



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

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Press Release
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Editors and Journalists

The Ministry to translocate four (4) lions from Kunene Region

The Ministry hereby informs the public that the Ministry has observed four (4) lions in a poor condition requiring urgent intervention in the Tora Conservancy in the Kunene Region

Therefore, the Ministry is translocating the four (4) lions from the Tora conservancy to the Naankuse Wildlife Sanctuary. With the ailing condition of the desert-adapted lions, Naankuse has offered to capture, translocate and rehabilitate four lions in one of their game reserves in the Windhoek area.

Once the lions are rehabilitated and back to their normal condition, they will be released into the wild in an area with suitable habitat, chosen by the Ministry. This translocation is in line with our friends of the parks programme, which encourages development partners, the private sector and other stakeholders to get involved and support the development and management of Namibia's parks and wildlife conservation in the spirit of good will and through a coordinated and structured approach.

Those interested in joining this programme should register their interest with the Ministry. Core areas of support include management and development of water infrastructure, fencing, road maintenance and upgrade, support to anti-poaching activities, Human Wildlife Conflict management, environmental education and awareness, development of road signage in parks, upkeep of tourism facilities, maintenance of any other buildings in National Parks and wildlife population management.

We are also aware of reports that the lions are showing aggression towards humans, presumably because of starvation. While the Ministry is establishing facts around this

mater, we are urging those visiting lion habitants in the region to exercise great caution. So far, we have received two incidences of attacks by lions on people.

In this regard, this year the Ministry will develop a "Lion Management and Conservation Plan" to address the long-term conservation of the lions. However, we will continue to implement immediate actions as the situation unfolds. Such actions will also include the management of Human Wildlife Conflict incidences in the area. Furthermore, a ground and aerial assessment is be conducted during the course of this week to inform our short to medium term interventions.

We remain committed in addressing the situation of the desert-adapted lions both in the long and short terms. The public must be reassured that this situation is receiving our urgent and immediate attention. We call upon visitors and the public to reports lions incidences in the area to the nearest Ministerial office.

Issued by:

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