

## Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage (MUCH) Activities 2010/2011

The Centre for International Heritage Activities (CIE) has implemented several training, capacity building programs appropriate for a number of countries, and taking into consideration the requirements of the *UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001*.



Figure 1: Much training in Tanzania/Zanzibar

## South Africa 2010

### Robben Island workshops

From 16 February to 10 March 2010, CIE (Director, Robert Parthesius and MUCH Coordinator, Bill Jeffery) and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) with support from the Robben Island Museum and the Africa World Heritage Fund conducted the first regional Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage (MUCH) training program on Robben Island, Cape Town.



*Figure 2: MUCH meeting and training on Robben Island with participants from South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique and Namibia.*

**The program comprised four sessions:**

#### **Session 1: 16-19 February**

**Developing a South African and a sub-Saharan African regional strategy for a MUCH program**

This session was primarily for institutional decision makers, planners and conservation managers and included government representatives from Namibia, Tanzania, South Africa and Mozambique, the African World Heritage Fund, Robben Island Museum and the University of Cape Town. Representatives of a number of government agencies throughout South Africa provided a broad view of the requirements of a MUCH program in South Africa. A sub-Saharan African regional strategy on the implementation of a MUCH program was initiated and further developed. This included discussion on the ratification of the *UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001*. A comprehensive report has been compiled and a MUCH Regional Group Collaboration Statement was produced.

## **Session 2: 22-26 February**

### **Workshop on *Site Recorder* software and Magnetometer surveying (Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS) Part 3 Course)**

Theoretical and practical training was carried out on the use of the survey and recording program, *Site Recorder*. The second part comprised three days of theory and practical training in using a magnetometer to search for MUCH sites and the integration of the data with the *Site Recorder* program.



*Figure 3: South African participant of MUCH training Robben Island*

### **Session 3: 1-3 March**

#### **Introductory workshops on MUCH work (NAS Introductory and Part 1 Courses)**

A total of 22 people attended the NAS Introductory and Part 1 Courses which included a mixture of theory and practical training in the scope of MUCH activities, legislation and ethics, the different MUCH site types, search and survey techniques, the significance of this type of heritage, and the management approaches that can be used.

### **Session 4: 4-10 March**

#### **More advanced training on MUCH work (NAS Part 2 Course)**

The NAS Part 2 certification consists of implementing a field survey and preparing a survey report assessed against a number of criteria. The survey program was implemented on a number of underwater sites around Robben Island and in Table Bay, and a number of land-based maritime heritage sites on Robben Island. Four days of terrestrial and underwater surveys were implemented and a fifth day was used to plan for all the different aspects of the report to be compiled by all the group members, a total of 16 people attended this course.



*Figure 4: Robben Island Museum staff recording position of shipwreck for the MUCH database*

## Durban NAS Introductory and Part 1 Courses

A total of 22 divers and non-divers participated in the NAS Introductory and Part 1 Courses in Durban from 8-10 October 2010. As on Robben Island, the courses involved theoretical and practical training in MUCH activities (including underwater three-dimensional surveying).

## Tanzania 2010



Figure 5: Poster developed for public awareness in conjunction with UNESCO and Tanzania stakeholders

The Tanzanian government have been working toward the ratification of the *UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001* since 2008. In collaboration with CIE, a phased program in building the capacity of personnel to form a 'Competent Authority' and in pursuing an active MUCH program commenced in February 2009. A total of 14 government and university staff have acquired skills to this end. More recently, in December 2009, an Action Plan was developed which has seen amongst other things, the establishment of a MUCH unit with a budget allocation.



*Figure 6: The elders of Kilwa Kisiwani and Kilwa project team*

Further capacity building initiatives have been implemented in 2010. This includes Stage 1 of a project which aims to identify, record, document and prepare a management plan for the maritime and underwater cultural heritage (MUCH) sites at the World Heritage Site of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara. From 14-27 November 2010, nine of the Tanzanian MUCH team, and representatives from South Africa, Namibia, as well as CIE trainers implemented an investigation of the MUCH sites there. This included considerable community liaison and the collection of oral histories, a magnetometer survey, and an investigation of the logistics for implementing further stages of a larger project, possibly to commence in 2011. This project was funded by UNESCO Dar es Salaam, and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Dar es Salaam which provided the initial funding in 2009 to commence the capacity building program.



*Figure 7: Jonathan Sharfman of the South African Heritage Resources Agency outlining the magnetometer survey requirements to the Tanzanian team*

## Mozambique



*Figure 8: UNESCO workshop in Maputo*

In January 2011, CIE in association with UNESCO Maputo, will implement a sensibilization seminar on Ilha de Mozambique. The aims of the seminar are to bring together the community and to hear their voices on the issues surrounding the protection and management of MUCH sites and to begin to empower the community with a range of techniques and skills in protecting and managing MUCH sites. The seminar is being funded by UNESCO Maputo. This is a follow-up of the workshop CIE conducted on MUCH in October 2009.

## Micronesia



Figure 9: Surveying the Agat LCM 6

The aims of this project were to provide training in maritime archaeology field techniques to a number of students/participants in Guam. The Guam Preservation Trust (GPT) identified maritime and underwater cultural heritage management as an important topic in helping to reveal aspects of Guam's heritage and it was keen to introduce students to this topic who could use the knowledge and techniques in their future employment or further studies in Guam.

A course of study was arranged in collaboration with the University of Guam (UoG) and the Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC) and taught from 6-16 July 2010. The classroom work provided the theoretical framework for the practical sessions and included the techniques required in implementing the initial phases of a maritime and underwater cultural heritage program, including non-disturbance surveying and recording, and documenting the results of the survey. Given the priorities in the best-practice of maritime archaeology at the international and national levels involving *insitu* management of sites, this topic was introduced into the course. The surveys centred on recording and documenting an American Landing Craft off the World War II invasion beach at Agat. Students came from different backgrounds and countries, including Australia, Philippines, Hawaii, US mainland, Canada and Guam.

CIE, through Bill Jeffery implemented the program in association with Vicki Richards and Jon Carpenter (Western Australian Museum) and Rick Chan (Hong Kong Underwater Heritage Group). Guam Preservation Trust provided the funds for the course to be implemented.

It is planned to hold the course again in July 2011.

## **MUCH PROGRAMS IN 2011**

**January: MUCH training introduction course on Ilha de Mozambique, Mozambique**

**January-February: MUCH courses on Robben Island and Durban, South Africa**

**March: workshop MUCH database in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

**May: start MUCH regional cooperation programme (Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Namibia. (TENTATIVE pending funding African World Heritage Fund))**

**July: MUCH training Guam, Micronesia**

**September: MUCH courses on Robben Island and Durban**