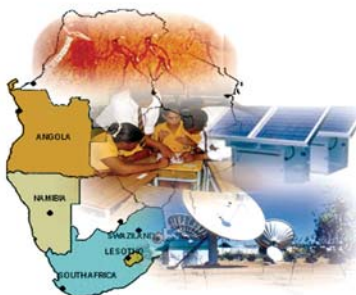


# NEWS BRIEF

UNESCO Windhoek Cluster

Edition 2/ May 2008



**STILL STRIVING TO LIVE BY THE  
CORE VALUES OF THE OFFICE:**

## CPORTS

**C - CARING**  
**P - PROFESSIONALISM**  
**O - OPENNESS**  
**R - RESPECT**  
**T - TEAM SPIRIT**  
**S - SERVICE ORIENTATION**

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## UNESCO Windhoek Cluster Consultation in Windhoek, Namibia



*Secretaries General from the Cluster, (from left) Mr. Desmond Fillis, South Africa, Mrs. Dorothy Littler, Swaziland Mrs. Mapaseka Kolotasane, Lesotho; Mr. Marius Kudumo, Deputy Secretary-General, Namibia and Dr. Afonso Valentim, Commissioner for Culture, representing the Angolan Secretary General during the Cluster Consultation.*

UNESCO hosted a Cluster Wide Consultation in Windhoek, Namibia from 18-19 February 2008. Member States Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland were represented by the Secretaries General of the respective UNESCO National Commissions at the UN House in Klein Windhoek, Namibia. The objectives of the Cluster Consultation were to: review the findings of the evaluation of the Windhoek Cluster Strategy which was carried out in 2007 and agree on actions to be taken for the 2008 – 2009 biennium of the UNESCO Programme. The Member States used this opportunity to review the draft country programmes and agree on their finalization in light of the approved

Programme and Budget 2008/9 and agree on joint Cluster initiatives (UNESCO Programme and Budget) and areas for joint resource mobilization.

The Consultation outlined the strategic direction which the Cluster will follow during the new biennium (2008/9), within the parameters of the UNESCO's Programme. It also set out priorities; action areas within those priorities; expected results with defined resources required to achieve those results; strategies to mobilize those resources, and mechanisms for public information and collaboration among member States within the UNESCO Windhoek Cluster.



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## Roads to Independence in Africa: the African liberation Heritage Programme

The African Liberation Heritage (ALH) Programme was formulated within the context of UNESCO's Programme on the Dialogue of Civilizations Programme which highlights the significance of intercultural exchanges and the multi-cultural heritage of humanity.

The ALH Programme aims at recognising the spirit of solidarity and cooperation amongst Africans in the context of the liberation movements. It is an acknowledgement of the importance of liberation movements to the process of decolonization of the continent. It furthermore recognizes the role played by Tanzania in providing material and moral support to the liberation movements which led to the struggle for independence in Southern Africa. The Programme's major components include research, awareness raising, the construction of a museum, library and archives.

Spear-headed by the United Republic of Tanzania, the preparatory phase ended in 2007. This phase mainly consisted of advocacy, programme formulation and resource mobilization. The Programme is now entering a decisive implementation phase.

Introduced to Namibia in July 2004 on the occasion of a Tanzanian/UNESCO advocacy mission led by Ndugu Philip Mangula, Secretary General of Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM), the SWAPO Party espoused the idea and presented it to Government that also endorsed it. Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Information and Broadcasting was consequently nominated by the Namibian Cabinet to be the Programme Focal Point and national coordinator.



*An unusual scenario: The President of the Rep. of Namibia, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, flanked by two UNESCO Directors: Mr. Cheikh Sy, Director, UNESCO Dar es Salaam Cluster and Dr. Claudia Harvey, Director, UNESCO Windhoek Cluster during the African Liberation Heritage meeting*

In July 2007, Namibia organized a stakeholders' consultative meeting, chaired by Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. The meeting included senior government officials from key ministries. Its objective was consultative and aimed at working out a road map for Namibia to participate fully in the Liberation Heritage Programme.

The government of the Republic of Namibia, in collaboration with the United Republic of Tanzania and UNESCO convened an International Consultative Meeting from 20 to 21 February 2008 in Windhoek.

The meeting brought together the Programme Focal Points of participating countries, African diplomats representing their countries in Namibia,

representatives of relevant international organizations and high ranking individuals whose work or experience could enhance the consultative process.

The report of the consultation meeting will be used to lay the foundation for the way forward for the implementation of the ALH programme. After the deliberations of the meeting, Namibia launched her National Chapter of the programme which, was officially launched by His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia.

An actuality DVD was produced after the meeting which captures the proceedings of the meeting and it is hoped that the footings contained in this DVD will be shown on national televisions of participating countries.

## Touching on the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Four of UNESCO Windhoek Cluster countries – Angola, Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland participated in a two-day regional training workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) on 27- 28 March 2008 in Pretoria. The event was organized in close collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture of South Africa and was a follow-up to the sub-regional meeting that the Section of Intangible Cultural Heritage organized on the implementation of the 2003 Convention and ICH inventoring in November 2006 in Dar es Salaam.

This was the first of a series of three workshops organized for African states. The meeting specifically targeted States that are non parties to the 2003 Convention, focusing on Central, Southern and West Africa, with the aim of introducing the Convention to cultural



*Participants during the training workshop*

officials. The process involved explaining the ratification process to participants, and strategizing on how best to implement the Convention to its goals. A second workshop was held in Mali for French-Speaking countries. A third workshop, of this series is planned, specifically for the States Parties to the

Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Namibia, which ratified the Convention in 2007, will participate in the meeting which will take place at UNESCO Head Quarters from 23 to 24 June 2008.

## HIV & AIDS: The Bruni Foundation-funded EDUCAIDS project ready to take off!

As part of the implementation of the project funded by the private Bruni Foundation in honor of their departed Son, with backstopping from the Headquarters EDUCAIDS Unit, the Cluster Office, Country Programme officers (CPO) from the 4 beneficiary countries ( Angola, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland) developed costed work plans for the initiation of project implementation. This is at the completion of a 7-week fact finding, information-gathering and needs assessment assignment to the Cluster by Mr Leonard Kamugisha, Assistant Programme Specialist for UNESCO. Enhanced partnership and collaboration with country UN



*Mr. Leonard Kamugisha (right) , Assistant Programme Specialist, HIV and AIDS during his recent mission to Angola at one of the project sites.*

joint country teams on HIV & AIDS, better alignment with national and sub-regional priorities, and building on UNESCO's comparative advantage for addressing the pandemic meeting the donor's specific expectations are the guiding principles. Capacity building, mainstreaming HIV & AIDS in teacher training programmes, materials developments on life skills and guidance and counselling for youth, will constitute the core components of activities for beneficiaries.

**Streamlined administration: Cluster Office takes active measures to ensure smooth programme implementation through enhanced administrative processes**



*Windhoek Office Programme officers with Director*

As part of the Office response to recommendations of the evaluation report of the Cluster Strategy conducted at the end of the last biennium and of the Cluster Consultation that followed in February 2008, the Programme Specialist, and the Office focal point for Angola, Mr Edem Adubra, the Administrative Officer (AO), Ms Mekdes Edjigayehu-Grandclaude, and the programme officer in charge of Communication and Information,

Social and Human Sciences, Ms. Alcina Ndjavera, undertook a joint mission to Luanda from 13-22 April 2008 to pursue programme matters and address the causes of administrative delays in the funds transfer to Angolan contractors on major UNESCO-supported programmes in Angola.

During the mission, the AO held discussions with the Finance Office of UNDP/Luanda through which most payments to Angolan contractors are made. The AO reviewed with National counterparts UNESCO's procedures in terms of contracts. Through very cordial discussions, Windhoek delegation also underscored the importance of timely submission of deliverables, their quality, completeness and satisfactory review by the Programme officers before payment could be initiated. The parties agreed on

new measures, including direct payment to contractors' bank accounts for facilitating access to funds and timely execution of activities.

The Windhoek delegation attended the UNCT meeting where matters of importance to UNESCO's work on the ground were discussed: the still pending appointment of a new Resident Coordinator, the MDG-F Window on conflict prevention and peace building, and the work of the UN Joint Team on HIV and AIDS. At the invitation of the Secretary General of the National Commission for UNESCO, Mr. Manuel Quarta, the delegation participated in the launch of the 2008 Global Action Week for EFA. The event was chaired by the Minister of Education Mr. António Burity da Silva Neto, and dedicated to the launch of a CD-Rom produced by Angolan artists in favour of literacy.

**Freedom of expression as a Human Right, a South African youth perspective**

During March-May 2008, UNESCO Windhoek Cluster Office collaborated with the Bush Community Radio station based in Cape Town, South Africa, on a World Press Freedom Day activity based on freedom of expression linked with youth and hip hop culture. From 1996 – 2004, Bush Radio ran similar successful campaigns using hip hop music as a tool for social change, by using the music, lyrics and debate to raise awareness around social, economic and political issues.

As a major highlight of this activity, the debate took place in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April at Cape Town High School. The

participants were representatives of ASPNet schools and other schools around the Western Cape. Each school researched and prepared their input which was discussed during the debate. The Human Rights Commission, Freedom of Expression Institute and the National Youth Commission also participated. The South African National Commission for UNESCO addressed the youth and other participants and gave a brief account of Article 19 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. On World Press Freedom Day, the debate was broadcast live on-air at Bush Radio while studio guests were invited to share their views on air. A 30-minute documentary

was produced from the event. The documentary will be shared with other ASPNet schools as well as community radio stations within the Windhoek Cluster member states in the next few months.



*A cover of the CD produced to be disseminated to schools and community centres*

## Beyond Borders: ISARM-SADC Workshop Ensures Sustainable TransBoundary Groundwater Resources

UNESCO Windhoek initiated the network of Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management (ISARM) within SADC (March 2006) and organized the third regional ISARM-SADC workshop from 21-24 April 2008, in Stampriet, Namibia. It is also in Stampriet that a baseline study will be conducted on the TransBoundary Aquifer (TBA) that is shared by Botswana, South Africa and Namibia. The knowledge gained from the study will be the foundation for further efforts that will lead to a sound management of the resource by the neighboring countries.



*Participants during the workshop*

Representatives from the ministries responsible for water of each of the countries, private stakeholders, as well as geohydrology consultants attended the meeting, to share knowledge done on previous studies on TBAs and to create an action plan for the management of the Stampriet TBA. Christmas Mahari, Regional Strategic Action Plan Water Co-ordinator at SADC, attended the meeting and agreed that this study was vital to the area and its sustainability.

It was agreed that the planned studies would address; correct identification of the aquifer, water quality monitoring, identification of illegal boreholes and the correct construction of boreholes. The Transboundary Aquifer Management Team (TAMT) was created, consisting of Mr. M. Magowe (Botswana), Mr. C. Moseki (South Africa) and Mr. G. Christelis (Namibia).

Moving forward, the TAMT will be responsible for presenting the Technical Task Team of ORASECOM with the Terms of Reference and the project proposal in hopes that inclusion to Oranje Senq Commission (ORASECOM) plans will gain donors' interest. The plan of action is to establish a finalized ToR and project proposal by the end of May 2008.

## Farewell to an Esteemed Colleague

The Natural Sciences Programme Specialist Alexandros Makarigakis will be departing Windhoek Cluster at the end of May 2008 to assume duty at the Addis Ababa Cluster Office. Following the ISARM-SADC workshop, The Director proposed that to ensure the continuation of the office's water focused projects in Mr. Makarigakis' absence that the UNESCO Chair of Geohydrology Group, which Dr. Yongxin Xu leads, be the official advisor to the Office in water matters. Dr. Xu graciously accepted the increased collaboration with UNESCO Windhoek.



*Dr. Alex Makarigakis, Programme Specialist, Natural Sciences; Dr. Claudia Harvey, Director of UNESCO Windhoek Office and Dr. Yongxin Xu, UNESCO Chair of Geohydrology Group, South Africa*

## Working with RECs: UNESCO and SADC reinforced collaboration through joint work plan in Education

Education Programme Officers from UNESCO Cluster and National Offices in the SADC Sub-region, with technical support from the Regional Advisor of UNESCO Institute of Statistics at BRED, undertook a consultation mission to Gaborone (Botswana), headquarters of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Discussions with SADC counterparts led to the development of a work plan for the Sub-regional activity on Education Management and Information Systems (EMIS), one of the priority areas in the revised implementation plan of the SADC Protocol on Education and Training and of the African Union's 2nd Decade of Education in Africa framework of action.

EMIS will be the theme for the forthcoming Ministers of Education Meeting in July 2008, and a survey on the status of EMIS in member states is being piloted with support from NESIS. UNESCO and SADC agreed to support the execution of the survey in all SADC countries, and to prepare a report on the outcomes for the Ministers of Education meeting. They proposed a joint calendar,



*Director of Human & Social Programmes SADC, Mr. Stephen Sianga (third from right, back row) with the UNESCO, UIS and NESIS Programme Officers and SADC-REEP delegates at the planning meeting*

which further includes the review of quality in 5 pilot countries (Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia).

Besides EMIS, the meeting explored collaboration in other education fields, such as EFA (UNESCO/OSISA project), HIV/AIDS (EDUCAIDS) and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). Regarding DESD, SADC delegates agreed with UNESCO to put resources and expertise together in order to promote the Decade and

support countries of the region to establish national strategies and exchange experiences.

Addressing the participants, the Director of the SADC Social and Human Development and Special Programmes, Mr. Stephan Sianga, called for the initiative to be institutionalized for more efficiency and enhanced coordination in the future.

The UNESCO delegation included Programme Officers from Dar-es-Salam, Harare, Maputo and Windhoek offices.

## Setting the stage for enhanced education support to Lesotho and Swaziland

UNESCO has supported an assessment of the education sector in Lesotho and Swaziland through the UNESCO National Education Support Strategy (UNESS). The UNESS provides vital information not only for UNESCO's programming purposes, but also for other stakeholders in education. Education programme officer, Ms. M. Sifuniso-Chabala undertook missions to the two countries

in March 2008 for the validation of the UNESS in preparation for implementation of identified priorities.

Both countries indicated that the process was being done at an opportune time when they are undergoing an education sector review in Swaziland and a technical review in Lesotho. The UNESS was cited as an important input for the

planned Education Strategy in Swaziland and the Medium Term Sector Plan in Lesotho. Final drafts of the UNESS can be sourced from the National Commissions for UNESCO or the UNESCO Windhoek Cluster Office Education Sector. The complete documents will soon be available online on UNESCO's website.

## Eradication of poverty, responsible reporting: Lesotho

More often than not the masses are given a voice only when the media wants their views or opinions regarding certain events or incidents in which they are not the role players. Apart from that, the word poverty is mostly uttered in the media by those with power in making public statements concerning complex issues such as those of MDGs, Poverty Reduction etc which to some extent a large part of the masses are not even aware of.

To Lesotho, 4 – 6 January, 2008 marked the realization that 'both government and private media in Lesotho appear to go by the dictum that it is only politicians and the wealthy that control the news. Apart from that it was realized that with the changing patterns in communication in the country and other parts of the world, most reporting, especially on poverty, tends to embrace a top down approach to communication which to some extent has failed to embrace the voices of the poor. This results in unsustainable interventions that collapse in part due to inappropriate and biased or skewed information.

It is in light of the above mentioned issues that UNESCO felt it worthwhile to fund this training workshop around poverty reporting with the intention to capacitate and develop skills and knowledge among the journalists in Lesotho.

The participants of the workshop were drawn from media organizations of the country including private radio stations, church radio stations, private news papers, individual journalists and free



*Reporters from the local media in Lesotho, discussing the draft poverty reporting guideline*

lancers. The private radio stations included People's Choice FM, Catholic Radio, Thahakhube FM and Harvest FM. The newspaper agencies included Leselinyana la Lesotho, Public Eye, Mopheme the Survivor, Informative, Mara, Lesotho Monitor, INTELSEIVE and Leseli Ka Sepolesa. The facilitation of the workshop was drawn from Southern Africa Media Training Trust based in Blantyre, Malawi.

The Secretary-General (SG) of the Lesotho National Commission for UNESCO, Mrs. Mapaseka Kolotsane in her opening remarks, emphasized that freedom from poverty is a human right and that UNESCO's Anti-poverty Strategy underscores the active role that advocacy and information can play in this process. She further called on the involvement of

other local and international stakeholders to combat poverty through facilitating access to information for the poorest communities in Lesotho.

As a result of this workshop, the capacities of journalists from both government and private media were built in using communication as a tool for social change through the careful analysis of poverty in the media. It is expected that the poverty reporting guidelines developed during the workshop will become a useful tool for media practitioners in Lesotho.

## Office Retreat

The Office held a staff retreat in the new UN Building on the 20-23 February 2008 with the theme "SUSTAINING THE GAINS, REDUCING THE STRAINS". In the previous five years (2003-2007), UNESCO Windhoek Cluster Office has implemented its strategic plan with great success and the evaluators of the strategy gave the Office highest marks on almost all issues. However, they stated that the staff of the Office was *visibly overworked*. This is the challenge the retreat set out to tackle.

After ice breakers and the singing of the Cluster Office Anthem, the retreat started with group and individual needs assessments that inspired the discussion sessions on the last day. Topics that were handled were: Funding and Contracts; How the Office can reduce the workload without losing impact; the C-ports were revisited and C-ports specific behaviors were identified.



UNESCO Windhoek Cluster team ( Office and National Commissions from all five countries) during the Cluster Consultation which was followed by the Office Retreat

Outcomes of the meeting included concrete recommendations on how the Office can work towards sustaining the gains while reducing the strains as outlined below;

- There should be more delegation of tasks and staff needs to learn to say NO to new projects, if there is not enough capacity to handle them.
- In some cases UNESCO Windhoek should change its mindset and step down from the driver's seat and function as a facilitator to network projects.
- A ten minute coffee break should be introduced and the monthly birthday celebrations resumed.

The facilitator of the retreat, Dr. Gwendoline Williams, has facilitated five previous Windhoek Cluster Retreats with great success. With her guidance the Office retreat attained results that made staff feel "lighter", "strengthened" and "confident". Other staff said that the retreat had been very enjoyable, while informative. With the encouragement of Dr. Williams to use the retreat as a management tool for future improvements, the Director closed the retreat with *"We are the team. We can make a better change. We need to make that better change with us and with everybody. We make a positive difference. We need to strengthen ourselves to continue making that difference"*.

Staff were motivated to implement the recommendations made during the retreat in order to work towards sustaining the mission.



UNESCO Windhoek Office Staff at Alex's farewell "lime"

**THE MISSION: "SERVING FIVE COUNTRIES IN 5 SECTORS, SO THAT WE CAN HAVE MEASURABLE, VISIBLE IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT, WHILE REMAINING A HIGH PERFORMING TEAM WITH JOB SATISFACTION"**