

**Namibia's one-stop shop for environmental information**



<b>SEARCH</b> the e-library	<b>ABOUT</b> the e-library	<b>UPLOAD</b> to the e-library	<b>WHAT'S NEW?</b> in the e-library	Namibian Journal of Environment
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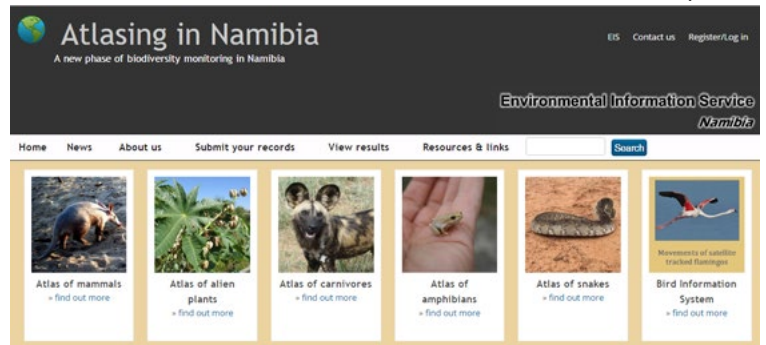
## What's new? More CITIZEN SCIENCE projects...

EIS News: December 2016  
from Alice Jarvis

In the last newsletter we reported on new atlasing projects for alien plants and amphibians. This time it's snakes! Together with the enthusiasts behind the Snakes of Namibia facebook page, we have set up Namibia's first Snake Atlas. Since its launch in June, we already have over 160 records, of 38 species.

[www.the-eis.com/atlas](http://www.the-eis.com/atlas)

Entering records is easy. The system is more or less the same for snakes, mammals, alien plants, frogs and toads. First, you need to register as a user - click on 'Register', enter your name and email address. You will receive a confirmation email, and will be registered within hours.



There are photo guides to assist with identification and for snakes you can also ask an expert on the Snakes of Namibia facebook group.

Current rankings

We can do bulk uploads too, so please get in touch if you have spreadsheets or notebooks with historic records.

Top ten atlasers		Top ten atlasers	
Ranked by number of records		Ranked by number of species	
Observer	No. of records	Observer	No. of species
Ward, David	3524	Brown, Chris	86
Jo Tagg, Vera Neuhaus	1023	Ward, David	73
Brown, Chris	1482	Jo Tagg, Vera Neuhaus	72
Event Book, HWC data	1478	Walters, Matthew	46
Carnivore Tracker, App	577	Carnivore Tracker, App	27
Cooper, Sue	502	Tony Robertson, Alice Jarvis	26
Khaebeb, Fernando	148	Iheart, Francois	21
Weise, Florian	137	Weise, Florian	21
Walters, Matthew	93	Bétrisey, Sophie	19
Middendorff, Gudrun	87	Middendorff, Gudrun	18

[www.the-eis.com/atlas/?q=photo-guide-to-snakes](http://www.the-eis.com/atlas/?q=photo-guide-to-snakes)

<b>Anchieta's Cobra</b> <i>Naja anchietae</i>  © Photo: Francois Theart & Joana Moura View description and photos View records	<b>Anchieta's Dwarf Python</b> <i>Python anchietae</i>  © Photo: Francois Theart View description and photos View records	<b>Bibron's Stiletto Snake</b> <i>Atractaspis bibronii</i>  © Photo: Francois Theart View description and photos View records
<b>Black Mamba</b> <i>Dendroaspis polylepis</i>  © Photo: Francois Theart View description and photos View records	<b>Black Spitting Cobra</b> <i>Naja nigricincta woodii</i>  © Photo: Francois Theart View description and photos View records	<b>Brown House Snake</b> <i>Boaedon capensis</i>  © Photo: Francois Theart View description and photos View records
<b>Cape Cobra</b> <i>Naja nivea</i>  View description and photos View records	<b>Cape Wolf Snake</b> <i>Lycophidius capensis capensis</i>  View description and photos View records	<b>Common Boomslang</b> <i>Dispholidus typus viridis</i>  View description and photos View records

Records from Namibia's Snake Atlas

[www.the-eis.com/atlas/?q=snake-records](http://www.the-eis.com/atlas/?q=snake-records)

ID	Source	Species	Common name	Grid ref	Date	Recorder	Images	Auto check
370163	Snake atlas	Boaedon capensis	Brown House Snake	S22.81323 E17.05761	02/11/2016	Agapius, Sprige		
370162	Snake atlas	Boaedon capensis	Brown House Snake	22.6005, 17.0748	22/11/2016	Agapius, Sprige		
370161	Snake atlas	Dasypeltis scabra	Rhombic or Plain Egg-eater	17.4965, 24.3248	20/11/2016	Sageff, Curt		
370089	Snake atlas	Boaedon capensis	Brown House Snake	-20.442987, 16.572956	19/11/2016	Engelking, Ethno		
370088	Snake atlas	Boaedon capensis	Brown House Snake	-20.322797, 16.417976	19/11/2016	Engelking, Ethno		

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## And another kind of CITIZEN SCIENCE...

Our newest addition to the public-participation projects is the EIS Photo Library:

[www.the-eis.com/photo-library](http://www.the-eis.com/photo-library)

The photo library is intended to be a repository of photos which may be useful in the context of land use, land use changes, human settlement,

vegetation, climate and so on. While the primary focus is Namibia it also contains photos from other African countries. You can upload photos too. These are manually checked before being made publicly available. Full instructions are on the upload page. You can search and filter to find photos of interest, and then download high resolution versions of them.

**Environmental Information Service *Namibia*** Back to EIS

Filter: Country From: dd/mm/yyyy To: dd/mm/yyyy Photographer / origin Search by words in title or description Apply filters Reset all filters

**The EIS photo library**  
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**How to view photos**  
Either: zoom in to see more photos in the area or click on a photo to see more details.

**Aerial mapping of households in 2000**  
Description: Data were used for 1:50,000 maps and for Atlas of Namibia.  
Date: 08 August 2000  
File: R40-24.JPG  
Photographer / origin: Household mapping project  
Location (latitude, longitude): -18.0785°, 13.8601°

» [download a higher resolution photo \(217.27 kB\)](#)

You may use this photo for any purpose as long as the photographer/origin and the source are credited. For example: 'Photo from/by: Household mapping project. Photo downloaded from the Environmental Information Service of Namibia [www.the-eis.com](http://www.the-eis.com)'

There are 387 photos in this area.  
This area falls between -18.5 and -17.5° latitude and 13.5 and 14.5° longitude.  
[Click here to see them](#) or zoom in to be more selective.

There are 29 photos of this area. Click on any photo to see more details.

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## **Namibian Journal of Environment [www.nje.org.na](http://www.nje.org.na)**

### **Hot off the press...!**

We are happy to announce that Namibia has a new scientific journal.

The Namibian Journal of Environment accepts papers containing information about any aspect of the environment in Namibia. This includes areas of ecology, agriculture, social sciences, economics, policy and law, water and energy, climate change, planning, land use, pollution, strategic and environmental assessment and related fields. It publishes primary research findings, syntheses and reviews, applied and theoretical research, field observations and the testing of hypotheses, new ideas and the exchange of opinions.

The Namibian Journal of Environment aims to create a platform for scientists, planners, developers, managers and everyone involved in promoting Namibia's sustainable development. All manuscripts submitted will be peer-reviewed or refereed. An Editorial Committee will ensure a high standard is maintained. We invite interested parties from all walks of life to submit contributions to be considered for publication. NJE is published in electronic format only. One volume will be published per year with new articles added on a continual basis.

We are happy that Barbara Curtis has taken on the role of Editor. Submit your manuscripts now for Volume 1 which will begin in 2017.

### **Why do we need a journal?**

Research in Namibia is currently at an all-time low when assessed over the period of the past 50 years. A contributing factor is that Namibia no longer publishes any refereed research journals in the fields of wildlife, conservation, arid zone ecology, biodiversity and broader environmental disciplines. Two previous journals that provided an outlet for natural history research, Madoqua (published initially by the former Directorate of Nature Conservation and then by the Ministry of Environment & Tourism) and Cimbebasia (published by the national museum), were both discontinued some 20 years ago.

It is extremely difficult for a country to pursue an agenda of science and research if it does not have a scientifically reputable, peer-reviewed means of publishing and distributing research findings. Indeed, the hallmark of science is one of planning and conducting research, analysis and writing up the results, subjecting the findings to peer review and then, if the work is deemed to have reached the required standard and contributes new information and understanding to the subject, publishing the findings in a journal where it is accessible to other scientists, managers and any other interested persons. If aspirant scientists cannot publish their work, they are deprived of the opportunity of becoming fully-fledged scientists.



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## The EIS

The e-library section of the EIS continues to grow. New information is being added continually and it now holds over 13,000 records, most of which have a downloadable file or link to a report or data set. The search functionality has been improved and free text search results are now presented in order of 'relevance' to your search term, using a complex algorithm to determine this.

We encourage all users to upload documents and reports, especially 'grey literature': reports and documents which are not published and are not readily available. All uploads are manually checked

and keyworded so if you are not sure, upload it and we will assess it. We welcome feedback too, so if there is something missing, annoying or not working please let us know. There is a Contact us link on every page.

The EIS is a valuable resource for many people, including students and researchers in Namibia and beyond, and this is a great place to make your work available to them. In the last year, there were 5,600 EIS users and 34,000 page views. 41% of users are in Namibia, 13% in Germany, 8% each in South Africa and the USA.

## Thank you to our sponsors

### 2008 til 2016:

The ongoing development of the EIS was supported by the NamPower - Namibia Nature Foundation Strategic Partnership which was launched in October 2008. This strategic partnership is funded through the European Investment Bank.

### 2016 onwards:

Development of the Environmental Information Service from August 2016 is supported through funding from the newly-established Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE).

### What is NCE?

NCE is an umbrella Association that provides a forum and mouthpiece for the broader environment sector, that can lobby with government and other parties, that can raise funds for its members and that can represent the sector. The Chamber aims to become a resource center, sponsored by industry, but at the same time keeping industry at arm's length and ensuring complete independence. Many environmental specialists work in remote areas, often alone or in small groups with little in the way of support structures. The Chamber aims to provide support to such individuals and organisations. It is a body representing the interests of environmental practitioners and organisations that support the environmental interests of Namibia as set out in the national Constitution. It helps facilitate the sector to be more informed, effective and networked. It raises and disburses funds for priority environmental and conservation outcomes. It will support the development and entry of young Namibians to the sector. It is not competing with its members in areas of implementation and it is not competing with its members in the raising of funds - it targets those areas of the corporate sector which have not traditionally been large contributors to the environmental sector. B2Gold is a founding member of NCE.

Hosting and technical support to the EIS is sponsored and powered by Paratus Telecom. Sonja Schubert does a fantastic job of sourcing, evaluating and keywording new content. Thanks, Sonja!

