



# Journal of the Namibia Scientific Society

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# Impressum

## Cover Image

House m and h seen from the corner of Sinclair Str. & Robert Mugabe Avenue ca. 1911.

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Building of the Namibia Scientific Society 2025.

Natasha Duvenhage

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## Editorial

In 2025 the Namibia Scientific Society (NSS) marks a full century of convening inquiry: founded in 1925 as a non-governmental, non-profit members' association, it has consistently served as a platform where scientists and scientifically interested members of the public could exchange knowledge about Namibia and beyond. In that same spirit the *Journal of the Namibia Scientific Society* has continued its long-standing commitment to cross-disciplinary scholarship since 1927 – publishing research in all fields related to Namibia and maintaining a tradition that has made it the country's longest-standing academic journal.

In this year's volume several contributions return us to the fine-grained specificity of Namibia's landscapes and life forms. *The Brandberg Lithops and its nearest neighbours* underscores how botanical scholarship in arid systems remains foundational. That ecological lens continues with *Ecology of Angolan giraffe* (*Giraffa giraffa angolensis*) in the *NamibRand Nature Reserve*. Public and animal health intersect in *One Health, One Mission: Cheetah Conservation Fund fighting against rabies to protect wildlife, domestic animals, and communities in Namibia*, a reminder of how human and animal health are intertwined. Applied research and locally grounded innovation are equally prominent. *Determination of the Sun Protection Factor of red ochre, various Namibian oils and the subsequent development of a lip balm* exemplifies a pragmatic scientific arc – measurement, validation, and product development.

A second thematic current in this volume addresses Namibia's historical and cultural record – how people have mapped, marked, and built. *First four hundred years of southwestern Africa's appearance on sea charts and orientation maps of larger parts of the interior* situates Namibia within the longer cartographic imagination of maritime expansion and inland exploration. *A sense of time and place: The rock art of Klein Chausib and Tantus in the Windhoek District of the Khomas Region* continues the Journal's engagement with rock art. *A history of houses m and h and their heritage value* addresses history 'close to home' as it investigates the history of the current buildings of the Society.

A third set of contributions addresses Namibia's present-day social fabric. *Mental health stigma* in Windhoek places a necessary spotlight on the barriers that shape care-seeking and community support in the capital. *Bridging the financial literacy gap: A user-centric model for digital financial services* looks into the inclusive power of digital technologies. Finally, *Trends in voting behaviour and democratisation of Namibia (1990–2020)* offers a longer-view account of civic participation in the democratic process.

As the Society celebrates 100 years – an anniversary marked not only by commemoration but by renewed investment in access and infrastructure, including plans for expanded library capacity and continued digitisation – this volume makes a clear statement about what a centenary means: not closure, but continuity. The work gathered here demonstrates that Namibia's scientific landscape is, and must remain, multi-disciplinary – and that is also what the *Journal of the NSS* will continue to be!

Still, those reading the e-version of this volume rather than the printed one will have noticed a few structural as well as layout changes. These are some signs along our way of developing this Journal towards a fully online-accessible one.

In the name of the Namibia Scientific Society, we want to thank all the authors as well as the reviewers for their tireless efforts and hope you will enjoy this 72<sup>nd</sup> issue of the *Journal of the Namibia Scientific Society*.

Michael Backes & Roger Swart  
Editors-in-Chief