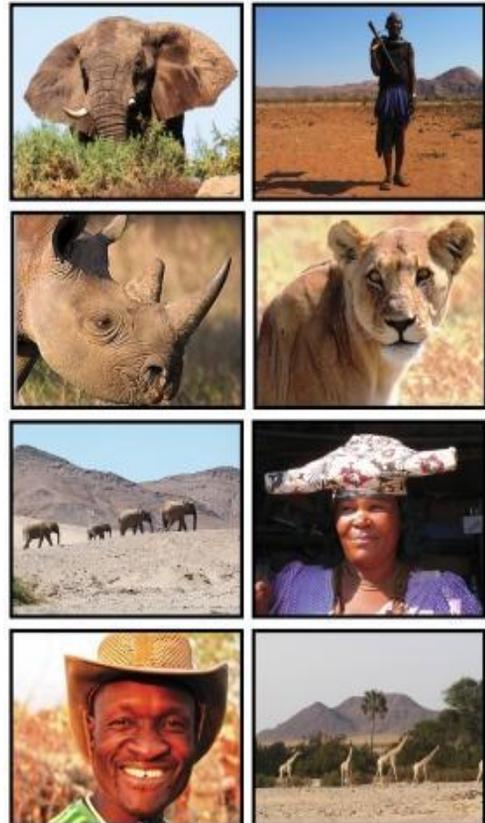




2012 – PROGRESS REPORT

For the first year of operation, TOSCO successfully met the 4 goals set and added a new one:

- Informative brochure for self drivers
 - “NO ENTRY” signboards
 - Desert Lion Conservation Project
- Human/Lion conflict mitigation in the Huab valley
 - “Lion/livestock guards” pilot project



Informative brochure for self-drivers

2 000 brochures sponsored

• Distributed to 2 car rental companies members of TOSCO:

- Asco Car Hire
- Africa 4x4 rentals

• Included in the “Brochures Namibia self-drive package”

• Distributed to guides who will hand them to self-drivers met on tour

➤ Multilingual versions on request and downloadable on the website for roadbooks

➤ Project to be renewed in 2013 at a bigger scale, including brochure distribution to non-TOSCO members



**Important Information for Self Drivers
traveling in Remote Wilderness Areas**

It is a privilege to still be able to travel in such unspoilt areas like Damaraland, Kaokoveld, Caprivi... and with that privilege comes great responsibility. There are essential rules to follow which will help conserve these sensitive areas for years to come and which will at the same time respect the local communities living in them.

- Do not sleep in river beds - this may disturb the wildlife as well be hazardous for your own safety (dangerous animals and flash floods).
- Only camp in designated areas/campsites and use the community campsites wherever possible - the local people have accepted that they live in close proximity to potentially dangerous animals. Help support these communities benefit from tourism by paying the requested campsite fees, so that the impact of conflicts with wildlife can be minimized - it is a win-win situation. By using the designated campsites you also minimize pollution and additional ecological damages.
- Do not camp within 2km of any spring/waterhole - this may prevent wildlife travelling vast distances from drinking at these sources, or alternatively it could put you in an unnecessary dangerous situation if the wildlife gets too close.
- Get to your campsite before dark and do not walk about at night - this is for your own safety.
- Always cover the ashes from your fire with a shovel - this will reduce the chances of a bush-fire.
- Only use well-marked tracks and NEVER create a new one - this prevents visual pollution and ecological damages, as the area does not receive enough rain for tracks to get recovered.
- Do not take a road if you do not know where it leads - even if you have a GPS along, make sure you find out before traveling how long it usually takes to drive a stretch of road in your planned route. In this wild terrain, a distance of a mere 30-40km can take 7-8 hours!

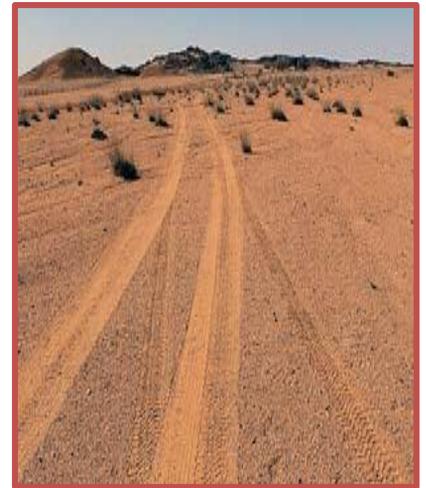
(081) 453 5855 / info@tosco.org / www.tosco.org



“No Entry” signboards

11 signboards sponsored

- Tourism is an important industry in Namibia and has even been suggested as playing a fundamental part of wildlife conservation and rural development. However, uncontrolled tourism could potentially damage the industry and spoil the very product that it is based on.
- Namibian and Non-Namibian registered vehicles illegally enter sensitive areas like the Skeleton Coast Park on an alarmingly regular basis. The vehicles do not follow the existing roads and leave damaging tracks on sensitive gravel plains that will be visible for many years to come.
- When caught driving illegally in restricted areas, transgressors often claim that they are lost.



“No entry” signboards are essential to avoid further irresponsible drivers from following the tracks entering restricted areas.

31 Jan 2013. **No Entry.** A "No Entry" sign, donated by TOSCO, was mounted at the border of the Skeleton Coast Park in the Hoanib River. The "Terrace Male" has now moved furthest south towards the Huab River since 7 Aug 2012, when he left the area.



Human/Lion conflict mitigation in the Huab valley

1 lion-proof kraal sponsored

- Research findings indicate that the lions move between the Huab and Springbok Rivers, and possibly as far south as the Ugab River. The lions have not yet identified with the “stable” food source of the livestock (e.g. becoming habitual “problem lions”). But, if something is not done soon to protect the livestock from the lions and they continue killing livestock, the lions will become habitual livestock killers.

- In the Huab River, Torra Conservancy, an opportunity has presented itself for a novel approach to address all the above mentioned points in an effort to solve a HLC problem, save the lions from being shot and promote the tourism value of lions.

- Part of this approach is the necessity of building a lion proof kraal to protect the cattle that TOSCO has organized

- This is not a standard approach that has been tried and tested. It is a novel idea to address a Human Wildlife Conflict problem by involving all the interested parties: the local community, the tourism industry and a local research project.



- If it succeeds the program could potentially become a blue-print that can be implemented elsewhere in the Kunene Region.



Kraal in building process

Desert Lion Conservation project

1 female satellite collar and 5 camera traps sponsored

- The provision of suitable satellite collars plays a vital role to better understand lion behavior. The collars could also play a role as an early warning system for the farmers and herdsman in areas that were prone to human-predator conflict as a result of lions killing livestock as a source of food.

- This contribution will therefore be another major boost for the project in that it has enabled the purchase of a new satellite collar as well as pre-paid air time for 2 years. Dr Stander has identified an appropriate lioness (XPL-70, picture on the right below) posing a potential threat to the livelihood of the farmers and by attaching this collar, this will hopefully avert the inevitable livestock losses and subsequent elimination of the desert adapted lions as the necessary precautionary steps can be put into place in time to prevent these.



- The satellite collar provided to the Desert Lion Conservation was fitted to Xpl-70 - a lioness of the Okongwe Pride - on 17 Feb 2013. The daily movements of Xpl-70 can be viewed on the Desert Lion website under the Hoanib Pride (along with the movements of "Rosh" Xpl-73): http://www.desertlion.info/gpscollars/gps_73.html. This will significantly anticipate local conflict with communities and make a real positive difference on the field.



Thank you for helping to protect our lions and on a daily basis you can follow the movements of various lion prides and much more by connecting to www.desertlion.info

“Lion Guards” pilot project

- 4 lion guards salaries, 4 tents, 2 torches
- 1 laptop donated to Sesfontein Conservancy for lion follow up through satellite collar on desertlion.info

- This year’s very poor rainfall in the west of Kunene Region has dramatically increased the potential for conflict between stockowners and lions in conservancies
- The immediate problems are at Elephantsong in the Hoanib valley and in the Gomatum valley near Purros.
- The only areas that still contain some grazing are in these areas of high potential conflict. People have no choice but to take their livestock into these two areas. After much discussion, it was decided to assist the communities by providing several paid lion guards at these sites. Their duties would be to monitor the lions in these areas and to serve as early warning. This is seen as a short term venture and will be evaluated after six months. It is likely that some rain will have fallen by then and the situation will have changed.

TOSCO in partnership with the IRDNC, Desert Lion Conservation and the concerned Conservancies financed the salaries of the first “lion guards” salaries and equipped them with tents and torches. The TOU trust also participated to the funding.



Full report available on request

FUNDS 2012

FUNDS MANAGEMENT	
INCOME	
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS	
annual memberships	22 500,0
extra donations	28 600,0
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS	6 379,4
OTHER TRUSTS/ORGANIZATION	31 900,0
TOTAL	89 379,4
PROJECTS & EXPENSES	
Bank services	2 253,8
Brochures TOSCO	2 869,0
Deed of trust	6 378,2
Car stickers	781,2
NO ENTRY signboards	4 368,5
LIONESS satellite collar and download fees	31 900,0
HUAB KRAAL building materials	11 468,6
LION/LIVESTOCK GUARDS	19 000,0
SELF DRIVERS BROCHURES	2 397,8
TOTAL	81 417,0

The positive balance of 7 962.4 will be carried forward to the 2013/2014 Tax year



SUPPORT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



www.irdnc.org.na

Trustees: Clara Bohitile, Andrew Corbett, Dr Margaret Jacobsohn, Brian Jones, Leonard le Roux, Garth Owen-Smith, Gideon Shilongo



22 February 2013, WINDHOEK

To Tosco Trust

I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Tosco Trust for the support offered to conservation in Namibia's north-west. Although a "young" organization, Tosco has already most certainly made a difference.

The support of the lion guardian initiative in particular needs to be highlighted. The contribution to monthly salary for guardian and the substantial equipment purchased allowed this urgent remedial action to be implemented extremely quickly. This in turn has contributed to greater tolerance and understanding by communities, a significant achievement indeed.

One of Tosco's strengths must be the speed with which it responds to issues and requests! Requests for assistance to funding organizations are often bogged down by bureaucracy and time consuming red tape, which tends to dilute the effect of responses at grass roots levels. Tosco is refreshingly unencumbered by such problems.

Congratulations and thank you for your committed support.

Yours in conservation,

Russell Vinjevold

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THE WAY FORWARD 2013

Participate in responsible travel

- The professional membership for tourism operators remain 1500N\$ for 2013
- The individual membership is opened to any amount
- **A « Donation » category will be opened to the private and the public with 4 classifications:**
 - < 3 000N\$ *Caracal*
 - < 5 000N\$ *Cheetah*
 - < 10 000N\$ *Leopard*
 - > 10 000N\$ *Lion*

Under this category 100% of the donation goes to the supported project. The admin fees and emergency fund will be covered by a small percentage of the professional membership.

- **For 2013, below project's have been selected:**
 - Desert Lion & Elephant conservation
 - Caprivi Carnivore project
 - « Lion guards » to anticipate Human/Lion conflict
 - Informative brochures for self drivers
 - « Off-road damage control» with the MET
 - Collaboration with « Save the Rhino Trust »
- **Guidelines for good practice in tourism will be accessible** to the professional and individual members.
- TOSCO is communication platform between the tourism industry, the conservation projects and the communal Conservancies; do not hesitate to get into it to share your views, ask questions, report good and bad behaviour from the field etc...
- TOSCO is now an approved [NACSO](#) member



TOSCO Trust – Reg. No. T86/12

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BUDGET 2013

Research		Conserving flagship species does not only make sense for sustainable purposes but will also give you privileged time with associate experts when met on the field.
DESERT LION & ELEPHANT CONSERVATION		
Desert lion		
1 lion satellite collar	20000	
2 years downloading fees	10000	
Desert elephant		
Vehicle repair and maintenance	16000	
petrol	16000	
CAPRIVI CARNIVORE PROJECT		
GPS and infra red camera	5000	
People		Anticipate conflict by adding value to the lions, develop your relation with communities and benefit from their knowledge.
LION GUARDS		
1*locomotion (horse)	6000	
2*salaries for 6 months	14400	
Generator to maintain waterhole for cattle	7500	
Environment		Improve the landscape and join the MET for some days in restricted areas.
OFF ROAD CONTROL		
Cleanup with MET, 2 cars for 2000km	8000	
General awerensess		Inform the tourists about making their visit positive for the people & the environment.
SELF DRIVE BROCHURE		
Printing 5000 brochures	3248,75	
TOTAL	106149	



Participate in responsible travel