

# Research in the Namib



## Key research partners include:

Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

Dartmouth College, USA

Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN)

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany

Max Planck Institute (MPI), Germany

Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET)

Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), USA

National Commission for Research Science and Technology

National Museum of Namibia

North West University, South Africa

Oxford University, UK

Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL)

University of Basel, Switzerland

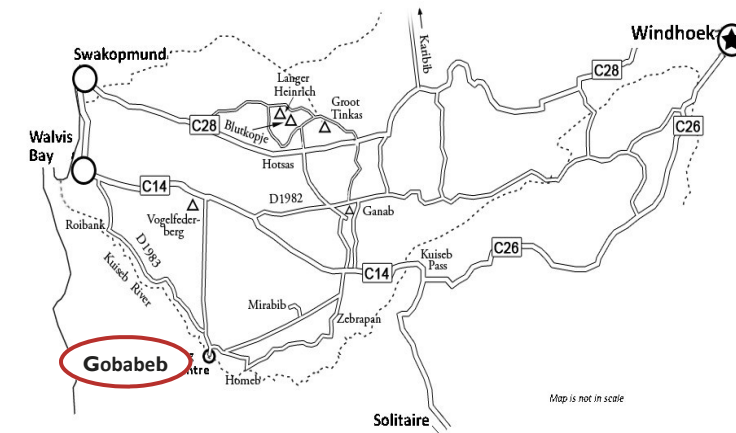
University of Namibia (UNAM)

University of Pretoria, South Africa



## Gobabeb provides:

- Expert advice and collaboration
- Long-term environmental data
- Comprehensive Namib research library
- Laboratory, training and workshop facilities
- Assistance with field-work and data collection
- Conference, symposium and seminar venue
- Accommodation and Catering



## Gobabeb

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# Science and Education in the heart of the Namib Desert

The mission of Gobabeb is to be a catalyst for gathering, understanding and sharing knowledge about arid environments, especially the hyper-arid Namib Desert. We are committed to skills development of emerging environmental specialists and decision-makers.

More than 250 scientists from across the world visit Gobabeb annually to execute research and test new innovations. For more than 55 years, research findings from the Namib, across a range of disciplines, have been shared in peer-reviewed journals, books and theses. Gobabeb has been central to global understanding and appreciation for desert biodiversity and ecology. Ongoing studies on atmospheric sciences and meteorology, through an array of cutting edge instrumentation, contribute essential data on Earth dynamics for the development of new tools to understand, monitor and cope with climate change. Gobabeb is a recognised partner in building capacity in science, technology and innovation within SADC and Namibia.



## Our research aims to:

- Improve knowledge and understanding of the hyper-arid Namib environment
- Develop and test evidence-based solutions to cope with challenges in dryland environments
- Improve skills and abilities in science, innovation and sustainable environmental management
- Facilitate information exchange at all levels
- Integrate scientific knowledge with public policy and national development



## The Gobabeb Environment

- In the heart of the hyper-arid Namib Desert
- Three distinct ecosystems — Sand Sea, Gravel Plains, Kuiseb Riparian Woodland — easily accessible
- Rich diversity of arid-adapted organisms with a multitude of endemic taxa
- On the ecotone between fog and rain precipitation
- Immersed in the indigenous cultural landscape of the #Aonin Nama pastoralists
- Situated in the Namib-Naukluft Park (established 1907)

## Long-term environmental monitoring includes:

- Daily weather measurements since 1962
- Kuiseb River flow since 1962
- Beetle population dynamics since 1968
- Dune morphology since 1970
- *Welwitschia* leaf growth since 1982

## Current research includes:

- Aerosol concentrations and behaviour
- Surface validation of satellite observations
- !Nara biochemistry, physiology and ecogeography
- Bat diversity and ecology
- Behaviour of burrowing animals
- Climate-smart livestock farming
- Namib restoration ecology

