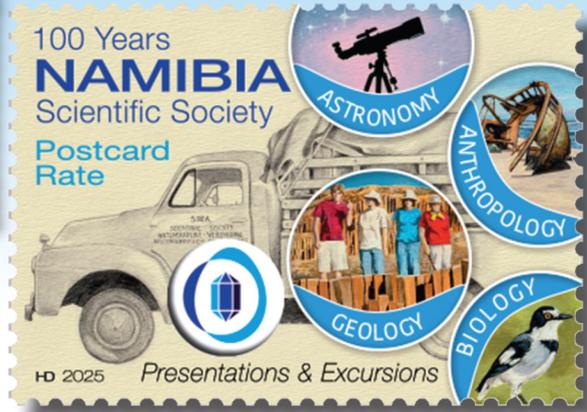
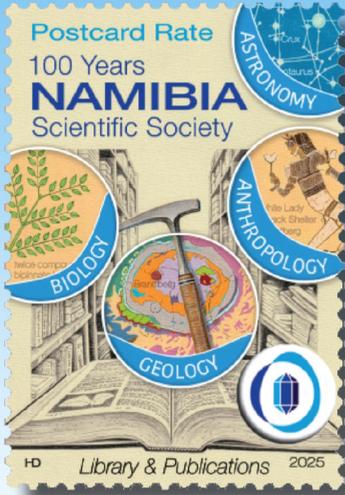


Namibia
Scientific
Society

100

Years of Science for Society



Namibia
**Scientific
Society**

Science for Society

NEWSLETTER

66: 1-12
January-December 2025

Dear members and friends,

The year 2025 will be remembered as one of reflection, renewal and remarkable achievement for the Namibia Scientific Society (NSS). It was a year in which the Society not only honoured its rich legacy, but also positioned itself for the future.

Foremost among the highlights was the long-awaited centenary celebration of the NSS. Originally planned for March 1, 2025, the celebrations had to be postponed following the passing of our founding father. When the centenary was finally commemorated, it was done so with dignity, gratitude and a strong sense of continuity. The celebrations underscored one hundred years of commitment to scientific enquiry, knowledge preservation and public engagement in Namibia, while also reaffirming the relevance of the NSS in a rapidly changing world.

Another milestone of this exceptional year was the successful launch of *NAMIBIA Land of Many Cultures*. The book was met with overwhelming interest and enthusiasm, confirming both the importance and the timeliness of its subject matter. The strong institutional support received for this publication not only ensured its wide national reach and affordability but also reinforced the NSS's role as a trusted custodian and disseminator of knowledge.

In parallel, Kuiseb Publishers celebrated its 40 year anniversary – a significant achievement in its own right. Over four decades, Kuiseb Publishers has grown into a respected imprint, producing works of lasting scholarly and cultural value.

Equally significant was the completion of the major renovation phase of the NSS premises. The refurbished facilities not only enhance functionality and accessibility, but also create a welcoming environment for members, researchers, visitors and the broader public. This achievement lays a solid foundation for future activities, events and growth, and signals the NSS's commitment to investing in its physical and institutional infrastructure.

Taken together, these achievements illustrate a year in which the NSS honoured its past, celebrated its present and prepared decisively for its future. The Society extends its sincere gratitude to its members, staff, committees, partners and supporters whose dedication and contributions made these successes possible. As we move forward from this landmark year, the Namibia Scientific Society remains steadfast in its mission to serve as a vibrant centre for knowledge, dialogue and scientific engagement in Namibia.

NEWSLETTER
NAMIBIA SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

CHAIRPERSON	Prof. Michael Backes
VICE CHAIRPERSON	Frank Wittneben
BOARD MEMBERS	Zandré Duvenhage Michael Hasheela Pieter Francois du Plessis Guido Röschlau Alfred Schleicher Doran Schoeman Dr Roger Swart Heike Uhrich
SENATORS	Helmut Bistri Dr Kuno Budack Dr Maria Fisch
HONORARY MEMBERS	Dr Josef Brandmayr, Sonja Itting-Enke, Bertchen Kohrs, Dieter Ludwig, Gabriele Moldzio, Wolfgang Reith, Dr Sigrid Schmidt, Ilme Schneider, Dieter Springer, Gunter von Schumann, Erika von Wietersheim
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS	Prof. Imre Demhardt
EDITOR	Heike Uhrich
EDITING	Dr Robert West
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The opinions expressed in the articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Namibia Scientific Society.

Sonja Itting-Enke: 1930–2024

Sonja Itting-Enke was a passionate amateur astronomer, committed mediator of scientific education, and pioneer of astro-tourism in Namibia. An extraordinary woman whose life and work touched and inspired many people.



Born in Germany in 1930, Sonja Itting-Enke found her second home in Namibia, where for decades she promoted interest in astronomy with extraordinary commitment.

Her life's work is inextricably linked to the Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory, which she founded in the 1990s south of Windhoek on a mountain ridge in the Auas Mountains. Under her leadership this observatory, named after the German astronomer Cuno Hoffmeister, became a meeting place for stargazers from all over the world, a window to the southern sky that she opened with enthusiasm and expertise.

She was not only a mediator between heaven and earth, but also a bridge builder between cultures and generations. Her work at the Namibia Scientific Society (NSS) and her role as host for international astronomy meetings made her a central figure in the astronomical community in southern Africa.

Her work was honoured in a special way: In 2006 an asteroid of the main belt was named after her – ***(133552) Itting-Enke***. Discovered from the Turtle Star Observatory in Germany, this celestial body bears her name as a lasting recognition of her services to astronomical education and international co-operation. The asteroid takes about 5.7 years to orbit the sun, poetically symbolising the orbit of a life dedicated to exploring and communicating the cosmos.

In 2008 she was awarded the VdS Medal of the Vereinigung der Sternfreunde e.V., an award that honoured her commitment to popular astronomical education and her selfless support of other astronomy enthusiasts.

Sonja Itting-Enke leaves behind a shining legacy – not only in the stars, but also in the hearts of all those who have rediscovered the heavens through her. Her name will continue to travel through the night, carried by an asteroid, and by the memory of a woman who brought us closer to space.

Obituary for Gabriele Moldzio (née Kratochwila)

A Life Full of Courage, Spirit, and Humour

Bertchen Kohrs

With great sadness, but also profound gratitude, we bid farewell to Gabriele Moldzio – mother, grandmother, friend, colleague, and companion. Gaby, as she was known to many, was a truly special person: intelligent, passionate, humorous, combative, creative – and with a zest for life that carried her through many ups and downs.

Gaby was born in 1948 in Germany and came to Namibia as a young girl, by ship, a journey of three weeks. Her childhood was marked by curiosity and imagination. She dreamed early on of becoming an actress and had a crush on Elvis Presley and John F. Kennedy. Later, she earned her pilot's license flying a twin-engine propeller plane.

After studying photography in Germany, Gaby permanently returned to Namibia in the late 1960s – initially working in a photo shop and even as a war correspondent. Her images, often taken from a helicopter, were used by the South African army. Through theatre – another great passion of hers – she eventually found her way to the German radio programme of NBC. For nearly 25 years, she was the face (and primarily the voice) of numerous programs – as a host, interviewer, editor, translator, and news anchor. Her voice shaped an era, and formats like Köpfchen Köpfchen were co-developed by her and continue to thrive to this day.

Gaby's interests extended far beyond journalism. She was well-read, interested in history, science, art, and music – her library was impressive, and her knowledge seemed inexhaustible. For many years, she penned a poignant column under the pseudonym Kaktusblüte for the Allgemeine Zeitung. She photographed, wrote poetry, told stories – and was a true party animal. Her legendary hangar parties, featuring noodle salad and Harvey Wallbangers, are still unforgettable. Gaby lived intensely and full of spirit – and her surroundings loved her for it.

She adored animals, especially her cats. She loved the sea, flying, debate, and encounters. She particularly enjoyed surrounding herself with young people – she discussed, inspired, told stories, and listened. Many interns from the German radio (now NBC Funkhaus) found a second home with her – filled with warmth, humour, red wine, Russian chocolate, and countless cigarettes.

Privately, Gaby was the mother of two daughters, Ruth and Sybille, whom she loved dearly and of whom she was immensely proud. Later,

her beloved grandchildren, Leander and Valerie, joined the family. Her home, created amidst Namibian trees, books, memories, and cats, was her safe haven.

When she suffered a stroke in 2015, many things changed. Her mobility was limited, yet her humour and sharp mind remained intact. She withdrew more, but still remained a vital part of the family network. Her best friend and life-long companion, Bertchen Kohrs, was always by her side – a friendship spanning five decades, marked by trust, shared projects, challenges, and deep understanding.

Gaby left behind several handwritten testaments – always with a clear message: Celebrate my life,

not my death. No grave – instead, she requested cremation and the scattering of her ashes in her beloved Namib Desert. Ideally – typical of Gaby – from an aeroplane.

In one of her many private messages to her daughters, she wrote:

“Every life ends in death, but that doesn’t mean absolute dark nothingness follows.”

She concluded with the words:

“In love – your Ma, currently: Angel by profession.”

Gaby, you were a fighter, a free thinker, an observer, a warm-hearted soul – a unique person full of life. You left your mark – in your daughters, your friends, your listeners and readers, in your work, and in the way you embraced life as it came.

We miss you – but you will remain with us.

In love and deep gratitude,
Your family and friends



Introducing Natasha Duvenhage

Communications & Events at the NSS

We're excited to introduce the newest member of our team at the Namibia Scientific Society – Natasha Duvenhage, who joins us as our Communications and Events Coordinator.

Originally from South Africa, Natasha crossed the border in 2017 after marrying her husband, Zandr  and hasn't looked back since. "I was imported," she jokes, "but Namibia has become home in every sense of the word."

With a B.Sc. Dietetics degree from North-West University (Potchefstroom campus), Natasha began her career in health sciences but soon found herself drawn into the pharmaceutical world, where she worked as a Pharmaceutical

Representative for seven years. In 2024, she felt the time was right for a change – one that would allow her to grow creatively and contribute more directly to the community. That change led her to the NSS.

In her new role, Natasha supports the team through event planning, communication, administration, and even some graphic design. Her days are now filled with everything from coordinating talk to drafting emails and member newsletters and adding visual flair to our publications.

"What I love about the NSS is that it brings together people, ideas, and stories that really matter," she says. "It's a place where heritage and knowledge meet, and I'm honoured to play a small part in helping that flourish."

Outside the office, Natasha is a proud mom of two little girls, aged four and one-and-a-half, and happily refers to motherhood as her "favourite hobby in life."

We're thrilled to have Natasha on the team, and if you haven't met her yet, we're sure you will soon. Whether at an event, in your inbox, or simply over a cup of coffee at our newly renovated offices.



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the 100th Business Year 2024/25

on Thursday, 4 September 2025 at 19h00 at Namibia
Scientific Society, 110 Robert Mugabe Avenue, Windhoek

Attending: in person: 29 members, 2 non-members
virtually (via Zoom): 6 members and 1 non-member;
The attendance register is available for inspection at the
NSS office

Apologies: 10 members and 16 guests sent their apologies
The list of apologies is available in the NSS office

Minutes recorded by: Ruth Moldzio

1. Welcome

The Chairperson of the Committee, Prof. Michael Backes, welcomed all present, with special mention of corporate members, representatives of study and regional groups, and partner organisations.

As more than 15 members were present, the meeting was duly constituted, and the quorum met.

2. Supplement to the agenda under Miscellaneous

Members were invited to propose additional topics for the agenda under Miscellaneous. No items were added.

3. Acceptance of the minutes of the AGM held on 15 August 2024

It was noted that the minutes had been distributed in the 2024 Newsletter, included with the AGM invitation, and made available at the entrance to the venue.

Michael Backes informed the meeting of an error in the previous minutes: the financial report had not been seconded by Rob Johnston, but by Robert West. No further amendments were proposed.

The minutes were accepted as amended, proposed by Lutz von Dewitz and seconded by Diana Thompson.

4. Discussion and acceptance of the Committee's Annual Report

The Committee's Annual Report was presented by Prof. Backes.

Key highlights included:

- The special events and projects planned and executed in the year
- The envisaged revamp project of the administration building and the final result
- The vision for the future (new library building)

The full report will be published with the minutes in the Newsletter 2025.

The members present acknowledged the report by acclamation.



Chairperson Prof. Michael Backes

5. Annual Reports by the study groups

The annual reports of the following study groups were presented:

- Astronomy Working Group: Presented by Lutz von Dewitz
- Namibia Ornithology Group (Namibia Bird Club): Presented by Gudrun Middenдорff
- Herpetology Working Group: Presented by Alfred Schleicher
- Namibian Hydrogeological Association (NHA): Presented by Ester Gustavo



Lutz von Dewitz



Gundrun Middendorff and Alfred Schleicher

All reports were received with appreciation and will be published with the AGM minutes in the Newsletter 2025.

6. Annual Reports by the regional groups

Prof. Backes noted that despite two written requests, the Namibia Scientific Society had, unfortunately, not yet received the annual report from the Tsumeb Museum.

The annual report of the Grootfontein Museum was presented by Gunter von Schumann.

The annual report of the Lüderitz Museum was presented by Doran Schoeman.

All reports of the regional groups were acknowledged and can be viewed at the NSS offices.

7. Discussion and approval of the Business & Financial Report

The Annual Financial Report for the financial year April 2024 – March 2025 was presented by Treasurer Francois du Plessis.



Gunter von Schumann and Ruth Moldzio



Francois du Plessis

An overview of income and expenses was given. It was noted that while current financial assets had decreased owing to the building renovations, the total asset value had increased by nearly N\$900,000, attributed to an appreciation in property value.

The report was accepted as presented, proposed by Hanjo Böhme, and seconded by Johannes van der Westhuizen.

8. Appointment of an auditor

Prof. Backes informed the members that the Namibia Scientific Society (NSS) is currently registered with the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) as a members' association, but is not registered with the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) as a business entity.

In the light of potential legislative changes and the anticipated need to apply for grants related to the planned library construction project, the possibility of registering the NSS as a Section 21 company is currently under consideration.

Until such a change is formally implemented, it was proposed that Beancounter Financial Services CC continue to oversee the Society's financial affairs, based on their reliability and established track record.

This proposal was seconded by Gudrun Middendorff and received unanimous support from all members present.

9. Stipulation of the Membership Fees

The Committee proposed that the membership fee should remain unchanged, as the last increase was implemented in 2023.

The members present agreed. The fees for 2025/2026 will therefore be:

- N\$400.- for Namibian members,
- N\$4000.- for corporate members, and
- €20.- for foreign members.

A 50% discount continues to apply to pensioners and students.

10. Approval of the Committee's actions

Dieter Ludwig offered to formally move for the approval of the Committee's actions. Before doing so, he expressed his appreciation for the dedication and contributions of both past and current Committee members,



Dieter Ludwig

and invited those present to observe a moment of silence in honour of the late members.

He reflected on the challenges of the past year, noting that it had been a particularly demanding, yet meaningful, one. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the Committee and staff for their exceptional commitment and, in many cases, voluntary service.

The motion was seconded by Gudrun Middendorff, Hanjo Böhme, and Dr John Irish.

The proposal was received with applause and unanimously approved by all members present.

11. Election of the Committee

Prof. Backes thanked Dieter Ludwig for his kind words and outlined the composition of the Committee for the past year:

- Prof. Michael Backes (Chairperson),
- Frank Wittneben (Vice - Chairperson),
- Francois du Plessis (Treasurer),
- Doran Schoeman,
- Guido Röschlau,

- Heike Uhrich,
- Michael Hasheela,
- Dr Roger Swart,
- Zandr  Duvenhage,
- Alfred Schleicher (Co-opted)

In accordance with the Constitution, the terms of Prof. Backes, Mrs Uhrich, and Messrs Wittneben, Hasheela, and Duvenhage had expired. All of these Committee members made themselves available for re-election. As the maximum number of Committee members permitted (nine) would be met, and no further nominations were received, the re-election of all nominees was proposed without a formal vote.

The proposal was approved by acclamation.

12. Amendments to the Constitution

Zandr  Duvenhage presented the proposed constitutional amendments, which had been distributed more than 21 days in advance, in compliance with the Constitution. The changes were as follows:

- substitution of the old logo with the new logo
- substitution of the word Committee with Executive Board throughout the entire document
- addition of Jubilee Membership under # 4. Honorary Members



Zandr  Duvenhage,

All changes were unanimously accepted.

13. Miscellaneous

No further matters were raised under this point of the agenda.

In closing, Prof. Backes thanked all members and guests for their participation and invited everyone to a social gathering following the official proceedings.

The AGM was closed at 21h00.

Annual Report of the Namibia Scientific Society

As presented by the Chairperson, Prof. Michael Backes.

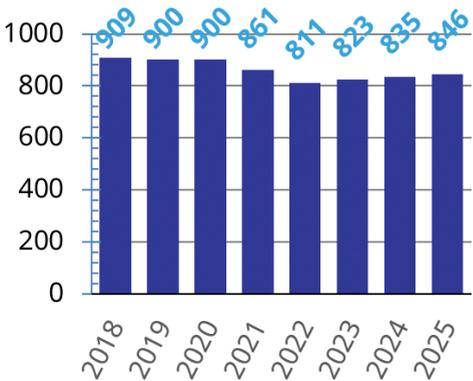
Introduction

The Namibia Scientific Society (NSS) presents its Annual Report for the 2024–2025 year, marking the Society’s centennial celebration. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the Society’s activities.

The financial year ran from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, but this report is from one Annual General Meeting to the next, i.e. from August 2024 to September 2025.

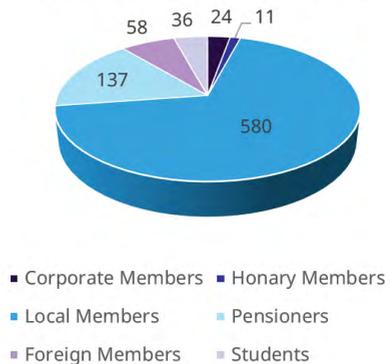
Membership

Membership has continued to grow steadily for the third consecutive year, following the 2022 clean-up of outdated records. This positive trend demonstrates renewed engagement and relevance of the Society among Namibia’s scientific communities and the general public.



Membership numbers (2018-2025)

Number of Members (2025)



Staff

The NSS team has undergone mild transitions during the year. We bade farewell to Mr Cristin Henckert and warmly welcomed Ms Natasha

Duvenhage. The team also includes the interns Mr Phillemon Hedimbi and Ms Oshoveli Kukuri.

The current staff comprises:

- CEO:
 - Ruth Moldzio

- Office Staff:
 - Elfi Schneider
 - Ernestus Hamutenya
 - Natasha Duvenhage
 - Rosalia Nangolo

- Library Staff:
 - Annegret Enengl
 - Armin Jagdhuber
 - Gunter von Schumann
 - Johannes Willibard

- Interns:
 - Phillemon Hedimbi
 - Oshoveli Kukuri

Library

The library team focused on cataloguing, digitisation, and assisting researchers. In particular, Annegret Enengl focused on cataloguing photos, books, reprints, magazines, and periodicals; Armin Jagdhuber assisted with the planning of the bus tour and helping with the day-to-day tasks of the library; and Johannes Willibard assisted in sorting donated books while overseeing all scanning of slides, digitising books and other materials. Over 1200 books and five maps were received as donations, including a notable contribution from the German Embassy's library collection. Special thanks go to all our donors, including Auriol Ashby, Irene Bader, the German Embassy in Namibia, Franz Irlich, Coleen Mannheimer, John Mendelsohn, the Museums Association of Namibia, Beatrice Sandelowsky, Ms Schmidt, Hinrich Schneider-Waterberg via the Scientific Society Swakopmund, Hartmut Voigts, and Sigrid von Hatten.

Additionally, 2200 slides from the Joe Walter Collection were digitised for the National Heritage Council, and all church records were scanned

for the German-speaking Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (DELK).

Collaboration was strengthened with several institutions including Basler Afrika Bibliographien, the German Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Museums Association of Namibia, the National Archive and Library Services, the National Heritage Council, and the Scientific Society Swakopmund.

Kuiseb Publishers

Kuiseb Publishers has produced several new publications and reprints.

New Publications

- *Gaub – Eine Farm und Missionsstation im Wandel der Zeit* by Hans Hilpisch and our own Armin Jagdhuber
- *The Nama under German Colonial Rule* by Michael Vaupel (English translation of *Die Nama unter deutscher Kolonialherrschaft*)
- *Reptilien Namibias* by Alfred Schleicher (third revised edition)
- *Omuntu negne Oshiluli?* by Prof. Andrew Niikondo (the Oshindonga translation of *Are you a Person or a Ghost?*), and
- *Conservation Pioneers*, 2nd revised ed. by Peter Bridgeford

Reprints

- *Traumsand aus der Namib* by Sybille Muhle
- *Skeleton Coast* by John Marsh, and
- *Der Supertrick* by Kathleen Röllig

Besides the already-published *NSS Newsletter 2024* and the *Journal of the Namibia Scientific Society, Vol. 71*, the forthcoming titles include *NAMIBIA Land of Many Cultures*, the *Journal of the Namibia Scientific Society, vol. 72*, and the *NSS Newsletter 2025*.

We would like to highlight and thank the following institutions for their financial support:

- the Goethe-Institut for the translation of *The Nama under German Colonial Rule* by Michael Vaupel.
- the Namibia Chamber of Environment (NCE) and FirstRand for *Conservation Pioneers* by Peter Bridgeford. It is thanks to their generous support that we were able to put this important book back on the shelves at the same price as several

years ago, as well as produce the second book on this topic by Peter Bridgeford, which is to be launched in 2026.

- the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Namibia-Angola (KAS) and the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts, and Culture (MEIYASC; pre-order of 2000 books) for *NAMIBIA Land of Many Cultures* by Erika von Wietersheim & Charmaine ||Gamxamûs (eds.). It should be noted that this pre-order not only ensures a broad national reach (one copy for each public school), but also a reduction of the cost price per unit, which will ensure affordability, hence accessibility for the end customer.

We want to thank the Society's Publishing Committee for their countless hours spent on reading and assessing submitted manuscripts. We highly value your input and assistance!

Publishing Committee Members are:

- Charmaine ||Gamxamus
- Erika von Wietersheim
- Gunter von Schumann
- Heike Urich (also a Committee member)
- Helen Vale
- Ingrid Kubisch
- Kay-Leigh de Sousa
- Marika Reiff
- Miriam Hutterer
- Natasha Duvenhage, and
- Sylvia Schlettwein

A special mention also goes to my colleagues of the editorial board of the *Journal of the NSS*. I am happy to confirm that we have received 20 article submissions this year, a new record in recent times.

Editorial Board members of the *Journal of the Namibia Scientific Society* are:

- Prof. Michael Backes (Chief Editor)
- Dr Roger Swart (Chief Editor)
- Prof. em. André du Pisani
- Prof. Heather Throop
- Prof. i.R. Norbert Jürgens
- Prof. em. Piet van Rooyen
- Dr Robert West, and
- Dr Sisco Auala

whom we want to thank wholeheartedly for their efforts.

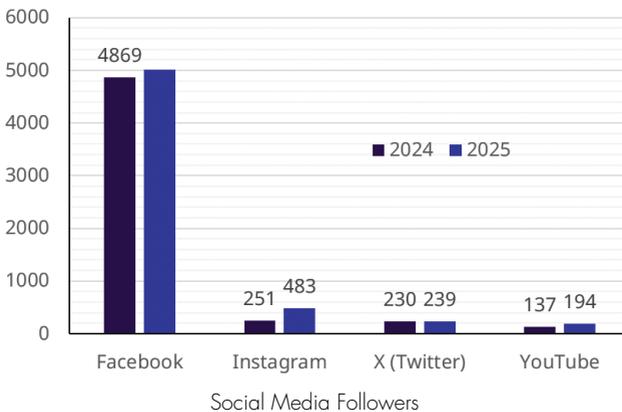
Additionally, we would like to thank Dr Robert West for his proofreading! This service is impeccable, and this service is greatly appreciated!

Events and Excursions

Despite the major construction work at the premises, the NSS hosted several events, including the *UNAM/AMT Mobile Planetarium*, participated in the *UNAM Cultural Festival*, and held a successful *Housewarming celebration*. Excursions included the *Southern Star Party* and a bus tour exploring *Southern Namibia*. A complete list of events will be published in the *NSS Newsletter 2025*.

Social Media

The Society has once again expanded its digital presence. The number of Instagram followers grew by 48%, of YouTube subscribers by 29%, and engagement on Facebook peaked with over 3500 impressions during the UN World Space Week event *An Evening with Telescopes*. As all members present can see, the revamping of the hall's technology station has greatly improved our broadcasting efficiency, now allowing us to live-stream evening presentations a lot more easily than before.



Further, the NSS has 335 listeners on the WhatsApp Broadcast Group.

Other Matters

This year the NSS collaborated with the UNAM/Africa Millimetre Telescope (AMT) Mobile Planetarium through a grant from the Bank of Namibia, already allowing school visits in nine out of 14 regions, and the rest of the regions to follow before the end of October.

Financial Overview

Financial stability remains strong. Investment funds increased in value, partly due to reinvestments into property and infrastructure upgrades. The overall financial health is sound and sustainable.



Centenary Celebrations

2025 marked the 100th anniversary of the Namibia Scientific Society. Celebrations included the grand opening event on the 12th of April, during which the new Logo, designed by Turipamwe Design Studio, was unveiled, as were new business cards and flyers.

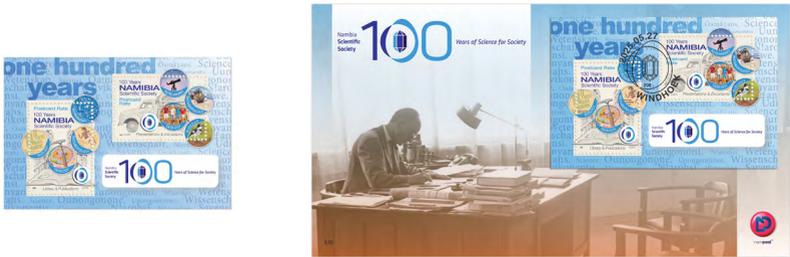


NSS Business Card



NSS Flyers

During the Housewarming party in August the NamPost Centenary Stamps were launched.



NamPost Stamp

Following an extended period of extensive renovations, the renovated premises bolster optimised functionality of the lecture hall, a wheelchair-accessible restroom and two more restrooms, and an inviting front facade and entrance.



Centenary: Building Refurbishment



The concept for a new library building – estimated at N\$25–26 million – was also unveiled, and initial funding has already been received. The project aims to expand the capacity by 400 square meters, a space that is urgently required by the library.



Acknowledgements

The Board extends sincere gratitude to all committees, staff, members, and partners who contributed to another highly successful year. Special thanks to the Building and Centenary Celebrations Committees for their dedication and countless volunteer hours. We also thank all corporate members, embassies, NGOs, and foundations for their continued support.

Annual Report: Astronomy Working Group

by Prof. Michael Backes

The year 2024/2025 was a terribly sad year for the Astronomy Working Group. In December 2024, the Society's Honorary Member and re-initiator and long-term chair of the Astronomy Working Group, Sonja Itting-Enke passed away at the age of 94. She founded the Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory near Windhoek and dedicated her life to conveying astronomical knowledge to the population of Namibia. In her honour, a main-belt asteroid number 133552 was named "Itting-Enke" in 2006. The asteroid had been discovered on 16 October 2003 at the Turtle Star Observatory in Mülheim an der Ruhr in Germany. In 2008, she was bestowed the VdS Medal, the German Prize of Amateur Astronomy, by the Verband der Sternfreunde (VdS). With more than 4,000 members, the VdS is the largest German-speaking astronomical association.

Sadly, our dear friend and astronomer Simon van der Lingen also passed away unexpectedly at the beginning of the year 2025. We are grateful to have had him as a valued member of the astronomy group and will deeply miss him. Thank you, Simon, for all your hard work and dedication in reaching out to people and bringing them the joy of our wonderful night sky.

Altogether, 8 public events were organised, and the success of public outreach plateaued at a high level of impact.

Star Gazing/ Astronomical Events

A fully booked star-gazing evening was organised at the Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory (CHMO), just south of Windhoek. This was led by Lutz von Dewitz.
10/10/2024 An evening with telescopes at the top of Gamsa Street



- 07/12/2024 Come and See View Jupiter
07/09/2025 Lunar Eclipse Viewing at Hotel Thule – all are invited!

Public Lectures

- Throughout the year, we were able to offer 2 spectacular presentations:
- 22/08/2024 *Observing the unobservable: black hole primer* by Prof. Sera Markoff
- 10/10/2024 *The planets – our neighbours in space* by Clyde Foster at DHPS
- 26/06/2025 UNAM/Africa Millimetre Telescope (AMT) Mobile Planetarium

Excursions

World Space Week is celebrated every year from 4 to 10 October. This year, the National Commission of Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) organised events that emphasised the positive impact of space science and technology on the betterment of human existence.

We took this opportunity to run the telescopes donated by Robert Johnstone for the first time. On the evening of 10 October 2024, about 150 guests gathered at the Kleine Kuppe. Amongst them were many children. In the evening, every participant had the opportunity to see various objects like planets and the moon. With the support of Alex Arnold, Simon van der Lingen, Lutz von Dewitz and me, four telescopes could be set up. While two of the telescopes belong to the Namibia Scientific Society, the other two are in private possession and were kindly made available specifically for this event. In addition to the observations with the telescopes, many very active and interesting astronomical discussions were held, and many questions could be answered by the astronomers.

The 16th Southern Star Party was organised from 6 to 9 September 2024 at Gross Barmen.

The 17th Southern Star Party was organised just recently from 22 to 24 August 2025 at Rock Lodge, close to Okahandja. For the first time, we specially catered for a group of learners from Friday to Saturday. Besides stargazing in the evenings, we had a couple of interesting presentations, solar observations during the day and several shows with the UNAM/AMT Mobile Planetarium.

Collaborations and Partnerships

The Namibia Scientific Society, through the Astronomy Working Group, is a partner of the AMT Mobile Planetarium project. This immensely successful project has meanwhile reached more than 25,000 visitors and was awarded



the 2024 Annie Maunder Medal for Outreach by the Royal Astronomical Society (UK). Our collaboration recently intensified through a N\$200,000 grant that we received from the Bank of Namibia to facilitate the Mobile Planetarium to visit one school in each region of Namibia by October 2025 – 8 of Namibia’s 14 regions have already been covered.

Outreach

The website¹, as well as the Facebook page² of the astronomy section, have been regularly contacted: To date, 6,959 visitors have seen the website (compared to 6,933 last year; +0.4%). The Facebook page has 1,634 regular followers (compared to 1,624 a year ago; +0.6%) and is especially useful for promoting events. The post with the highest reach was the one of Lutz von Dewitz’s photos of the comet C2023/A3 Tsuchinshan ATLAS, which reached 1,121 views. The WhatsApp Channel³ implemented in 2024 has 116 followers (compared to 112 a year ago; +3.6%) and provides the monthly Astro News and informs about astronomy-related events.

Further, many thanks go to Lutz von Dewitz and the late Simon van der Lingen for providing the astro news, so that a monthly astro newsletter is distributed on our website and is regularly highly commended by the recipients.

Clear skies!

¹ www.astronwg.wordpress.com

² <https://www.facebook.com/astro.nwg>

³ <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaEoPIV3AzNYGPHCKa3a>

Annual Report: Reptiles and Amphibians Working Group

by Alfred Schleicher

As every year, the annual report of the Herpetological Working Group for reptiles and amphibians consists of events from the second half of the previous year (2024) and the first half of this year (2025).

The research project focusing on Namibia's tortoise species continues unabated. Due to the persistent drought in the country over recent years, reptiles and amphibians have been under significant stress. Not only was observing the animals extremely difficult, but serious losses also had to be accepted. Three of the five Bushmanland Tent Tortoises (*Psammobates tentorius verroxii*) equipped with transmitters on Farm Tiras fell victim to the prolonged and exceptional drought. Additionally, one specimen has not yet been located due to the complete failure of its transmitter. However, an inspection of the remaining tortoise gave a positive impression. The tortoise appears to be healthy and has coped well with the very challenging living conditions.

It is also very encouraging that a new project to study the still little-known Nama Padloper (*Chersobius solus*) in the region around Aus is finally being launched. I have also signaled my willingness to actively participate in this project.

The experiences gathered are shared with interested audiences through appropriate lectures.

It is also very gratifying that the new German-language edition of my reptile guide is receiving widespread approval both domestically and abroad, thus carrying the "World of Namibia's Reptiles" far beyond the borders of Namibia.

As always, I would like to extend special thanks to all colleagues for their good and therefore enjoyable collaboration.

I thank all members of the Namibia Scientific Society for their interest in all our offerings.

Stay curious and feel free to share any questions or interesting insights with me.

on the council. In line with the NHA succession plan and capacity building, the NHA continues to promote the implementation of the shadow council, aiming at a smoother and succession planning.

- The council for 2025 comprises:
 - The shadow council for 2025 comprises:
 - Asteria Mwetulundila
 - Roy Mwateuvi
 - Swanu Muhenje

2. International Association for Hydrogeologists Congress 2024

From 8–13 September 2024, members of NHA took part in the International Association for Hydrogeologist (IAH) Congress, which was held in Davos, Switzerland. This was an opportunity to meet with global hydrogeology experts, to further the study of Hydrogeology (as per our



Figure 2: Moments at IAH Congress, Davos, Switzerland 2024

objective), to network and forge new professional contacts. (Figure 2). Four Namibians attended the congress, two of which were NHA members, one (1) from Private sector, one (1) from a parastatal, tow (2) from Academia. The two NHA members had the honour of leading and moderating a session on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), which consisted of 17 presenters.

What is additionally worth noting was the difficulty in raising funds to attend these international congresses. NHA has partially funded one of the participants, while the others had funds from other private institutions.

3. World Water Day 2025

The world water run is an activity that we have added on to our annual calendar. With the support of various organisations we were able to organise another 5 and 10 km run/walk around Windhoek with a base at the Wanderers Sports Field. (Figure 4). The walk/run which was held on 17 May 2025 gave us a platform to introduce NHA, as well as leave the runners with a word of caution to use water wisely and be cognizant of our national water challenges.

Instead of medals, we gave fridge magnets with water saving tips as rewards for finishing and participating in the race. About 70 Participants signed up and about 41 showed up.

We had reached out to several schools about the run, to again solidify importance of the role they as water users play, and thus we took the opportunity to have a hydro-fair and introduce the career to them (Figure 4).



Figure 3: Marketing flyer



Figure 4: Hydrogeological run group photo, Mini hydro-fair hosts

4. Hydrogeological Webinar

One of the NHA's core values is to promote technical excellence, and we aim to grow in this through monthly Hydrogeological webinars.

Attending these international conferences has made us realise that we need to keep up with the global momentum, and these constant sharing of knowledge will do just that. The topics to present on are endless, and these webinars have put us on a constant technical development trajectory (Figure 5).



Figure 5: NHA Webinars for 2025

5. Khomas Regional Science Fair

We have also assisted with adjudication at the Regional Science Fair. The picture below shows our Council member who represented NHA as a judge at the science fair. This creates links with the educational sector where we aim to educate and create hydrogeology and hydrology awareness at an earlier stage in the schooling journey.

6. Other events

- Water Resources Management Act Workshop- 2024
- Reach out to Hydrologists, and strengthening the link with DWA.

7. Forecast

- Hydrogeology and hydrology lecture series and webinars 2025-2026
- Khomas Regional Science Fair- August 2025



Figure 6: Award ceremony for participating in the Khomas Regional Science Fair.

- IAH Congress- Melbourne, Australia, September 2025
- IAH Congress- Budapest, Hungary September 2026

These activities ensure we grow in our technical expertise, forge networks and develop mutually beneficial collaborations. Conversations with the relevant people spark ideas which we believe will lead to solutions to our local water challenges.



Ester Gustavo

Annual Report: Namibia Bird Club

by Gudrun Middendorff

Good evening ladies and gentlemen,

It is fair to say that birds have always inspired people being it ancient cave paintings or Shakespeare's lark all through the various cultures they appear in music, writing and art. Our encounters with birds are life affirming, creating memories that stay with us and give us a real connection to the natural world.

To cover the activities of last year we have

Outings: During the previous year morning walks were conducted alternating between Avis dam and Gammams Water Care Works. These two sites are also included in the summer and winter water bird counts. Several locations outside Windhoek were targeted for Sunday outings like Airport lodge, Steinheim farm, Omeya Golf Estate and Oanob dam. Long weekend trips were organised to visit Omandumba Guest farm in the Erongo region, Zuri Camp close to Tsumeb and a Bioblitz at the Pangolin Research Centre in Buschmanland. A Bioblitz is an exercise to collect as many living species in a given time for a set area to establish species lists.

Birders Get-together: The BGT took place at the Alte Kalköfen Lodge in the Bethanie district. Finding birds proved difficult as the farm had little to no rain for several years. Nevertheless, our early morning excursions came up with some nice finds like Karoo Korhaan. The participants were treated to the most amazing food and had the privilege of getting a tour through the Lithops collection of the farm.

Birdlasser workshop: Holger Kolberg compiled a Power Point Presentation to teach users and newcomers about the useful and tricky bits of bird mapping. The workshop was well-attended and there were calls for another one at the coast. A practice outing was held the next day at Oanob dam together with local guides.

The Biomarket in July 2024 had members and helpers running the coffee shop selling Brötchens and cake to collect funds for our supported projects. It is a good meeting place for the public to ask questions and tell our members about their encounters with birds.



Garden bird list: The driver behind this ever-growing undertaking is Innes Louw. Participants are invited to list their garden birds quarterly to establish patterns of present species. Windhoek citizens, people at the coast and an increasing number of farmers are taking part.

Education for school children: Several schools have been visited by Innes Louw to talk and inspire school children and hopefully their teachers to understand and pay more attention to our feathered friends. Some schools have enviro clubs appreciating and using the educational attempt from the bird club.

Calendar: Our annual bird calendar stays a sought-after object. The compact format with its information inserts seems a winning concept. The calendar is skilfully compiled by Anita Zimny. Photographs for 2026 can be submitted now till end of March 2025.

Lanioturdus: The Namibia Bird Club's journal is your journal. Only three issues were published in 2024. Our editor Holger Kolberg goes to great lengths to search for articles to publish. This is a call to all to write up interesting observations to be included.

Birdmapping project: The atlasing project started in Namibia 2012 and took off well in the beginning. We are now 22 pentads short of 22 percent of coverage of Namibia. As you all know Namibia is huge and has a lot of unatlased ground. Unfortunately, participation has slowed down drastically over the last two years. We do hope that more people will make a concerted effort to get involved again.

Supported organisations: NARREC – Liz Komen and Swakopmund Penguin Rehab run by Sandra Dantu are the beneficiaries of an annual donation to help with occurring cost of food and medication.

Our thanks go to the Holy Cross Convent Primary School for the use of their facility. The hall of the Namibia Scientific Society has not been available because the paint on the floor is not dry.

I want to thank my committee for their support and commitment throughout the year. Ellen our secretary, Michaela looking after our finances and Franz updating our website – without your input this all would not be possible.

Some of the Events in 2025



Finalising renovations to the NSS building



January

February

March



First public talk of 2025 by Dr Fabiola Quesada: *Integrated approach to wildlife health, conservation, and training*

NEWS talk: Francois Theart: Snake translocation: *Caught it! What now?*



Dr Miha Krofel presenting on Leopard ecology and conflict prevention in the Namibian farmland



Namibia Bird Club: Chris Hines & John Mendelsohn: *Amazing Angola: Biodiversity and ecology*

April

May

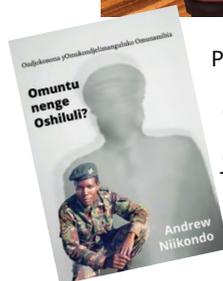
June



100 Year Anniversary Celebration



Book launch: Prof. Andrew Niikondo's book *Omuntu nenge Oshiluli? Ondjokonona yOmukondjelimanguluko Omunamibi*



Events



18th Southern Star Party at Rock Lodge, Okahandja



House warming celebration & NSS 100 year Stamp launch

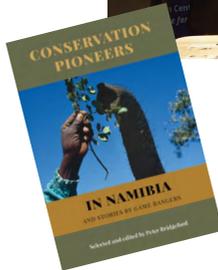
July

August

September



UNAM Cultural Festival



Book launch: *Conservation Pioneers in Namibia* by Peter Bridgeford



ARISS Contact event: Talking live with astronaut Mike Finke on board the International Space Station



Kuiseb Publishers celebrating 40 years and special book launch of Namibia, land of many cultures

October

November

December



Film Screenings:
Namibia Up, Being 18 in Africa Today & Dreaming of Africa - Swedish Pioneers in the 19th Century



Book flea market



Vorstellung der 32. Ausgabe der *Felsgraffiti*

A New Chapter for the Namibia Scientific Society Building

Welcoming you into our refreshed and reimagined home

Natasha Duvenhage



What began as a modest idea, just a fresh coat of paint for the hall, soon unfolded into something much more ambitious and meaningful. Over the past year, the Namibia Scientific Society has undergone a major transformation, not only in the way our building looks, but in how it serves our community.

In August 2024, the long-anticipated renovation of our administrative building officially began, the first large-scale upgrade to our premises in decades. With inspired design work led by Kevin McNamara Architects, the project quickly evolved into a full renovation that now touches nearly every part of our beloved home at 110 Robert Mugabe Avenue.

Our goal was simple, yet full of purpose: to create a space that feels open, modern, and welcoming. A building that reflects the dynamic, accessible, and forward-looking spirit of the Society itself.



And while the journey came with its fair share of dust, delays, and detours (as all good renovations do), the outcome has been deeply rewarding. Today, we're excited to say that the finish line is in sight and the result is a space we are proud to share.

Visitors will find that the hall has been reimagined for ease and elegance in hosting events, lectures, and gatherings. Our administrative offices have been redesigned to be more functional, light-filled, and visitor-friendly, easier to navigate, and simply a more pleasant place to be. And in a small but much-loved addition, our kitchenette is now a cheerful spot to make a cup of coffee or tea for members and guests (a perk our staff has come to appreciate too!).

As we put the final touches in place, including a new reception desk and the landscaping of our front entrance, we are already beginning to see how this renovation is not just cosmetic, but foundational. It signals our commitment to remain a living, growing institution in service of science, culture, and community.

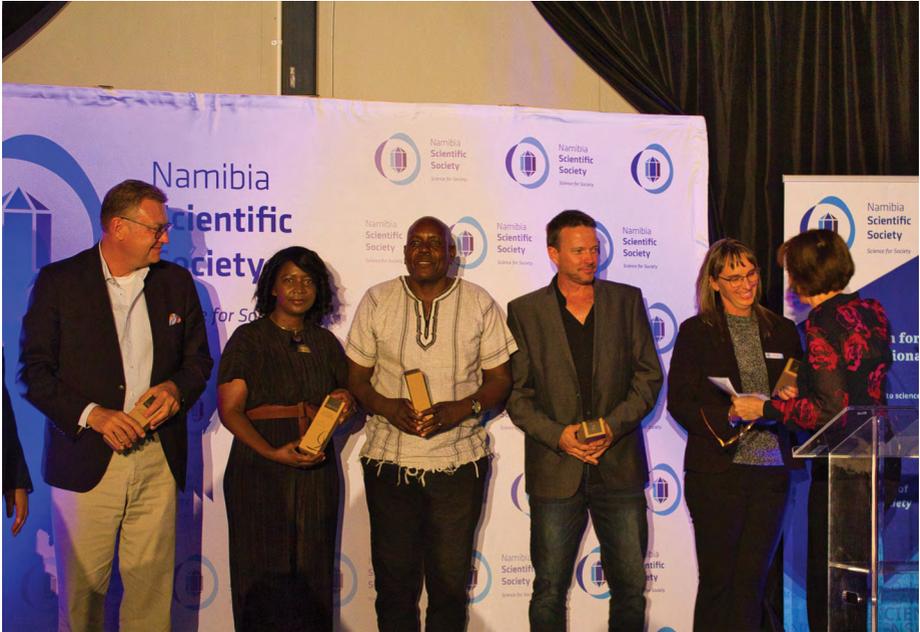
Importantly, this upgrade is part of a larger vision. The next phase in our journey is the construction of a state-of-the-art library. A space where the past, present, and future of Namibian knowledge can coexist and grow. This next chapter, however, will only be possible with the support of our members, partners, and friends.

We invite you to come and experience the renewed NSS for yourself and to dream with us as we take the next steps in building a home for curiosity, learning, and connection in the heart of Windhoek.

Celebrating 100 Years of the Namibia Scientific Society

Reflecting on a historic evening – and looking to the future

Natasha Duvenhage



Dr Thorsten Hutter, Sarah Negumbo, Prof. Andrew Niikondo,
Rowan McNamara, Ruth Moldzio and Benita Herma

On 12 April 2025, the Namibia Scientific Society celebrated its Centenary. A remarkable milestone marking 100 years of promoting science, culture, and knowledge in Namibia. Hosted at Droombos, the evening brought together members, corporate partners, dignitaries, authors, and friends of the Society to honour the past and dream together about the future.

The atmosphere was one of excitement and celebration, with a tangible sense of anticipation in the air. Guests were treated to a beautifully curated evening where every detail, from the welcoming setting to the programme, reflected the spirit of the Society. A sense of shared

history and hopeful expectation filled the air, particularly as two major announcements were held as a surprise.

The evening opened with warm words from our CEO Ruth Moldzio followed by our Chairman Prof. Dr Michael Backes, who paid tribute to the countless individuals and institutions that have shaped the Society since its founding in 1925. His address was followed by three guest speakers.

We were honoured to host three distinguished guest speakers. Prof Andrew Niikondo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching, Learning and Technology at NUST, and one of Kuiseb Publishers' own authors, reflected on the enduring importance of accessible, indigenous scholarship. Sarah Negumbo, Director of the Namibia Library and Archives Service, spoke on the evolving role of libraries and archives in the digital age, and the power of preserving heritage and His Excellency Dr Thorsten Hutter, German Ambassador to Namibia, reaffirmed the strong historical ties and ongoing cooperation between Namibia and Germany in the fields of education and research.

A highlight of the evening was the unveiling of the Society's refreshed logo and visual identity, a modern design that honours key elements of our past while embracing the future.

But perhaps the most significant moment came with the presentation by Kevin McNamara Architects, revealing the design for our next big step. A new state-of-the-art library that will be integrated into our existing heritage building. This visionary project, where old meets new, is not just a facelift but a fundamental transformation that will allow the Society to continue serving researchers, learners, and the public for generations to come.

With our current library nearing capacity, this expansion is both a practical necessity and a symbolic commitment to our core mission. We therefore extend a heartfelt call to our members, friends, and partners to help us make this new library a reality. Whether through financial contributions, corporate support, or simply sharing our vision, your involvement matters.

The Centenary was a celebration, but also a launchpad. As we step into our second century, we do so with hope, humility, and a renewed sense of purpose. Here's to the next 100 years of curiosity, knowledge, and community.

Journey through the Stars: The AMT Mobile Planetarium reaches every Region of Namibia

Natasha Duvenhage

This year the AMT Mobile Planetarium, with support from the Bank of Namibia (BON) and coordination by the Namibia Scientific Society (NSS), brought the universe to learners across every region of Namibia. What began as a dream to make astronomy accessible to all children, from cities to remote villages, has continued to be a reality thanks to BON's funding.



Elia M. Nerombo school (Photo: Zandr  Duvenhage)

Between July and October 2025, the planetarium rolled into 14 schools, delighting thousands of learners and teachers. In Phase One, eight schools welcomed the team, with 2,121 learners and 154 teachers and community members stepping inside the dome to explore galaxies, planets, and stars. Girls and boys participated almost equally, with a slight majority of girls, showing the broad appeal of STEM experiences.

Phase Two carried the journey to the remaining six regions, reaching 1,236 learners and 132 teachers and community members. Along the way, the AMT team added 16 extra school visits and held three special teacher-training sessions, extending the reach to an additional 3117 learners and 190 educators. By the end of the rollout the project had touched 6,474 learners and 476 adults, far exceeding the original plan.

Each visit was more than a lesson in astronomy. It was an invitation to dream, imagine, and discover. From the southern plains of Karas to the northern rivers of Zambezi learners stepped into the planetarium and journeyed through the cosmos, almost all of them for the first time. These experiences sparked curiosity and excitement, planting the seeds for the next generation of Namibian scientists and innovators.

The project's success was made possible by the dedication of the AMT team and the generous support of BON, along with key partners including Fly Namibia, Gondwana Collection, Nedbank, Breakaway Namibia Tours, Kwena Chobe Lodge, and Luwi Transfers and Tours.

The NSS is proud to have played a role in this extraordinary national initiative. Thanks to the AMT Mobile Planetarium, the night sky has never felt closer to Namibian learners.

Books published this year

Omuntu nenge Oshiluli? Ondjokonona yOmukondjelimanguluko Omunamibia by Andrew Niikondo

Andrew Niikondo okwa valwa mOmaandaha koshiwike, eti – 15 lyajauari 1962, momukunda Onantsi, popepi nOndangwa, moshitopolwa Oshana. Osikola okwe yi hulithile mostanda onti – 7, (ondondo onti – 9).

Okwa waimine Etanga lyOkakulumbwati lyaNamibia (PLAN), mepipi lyomivo 17, nokwa dheuilwa uukwiita moTobias Hainyeko Training Centre (moLubango), e li omukwiitwa gwoartilleri mo-1979.

Olugodhi lwekondjelomanguluko inalu mu pa ompito yokutsikila nelongo lye. Okwa tamukulula osikola konima yekondjelomanguluko. Okwa piti ostanda 10 (ondondo 12) momumvo 1992. Konima yeilongo ele, okwa ka adha onkatu yoPhD (yuundohotola) moPublic Administration moUniversiti yaNamibia mo-2008.

Okwa nyola ehokololo ndika okudhimbulukwa uudhigu nuupyakadhi wa guma aakondjelimanguluko yaNamibia nokuulika nkene onkalamwenyo yomuntu yi li olweendo lu udha omilondo nomasilu.

Also available in English: *Are you a Person or a Ghost?*

244 p. • 2025 • 978-99945-76-93-7 • 148 x 210 mm
Price: N\$320 • Price for members: N\$275



Conservation Pioneers and stories by game rangers by Peter Bridgeford

The decision taken over hundred years ago to establish conservation areas, was to have a lasting impact on the environment in what is today the Republic of Namibia. Namibia is indeed able to boast with a large percentage of its surface area that is devoted to conservation. This book of personal stories and reminiscences is about some of the many people who worked in the conservation field over the years in Namibia.

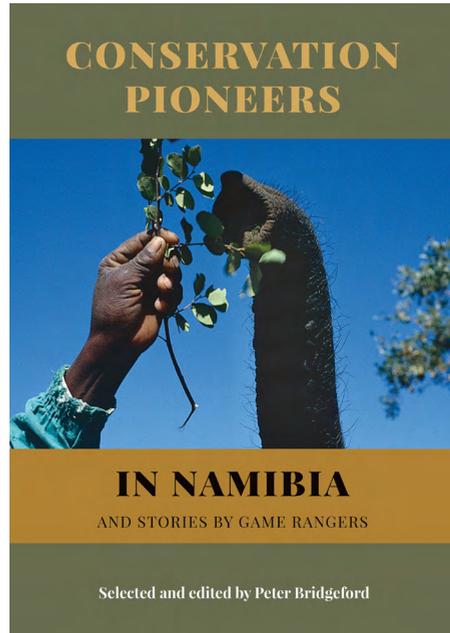
Conservation Pioneers is also a tribute to the hard work, dedication and sacrifices made by those early pioneering rangers. From 1952, all staff members were known as rangers and they filled the dual roles of rangers/tourists officers and rangers/maintenance staff.

Together, they created parks and facilities of a world-class standard. We salute them!

The history of the origins of conservation in Namibia is touched on by stories and biographies of more than 55 conservationists and complemented with over 150 photographs, 6 maps, and several drawings.

This second edition comes with an index.

427 p. • colour photos • 2025 • ISBN 978-99945-76-99-9 • 170 x 240 mm
Price 450 N\$ • Price for members: 385 N\$

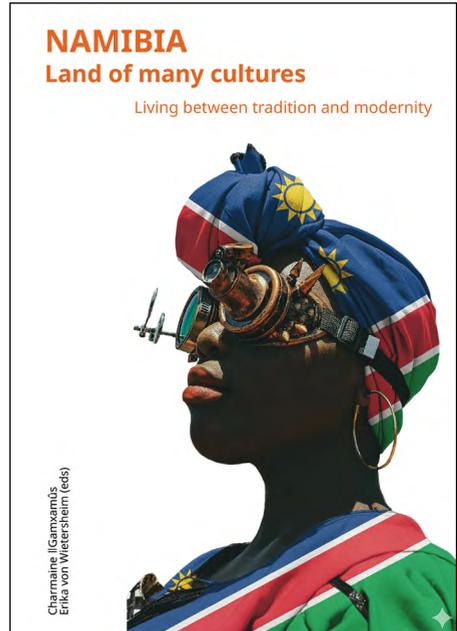


NAMIBIA Land of Many Cultures

Living between Tradition and Modernity

by Charmaine IlGamxamûs and Erika von Wietersheim

This book informs the reader about the multiple cultures and language groups of Namibia and celebrates this richness. The focus is not on ethnographic facts as presented by anthropologists and missionaries in the past, but on cultural factors, traditions, and values that still shape our society today – some very different and some surprisingly similar. The different chapters are authored by members from the different communities and thus provide insights and interpretations “from inside”. The aim is to encourage understanding of each other’s histories and differences, and to promote respect and cooperation, both for Namibians and visitors to our country.



“By highlighting both the distinctiveness and shared values of Namibia’s communities, this book contributes toward building what is often called the ‘Namibian House’: a place where all have a voice and a rightful place.”
Anna Hoffmann-Kwanga, Resident Representative, KAS

“The book you hold in your hands has been deliberately designed to be reader-friendly, accessible, and relevant ... By addressing the realities and aspirations of our people, it encourages deeper understanding among Namibia’s different language and ethnic groups, while also offering valuable perspectives to visitors and tourists seeking to experience our country beyond stereotypes or misconceptions.”

Mbumba Erastus Haitengela, Executive Director, Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture

228 p. • colour photos & map • 2025 • ISBN 978-99945-76-57-9 • 170 x 240 mm
Price 350 N\$ • Price for members: 300 N\$

Celebrating 40 Years of Kuiseb Publishers

Honouring a legacy of Namibian storytelling

This year marked a meaningful milestone for the Namibia Scientific Society as Kuiseb Publishers celebrated its 40th anniversary. For four decades, Kuiseb has been dedicated to preserving Namibian stories, publishing works that highlight the country's history, culture, science, and diverse voices. What began as a small imprint within the Society has grown into a respected publishing house known for its commitment to local authors and authentic Namibian narratives.

To commemorate this achievement, a special celebration was held on the 25th of November. The event took place outdoors in the NSS parking area, which had been transformed into a warm and inviting space with soft lighting and fairy lights strung overhead. The atmosphere was relaxed and festive. Truly a beautiful evening shared by around 120 guests, including members, partners, authors, and friends of the Society.

However, the night took an unexpected turn. After carefully monitoring weather forecasts all week, with every app promising clear skies beyond 20:00, the celebration was met with an unpredicted shower roughly an hour into the programme. In a moment that blended both surprise and camaraderie, our CEO, Ruth, invited guests to help rescue anything that shouldn't get wet and make their way into the NSS hall. The NSS team responded swiftly and seamlessly, operating like a well-oiled machine as they moved equipment indoors without a single item damaged. Thanks to this quick teamwork, the programme resumed



Charmaine IlGamxamûs, Namaful Amutse, Livinge Dennis and Ruth Moldzio (Photos: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung)



Edda Bohn, Deputy Executive Director of the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture (Photo: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung)

inside with minimal delay, adding an unforgettable and somewhat magical twist to the evening.

A highlight of the celebration was the official launch of the new publication *NAMIBIA Land of Many Cultures*. Edited by Erika von Wietersheim and Charmaine ||Gamxamûs, the book brings together voices from across Namibia to showcase the country's cultural richness, making it a fitting release for this anniversary year. Guests also enjoyed a short presentation on the story behind the book's cover design, providing insight into the creative vision shaping the publication.

The evening concluded with a relaxed time of conversation and connection, as attendees reflected on Kuisseb Publishers' legacy and looked ahead to the continued growth of Namibian literature.

As we celebrate 40 years of Kuisseb Publishers, we honour not only the books that have been produced, but the people, partnerships, and ideas that have shaped the imprint into what it is today. The launch of *NAMIBIA Land of Many Cultures* stands as a reminder of Kuisseb's purpose: to give space to diverse Namibian voices and ensure that our stories remain preserved for future generations

Events 2025

- 18.03.2025 Dr Fabiola Quesada: *Integrated approach to wildlife health, conservation, and training*
- 03.04.2025 Renate Schäfer-Westreicher: *At your own risk ... – History of pharmacies during the German colonial period*
- 09.04.2025 Namibia Bird Club: Chris Hines & Dr John Mendelsohn: *Where do most wetland birds in Africa breed?*
- 23.04.2025 Dr Miha Krofel: *Leopard ecology and conflict prevention in the Namibian farmland*
- 29.05.2025 NEWS talk: Francois Theart: *Snake translocation, Caught it! What now?*
- 13.05.2025 NEWS talk: Jessica Steyn: *Managing the Quietest Place in the World*
- 05.06.2025 Namibia Bird Club: Chris Hines & John Mendelson: *Amazing Angola: Biodiversity and Ecology*
- 19.06.2025 Book Launch: Prof. Andrew Niiikondo: *Omuntu nenge Oshiluli? OndjokononayOmukondjelimanguluko Omunamibi*
- 24.06.2025 Dr Uwe Maas: *Animal-Human Relations in Prehistoric Rock Art (and their possible Significance)*
- 26.06.2025 Mobile Planetarium in Namibia Scientific Society
- 03.07.2025 Dr Judit SlízBalogh & Attila Má dai: *Modelling and observations of particles around the triangular Lagrange points of the EarthMoon and Sun-Jupiter systems*
- 15.07.2025 NEWS talk: Ebikes4Africa
- 23.07.2025 Book launch: Dr Lameck Mbangula Amugongo: *Psychedelic Lost Highs in the Namib Dust*
- 05.08.2025 NEWS talk: Zazapamue Hange: *Re-Introduction of Giraffes into the Namib*
- 06–09.08.25 Namibia Scientific Society exhibited at the UNAM Cultural Festival
- 14.08.2025 Book Reading: Nelao Books und die Genealogie Magdeburg: *Ein Karat zu Zwanzig Mark*
- 19.08.2025 House Warming Celebration at the NSS
- 04.09.2025 Namibia Scientific Society Annual General Meeting
- 07.09.2025 Lunar Eclipse Viewing at Hotel Thule
- 16.09.2025 Book launch: Peter Bridgeford: *Conservation Pioneers in Namibia, and stories by Game Rangers*
- 30.09.2025 *Felsgraffiti*: Literarischer Abend mit musikalischer Untermalung
- 06.10.2025 World Space Week event presentation: Titan's Sand and Seas – Dragonfly mission to Titan, Saturn's largest moon

- 09.10.2025 World Space week event: *ARISS Contact Events - A live talk with an astronaut on board the International Space Station*
- 14.10.2025 Dr Pritvhi Simha & Gert van der Merwe: *Turning urine into Fertiliser – Innovative Research for Namibia’s Water and Food Security*
- 29.10.2025 Dr Carlos Sarabia & Maria de la Puerta: *Reimagining Namibia’s Rangelands – Data, Science, and the Path to Resilience*
- 04.11.2025 Documentary Screening: *Namibia Up, Being 18 in Africa Today*
- 10.11.2025 Book Launch: Dr Allen Zimbler: *Kalahari Diaries – Impressions of a Desert People*
- 18.11.2025 Dr Imre Josef Demhardt: *The Early Cartography of Namibia*
- 25.11.2025 Kuiseb Publishers: 40 Year celebration and book launch of *NAMIBIA Land of many Cultures*
- 27.11.2025 Film Screening: *Dreaming of Africa – Charles John Andersson & Axel Eriksson, Swedish Pioneers in the 19th Century*
- 02.12.2025 *Felsgraffiti: Vorstellung der 32. Ausgabe der Felsgraffiti*
- 04.12.2025 Africa Milimeter Telescope: Public engagement and Environmental Impact assessment discussion
- 09.12.2025 Africa Milimeter Telescope (AMT) Mobile Planetarium at the Namibia Scientific Society

Excursions

- 01.–13.06.25 South of Namibia Excursion: Discover the diversity of the south of Namibia
- 22.–24.08.25 17th Southern Star Party at Rock Lodge, close to Okahandja

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The Namibia Scientific Society has created a WhatsApp Channel. This will only be used to inform about upcoming events at the Society. To join, please scan the QR-code.



Follow the Astronomy Working Group



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The Astronomy Working Group has created a WhatsApp Channel. This will only be used to inform on Astronomy-related matters.



<https://astronwg.wordpress.com/>



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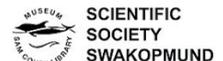
<https://namhydro.com/>

Corporate Members/Korporative Mitglieder

Corporate Membership was introduced for businesses and institutions wanting to support the Namibia Scientific Society in its mission to promote education, scientific research and public awareness with regard to current and cultural issues in Namibia. Credit is given to the following businesses:



KERRY McNAMARA
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After an extraordinary year filled with celebration and the transformation of our newly renovated home, the Board and Team of the Namibia Scientific Society want to thank you for journeying with us.

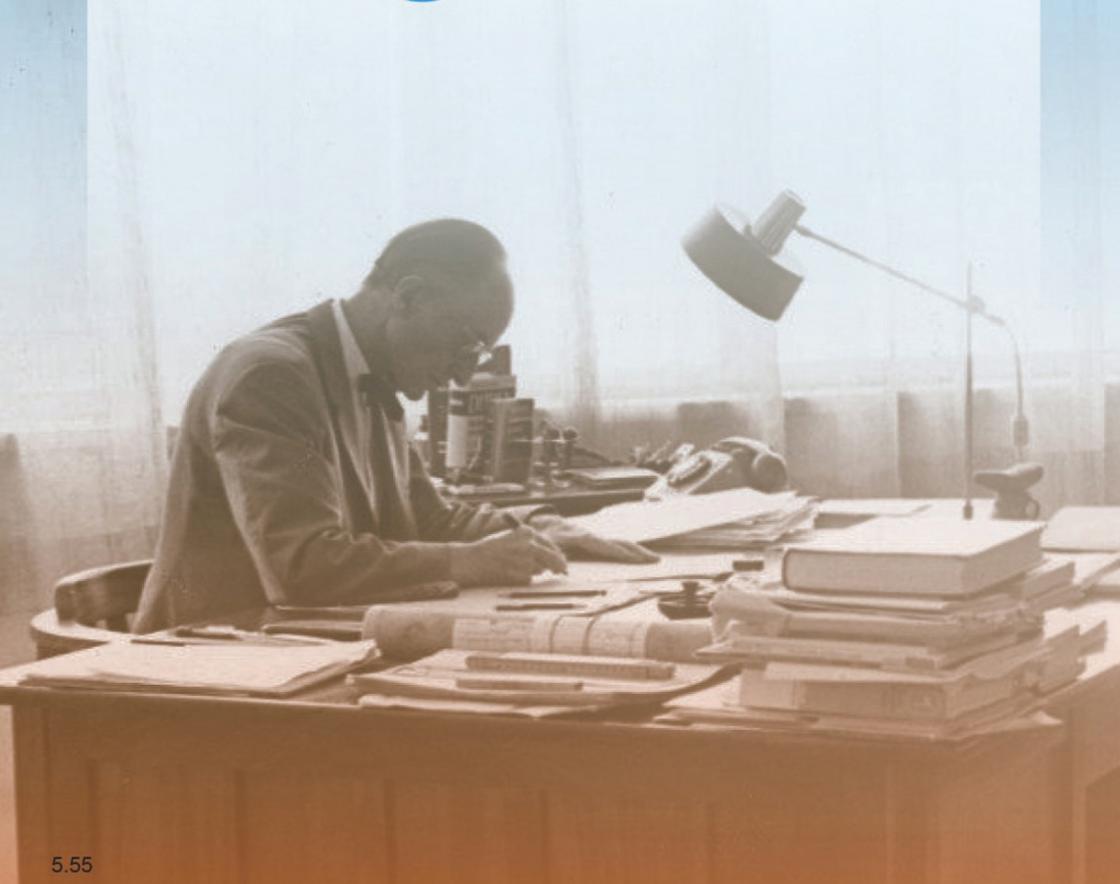
We wish all our members and friends a joyful Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

We'll be taking a some time for a breather over the festive season. The Society will close on Wednesday, 24 December at 13:00 and reopen on Thursday, 15 January 2026.

Namibia
Scientific
Society

100

Years of Science for Society



5.55

If undelivered please return to:
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