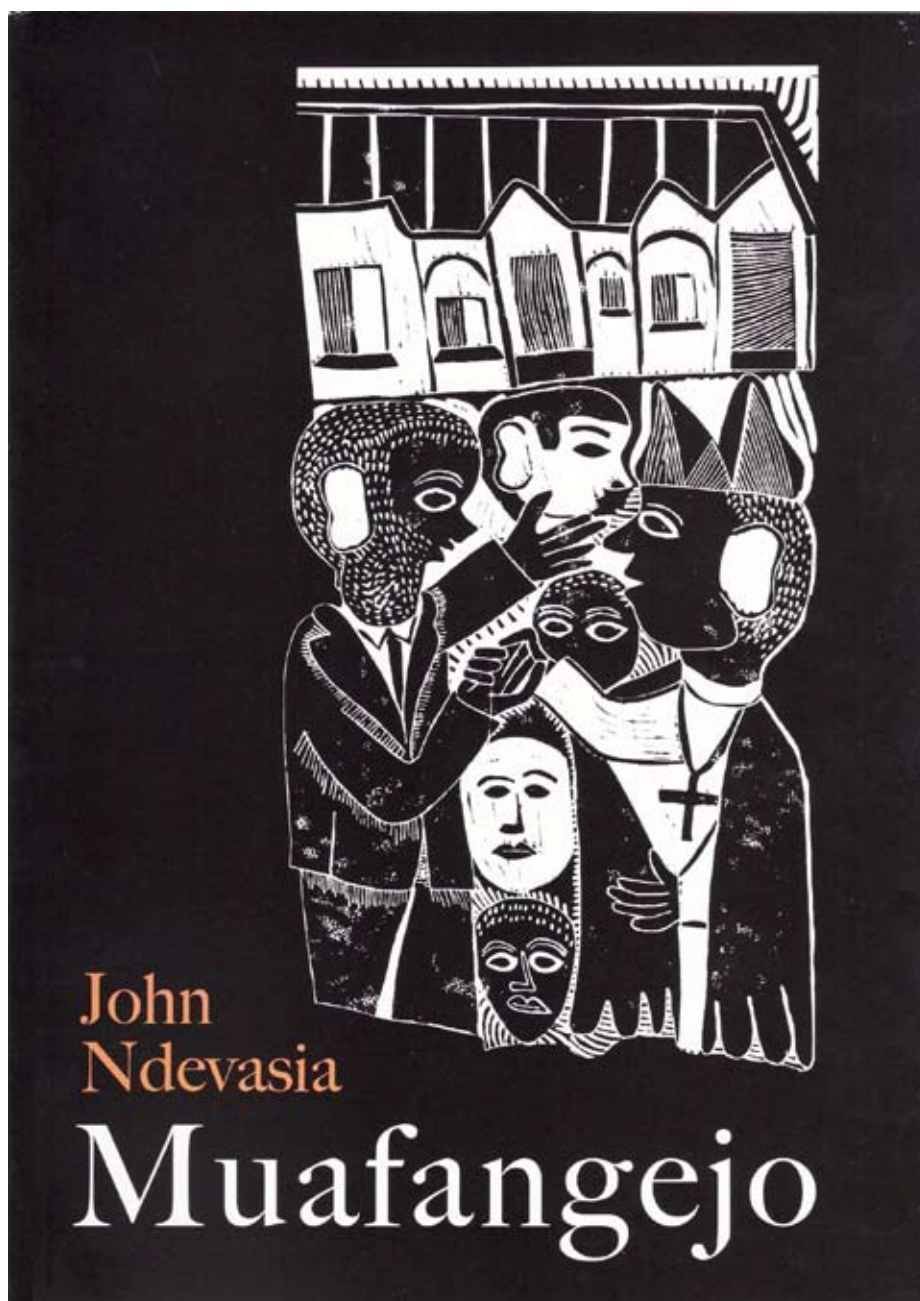
**5) Okakarara Community Cultural and Tourism Centre.** A grant of N\$20,000 was awarded to the centre. It was agreed that the grant would be used to assist in the following areas: a) towards the creation of a memorial site - N\$10,000 b) research and collection of information on the traditional uses of plants - N\$5,000.00 c) a visit to Tsumeb Cultural Village

and Tsumkwe Cultural Village.

**6) City of Windhoek Museum Project.** This museum project was awarded a grant of N\$10,000 to assist it to purchase display cabinets for the new museum on condition that a final narrative report on the previous RMD grant is submitted to MAN.

**7) King Mandume Museum Project.** Whilst a grant of N\$10,000.00 towards funding for the purchase of two display cabinets. The grant was approved on condition that the project submitted financial and narrative reports for the grant that was previously had been agreed for this project from the last round of RMD grants it was not paid out in 2009 due to the cash flow challenges MAN faced and the necessity to clarify the request from the Board. MAN is happy to report that the outstanding grant has been paid out to the Museum Project and

**8) Ombalantu Baobab Tree Heritage Centre.** It was agreed that a grant of N\$20,000 would be awarded to assist the development of new displays and the purchase of a computer. However, MAN was informed that the project had successfully obtained a new computer from the Africa Groups of Sweden and were requested to support an AGM and Planning Meeting for the Centre to enable them to take forward the



*The cover of the new John Ndevasia Muafangejo Catalogue.*

development of the site and to assist the Centre to obtain an internet connection.

## Launch of John Muafangejo Catalogue

*Elize van der Westhuizen*

John Ndevasia Muafangejo is Namibia's most famous artist. His art works, have been exhibited in Africa, Europe and the USA since he was a student. He is the Namibian artist who

has made the most crucial contribution to contemporary African art. His works are known and appreciated both for their graphic quality and skill and for their authentic artistic expression, which reflects African culture and the racial conflicts of the African continent.

The tragedy of his early death denied him the experience of Namibia's independence to which he had managed to con-

tribute such a lasting and significant input through his critical and socio-political comments. The publication of the John Muafangejo Catalogue commemorates 22 years since the artist died on 27 November 1987.

This catalogue, the fourth published to acknowledge Muafangejo as an artist and the collection of his artworks owned by the Arts Association Heritage Trust, gives the reader an insight into Muafangejo's life and legacy as seen by fellow Namibians, art historians, artists and friends. The publication includes an introduction by Bishop Hilukiluah of the Anglican Church; an analysis of the artist's technique and style; tributes to the artist; and 79 graphics from the Arts Association's collection.

The catalogue is the initiative of the Arts Association Heritage Trust to pay tribute to Namibia's first internationally acclaimed artist. The National Arts Council of Namibia and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany generously supported the exhibition and the printing of the catalogue.

The catalogue is available from the National Art Gallery of Namibia and from Orumonde Bookshop in Post Street Mall (the old Kaizer Kröne Building) for N\$240

## MDGF Annual Review

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## and Planning Meeting

The Museums Association of Namibia was tasked to organize the Annual Review and Planning Meeting of the MDG-F Joint Agency Programme for Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Namibia. The three day meeting took place in Otjiwarongo, a central location, on 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> February, 2010

The primary aim of the workshop was to finalise the Annual Work Plan for Year Two of the programme, to review the progress of the programme during Year One and to facilitate discussions with the stakeholders that enabled a set of concerns and recommendations to be drawn up for consideration by the Programme Management Committee.

One of the activities of the programme is to support eleven pilot projects. The aim of the pilot projects is to demonstrate how cultural tourism can be used to support development and poverty alleviation, one of the UN's millennium goals. It is proposed that successful pilot projects will be replicated by the government in other regions.

The Eleven Pilot Projects supported under this programme are:

Katima Mulilo Heritage Trail in Caprivi Region, Gondwanaland Geopark in Erongo, Kunene and Otjozondjupa Regions, Dune

Tannery, Duineveld in Hardap Region, Munyonda gwaKapande Cultural Village in Kavango Region, Khorixas Cultural Centre in Kunene Region, Opuwo Cultural Centre in Kunene Region, Ozombu Zovindimba National Heritage Site and Interpretive Centre in Omaheke Region, Omugulugombashe National Heritage Site and Interpretive Centre in Omusati Region, Omusati Cultural Trail in Omusati Region, King Nehale Cultural Centre in Oshikoto Region, Tsumkwe Cultural Village in Otjizondjupa Region.

## ILO Analysis of the market for cultural tourism services in Namibia

Cultural tourism is a growing trend in Namibia. The Museums Association of Namibia, under the MDGF Programme for Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Namibia, has been tasked to research the role of cultural tourism in Namibia. In partnership with the International Labour Organisation and the Namibia Tourism Board, MAN is currently collecting information about the extent to which the local tourism industry makes use of our cultural heritage in marketing Namibia as a tourist destination.

The aim of the initial draft report is to provide an overview of the current pattern of cultural heritage based attractions and services available in Na-

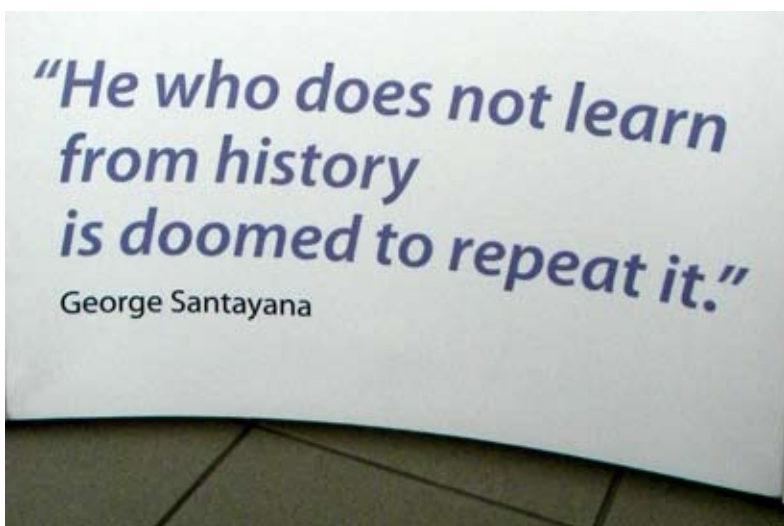
mibia. Since there are limitations to this task, the research approach to assess the supply of cultural tourism in Namibia has, therefore, involved the extremely important process of collating all the available information into regional summaries of existing and potential cultural tourism attractions and services in each region and building a regional database of available information.

The evaluation of the demand for cultural tourism in Namibia has been approached in two ways.

Demand in the tourism industry is strongly linked to marketing. Tourists tend to visit 'tourist attractions' - destinations that are highlighted and marketed as desirable destinations. In other words the destinations that a tourist wishes to visit are in many ways 'pre-destined' and shaped by the tourism industry itself. In order to evaluate the demand for cultural tourism it is, therefore, necessary to look at the materials used to attract tourists to Namibia. In what ways do the marketing materials shape Namibia as a tourist destination.

Is Namibia marketed as a 'cultural heritage' destination? Furthermore we have also sent a questionnaire to all tourist accommodation establishments and tour operators to find out which places they take visitors to and what changes





Top: Details from a couple of panels in the Holocaust Exhibition.  
Bottom: The exhibition is easy to assemble.

and developments they would like to see in the sector.

## Kolmanskoppe

The Museums Association of Namibia was contacted by Ms Ophelia Netta, Mine Manager

of NAMDEB's northern coastal towns based in Luderitz, to request assistance in the development of Kolmanskoppe as a heritage site.

Two staff members from the Museums Association of Na-

mibia were appointed to produce a detailed review of the existing displays at Kolmanskoppe and the conservation and management issues facing the site and to also deal directly with a number of specific concerns. The heritage site presents



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unique conservation challenges for the Namibian heritage sector for two reasons.

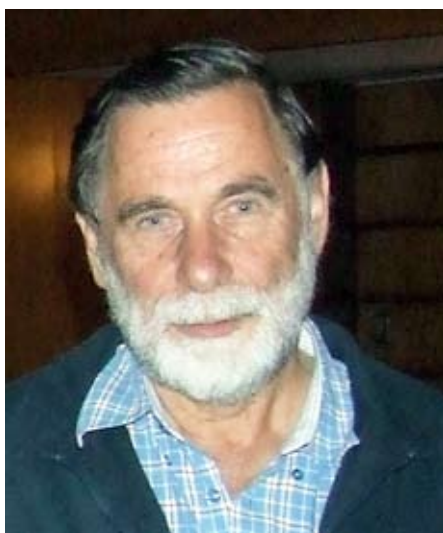
Firstly, the sheer number of buildings associated with the site means that the cost of preserving all the buildings in such a harsh environment (with the particular problem of dune encroachment) would be astronomical. Secondly, the marketing of the heritage site as a 'Ghost Town' trades on the images of decay of the built environment that are the main focus of the photographs taken by visitors. Ironically, it is the buildings that are being destroyed that attract visitors as much, if not more, as those that have been restored.

During the visit MAN was able to extensively document the existing displays and condition of the buildings, to hold a series of one-to-one meetings with the different stakeholders and to visit the associated heritage site at Elizabeth Bay. A report was produced at the end of the visit and is available at the MAN Office and Resource Centre.

## Lessons for Humanity: An Exhibition on the Holocaust

The South African Holocaust Foundation mounted a mobile exhibition entitled 'Lessons for Humanity' at the National Archives of Namibia on 27th January, 2010. The exhibition

told the story of the persecution and mass murder of Jewish communities and other minority groups across Europe by the Nazi Regime. It was particularly interesting to the Museums Association of Namibia because the exhibition was designed to serve as an educational tool to provide a platform for discussion about issues of discrimination and prejudice. The Foundation organized a series of workshops over the two weeks that the exhibition was on display for learners from Windhoek schools. The Museums Association of Namibia is currently seeking to obtain sponsorship to enable the exhibition to stay in Namibia so that the exhibition and workshops can be mounted in other regions of the country.



*Mr. Gunther von Schumann, one of the founding members of the Museum Association of Namibia.*

## Reflections on MAN's First 20 Years *Gunter von Schumann*

The Museums Association of Namibia was founded in June, 1990, just a few months after independence. Before independence the museums sector in Namibia had been largely organised from South Africa and after independence, with the encouragement of the South African Museums Association (SAMA), we felt it was important to develop our own Namibian identity. A small group of heritage workers, including Dr Beatrice Sandelowsky (who was involved with the Rehoboth Museum), Mr John Mendelson (the Director of the State Museum), Ms Annaleen Eins (Director of the National Art Gallery of Namibia), Mr Joe Madisia and myself met in Swakopmund to set up a new association.

Our first AGM was combined with a workshop and we were joined by colleagues from Botswana, South Africa and Zambia (represented by a colleague who was also a member of the AFRICOM Committee) who provided their support. Namibia was in transition and we wanted to create an organisation that would encourage all the museums in Namibia to work together to face their common challenges, such as the lack of local people with specialist training in the different disciplines needed in a museum, such as exhibition design, conservation and museum education. In the early years MAN

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operated largely as a voluntary association with members covering their own costs to meet once a year to report on the activities in their museum and to co-ordinate fund-raising for various museum development projects. I was appointed as the Treasurer and I remember that our first annual budget was exactly N\$582 with individual membership fees fixed at N\$5 and museums paying N\$20!

Early MAN initiatives involved working with the National Museum of Namibia to assist the Rehoboth Museum to obtain international support. The Museum was one of the first to make use of international volunteers (from UK). We also worked closely with the National Museum of Namibia to try and establish a 'Mobile Museum' service with the assistance of volunteers from the UK, initially Peter and Christine Nias and later Janice McNamara. Nakambale Museum and Outjo Museum were other museums that were developed with the support of MAN, whilst funding was obtained through NORAD of Norway to establish a cultural village in Tsumeb. The Embassies have been important supporters of MAN over the years. If I can give just a few examples I would mention the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany which has assisted with projects such as the battle against the termites that invaded Grootfontein Museum, the restoration of the

graveyard in Omaruru and most recently the provision of a complete security system for the new museum that is being created in Gobabis. Support from Germany has also been provided via institutions, with, for example, the Hannover Museum giving a great deal of technical and material support to the development of the new wing at the Swakopmund Museum.

However, international support has not only come from Germany. The Swedish Embassy helped fund the mobile exhibition that was produced on Charles Andersson. The American Cultural Centre helped us to produce our first training handbook for regional museums (which was later updated by Mr Werner Thaniseb and Dr Jeremy Silvester) and which provides a wealth of information for our member museums.

MAN has also been represented at important meetings of organisations such as the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the African Council of Museums (AFRICOM), and sister organisations such as the South African Museums Association (SAMA), American Association of Museums (AAM) and the Museums Association of the UK. Finally, it was a grant from the Finnish Embassy that enabled us to employ our first part-time member of staff, Ms Frieda Namundongo. As one of the founding members of MAN

I can say that one of our aims - creating stronger links between our museums and the international museum community - has really been achieved.

I would like to acknowledge the significant support of Hon. John Mutorwa, the Minister at the time that MAN first started to receive an annual grant-in-aid from the Government. The support of the Ministry, directed through the office of Ms Esther Moombolah-Goagoses, the Head of the National Museum of Namibia transformed the capacity of the Museums Association of Namibia.

We started to receive a grant-in-aid from 2002/2003 and the financial support we have received has steadily grown enabling us to establish the MAN office and resource centre and to gradually expand our staffing, so that we are now able to employ a full-time Operations Manager, a part-time Project Planning and Training Officer and a part-time Finance Officer. We have also been blessed with growing membership over the years and, in recent years, have particularly focused our energy on assisting new museum development projects.

The work of MAN has been diverse, but I would highlight a few initiatives that, I believe, have been of particular importance. The first is the management of Regional Museum Development Grants from the



funding provided by the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture - these have enabled us to help some of our member institutions in direct and practical ways, such as providing them with a computer or helping them to develop a new display.

Secondly, I would like to acknowledge the SCAMX competition which has done so much over the last six years to get young people excited about their history and cultural heritage. Finally, I believe that the national training workshops and annual conferences and AGMs provided by MAN over the years have not only provided valuable training to our members, but have also helped create a 'family' of museum workers in Namibia.

My personal involvement with the museum sector in Namibia has taken many forms over the years, but my main passion has always been marine archaeology and the rich history of shipwrecks along the Namibian coast. For example, I attended the International Marine Archaeology Conference that took place in Durban in 2007 and the Conference of the Southern African - Portuguese Shipwreck Society that took place at Mossel Bay in 2008 and I am currently a member of the Scientific Committee of the Stockholm Working Group on Scandinavian Shipwrecks along the Southern African

## Man Events (calendar)

May	14 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup> Conference and AGM
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Planning meeting, Kapiringi Museum, Otjinene
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Planning Workshop
June		
July	9 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>	School Clubs and Museums Exhibition Competition
	10 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	Namibia Heritage Week (to be confirmed)
August		Executive Committee Meeting
September	15 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup>	National Training Workshop on Marketing Museums

coast. We are currently busy in cooperation with the Marine Archaeology section of the Namibia Underwater Federation restoring some of the old historical buildings and remains of the diamond fields from the early twentieth century in the Sperregebiet.

In conclusion, I would like to say that MAN has achieved a great deal with limited resources over its lifetime. As the former Treasurer of the As-

sociation, I will, of course, say that MAN could do with more resources to help us to support our members to achieve their dreams. However, I am confident that if the Government and our other friends continue to judge MAN on results than we will continue to obtain the financial support that we need. Cooperation between MAN and other stakeholders was outstanding reflecting many highlights in the promotion of museum in Namibia.

## NOTES

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# New MAN Baseball Caps **FOR SALE**



In response to the request from the Advisory Committee for MAN to increase its efforts to market museums we have designed a fashionable new line of baseball caps bearing the MAN logo on the front and our name on the back.

The caps can be purchased for N\$50 (N\$80 for non-members) at the MAN office or for N\$70 if you want your cap to be posted to you (N\$100 for non-members) (Please fax us a copy of your bank deposit slip marked 'MAN Cap' as proof of payment).

The caps have already proved highly popular and half have already gone, so act fast if you want to buy one - whilst stocks last!



