

PRESS RELEASE  
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA  
05 APRIL 2024  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAUNCH OF THE PUBLICATION TITLED  
*"LOCATING NAMIBIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE IN MUSEUMS AND UNIVERSITIES IN GERMAN-  
SPEAKING COUNTRIES. A FINDING AID FOR PROVENANCE RESEARCH"*



LAUNCH OF THE PUBLICATION TITLED  
*"LOCATING NAMIBIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE IN MUSEUMS AND UNIVERSITIES IN GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES. A FINDING AID FOR PROVENANCE RESEARCH"*

Invitation to the official launch of a publication titled *"Locating Namibian Cultural Heritage in Museums and Universities in German-Speaking Countries. A Finding Aid for Provenance Research"*

What kind of cultural heritage produced in Namibia can be found in German, Austrian and Swiss museums? And how did it get there? – These are two of the main questions behind the publication to be launched on **Tuesday, the 09<sup>th</sup> of April 2024, at the Goethe-Institut in Windhoek at 09h00.**

The publication compiles information on 39 institutions that have accessioned, altogether, almost 19,000 pieces of tangible cultural heritage produced in Namibian communities over a period of time of more than 160 years (pre-1860s to date). Building on the Africa Accessioned project initiated by the Museums Association of Namibia in 2014, it aims to give a first overview of these collections, facilitate collaborative provenance research on this Namibian cultural heritage and foster its possible repatriation and restitution. A particular focus has been set on cultural heritage translocated under German colonial rule in Namibia (1884-1914), including cultural heritage acquired violently in military campaigns of the German colonial regime.

The publication is a result of a collaboration between the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, the Museums Association of Namibia, the National Museum of Namibia, the University of Namibia and the German Lost Art Foundation. It is part of the German Lost Art Foundation's series "Working Paper Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste" (no. 6).

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture remains committed to fostering continued dialogue with Namibian stakeholders and German partners on issues pertaining to provenance research and possible repatriation and restitution of Namibian cultural heritage currently in German-speaking countries in Europe.

The German Lost Art Foundation (<https://kulturgutverluste.de/en>) funds and fosters provenance research on cultural heritage from colonial contexts held in German institutions. GLAF is committed to reaching out to the previous owners, artists/producers and users of cultural heritage translocated to German institutions under colonial conditions.

The publication can be downloaded for free from the publication platform of the Max Weber Stiftung (<https://perspectivia.net>) at: <https://doi.org/10.25360/01-2024-00002>.

Given the above, the collaborative institutions cordially invite all Namibians to attend the launch of the publication titled *"Locating Namibian Cultural Heritage in Museums and Universities in German-Speaking Countries. A Finding Aid for Provenance Research"*. The event will take place at Goethe-Institut, Windhoek, 5 Fidel Castro St, Auditorium, on Tuesday, the 09<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 from 09h00-11h00.



LAUNCH OF THE PUBLICATION TITLED  
**"LOCATING NAMIBIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE IN MUSEUMS AND UNIVERSITIES IN GERMAN-  
SPEAKING COUNTRIES. A FINDING AID FOR PROVENANCE RESEARCH"**

**PROGRAMME**

Venue: Goethe-Institut Auditorium  
5 Fidel Castro Str., Windhoek, Namibia  
Tuesday, the 09<sup>th</sup> of April 2024  
**09h00**

08h30: Arrivals

09h00: Welcoming – Dennis Schroeder, Goethe-Institut Namibia

09h10: Ndapewoshali Ndahafa Ilunga, Director of the Museums Association of Namibia  
**History of the Africa-Accessioned Project**

09h20: Prof. Dr. Larissa Förster, Head of the Department of Cultural Goods and Collections from  
Colonial Contexts, German Lost Art Foundation  
**From the Africa Accessioned project to the publication "Locating Namibian Cultural  
Heritage in Museums and Universities in German-Speaking Countries. A Finding Aid for  
Provenance Research": towards a tool for transnational collaboration and restitution**

09h50: Boyson Ngondo, Acting Director of the Directorate National Heritage and Culture  
Programme in the Ministry of Education, Culture and the Arts  
**Namibian legislature related to the repatriation and restitution of artefacts and human  
remains**

10h00: Questions and Answers

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