

ELWANDLE NODE

Monthly Update AUGUST 2010

Key Achievements in August

Algoa Bay LTMR

- Serviced the Gully Probes at Kenton-On-Sea, Cannon Rocks, Cape Padrone and Woody Cape on the 14th August 2010. Data was retrieved and disseminated securely.
- Completed the on board zooplankton sample filtration system. The unit worked extremely well, shortening the time spent sampling at each station by approximately 30 minutes.
- The PE-LTEMP monthly field trip was successfully carried out on the 17th August 2010. A full complimentary set of parameters were sampled at 6 coastal monitoring sites.

Data Management

- Data population and dissemination continues.

Fort Hare University Honours Research Programme

- SAEON presented a Data Analysis, Statistics and Scientific Writing Course. Course was co-ordinated by Shaun Deyzel and presented by Mr Bruce Donovan (Sentinel Site Data and Field Assistant).
- Co-ordinated the analyses of 72 Nutrient samples by Dr Gavin Snow (Botany Department, NMMU). This was the final component of the Fort Hare University Honours Research Programme.
- Students are in their write-up phase and on par to finish within the required time-frame.

Parataxonomy Laboratory Matters

Laboratory Interns and SAEON has recently agreed to assist with the processing of deep ocean benthic samples for Ms Natasha Karenyi (SANBI). SAEON and the Laboratory Interns, through this venture, provide a significant research support towards the conclusion of Ms Karenyi's PhD requirements (registered with Zoology Department, NMMU).

Proposed activities for September

- PE-LTEMP monthly sampling 1 – 20 September 2010.
- Service Port Alfred gully temperature probe and UTR.
- Continue with research programme registration.
- Start uploading data to Metacat and Nairobi Convention portals.
- Complete Benthic Sample Analyses for Ms Karenyi (SANBI).

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South African Estuaries Information System (SAEIS)

- At the beginning of August, Nulette Gordon relocated to Cape Town. Unfortunately the internet connection, from her home office, is very limited and she has had to resort to making use of the local internet café which has resulted in delays responding to email correspondence from stakeholders. The problem is being attended to and will hopefully be resolved within the next couple of weeks.
- At present she is awaiting metadata for GIS shapefiles that will be included on the SAEIS. The aim was to have these completed by the respective researchers by mid to late August but due to other projects the researchers are committed to at present the Metadata files has for the time being been put on hold. It must be stressed that if the files are not completed soon, the shapefiles will be excluded from the SAEIS and only the completed jpeg vegetation maps will be included. A number of extra topographical maps from the Department of Surveys & Mapping were also added to the SAEIS during August 2010.
- The return of release forms from stakeholder organisations has been very slow. To speed it up Nulette has sent an email to all parties concerned.
- Nulette had a meeting with Dr. Wayne Goschen and changes to the current version of the SAEIS were discussed. The most up-to-date version of the SAEIS was also placed on the SAEON server for Wayne to work on. It was decided that the present version of the Website will be used to launch the SAEIS. Once feedback from key researchers has been received, the final version of the website will be developed. Dr. Goschen will also see what method will be most useful for the distribution of the SAEIS on DVD's, i.e. per region or attribute, depending on the size of the files.

Proposed activities for Nulette for September

- The 1st – 3rd September, tending to the connection of internet & email, etc. at her home office.
- 6 – 10 September, process the returned release agreements and finalise the SAEIS files and format.
- The 13 – 17 September, test the SAEIS website and SAEIS DVD series.
- 20 – 23 September, liaise with key researchers / user groups regarding the impressions of the SAEIS and tend to feedback.
- 27 – 30 September, tend to the preparation of the SAEIS for the SAEON Summit in Cape Town.

Marine Protected Areas:

- 22 July – 22 August, Anthony Bernard, Dr. Albrecht Götz, Sean Bailey and Elodie Heyns completed the winter Tsitsikamma National Park fieldtrip.
- For the remainder of August Dr. Götz was working on papers for the African Journal of Marine Science and Conservation Biology.

Proposed activities for September

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- Anthony Bernard will be analyzing data collected during the TNP winter field trip.
- No work was conducted on the Table Mountain National Park project during August but Anthony is currently preparing to start working on the volunteer paper.
- He is also preparing talks for the SAEON Summit and Rhodes University seminar day.
- Further mapping of the Table Mountain National Park will be undertaken by the Council for Geoscience.
- Sean Bailey will be working up the 2010 data for iSimangaliso and will continue to do so for the remainder of the year.
- Dr. Götz will be attending a statistic course at Rhodes University and tending to the WWF progress and financial report.

ACEP:

- 31 July – 6 August: Dr. Thomas Bornman and Ryan Palmer completed the Sodwana Field trip.
- 1 – 25 August 2010: ACEP Natal Bight Focus Areas cruise.
- 1 - 30 August: Dr. Bornman and Ryan were implementing plans for the Agulhas Bank Cruise.
- 17 August: Dr. Bornman sampled at Algoa Bay.
- 26 – 30 August 2010: Agulhas Bank cruise sampling at Algoa Bay on the R/V *uKwabelana* using the plankton pump.
- 31 August 2010: the ACEP Agulhas Bank cruise departs Port Elizabeth.

Proposed plans for September

- 1 – 10 September: ACEP Agulhas Bank cruise First Leg: PE to Mossel Bay with Dr. Bornman as Chief Scientist onboard.
- 11 – 22 September: ACEP Agulhas Bank cruise Second Leg: Mossel Bay to Cape Town with Ryan Palmer as Chief Scientist onboard.
- 13 – 24 September: Dr. Bornman will attend the ASCLME Steering Committee meeting in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania followed by ASCLME meetings in Seychelles and Mauritius.
- 25 – 27 September: FRS Algoa steams back to PE with teachers and learners onboard as part of the “Teachers at Sea” and “Adopt a Drifter” programme.
- 28 September 2010: FRS Algoa departs PE on ASCLME/ACEP/NOAA/NIOZ mooring cruise to the South Western Indian Ocean.

Education:

- Weather monitoring programme
 - Currently everything is on hold due to strikes.
 - Nombulelo is still struggling to get data even though a new weather station was tried. To solve this problem, an option would be to erect a temporary weather station elsewhere at the school and leave it for a day or two to download before erecting one permanently.
 - The educator workshop for Elwandle Node had to be postponed until September due to the educator strike and the workshop in Phalaborwa had to be cancelled as

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well. The intention of the workshop was to work through worksheet ideas and integrating the weather data in the curriculum. There will be a follow up workshop in Phalaborwa in October.

- National Science Week 2010
 - The 2 – 6 August 2010 was the implementation week of the National Science Week (NSW) activities. All planned NSW activities were a great success.
 - Elwandle Node participated in the launch of science clubs at the Bright Sparks host schools and SAIAB donated science kits to schools to start their clubs. Luzuko Dali of Elwandle did a motivational talk at the launches, encouraging young learners to pursue a career in Science as he has done.
 - 4 August 2010, the Node participated in the “*Take a learner to work day*” initiative. This was an excellent opportunity for learners as they were not only exposed to the scientific work environment but to marine science in particular. Learners spent half the day at the SAEON Parataxonomy Laboratory before going to SAIAB later in the day.
- Planning is actively taking place for the Science Camp in September.

Proposed activities for September

- 7 – 9 September: SAEON Network of Education experts meeting in Phalaborwa.
- September 2010 (DTBC): Educator workshop at the Elwandle Node in Grahamstown.
- September 2010 (DTBC): Learner briefing session.
- 24 – 30 September (DTBC): Science camp.

Staff and Student Matters

- Shaun Deyzel has completed chapter 3 of his PhD and is making good progress on chapter 4. The deadline for completion thereof is the 15th September. Chapter 5 will commence on the 16th September, deadline for completion the 30th September.
- The final draft of Mr Ntuthuko Masikane’s MSc thesis was received and is being reviewed by Shaun Deyzel and Prof Tris Wooldridge.
- Mr Luzuko Dali completed his minor corrections to his MSc – Well done boet