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## Namibia's Environmental Information Service

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Namibian Chamber of Environment

There are few countries in the world that have better access to environmental information all in one place than Namibia. Indeed, in this regard we are the envy of many countries, including so-called developed or industrialised nations. And it all happens through Namibia's environmental one-stop-shop, the [Environmental Information System \(EIS\)](#)

About 15 years ago, four friends and colleagues – environmental scientists, programmers and IT specialists – decided to set up an electronic, web-based environmental information system and service for Namibia. With the support of the IT, Internet and web provider company Paratus, the EIS was born. Over the years, as small amounts of funding were secured to invest in the system, the EIS slowly grew in size and significance. It started with an electronic, on-line library. Today, this is Namibia's largest, most comprehensive and accessible library of environmental material – and it is free to anyone in the world who has access to the Internet.

A key objective of the EIS was to democratise access to environmental information. Whether you are a student, researcher, conservation manager, policymaker, learner or an interested member of the public, you can access the eLibrary from Windhoek, Warmbad, Katima Mulilo or anywhere in the world, including on your smartphone. Another feature of the eLibrary is that, in addition to published articles, it contains a large amount of "grey" literature: important reports, data sets, theses, presentations and other material that is not otherwise readily accessible.

The eLibrary has a user-friendly search interface. If you are interested, for example, in Climate Change, you simply enter those words in the search box and a list of all relevant reports and publications will be produced. You can then click on the articles that interest you and read them online or download them for free. If a listed article is not on the EIS, it will direct you via a link to the journal that published the article.

The EIS also has an easy Upload function so that you can submit your publications and reports into the system. They will be checked (to screen out inappropriate material such as advertising), key worded and loaded. This is one of the most effective ways of getting your work widely read and known, as the eLibrary is used by researchers, students, NGO and government staff, the private sector and more, both within Namibia and internationally.

The second component added to the EIS was a "citizen science" public-participation atlas programme to record and monitor Namibia's biodiversity (see screenshot below). You can enter plant and animal sightings via the [website](#) or the [Atlasing in Namibia App](#) (available on [Play Store for Android devices](#) and [here for iOS devices](#)). It currently has sections for recording mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, invasive alien plants and breeding birds.

By bringing Namibia's biodiversity data together, we can enhance their value and usefulness. Comparisons become possible across space and time, between and across species. To this end, several substantial datasets have been incorporated into the Atlasing system. Data from the system are freely available and have been used for many purposes including the upcoming Red Data book on [Namibian carnivores](#).

Other components of the EIS include a [photo library](#) of landscapes in Namibia to monitor changes over time, a [birds and powerlines interactive tool](#) and the [Cuvélai-Etoshá river basin interactive tool](#).

**Atlasing in Namibia**  
Biodiversity monitoring in Namibia

EIS Contact us Register/Log in

Environmental Information Service  
Namibia

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Atlas of mammals  
» find out more

Atlas of alien plants  
» find out more

Atlas of carnivores  
» find out more

Atlas of amphibians  
» find out more

Atlas of reptiles  
» find out more: snakes  
» find out more: non-snakes

Bird Information System  
» find out more

**Download the Atlasing app**

Record your observations on-the-go with the new **Atlasing in Namibia** app  
New and improved and now available on Google PlayStore.

**Atlasing in Namibia**  
Biodiversity monitoring in Namibia

www.the-eis.com/atlas

» See more information and details of how to install the app on an Android or Apple device here.

**Rankings**

You can now find information on how many records and species you, and other recorders, have submitted on the recorder rankings page.

**Latest records added**

These are the latest records added, for all species. Click on any row in the table to highlight the record on the map. Use the question mark icon to click on the map and highlight the associated row in the table. Use the + icon on the map to switch between a satellite image and street map. For security reasons, black rhino, white rhino and pangolin are not shown. If you have a legitimate need for records of these species, contact us.

Species	Date	Recorder
Genetta genetta   Genet, Small-spotted	21/05/2019	Walters, Matthew
Lepus capensis   Hare, Cape	22/05/2019	Walters, Matthew
Cynictis penicillata   Mongoose, Yellow	14/06/2019	Walters, Matthew
Procavia capensis   Dassie, Rock	09/06/2019	Walters, Matthew
Mellivora capensis   Dassie, Honey	15/06/2019	Periquet, Stephanie
Agama aculeata aculeata   Common Ground Agama	20/05/2019	Walters, Matthew
Pedioplis gaerdesi   Kaoko Sand Lizard	25/05/2019	Walters, Matthew
Trachylepis wahibergii   Wahlberg's Skink	24/05/2019	Walters, Matthew
Colotis vesta   Orange, Veined	17/05/2019	Walters, Matthew
Colotis celimene   Lilac-tip	24/05/2019	Walters, Matthew
Anastomus lamelligerus   African Openbill	26/03/1989	Ward, David
Thalassornis leucotis   White-backed Duck	26/03/1989	Ward, David
Chlidonias hybridus   Whiskered Tern	26/03/1989	Ward, David
Fulica cristata   Red-knobbed Coot	26/03/1989	Ward, David
Himantopus himantopus   Black-winged Stilt	26/03/1989	Ward, David
Plegadis falcinellus   Glossy Ibis	26/03/1989	Ward, David
Podiceps nigricollis   Black-necked Grebe	26/03/1989	Ward, David
Falco tinnunculus   Rock Kestrel	15/11/1989	Ward, David
Eremomela icteropygialis   Yellow-bellied Eremomela	07/01/1989	Ward, David
Vanelus armatus   Blacksmith Lapwing	09/02/1989	Ward, David

Latest records map

Click anywhere on the sliding scale to zoom in or out quickly, or on the plus or minus signs at its top or bottom to zoom one step at a time. Or double-click to zoom in.

Click on the blue plus icon (top right) to change the map layer.

Go to the EIS  
Contact the atlasing in Namibia team

Website by JARO Consultancy

A screen-capture of the EIS website.

The latest addition to the EIS is a scientific journal, the [Namibian Journal of Environment](#), which publishes peer-reviewed scientific articles as well as editor-reviewed articles that facilitate quick publication of field notes and related observations.

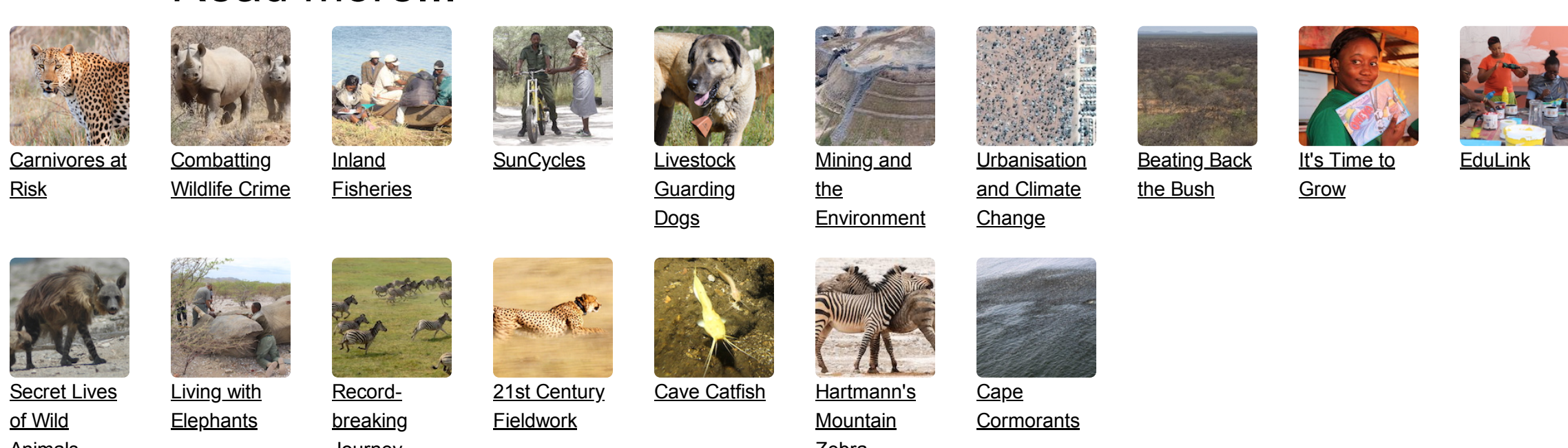
As Namibia's one-stop-shop for the environment, the EIS provides 1) an easy-to-use platform for submitting environmental information; 2) a facility where this important information is curated and managed; 3) a place where scientists and others can submit papers and observations for publication; and 4) a place to go for all your environmental information needs. After 15 years of development and growth, we are pleased to present the EIS as an important tool to promote wise environmental management in Namibia – please use it.

**NCE**  
Namibian Chamber of Environment

For more information about the **Namibian Chamber of Environment** visit:  
[www.n-c-e.org](http://www.n-c-e.org)

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