

ELWANDLE NODE

Monthly Update
DECEMBER 2010 / JANUARY 2011

Key Achievements in December / January

Algoa Bay LTMRP

- Dr. Matt Dickon carried out his monthly fieldtrip to Bird Island on the 9 January.
- PE-LTEMP monthly sampling was carried out on the 15 January.

Data Management

- Data population and dissemination continues.
- Sentinel Site CMP data were disseminated to Mr Rowan Vaneeden (UCT) on the 11th January.

Fort Hare University Honours Research Programme

- Students are finalizing their research reports and are on track to submit in due time for graduation in 2011.

Proposed activities for February

- PE-LTEMP monthly sampling trip scheduled for 1-15 February 2011.
- Plan and mediate first quarter meeting with Algoa Bay LTEMP Plankton group.
- Plan and mediate annual uKwabelana booking meeting with Sentinel Site affiliated researchers.
- Plan and mediate strategic meeting with Mr Rowen Vaneeden (UCT) to plan SAEON's assistance with his experimental design around Bird Island.
- Accommodate visiting students from ORI (Principle Scientist: Ms Viona Mackay, ORI) to setup sample analysis for their ACEP benthic research programme. Benthic samples will be processed by SAEON's Parataxonomy Laboratory Interns.
- Service Gully Temperature Probes at Port Alfred to Woody Cape.

South African Estuaries Information System (SAEIS)

- Nuette has been contracted to bring the program to finalization. A draft product is available.

Marine Protected Areas:

- During December Dr. Gotz attended the SANP Annual Progress Report Tsitsikamma National Park monitoring programme.
- He did a review of his MTEch thesis for NMMU.

Tsitsikamma National Park (TNP)

Anthony Bernard is working on analysis of data collected on fieldtrip.

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Table Mountain National Park (TMNP)

- Anthony and Dr. Gotz participated, from the 19th Jan – 01st Feb, on the Table Mountain National Park Volunteer Monitoring Programme.
- Anthony has started the process of handing over the FIN programme to SANParks.
- Anthony met with iKapa honouree rangers to discuss their involvement in the programme.
- Anthony held a volunteer training workshop in Stellenbosch and organised a FIN dive weekend.

Isimangaliso

Sean Bailey analyzed the 2010 fish videos over the December / January period and will be working up the 2010 invertebrate data until March this year.

Proposed activities for February

- Anthony is preparing for the upcoming Tsitsikamma National Park fieldtrip focusing on controlled angling, jump camera and invertebrate special analysis.
- Continuous additional mapping by the council for Geoscience will take place at the Table Mountain National Park and Anthony will complete the summer Atlantic surveys at TMNP.

ACEP:

- 1 December: The ACEP 3rd quarter report was submitted.
- 2 December: Agulhas Bank Cruise Report by Ryan Palmer and Dr. Thomas Bornman submitted.
- 2 – 3 December: Bornman and Paterson attend ACEP Natal Bight meeting.
- 6 December: Dr. Bornman had a meeting with Dr Goschen (SAEON Egagasini) to discuss ACEP database management.
- 6 - 7 December: Dr. Bornman attended an ASCLME thank you supper in Cape Town with NOAA, DEA, DAFF and officers of R/V *Algoa*.
- 10 – 15 January: Dr. Bornman and Ryan managed the ACEP abstracts for SAMSS.
- 11 – 12 January: Dr. Bornman finalised the DAFF/SAIAB MoU.
- 13 January: Dr. Bornman processed the SMIT payment for use of the R/V *Algoa* in 2010.
- 10 – 15 January: Dr. Angus Paterson and Dr. Bornman revise ACEP III and a motivation for capital equipment to DST.
- 15 – 31 January: Dr. Bornman and Ryan planned the May/June ACEP ROV field trip to Sodwana Bay.
- 15 – 21 January: Ryan planned the ACEP biodiversity field trip to Sodwana in Feb/March.
- 24 January – 11 February: Ryan and Elodie are currently on the ROV pilots course
- 27 – 28 January: Dr. Bornman attended the ASCLME technical retreat.
- 31 January: The ACEP month-end report was distributed.

Proposed activities for February

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- 1 – 27 February: Dr. Bornman, Shaun Deyzel and Bruce Donovan complete ski-boat surf launches.
- 1 – 27 February: Dr. Bornman and Ryan complete < 25 ton skippers course.
- 1 – 27 February: ACEP and SAEON staff to complete code 10 drivers license.
- Dr. Bornman to meet with Lynn Erasmus to finalise ACEP finances
- Dr. Bornman to meet with Agulhas Current group to discuss progress and the way forward.
- 28 February: Dr. Bornman and Ryan leave on the ACEP biodiversity field trip to Sodwana Bay.

Education

- For January 2011, no interaction thus far has been made with schools due to the start of the new year and schools needing time to settle in.
- Most Department of Education officials were out at schools this month, which was ideal as we wanted schools to interact with DoE officials. We are planning to meet at the schools next week.
- Meeting was held with DCES at the department of education to gain their continued support of our programme.

Proposed activities for February

- 31 Jan – 4 Feb: Re-connection of computers at schools.
- 8-10 Feb: Education meeting in Pretoria
- 15-26 Feb: Ongoing school visits and preparations for Sci-fest.

Staff and Student Matters

- Interviews for the Nodes Managers post were undertaken.
- Shaun Deyzel is progressing on his PhD, submission planned for end February 2011.
- Mr. Ntuthuko Masikane submitted his MSc on Thursday, 6 January 2011.