

The **NJE** is an initiative between the Namibian Chamber of Environment, the Namibia University of Science & Technology and the Ministry of Environment & Tourism, with financial support from the private sector. It thus represents a smart public-private partnership. The **NJE** is an electronic, on-line journal. It covers a wide range of disciplines, from ecology, biodiversity, social, economic, urban, energy, water, terrestrial, marine, to sustainability and policy issues. There are no charges to authors for publishing, and there are no charges for accessing articles. The journal and articles can be accessed on-line from anywhere in the world. Barbara Curtis is the Honourary Editor, and she is supported by an Editorial Board comprises scientists representing different disciplines from the Environmental Economics Network of Namibia, Gobabeb Research & Training Centre, Ministry of Environment & Tourism, Namibian Chamber of Environment, Namibia University of Science & Technology, and the University of Namibia.

Namibia has been without a dedicated environmental journal for over 15 years. Large amounts of valuable information will have been lost as a result. But perhaps more important, young graduates have had no national, easy to access, medium for publishing their research. A person who qualifies with a university degree in science is a science graduate. That person is not a scientist. A scientist is someone who has conducted post-graduate research, analysed and written up the results, submitted their manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals, had their papers accepted and published. Only after a person has built up a reasonable track record of publishing in peer reviewed journals, can she or he start calling themselves “scientists”. For the past 15+ years our scientific community, and particularly young aspirant environmental scientists, have been poorly served by not having access to a national peer-reviewed environmental journal. We have now redressed that sorry situation. This is an important step in promoting science in Namibia, supporting the development of young scientists, and encouraging scientifically-based, evidence-led policy development and decision-making.

The **NJE** forms part of the **Environmental Information Service (EIS)** of Namibia. The **EIS** contains an on-line electronic environmental library, a biodiversity atlas platform, a photographic landscape repository, an avifaunal information system and now, the **NJE**. The **EIS** is Namibia’s one-stop-shop for retrieving, submitting and publishing environmental information. The **NJE** can be accessed via the **EIS** at [www.the-eis.com](http://www.the-eis.com), or directly at [www.nje.org.na](http://www.nje.org.na).

Please visit the **NJE** and read the papers in Volume 1. We look forward to receiving your manuscripts for Volume 2.