



NUST BRIEF

NUST academics launch Land Use Planning Guide

Researchers in the Department of Land Administration have developed and published a land-use planning guide that focuses on security of land tenure.

The *Tenure-Responsive Land Use Planning: A Practical Guide for Country Level Intervention* is a handbook that guides planning practitioners, communities and governments undertaking land use planning on the best approaches to dealing with security of land tenure in the planning process. The publication was launched at the “International Conference: Land Governance and Societal Development,” organised and hosted by NUST and the Hanns Seidel Foundation (China) in December 2021.

“The guide provides practical steps and tools on how to reach mutually beneficial land tenure decisions through the active involvement of communities as partners,” said Royal Mabakeng, a Land Administration Lecturer at NUST.

The guide will be used by other countries, such as Uganda, through the “Scaling Up Community-based Land Registration and Land Use Planning on Customary

Land in Uganda” Project. This initiative is implemented by the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), and will make use of the NUST publication to fast-track land registration and thereby secure land rights for approximately 30 000 smallholder farmers.

“NUST is committed to contribute to knowledge that helps in alleviating the multifaceted problems communities face around the world,” expressed NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab.

NUST is a leading member of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), and the only African University in the network that produced this practical guide for Country-level Intervention. The GLTN is an alliance of internal partners contributing to poverty alleviation through increased access to land and tenure security for all. GLTN develops, disseminates, and implements pro-poor gender-responsive land tools that contribute to improved land governance.



Left to right: Prof Mutjinde Katjiua, Laina Alexander, Mario Siukuta and Prof Eugene Chigbu.



Understanding elephant movement could potentially lessen conflict with humans in the Kunene region.

NUST tackles human-elephant conflict management in Kunene

NUST’s Biodiversity Research Centre (BRC) is conducting research to support the Ministry of Environment and Tourism’s (MEFT) Bio-economy of Landscapes project through the auspices of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

The project stems from an ongoing problem in the Kunene region where conflict between the community farmers and roaming elephants continuously rise.

Ivonne Makando, a former NUST Masters student, together with her German collaborator, Ronja Krauss, recently presented their findings on the satellite tracking of elephants at a workshop held in Kamanjab in collaboration with the MEFT and Elephant Human Relations Aid (EHRA). Results of their study were shared with the audience to better understand elephant movement within the area, and the possible cause of their movement onto communal and commercial farmland. “We will now assist MEFT with monitoring satellite collared elephants across the entire Kunene-Erongo range. The understanding of corridors used by elephants and the connectivity between

herds can help to predict where conflicts are likely to arise in future, as well as give possible reasons for what drives their movements onto communal and commercial farmland,” Prof Morgan Hauptfleisch from the NUST Biodiversity Research Centre elaborated.

Two PhD students from the Agriculture and Natural Resources Sciences Department, Kosmas Shilongo and Innocent Haingura, will take charge of most of the scientific work.

This will include looking at the dynamics between elephant movements and surface water provision, while considering climate change as a driver of elephant conflict.

“They will spend most of their time in the affected areas to gain some understanding of the conflict from the perspective of the affected farmers,” Prof Hauptfleisch concluded.

Former NUST student launches pangolin foundation

A former NUST Natural Resources Management Masters student, Kelsey Prediger, has now established her own non-governmental organisation, the Pangolin Conservation and Research Foundation (PCRF).

Before graduating, Prediger worked closely with NUST’s Biodiversity Research Centre (BRC) in partnership with the Namibian Pangolin Working Group.

Her work on the ecology and feeding preferences of pangolins provided valuable insight that contributed towards the protection and management of these secretive and endangered animals in Namibia. “Alarming numbers of pangolins as well as their scales and skins are smuggled to China, where they are deemed a sought-after ingredient for traditional medicines,” Prof Morgan Hauptfleisch from the Agriculture and Natural Resources Sciences explained.

PCRF’s conservation efforts include active field research and study, working with partners to inform policy and conservation guidelines, and working within communities to raise awareness and prevent further harm. “PCRF was founded to fill a gap in the conservation efforts of pangolins with a focus on research, informed conservation planning and increased awareness,” Prediger said.

She was also selected to serve on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Pangolin Specialist Group recently, and says that seeing her research applied to address a conservation concern is extremely rewarding.



Prof Morgan Hauptfleisch (left) pictured with Kelsey Prediger (right) out in the field observing and documenting pangolin behaviour.