

ELWANDLE NODE

Monthly Update JUNE 2010

Key Achievements in June

Algoa Bay LTMR

- Shaun Deyzel retrieved and serviced 2 UTR arrays on the 2nd June 2010, viz, the UTR BI inner and UTR Woody.
- He deployed VR-2 units on UTR-BI inner, UTR-Woody and UTR-Cen that further expands VR-2 network in Algoa Bay for Dr Paul Cowley's OTN team.
- Shaun also successfully deployed deepwater UTR (UTR Cen).
- He co-ordinated a quarterly meeting with the PE-LTEMP team on the 4th June 2010.
- He also organized the transport for Dr Pichegru and students from the Port Elizabeth Port to Bird Island with R/V uKwabelana on 24th June 2010.
- He facilitated the monthly Bird Island field trip for Dr Matt Dickon on the 24th and 25th June 2010.
- He hosted the University of Fort Hare Honours students from the 14th - 18th June 2010. The students partook in sample and data analysis workshops co-ordinated by Mr. Luzuko Dali.

Data Management

- In collaboration with Mr Bruce Donovan Shaun conducted an audit of in situ data and metadata.
- Bruce is working on an interactive metadata database, which will be used as a management tool for in situ equipment servicing.

Proposed activities for July

- Shaun will be doing the PE-LTEMP monthly sampling from the 1 – 16 July.
- He will also be servicing the UTR BI outer.
- He will start the registration process with Dr Ronel Nel, Dr Malcom Smale, Dr Matt Dickon, Dr Paul Cowley and PhD students.

South African Estuaries Information System (SAEIS)

- The population of the SAEIS with the KZN Wildlife document collection continued throughout June.
- A second collection trip from 9 – 11 June saw the remainder of their archive scanned for placement on the SAEIS.
- The KZN Wildlife archive proved to be a very well stocked collection of reports, journal articles and other articles which took considerable time to process and add onto the SAEIS. The process is complete with the exception of the release forms for the reports, which are still outstanding.
- Unfortunately, the other visits planned to research institutes and universities to obtain their document collections could not be completed as most researchers were out of the office on research field trips. It is hoped that such collection trips will occur at a later stage, when all the researchers are available for meetings.

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- The population of the SAEIS was time consuming last month, but a considerable amount of additional reports and documents have been added. Consequently, the SAEIS is not yet fully completed for the website.

Proposed activities for July

- 1 – 2 July, Nuette will complete the release forms for the KZN Wildlife Collection and send these to Ricky Taylor at St. Lucia.
- 5 – 9 July, she will complete the release forms for all the other organizations, i.e. CSIR, WRC, Natal Town Planning, etc.
- 12 – 16 July, she will finalise the SAEIS for the website and finalise the web-design.
- 12 – 23 July, Nuette will be attending a Meta-data workshop in Grahamstown and packing up for Cape Town.
- 26 – 30 July, Nuette will be setting up a new office in Cape Town.

Marine Protected Areas:

- Sean has completed the final 2009 iSimangaliso report and has submitted it to Bronwyn James at iSimangaliso Wetland Park on the 22nd June.
- Dr. Albrecht Götz and Anthony Bernard attended a Level III First Aid course and exam at St John Ambulance on the 9 – 11 June.
- 28 June – 2 July 2010 - Albrecht and Sean Bailey are currently setting up the ROV on the uKwabelana in Port Elizabeth.
- Tsitsikamma National Park (TNP)
 - Anthony Bernard did the data analysis from videos collected on the TNP fieldtrip last month.
 - He is currently preparing for the mooring field trip to Storm's River due to take place in July.
 - Operations plan is in place to use the uKwabelana at Storm's River.
 - Anthony is also actively involved in preparations for the upcoming MCM, SAIAB, Rhodes University and SAEON fieldtrips due to take place from the 23 July - 23 August 2010.
- Table Mountain National Park (TMNP)
 - Anthony has done the CGS mapping.
 - He has also been analysing the data collected on the TMNP Easter field trip.

Proposed activities for July

- Sean will be analysing the fish and benthic data collected during the iSimangaliso fieldtrip undertaken in May 2010.
- Albrecht will be on the Tsitsikamma National Park fieldtrip and Monitoring Workshop.
- Anthony will be undertaking the TNP field trip and undertaking the analysis of the species identification while on the trip.
- For the TMNP fieldtrip, he will be analyzing the paired counts from the FIN volunteer programme.
- He will also be undertaking further mapping in the TMNP.

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ACEP:

- 2nd June 2010, Dr. Tommy Bornman and Ryan Palmer participated in a dive expedition in Algoa Bay for SAEON.
- The 4th June 2010, Tommy and Dr. Angus Paterson attended the Algoa Bay sentinel site meeting at NMMU.
- 7 – 16 June 2010 Tommy, Ryan and Sean Bailey participated in the ACEP field trip to Sodwana Bay to assist Professor Tony Booth's students with their ACEP projects.
- 21st June 2010, Tommy & Ryan attended the monthly SAEON/ACEP staff meeting.
- 23rd June 2010, Tommy also attended the ASCLME staff meeting.
- 20 – 30 June 2010, Tommy & Ryan completed the June month-end report detailing the ACEP activities for the month.
- 20 – 30 June 2010, Tommy and Ryan completed the ACEP quarterly report.
- 20 – 30 June 2010, Tommy and Ryan completed and submitted their Class IV Dive Supervisor documents.

Proposed activities for July

- 15, 16 & 19, 20 July 2010 Dr. Tommy Bornman will attend cruise coordination meetings with SMIT and MCM to discuss USNRL cruises. He will also attend ACEP cruise meetings at the same time.
- From the 19th July onward Tommy will participate on the ROV & uKwabelana field trips to Tsitsikamma.
- On the 20 July 2010, the ACEP Natal Bight cruise starts, which Tommy will participate.
- On the 29 July 2010, Tommy will attend a National Science Day at Fort Hare.

Education:

- Weather monitoring programme
 - Downloads at the 5 schools were allowed to run over the vacation period as a trial run to ensure data will be available when schools re-open and to see how long the batteries will last in preparation for the long December holidays because this project requires long-term data monitoring.
 - Due to the current school holidays, there is unfortunately no access to the computer labs and staff rooms where the computers are kept. Observation is only possible from a distance and thus far the equipment looks fine.
 - New computers have been purchased and computer cages will be built to house the computers in. The cages will be mounted at schools as soon as schools reopen.
- National Science Week 2010 - Nozi has been attending planning meetings for the National Launch due to be held on the 29th July at Fort Hare University and for the Makana NSW Alliance (SAEON,SAIAB,SCIFEST AND DoE Gtn) activities.
- Nozi Hambaze is also currently organizing the Science Camp, which will be held in September.

Proposed activities for July

- On the 13th July Nozi will be conducting school visits to tend to the weather computer installation.

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- An educator forum meeting is planned for either the 19th or 22nd July.
- On the 29th July Nozi will be exhibiting for Elwandle at the NSW launch at Fort Hare University.
- The Minister of Science and Technology is expected to attend the launch.

Staff and Student Matters

- Shaun Deyzel started with the completion plan of his PhD on Wednesday, 23 June 2010 and has completed chapter 2 already.
- Mr. Ntuthuko Masikane has submitted his final two chapters of his MSc thesis to Shaun for review. Ntuthuko is on track to submit the final product for examination towards the end of this year.