NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnerships

2025

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MATTERS

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Acknowledgment:
NUST acknowledges all researchers, project teams, Faculty research offices, community partners, and funders whose work and stories are reflected in this publication.

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NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnerships (DRIP)
C/O Brahms and Beethoven Streets

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ideas move from concept to enterprise and commercialisation.

Preamble

A Decade of research, innovation and growing global impact!

NUST continues to position research and innovation as practical tools for national development, regional relevance and global competitiveness

NUST's 2025 research and innovation story is a real page turner: a decade of growth, practical scholarship, powerful partnerships and rising global visibility. As Namibia's only University of Science and Technology, NUST continues to use research and innovation as practical tools for national development, regional relevance and global competitiveness.

In 2025, researchers tackled some big challenges: water security, land governance, climate resilience, renewable energy, digital inclusion, artificial intelligence, green hydrogen, biodiversity, logistics, justice sector reform and entrepreneurship. Across Faculties, institutes, centres and innovation platforms, researchers, postgraduate students, professional staff and partners joined forces to turn knowledge into solutions for real social, economic and environmental challenges. Challenge accepted!

Partnerships connect research with industry, government, communities and development priorities.

The year also brought a major milestone: NUST made its debut in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. This recognition highlighted the value of evidence based research, partnerships aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and stronger efforts to document impact. Meanwhile, the transformation of the Namibia Business Innovation Institute into the NUST Innovation Hub (NUST-i) gave innovation an extra boost, helping ideas leap from the drawing board into enterprises, policies, products, services and community practice.

As NUST celebrates ten years as a fully fledged university, its research and innovation ecosystem is clearly powering up. Stronger postgraduate development, technology transfer, centres of excellence, research chairs, strategic donor partnerships and applied research infrastructure all show its growing maturity.

Research that delivers practical solutions and brings people closer.

This can be: This publication puts the spotlight on the people, projects and partnerships turning knowledge into impact, showcasing research and innovation that is Made in Namibia, for Africa and beyond.

NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Turning knowledge into technologies, policies, services, enterprises and measurable impact.

DRIP @ a Glance!

The Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnerships (DRIP)'s role is to stimulate collaboration across disciplines, strengthen research support systems, advance innovation and entrepreneurship, and expand university-industry partnerships that enable applied research and technology transfer and product development.

Core DRIP functions span:

- Research and Postgraduate Studies (including the Postgraduate Development Centre and research capacity building);
- Grants and Contract Research Management, science and impact translation;
- Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship including incubation and enterprise support such as NUST Innovation Hub (NUST-I) and FabLab;
- Technology Transfer (supporting intellectual property, commercialisation and innovation systems);
- Research integrity, ethics and research intelligence (strengthening data quality and impact evidence).

NUST Research Themes

These research themes reflect NUST's aspiration to advance applied knowledge, innovation and partnerships that respond to national development priorities, strengthen sustainable impact, and position the University as a catalyst for inclusive socio-economic transformation.

Water–Energy–Food Nexus

Health and climate change

Natural resources and value chain stewardship

Green transport and logistics

Indigenous knowledge systems and sustainability

Digital humanities

DRIP in Motion:

In 2025, DRIP strengthened research visibility and public engagement through a set of recurring platforms that translate research into accessible stories and evidence packs:

- The "From the DVC's Desk Update" plays a pivotal governance role by clearly articulating strategic priorities, and ensuring coherence across the research, innovation, and partnerships portfolio. It serves as an integrated platform for communicating institutional direction in research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, while reinforcing performance priorities and highlighting forward-looking initiatives to key stakeholders.
- Research and Innovation Matters (RIM) podcast and radio series translating research into public conversations.
- Institutional Research Week (IRW) 2025.
- Researcher of the Year Awards – profiling excellence through human-centred stories that inspire the next generation.
- Research Service Excellence Awards – recognising the professional support systems behind research quality and integrity.
- Feature articles, DRIP social media engagement and stakeholder-facing communication.

Impact Focus

Research, Innovation and Partnerships

2025 marked a defining chapter in NUST's evolution as an engaged and responsive technological university. Across Faculties, centres and institutes, researchers, postgraduate students and professional staff translated knowledge into solutions that matter to Namibia, from strengthening water security and climate smart agriculture to advancing land governance, digital inclusion, climate resilience, space science and responsible innovation.

A major milestone was NUST's first appearance in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, positioning the University on the global stage for its measurable contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. The ranking recognised NUST's performance in areas such as No Poverty, Quality Education and Life on Land, and affirmed that the University's research, partnerships and community engagement contribute to visible development outcomes.

The year also demonstrated the importance of investment, collaboration and strong institutional systems. The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology awarded more than N$2 million to NUST researchers for applied projects in food and nutrition improvement, AI and IoT driven urban water security, and a nano-satellite early warning system for disaster preparedness. At the same time, DRIP supported policy development, research ethics, capacity building and partnership coordination, strengthening the foundations for a university-wide culture of quality, innovation and impact.

NUST's 10th anniversary year further highlighted its growth from polytechnic roots into a vibrant research led ecosystem. Research outputs have expanded, postgraduate training has deepened, new centres have emerged, and institutional recognition has grown. The Researcher of the Year Awards celebrated scholars tackling Namibia's development priorities, while Dr Leena Kloppers received the 10 Year Anniversary Grant Acquisition Award for securing the €2 million Ignite Project.

As we look ahead, the challenge is to deepen content, culture, capacity, collaboration and credibility. I extend sincere appreciation to our researchers, innovation managers, professional staff, students, communities and partners. Their work reminds us that research is not confined to academic output alone; it is a national development tool.

Research and innovation at NUST are translating knowledge into solutions, partnerships and national development impact.

Prof Colin Stanley
Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Partnerships

2025 Research Highlights

Indicator	Description	Indicator	Description
Global visibility	NUST made its debut in the 2025 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings; strongest placements included around 400th globally in SDG 1, and around 600th in SDG 4 - Quality Education and SDG 15 – Life on Land.	Students and postgraduate	21,223 total students; which includes 1,718 masters students and 126 PhD candidates .
Research outputs	145 peer reviewed journal articles reported across FCHSE, FEBE and FCI	Postgraduate enrolment by sex	Male: 743; Female: 1101
Contract research agreements signed	8 agreements; total value N$34,366,698.22	Research Centres	8

	Research Chairs	Chair Holder
1	UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation and Saline Agriculture in Arid Environments	Prof Hilma Rantilla Amwele
2	UNESCO Chair on Gender and Digital Technologies	Prof Suama Hamunyela
3	UNESCO Chair on Secure High-Performance Computing for Higher Education and Research	Prof Dharm Singh Jat
4	UNESCO Chair in Digital Technology Design with Indigenous People	*Prof Heike Winschiers-Theophilus*
5	SASSCAL Research Chair on Water Resource Quantity and Availability	*Prof Ditiro Benson Moalafhi*

Significant projects	Description
Research funding highlight	€2 million (+/- N$37.8 million) was secured for the Innovating Green Networks through Industry and TVET Empowerment for Green Hydrogen (IGNITE GH2) project to strengthen Namibia's green hydrogen TVET workforce, with Hyphen Hydrogen Energy as a key industry partner.
Infrastructure investment	Advanced Solar PV Trainer Suite donated by the Government of Japan, valued at over N$900,000 installed at the Namibia Energy Institute; over 37 instructors participated in the associated training programme.
Regional collaboration	NUST teams delivered 15 oral presentations at the 26th WaterNet Symposium (Lusaka, Oct–Nov 2025).
Biodiversity data for policy	Namibia's first official Ecosystems Map, identifying 218 ecosystem types, was developed by NUST's Prof Ben Strohbach and team with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism to support land-use planning and biodiversity action.
Justice sector evidence	Led by Dr Stefan Schulz, the Department of Social Sciences partnered with the Namibian Police Force (NAMPOL), particularly its Research Sub-Division, and the Office of the Prosecutor-General to analyse 199 police dockets on pre-trial detention, identifying opportunities for systemic reform to improve the fairness and efficiency of justice services.

Publications across the Faculties

Faculty	Peer-reviewed articles	Book Chapters	Books	Conference Proceedings	Conference Papers
FCHSE	89	12	4	15	0
FCI	18	10	8	26	0
FEBE	38	8	0	18	0
FHNRAS	31	1	0	3	4
Total	176	31	12	62	4

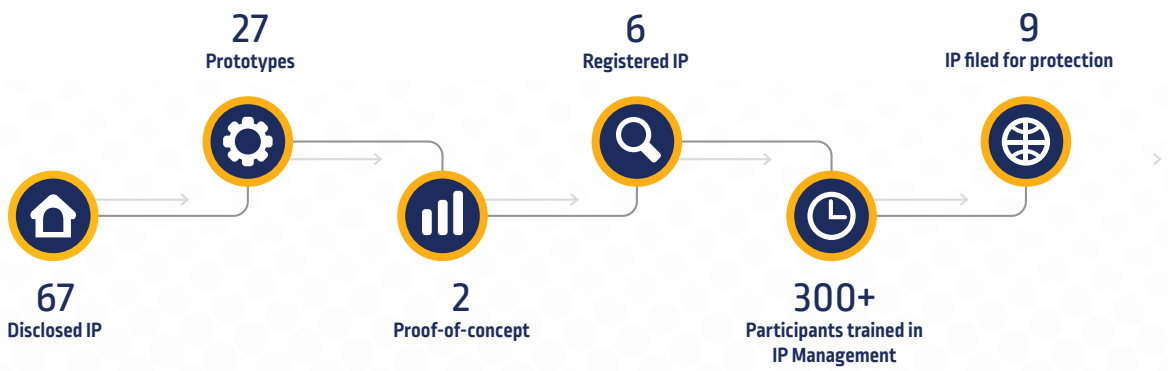
*Faculty of Commerce, Human Sciences and Education **(FCHSE)** | Faculty of Computing and Informatics (FCI)*
*Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment **(FEBE)** | Faculty of Health, Natural Resources and Applied Sciences **(FHNRAS)***

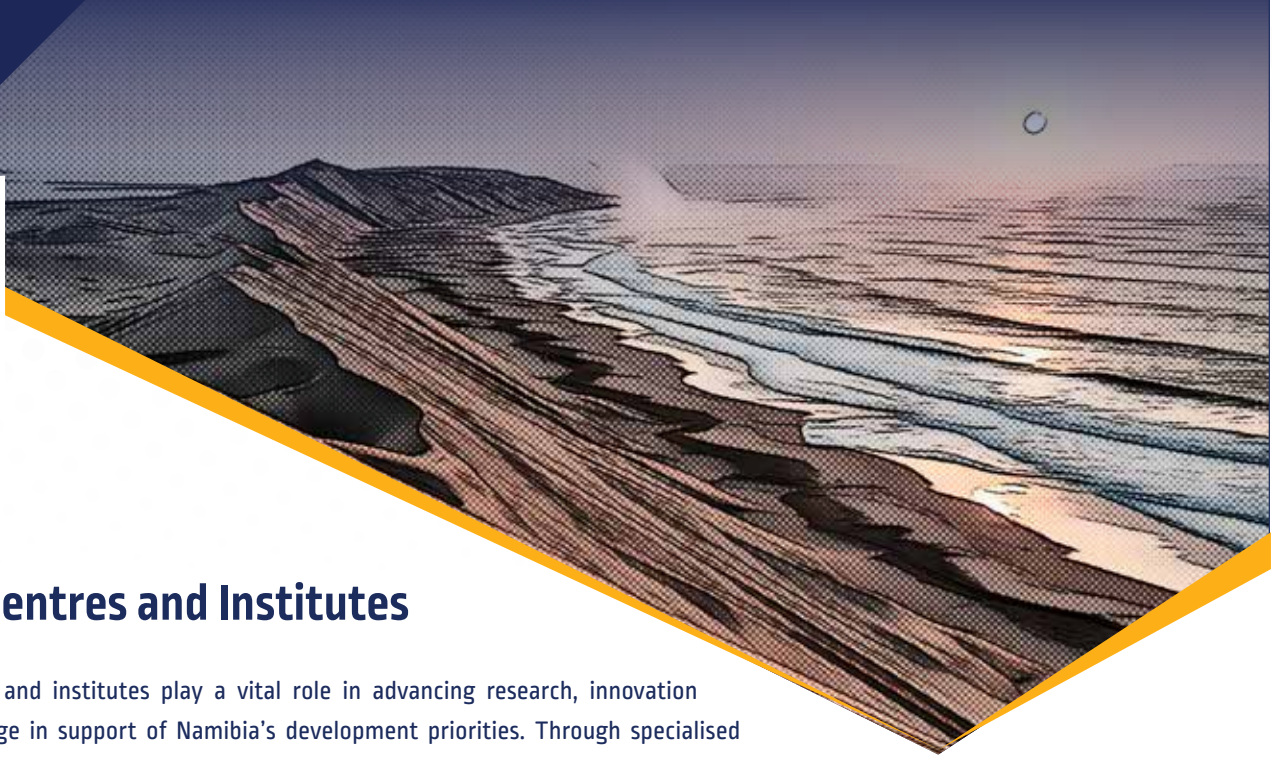
NUST Rank	Staff Name	Scopus H-Index
1	Prof Diptiranjan Sahu	28
2	Prof Benjamin Siyowi Mapani	23
3	Prof Uchendu Eugene Chigbu	22
4	Prof Heike Winschiers-Theophilus	21
5	Prof Percy Chimwamurombe	15
6	Prof Adetayo Eegunjobi	15
7	Prof Michael Mutingi	14
8	Prof Habauka Kwaambwa	14
9	Prof Sulaiman Olusegun Atiku	13
10	Prof Neeta Baporikar	13

Table 1: Scopus H-index Top 10 NUST Researchers 2024

NUST Technology Transfer Office (TTO) in Numbers

NUST-i's Technology Transfer Office supported intellectual property (IP) disclosure and early stage innovation development, while building institutional awareness of IP protection and commercialisation pathways.





Research Centres and Institutes

NUST's core centres and institutes play a vital role in advancing research, innovation and applied knowledge in support of Namibia's development priorities. Through specialised expertise across key sectors, they strengthen the University's contribution to capacity building, industry engagement and national impact.

Agriculture Trade Policy Institute (ATPI)
Agricultural trade, agribusiness, policy analysis and value chains.

AUDA NEPAD Centre of Excellence in Water (ACEWATER) *one of 20 in Africa*
Improving water management and sanitation through innovation, nexus modeling, access, and sustainability.

Centre for Excellence in Mining and Mineral Beneficiation (CEMMB)
Mineral processing, beneficiation, mining value addition and related innovation.

Biodiversity Research Centre (BRC)
Biodiversity, conservation, ecosystems and natural resource research.

Earth Observation and Satellite Applications Research and Training Centre (EOSA-RTC)
Remote sensing, earth observation, geospatial analysis and satellite applications.

India-Namibia Centre for Excellence in Information Technology (INCEIT)
Information technology, digital skills, computing and ICT training.

Institute for Land, Livelihoods and Housing (ILMI)
Land management, land use, spatial planning and land governance.

Materials Testing Institute (MTI)
Testing of materials, engineering standards, quality assurance and construction materials.

Namibia Energy Institute (NEI)
Energy systems, renewable energy, energy access and energy policy/support.

Namibia Institute for Space Technology (NIST)
Space technology, satellite systems, space science and related capacity development.

Namibian German Institute for Logistics (NGIL)
Logistics, supply chains, transport, procurement and operations.

MADE IN NAMIBIA FOR AFRICA & BEYOND

SASSCAL Graduate Studies Programme - Integrated Water Resources Management (SGSP-IWRM)

The SGSP-IWRM programme recorded 82% significant progress in postgraduate training and research capacity development.

- Four (4) out of 11 PhD candidates successfully completed their studies and graduated in 2025.
- The programme hosted the first cohort symposium in Windhoek, strengthening knowledge exchange and cohort cohesion.
- Seven (7) PhD students presented their research at the 26th WaterNet Symposium, enhancing regional research visibility.
- Four (4) specialised short courses were delivered to strengthen technical competencies in Integrated Water Resources Management across SASSCAL member countries.
- The PhD degree in IWRM was successfully developed and approved by Senate in November 2025, marking a key milestone in programme institutionalisation.

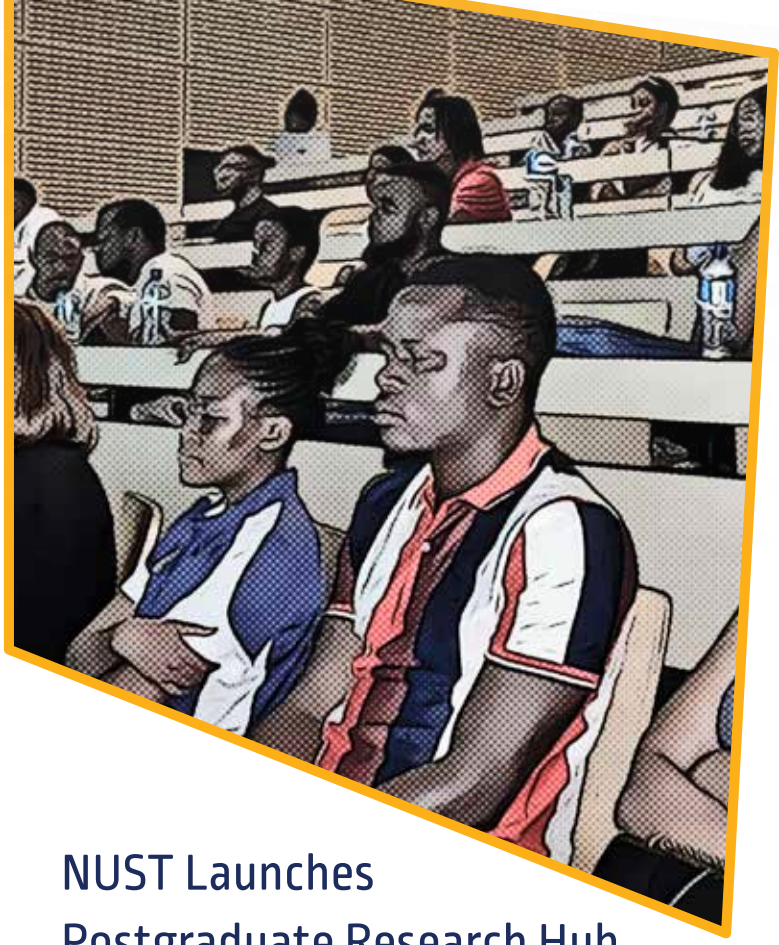
These achievements reflect the programme's growing contribution to advanced skills development, regional collaboration, and applied research in water resource management.

Postgraduate Development Workshops Insight Series.

The Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnerships (DRIP) implemented a structured postgraduate development programme through the Insight Seminar Series, covering key stages of the research lifecycle. The programme included workshops on research design, proposal development, quantitative and qualitative methods, academic writing for publication, research ethics, postgraduate orientation, and reference management.

Across all sessions with verified attendance, the series reached over 400 participants, demonstrating strong engagement across Faculties.

Participant feedback highlighted measurable impact, including improved academic writing, increased confidence in data analysis, and practical application of acquired skills to ongoing research.



NUST Launches Postgraduate Research Hub

NUST officially unveiled its Postgraduate and Research Hub during the Institutional Postgraduate Induction, creating a central online and physical space for postgraduate guidance and research support. The Hub consolidates essential information on programmes, admissions and registration, funding and scholarships, policies and guidelines, events, and support departments.

Beyond being an information site, the Hub is designed as a navigation tool for the full postgraduate journey linking students to writing retreats, funding calls, supervisory resources and research integrity guidance. This improves access and transparency for a diverse postgraduate community, while helping supervisors and administrators coordinate support more efficiently.

By reducing information barriers and building a shared digital reference point, the Hub advances NUST's commitment to research excellence and improved postgraduate throughput.

"We are dedicated to cultivating an environment that supports advanced scholarship and innovation in response to both national priorities and global challenges."

Prof Omotayo Awofolu,
Director: Research and Postgraduate Development

Writing for Visibility and Impact

04 QUALITY EDUCATION

09 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

17 PARTNERSHIPS FORTHE GOALS

INSight Academic Writing Winter School under the theme "Crafting Your Contribution: Writing for Visibility and Impact". The Winter School brought together staff, postgraduate students and emerging researchers for an intensive, coached writing experience focused on moving manuscripts from draft to submission.

Participants engaged in daily masterclasses, structured writing blocks, and guided peer feedback. Sessions included practical instruction on scientific writing foundations, strengthening introductions, and converting data into clear visuals that tell a research story at a glance. The Winter School was co-convened with the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Pan Africa Chemistry Network, reinforcing NUST's commitment to regional and international collaboration.

By demystifying the publication process and improving writing confidence, the Winter School strengthens research quality and supports institutional visibility on global benchmarking platforms.

Key numbers:

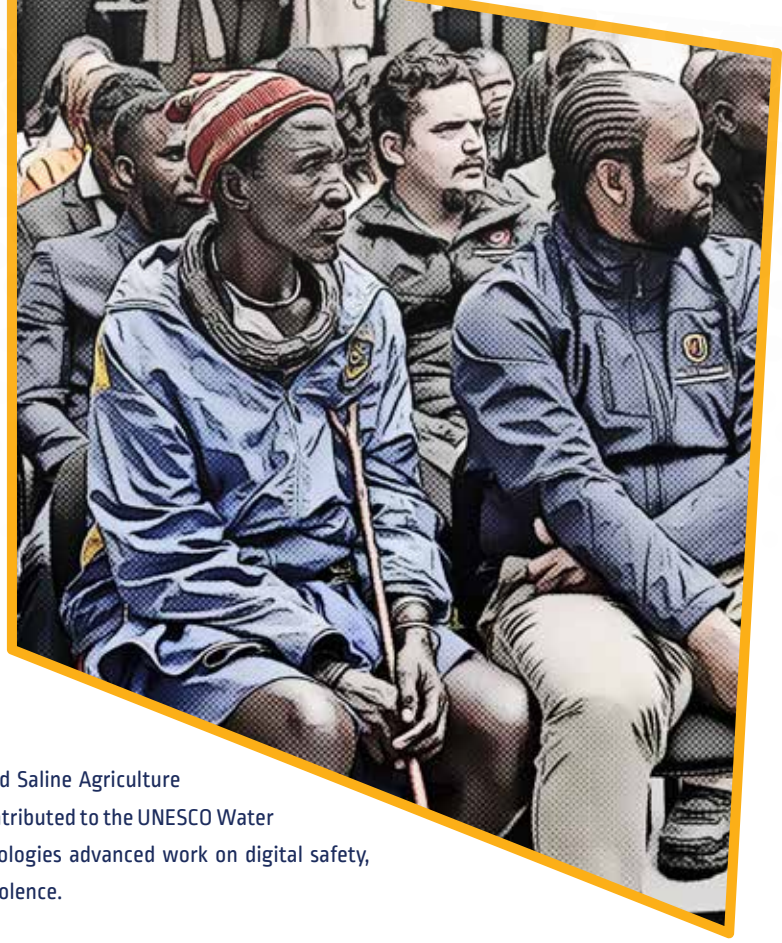
- Winter School ran until 20 June with daily coaching, group feedback and independent writing blocks.
- Publication pipeline: writing-to-submission support contributed to NUST's 2025 research output, including 176 peer-reviewed journal articles reported across FCHSE, FEBE and FCI.

In addition to supporting participants, the Series also marked the introduction of the INSight Mentors Fellowship, a recognition and capacity-development initiative aligned with NUST's Research Development Framework. The Fellowship acknowledges experienced researchers and academic staff who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to strengthening the University's research culture through mentorship, coaching, and peer support.

During the Winter School, eight dedicated Fellows contributed their expertise, time, and experience to guide participants through the writing process, providing constructive feedback, encouragement, and practical advice throughout the programme. Their unwavering commitment and active engagement played a significant role in fostering a supportive research environment and enhancing the quality of scholarly outputs emerging from the initiative.

The Fellowship represents an innovative approach to recognising academic citizenship and research leadership within the institution. By formally acknowledging these selfless contributions, NUST not only celebrates excellence in mentorship but also cultivates a sustainable community of practice that supports emerging researchers and postgraduate students. The initiative contributes directly to increasing research productivity, strengthening publication outputs, and advancing the University's strategic goal of enhancing research visibility, impact, and international competitiveness. The inaugural cohort of INSight Mentors Fellows has established a strong foundation for future mentorship programmes, demonstrating the value of collaborative knowledge-sharing and peer learning in building a vibrant and productive research ecosystem at NUST.

Advancing Research Excellence through UNESCO Chairs



NUST's four UNESCO Chairs continued to strengthen the University's research profile through strategic scholarship, partnerships, and technical leadership.

During the reporting period, the University launched the UNESCO Chair in Digital Technology Design with Indigenous Peoples, expanding its contribution to inclusive digital innovation. The UNESCO Chair on Secure High-Performance Computing for Higher Education and Research advanced national digital research capacity through the PARAM!ARUB HPC platform, doctoral training, and international collaboration, including securing a UNESCO Campus Africa award of USD 25,000 (+- N$406,000.00) for climate-resilient agriculture research.

The UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation and Saline Agriculture has fostered regional partnerships, supported curriculum development, and contributed to the UNESCO Water Sciences Report. Meanwhile, the UNESCO Chair on Gender and Digital Technologies advanced work on digital safety, gender-responsive policy, and interventions addressing digital gender-based violence.

Collectively, these Chairs continue to provide critical technical support to national, regional, and continental priorities in digital innovation, water resilience, gender-responsive technologies, and higher education research capacity.

NUST Boosts Renewable Energy Training with Solar PV Suite

NUST unveiled an Advanced Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Trainer Suite valued at over N$900,000, donated by the Government of Japan through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The trainer suite is being used for practical experiments in renewable energy generation and grid coupling, strengthening the pipeline of skills needed for Namibia's energy transition.

By combining modern equipment with applied learning, the initiative improves the readiness of engineering graduates and supports the training of instructors who can deliver high-quality renewable energy education at scale.

Key numbers:

- PV Trainer Suite value: > N$900,000.
- Instructor training programme reached more than 37 instructors.

04 QUALITY EDUCATION | 07 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | 13 CLIMATE ACTION

Recognising Research Champions at NUST's 10th Anniversary

NUST's 2025 Researcher of the Year Awards celebrated six outstanding academics across early career, emerging and established categories, recognising research excellence while directly reinvesting in both researchers and their work. Across these awardees, N$194,000 was allocated to research cost centres and N$87,300 awarded directly to researchers, demonstrating NUST's commitment to rewarding excellence while providing resources that enable further research.

In the early career category, Dr Titus Nghipulile received both the FEBE and institutional awards, amounting to N$30,000 for his research cost centre and N$13,500 as a personal award. Dr Jennilee Magdalene Kohima, recognised as FEBE's Emerging Researcher, received N$12,000 for her research cost centre and N$5,400 personally. Dr Daniel Kamotho, who received both the FCHSE Emerging Researcher and institutional Emerging Researcher awards, received a combined N$37,000 for his research cost centre and N$16,650 personally.

Among established researchers, Prof Haileleul Woldemariam received the FCHSE award, with N$17,000 allocated to his research cost centre and N$7,650 awarded personally. Prof Benjamin Siyowi Mapani and Prof Oluibukun Ajayi each received both FEBE and institutional established researcher recognition. Each received a combined N$49,000 for their research cost centre and N$22,050 personally.

The ceremony also highlighted excellence in research funding acquisition. Dr Leena Kloppers received the Grant Acquisition/Anniversary Award following the securing of the €2 million Innovating Green Networks through Industry and TVET Empowerment for Green Hydrogen (IGNITE GH2) project. In addition to the project funding secured for NUST and its partners, she received a N$10,000 personal award in recognition of this achievement.

Accelerating Innovation through the NUST-i

The rebranding of the Namibia Business Innovation Institute (NBII) to the NUST Innovation Hub (NUST-i) marked a strategic shift towards inclusive, integrated innovation that responds to Namibia's socio economic priorities. NUST-i is positioned as a platform where student and staff innovations can be supported through incubation, mentorship and partnership pathways moving ideas into enterprise, policy, products/services and community practice.

At the launch, leaders emphasised that innovation must be socially inclusive and oriented towards real outcomes. The event also highlighted the need for co-investment by the private sector, entrepreneurship embedded across curricula, and public sector procurement pathways that open opportunities for local Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

NUST-i will serve as both a physical space and a movement strengthening Namibia's innovation pipeline and accelerating solutions that improve livelihoods.

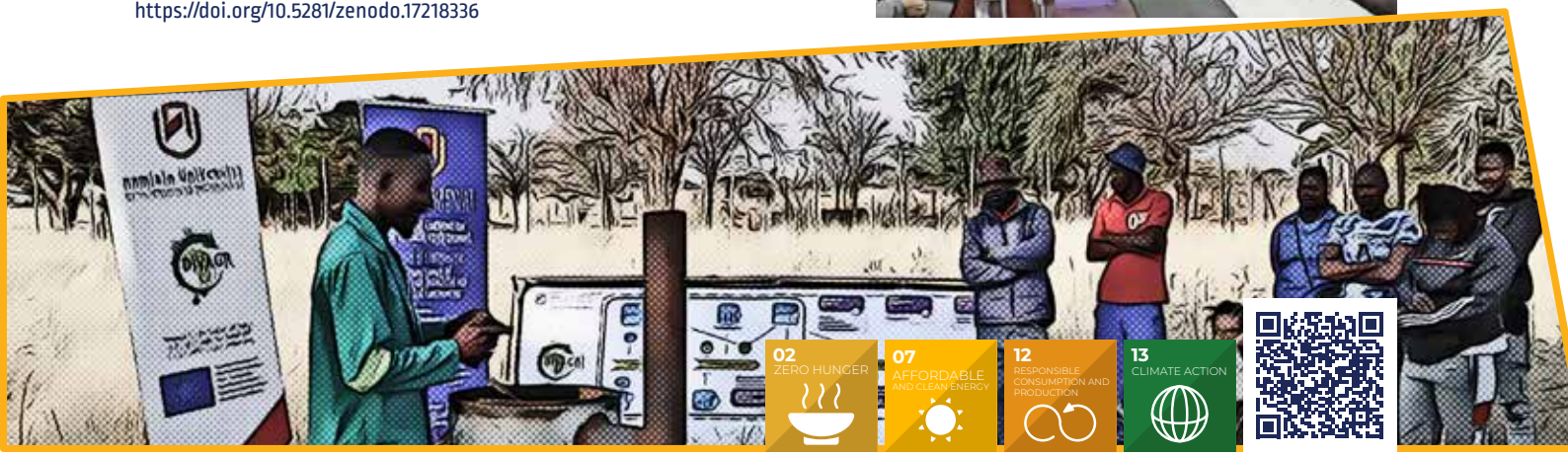
Mapping Namibia's biodiversity: First Official Ecosystems Map Launched

NUST advanced evidence based conservation planning through the launch of Namibia's first official Ecosystems Map. Developed under the Spatial Biodiversity Assessment, Prioritisation and Planning (SBAPP) regional project, the map provides reliable scientific data to guide land use planning, conservation priorities and sustainable development.

The Ecosystems Map identifies 218 ecosystem types across Namibia, aligning national biodiversity data with international classification standards. It is positioned as a strategic tool supporting Namibia's National Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 by helping decision makers prioritise areas for conservation, restoration and integrated biodiversity land use.

The work demonstrates how applied research can produce practical tools for government, communities and industries that depend on healthy ecosystems.

The Ecosystems Map is accessible here:
https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17218336



Circular Economy Solutions in Practice

NUST strengthened practical circular economy innovation through the DIVAGRI demonstration site at the Rietfontein Satellite Campus. The site serves as a hands on learning and testing environment for affordable technologies that can support rural livelihoods, improve resource efficiency and strengthen climate resilience.

Key technologies demonstrated include:

- Biogas: Converting cow dung and kitchen waste into clean cooking gas.
- Biochar: Turning encroacher bush into a soil enhancing product that supports land restoration.
- Low energy irrigation: Testing clay based irrigation against drip systems to explore water and energy efficient options.
- Mushroom production: Using a refurbished biorefinery to demonstrate small scale food production and income generation opportunities.

Farmers and students received practical training in biogas use, biochar production, irrigation set up and mushroom cultivation, helping translate research into knowledge and technologies that can be applied locally.

Community Impact

The DIVAGRI demonstration site shows how locally available resources can be converted into practical economic and environmental value. For surrounding rural communities, this can mean:

- Lower household and farming costs through alternative energy and more efficient use of water and inputs.
- Improved food and livelihood security through enhanced agricultural production and mushroom cultivation.
- New income opportunities from biochar, mushroom production and other small scale circular economy activities.
- Improved land and resource management by converting encroacher bush and organic waste into productive resources.
- Greater climate resilience through technologies suited to water scarce and resource constrained rural environments.

From research to a net-zero campus: NUST advances the Zero Emission Master Plan

NUST and Travelling University (TU) collaboration concluded a major phase of work that contributes to the University's long term goal of a net zero-emission campus. Student teams presented research findings and practical solutions to reduce emissions and promote sustainable value chains, building a foundation for implementing the Zero Emission Master Plan.

The initiative illustrates how interdisciplinary learning can be aligned with institutional transformation: using the campus as a living laboratory for climate action, sustainability innovation and applied research that is visible, measurable and scalable.

Advancing Responsible AI with Indigenous Communities in Paris

NUST's UNESCO Chair in Digital Technology Design with Indigenous Peoples presented research at two international AI platforms in Paris: the Participatory AI Research and Practice Symposium and the 2025 AI Action Summit. Research shared in Paris highlighted the importance of participatory approaches that keep communities involved from early design stages.

Ongoing projects include building cultural validity in extended realities (Himbaverse), strengthening trust and agency in smart hydroponics systems, and using generative AI to develop motivational stories grounded in lived experience and traditional wisdom.

The engagements underscore NUST's commitment to responsible AI, the digitisation of low resource African languages, and inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in technology futures.

Boosting Tech Transfer via WIPO

NUST's Technology Transfer Office was established to drive the protection, development and commercialisation of research outputs, while putting the necessary building blocks in place for a sustainable institutional innovation and technology transfer ecosystem. As such selected members participated in the 2025 WIPO South Africa Summer School on Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer, hosted by Mangosuthu University of Technology in Durban. The programme deepened institutional understanding of patents, designs, trademarks, copyright, valuation and commercialisation, and explored how IP connects to public value, health and the SDGs.

NUST was represented by the Director of Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and an Innovation Process Developer. Insights gained will inform the strengthening of NUST's technology transfer services, accelerator programmes and postgraduate innovation initiatives, supporting more effective pathways from research to market and societal benefit.

Shaping the Future of Land and Property Studies

NUST researchers in land and spatial sciences strengthened regional land governance conversations through research, technical tools and stakeholder engagement. Workstreams included tenure responsive land use planning, informal settlement upgrading, and climate resilient land governance supported through collaborations with municipalities, international universities and development partners.

Engagements ranged from applied research collaborations (e.g., testing and deploying land administration technologies) to high level platforms where NUST researchers contributed to knowledge exchange on land governance for climate action. These partnerships demonstrate how research management, evidence generation and tool development can support more equitable planning and stronger institutions.

AfroTech Namibia 2025 Connects AI, Innovation and Inclusion

NUST in partnership with the Namibia Investment and Finance Academy (NIFA) co-hosted the inaugural AfroTech Namibia 2025 Conference, uniquely at the Grove Mall Cinema (first of its kind). This conference saw ecosystem partners Twafiika Consultants, Trending Career Hub, and Future Media (Namibia), creating a platform where technology conversations met practical inclusion and entrepreneurship goals. The conference convened stakeholders around artificial intelligence, digital innovation and future skills, highlighting the importance of building African AI ecosystems that reflect local priorities.

By bringing together innovators, educators and partners, the event strengthened networks for skills development, responsible technology adoption and inclusive innovation pathways.

SmartVillage Living Labs: Solar-Powered Hubs for Entrepreneurship Education

Under the SmartVille project, Living Labs are being established as remote community hubs that combine solar power, connectivity and digital services to support entrepreneurship education and local innovation. The Living Lab model is designed to outlast the project by mapping productive uses of energy, collecting real usage data from day one, and developing sustainability plans for long term operation.

Commissioning milestones included the Living Lab in Mix community (Katutura, Windhoek), supported by solar PV and battery storage, monitoring systems and community appliances. The project also documented lessons on security, electric safety and community ownership highlighting that infrastructure needs to be protected and locally governed if communities are to benefit from digital learning and income generation opportunities.

Research Reveals Pre-Trial Detention Gaps and Reform Opportunities

NUST research contributed evidence to a sensitive governance challenge: unwarranted pre-trial detentions. The study analysed prosecution data from a three month period, examining 199 police dockets from Windhoek police stations.

Findings highlighted systemic issues in investigative practice and case screening. Prosecutorial decisions not to prosecute due to lack of prima facie evidence accounted for 25% of cases, while directions to issue admission of guilt fines accounted for 43.7% of cases. The research also raised concerns about human rights impacts and the potential costs of civil liability.

By generating empirical evidence and facilitating dialogue with justice sector stakeholders, the work demonstrates how universities can support stronger institutions through research that is rigorous, policy relevant and grounded in public interest.

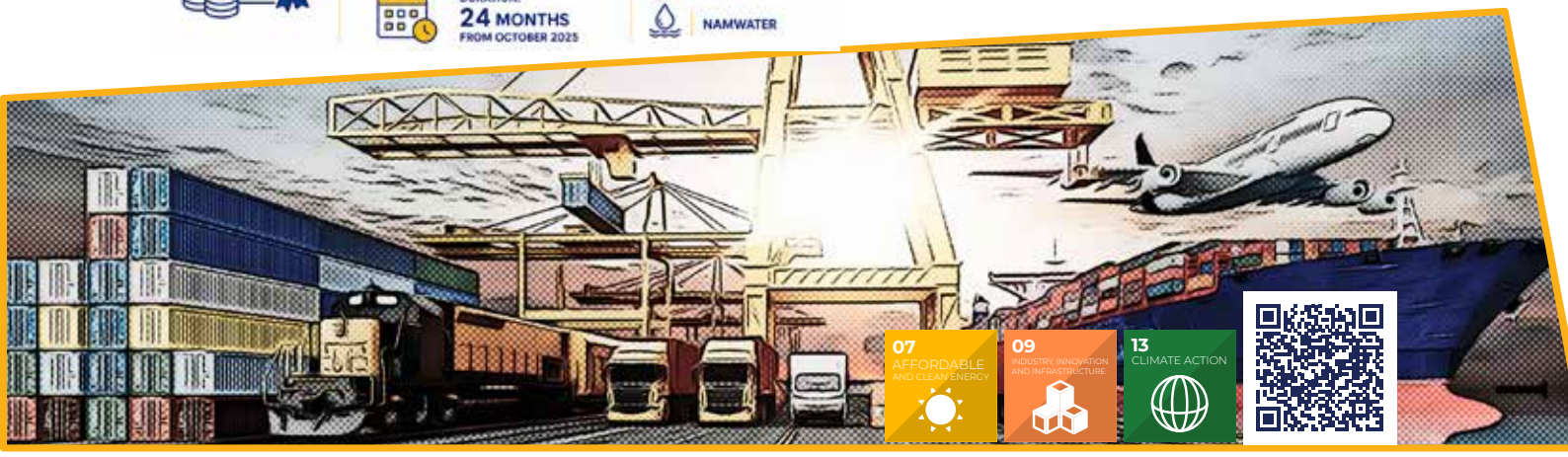
IGNITE GH2: A €2 million partnership to close Namibia's green hydrogen skills gap

NUST secured a major EU funded initiative IGNITE GH2 to address Namibia's skills gap in the emerging green hydrogen sector. Anchored in an opportunity driven TVET approach, the project aligns training with labour market needs created through national public and private investments.

The consortium includes Hyphen Hydrogen Energy, Zhero Molecules Walvis Bay, Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT) and NamWater, strengthening the public–private partnership model for skills development. IGNITE GH2 will support the establishment of the Keetmanshoop Vocational Training Centre as a Centre of Excellence for Green Hydrogen, complementing national initiatives such as Daures Green Hydrogen Village and Hylron.

Beyond curriculum and training, the project is a strategic contribution to Namibia's green industrialisation agenda strengthening workforce readiness, job creation and long term sustainable growth.

Photo credit: EU Delegation to Namibia.



Advancing Logistics Performance

The Namibian German Institute for Logistics (NGIL) delivered a diverse research portfolio focused on transport efficiency, trade facilitation and green logistics. A flagship output for 2025 was the State of Logistics Report for Namibia a national evidence product intended to inform policy and strengthen logistics performance for inclusive growth.

Across projects, NGIL research addressed eco-logistics, intermodal transport optimisation, circular economy integration, and digital readiness for sustainable supply chains. Work on energy access frameworks and low carbon transition options further supported national priorities on affordability and climate resilience.

NGIL's approach demonstrates how applied research can translate into policy ready recommendations for ministries, regional development bodies, SMEs and industry.

15 LIFE ON LAND

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Translating Desertification Science into Action

Understanding and Managing Desertification Tipping Points in Dryland Social Ecological Systems: A Namibian Perspective (NamTip) is a joint German Namibian initiative led by the University of Potsdam, with NUST as a key project partner. In 2025, closing workshops and a press event brought together farmers, researchers, policymakers, students and media to reflect on findings and practical pathways for sustainable land use and rangeland resilience in Namibia's drylands.

Workshops in Okakarara and Ozongarangombe combined evidence with lived experience highlighting differences between freehold and communal land challenges, and strengthening knowledge translation for the people most affected by land degradation. Field visits demonstrated on the ground monitoring and restoration approaches.

"This Namibian led initiative contributes to global efforts to combat desertification and promote resilience in vulnerable dryland regions. This aligns closely with NUST's strategic goals, particularly in advancing applied research and innovation, promoting environmental sustainability, and contributing to national development priorities." Dr Meed Mbidzo, Head of Department: Natural Resource Sciences and Principal Namibian Investigator (NamTip).

The final press event, held in Windhoek on 26 June 2025, included the formal handover of policy oriented fact sheets, helping ensure that scientific results continue to inform policy and practice beyond the project lifecycle.

09 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

17 PARTNERSHIPS FORTHE GOALS

NUST positioned as Entrepreneurial University

NUST participated in a high impact international study visit to the University of Montpellier, France, under the EU funded UNIICo-Create project. The visit created a platform for consortium members to share approaches to embedding sustainable entrepreneurship within higher education institutions.

The NUST delegation engaged in practical workshops and institutional dialogues focused on strengthening university–industry collaboration and contextualising innovation models for Namibia.

NUST led the development of the "10-2-5 Model" which are Standard Operating Procedures designed as a practical guide for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs), and Ministries across the SADC region to establish and scale University-Industry Co-Creation Units. It links the 5 level Capability Maturity Model (CMM) with 10 structured development steps, offering a scalable roadmap to institutionalise innovation, entrepreneurship, and regional development. Institutions can adapt this guide based on national development context and readiness.

NUST Drives Research Leadership

NUST strengthened its regional research management profile at the 2025 Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) Conference, held in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Chaired by Dr Anna Matros-Goreses, the conference was convened under the theme, "Expect the Unexpected: Unlocking the Value of Research and Innovation Management." It attracted more than 450 delegates from 24 countries, marking record breaking participation.

A major highlight for NUST was the appointment of its Executive Director for Research, Innovation and Partnerships, Dr Anna Matros-Goreses, as President of SARIMA. She succeeded Professor Emília Afonso Nhalevilo, Rector of Púnguè University. The appointment represents a significant institutional achievement and further positions NUST as an active contributor to regional leadership in research and innovation management.

The impact of this leadership transition was already evident during the conference, when the incoming President revitalised the Directors' Forum, creating a dedicated platform for senior research and innovation leaders to engage on shared institutional and regional challenges. The Forum will now form part of future SARIMA conferences, with a strategic focus on "Securing Resilient Research and Innovation Leadership."

The conference also marked a landmark development with the establishment of the Pan African Network of Research and Innovation Management Associations (PAN-RIMAs). The network brings together research and innovation management associations from across Africa to strengthen continental collaboration, knowledge exchange and professional development. As one of the continent's most established research and innovation management associations, SARIMA is expected to play an important connecting, mentoring and capacity strengthening role within the emerging network.

NUST's participation extended beyond institutional leadership. DRIP staff presented work on research management collaboration frameworks; agile postgraduate management systems; strengthening research networks to improve the uptake of innovation within municipalities; and strategies for broadening research funding through non traditional sources.

These contributions demonstrate NUST's growing role in shaping research and innovation management practice beyond the University. Through leadership, knowledge exchange and participation in regional and continental networks, NUST is helping to strengthen the systems, partnerships and professional capacity required to translate research into wider institutional, societal and regional impact.

I am inspired by SARIMA's role as a catalyst for a thriving research and innovation ecosystem, extending from Sub Saharan Africa across the entire continent.

Dr Anna Matros-Goreses, Executive Director: DRIP SARIMA President

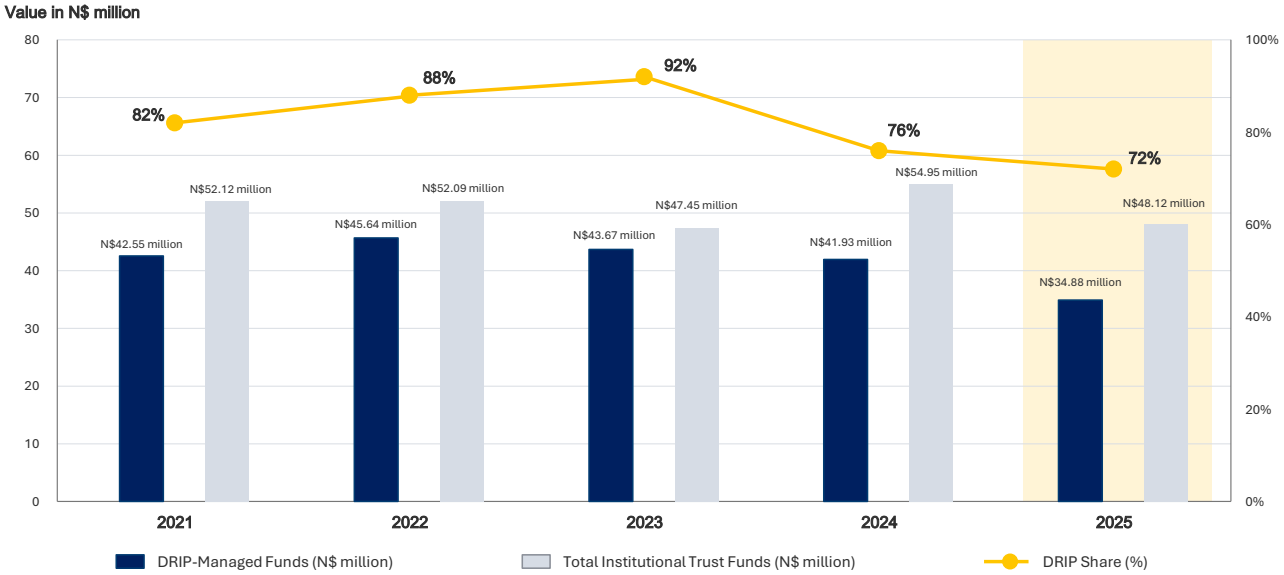
Research Financial Report

This section summarises key finance inputs relevant to research, innovation and partnerships for the 2025 reporting period. Figures are presented in Namibian dollars (N$) unless otherwise stated.

Compliance and Governance

DRIP continued to play a central stewardship role for research related trust funds. Across 2021–2025, DRIP managed trust funds represented between 72% and 92% of NUST's institutional trust fund portfolio, reflecting sustained confidence by donors, industry and government partners.

DRIP Managed Trust Funds, 2021–2025



Key insights (2025):

- DRIP managed N$34.88 million of NUST's N$48.12 million institutional trust fund portfolio in 2025 (72% share).
- DRIP's share declined from 92% (2023) to 72% (2025), indicating diversification of the wider institutional trust fund base.
- The decline in absolute DRIP managed trust funds from N$45.64 million (2022) to N$34.88 million (2025) underscores the need to strengthen grant mobilisation and proposal to award conversion.

Project Close out Spotlight: SASSCAL SGSP–IWRM

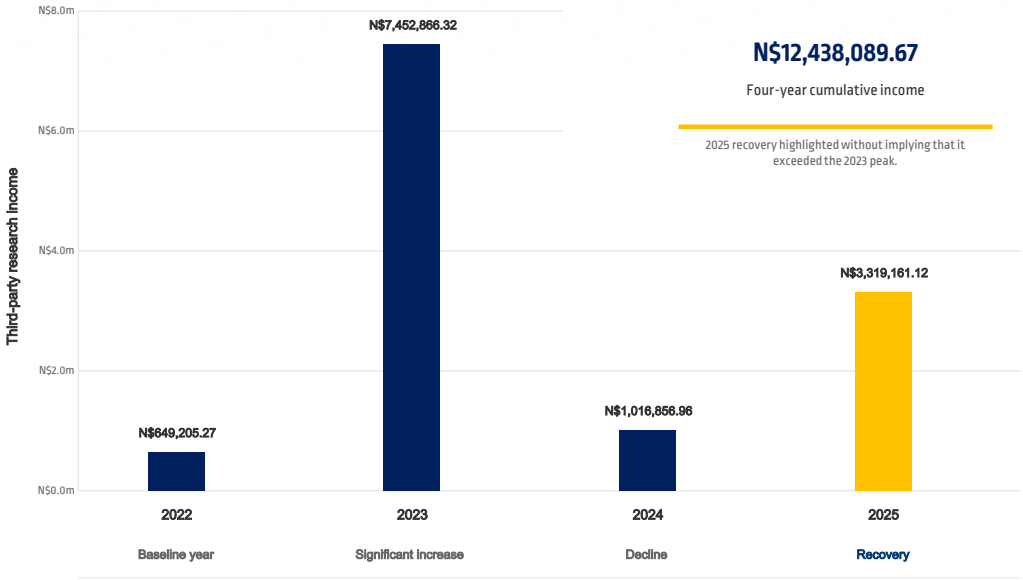
The SASSCAL Graduate Studies Programme in Integrated Water Resources Management (SGSP–IWRM) is an externally funded cross Faculty PhD and short course programme (funded by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)). The approved programme budget was €3,649,838 (Oct 2020–Dec 2025), with a six month no cost extension through June 2026 to support completion of academic requirements. Against the NUST subcontract budget 88% of the total budget was spent, leaving an unspent balance of €274,777.47.

Third-party Research Income

Third-party research income includes indirect cost recoveries and administrative fees on grants, residual balances transferred on project closure, and institutional income portions arising from staff participation in externally funded programmes.

Over 2022–2025, NUST generated N$12,438,089.67 in this income stream, with a recovery in 2025 to N$3,319,161.12.

Third Party Research Income, 2022–2025

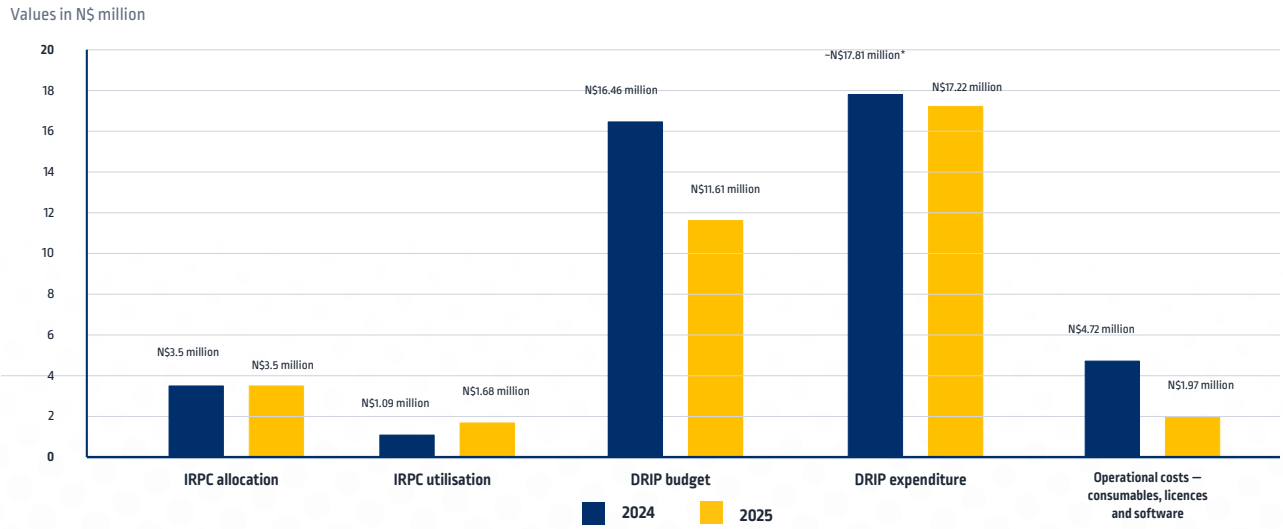


Boosting Institutional Research Finance Support

Institutional support funding through Institutional Research Publication Committee (IRPC) remained constant at N$3.5 million in both 2024 and 2025, while utilisation increased from N$1.09 million (2024) to N$1.68 million (2025). In 2025, allocations were redistributed to strengthen bursaries, innovation and awards, including a new Entrepreneurship Innovation Fund allocation of N$350,000.

Institutional Research Finance Support: 2024–2025

Year-on-year comparison of institutional research finance indicators



Overall, the 2025 financial picture reflects sustained investment in the research ecosystem, with a shift towards direct support instruments (bursaries, awards and innovation funding) while maintaining robust governance for externally funded projects and institutional revenue recovery.

Research and Innovation Investment Overview

During the reporting period, NUST continued to make strategic investments across its Faculties and Administrative Entities to strengthen research, innovation, and postgraduate development. Funding allocations were directed towards initiatives that support research productivity, scholarly publishing, postgraduate supervision, innovation activities, capacity development, and the creation of an enabling environment for research excellence.

The distribution of funds across the Faculties demonstrates the University's commitment to cultivating a vibrant research ecosystem that supports both established and emerging researchers. While expenditure levels varied across Faculties and support units, the investments collectively contributed towards enhancing research capacity, increasing participation in research and innovation activities, and strengthening institutional research outputs.

The investments also contributed towards increasing the visibility and quality of research outputs through enhanced support for scholarly publishing, collaborative research, conference participation, and interdisciplinary engagement. By creating opportunities for researchers at different career stages to develop their skills and networks, the University continues to build a sustainable pipeline of research talent capable of addressing national and regional development challenges.

Importantly, these investments have served as catalysts for igniting a stronger culture of inquiry, creativity, and innovation across the institution. Through targeted programmes and strategic support mechanisms, NUST is fostering an environment where research is increasingly viewed not only as a core academic activity but also as a vehicle for societal impact, entrepreneurship, and knowledge transfer.

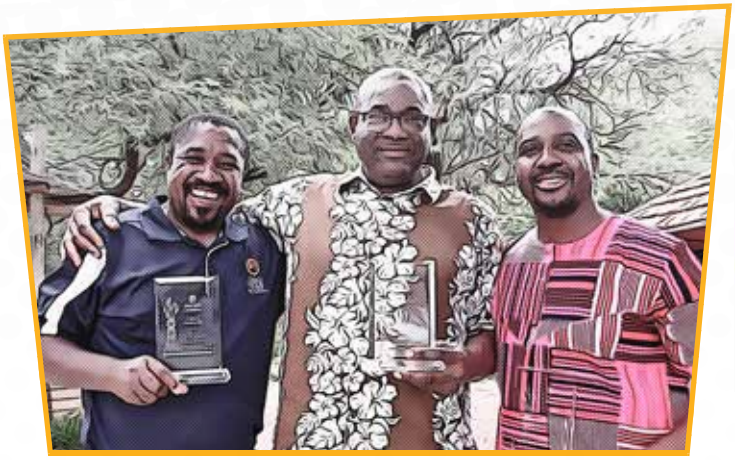
The continued commitment to research and innovation investment aligns with the University's strategic objective of advancing applied research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, while enhancing its contribution to national development priorities and its standing within regional and international higher education and research landscapes.

NUST-i recognised for startup ecosystem leadership

Silas Newaka, Manager: Entrepreneurial Development at the NUST Innovation Hub (NUST-i), received the ASEB 2025 "Startup Ecosystem Builder Champion" Award on 17 November 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The award recognises his contribution to strengthening Namibia's startup ecosystem through mentoring, prototype development, intellectual property guidance and market linkages. It also reflects NUST-i's growing role in supporting entrepreneurs and connecting Namibian innovation to regional and global opportunities.

The recognition reinforces NUST's commitment to entrepreneurship, innovation and enterprise development, made in Namibia, for Africa and beyond.



DRIP Research Service Excellence Awards

The Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnerships (DRIP) hosted its annual Research Service Excellence Awards on 13 November 2025 during its Year End Function, themed "Rooted in Identity, Growing Together". The event recognised staff who demonstrated outstanding service, collaboration and commitment to DRIP's values.

Prof Omotayo Awofolu, Director of Research and Postgraduate Development, received the Research and Innovation Service Excellence Award for strengthening postgraduate research systems and advancing NUST's research culture.

Mr Silas Newaka, Manager of Entrepreneurial Development, received the Excellence in Collaborative Efforts Award for fostering cross departmental partnerships, student entrepreneurship and industry engagement.

The DRIP Values Award was presented to Mr Nigel M'kwaira, Science and Innovation Communication Specialist, for demonstrating the Directorate's values through strategic engagement, dependable support and efforts to enhance institutional visibility.

Executive Director Dr Anna Matros-Goreses commended the award recipients for helping position NUST as a leader in research and innovation and encouraged DRIP staff to confidently own their space.

Looking Ahead

Building on 2025 progress, DRIP will focus on strengthening research excellence through impact evidence, improved data quality, and expanded partnerships. Key priorities include:

Consolidate the 'evidence-plus-story' model through ImpactTrack to document outcomes alongside SDG linked narratives.

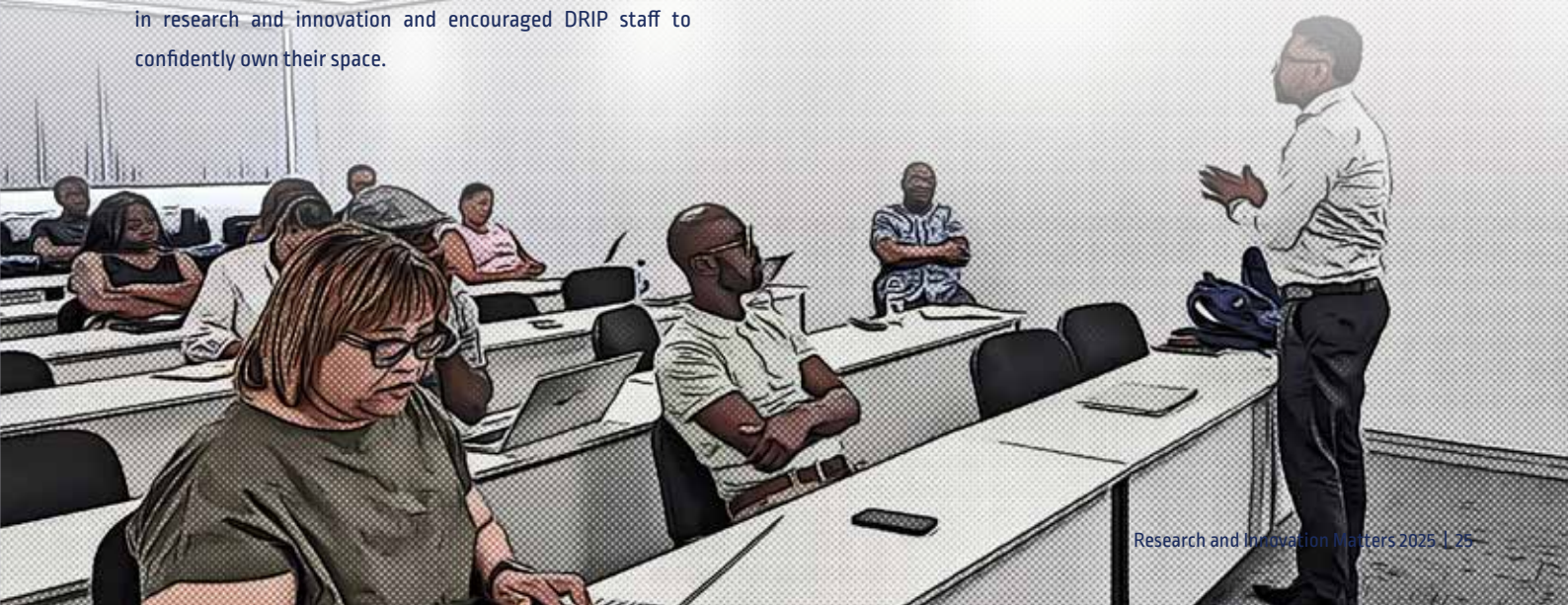
Strengthen Faculty reporting and research intelligence for benchmarking, including consistent Scopus/ORCID profile management.

Expand capacity building interventions for academic writing, grant acquisition and postgraduate throughput.

Grow NUST-i programmes that support incubation, product development and technology commercialisation pathways.

Deepen partnerships with industry, government and communities to translate research into policies, technologies and services that improve livelihoods.

Through these priorities, NUST aims to strengthen its position as a global contender for impactful research and innovation rooted in Namibia's development needs and aligned with Africa's and the world's sustainability agendas.



Intentional Growth From the ED:

The 10 year anniversary of the Namibia University of Science and Technology's journey as a fully fledged university and providing an important moment for reflection on how far the institution has come in research, innovation and partnerships. Over the past decade, NUST has steadily transformed from a young university with modest research foundations into a credible and ambitious institution driving research, innovation and entrepreneurship in Namibia and beyond. This ten year journey reflects not only growth in outputs, infrastructure and partnerships, but also the deliberate building of an institutional culture anchored in the five pillars of Content, Culture, Capacity, Collaboration and Credibility. Through this framework, NUST aligned its research agenda with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals, strengthened its research ethos, expanded postgraduate and staff development, deepened strategic partnerships, and earned regional and global recognition for its impact.

The significance of this milestone lies not only in the passage of time, but in the depth of transformation achieved. Over the last five years alone, NUST produced more than 2,300 publications, secured over N$1 billion in research funding, and awarded more than 4,000 postgraduate qualifications. At the same time, the University expanded its innovation and research support ecosystem through major infrastructure and systems developments, including centres of excellence, the Lüderitz Science and Technovation Park, the Postgraduate Centre, and the establishment of the Technology Transfer Office. These achievements reflect a university that is not only generating knowledge, but also increasingly positioning that knowledge to respond to national priorities, contribute to sustainable development, and translate into practical solutions and opportunities for society.

This anniversary therefore stands as both a celebration and a call to the future. NUST's growing recognition, including its debut in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings and accolades for research management excellence, confirms that the institution has earned trust and visibility within the regional and global higher education landscape. As NUST enters its second decade, it does so with stronger systems, deeper partnerships, greater confidence, and a clearer vision of its role as a research led, entrepreneurial university. The 10 year milestone is a reaffirmation of NUST's commitment to shaping knowledge, innovation and impact that is truly **MADE IN NAMIBIA, FOR AFRICA AND BEYOND.**

Ten years of intentional growth have strengthened NUST's research, innovation, partnerships and impact across Namibia.

Dr Anna Matros-Goreses,
Executive Director:
Directorate: Research, Innovation and Partnerships

SG
SP
SASSCAL
GRADUAT
STUDIES

Laying the Foundations (2015 -2016)
Expansion and Collaboration (2017)
Innovation in Motion (2018)
Global Reach and Regional Depth (2019zz)
Resilience and Response (2020-2021)
Scaling Up and Strategic Focus (2022)
Recognition and Rankings (2023)
Infrastructure and Innovation (2024)
Celebrating a Decade of Eminence (2025)