

ELWANDLE NODE

Monthly Update JULY 2010

Key Achievements in July

Algoa Bay LTMR

- Shaun Deyzel serviced the offshore UTR Port Alfred (80m) on the 2nd July 2010, data was retrieved and a new unit launched successfully.
- PE-LTEMP monthly field trip was carried out on the 4th July 2010.
- Shaun facilitated talks toward finalising sampling site layout for PE-LTEMP with monitoring P.I.'s. Six sampling sites, focusing on a coastal monitoring mandate was agreed upon by all parties concerned.
- New zooplankton flow meters was received.
- Back-up HOBO temperature probes for Gully Probe and UTR arrays was also received.

Data Management

- Mr Gavin Fleming, SAEON Information Management Scientist, spent two days, 19-20 July 2010, working with various members of the Elwandle team, to improve data acquisition and management.
- Elwandle Node now has representatives, Shaun Deyzel and Bruce Donovan, who are registered to upload relevant data to respective portals. These include Metacat, CoGIS and the Nairobi Convention, South African Clearinghouse.
- Sentinel Site *in situ* data were delegated to Mr Rowen Van Eeden a SAEON registered MSc student (Fitzpatrick Unit, UCT), which will form an integral part of his research programme. Shaun has put him in contact with Dr. Wayne Goschen who will provide Rowen with statistical support.

Proposed activities for Shaun Deyzel for August

- Manufacture on board zooplankton sample filtration system.
- PE-LTEMP monthly sampling 1 – 20 August 2010.
- Service coastal gully temperature probes.
- Continue with research programme registration.
- Start uploading data to Metacat and Nairobi Convention portals.

South African Estuaries Information System (SAEIS)

- During July most of the administrative work for the SAEIS was completed with release agreement forms being sent to key stakeholder organisations to obtain permission for the inclusion of their reports on the SAEIS. At present, Nulette Gordon is still waiting for replies from a number of these organizations, and hope to have these by early August.
- An assistant for Nulette was employed for July to help with the typing of front-pages for all the reports to be included on the SAEIS. Ms. Kristen Ellis was employed for 51

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hours and accomplished an amazing amount of work during that time. Unfortunately, due to the large amount of documents currently on the SAEIS, she was not able to complete all the front-pages during this period. At present, splicing these front-pages to each document and finalizing the SAEIS will be her main focus.

- Nuette is still awaiting metadata for GIS shapefiles for inclusion on the SAEIS. It is hoped that these will be completed by the respective researchers by mid to late August.
- Nuette had a meeting with Gavin Flemming regarding the format and requirements for the metadata to be included on the SAEON data portal for the SAEIS. She will have ongoing meetings with Dr. Wayne Goschen on the population of the portal with the Estuaries database.
- She will also liaise with Dr. Goschen regarding the website design and layout to be launched during September / October 2010.
- Nuette has relocated to Cape Town for personal reasons, which is ideal for frequent meetings with Dr. Goschen regarding the Estuaries database.

Proposed activities for August

- The 2nd August Nuette will be setting up her home office, connection of internet & email, etc.
- 3- 6 August she will complete the splicing of front-pages to documents.
- The 9 – 13 August she will process the returned release agreements;
- Focus on Web-design, and
- Complete the metadata for the SAEIS documents and estuaries.
- The 16 – 20 August she will finalise the SAEIS for the website; and
- Transfer data to the SAEON portal & testing of the SAEIS.
- The 23 – 27 August she will test the website, and
- Format the DVD series of the SAEIS.

Marine Protected Areas:

- Sean Bailey was mainly focused on working on the 2010 data for iSimangaliso for July.
- He is currently on the Tsitsikamma National Park (TNP) fieldtrip with Anthony Bernard and Dr. Albrecht Götz which started on the 21st July and is expected to last until mid August.
- Anthony has successfully completed the mooring field trip.
- He also participated in the successful mooring of uKwabelana in the Storms River gorge.
- 15th July, Dr. Götz attended a Marine Linefish Research Group Meeting.
- 13th-14th July, Dr. Götz facilitated the MPAs, Natural Resources and Coastal Environment Monitoring Workshop at Rhodes University.
- He also undertook a diving trip to service the ADCP at Cape Recife.

Table Mountain National Park

- Research at the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) is on hold at present due to Anthony's current participation on the TNP fieldtrip.
- The mapping by the council for geoscience at TNMP is ongoing.

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Proposed activities for August

- Sean Bailey will continue working on the 2010 iSimangaliso data during August on his return from the TNP fieldtrip.
- Anthony, Sean and Dr. Gotz will still be participating on the TNP winter field trip.
- Upon Anthony's return from this fieldtrip he will start working on the TMNP progress report.
- He will also start on the analysis of the paired counts from the FIN volunteer programme, and the analysis of the species identification accuracy.

ACEP:

- 1-20 July, Dr. Thomas Bornman finalized the Natal Bight cruise with Tarron Lamont and Fiona MacKay.
- 1-31 July, Dr. Bornman planned the ASCLME/NIOZ/NOAA LOCO and ATLAS mooring cruise.
- 15 & 16 July Dr. Bornman visited the FRS Algoa in Cape Town, meeting with the Captain, Sharon du Plessis and Marcel van den Berg regarding the ACEP cruises.
- The ASCLME freezer was loaded for the Agulhas Bank cruise and the FRS Algoa departed Cape Town for Durban.
- 15, 16 & 19, 20 July 2010, Dr. Bornman attended the cruise coordination meeting with SMIT and MCM to discuss USNRL cruises in 2011 and ACEP cruise meetings.
- 20 July 2010, the ACEP Natal Bight Synoptic Cruise commenced in Durban.
- 19 – 29 July 2010, Dr. Bornman completed the ACEP month-end report.
- 27-28 July 2010, Dr. Bornman and Ryan Palmer attended the Pre-Sea Safety course and Seafarers Medical.
- 29 July 2010, Dr. Bornman and Ryan attended the National Science Day at Fort Hare.
- 30 July 2010, Dr. Bornman, Ryan, Charles Groenewald and Brian Godfrey departed on the 6 day Sodwana Field trip.
- 31 July 2010, the ACEP Natal Bight Synoptic Cruise ended in Durban.

Proposed plans for August

- 31 July – 6 August, Dr. Bornman and Ryan will be participating on the Sodwana Field trip.
- 1 – 25 August 2010 the ACEP Natal Bight Focus Areas cruise will take place.
- 26 – 30 August 2010 the Agulhas bank cruise sampling will take place in Algoa Bay on the R/V *uKwabelana* using the plankton pump.
- 31 August 2010 the ACEP Agulhas Bank cruise departs from Port Elizabeth.

Education:

- Weather monitoring programme
 - New computers were purchased and computer cages were built and mounted at schools to provide maximum security for computers.
 - Weather data at most schools are downloading perfectly except for one school. The problem is being addressed.

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- National Science Week 2010
 - The launch of NSW was held in Alice at Fort Hare University on the 29th July 2010.
 - It was well attended, over 4500 people were present including dignitaries of the Departments of Education and Science and Technology, learners, educators, parents, university staff, students and science exhibitors from across the country.
 - The theme for NSW was ***The role of science in economic development*** and a number of companies, institutes and universities exhibited the ways in which their science makes a contribution to economic development.
 - The Makana district was well represented with 6 exhibitions including the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB), SAIAB's education outreach programme, Bright Sparks, Upstart, which is Grahamstown's official youth newspaper, Rhodes University's Pharmacy Department and the Albany Museum.

- Planning is still underway for the Science Camp in September.

Proposed activities for August

- 4 August Nozi will be hosting a learner for the "*take a learner to work*" initiative as part of NSW 2010.
- 6 August Nozi will attend the World Café programme at Graeme College in Grahamstown, also as part of NSW.
- 12 August an educator workshop and a visit by Murray and Roberts will take place in Grahamstown.
- 18 August an educator workshop in Phalaborwa will take place facilitated by Berny Snow.

Staff and Student Matters

- Shaun Deyzel has completed chapter 2 of his PhD. Chapter 3 is nearing completion and is due for completion together with chapter 4 by 1 September 2010.

- Mr. Ntuthuko Masikane is tending to comments made on his final two chapters of his MSc dissertation. He is on track to submit the final product for examination towards the end of this year.