

MEDIA RESPONSE

(For immediate release)

30 July 2025

MEDIA RESPONSE TO WINDHOEK EXPRESS ARTICLE ON DESERT-ADAPTED LIONS

The Ministry wishes to clarify information contained in an article published by Windhoek Express on 28 July 2025, which raised concerns about a decline in Namibia's desert-adapted lion population.

The population of northwest lions remains stable, with approximately 50 to 60 individuals, of which 42 have been equipped with active satellite and GPS collars. The Ministry wishes to clarify that the term desert-adapted lion does not denote a distinct subspecies of *Panthera leo*.

The findings from the 2022 survey encompass all lions within the core range of approximately 40 000m², rather than solely focusing on desert-adapted regions, as inaccurately implied in the Windhoek Express article. The Ministry strongly condemns this misinformation and urges media outlets and the public to refer to official Ministry reports for verified data and comprehensive insights into lion population numbers and distribution.

Ongoing monitoring efforts, including satellite and GPS tracking, camera traps, SMART patrols, and field surveys, are actively conducted in collaboration with Lion Rangers and researchers. These tools allow for consistent, evidence-based assessments of lion populations. The next population count is anticipated to take place in 2026, which will update the current data concerning their numbers and distribution. The Ministry remains steadfast in its commitment to the long-term conservation of lions and their ecosystems.

Media Contact: Public Relations Office; +264 81 952 8652, info.pro@meft.gov.na
issued by:
Public Relations office