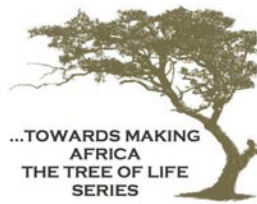


# **Environmental Law and Policy in Namibia**

## **TOWARDS MAKING AFRICA THE TREE OF LIFE**



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## FOREWORD



In 2012, I had already written the foreword to the then second edition of this important book in my capacity as Minister of Environment and Tourism. Today, fourteen years later, it is gratifying to see the fifth fully revised edition of *Environmental Law and Policy in Namibia*. I am pleased to note that the first four editions of this publication have attracted considerable attention among both lawyers and non-lawyers in Namibia, Africa, and beyond, and with good reason.

A sustainable environment is essential to protect people from the short-, medium-, and long-term ravages of nature, as well as man-made threats, and the deterioration of the natural environment. Namibia faces a range of complex environmental challenges, including land degradation, water scarcity and pollution, deforestation, biodiversity

loss, and climate change. Addressing these challenges requires, above all, unequivocal determination on the part of policymakers.

The law, as a subsequent step to policy and decision-making processes on the one hand and as a basis for enforcement and implementation on the other, is a crucial discipline in environmental protection and an essential tool for addressing environmental problems that threaten our country, region, and planet. Given the multidisciplinary nature of environmental issues and the involvement of various government institutions, policymakers, the legal fraternity, and stakeholders, the aforementioned ecological challenges are addressed through a range of statutes and policies.

The primary purpose of this book is to offer a multifaceted insight into environmental law and policy issues in Namibia. It achieves this most successfully by taking stock of the existing legal framework and Namibia's commitment to environmental issues at the local, national, regional, continental, and international levels.

It is highly commendable that the editors and authors of this book have once again provided an eloquent and in-depth overview of sectoral and cross-sectoral legislation and policies related to environmental concerns. Furthermore, the publication puts ecological issues into the broader context of current and future societal needs and economic developments. The focus of the publication is on Namibia, particularly in terms of national law. It is, however, notable that the book also places a strong emphasis on the multifaceted African legal structure and its particularities, including the environmental legal frameworks of the African Union, the Southern African Development Community, and those of other evolving groupings.

This publication remains a highly valuable source of information and guidance for judges, advocates, prosecutors, diplomats, climate negotiators, policymakers, law students, and all members of the public interested in environmental issues in Namibia and beyond.

On behalf of the "Land of the Brave", I would like to cordially thank Professor Oliver C. Ruppel and Dr Katharina Ruppel-Schlichting for their continued commitment, as well as all the learned authors who have contributed to this important book. I would also like to thank the Hanns-Seidel-Foundation and the German Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) for the long-term support of this project. It truly reflects the sustainable spirit of German-Namibian Development Cooperation.

## FOREWORD

When the first edition of this book was published in 2011, it had already become a “bestseller” and a thought-provoking work. Since then, this vital work for Namibia and the Southern African region has continued to contribute towards making Africa the “Tree of Life,” which ultimately demands that we make environmental protection our collective responsibility.



**Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**  
**President of the Republic of Namibia**

Windhoek, 2 March 2026

## PREFACE



The fifth edition of *Environmental Law and Policy in Namibia – Towards Making Africa the Tree of Life* comes at a time when environmental law and sustainable development have become defining issues for global stability and prosperity. Climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and overall resource scarcity are no longer distant risks: They shape political agendas, economic strategies, and societal priorities. International frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and the Global Biodiversity Framework set ambitious targets, but their success depends on strong legal systems, effective implementation and sometimes even courts.

Namibia faces similar challenges to many countries in balancing economic growth with environmental protection. At the same time, it demonstrates how constitutional principles and sound governance can underpin progressive environmental policies. This edition captures recent legal developments in Namibia and situates them within regional and international contexts, offering a comprehensive resource for legal practitioners, policymakers, and scholars.

The Hanns Seidel Foundation has supported this publication since its inception in 2011 because we believe that informed decision-making is the cornerstone of democracy, the rule of law, and sustainable development. Environmental law is no longer a niche discipline. It is a key driver of resilience, investment, and social equity. By strengthening legal knowledge and capacity, this book contributes to building the frameworks needed to turn global commitments into tangible action.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the editors, authors, and partners who made this fifth edition possible. May it serve as a reference, a teaching tool, and an inspiration for all those committed to safeguarding our environment for present and future generations, both in Namibia and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Klaus Holetschek'.

**Prof. Klaus Holetschek, MdL**  
**Staatsminister a. D.**  
**Chairman**  
**Hanns Seidel Foundation**

Munich, 1 July 2026

