

Declaration on applying for TOSCO membership

I do hereby declare that:

- I have read and understood the Constitution of TOSCO;
- I agree with and will endeavour to promote the objectives of the Constitution;
- I support and will abide by the core values of TOSCO; and
- I wish to work in a collaborative and constructive manner with other Members and the broader community to promote these objectives and values.

I understand that any actions I or my organisation undertake that violate the objectives, core values, and interests of TOSCO, and that bring its name into disrepute, could result in my Membership of TOSCO being terminated.

TOSCO's goal

The goal of TOSCO is to facilitate the investment of resources from the tourism sector into conservation and sustainable development programmes, projects, and initiatives to safeguard Namibia's biodiversity, landscapes, and environment, and to support communities in managing these assets for present and future generations.

Main objects of TOSCO:

- Provide tourism businesses with a platform to link travel to positive conservation outcomes;
- Create a fund to invest in priority conservation and sustainable development programmes and projects;
- Support rural communities in sustainably managing their wildlife, biodiversity, and landscapes;
- Assist communities and households in better managing human-wildlife conflict;
- Provide information to rural communities on the importance of a healthy environment for tourism;
- Explore ways for tourism to benefit rural communities, particularly at the household level;
- Share information with the tourism sector on environmentally sustainable and socially acceptable tourism practices.

Further objects of TOSCO:

- Act as a consultative forum for its Members;
- Develop an approach that fosters, unites, and engages national, regional, and international partners and entities in a professional manner to support the objects of TOSCO;
- Promote and advocate for best practices in tourism and community support by engaging government and lawmakers to enact, amend, repeal, and implement policies, legislation, strategies, action plans, pilot projects, guidelines, and targets;
- Engage with organisations operating within similar geographic and sector spaces to facilitate cooperation, collaboration, and synergistic approaches to conservation, community engagement, and sustainable development;
- Encourage joint action programming among partners and be a reliable partner;
- Represent the interests of TOSCO and its Members to the Namibian public, the government, communities, businesses, and investors/donors at agreed platforms or forums;
- Contribute to the development of skills, expertise, and mentoring of young Namibians for the promotion of tourism-based conservation;
- Establish itself as a reputable and credible organisation dealing with tourism support to conservation and sustainable development in Namibia.

Core values of TOSCO

TOSCO subscribes to the following core values, guiding the actions of the Association, its representatives, and Members:

- Upholding the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Namibian Constitution and the laws of Namibia;
- In areas of mutual interest, supporting the conservation and sustainable development missions, goals, and objectives of the relevant ministries responsible for sustainable tourism, rural development, poverty alleviation, CBNRM, biodiversity and landscape management, wildlife protection, and conservation;
- Applying best practices in all aspects of TOSCO's work, ensuring the highest possible care and welfare by the tourism sector for environmental management and community engagement;
- Developing the skills, expertise, and mentoring of Namibians in the interface between tourism and conservation, community development, and sound environmental management;
- Political and ideological neutrality;
- Transparency, non-discrimination, and inclusiveness.

Responsible Tourism Pledge:

By signing this declaration, I hereby commit to the attached pledge.

Signed: **Place:** **Date:**