

# HUAB LION MANAGEMENT PLAN



The long-term conservation of desertadapted lions in the Kunene Region of Namibia is dependant on collecting sound data on their ecology & behavior, implementing successful strategies for the management of Human Lion Conflict (HLC) and promoting sustainable utilization activities, such as "ecotourism", to generate benefits to the local inhabitants.



# Huab lion management plan





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 at Krone Pos (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.



# **Background**

The background to the problem at Krone, Slang Pos and De Riet in the Huab River can be summarized by several recent developments.

- 1) Wilderness Safaris Adventure camp in Krone area + Damaraland Camp + local guided and self drive tours attract a lot of visitors.
- 2) Members of the Torra Conservancy established a new cattle post at Krone Pos where large numbers of cattle and goats are being kept.
- 3) Several lions (at least one male, two females and eight cubs) have moved into the area.
- 4) The lions have already approached Krone Pos and they have killed a number of cattle and donkeys.



## **Proposed solution**

The presence of the lions in the area is of great value to the tourism industry as a whole, but particularly to Wilderness Safaris (Damaraland Camp & Krone Camp), and to the Torra Conservancy, because of the financial benefits they receive from the tourism industry. It would therefore appear to be in the interest of all parties to find an amicable solution to the problem. A solution that prevents the further killing of livestock by the lions, allowing the lions to settle in the area and thus increase the tourism. potential of the area, and one that involves the Torra Conservancy in the monitoring of the lions.



# The suggested activities and objectives of this program are listed below.

- 1) 2 lion-proof boma (kraal) must be built at Slang Pos and De Riet.
- 2) The TOSCO Trust will raise the funding to pay for the structure
- 3) The Desert Lion Conservation will advise on the design and structure of the enclosure.
- 4) The structure must be built by the occupants of Krone Pos and Torra Conservancy, and advice from the Desert Lion Project.
- 5) The Torra Conservancy should agree that the livestock will be kept inside the protective enclosure at night.
- 6) The Desert Lion Project will provide training to selected members of the Torra Conservancy on the monitoring of the lions & management of the livestock in the enclosure.
- 7) In the event that this program succeeds, a radio telemetry receiver will be provided by the Desert Lion Project that will allow the Torra Conservancy to locate and monitor the movements of the lions on a regular basis. This could also potentially benefit the tourism activities.







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### **Eco-tourism experience**

• Between 11 and 22 July 2012 much progress was made with the development of lion eco-tourism in the Huab River. In addition to monitoring the Huab Pride and collecting ecological data, an effort was made to lead tourist vehicles to the lions and to provide advice that will lead to the tourists seeing the lions. This was done during 15 sessions (either early morning or late afternoon) on 11 days.





•A total of 24 vehicles and 136 tourists approached the lions (15 Wilderness Safaris vehicles & 9 private vehicles) at an average of 1.6 vehicles per session (max = 3). The success rate was surprisingly high as 73% (n = 99) of the tourists saw the lions during 80% of the sessions. Between 1 and 11 lions were observed at an average of 3.7 lions per session (n = 44 lions).











### Desert Lion Conservation Huab Lion Eco-tourism Project



It is essential that this form be completed every time an attempt is made to locate & view the lions, even if they were not located or observed.

Name	Date	Time		Time		Effort duration (hours) <sup>1</sup>
		AM	PM			
Area:				GPS2:		

No. & type of Vehicles	No. of Tourists	Notes on Tour Group

Locate	Spoor	Radio	Satellite	Chance	Lion	Visual	
Method	Tracking	Telemetry	Position	Visual	Project	Y	N

No. of lions (age/sex)	Distance (m)3	Lion response to vehicles							
		Aggres- Mov		e Agit	ated	Relaxed			
		sive	off	We	ary	Calm			
Duration of sighting 4		Quality of sighting (0 = poor; 5 = excellent)							
		1	2	3	4	5			

Lion behaviour: 5	
General notes:	

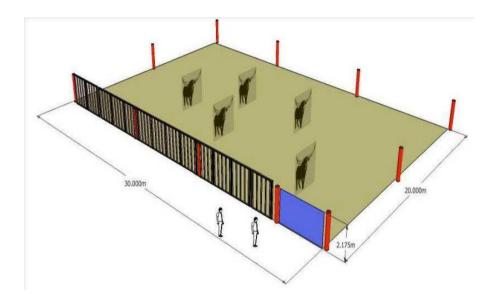
#### Explanations

- <sup>1</sup> Effort Duration: Total number of hours spent searching for, and viewing lions.
- <sup>2</sup>GPS: Use decimal degree setting & map datum WGS 84.
- <sup>3</sup> Distance: The estimated distance (in metres) between the vehicle and the lions.
- <sup>4</sup>Duration of sighting: The estimated time that the lion(s) were observed.
- <sup>5</sup> Lion behaviour: Describe the behaviour of the lions, including predation (species, age & sex of prey).



### Conclusion

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.



While a lion management plan is being developed in close partnership with local communities, TOSCO has created a fund that will be addressed to assist this program and anticipate to human/wildlife conflict in this area.



# **Quotation per Kraal**

#### Kraal dimensions: 30 x 40 metres.

<u>Tar (gum) poles:</u> length = 3 metres x 49 poles. <u>Diamond mesh:</u> height = 3 metres x 140 metres.

Steel wire x 1 roll (sufficient for several additional kraals).

Medium thickness binding wire x 1 roll (sufficient for several additional kraals).

Extra thin binding wire x 1 roll (sufficient for several additional kraals).

<u>Metal farm gates</u>: length = 2.4 metres x 2 gates.

Threaded rods (12-15mm x 1 metre) with nuts x 10.

<u>Wire-straining tool</u> x 1 (to be used for the construction of all future kraals).

<u>Large-size Crescent fencing pliers</u> x 4 (to be used for the construction of all future kraals).

#### AGRA CO-OPERATIVE LTD

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DOCUMENT NUMBER 75/KBR00037675

MCR Reg# 23/07/2012

Windhoek 9 Bessemer Sta Windhoek Namibia 9000

Tel. nr./no 061 290933 Faks/Fex 061 2909320

#### OUOTE FIXED PRICES

Thank you for the opportunity to quote. Herewith our quote for the following:

Statement Date: 07/2012

Quantity	Item # & De	scription	SPrice-Excl	VAT	Incl Value	Stat
49.000	81306	POLE R CR 3.0MK125-150MM	162.38	1,193.57	9,150.60	COM
10.000	S1234	DIAMOND MESH 1800X50X2WM	963.52	1,445.28	11,080.48	CON
1.000	81354	WIRE L/GALV STEEL ROUND 2MM SKG	64.66	9.70	74.35	CON
1.000	S1231	WIRE L/GALV 200 5MG NO.14 201M	63.61	9.54	73.15	CON
1.000	S1232	WIRD L/GALV 1, SHM SKQ NO.16 317M	65.57	9.84	75.41	COM
2.000	81020	OATE 2400X1200 HEAVY 42X2MM	457.06	137.12	1,051.24	CON
1.000	P4698	TECHNAX THREADED RODS 12MMX1M	17.46	2.62	20.08	CON
1.000	F1627	WIRE STRAINER MONKEY	1,156.52	173.48	1,330.00	CON
4.000	P1545	PLIER FENCING 300MM CRESENT	328.26	196.96	1.510.00	COM
10.000	C1652	BACKNUTS GALV 12MM	2.44	3.66	28.06	COM
			Total	3,181.75	24,393.45	

Period: 23/07/2012 till 22/09/2012

QUOTATION is subject to availability of stock





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# **Community request & approval**

TORRA CONSERVANCY P.O BOX 462 KHORIXAS NAMIBIA

#### TOSCO Fund

#### RE: Building community kraals

We, the management of Torra Conservancy with an objective of sustainable conservation, aiming to generate income through tourism projects, would like to put our humble requests to your institution to support us on Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation methods, e.g. in building protective kraals in affected areas, such as in the Huab Lion area.

Herewith,

We request TOSCO Trust (Reg. No. T86/12) to organize the Lion proof Kraal project on our behalf within the Huab Valley.

Yours in Community Development, Torra Conservancy

Bennie Roman

Vice Treasure Jantije Rhyn............

TORRA CONSERVANCY P.O BOX 462 KHORIXAS NAMIBIA

To Whom It May Concern THE MANAGER/ PROJECT DIRECTOR

#### RE: Building community kraals

Wc, the management of Torra Conservancy with an objective of sustainable conservation, aiming to generate income through tourism projects, would like to put our humble requests to your institution to support us on Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation methods, e.g. in building protective kraals in affected areas, such as in the Huab Lion area. We are also willing to experiment with the development of effective Herding methods that goes hand in hand with the effective Kraaling systems. Our goal is to develop effective HWC solutions that are revolutionary. Solutions that can then be adopted by all members affected by Wildlife conflict in Torra! And also by other conscrvancies.

At present our focus is on the development of effective anti-Lion predation methods within the Huab Valley. This area will be used to try different experimental methods. To see which is the most effective unti-predator systems. Then these systems can be adopted/copied by other areas that have problems with predators. We also seek ways in educating the communities affected to find local solutions. And also to help with monitoring of lion movement and development of early alert-systems.

With the erection of the Kraal we belief that the predation on the domestic animals will be prevented by a big percentage. But the possibility of livestock loss still exists. Where loss does occur we will investigate the reason behind the loss and find ways of preventing the same loss if possible. When a loss occur within the Huab Valley all stakeholders must be contacted this will be Torra( and the headman of Fonteine, De Riet), Wilderness Safaris Damaraland Camp( Johann or Lena ), The Desert Lion Project( Dr. Phillip Stander) and TOSCO( Felix), to look at re-imbursement of livestock lost and what action to be taken.

Yours in Community Development, Torra Conservancy

Chairman

Bennie Roman

Vice Treasure Jantjie Rhyn.



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