



Annual Report

For the Year ended 28 February 2017



THE GOBABEB TRUST

Trust Registration Number T53/98 (Namibia)

Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

It is once more my honour to report on behalf of the Board of Trustees, as to progress at the Centre during the 2016/2017 financial year.

We are all aware of the increasingly harsh austerity measures that have been affecting global and national growth since 2015. These austerity measures have particularly severe implications for small, non-profit organisations such as Gobabeb, especially if they are primarily delivering fundamental science services rather than engaging in community development or environmentalism. Despite the challenging economic and geopolitical climate, where old alliances are being re-examined and the future is unpredictable, Gobabeb's ongoing investment into responsive, innovative research, capacity development and outreach allows it to negotiate these difficult times. The centre has been staying true to its mandate by focussing on arid-land research and associated aspects of training, and resisted temptations to exploit opportunities that would have required it to venture into areas for which it is poorly equipped. For example, Gobabeb is recognised for its contributions to understand climate change and variability in southern Africa, which may suggest that it could attempt to undertake urgently needed development initiatives elsewhere in Namibia. However, as financially rewarding as those may seem, the associated risks would require Gobabeb to commit outside its immediate area of work in the Namib Desert. It is commendable that has Gobabeb remained realistic in its aspirations, and continued to play to its strengths.

I can assure you that Gobabeb remains dedicated to excellence and reliability in carrying out its work, both in terms of its own programmes and as a partner to local and international collaborators. Its emphasis on consistency, transparency and accountability allowed Gobabeb to maintain and even expand its network of collaborators despite

diminishing funding and support for research as economic growth slowed and contracted, with concomitant more competitive and demanding regional and global requirements. There were fewer calls for grant proposals, yet Gobabeb has prepared and submitted ten research proposals, of which four underwent extensive evaluation and one was successful. Gobabeb also has not neglected its core business, as during this period more than 228 scientists, around 1095 students and learners (ca. 75% are Namibian) and almost 804 tourists visited and learned about Gobabeb and its work in the heart of the Namib. Gobabeb continued its development and outreach activities, particularly to engage and empower the rural Topnaar community in benefit-sharing from the Namib Sand Sea World Heritage Site with support from the Fund for Local Cooperation of the Embassy of Finland.

Gobabeb, together with Dartmouth College in the USA, initiated a new area of applied research to investigate behavioural adaptations in livestock and other large mammals to temperature extremes. It holds promise to capitalise on the extensive weather monitoring array in the Namib that continues to be operated and maintained by Gobabeb, while also developing essential information and knowledge on how large herbivores may successfully adapt to future climate change in Namibia. Gobabeb also initiated a novel approach to distance education in collaboration with the State University of New York and the Ben Gurion University of the Negev, in which post-graduate Namibian, American and Israeli students were teamed up in on-line and practical field experiments for skills training. Gobabeb further engaged with learners and the public at the Science Technology and Innovation Festival in Ongwediva to encourage careers in science together with NASA and NUST. It had the opportunity to develop appropriate investigative skills of emerging environmental scientists by

participating in the international 'Biodesert' programme. It also continues to provide advisory services to the mining sector, with the Namib Ecological Restoration and Monitoring Unit (NERMU) gaining in reputation as the go-to facility regarding measuring and mitigating mining impacts.

Gobabeb has not neglected to continue encouraging and supporting its own staff, consisting of early career Namibian scientists, interns, students and volunteers, to improve their skills and expertise. Five current and recent staff are engaged in Master degree studies, while others are pursuing other types of qualifying training. Gobabeb has been actively engaged in discussions with Namibian universities and its international partners to scale-up and develop new training programmes for our emerging scientists.

Maintenance and expansion of infrastructure remains a top priority. Gobabeb has constructed and commissioned an additional sanitation facility to accommodate future expansion of staff and student facilities. Unfortunately, the urgency for upgrading and replacing aging infrastructure was brought home by the failure of the underground fuel

tanks and the associated financial loss, while other systems need continuous renovation, including Gobabeb's iconic water tower. These unforeseen expenditures, coupled with slow in-flow of anticipated revenue, placed some additional burden on the Centre's finances. However, Gobabeb was able to manage these financial setbacks due to its prudent and careful management of income and husbanding of revenues.

With no immediate respite regarding the current economic downturn, the Board has an important role to continue to steer the centre through the difficult times ahead. We need to provide the necessary support to ensure that the valuable work executed by Gobabeb is not only sustained, but expanded. Working in unison with staff and stakeholders, and in support of Gobabeb's vision and mission, we could assist with defining and sourcing alternative funding streams, and advocating in as many fora as possible for the Centre. I look forward to see Gobabeb grow in relevance and impact in the coming year- and for the future.

Dr Malan Lindeque
Chairman

Report of the Executive Director

The primary responsibility of the Executive Director at Gobabeb is to oversee everyday operations and staff activities. Despite a rather limited and fluid staffing structure, every effort is made to mobilise and motivate the small team, supported by locally and internationally sourced interns and students, to uphold the Gobabeb ethos of excellence in science and education while exploiting opportunities and managing challenges in the execution of tasks.

During 2016, the Gobabeb staff initiated a long-awaited strategic planning process to provide guidance on priority areas that need to be addressed in the course of the next five years. Gobabeb's Strategic Plan complements

its Capacity Building Sustainability Strategy as a framework to combine tested and proven routines with innovative approaches within its core focal areas of research and training. Both these processes were supported by the Finnish Embassy's fund for Local Cooperation. The strategic plan builds on Gobabeb's solid reputation and history of arid-zone research and long-term monitoring – but explores new avenues of opportunity that can enhance Gobabeb's scientific reputation and impact. Through this process, it was evident that Gobabeb's signature strength is research.

The healthy output of research results from work done of Gobabeb, and an increase in the number of student projects, indicate that

research projects continue to yield results for application in the environmental, mining and natural products sectors. Similarly, the number of researchers visiting Gobabeb annually remains relatively stable, which is an indication that Gobabeb remains as relevant as ever in the global context. An encouraging trend is a steady increase in Namibian researchers and Namibian students carrying out work at Gobabeb. In this context, the severe challenge of maintaining, upgrading and improving Gobabeb's aging infrastructure is becoming an ever-greater concern, particularly at present when funding for research has declined steeply, both nationally and internationally. These fiscal realities were underscored dramatically, first by the failure of the Gobabeb underground fuel storage and the loss of fuel, then by a delay and cancellation of support to the annual SDP training programme, and lastly by a delay in receiving approved funding for research capacity building.

As in other successful communities in the Namib Desert, which typically exhibit dynamic optimisation and innovation to maintain essential resource flows in their ecology, Gobabeb was still able to accomplish a great deal. After extensive consultation with beneficiaries and other organisations, training in benefit-sharing opportunities for local communities associated with the Namib Sand Sea World Heritage Site was started during 2016, funded through the FLC. NERMU continued a number of restoration and monitoring activities, notably in consultation with Namdeb (Sperrgebiet), Swakop Uranium (Husab) and Langer Heinrich Uranium mines. Gobabeb continued to provide satisfactory research support services to KIT, MPI, NOAA, Aeroclo and NASA. The collaboration with NASA resulted in successful collaborative participation at the Science Technology and Innovation Festival in Ongwediva in September 2016, where just over 600 visitors participated in activities at the joint Gobabeb-NUST-NASA stand and were intrigued by

Gobabeb's ongoing research into animal burrows, bats and other desert organisms. A translation of research results into policy was realised when research conducted under the Benefit-Sharing Fund (BSF) project underpinned the development of the Namibian National Strategic Action Plan for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (NNSAP PGRFA), launched at the Drought Conference in August 2016 by the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Gobabeb's geospatial monitoring of livestock behavioural responses to temperature extremes and desert conditions, specifically to develop information relevant to global change adaptation, attracted considerable attention on a forum for remote sensing research in Namibia. Research at Gobabeb is alive and healthy!

All the signature training programmes at Gobabeb were vigorously pursued. Specific offerings targeted nearby primary schools, senior secondary schools countrywide (YES), exposing university students to research methodologies (GTRIP) or training recent graduates how to investigate specific questions (SDP). It also launched a cutting-edge training model, combining high-quality online distance learning with hands-on application to investigate real research questions in its Biophysical Field Methods course, presented jointly with international partner institutions. Gobabeb staff members and associates presented their research at various scientific fora, e.g. at an International Bat Research Congress, the South African Association of Botanists Congress, and at a variety of meetings of the Namibian Scientific Society, Swakopmund Scientific Society, Namibia Environment and Wildlife Society, Climate Change and Drought Adaptation. Gobabeb therefore continues to emphasise the importance of linking research and training for development.

Dr Gillian Maggs-Kölling
Executive Director

Report of the Board of Trustees

The Gobabeb Board of Trustees has pleasure in presenting their annual report and accounts for the year ended 28 February 2017.

Organisation and Governance arrangements

Gobabeb is a registered Trust and operates as a Joint Venture between the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN). The 20-year Joint Venture Agreement will terminate on 27 May 2018, and is currently under revision.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting out the strategic direction of the institution and assisting with defining its priorities. It also approves the terms of reference, appoints, and monitors the work of the Executive Director, to whom all operational matters are delegated. The Board endeavours to meet at least three times a year to carry out its decision-making and strategic responsibilities.

Statement of Trustee responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and accounting standards.

The law applicable to Trusts in Namibia requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Trust for that period.

Gobabeb Governance

The Board of Trustees consists of eight members, three representing MET, three from the DRFN, one representing the tertiary training institutions; and one representing the local community.

The Trustees who served on the Board during the financial year are shown (in the positions they held at year end) and are as follows:

Dr M. Lindeque	(Chair)
Dr A. Matros-Goreses	(Vice-Chair)
Chief S. Kooitjie	
Mr T. Nghitila	
Dr M. Seely	
Dr T. Tjivikua	
Mr C. Sikopo	
Dr M. Schneider	

The Board met two times (42nd Business meeting and the 12th AGM, both held on 10 October 2016) during the year under review. Meetings were regularly scheduled and cancelled due to unavailability of Board Members as a result of strenuous work programmes.

Management

The Executive Director at the end of February 2017 was Dr Gillian Maggs-Kölling. The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Centre's affairs and for implementing policies and strategic advice endorsed by the Board of Trustees. She is supported by a small but dynamic management team, which consisted of the Research Coordinator (Dr Theo Wassenaar) and the Office Manager (Ms Laetitia Lombard). Technical advice is solicited when required from experts and associates in various sectors, including science, natural resource management, infrastructure development and tourism.

Activities and Achievements in 2016/2017

Strategic

During 2016, a five-year Strategic Plan (2017-2021) was completed as a basis for sustainable future planning. In that plan, Gobabeb will endeavour towards eight strategic objectives in four areas (Financial Sustainability; Stakeholder Relations; Research Excellence; Human Capital).

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- F1: ACHIEVE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY
- S1: PROMOTE GOBABEB
- S2: ENHANCE AND ENGAGE RURAL TOPNAAR
- R1: ENHANCE RESEARCH CAPACITY
- R2: ENHANCE INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES
- R3: ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
- R4: IMPROVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- H1: ATTRACT AND DEVELOP HUMAN CAPITAL

A legal consultant was contracted to review and update the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) of 1998, after which it was submitted to the Office of the Attorney General for review by government attorneys.

Research

The focus for almost all activities at Gobabeb is research, for which an informed, motivated, knowledgeable, diligent and reliable personnel complement is required. Much of Gobabeb's work entails the provision of research services and equipment maintenance for partners, or carrying out long-term monitoring. It is a challenge to motivate and inspire young scientists when they have little personal engagement with their tasks, thus Gobabeb encourages personal development and further study.

Mr Titus Shuuya completed a Masters degree at NUST on the spatio-temporal patterns of plant health of *Welwitschia mirabilis*. Ms Jessica Sack completed a part-time Honours degree at NUST with her mini-thesis on succession in coastal vegetation communities in the southern Namib. Six other current or

recent Gobabeb staff are also engaged in Masters degree studies. Ms Angela Curtis is investigating the effect of artificial electric lighting on the behaviour of bats at Gobabeb (M.Sc. – UNISA), while Mr Martin Handjaba studies the effect of environmental conditions on the behaviour and burrow architecture of burrowing scorpions (M.Sc. – NUST). Ms Esther Uushona is registered for a M.Sc. degree in chemistry at Stellenbosch University on the structure and properties of cucurbitacins associated with !nara, while Ms Monja Gerber is investigating the potential of non-rainfall water use of !nara at Gobabeb for a M.Sc. at North West University. Ms Ruusa Gottlieb is a M.Sc. student at UCT examining the contribution of fog to the moisture and nutritional supply of *Arthraerua leubnitziae* (supported through the SASSCAL FogNet project), while Ms Novald Iiyambo is examining the behaviour and nutritional requirements of *Meroles* lizards towards a M.Sc. at Pretoria University.

Routine scientific monitoring in support of long-term observation is on-going. Data are digitised and availed on request, as per redefined data request procedures.

A remote-sensing study of flowing phenology of !nara plants (*Acanthosicyos horridus*) was concluded and the data are being analysed, while the enclosure fencing has been completed for an experiment to compare the impact of herbivory on growth and productivity of !nara, carried out in collaboration with Dartmouth College (USA). A pilot study that used nine satellite tracking collars to examine the foraging home ranges and behaviour of cattle, donkeys, goats and horses in the lower Kuseb holds considerable promise to determine potential adaptation strategies for the important livestock agriculture sector in Namibia. The information that has been generated through that pilot

study has been partially analysed for feedback to Topnaar livestock owners and further work. During the year, Gobabeb prepared and submitted ten proposals for research funding to various agencies and foundations. After intense input into preparing a proposal for the Climate Change Adaptation Fund in 2015, which was unsuccessful, Gobabeb was requested to resubmit its proposal, but with the requirement that it should be in collaboration with the other Namibian agencies proposing projects. After several meetings and rounds of discussions, the proponents decided not to continue with such a joint proposal. After that decision was communicated, Gobabeb was requested to rapidly resurrect and resubmit its original proposal. However, that would have required a new round of consultation with the beneficiary communities, which would have been at Gobabeb's cost. Elements of this proposal have subsequently been revisited and repackaged in response to calls from other funding sources.

Training

The topic for the 20th SDP held in December 2016/January 2017 was aligned with the global Biodesert monitoring project on the topic "*Piospheres around artificial water points in the Namib Desert*" [12 participants]. A promotional video based on this training was produced to celebrate 20 years of SDP. Due to reduced funding available, and despite an intention to support five SDP projects related to management and monitoring of the Namib Sand Sea, the EIF was not able to support this (fourth) and a planned fifth 2017/18 SDP.

Four GTRIP students undertook short-term research projects (five months; February to June 2016):

- Ms Ailla-Tessa Iiyambula, NUST: The effect of artificial light on insectivorous bats species richness and activity around the Gobabeb
- Ms Ritha-Meriam Kapitango, UNAM: The effects of geo-location and anthropogenic disturbances on the abundance of tree

scorpions (*Uroplectes otjimbinguensis*) in three Namib ephemeral rivers.

- Mr Mathias Mwaetako, NUST: Determining factors influencing hypolithic cyanobacteria cover in the central Namib Desert
- Ms Francisca Otto, NUST: Analysis of water retention of lichen species in the central Namib Desert

The YES in May 2016, supported by giz and MET, was held at the Namutoni EE Centre with the theme "*Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Sustaining People and their Livelihoods*". It engaged 30 participants and 3 teachers from 21 schools in seven regions.

Training in mechanisms through which members of the local ǀAoni (Topnaar) community could share in the benefits associated with the inscription of the Namib Sand Sea as World Heritage commenced during the second half of 2016. This was based on extensive consultation with the beneficiaries (rural Kuiseb inhabitants) and other organisations in the tourism and rural development sectors. With the support of the FLC, a core group of twelve women are provided with equipment and supplies, product development and business training, and product marketing to create local craft products. As the training matures, more local beneficiaries will be engaged. This will be augmented by training community and site guides, for which beneficiaries, syllabus contents and trainers have been identified.

A modern approach to skills training has been successfully piloted, combining distance learning and site-based field applications (Biophysical Field Methods training). In this initiative, with support from the State University of New York (USA), Ben Gurion University of the Negev (Israel) and the National Museum of Namibia, 11 students from Namibia, Israel, the USA and South Africa engaged on-line with the academic component to learn about methods to determine physical conditions that may affect ecology or behaviour, followed by a field component where they had to apply the academic principles and cutting edge

technology to solve ecological questions. When the experience and methodology was shared with other Gobabeb partner institutions, more than 50 partners responded that they may consider developing similar courses. Unfortunately, participation by students from NUST and UNAM via engagement with faculty failed to materialize, thus Namibian participation in future courses based on that methodology will likely follow Gobabeb’s proven model of student recruitment.

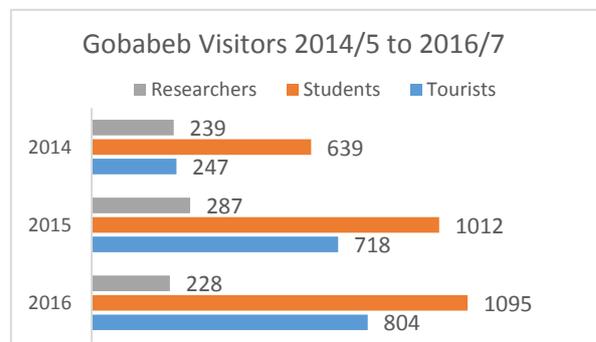
Publications

Some 23 peer-reviewed articles, authored by staff or research partners of Gobabeb, were published during 2016. In addition, 5 theses based on work at or data from Gobabeb were submitted, while a number of newspaper and popular science articles reported on Gobabeb’s work. Gobabeb staff made oral or poster presentations at various scientific meetings, including a bilateral science planning conference in South Africa, an international Bat Research Congress (South Africa), a Drought Adaptation round table (Windhoek), various meetings of the Namibia Scientific Society, a symposium on aerosol effects on climate (USA), an international symposium on fog (Poland), and an annual botanical congress (South Africa).

and SDP to promote and explain its activities in a user-friendly and engaging format.

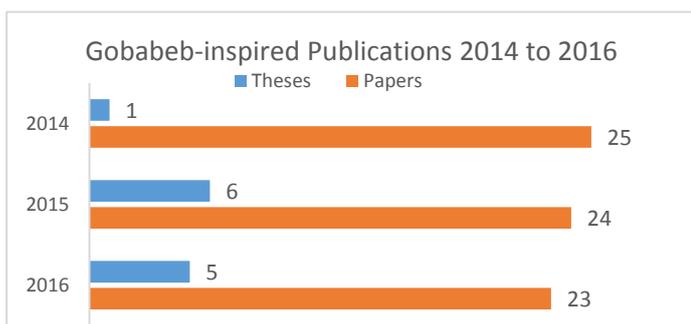
Visitors

The number of scientists visiting Gobabeb annually to carry out research, liaise with staff, or hold meetings remains fairly stable (228 scientific visitors). A more concerted effort to reach out to schools all over Namibia has resulted in a substantial increase of learners, with 1095 learners and students from local and international tertiary institutions having visited during the reporting period. Similarly, Gobabeb has seen a substantial increase in tourists overnighting, with some tourism operators making regular use of the facilities. Despite this increase, a contractual agreement with Journeys Namibia was terminated at their request as they did not consider the returns to be adequate, which required an unplanned expense from Gobabeb to compensate Journeys Namibia for their investment into campsite infrastructure.



Infrastructure

In January 2017, the underground petrol storage failed, with a loss of 6,000 litres of fuel. A forensic analysis of fuel utilisation indicated that an additional 254 litres were lost during December 2016, and less than 50 litres before that. The failure of the fuel storage could thus not be anticipated. Unfortunately, it is also indicative of the general state of gradual deterioration of much of the aging infrastructure at Gobabeb, i.e. there are similar indications that water storage, the energy system and the swimming pool are in poor condition and need attention.



During this period, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry also officially launched the Namibian National Strategic Action Plan for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (NNSAP PGRFA) that was facilitated, edited and compiled by Gobabeb. Gobabeb also commissioned videos on YES

It is as important to upgrade the living quarters of staff, interns and volunteers, particularly in to meet strategic objectives R2 and H1 above.

During 2016, Gobabeb completed and is about to commission a second trickle filter for

improved waste management at Tsabibis and the main facilities for hosting visitors. It furthermore commissioned a high capacity trailer for more efficient transport of solid waste to treatment facilities in Walvis Bay, 130 km away.

Plans for the Future

The following outline the key elements within the organisational plans for 2017/2018 and onwards:

Research

- Expand the reach of and activity within Gobabeb's research network through developing new partnerships and soliciting funding from additional sources
- Operationalise the Affiliation Agreement with NUST through the development of joint initiatives in science education and research; and establish similar understandings with UNAM and other tertiary training institutions
- Monitor scientific and societal impacts of research endeavour, i.e. through numbers of scientific publications
- Develop a research policy and plan, under the ambit of the strategic plan

Training

- Continue to implement the capacity building sustainability strategy through, for example, increased involvement of alumni in training programmes
- Maintain and expand the customer base for existing training

interventions; while developing and promoting innovative tertiary level offerings

- Secure multi-year resource streams to sustain flagship training offerings, e.g. SDP, GTRIP, YES
- Explore opportunities to develop and implement MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) training interventions
- Formalise relationships with UNAM and NUST, together with international partners, to establish 1+1 Master and 2+2 PhD courses.

Organisational development

- Support the process of reviewing the legal and operational framework for Gobabeb's future operations, e.g. finalising the revised JVA
- Finalise the five-year Strategic Plan and implement priority activities identified and costed under the strategic perspectives relating to Gobabeb's core business
- Improve financial management system and refine management information reporting systems
- Develop a business plan for Gobabeb, including investigation into formally operationalising the Tourism Concession

- Develop enhanced marketing activities of tourism accommodation leading to full occupancy of rooms to be supported by premium customer service and a quality ecotourism experience
- Deliver a communications plan with tangible improvements in social media profile activity; as well as an improved website
- Plan and resource construction of staff accommodation and facilities to host post-graduate students
- Cost and seek resources for the upgrade of the solar energy system, particularly replacement and expansion of battery storage capacity
- Upgrade water reticulation and repair leaks in water tower
- Upgrade ICT system and ensure adequate access to internet facilities

Infrastructure

- Develop a masterplan for the upgrade and long-term maintenance of Gobabeb's infrastructure

Staff (as of 01 March 2017)

Executive Director	Dr Gillian Maggs-Kölling
Office Manager	Ms Laetitia Lombard
Research Coordinator	Dr Theo Wassenaar
Accountant	Ms Ileni Hiwilepo
Junior NERMU Professionals	Mr Titus Shuuya
	Ms Elbe Becker
Senior Research Technician	Ms Angela Curtis
SASSCAL Meteorology Research Technician	Mr Roland Mushi
Research Technicians	Mr Martin Handjaba
	Ms Ritha Kapitango
FLC Project Coordinator	Ms Margaret Schmitt
‡Aoni (Topnaar) Liaison	Mr Joseph Tjitekulu
Grinnell College Interns	Ms Hannah Liebermann
	Ms Cassandra Miller
ICT Support Intern	Ms Doris Kinyaga
Hospitality Receptionist	Ms Leena Kapulwa
Housekeeper	Ms Linda Bees
	Ms Selma Swartbooi
	Ms Rita Swartbooi
Technical Team	Mr Josef Gariseb
	Mr Samuel Gowaseb
	Mr Richard Swartbooi
	Mr Jeffrey Khurisab

Staff members, Interns and Volunteers during 2016/2017 (indicating country of origin)

Mr Oliver Halsey, Photographer/Documentary Producer, UK (March 2016 –)
Ms Monja Gerber, M.Sc. degree student, North West University, South Africa (March 2016 –)
Ms Jessica Sack, Research Technician, Namibia (January 2015 – November 2016)
Ms Ndapewa Johannes, Hospitality Technician, Namibia (January – December 2016)
Ms Margaret Schmitt, Grinnell College, USA (July 2015 – June 2016)
Mr Christopher Woodington, Grinnell College, USA (July 2015 – June 2016)
Mr Marcel Chavez, Photojournalist, Brazil (February 2016 – May 2016)
Mr Jasper Vanneuville, Katolieke Hogeschool Vives & NUST, Belgium (March – June 2016)
Ms Elina Vakuwile, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Namibia (June – November 2016)
Mr Andre Steyn, Site Management, Namibia (September 2016 – March 2017)
Mr Reinier de Vries, Utrecht University, Netherlands (September – December 2016)
Ms Paulina Schmidt, Münster University, Germany (October 2016 – January 2017)
Ms Emily Grotz, Dartmouth College, USA (August – October 2016)
Ms Bryn Morgan, Dartmouth College, USA (August – November 2016)
Ms Monica Sopjes, University of California Santa Cruz, USA (September – November 2017)
Ms Lara Postma, Community Tourism, Netherlands (January 2017 –)

GTRIP interns 2016 (March – June)

Mr Mathias Mwaetako, NUST
Ms Francisca Otto, NUST
Ms Ritha-Meriam Kapitango, UNAM
Ms Ailla-Tessa Iiyambula, NUST

GTRIP interns 2017 (January – February)

Ms Ester Kayala, UNAM
Ms Petra Mutota, NUST
Ms Saima Shikesho, UNAM
Ms Elizabeth Shilunga, UNAM

Student affiliates

Ms Ruusa Gottlieb: M.Sc. (Environmental Science) University of Cape Town (completion 2017)
Ms Novald Iiyambo: M.Sc. (Zoology) University of Pretoria (completion 2017)
Ms Esther Uushona: M.Sc. (Chemistry) University of Stellenbosch (completion 2017)
Mr Eric Shaningayamwe: M.Sc. (Rangeland Resources and Management) UNAM (completion 2018)

Financial Overview

The main source of the income of Gobabeb comes from research projects and affiliation agreements. This represents almost 65% of the total estimated income included in the annual budget and comes from a total of 14 on-going projects and signed service agreements. The three largest projects in terms of income during the present financial year are:

1. Benefit Sharing in the Namib Sand Sea, Fund for Local Cooperation, Embassy of Finland
2. NAMDEB – Sendelingsdrif Restoration Project
3. NERMU – Swakop Uranium Biodiversity Programme

The second main source of income for Gobabeb came from education and capacity development projects. This represents almost 20% of the total estimated income included in the annual budget and comes from a total of four on-going projects. The four education and training projects are:

1. Gobabeb Training and Research Internship Programme – GTRIP (Langer Heinrich Uranium)
2. Summer Drylands Programme – SDP (EIF)
3. Youth Environmental Summit – YES (giz and MET)
4. University Visitors and Memorandum Agreements

MET contributed N\$ 735,000 towards the annual expenditure of both capital investment and maintenance of infrastructure. The commitments have included:

1. Installation of a second new trickle filter system and associated sewerage system
2. Maintenance of the water treatment plant and disinfection of the water tower and distribution system
3. General upgrading of infrastructure and vehicles

The total expenditure of these contracts/purchases in the present financial year will be N\$ 800,000, which is still within the approved annual budget ceilings.

Future infrastructure investment will concentrate on upgrading the staff accommodation and the off-grid solar energy system.

The overall financial situation of Gobabeb remains challenging in the short-term mainly due to the scarcity of available funding and the competitive nature of opportunities particularly those reliant on sources of local investment for research and capacity development.

The Annual Report for the Gobabeb Trust, set out on the preceding pages, was approved by the Trustees on 03 November 2017 and is signed on their behalf as below.

Report of the Trustees signed by:



Dr Malan Lindeque
Chair



Dr Anna Matros-Goreses
Vice-Chair



List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AeroClo	Aerosols, RadiatiOn and CLOuds in southern Africa
BSF	Benefit-Sharing Fund (of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)
DRFN	Desert Research Foundation of Namibia
EE	Environmental Education
EIF	Environmental Investment Fund
FLC	Fund for Local Cooperation of the Finnish Embassy
giz	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GTRIP	Gobabeb Training and Research Internship Programme
JVA	Joint Venture Agreement
KIT	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
MOOC	Massive Open Online Courses
MPI	Max Planck Institute, Germany
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration, USA
NCRST	National Commission on Research Science and Technology
NERMU	Namib Ecological Restoration and Monitoring Unit
NNSAP PGRFA	Namibian National Strategic Action Plan for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USA
NUST	Namibia University of Science and Technology
SASSCAL	Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management
SDP	Summer Drylands Programme
UNAM	University of Namibia
YES	Youth Environmental Summit

Legal and Administrative Information

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