Science Communication: Experience in Africa

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The Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science
Canberra
CPAS - The Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science – The only UNESCO Centre for Science Communication

South Africa and Namibia
History

The Apartheid Regime neglected education for indigenous peoples.

This has been the case at both primary and secondary level. Education in science was text-book based, and of quite low quality.

Angola and Mozambique
History
These nations were formerly Portuguese colonies.

The Administration was based in Portugal. Thus the Minister for Education was a member of the Portuguese Government. Science education was not well supported.

Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya
Although primary education was quite well supported, secondary education was available to very few indigenous children. A further problem was the British examination system.

**History**
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**The Legacy**

1. **South Africa and Namibia**
   Nations in “catch-up” mode. The major challenge: to enable good science education at the primary level

2. **Angola and Mozambique**
   The challenge: Provide science education for the population past primary school

3. **Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya**
   The challenge: to make the education system a better “fit” for the needs of the country
The Zim Sci Program 1982

The CPAS experience: South Africa from 1996 to present

Very large classes, and very enthusiastic students!
The rise of science centres in Africa

Cape Town
Science Centre
Sci-Bono
Discovery Centre
Johannesburg
Unizulu Science Centre
Richards Bay
Sci-Enza
Pretoria
SAASTEC - South African Association of Science and Technology Centres.
Some Mission Statements

Unizul Science Centre (USC) is aimed at Science educators and learners in KwaZulu-Natal schools surrounding the University of Zululand.

SciEnza
Our mission is to make science accessible to learners of all ages in a fun and entertaining way and in doing this raise science awareness.

SciBono
To support and enhance the delivery of effective mathematics, science technology and career education in Gauteng schools and to improve awareness of, interest in and engagement with all aspects of science, engineering and technology in youth and the general public.
What we do:

- Capacity building workshops for science centres
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- Capacity building workshops for science centres

Nine nations came to Canberra

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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Note:
P = Programs
E_s = Exhibits for students
E_p = Exhibits for the public
Well over 1 billion people have no access to a science centre

This gap implies a significant lack of opportunity for African children and families to experience the inspiration, joy, education, and empowerment that accompany an ongoing relationship with STEM through science centres.

WHAT IS NEEDED

Help! to establish:

• A vision for a Centre
• Strong leadership
  • Committed stakeholders
• Reliable income sources
• A development plan