

Travel responsibly the Namibian way.



2019 Activity Report



TOSCO Trust (Tourism Supporting Conservation) is a Namibian non-profit organisation connecting tourism to conservation and communities for the benefit of all.

It thrives to ensure that visiting Namibia's wild places remains as enjoyable in the future as it is now.



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Preserving wildlife through a social, scientific and economic development approach.

TOSCO acknowledge the continuous support and cooperation from our strategic partners, members and volunteers; thank you for your dedication and commitment towards ensuring that Namibia's wilderness remains enjoyable by all in the future.

Tourism is amongst the fastest growing industries in the world and in Namibia in particular. Travelling to natural areas can either leave a detrimental effect on the environment or it can be done in a sustainable manner which not only helps to conserve the environment but also support the well being of local people.

This is precisely what we do at TOSCO and it is our pleasure to hereby present our 2019 Activity Report.

The objective of this report is to provide a synthesis of all the programs we supported in 2019. There are divided in 4 main areas: research sponsoring, supporting people living with wildlife, raising public awareness and clean travel.

All of us who enjoy Namibia's natural resources and who wish to contribute to its preservation are welcome on board!





**DESERT LION
CONSERVATION**

www.desertlion.info

DESERT LION CONSERVATION

Desert Lion Conservation is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the research and conservation of desert-adapted lions in Northwest Namibia. Its main focus is to collect important baseline ecological data on a unique population of desert-adapted lions, studying their behaviour, biology and adaptation to the arid environment.

The desert-adapted lions or "desert lions" form a unique population of lions that can survive without water for extended periods, obtaining moisture from the blood of their prey. They can also travel extraordinary distances through barren terrains in search of food. In recent years certain prides at the Skeleton Coast rediscovered marine life as a source of food, including Cape fur seals and cormorants.

TOSCO has contributed to the running costs of Desert Lion Conservation for their continued research.

Sponsorship: N\$ 15 750.00

"TOSCO's very generous contributions are a major boost for the project. I am pleasantly surprised to see how successful TOSCO has become and what real contribution you have made towards conservation in Namibia. Well done and keep up the good work!"

- Dr. Philip Stander

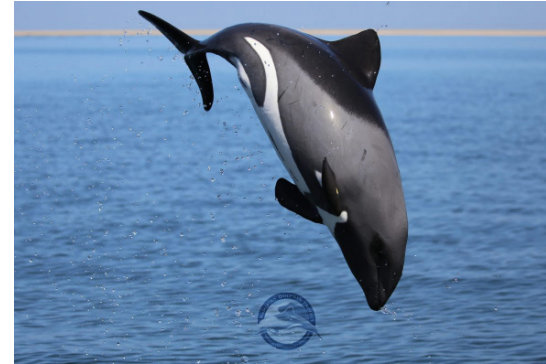
NAMIBIAN DOLPHIN PROJECT

The Namibian Dolphin Project (NDP) conducts research on the dolphins and whales living in the Namibian waters, acquiring high quality data that is useful to both science and conservation management. Not much is known about Namibia's cetaceans, so they gather baseline population level data including abundance, behavior and distribution. NDP also has education projects, focussed on both the marine tourism industry and Namibian schools.

TOSCO supported NDP by a general contribution as well as a fundraising campaign, in order to acquire a new vehicle. The vehicle is central to the projects as it is used to get to the strandings and rescues of whales, dolphins and other marine wildlife, as well as to attend meetings and get to education events. TOSCO and NDP hosted an online crowdfunding. TOSCO also organised a number of yoga sessions in Windhoek and Walvis Bay.

Sponsorship: N\$ 116 250.00

"The Namibian Dolphin Project has conducted research on the whales and dolphins of Namibia since 2008. Much of our work has been focused on the impact of tourism activities on these animals so a partnership with TOSCO was a natural progression for us. TOSCO's support of our work has allowed us to maintain key equipment like our research boat, and 4x4 vehicle and they played a key role in the funding and development of our new Marine Education Centre in Walvis Bay. We greatly appreciate the support that TOSCO has provided us over the last few years and really look forward to seeing what develops from our on-going relationship!"
-Simon Elwen PhD (Director of NDP)





Leibniz Institute for Zoo
and Wildlife Research

NATIONAL CHEETAH SURVEY

Since September 2015, the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research of Berlin (IZW) together with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, has carried out a cheetah survey across Namibia to estimate the density of cheetah populations in different habitats throughout the country.

The overall aim is to estimate the total population size using empirical data collected through collaring of free-ranging cheetahs. The data collected from the GPS collars is then used to identify marking sites where to set the camera traps and run capture-recapture studies.

TOSCO sponsored the National Cheetah survey, led by Ruben Portas and Joerg Melzheimer, with 300 rechargeable batteries with the support of Varta Consumer Batteries Namibia.

Sponsorship: N\$ 10 000.00

"Thank you TOSCO and Varta Consumer Batteries Namibia for sponsoring 300 rechargeable batteries for the Namibian Cheetah Survey run by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism Namibia and the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research of Berlin. This project estimates the density of Cheetah across different habitats in Namibia using methods such as the capture and GPS collaring of free-ranging cheetahs and camera traps set at marking sites".

- Ruben Portas

DESERT ELEPHANT CONSERVATION

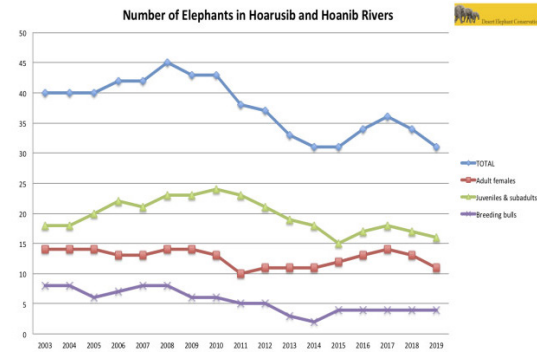
Desert Elephant Conservation promotes the long-term conservation of Namibia's desert elephant population through research, monitoring, and the sharing of knowledge with relevant stakeholders. The desert elephants of Namibia's Kunene Region are a distinctive population adapted to live in an extremely arid environment.

These elephants are one of only two populations of "desert" elephants in the world (the other being in Mali). They are a unique "ecotype" rather than a subspecies of elephant as they adapted to this extreme environment through learning behaviour, rather than genetic adaptations.

Due to historic over-hunting, wartime poaching and ongoing elephant-human conflict, the range of the desert elephants has been reduced to only five subpopulations.

There are approximately 150 desert elephants remaining in total.

TOSCO was actively involved with sponsoring the running costs for the project, including field, vehicle and laboratory expenses, community education and outreach activities.



Sponsorship: N\$ 76 097.24

"We especially thank Wilderness Wildlife Trust and TOSCO for continued support."
- Dr. Laura Brown



Desert Elephant Conservation



NORTH WEST LION MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2017, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism approved the Human-Lion Conflict Management Plan for North West Namibia, developed by Dr. Philip Stander and Desert Lion Conservation Trust, with the aim to reduce human-lion conflict numbers and conserve the population of desert-adapted lions. The Plan takes a community-centred approach, helping farmers to protect their livestock, and promote the generating of benefits from lions for rural communities. This way, the Plan believes lions and rural residents can thrive alongside one another.

To reduce the conflicts, the plan implements an early warning system in high conflict areas, which involves receiver/transmission towers that communicate with the GPS and RFID collars of the lions, helping farmers to monitor lion locations and take precautionary measures to protect their livestock. Furthermore the Plan includes the training of game guards into lion rangers under the Lion Ranger Program, the creation of a Rapid Response Unit and building of lion-proof kraals.

Sponsorship: N\$ 184 385.79

IRDNC Rapid Response Unit: N\$ 73 485.45

Lion proof kraals: N\$ 69 764.34

Salaries lion rangers March '19 - February '20: N\$ 36 800.00

Uniforms and equipment: N\$ 4336.00

GAME GUARDS

Game guards are community members that are employed by their respective conservancies, through income from tourism in their areas. They are the “boots on the ground”, on the frontlines of Namibian conservation.

They play a crucial role in patrolling, monitoring wildlife, anti-poaching, law enforcement and responding to human-wildlife conflict events. Although often having little formal education, game guards have a strong knowledge of wildlife and the environment.

With game guards in place and reliable monitoring of wildlife numbers and trends, communal conservancies provide excellent conditions for wildlife to prosper as part of a sustainable ecosystem. The result over the years has been a sustained rise in wildlife populations
- a major attraction for tourism.

Sponsorship: N\$ 22 501.50

“The Otjimboyo conservancy management committee and their members acknowledged TOSCO’s generous contributions as the major boost for our conservation project. We wish you all the best and encourage you to assist us and we promised you that in the spirit of conservation our tourism industry and guests won’t be disappointed”. - Theo Iyambo Naruseb (Chairperson, Otjimboyo Conservancy)

As a chairperson of Ehi-rovipuka conservancy would like to appreciate and give a word of thanks to TOSCO for a very generous contribution to our conservancy by supporting the project with Game guards uniforms which help us a lot towards conservation in Namibia.” - Meundju Siegfried Muzuma





CONSERVATION CONTRIBUTION

The Conservation Contribution project encourages foreign and local tourists to pay an entry fee to local communities when entering communal areas, just as we find it normal to pay for entering a national park. Through the collection of voluntary traverse fees from tour operators, TOSCO has built a visitor information and craft center in DeRiet in 2019, situated in the Torra Conservancy. The next phase will be to create a campsite of renovated bungalows managed by locals, allowing the village to become self-sufficient through tourism.

The local communities carry the cost of conserving the wildlife that tourists come to enjoy. To turn the threat of living with wildlife into an opportunity, the members of the TOSCO community have committed themselves in paying a voluntary conservation contribution of N\$50 per guest per day for their nature-focused activities, as well as an additional N\$50 per guest per night for wild camping.

Sponsorship: N\$ 76 620.00

TOSCO had sponsored field equipment to the game guards in Sesfontein for a value of N\$ 12.000 and uniforms/equipment for Puros of N\$ 8708.95

A special thanks to Matiti safaris and Eco safaris who together contributed N\$ 68 120 and Reit Safari Horse Trials who contributed N\$8 500.



LIGHTFORCE

There is a lot of debate on how electricity can be brought to underprivileged rural communities.

LightForce is a global initiative helping companies and individuals to change the world by bringing solar powered lights to communities. After the success of the first edition in Kenya in 2018.

In May 2019, the LightForce team contacted TOSCO, asking to be assisted in developing the project in Namibia by organizing the logistics beforehand and helping on site.

TOSCO organised vehicles, drivers, transport of material and components and communicated with the conservancies. In consultation with the conservancies and lion rangers, TOSCO identified the locations where the solar light was needed the most: villages and kraals Anabeb, Torra, Purros and Tomakas conservancies. TOSCO together with Lightforce and the local people assembled and installed solar power LED lights systems.

In total, 200 solar systems were installed and given:
100 Street lights and 100 House lights.

Sponsorship: N\$ 10 000.00

Together with our friends and partners from Lightforce we have successfully completed our first mission in Namibia as part of the #lightforce 2020 initiative. Huge thanks to Lightforce and TOSCO Trust for making this happen and bringing #solarpowertothepeople in rural Namibia!

**LiGHT
FO****FORCE**





CACTUS CAMPAIGN

The cactus clean-up initiative endeavours to solve multiple goals at once:

- 1) Reversal of loss of Namibian habitat to coverage by alien invasive plants, mainly cacti species.
- 2) Clearing our environment from waste so that walkways and viewpoints located in the city can be enjoyed by residents and tourists. Clearing the thickets also removes hiding spots for robbers.
- 3) Providing day-to-day employment (depending on the availability of donations) to the unemployed.

TOSCO contributed to the cactus clean-up campaign by monetary contributions for the removal of cacti in Windhoek.

Sponsorship: N\$ 3000.00

"Thank you to TOSCO for their participation in Cactus Clean-Up efforts to reverse alien invasive plant infestation that threatens our Namibian environment. The funds were used to clear the Machless Belt piece in Windhoek North. And thank you for the opportunity to inform tour guides on the situation of our environment. The Cactus Cleanup initiative thanks TOSCO for their participation and is looking forward to continued cooperation."

- Gunhild Voigts

PAKO KIDS MAGAZINE

PAKO Kids Magazine is a Namibian magazine for children, educating them on wildlife and nature in a fun way. It raises awareness on what negatively the environment as well as actions they can take to improve and sustain it in its natural state. This way they become more connected to the world around them.

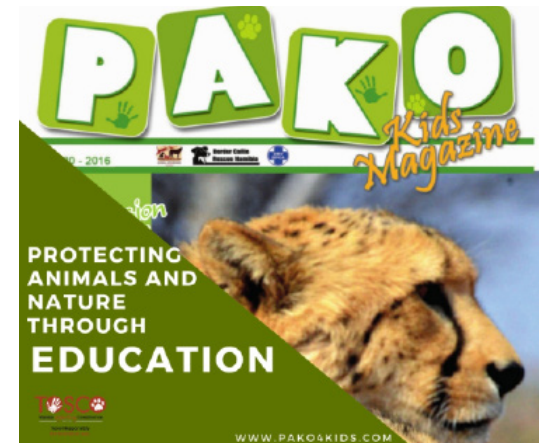
As part of our Awareness Program, the TOSCO team has been writing articles for Pako Kids Magazine on the environment and conservation in Namibia, including topics such as water scarcity and human wildlife conflicts. TOSCO also sponsored a PAKO membership for Havana Art School in Katutura, for the full 2019.

Sponsorship: N\$ 500.00

"We would like to thank the TOSCO Team for your support during 2019. Because of your generosity, we were able to further our mission in educating school children in Namibia about our Environment, nature and animals.

We have been able to reach more children and also because of your help, the cleanup campaign was a big success. Your support is always very much appreciated".

- Petra





NAMIBIA CLEANUP DAY CAMPAIGN

In Namibia around 3000 tons of waste are produced on a daily basis. Although Namibia is considered to be one of the cleanest African countries, a lot of this waste unfortunately still ends up in the environment where it often becomes harmful to the animals, plants and humans.

TOSCO organised the Clean-up campaign for the schools in Namibia, which took place on the same day as the National Clean-up Campaign. Equipped with bags, gloves, masks and a strong sense of purpose, around 4000 kids from 42 different schools across Namibia took part in the 2019

National Clean Up Campaign on the 21st of September.

During this event, children, teachers and parents helped clean up their surroundings, streets and beaches.

The Clean Up Campaign was aimed at changing the mindsets of all Namibian citizens regarding pollution and littering. The Before and After clean up challenge was aimed to involve and encourage schools across the country to take part in this extraordinary campaign. Taking the kids outside to clean up their surroundings promoted a powerful message, namely; "Our trash, our responsibility" and that "Namibia is not a trash can" at the same time. With almost 300 learners and volunteers, the learners collected almost 3000 bags of refuse

Sponsorship: N\$ 1000.00

KHOMAS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The KEEP (Khomas Environmental Education Program) program is an initiative of the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF), that provides a learning platform outside the classroom with the goal of inspiring experiential learning and modelling environmental and wildlife stewardship. The program targets primary school students in Windhoek, focusing particularly on students from disadvantaged schools.

Their aim is to benefit the children by increasing their awareness about environmental issues.

Most of the KEEP participants are from underprivileged schools and communities who depend on the government feeding program. With aid from sponsors such as TOSCO, GCF provided healthy snacks and sandwiches when the students joined them on the field with KEEP. TOSCO Trust also supported the KEEP project with transport needs by encouraging its members to provide transport for school groups to Daan Viljoen.

Sponsorship: N\$ 10 000.00

We would like to take this opportunity to particularly thank one of our conservation sponsors, Tourism Supporting Conservation (TOSCO). We are very much grateful for this generous support as transport is still one of the biggest challenges KEEP is facing.

- KEEP Team





WORKSHOP: UNDERSTANDING CONSERVATION

TOSCO organises workshops on various environmental topics, with the aim to raise awareness and educate. Depending on the workshop, we invite our members from the tourism industry, tour guides, game guards and rangers, community members and children.

On 25 March 2019,

TOSCO held its first workshop understanding conservation. The objective of the workshop was to give tour operators, tour guides and any individuals interested in conservation a better understanding of conservation in Namibia through conservancies and CBNRM. The workshop had representatives from WWF, NACSO, IRDNC and Cactus Clean-up in Windhoek.



WORKSHOP: NAMIBIAN SNAKES

The workshop, which took place on the 20th June at the NACSO boardroom and was attended by tour guides from various tour operators and individuals wanting to learn more on the snakes of Namibia. Which provided education on identification, biology and myths associated with Namibia's most common snakes, as well as conveying basic snake bite first-aid.

Too often, fear of snakes leads to people killing them, in urban areas as well as on communal land. The organisation aims to reduce conflicts between humans and snakes, believing that only knowledge can transform fear into understanding and respect. With this type of workshop, the aim is to create awareness amongst the public and to share information and experiences.

Speakers at the workshop included Francois Theart, Stéphane Lagneau and Félix Vallat.

TOSCO organized and sponsored the first Snake Conservation Workshop for conservancies and game guards in partnership with Snakes of Namibia and Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) on 31 August 2019.

The objective of the workshop was to create awareness for the locals regarding the most common snakes in the Erongo and Southern Kunene regions. François Theart, snake expert, provided the basics regarding the biology of the snakes, identification and first aid & emergency numbers. The conservancies involved in this workshop were Tiseb, Otjimboyo, and Ohungu Conservancy, with a total of 12 game guards participating.





WORKSHOP: CONSERVATION PEACE PROJECT

TOSCO co-organized the Conservation Workshop – PEACE Project with EHRA (Elephant Human Relations Aid) during the

24th to the 29th of June 2019 at EHRA base camp, in the Ugab River.

The workshop aimed to create a network of guides aware of the importance of responsible tourism in Namibia. The workshop developed an awareness that the behaviour towards elephants can have a long-term effect on their conservation.

It was a workshop tailor-made for the tourism industry, especially for tour guides. The workshop had 9 participants from different backgrounds: freelance tour guides, guides from tour operators and guides from lodges and campsites, all ready to learn more about elephants.

The workshop lasted 7 days which included learning more about the elephants: their history, taxonomy, anatomy, social structure, reproduction and more– key information for any tour guide out there in the field wanting to transmit the right information to their clients. The final day of the workshop was practical tracking. They learned how to recognize where the elephants were heading and how long ago they had passed through that area. They determined how big they were and studied their dung to learn about what they had been eating and to see if they were far or not.

WORKSHOP: CLEAN TRAVEL WITH ELOOLO PERMACULTURE

TOSCO developed a conservation workshop with Eloo Permaculture Initiative, a young and dynamic team with a fresh and unique approach in tackling environmental, social and political issues in Namibia.

ELOOLO consists of a group of young environmentalists and activists engaged in education, research, consultation, implementation of food systems and associated Permaculture projects.

The growing food and trees workshop took place on
7 September 2019
at Dagbreek School in Windhoek.

The workshop aimed not only to provide funds to Eloo to continue with the great work they have been doing but also delivered grants-training with a strong hands-on learning component that helped participants to understand the Eloo Permaculture Initiative better.





TOURISM EXPO 2019

The tourism expo is an opportunity for travel and tourism enthusiasts to come see what the tourism industry is doing. Tour operators, car rental companies, lodge owners etc all show up to showcase their products. For TOSCO this is an opportunity to show tourism partners and the wider public how tourism can and should support conservation. TOSCO partnered with MET (Ministry of Environment and Tourism), NACSO (Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations), CCFN (Community Conservation Fund of Namibia) and IRDNC (Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation) to participate in the 2019 Tourism Expo the theme was Recycling, Think Sustainability.

The Expo took place from 5 - 8 June 2019.

Interesting activities took place, such as the launch of the Conservancy Tourism website from NACSO in cooperation with MET. Conservancy representatives from the Kunene region shared their history and craft work with visitors and marketed the lodges in their conservancies. There was a "Spin the wheel" game, where people could share their story about responsible travel in Namibia and stood a chance of winning gifts such as recycled water bottles, free National park visitors passes and SunCycle town rides.

*“ We recognize our responsibility
towards the places and people we visit.*

*We therefore endeavour to minimize
the negative impacts and maximize the
positive impacts.*

*Focusing on the
Economical, Social and Environmental
impacts”*





CARBON OFFSET PROGRAM

The Clean Travel program is a partnership between TOSCO and Eloo Permaculture Initiative which offers the tourism industry the opportunity to offset or partly offset their carbon emissions.

The following sponsorships were made to the program in order to offset 363 trees:

Matiti: N\$65 500

Eco-Safaris: N\$25 250

We would like to heartily thank these sponsors for their ongoing support of the program and their drive to contribute towards a greener future not only in Namibia, but on this planet.

Sponsorship: N\$ 90 750.00

The Clean Travel Program plants trees according to what our participating members should offset. This is calculated based on the type and size of the vehicle which corresponds to the fuel consumption of the particular vehicle, as well as number of kilometers travelled. The tree planting occurs predominantly within Arbor Week in October and is reflective of the funds collected in the previous year.

TOSCO WATER BOTTLES

1161 bottles sold and a few bottles were given away last year.

Every year more than 50 millions of plastic water bottles are used by tourists in Namibia. Unfortunately, less than 20% of them get recycled. This leads to an increase of pollution. Switching to a reusable water bottle would decrease the oil used, greenhouse gasses emitted, and bottles thrown away, reducing pollution threefold.

With the TOSCO branded water bottle, you do not only reduce pollution but also support Namibian conservation programs. Reusable water bottles are cheaper, safer and more sustainable alternative to disposable ones.

Sponsorship: N\$ 10 000.00

Each TOSCO member recieved a free water bottle as part of their membership package.

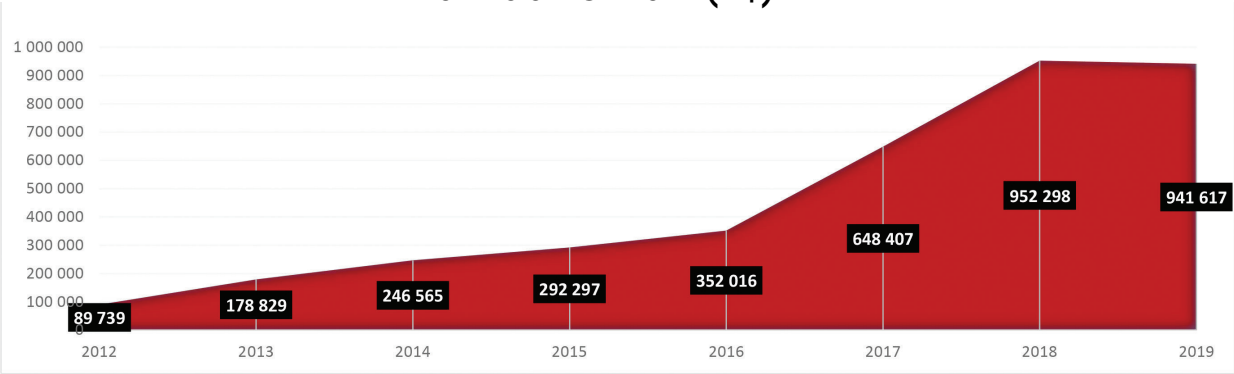
Game guards and TOSCO volunteers also received individual water bottle gifts.

TOSCO also sponsored bottles for the spin the wheel challenge at the tourism expo

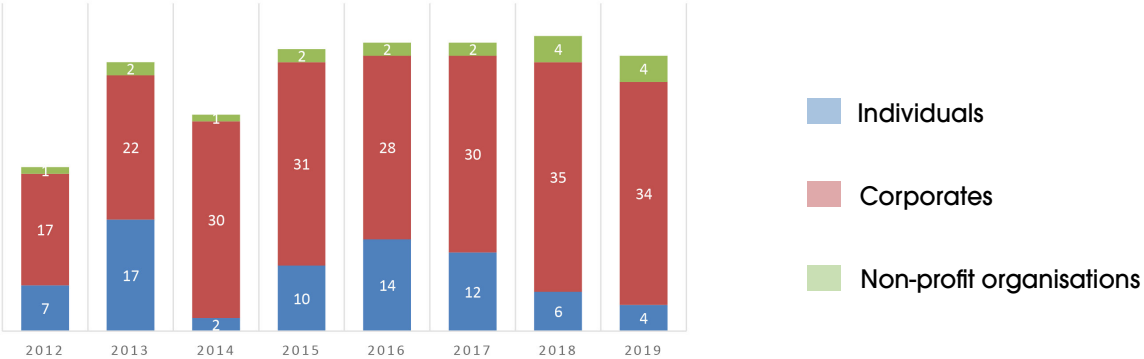
Reusable Water Bottles



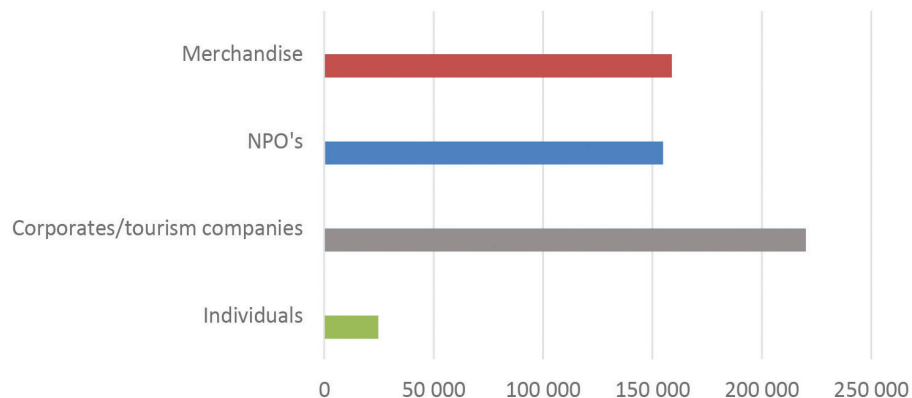
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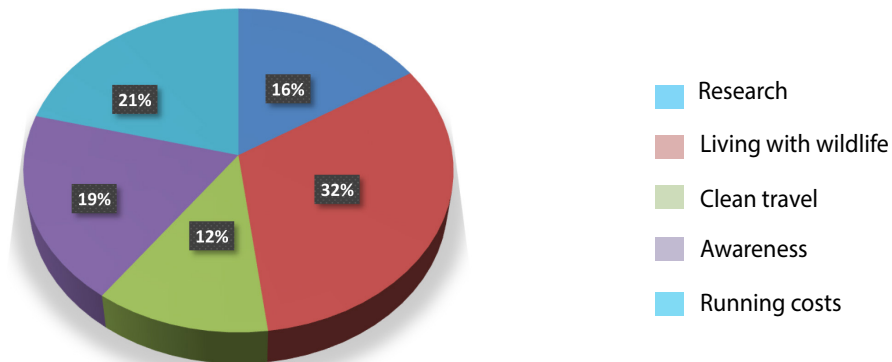
MEMBERS



FUNDING SOURCES 2019 (N\$)



FUNDS OUT 2019





Republic of Namibia

Ministry of Environment & Tourism





LION MEMBERS

doublesens
voyage & partage

ASCO
A
HIRE


DAMARANA
safaris


SWA SAFARIS



Ondjamba  *Safaris*
ARRIVE AS A STRANGER, LEAVE AS A FRIEND

NATURAL  SELECTION
SAFARIS OF CHARACTER

ecoSAFARIS 
Explore & Preserve Namibia

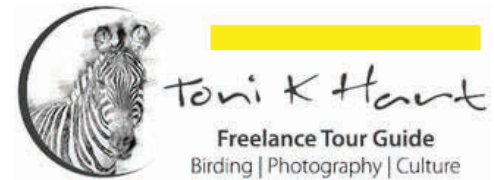

PACK
S A F A R I


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Brochure Distributors, Designers and Publishers


MATITI SAFARIS

Southbound
Experience


WILDERNESS
WILDLIFE TRUST



CHEETAH MEMBERS



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TRAVEL
NAMIBIA





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"Major challenges like biodiversity conservation outside of National parks have to be taken up by the current generations; especially the fight against loss of habitat and poaching.

Everyone should take their responsibilities in this fight including the tourism industry who clearly has a major role to play.

But so far, we are not winning and much more needs to be done if we are to secure a safer and healthy world for us and the next generation.

TOSCO has decided to be up to the challenge in the name of tourism and make a difference for the good of the Namibian's natural resources and its people" - TOSCO Team

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