

Monthly Update

JANUARY 2010

Key Achievements in January

Algoa Bay LTMR

- In situ equipment in place and operational.
- Meeting with Prof Campell to design her phytoplankton programme completed
- Dr Dickens (Bay World) has joined the site and is doing great White Monitoring
- Dr Picheu (UCT Percy Fitzpatrick) has joined the site and is doing penguin monitoring.

Marine Protected Areas:

Isimangaliso

- Sean Bailey submitted an interim report on the 9th December to the Isimangaliso project collaborator.
- Sean worked on the benthic invertebrates in January and is currently awaiting the invert identification results from Cape Town.

Tsitsikamma National Park

- During December 2009, Dr Albrecht Gotz and Anthony Bernard finalised the collaborative research project with Marine and Coastal Management and SAIAB to conduct a survey of the deep-water reefs during the July-August 2010 field trip.

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- In December 2009, they arranged for MCM to map the deep- water reefs within the survey area, which subsequently has been done by MCM during January 2010.
- Since the 22nd January until the 22nd February 2010, Albrecht and Anthony will be on the Tsitsikamma National Park Summer field trip.

Table Mountain National Park

- During December 2009, Dr Albrecht Götz and Anthony Bernard finalised the contract with Council for geosciences to map the reefs within the target survey areas around the Cape Peninsula.
- During the same month, they arranged for an intern from Montpellier, France to assist them on the project as a part of her overseas studies and enlisted the assistance of volunteers to dive and collect comparative data for them.
- During January, they focused on planning their research priorities for 2010.

ACEP:

- Dr Thomas Bornman participated in and successfully completed 3 cruises during December 2009 starting on the 1st - 20th December with the ACEP & MCM mooring cruise on the R/V *Algoa*. He also participated in the Seamounts cruise on the R/V *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* from the 1st - 20th December and the LOCO mooring cruise on the R/V *Algoa* from the 10th - 25th December.
- The equipment and samples from the Seamounts cruise were offloaded and stored at SAIAB on the 21st December.

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- The 14th January 2010 samples were loaded on the R/V *Algoa* in Port Elizabeth. Sailing orders were also finalized for the Natal Bight cruise during this period.
- On the 15th January fish samples collected during the ASCLME cruises were transported by Dr Bornman from Bayworld to SAIAB for preservation.
- The 18th – 19th January Dr. Bornman attended a SAEON/ACEP planning meeting in Grahamstown.
- On the 19th January he met with Professor Campbell regarding the Algoa Bay LTR.
- The 20th January Dr Bornman had a meeting with Professor Booth to discuss the Biodiversity project.
- The 22nd January he had a meeting with ASCLME to discuss progress and plans for the year ahead.

Harbours:

- December 2009, Shaun Deyzel has submitted 7 winter reports to TNPA.
- In January 2010, he supervised the initial draft of Integrated Summary Report for Ports 2007 – 2009, drafted by Ryan Palmer. Shaun amended and finalized the report for submission.
- He responded to comments from the TNPA ports managers on the Winter 2009 reports.

Scientific Output:

- BENNETT R.H., GOTZ A., SAUER W.H.H., COWLEY P.D., PALMER R.M. Optimisation of underwater visual census and controlled angling methods for monitoring subtidal temperate reef fish communities.

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Education:

Introduction

Nozi Hambaze has been appointed as the Education Officer for the Node. Nozi will take on the direct educational role for the node in Grahamstown and Berny will continue with the development, national expansion, overall reporting/liaison to the funder.

Schools re-opened on 13th January 2010 and work with educators and learners can progress.

Phase 1 report

The final report was compiled by Ms Snow and submitted to Murray and Roberts the 11th December 2009. Feedback from Murray and Roberts has been positive towards the report and are highlighting the project in their CSI report.

MCEN 2010 Conference

Ms Zintle Songwaru (TEM Mrwetyana High School, Grahamstown) represented the project as an educator and presented a workshop based on the Mathematics Literacy worksheet. Feedback from Sibongile was very positive in respect of the excellent workshop presented and reaction from conference attendees. Nozi also attended the conference.

Activities January 2010

- Nozi and Berny had a meeting on the 28 January 2010 to plan and prepare an implementation strategy and for Berny to update Nozi on the project for hand over.

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Proposed Activities for February 2010

- First week of February will consist of the setting up of stations and installation of white boards at high schools, viz Nombulelo High School, Ntsika High School, Nyaluza High School, TEM Mrwetyana High School and Mary Waters High School.
- The 11th – 12th February Nozi will be attending a national meeting with all SAEON education officers and training workshop.
- 18 February she will also have a meeting / workshop with educators and a node education meeting.

Staff and Student Matters:

- Ntuthuko Masikane has completed 4 chapters of his thesis, including addressing comments from his supervisor.
- Ntuthuko has completed and submitted Discussion, Conclusion and Long-term monitoring guideline chapters and is awaiting feedback from Prof. Wooldridge. He is currently finalizing the main structure of his thesis.
- Shaun Deyzel is making good progress with two vital research chapters, which he aims to submit to his supervisor in the first week in February.
- Luzuko continues to make progress with his thesis which should be finished end Feb