

## ELWANDLE NODE

### Monthly Update MAY 2010

#### Key Achievements in May

##### **Algoa Bay LTMR**

- Shaun Deyzel completed PE-LTEMP trial run on the 4<sup>th</sup> May. He tested the functionality of equipment at two sites, near the UTR-St Croix site (30m depth) and near the UTR-Bay Mouth site (80m depth)
- Shaun attended a data management and research meeting with Dr Lorien Pichegru (Percy Fitzpatrick Unit, UCT) and Masters Student Mr Rowen Van Eeden on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. Dr Pichegru requested research support in the form of supervision on the student programme for Mr Van Eeden. Shaun is exploring the possibility of collaboration with Dr Wayne Goschen.
- Shaun co-ordinated the transport of Dr Pichegru and four students from the PE Port to Bird Island on the R/V uKwabelana.
- He facilitated the monthly Bird Island field trip for Dr Matt Dickon on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May.
- He successfully planned, co-ordinated and executed a 24hr plankton survey off St Croix Island with Mr Lukhanyiso Vumazonke and three Honours Students from University of Fort Hare on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010.
- On the 26<sup>th</sup> May Shaun completed the first PE-LTEMP sampling trip. Successfully sampling six sites (Z1 - Z6) but due to time constraints Sites Z7 and Z8 could not be completed. Shaun is currently refining sampling protocols to complete eight sampling sites during the 8hr "light" sampling day.

#### Data Management

- Shaun signed the Project agreement with Prof Collin Attwood, and completed Phases I and II of registration processes.
- He also signed a Project agreement with Dr Lorien Pichegru and completed Phases I and II of registration processes, including Student Project Registration.

#### Proposed activities for June

- Shaun will deploy a deepwater (60-70 m) UTR in the mid-shelf region of Algoa Bay.
- He will service the UTR BI inner, UTR BI outer and UTR Woody Cape during the first quarter of June.
- He will deploy the VR2's on UTR BI inner, UTR BI outer and UTR Woody Cape on behalf of Dr Paul Cowley.
- He will attend the University of Fort Hare (UFH) student Project Proposal Presentation workshop on the 4<sup>th</sup> June.
- The UFH student sample and data analysis will be undertaken on the 14-17 June.
- Shaun will attend a PE-LTEMP meeting on the 1-7 June.
- The PE-LTEMP monthly sampling is scheduled from the 1-8 June.
- Shaun will start the registration processes with Dr Ronel Nel, Dr Malcom Smale, Dr. Matt Dickon, Dr. Paul Cowley and PhD students.

## ELWANDLE NODE

### South African Estuaries Information System (SAEIS)

- During May, Nulette Gordon completed the population of the Estuaries Information system with the CSIR Aerial photography collections.
- At the beginning of May, she undertook a document collection trip to KZN Wildlife and scanned half of their archives. The documents are presently being sorted and added to the SAEIS.
- Nulette attended the CERM Indaba from the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> May. The Indaba provided an excellent networking opportunity for Nulette with other estuarine scientists within the KZN region and highlighted the need for a central information system and database for the South African Estuaries.
- During 10 – 14 May Nulette collected outstanding Cape Nature Reports but unfortunately was not able to meet with any of the managers at Cape Nature. Pierre de Villiers apologized for the lack of support from his staff and proposed another visit at a later stage.
- Nulette also attended a workshop in Stellenbosch regarding the National Biodiversity Assessment for Estuaries in South Africa and which SAEON could have used as quick wins for the Information System. Time constraints did not allow for the complete list to be compiled during the workshop. Hopefully, Jane Turpie, the workshop co-ordinator, will produce a draft document soon to incorporate into the SAEIS.
- While in Cape Town Nulette had a meeting with Wayne Goschen, Wim Hugo and Gavin Fleming regarding the IT support required for housing the SAEIS on the SAEON main server and website. It was decided that Nulette will present them with a draft SAEIS containing all the up to date information with metadata by the end of June in order for them to develop the additional metadata required for internet searches. Wim advised that it would take ± 4 weeks to develop this additional metadata. The first version of the SAIES on the web will be launched in August 2010.

### Proposed activities for June

- Nulette will be sorting and adding the KZN Wildlife documents collected during the St. Lucia trip to the SAEIS.
- She will undertake a 2<sup>nd</sup> document collection trip to St. Lucia.
- She is planning a visit to the University of KZN, University of Zululand, ORI and other researchers in KZN.
- She will be sorting and adding all collected documents onto the SAEIS.
- She will be updating the SAEIS with metadata and attending to the web design for the SAEIS.
- She will be meeting with the IT managers in Cape Town to discuss data transfer and website.

### **Marine Protected Areas:**

- From the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2010, Sean Bailey, Anthony Bernard, Angus Paterson, Ryan Palmer, Elodie Heyns, Guy Musson and Lara Atkinson completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> iSimangaliso artificial reef monitoring field trip in Cape Vidal.
- Sean is currently working on the final 2009 iSimangaliso report, which will be submitted in early June.

## ELWANDLE NODE

- The 26<sup>th</sup> April – 14<sup>th</sup> May, Dr. Albrecht Götz, completed the linefish and invertebrate surveys on board the RV Ellen Khuzwayo in conjunction with Marine and Coastal Management (MCM).
- During May, Anthony Bernard was preparing for the upcoming MCM, SAIAB, SAEON and Rhodes University fieldtrips.
- Anthony was also kept busy analyzing data captured on videos.
- He organized the purchase of a deepwater Remote underwater video system and the modifications for the RUV tripod.
- For the Table Mountain National Park he fixed the data submission data base on the FIN website.

### Proposed activities for June

- Sean Bailey will be joining Dr. Thomas Bornman and Ryan Palmer on the ACEP Sodwana Bay fieldtrip from the 7<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010.
- After the Sodwana Bay fieldtrip, Sean will start working on the 2010 data.
- Anthony Bernard will be preparing equipment and materials for the Table Mountain National Park fieldtrip and analyzing the paired counts from the FIN volunteer programme.

### **ACEP:**

- 3 May 2010: Dr. Thomas Bornman and Dr. Angus Paterson had a meeting with Johann Augustyn, Ian Calvert, Sharon du Plessis, Kevan Moodley, etc. to discuss ACEP cruises, the MoU and ASCLME cruises.
- 3 – 16 May 2010, Ryan Palmer and Angus assisted with the SAEON iSimangaliso sampling.
- 7 May 2010: Tommy met with Lynn Erasmus, Lubusa Monyooe, etc. at NRF in Pretoria to discuss ACEP II budgets and bursaries.
- 10 – 11 May 2010: Tommy attended the Marine Fire Fighting course in Port Elizabeth (part of 13 m boat skipper licence requirement)
- 17 May 2010: Tommy attended the ACEP Natal Bight cruise wash-up and planning meeting in Durban.
- 19-20 May 2010: Tommy and Ryan assisted in 24 hour sampling in Algoa Bay for Fort Hare Honours students.
- 26 May 2010: Ryan assisted the in Algoa Bay Sentinel Site sampling.
- 27 May 2010: Tommy and Ryan assisted in the SAEON Algoa Bay mooring service dives.

### Proposed activities for June

- 7-18 June 2010: Tommy and Ryan will attend the ACEP Sodwana fieldtrip to assist in Tony Booth and R Uken's projects.

## ELWANDLE NODE

### **Education:**

- Nozi Hambaze is conducting weekly school visits to ensure there is adequate assistance for schools during the integration of the data and weather stations in the curriculum.
- The technical problem with the weather stations was solved. 4 out of 5 schools are now able to download data regularly using the computers donated by Rhodes University and SAIAB. A huge thank you for their generosity. Quotes have been obtained for the purchase of new computers.
- There will be no access to equipment due to the closure of schools during the June holidays. Plans are in place to ensure safety of equipment and solutions are being sought for the collection of data during the long December holiday period.
- A second educator workshop was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May in Phalaborwa, which was attended by 9 educators. Judging on the feedback received, the workshop went very well. The attendance of schools was disappointing though as only 2 out of the 4 schools attended the workshop. A special mention should be made about the innovative means 1 particular school, who attended the workshop, devised to participate in the workshop even though they do not have a weather station. A concern was the non-attendance of the private school.

### Proposed activities for June

- Nozi is actively involved in the planning for the Science Camp in September.
- Nozi will be attending a planning meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> June in Bisho for the national launch of NSW which will be held in Alice at Fort Hare.
- Bernadette Snow will be submitting the M&R interim report at the end of June to Murray and Roberts.

### **Staff and Student Matters**

- An assistant, Jill Shepard, has been appointed to assist Shaun Deyzel while he focuses on the completion of his PhD.