

MDG-F CULTURAL TOURISM JOINT PROGRAMME BI ANNUAL REPORT ANNEX (PILOT SITES UPDATE)

As indicated in the previous report, a number of pilot sites have completed the software phase (feasibility and baselines studies; management plans; conservation policies; gender and HIV/AIDS plans; financial guidelines; marketing strategies; promotional and marketing materials; creation of partnership and linkages with mainstream tour operators; training; research; designing of signage, story boards and architectural plans). The pilot sites have now entered the hardware phase of the development of physical infrastructures. Below is a summary of progress at each of the 11 pilot sites:

1. Construction at the **Duineveld Tannery** is complete, comprising of ablution facilities, reception area, office space, kitchen area, store rooms, production area, strong room and an approved waste disposal system. Additionally, tanning equipment has been secured which include tanning drums and other relevant equipment needed for a successful tannery. Water was connected and currently, the building is being electrified.
2. Satisfactory progress was also made at **Kapande Cultural Village** in Kavango Region; to this effect 4 traditional huts were completed with local building materials. Septic tanks as well as an infiltration tank were completed at the site. Currently, a contractor is busy with the construction of a cultural performance and local story telling arena, which is nearing completion. Previously, the project was experiencing land dispute, however, this has now been resolved with the traditional authorities allocating additional piece of land for the development of the cultural village. It has been a challenge for the project to officially register the land in its name as it was not a recognized legal entity, to this end, the Kapande Cultural Village is now registered with the Ministry of Trade and Industry as a "Section 21 company", this will ease the registration of land and transfer of project investment at the end of the MDGF Joint Programme on Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Namibia.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry under the Directorate of Forestry have pledged the project additional tress to be planted at the site and at the same time, the National Botanical Institute of Namibia is developing 10 information boards to be erected at the site on different tress as a reflection of typical tradition and local trees with significance to the Kavango Region. As the site is located close to Kavango River, soil erosion has been prevalent and required action from the side of the project, in response to this, 50 trucks load off soil and compacted it to repair the damage from the erosion and gallingly at the site; and as per the recommendations of a qualified Engineer in the Kavango Regional Council, a drainage system was developed at the site to divert the flow of water along the eastern perimeter of the site in order to prevent further erosion... Finally, a contractor was appointed in order to finalize the construction of a reception and office space from where the cultural village will be managed. This construction is expected to be completed by the end of August and the site will be handed over to the management of the Registered Cultural Village under section 21 company.

3. So far, a total of 8 traditional huts (4 for Himba and 4 for Zemba) were completed at the site. A contractor is currently busy with construction at the **Opuwo Cultural Village** main building that will also have a section for a craft shop, which is expected to complete the infrastructure at by 31 August 2012. This completion of the building will be followed by an official opening and

handover of the cultural village to the local communities under the leadership of Kunene Regional Council.

4. With the support of the National Heritage Council of Namibia, a contractor was appointed to develop the infrastructure at **Omungulugwobashe Interpretation Centre** in Omusati Region. The first site meeting took place and construction of the Interpretation Centre is currently under way. A comprehensive marketing strategy was developed for Omusati Cultural Trail and the National Heritage Council and partners are currently developing marketing tools and materials to be used in the broader marketing activities of the Cultural Trail. In respect to contract terms, the contractor is bound to complete the construction process by end of September 2012, which will be followed by an official launch and handover event.
5. To date, 2 (Ombalantu Heritage Centre and Uukwaludhi Traditional Homestead) out of the 5 sites within the **Omusati Cultural Trail** are operational (primarily because they received other funding before the MDGF funding came into being). Work is currently under way at Onathsiku and Okahao Baobab Heritage Centre and will be completed within the final funding cycle from UNESCO.
6. At **Katima Cultural Trail**, although the JP experienced challenges related to financial management (which is **now resolved with the** support of the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture), notable progress was made. The fencing of the tombstone of the first magistrate for Katima Mulilo was completed with a pathway leading to the site that was previously covered by bush and shrubs.

The restoration work at the historical baobab tree and fencing is complete, which was followed by the first face of cleaning at the former leprosy centre and work has also started with the fencing of the former leprosy centre which will be continued in August. The development of the information centre is scheduled to commence in August, running up until end of September. The project experienced challenges with regards to the availability of the initial plot for the development of the centre but the Katima Mulilo Town Council have availed an alternative plot where the centre will be developed. The site handover may only take place in October to November 2012.

7. The clearing of land at **Tsumkwe Cultural Village** was completed by local community members under the food-for-work programme of the Otjozondjupa Regional Council. Following this, a contractor was appointed for the development of the cultural village infrastructure and the first site meeting took place. The construction process is expected to last up to the end of September 2012 and will be followed by an official opening and handover ceremony.
8. The Namibian Police supported the demining of possible explosives within the land that was allocated for the development of **King Nehale Cultural Centre**. This process was necessary because the area is located within a former war zone of Namibia Liberation Struggle. After this process, the fencing of the area is now completed and a contractor was appointed to commence with the construction of an information centre and craft shop at the site.
9. With the technical assistance of a locally recruited consultant of UN-Habitat, the JP managed to finalize the technical evaluation of bids submitted for the development **Ozombu Zovindimba Heritage Site** in Omaheke Region. However, the financial bids are currently under review at UN-Habitat Head Quarters in Nairobi, Kenya. Once the financial review is completed, a suitable contractor will be appointed to commence with the work that is estimated to take a total of 2 months to be completed.

10. After a lengthy period, the JP finally contracted the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN), currently implementing the activities of the **Geopark** component of the Joint Programme. DRFN is responsible for:

- Compilation of a Management Plan for the Geopark;
- Design of Corporate Identity and Texts for Information Boards and Production of Promotional Material (incl. Heritage Map);
- Architectural design for an information centre and provision of infrastructure for selling of minerals by small scale miners;
- Convening of needs assessment workshop;
- Design of training materials for future tour guides and HIV/AIDS campaign.

11. Kunene Regional Council Tender Board and the Principal Agent for **Khorixas Cultural Centre** selected and appointed a suitable contractor who is tasked with the development of the Centre. The construction is expected to take a maximum of three months.

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