



# Journal of the Namibia Scientific Society

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## Publisher

Namibia Scientific Society  
110 Robert Mugabe Ave., Windhoek  
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#### Office

P.O. Box 67

Windhoek, Namibia

Tel: 061-22 53 72

E-mail: info@namscience.com

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## Editorial

The Namibia Scientific Society will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. During the 99 years of the Society's existence, science has changed in many ways, including the focus of research, the questions being asked, equipment being more sophisticated, analytical techniques having changed, computers allowing for the processing of large datasets, and more. However, some fundamental features of science remain the same, notably that new research work needs to be shared and evaluated by a researcher's peers. This ensures that work is new and of interest to a group of scientists. The internet has revolutionised access to information and research articles and many new journals have appeared. The role of the Journal of the NSS has remained the same through these changes, and that is to provide correct, relevant, and interesting information to its members.

Volume 71 of the Journal starts with two Research Notes: the first one is a cross-disciplinary study on fossil tracks that utilises indigenous knowledge of animal tracking, followed by the first record of a thresher shark in Namibian waters, this providing important information about the distribution and ecology of these sharks with implications for the protection of all shark species.

The third article reviews organisational justice and psychological ownership in the NDF, providing information on how best to reduce turnover, thus saving costs on training. The next article compares walking traverses with dogs to vehicular traverses assisted by dogs to detect cheetah scat. The walking traverses found scat that would have been otherwise unobserved. This may help with estimating population densities of these animals. Older works on biodiversity did not necessarily locate their sampling sites precisely and the fifth article

reviews many of these and correctly locates them, providing clarity and useful information for researchers using old data sets. The sixth article covers another non-invasive project, using acoustically detected tags to monitor the movement of sharks, rays, and skates in Namibian waters. This provided new information that can be used in the management and establishment of marine protected areas. The seventh article evaluates lion health using visual assessments of body condition and stomach contents in a private game reserve. The non-invasive study provides information for management in reserves. The eighth and final article looks at the chemistry of a traditional beer and proposes long-term commercialisation of this brew, especially in light of long-term climate challenges.

Thanks must go to all the authors who submitted papers and the reviewers who freely gave of their time to read and comment on the articles.

Michael Backes & Roger Swart  
Editors-in-Chief