



NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Department: Land and  
Spatial Sciences

# Transdisciplinary Workshop on Awareness Creation of Social Climate Change Impacts in Namibia

**Dates:** Monday, 17 July - Tuesday, 18 July 2023

**Venue:** High-Tech Transfer Plaza (HTTPS)



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# NISANSA



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## 1. Background

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the Justus Liebig University (JLU) of Giessen have been in a long-term partnership in research, teaching and networking. Due to the long-standing and fruitful cooperation, the JLU and NUST cooperate in various educational activities. In this regard, NUST (through its Department of Land and Spatial Sciences or DLSS) are in cooperation with the JLU in the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) funded research project, “Social Climate Change Impacts and Sustainability Innovation in Southern Africa and Northern South America (NISANSA).

The NISANSA Project has been a collaborative project of two German universities, the JLU and the University of Marburg since 2021. NUST, as a partner of the JLU is involved in the NISANSA activities in the context of land and spatial sciences.

The BMBF-funded joint project, NISANSA, investigates how which change impacts the societies of the Global South [Southern Africa and Northern South America] are confronted with, what potentials exist to respond to them and which implications this has for the Global North, Europe and Germany. This project is of interest to DLSS (at NUST) because of its linkages to land administration. As part of the project deliverables, NUST, the Justus Liebig University and the University of Marburg as part of NISANSA are hosting a workshop on climate change awareness in Windhoek, Namibia. Participants for this workshop include representatives from the NISANSA project and other local key stakeholders. Alongside joint field research, follow-up formats such as workshops facilitate situational insights into challenges and opportunities of climate change-related impacts and processes in Namibia through trans- and interdisciplinary collaboration and help offer a broader range of innovative and effective approaches for the implementation of climate change policies and strategies in Namibia.

In the sixth IPCC report from 2022, it is again emphasized that the warming of the atmosphere, the ocean and land surfaces has heavily been induced by humans. Extreme climate events such as heatwaves, strong precipitation, droughts and floods have been reinforced throughout the continents in the past years. The report highlights: the pace of climate change progresses way faster than our abilities to adapt and accelerates social inequalities and fragmentation. Varieties of related risks and impacts unfold spatially unevenly and hit the most vulnerable nations and people the hardest. Climate change is thus, as the global risks report (2021) states, a global catastrophic risk that can cause a significant negative impact on multiple countries or industries within the next ten years. Alongside, these risks and Impacts become particularly apparent at the local level with a need for developing place-specific adaptation pathways to fit the diverse contexts of the Global South (IPCC WG3 2022).



As the driest country in Sub-Sahara Africa, Namibia is particularly prone to droughts but also at risk of floods and disease outbreaks [World Bank Group, 2021]. In the past years, Namibia set climate change policies higher on their political agenda, but notwithstanding this observable increase at a national level, their implementation often does not have a desirable effect [Mataya et al., 2020; Curran et al., 2018]. Barriers, among others, are not seldom financial means [Schaller et al., 2020], and insufficient policy coherence among ministerial sectors [Curran et al., 2018]. However, not only implementation hurdles need to be mentioned, but also the general awareness and perception of climate change on a public level which is in a reciprocal relationship to governmental actions and can impel the alignment of political response, to some extent. Climate change awareness is crucial as they build and strengthen both willingness to act on climate change respectively emotional and cognitive engagement and the types of information people use or need to take action. Environmental and climate change awareness have an enormous effect on risk management behavior and the formulation of adaptation strategies [Brito et al., 2019; van der Linden, 2015; Steynor et al., 2021].

On the whole, climate change is among the major current challenges that - as a common demand state - can be best addressed through the collaboration of different actors with diverse resources and competencies. In this transdisciplinary workshop, diverse stakeholders (practitioners) emerge as potential collaborative partners. The aim is to identify existing successful forms of collaboration and further pinpoint cooperation needs and potentials between those actors.

## **2. The need for a collaborative workshop on climate change by NISANSA and Nust**

Since 2021, the NISANSA research project has been researching social climate change impacts. Subprojects 6 “Sustainability innovation pathways in the adaptation to climate change impacts - Transregional knowledge combination and institutional dynamics” and 7 “Policy advice strategies for climate change adaptation in international cooperation with member states [Malawi, Namibia] of SADC (Southern African Development Community)” focus on Namibia. Together with the cooperation partners NUST and SASSCAL, data on climate change discourses, perceptions, policies and strategies have been and are being collected in various data collection phases. The conduction and initial analysis of expert interviews with stakeholders from civil society, academia, private sector, international actors and politics, focus group discussions and individual interviews with smallholder farmers in different regions of Namibia, a media analysis consisting of newspaper analysis and painting and essay competitions at schools, as well as a stakeholder mapping and analysis have shown that in many areas of society climate change is not integrated to the extent to counter the noticeable climate change impacts with successful interventions.

Although the political landscape is well equipped with climate change adaptation - and mitigation strategies (cf. NDCs) this does not mean successful implementation. Many climate change actions in Namibia are implemented through projects or temporary programs by various stakeholders operating with different interests. However, implementation often does not seem to achieve the desired outcomes. This may also be due to the fact that - as the results of the ninth Afrobarometer round for Namibia from 2022 highlight - knowledge and awareness about climate change are rather deficient among the Namibian population, but also at the institutional level.

During our research, a high demand among stakeholders emerged for discussing current results and collaborating more effectively.

Furthermore, the joint planning and implementation of this transdisciplinary workshop by NUST and NISANSA structurally ensure that current research and debates will not remain at a purely academic level. The ongoing close cooperation with NUST and other stakeholders during the data collection phases, such as GIZ, and local NGOs (e.g. EduVentures) as well as at the ministerial level underpin the need and also the openness of all sides to mutually exchange on ongoing developments in research and practice on climate change activities. In addition, for example, advisory approaches of German and international donors that are still in the planning phase can incorporate and adapt to current contexts with the results of the workshop and also the availability of (preliminary) data from research projects.

As we are collaborating with the Department of Land and Spatial Sciences, we will also particularly consider issues such as migration patterns, land use conflict, and spatial planning (e.g. for informal settlements), among others.

The workshop's theme, therefore, is named: "Transdisciplinary Workshop on Awareness Creation of Social Climate Change Impacts in Namibia".

### **Purpose**

Considering the above theme, a 3-day transdisciplinary workshop will be organized to engage local and international stakeholders on how to promote climate change awareness (campaigns) for different settings in Namibia (two days of input/programme and one-day excursion). In addition to single inputs on Namibia-specific conditions (e.g. land), participants will plan climate change awareness campaigns for specific scenarios with regional contexts, and cultural and societal particularities in small groups consisting of max. 5 people from different fields and sectors over two days in various breakout sessions. Afterwards, the group dynamics (stakeholder perspectives, possible trade-offs, etc.) and concepts will be reflected upon in joint reflection sessions.

The development of climate change campaigns can serve as an effective tool to highlight and underscore diverse and divergent barriers and approaches.





## Objectives

In close cooperation with its partners, NISANSA (sponsor) and NUST (co-sponsor and organizer) will actively promote exchange and mutual learning on climate change actions, awareness and knowledge considering societal, historical and political developments.

To be precise, the workshop aims:

- To identify, by means of scenarios, which stakeholders are needed, which backgrounds (cultural, social, societal, etc.) need to be included, and how local and national levels can be linked in order to generate the greatest possible sustainable outcome in terms of climate awareness among the Namibian population. Furthermore, these scenario campaigns could be used as a blueprint/template for further implementation.
- To strengthen local stakeholder groups for an exchange on climate change in urban and rural areas, climate governance, and climate change research and methodologies in Namibia
- To improve trans- and interdisciplinary, effective and sustainable working methods concerning climate change
- To identify the Land Tenure and climate change vulnerability relationship in Namibia.
- To create climate change awareness in Namibia
- To facilitate a forum for local stakeholder engagements with individuals and groups on climate change in various contexts ("creating an exchange platform")
- To promote trans- and interdisciplinary knowledge exchange within academia on climate change with a focus on methods for action (in this case: aware campaigns)
- To test and consolidate a format in the sense of a living lab
- Specific activities that would be curated to achieve the purpose of the conference would include:
  - Plenary for input presentations (with question-and-answer sessions)
  - Breakout Sessions with the elaboration of a climate change awareness campaign - "template" that can be used for future implementation
  - Reflection and Discussion Sessions

### 3. Locations and Dates of the Workshop

The workshop will be held face-to-face to promote the interaction dynamics between stakeholders. The single presentations (keynotes) will be recorded and released on the NISANSA website afterwards. Besides, the breakout sessions will be documented in writing.

#### 3.1 Dates (and times)

The workshop would convene on the following dates and times: Monday, 17 July - Tuesday, 18 July 2023, from 9.30 am - 5 pm on the 17<sup>th</sup>; 9 am - 5 pm on the 18<sup>th</sup>; and 9 am - 2 pm on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July [Southern African Time].

#### 3.2 Who will attend?

Approx. 20 selected participants from academia, politics, civil society, the private sector and international cooperation with a link to climate change, research, awareness, projects and programs, etc. The participants will receive an invitation letter and thereupon, confirm their attendance.

#### 3.3 Locations of the Workshop

The physical location of the Conference will be the High-Tech Transfer Plaza Select (HTTPS) building inside NUST's lower campus in Windhoek, Namibia.



The HTTPS building is a multi-million-dollar building, a state-of-the-art knowledge and innovation hub that offers a conducive integrated ecosystem for sustainable technology transfer and inventions. NUST, in collaboration with the Mobile Telecommunication Company (MTC) of Namibia, inaugurated the HTTPS in 2021.



## 4. Tentative Programme and Activities

Attendance at the 3-day workshop is confined to invited stakeholders. The typical activities in the program include keynote speeches, breakout sessions incl. group work and plenary sessions for reflection and discussion.

DAY 1	
Date: Monday, 17 July 2023	
Time: 09:30 - 17:00	
Venue: High-Tech Transfer Plaza (HTTPS)	
Time	Preliminary Schedule
09:30	Registration and Welcome
10:00	Opening Ceremony and Introduction to Workshop Objectives
10:30	<b>Keynote Presentations I:</b> Social Climate Change Impacts in Namibia and the Importance of Awareness Research Findings on Climate Change Discourses, Perceptions
11:30	Tea/Coffee Break
11:45	<b>Keynote Presentations II:</b> Insights from the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus to identify the land tenure and climate change vulnerability relationships in Namibia
13:00	Lunch Break
14:00	<b>Breakout Session 1:</b> Scenario Planning Developing Climate Change Awareness Campaigns for Urban Settings in Namibia
15:00	Tea/Coffee Break
15:15	<b>Breakout Session 2:</b> Scenario Planning Developing Climate Change Awareness Campaigns for Rural Settings in Namibia
16:15	Presentations and Reflection of Scenario Plannings





## DAY 2

Date: Tuesday, 18 July 2023

Time: 09:00 - 17:00

Venue: High-Tech Transfer Plaza (HTTPS)

Time	Preliminary Schedule
09:00	Recap of Day 1
09:30	<b>Keynote Presentations III:</b> Climate Change Coverage and Awareness Creation: The Role of the Media Climate Change in Education: School and Higher Education Institutions
10:30	Tea/Coffee Break
10:45	<b>Breakout Session 3:</b> Scenario Planning Developing Climate Change Awareness Campaigns for Coastal Settings in Namibia
12:00	Lunch Break
13:00	<b>Breakout Session 4:</b> Scenario Planning Developing Climate Change Awareness Campaigns for Educational Settings in Namibia
14:30	Tea/Coffee Break
14:45	Presentations and Reflection of Scenario Plannings III + IV Reflection and Discussion Sessions on Campaign Concepts and Stakeholder Engagement

## DAY 3: July 13th - 09:00 am - 2:00 pm (Excursion day)

The third day of the workshop will focus on reflecting and integrating the discussions and findings from the workshop with practitioners and their experiences in the field.

The Greenwell Matongo Community, an informal settlement situated in Katutura, provides an exciting case to study the successful implementation of climate change adaptation strategies at the local level, as well as the implementation of numerous initiatives, such as rainwater harvesting systems, permaculture techniques, and community gardens). The community has adopted cooperative farming methods and engaged in knowledge-



sharing activities to build community members' resilience to climate change. A visit to the community will allow the workshop participants to engage in discussions with local stakeholders and experts on the ground.

**Further sources can be found here:**

Wijesinghe A, Thorn JPR. *Governance of Urban Green Infrastructure in Informal Settlements of Windhoek, Namibia. Sustainability*. 2021; 13(16):8937.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/su13168937>Africa: Novel gardening method promotes urban farming in Namibian capital – City Farmer News Learners receive fresh veggies from City of Windhoek - NAMPA PR

## 5. Logistical Information

The physical location of the Conference will be the High-Tech Transfer Plaza Select (HTTPS) building, NUST Lower Campus, c/o of Brahms and Beethoven Streets, Windhoek, Namibia. Catering will be provided during the workshop [11.07.-12.07.2023]. On the excursion day [optional participation], no catering is foreseen.

### xw5.1 Overall Enquiries

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## 6. Stakeholders (Institutions) Invitation List

### Media

- The Namibian/Journalists
- NBC Namibia (Radio)
- Afro Barometer Namibia

### Private Sector

- Kauko Green Energy Solutions
- Green hub
- NamWater
- Green Dreams Creative Hub
- Basecamp

### Education, Academia & Research

- Acacia High School Katutura
- Gobabeb Research Institute
- NUST- Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment
- UNAM
- IUM - Centre of Environment
- SASSCAL
- International Water Management Institute (IMWI)

### Political Level

- Ministry of Environment and Tourism/ CCU
- Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
- Namibia Chambers of Environment
- City of Windhoek
- Ministry of Urban and Rural Development

### Civil Society (NGOs, Association)

- Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia
- Water Use Association
- Development Workshop Namibia
- Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation
- Namibia Nature Foundation
- Namibia Association of CBNRM Support Organisation (NACSO)
- Opuwo Community Youth Activist
- EduVentures

### Religion/Churches

- Religions leader – Association?
- GIZ
- NALAO

### International Donors

- GIZ CCIU
- GIZ ISUD
- Hans Seidel Foundation
- Environmental Investment Fund



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