



Detailed timeline: Namibia

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This timeline provides additional information to the [Land Portal profile on Namibia](#)

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
1884	South West Africa – an area of 800,000 km ² in extent was annexed as a German colony.	In 1885 Bismarck the Chancellor of the German Empire, held a conference in Berlin where European powers reached agreement on how to divide up Africa amongst themselves. Namibian occupation begins	
1890	Land alienation	Concession companies obtain large tracts of land for speculative purposes while German settlers begin to displace indigenous Namibians their land.	#dispossession
1892	Land settlement proclamation. Some six land concession companies apply for concessions.	One concession company seeks to develop the mineral resources in the Otavi area. It obtains 13,000 sq. km of land granted by the colonial government.	#mining #landgrab #land speculation
1903	Land dispossession	At the end of 1903, before the Herero rebellion, Namibian land was divided as follows: Africans 31,400,000 ha Concession Companies 29,175,500 ha Crown land 19,250,000 ha Settlers 3,684,500 ha Total: 83,500,000 ha ¹	#dispossession #land grab
1904	Herero and Nama people rise against German occupation.	75% of the Herero and Nama peoples annihilated by German troops – the Deutsche Schutzgruppe	#conflicts #displacement #dispossession

¹ (United Democratic Front of Namibia 1991: 9)

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
		Out of 80,000 Herero, 60,000 were forced into the desert to die. Half of the 15,000 who surrendered died subsequently in forced labour prison camps. This is been labelled the first genocide of the 20 th century. ²	
1905	The resistance of the Herero and Nama people is crushed.	It became illegal for native people to own their own land in their own name. ³	#conflicts
1906/7	Germans expropriate moveable and immovable assets – land and cattle - of the Ovaherero and Nama	No compensation is paid	
1907 - 1909	Expansion of German settler population.	Settlers increased from 8,200 at the beginning of 1907 to 14,000 at the end of 1909.	#land grab
1908	Discovery of diamonds at Lüderitz.	This marked the start of coastal mining.	#mining
1916	Following the defeat of Germany in World War I South Africa awarded a League of Nations class A mandate to govern then South-West Africa.	Until 1948 the highest authority in the territory was the administrator appointed by the South African government. Only white settlers were allowed to vote for the legislative assembly and local authorities. A local resident Commissioner and magistrates administered the local inhabitants, issuing directives to chiefs and headmen. ⁴	#land governance
1920	South African government appoints Native Reserves Commission	The Union government proclaimed 10 reserves between 1923 - 1926 ⁵ but recommended that a just 10% of the land in central and southern regions of the country be reserved for Namibian people.	
1930	By 1930 1261 land holdings totalling 10.3 million ha had been allocated 1519 settlers		

² (Ng 2019)

³ (Ngcukaitobi 2018)

⁴ (SAHO 2020)

⁵ (Commission of Inquiry into Claims of Ancestral Land Rights and Restitution 2020: 49)

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
1935	Land Settlement Commission		#alienation (land)
1948	The Nationalist Party comes to power in South Africa.	The policy of apartheid is extended to south-west Africa which effectively becomes a fifth province of the union.	
1954	By 1954 a total 5214 farms had been allocated	This alienation meant that large numbers of Namibians were removed from ancestral land and resettled onto more marginal land – however no data is available on the number households affected. ⁶	
1959	Urban forced removals in Windhoek	Government pursues a forced removals policy in Namibia. Black residents from Main Location in the capital are relocated to Katutura to much smaller erven, where they were forced to pay rent to the municipality. At the old location police open fire on protesters killing 11 and wounding 44 others.	#dispossession #displacement #urban areas
1959	SWAPO the Namibian nationalist organisation founded		
1964	Odendaal Commission of enquiry into South-West African Affairs	This South African Commission recommends physical segregation mirroring apartheid policy of ‘separate development’. ⁷ Proposals include support for the advancement of a small minority of commercial farmers in the native reserves. This resulted in the surveying and enclosure of communal pastures by elites. ⁸ Wealthy individuals were able to privatise communal grazing land	#common lands #enchroachment #land grab #discrimination

⁶ (Commission of Inquiry into Claims of Ancestral Land Rights and Restitution 2020: 51)

⁷ (Melber 2019)

⁸ (Werner 2001: 5)



Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
		The Commission proposed the creation of 7 ethnic homelands within Namibia. In Damaraland 223 farms were purchased for inclusion in the new homeland ⁹	
1966	SWAPO launches armed resistance against South Africa	The conflict that would last for 23 years.	#conflicts
1968	Owambo Homeland Committee on land tenure and utilisation	The Homeland Committee investigated the feasibility of introducing individual tenure proposing that the ownership of all land be transferred to the Owambo government.	#customary land rights
1971	International Court of Justice ruled to terminate South Africa's mandate to govern Namibia		
1979	The United Nations published Toward Agrarian Reform: Policy Options for Namibia		#land policies
Late 1970's	Late 1970s: the first demarcation of communal land for individual farming on surveyed land parcels begins	56 farms at Okamatapati and 96 in the Owambo Mangetti ¹⁰	
1982	Constitutional Principles and Guidelines document	Essential clauses in the Namibian Constitution were drafted already in the early 1980s by a Western contact group seeking a negotiated decolonisation. Articles 5 to 25 in chapter 3 ("Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms") cannot be changed. As stated in Article 25(1): Parliament or any subordinate legislative authority shall not make any law, and the Executive and the agencies of Government shall not take any action, which abolishes or	#land policies

⁹ (Botha n.d)

¹⁰ Werner 2021 pers comm.

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
		abridges the fundamental rights and freedoms including Article 16 on freedom and protection of property. ¹¹ These ensure that property owners are entitled “to protection from arbitrary deprivation of private property without just compensation”	
1984	Conference to discuss National Development Strategy for South-West Africa		
1987	The National Development Strategy of South-West Africa	This document prepared by the South African Directorate of Development Coordination proposed transforming customary tenure systems toward private ownership of land. It regarded communal land ownership as a “stumbling block to improve quality of life and welfare”. ¹²	#customary tenure #private ownership
1988	The South African government agrees to elections in Namibia	This was in exchange for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from neighbouring Angola.	
1989	UNIN studies: <i>Perspectives for National Reconstruction and Development</i> propose land allocation and use options	This included a focus on the promotion of production cooperatives following the example of Model B cooperatives in Zimbabwe to implement “a socialist transformation of small-scale agriculture”. UNIN study also promoted state farms and proposed leasehold tenure as an option for post independent Namibia. Other policy options included nationalisation of the land and potential expropriation of land owned by white commercial farmers.	#land policies

¹¹ (Melber 2019: 74-75)

¹² (Werner 2001: 5)

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
		Customary tenure characterised as ecologically damaging and proposed legislation to control grazing and land allocation.	
1989	Elections are held and a constitution written	<p>Article 100 of the Namibian constitution refers to the sovereign ownership of natural resources. The wording enables both the state natural and legal persons to own land and natural resources.</p> <p>Article 16 of the Namibian constitution guarantees existing property relations leaving land relations created under colonialism and consolidated by apartheid intact. Land acquired during colonialism and apartheid was constitutionally guaranteed. It did not matter what type of land it was. Existing ownership was considered lawful.¹³</p> <p>Namibia did not implement restitution laws to redistribute public property but created the opportunity for any landless Namibian citizen to benefit from a national land reform programme.¹⁴</p> <p>However the Constitution does explicitly protect customary land rights</p> <p>Article 16 (2) of the constitution makes provision for expropriation stating that “the state or a competent body organ authorised by law may expropriate property in the public interest subject to the payment of just compensation, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be determined by act of Parliament”.</p>	#land ownership #land law #property law

¹³ (Ngcukaitobi 2018)

¹⁴ (Sippel 2017)

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
		<p>Schedule 5 of the Namibian constitution makes it clear that the government of Namibia regards communal land as land of the state.</p> <p>“However, the Namibian state was granted the power of compulsory taking of the land. In Namibia the state was not required to pay the price of the land or adequate compensation in the case of expropriation – instead it was required to compensate the owner based on what is just”.¹⁵</p>	
1990	Namibia gains independence ending 75 years of South African rule and 25 years of guerrilla war.	<p>At independence there were 6,350 commercial farms in Namibia owned by 4,045 farmers. Of these farms just 230 (or 3.6%) were owned by black Namibians, while 352 were owned by foreigners.¹⁶ Approximately 70% of the Namibian population were reliant on land-based livelihoods. The net area of agricultural usable land in communal areas was only 27 million ha or 43% of all agriculturally usable land.</p> <p>At independence only 28% of the population was urbanised and only 20% of the urban population lived in informal settlements. Urban land issues did not receive attention at the 1st National Land Conference in 1991.¹⁷</p> <p>Namibia starts its land reform programme with the acquisition of freehold farms. However the pace is slow.</p>	#land allocation #land ownership #land reform
1991	The report of the population and housing census puts the population of Namibia at 1.4 million		

¹⁵ (Ngcukaitobi 2018: 8)

¹⁶ (Adams, Werner, and Vale 1990, 67-75)

¹⁷ (Lühl and Delgado 2018)

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
1992	National Conference on the Land Question and Land Reform.	<p>Key recommendations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • redistribution of commercial farmland, mainly on the basis of willing seller–willing buyer, with the government having preferential rights to purchase farmland for resettlement purposes; • introduction of a land tax; • reallocation of underutilised land; • limits to the size and number of farms made up of privately owned land; • elimination of foreign-owned land and absentee landlordism; • in the communal areas (the former reserves), situated mainly in the northern regions disadvantaged communities (in particular the San) “should receive special protection of their land rights”¹⁸ • ancestral land claims were regarded as too complex to be addressed in full 	<p>#land policies #land reform #land ownership</p>
1992	The Minerals Policy of Namibia The Minerals Prospecting and Mining Act	All mineral rights are vested in the state which issues a range of mining and prospecting licences.	#mining
1992	Damara people of the Aukeigas community occupy game reserve outside Windhoek claiming that their ancestors were forcibly removed from the land in 1956	The matter was subsequently settled out of court and the claimants were resettled to state farms.	#dispossession #indigenous peoples

¹⁸ (Melber 2019: 75)

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
1995	Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act 6 of 1995	<p>This Act provided for the pre-emptive acquisition of agricultural land by the state for the purposes of land reform and set out processes for the allocation of this land to Namibian citizens.</p> <p>Leaseholds can be registered on this land with a five-year probation period. Thereafter there is an option to purchase. No sub-letting or mortgage of the land is possible without the Minister's consent.</p> <p>The Act also provided for the compulsory acquisition of certain agricultural land by the state and regulated the acquisition of land by foreign nationals. It set out to establish a Lands Tribunal and regulate its functions. Some of these provisions have been amended since 1995 such as the option to purchase which was taken up in a Land Bill that has been in preparation since 2010.¹⁹</p>	<p>#land law #land administration #land dispute resolution #land ownership</p>
1995	The first National Development Plan (1995 -1999) committed to the expenditure of 20 million Namibian dollars per year for the purchase of commercial farms. ²⁰	By the mid-1990s fewer than 20 freehold farms had been purchased for redistribution.	#land reform
1996	The Minerals Development Fund of Namibia Act		#Mining
1996	National Traditional Authority Conference on Communal Land Administration	Proposed to introduce Land Boards as in Botswana. Hotly contested by Chiefs and headmen as the proposal would have divested them of all powers over land allocation and cancellation. Forced government to agree to a watered down version of Land Boards as they exist today.	<p>#communal territory #common rights #land administration #land governance</p>

¹⁹ Werner pers comm 2021

²⁰ (Werner 2001: 1)

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
1997	White Paper on Resettlement Policy	This sought to limit government support for resettlement to the first 5 years, after which settlers are supposed to be self-supporting. Many projects remained dependent on government support 10 years after inception.	#land policies #land reform #land rights
1992	Affirmative Action Loan Scheme	This enables members of the new elite to acquire land in their own right through subsidised loans from Agribank with some 300 Namibians acquiring their own farms by 2000.	#land acquisitions #investment funds
1997	Decentralisation policy established		#land governance #land use planning
1997	San people of the Hai//om community occupy one of the entrance gates of the Etosha national game park and reclaimed land in the National Park	The Legal Resources Centre in Cape Town prepares a class action on behalf of the San.	#indigenous lands #dispossession
1998	National Land Policy	This 18-page policy document ²¹ comprises 5 sections <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fundamental principles 2. Urban land 3. Rural land 4. General considerations 5. Implementation 	#land policies
1998	Separatist struggles in the Caprivi strip		#conflicts
1998	Poverty reduction strategy for Namibia	This stated that the agricultural base in Namibia was too weak to offer a sustainable basis for prosperity.	#poverty
1998	New approaches in community-based natural resource management involve the establishment of community conservancies	Four community conservancies are established aiming to generate economic returns from wildlife tourism and hunting on communal owned land.	#natural resources management

²¹ (Government of Namibia 1998)

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
1999	The Diamond Act	Namibia produces around 2% of the diamonds worldwide and is among the world top 10 mining producers. A state-owned mining company owns shares in various mining projects and has invested in uranium mining in Namibia. ²²	#mining
2000	Consultants appointed by the Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation identify 5,2 million hectares of un- or underutilised land in communal areas. ²³	Consultants recommended the development of small-scale commercial farms on that land.	
2001	97 farms acquired for land redistribution since 1990 totalling 568 821 ha	<p>6661 families had been resettled since 1990 but only 30% of this total had been resettled on freehold land acquired by government for redistribution.²⁴</p> <p>Absence of baseline data and records since the inception of land reform makes it impossible to monitor the impacts of land reform.</p> <p>Questionable sustainability of resettlement schemes – high levels of state dependency by settlers who include landless returnees, unemployed farm workers and the San.²⁵</p> <p>“Farm labourers seem to be the losers in redistributive land reform”. In most cases they had to leave land acquired for land reform.”²⁶</p> <p>Potential of redistributive land reform to reduce poverty very low. given the arid conditions and large land allocations required.</p>	#land reform #land acquisitions #land allocation

²² (KPMG 2014)

²³ Werner pers comm 2021

²⁴ (Werner 2001: 2)

²⁵ (Werner 2001: 6)

²⁶ (Werner 2001: 7)

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
2002	Communal Land Reform Act 5 of 2002	<p>This act regulates the allocation of rights in respect of communal land and establishes Communal Land Boards “to improve the administration of customary land rights and provide oversight in the granting of leasehold rights”</p> <p>The Act recognises two forms of customary land right – the right to an area in which a person can farm and a residential unit.</p> <p>It also clarifies the powers of chiefs and traditional authorities and boards in relation to communal land.</p> <p>The Act specifically prohibited any form of enclosures of common grazing. However, this section of the act was not implemented, and the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement commenced with the development of small-scale farms in 2003.²⁷</p>	<p>#land law</p> <p>#customary land rights</p> <p>#land allocations</p>
2002	New prime minister, Theo-Ben Gurirab, identifies land reform as a national priority.		#land reform
2003	The Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Amendment Act (No. 14 2003)	<p>This sets out the rights of the Minister to designate any commercial farm for expropriation for the purpose of land redistribution after consultation with the Land Reform Advisory Commission.²⁸</p> <p>The legal owner is entitled to receive just compensation and may appeal against expropriation or compensation awarded in a competent court.</p>	<p>#land law</p> <p>#expropriation</p> <p>#compensation</p>

²⁷ (Werner 2016)

²⁸ (Sippel 2017: 164)

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
2003	Farmworkers and landless people frustrated with the slow pace of land reform warned they will start invading the country's white owned commercial farms.		#landlessness #land rights activists
2004	Namibia puts forward an expropriation programme but makes assurances that this will be conducted in a legal and orderly manner.	The expropriation policy announcement is made by the Prime Minister. The government sought to expropriate commercial farmland owned by foreigners or Namibian nationals presumed to have contravened the law with regard to the protection of farmworkers.	#expropriation #compensation
2005	Government begins expropriation of white owned farms	However, in most instances the expropriation was overturned in court due to procedural errors. It became clear that expropriation would be a contested, slow and expensive process.	#expropriation
2005	Ministry of Land Reform hosts a national stakeholders conference to propose amendments to the Communal Land Reform Act	70 stakeholders reviewed the Act proposing 55 resolutions of which 30 were adopted, although not all of these made their way into the new Land Bill 's first tabled five years later in 2010 ²⁹	#land policy #common lands
2005	Land tenure policy approved by the Minister but remains in draft form.	Proposals to establish customary land user associations to oversee land use in communal areas were rejected.	#land tenure
2007	The Environmental Management Act	This act also applies to the mining industry	#environment
2008	the Ministry of Land Reform initiated consultative processes to obtain community inputs to shape the drafting	Concerns were raised about the close nature of the consultation process "which did not provide much space for new land issues to be raised during the consultations". ³⁰	#land policies

²⁹ (Werner 2017)

³⁰ (Werner 2017: 3)



Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
	of a new Land Bill tabled at a national consultative conference workshop	Key gaps included the restoration of ancestral rights and the protection of commonage use rights. On land issues ethnicity and class divides increasingly overlay those of race in Namibian society. ³¹	
2010	Draft Land Bill tabled at a national consultative conference workshop and subsequently in the National Assembly.	The Bill seeks to consolidate legislation dealing with land reform and communal land in Namibia. Government considers proposals to establish Rural Land Management Areas and commissions research to identify weaknesses of existing structures. ³²	#land policies
2011	Namibia population is 2.1 million people	The urban population grows by 49.7% since the 1991 census. A process to develop a national urban policy was started in the late 2000's but the process has been slow and inconclusive.	#urbanisation #urban planning
2011	National climate change policy		#climate change
2012	Flexible Land Tenure Act	This Act was passed in 2012 but regulations were only published in May 2018. The Act provides for starter and land hold title schemes on land situated within the boundaries of a municipality, town or village council. This Act enables the holder of a starter title right to erect and occupy a dwelling on the site, bequeath or transfer the rights to others.	#land law #land tenure systems #land registration
2012	Rural Development Policy	This focuses mainly on economic development, while also identifying the need to address the rural housing challenge.	#rural development
2012	The Namibian government starts in earnest to develop in excess of 700 surveyed farms on communal land in	The programme has financial support from Germany	

³¹ (Gargallo 2010)

³²5

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
	Kavango East and West and Zambezi regions		
2012	Nomadic Himba people protest against construction of a large dam in north-western Namibia	These protests started in the early 1990s.	#dispossession #indigenous peoples #indigenous land rights
2012	By the end of 2012 at least 22.2% of commercial farmland had been redistributed.	In the communal areas 80,352 customary land rights had been registered.	#land reform
2013	A special Cabinet Committee on land and related matters was established	This was tasked with making proposals and recommendations relating to all legal aspects of an effective land acquisition process. A total of 89 resolutions were put forward which were adopted by Cabinet in February 2015	#Land policies
2013	Namibia suffers the worst drought in a generation. Drought continues into 2016 resulting in massive deaths of livestock		#climate change
2013	A mass urban housing development programme is launched.	This planned to build 185,000 houses throughout the country at a cost N\$45 billion.	#urbanisation
2014	The social movement Affirmative Repositioning (AR) organises around the issue of unaffordable urban housing ³³	AR demands 200,000 plots of serviced urban land to be made available for housing.	#urbanisation #housing rights
2015	Mass Urban Land Servicing Programme	This was launched in 2015 with the intention to service 180,000 erven of land countrywide.	#human settlements
2016	Halt of the mass housing development programme	The programme was reportedly stopped due to irregularities.	

³³ (Isbell, Alweendo, and Moosa 2019)

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
2016	National land use planning policy	This sought to put in place consistent and transparent land use planning procedures from local to regional and national level. Namibia signs the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat 3 conference in Ecuador committing it to action on national urbanisation and housing development.	#land use planning
2016	The Minister of Land Reform tables Land Bill in the National Assembly	The aim of the bill is to consolidate and amend the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act (No 6 of 1995) and The Communal Land Reform Act (No. 5 of 2002). The objective of the Act is to “ensure that land all land in Namibia has the same status” ³⁴ The Bill was subsequently withdrawn 2 weeks footnote ³⁵ Critics highlight the absence of up-to-date land policy as a basis for drafting legislation. The original 1997 land policy regarded as being out of date and unable to anticipate the many changes in Namibian society – particularly rapid urbanisation and its implications for land policy. They drew attention to the politics of not making policy highlighting a number of unresolved and contentious issues which were being skirted in the process including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the restitution of ancestral land rights • the need to create a land market in the small-scale farming sector • failure to provide guidelines on the enclosure of communal land and the protection of customary land rights of communities to grazing land 	# land law #land policy

³⁴ (Werner 2017)

³⁵ (Werner 2017)

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
		Critics argue that one of the reasons why these issues have not been addressed is that “the main constituency of the ruling party and the majority of the Namibian population have never been dispossessed despite political claims to the contrary”. ³⁶	
2016/17	Political conflict between the Deputy Minister Bernadus Swartbooi and the Minister of Land Reform Utoni Nujoma, son of the first Namibian President	The Deputy Minister is subsequently dismissed and expelled from the ruling party. He forms a Landless People’s Movement attracting criticism of Namibian President that ‘failed politicians’ were mobilising around the land issue in search of personal gain. “The President accused those critical of resettlement practices and demanding restitution of being guilty of tribalism, playing with people’s emotions and warned that they might even instigate a civil war”.	#land policy #conflicts
2017	National Policy on Utilisation and Subdivision of Agricultural Land	A consultative process is initiated to develop a national policy.	#land subdivision
2017	Namibia population 2.3 million		
2017	There are now 84 communal conservancies in Namibia	More than 200,000 people living on 19.8% of the total land in Namibia live on established conservancies which comprise 53% of communal land. ³⁷	#natural resources management
2018	50% of Namibia’s population of urbanised	Two out of every 3 people in an urban area in an informal settlement. The growth of informal settlements has taken place “in a remarkably organised manner compared to conditions observed in neighbouring countries”. ³⁸ Almost 67% of employment lies within the informal sector with Namibia having experienced largely jobless growth	#urbanisation #urban population

³⁶ (Werner 2017: 4)

³⁷ (Natrass 2020)

³⁸ (Lühl and Delgado 2018: 6)

Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
2018	The Urban and Regional Planning Act is promulgated	A national spatial development framework is developed as a structure plan at a national level. Legislation has potential to enable municipalities to accelerate the upgrading of informal settlements and address the issue of land tenure in urban contexts. ³⁹	#urban planning
2018	A National Informal Settlement Upgrading Strategy in development	Pilots are planned in some local authorities	#informal settlements
2018	The Namibian National Statistics Agency published a booklet on land statistics in preparation of the Second land Conference. The number of households resettled from 2002-2018 was 1,030. A total of 648 farms were bought under the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme totalling 3,407 million hectares. The total amount of land transferred to previously disadvantaged Namibians under both legs of land reform falls far short of the target for redistribution of 15 million hectares by 2020. ⁴⁰	70 per cent of a total of 12,380 commercial farms were still owned by whites, while 250 of these were under foreign (mainly German, followed by South African) ownership. Until 2018, the government had purchased 496 farms for resettlement – allocating them to over 5,000 beneficiaries A total of 8.2 million hectares (20.6 per cent of the farmland in private hands) had been offered to the state since 1992, of which only about 37 per cent (slightly more than three million hectares) were bought. ⁴¹ Classified as “previously disadvantaged,” many members of the political and bureaucratic elite received preferential treatment and were enabled to access land.	#land ownership #land use
2018	Second National Land Conference	Civil society organisations threatened to boycott this conference given the dominance of state authorities and allegations of an agenda hijacked by the ruling party.	#land policy #conflicts

³⁹ (Karuaihe 2019) and

⁴⁰ Werner pers comm 2021

⁴¹ Allgemeine Zeitung (2018) in Melber (2019:76)



Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
		The resolutions passed by the conference were modified versions of those taken at the first land reform conference with the exception of the inclusion of the demand for land for housing of urban informal settlement dwellers – some 1 million people or 40% of Namibia’s total population. Resolutions also included a recommendation to establish a Presidential Commission of Enquiry on Ancestral Land.	
2018	Namibian Pres calls for change to the Constitution enabling expropriation of land for redistribution		#expropriation
2019	informal settlement study	85% of the informal settlers in Windhoek do not own the land they occupy. Most have limited access to municipal services	#informal settlements
2019	The Landless People’s movement formally registered as a political party	A focus on the return of ancestral lands through land redistribution.	#landlessness
	Land reform is identified as one of the three most important problems in Namibia with a particular focus on access to land in urban areas.	Government resettlement programme criticised in the Afro barometer survey with 56% indicating that the programme is not very effective or not at all effective in redistributing land to those who need it most. ⁴²	#land reform #poverty #urban areas
2019	Following the Second Land Conference the government establishes a Commission of Inquiry into Ancestral Land Rights and Restitution		
2020	The Commission of Inquiry into Ancestral Land Rights and Restitution publishes its report .	The report is not publicly released until after its content was leaked	

⁴² (Isbell, Alweendo, and Moosa 2019: 5)



Year	Event	Context	LandVoc concepts
2020	Arable land accounts for only 1% of Namibia while half of the population derive their livelihoods from agriculture. Wildlife conservancies also provide important sources of income	International travel restrictions associated with the coronavirus pandemic of 2020 threatens to push Namibia’s community conservancies into debt. Without donor assistance, “many if not all of the wildlife resources currently living within the conservancies will come under threat” ⁴³ However questions remain about how equitably income derived from the conservancies is distributed and the extent to which this has become another site of elite capture.	#land use #natural resources management

⁴³ (Nattrass 2020: 18)



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