

2023 CHAPTER REPORT



Each national chapter is required by IAH Rule 6.5 to provide an annual report on its activities. This helps us to report the Association's activities and is published on the IAH web site. It is also expected that, under the terms of the chapter's constitution or rules, the national committee will make an annual report to members in their country.

1. ABOUT YOU

Your name	Bertram Swartz
Email address	swartzbertramj@gmail.com
Role/responsibility held in chapter	Treasurer

2. YOUR CHAPTER'S INFORMATION

Is your chapter's information correct on IAH's website: <https://iah.org/groups/national-chapters>

Please tell us of any changes now and each time a new committee is chosen.

The committee members are:

Ms Ester Gustavo – President

Dr. Josefina Hamutoko – Vice President

Mr Bertram Swartz – Treasurer

Ms Anna David – Secretary

Mr Michael Ndongo – Ordinary Member

- In line with the NHA succession plan and capacity building, the NHA has re-introduced the shadow council, aiming at a smoother and succession planning.

Gettie Shiinda (Shadow president)

Anna David (Shadow Vice president)

Reginald Joseph (Shadow Secretary)

Abednego Shinana (Shadow treasurer)

Pierre Botha (Shadow Ordinary member)

Does your chapter have its own website? If so, please confirm the URL.

If you do have a website, who is responsible for its management? Please provide contact details.

Yes. <http://namhydro.com/wp/>

However, it is under construction but we actively engage on our social media pages:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/namibian-hydrogeological-association-nha-b624221a4>

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<https://www.facebook.com/Namibian-Hydrogeological-Association-NHA-425290274890742>

The council member in charge of media is Dr. Josefina Hamutoko

Would you be interested in IAH hosting your chapter's website/providing support? As an example, see <https://germany.iah.org/>.

Our current website has a low visiting rate due to the number of members and interested parties. We thus opt to keep hosting the website for the time being and could consider adding more content to it as well as hyperlinks to the IAH website and more information regarding the registration for our NHA members to become IAH members.

Does your chapter have an elected committee?
If yes, how often are elections held and how are they managed e.g. postal/email vote/at meetings?

Yes. Elections are held yearly as part of the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM is held in Windhoek with members physically and virtually present for voting.

3. LOCAL MEMBERSHIP

How is local membership status and trends? e.g. stable, declining, increasing.

Local membership has increased. The summary of the paid up NHA membership for the past few years is as follows.

2018: 21

2019:9

2020: 3

2021: 21

2022: 31

2023:34

IAH Members:

2022: 9

2023: 10

What are your challenges to recruitment? e.g. volunteer time/limitation, IAH fee rates, competition from other societies, language, etc.

The main challenges are the IAH fees for potential student members and insufficient marketing and awareness creation on the Chapter and activities of the IAH. We have recently invited NHA members to partake in the IAH

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conference in Cape Town in September and this should entice more registration.

4. YOUR CHAPTER'S ACTIVITIES IN 2023

Did your chapter hold an annual meeting (AGM-style)? If so, please advise:

- Date and place of meeting
- Approximate number attending

The AGM was held on the 11 March 2023.

The meeting was held on both virtually and face to face, at the Kubata Conference Hall, Windhoek Namibia

18 people in attendance

Did your chapter hold other events e.g. technical and scientific meetings, seminars, conferences, field visits, training events?

- If you have already reported these to the IAH Secretariat, only summary information is required.
- If not, these please provide a summary of dates, location, number of participants, topics, etc. and how successful you felt each event was.
- Do you have photos we can use?
- Are your events open to IAH non-members?
- Did you hold events in partnership with others e.g. a national society, company, institution?

1) World Water Day 2023

For the 2023 World Water Day celebrated on the 22 March 2023, NHA teamed up with the Ae-Gams Sports Club, and joined Mina Guli in a world water Run. The event was hosted Elisenheim Lifestyle centre, Several NHA and members of the public joined the walk,

2) Career Fair

The Every Nation Church Dorado, as part of building socially responsible churches held a career fair. The NHA was happy to showcase and introduce the world of Hydrogeology to high school learners from across Schools in Windhoek,

3) Khomas Regional Science Fair

The Khomas Regional Office- Directorate of Education hosted a Regional Science Fair Competition on the 31 July to the 3rd August 2023. The Directorate reached out to the NHA to avail subject experts as adjudicators at the Science Fair. The NHA in collaboration with SLR Environmental Consulting (Namibia) were happy to oblige and send judges to assist at the Science Fair

4) IAH Congress 2023

Members of NHA took part in the International Association for Hydrogeologist Congress, in Mid-September, 2023. This was an opportunity to meet with global



hydrogeological experts, and as per our objective to further the study of Hydrogeology and Hydrology, NHA has fully funded a student and professional to present their work at the Congress

5) Colloquium of African Geology

The 29th Major bi-annual Geology Conference took place in Namibia. Twenty-eight (28) of these conferences have happened previously, 18 of which happened in Europe and 10 in Africa. NHA has supported CAG 29 by being part of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), assisted with chairing plenary and break away sessions. In addition, a short half-day workshop for Women in Geoscience will be hosted by NHA, and the women will be addressing the notion: Why Women can't have it all?

6) Women in Geoscience Workshop

Ada Lovelace day is a day to celebrate the accomplishments, and contributions of women in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). In September 2023, the NHA joined the international community in celebrating this day by hosting a workshop for the women in Geoscience in Namibia. The event had 30 ladies in attendance. The theme for 2023 was why women can't have it all. The speakers Comprised Dr. Ozlem Lopez from UNESCO Paris, Ms Kombada Mhopjeni UNESCO-Namibia, and Ms Nansunga Kambinda, SLR Consulting Africa. The event was sponsored by Namibia Breweries Ltd, MUMI Investment Managers and CAG 29.

7) Journey to publishing in a scientific journal

On the 2nd November 2023, Dr. Diganta Sarma and Dr. Josefina Hamutoko gave us a seminar pertaining to publishing in scientific journals. The seminar was well attended, about 20 participants in total. Fruitful talks, and for the most part at least made us wiser, removed the fear of



publishing, highlighted pitfalls, and helped us take ownership of the work we conduct in Namibia, before someone else publishes it

8) SADC GMI National Focal Groups

The SADC GMI held a training workshop between the 11-14 October 2023, the training looked at various modules and the eventual establishment of the Resource Mobilisation strategy for Namibia's focal group. As this has not been a familiar venture to many, SADC GMI received funds, each SADC member state had to provide concept notes for a project related to Groundwater, and the project that Namibia submitted and got funding for is the Groundwater investigation in the crystalline basement... NHA is involved in the way that the focal group is made up of various institutions which provides a pool of groundwater stakeholders and experts. Currently the NHA serves as the secretariat. One of the Calendar items for this year, is to re-introduce this to NHA members, to maximise access to benefits.

9) Managed Aquifer Recharge Seminar

A one Day seminar was held by GCS and Johnson Screens where NHA assisted in organising the event. The event took place on 16th November 2023, at the NSS Hall. The seminar tackled the subject of Managed aquifer recharge and the associated technologies. It was a face-to-face workshop with practical tips on how to properly develop an aquifer, how to take care of the screens, how to conduct maintenance of MAR pumps and boreholes.

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5. YOUR CHAPTER'S PLANS

Do you have any activities or tasks planned for 2024?
If yes, please provide brief details, including if your plans are limited because of e.g. lack of funds or local interest/volunteer support to help

The proposed activities for 2024 will be finalized at the AGM 2024.

Planned activities are

- 1) Ada Lovelace Day/Women in Geoscience Dinner 2024;
- 2) Groundwater Talks and Excursions;
- 3) Attendance of the IAH Conference as a Namibian Chapter, in Davos Switzerland
- 4) World Water Day celebrated on the 22 March 2024, NHA will team up with the Ae-Gams Sports Club, for the World Water Run

6. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please use this section to make any additional comments/suggestions e.g. what support from IAH centrally might assist your chapter, future plans you would like to see for IAH

The need in Namibia is primarily in training. Requirement for assistance in these areas has been identified.

- Access to expertise on arid region hydrogeology and water management
- Access to expertise on artificial recharge
- Access to expertise on groundwater quality in mining industry.
- Access to groundwater numerical modelling