2015 Activity Report
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**Mission:** "To develop responsible travel by supporting conservation"

Tourism Supporting Conservation (TOSCO) is a Namibian nonprofit organization connecting tourism to conservation and communities for the benefit of all.

TOSCO promotes responsible travel by sponsoring conservation programs, supporting people living with wildlife and raising public awareness.
2 satellite collars, batteries for camera traps and cash funds (117 000 N$)

The satellite collars provides valuable information about the movements of the prides and thus their behavior. The lions can also be monitored to avoid conflict when they come close to human settlements.

The satellite collars will therefore be another major boost for the project in that it has enabled the purchase of 2 new satellite collars as well as pre-paid air time for 2 years.

Key lion and lioness posing a potential threat to the livelihood of the farmers will be identified and by attaching this collar, this will hopefully avert the inevitable livestock losses and subsequent elimination of the desert adapted lions as the necessary precautionary steps can be put into place in time to prevent these.

Dr Stander, Desert Lion Conservation

Thank you for helping to protect our lions and on a daily basis you can follow the movements of various lion prides and much more by connecting to www.desertlion.info/news

Fuel for field research trip (10 000 N$)

Desert Elephant Conservation promotes the long-term conservation of Namibia’s desert elephant population through research, monitoring, and the sharing of knowledge.

“As initiated by TOSCO, we need to build a bridge between different stakeholders in the area, scientists, tourism professionals and local communities to help each other. We want free flow information, an open book with public access.” Dr R Ramey

Hoanib & Hoarusib elephant population trends 2015

Dr Rob Roy Ramey
Dr Laura Brown
**Kwando Carnivore Project**

TOSCO provided the camera traps only 2 weeks after they had been requested by Lise Hanssen, the project manager.

The camera traps will be used to monitor spotted hyenas and wild dogs dens and carcasses. It is an ongoing monitoring of survival. The infrared allow to take pictures at den without flashlights disturbing the den.

More than 100 wild dogs in Bwabwata national park, sometimes overlapping in 3 countries: Namibia, Botswana, Angola.

First cause of mortality in the area is road accidents on the tarred road. In Kavango the Human wildlife conflict is increasing but decreasing in Zambezi region.

In 2016, a big spoor survey will take place.

3 infra red camera traps and 2 bear box protection (to avoid being destroyed and chewed by hyenas) - value: 12 000NAD.

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**Rhino Rangers**

- Our field vehicle, led by Usiel Nuab from Sesfontein, had an extremely productive 2015 covering 3 key rhino areas both within Palmwag and Etendeka Tourism Concession and outside on Conservancy Lands and 20% of the region’s rhino.
- In total, 89 field days produced 101 rhino sightings including an average sighting success % of known rhino located within a given area during a patrol of 86% per patrol. The individual rhino identification accuracy on average is also commendable at 73% per patrol.
- Patrols also included 7 different Conservancy Rhino Rangers across 4 Conservancies which accumulated 363 total ranger field days and 374 total ranger rhino sightings.

I believe these are well deserved upgrades to Usiel’s team and would hopefully help keep morale high when we need it most.

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On behalf of the Rhino Ranger Support Group, I wanted to thank TOSCO once again for offering to fund our work to support the Conservancy Rhino Ranger programme.

After discussions with Boas, our field coordinator, we decided that TOSCO’s N$20,000 wicked best be spent to outfit one of our key patrolling vehicles with: Engel 60l fridge and mounting/battery, power inverter, compressor pump, water tank.
Save the Rhino Trust and our affiliate Rhino Ranger Incentive Programme are extremely humbled and honoured to have received continuous support from TOSCO - Tourism supporting Conservation over the past few years. Despite a sharp spike in 2014, rhino poaching rates have been significantly reduced this past year in north-west Namibia. Funding provided by TOSCO has helped establish a series of strategically positioned remote fly camps in the rhino range and dozens of new canvas tents that have improved the safety and comfort for our patrol teams that work tirelessly under extreme conditions on a daily basis. From all of us working to protect Namibia’s desert-adapted rhino, we thank TOSCO for all their support!

3 solar panels for the poaching mobile camp (3 000 N$)

Namibia’s wild rhino can survive if the local people do not tolerate poaching, if rhino become more valuable alive than dead - through employment and tourism.

1 lion ranger annual salary (15 600 N$)

Continued support of the lion ranger/s in Puros is greatly appreciated. “The salary for Bertus is making these rangers more effective. For your information, IRDNC is in the process of increasing our input with regard to lion conservation in this area, with particular emphasis on the Tomakas and Gomatum valley areas. These rangers input will be pivotal to these efforts.”
Mission of KRCA
Its mission is to unite all conservancies in the Kunene Region to speak with one voice, and to jointly advocate and advise conservancies.

The KRCA has been active in promoting awareness about the impacts of wildlife crime at a local level and amongst traditional leaders in the Kunene. The KRCA has also been instrumental in preventing further incursion of livestock into wildlife areas.

On communal land, the local communities carry the costs of conserving the wildlife that tourists come to enjoy. To contribute more to covering the costs of conservation and living with wildlife, the members of the TOSCO community have committed themselves to paying a voluntary conservation contribution of 50 N$ per guest per day for their nature-focused activities, as well as an additional 50 N$ per guest per night for wild camping. The contributions are paid to TOSCO from where they will be passed on to the specific conservancies to mitigate human/wildlife conflict.

Several media have covered the TOSCO Conservation Contribution. Travel News Namibia called the TOSCO Conservation Contribution a "landmark fund". We would like to thank all TOSCO sponsors who are already implementing the contribution!

Namibia Horse Safari 3 150
Safaris Unlimited 8 550
Esafaris 800
MOWPAN Ecosafaris 1 200
Matiti Safaris 13 050

"This camping equipment will make it easier for the KRCA representatives to travel around their vast areas to work with their rural communities." Mr. John Kalaonga receiving the material on behalf of KRCA

Maxi Louis, NACSO chairwoman.
I have been rescuing snakes and other reptiles in the Windhoek area for the past ten years. About 18 months ago I decided to start collecting data on the animals I save. Since 12 August 2014 – 8 March 2016 I have successfully rescued and relocated 370 snakes, 10 monitor lizards and 3 tortoises. I have travelled over thirty-one thousand kilometres over this time period. I cover the entire Windhoek area as well as surrounding farms.

A great deal of research goes into human snake conflict. Each and every snake is weighed and measured. Environmental temperatures are also taken.

Snakes are important for all ecosystems in Namibia. That fact is often overlooked. TOSCO does not only care for lions and elephants, but for whole ecosystems. Only with a holistic view can we hope to keep habitats for the iconic species intact. François Theart is doing fantastic work with regards to rescuing snakes and educating people about them. Thus we have decided to assist him.

Snakes are proof of a healthy environment. Don’t kill snakes, relocate them safely!

Fuel and car maintenance (5 000 N$) Snakes are important for all ecosystems in Namibia. That fact is often overlooked. TOSCO does not only care for lions and elephants, but for whole ecosystems. Only with a holistic view can we hope to keep habitats for the iconic species intact. François Theart is doing fantastic work with regards to rescuing snakes and educating people about them. Thus we have decided to assist him.

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Snakes are proof of a healthy environment. Don’t kill snakes, relocate them safely!

Fuel and car maintenance (5 000 N$)
The Giraffe Conservation Foundation works closely with partners across Africa and internationally to save giraffes in the wild and share the giraffe conservation message globally. We are happy to have found a committed partner in TOSCO who is helping us to raise awareness for giraffe conservation in Namibia. Stephanie Fennessy

3,000 brochures and 40 posters printed and distributed (18,010 N$)

The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) is dedicated solely to the conservation of this most quintessential species. The GCF is the only charity in the world that concentrates exclusively on the conservation of Africa’s mega-herbivores and its habitat.

Public Awareness

Giraffe Conservation Foundation

Desert Elephant Pamphlet

Conservation Status

- Endangered (2010): G. c. antiquorum
- Endangered (2008): G. c. rothschildi (Rothschild’s, Ugandan or Baringo giraffe) G. c. peralta (West African or Nigerian giraffe)

Giraffe populations are regulated in part by natural mortality from predators, giraffe cannot compete with herbivores that are more abundant (e.g. giraffe browsing can exacerbate habitat degradation and destruction). Carnivores, such as lions, as well as human-wildlife conflict, of course, are threats to giraffe survival. Giraffe outside of protected areas are even known to have been hit by vehicles!

Habitat degradation and destruction is caused by the increase in agricultural and pastoralist activities; uncontrolled timber and fuel wood harvesting. Damages to crops are another cause of human-wildlife contact with domestic livestock. Giraffe outside of protected areas are free of charge: Francois Deacon, Donna Hanson, Mike Kock, Ludwig Siege, Nico Smit and Megan Strauss, as well as Black Eagle Media for producing the map.

Habitat fragmentation caused by human population expansion on the evolutionary potential of the species. Isolated populations promise to unravel their taxonomic mystery. More essential baseline knowledge is required across the continent. Even adult male giraffe can be killed by crocodile, and of course, humans!

More essential baseline knowledge is required across the continent. Even adult male giraffe can be killed by crocodile, and of course, humans!

Moderate giraffe browsing has been shown to stimulate shoot production in certain Acacia species, which is known to enhance the potential for seed germination through the beneficial effects of its digestive processes. 

There is a mutually beneficial relationship between giraffe and oxpecker birds. Their unmistakable silhouettes and evocative images are regularly used in advertising to sell anything from tea bags to insurance. It is estimated that giraffe numbers are less than a fifth of those of the African elephant which is currently classified as a significant source of revenue in the trophy hunting market.

The common misconception that there are no giraffe in the world that does not use a giraffe to sell Africa as an exciting holiday destination. We are happy to have found a committed partner in TOSCO who is helping us to raise awareness for giraffe conservation in Namibia.

In comparison to other large herbivores like elephant and buffalo, and highly lucrative pachyderm trophies, giraffe are used daily around the world. Giraffe are no exception to this. Giraffe browsing can exacerbate habitat degradation and enhances further growth of new forage for other mega-herbivores. Some species declined and the knock on effect to other species may not have been considered.

It is estimated that giraffe numbers are less than a fifth of those of the African elephant which is currently classified as a significant source of revenue in the trophy hunting market.

Habitat fragmentation caused by human population expansion and urbanization is exacerbating the current threat of habitat degradation combined impact giraffe distribution across the continent. Even adult male giraffe can be killed by crocodile, and of course, humans!

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TOSCO bought 100 DVDs to support the Desert Lion Research Project and to spread the message of the film about the desert lions ($10 000 N$).

“End of the game?” 23/05 Talk

Are wildlife numbers in the north-west declining and are conservancies driven by greed?

Stirred up by the discussions in the press and on social media, conservancies reached out to the tourism industry and offered meetings to discuss these questions.

The game count figures indeed show a decline since 2013. The reasons for this are not entirely clear but among them are low rainfall, but also management issues.

In the below document you will find the resolutions the conservancies have taken to address the problems they have identified. Applying adaptive management, 9 conservancies have stopped shoot & sell completely. This income somehow needs to be compensated. In the north-west, conservancies and tourism rely on each other more than ever.

Read the full meeting report [here](https://toscotrust.files.wordpress.com/2016/01/end-of-the-game-meeting-report-tosco.pdf)

As a Herero proverb states:

"Omunue umue kautoora ona"  
(You can’t pick up a lice with one nail)

Tourism operators organizing themselves like TOSCO and the contribution it is making to insuring a really sound viable conservation effort is incredible"

Dr Philip Stander, Desert Lion Conservation.

“Tourism operators organizing themselves like TOSCO and the contribution it is making to insuring a really sound viable conservation effort is incredible”
**2015 / 2016**

**Funds**

**BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014/2015</th>
<th>N$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>73,557</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Funds in 2015/2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSORSHIP</th>
<th>N$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOURISM OPERATORS</td>
<td>144,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIVATE COMPANIES</td>
<td>15,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre Trade Energizer Batteries</td>
<td>5,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunene Resources</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOUCAN &amp; PUBLIC SPONSORS</td>
<td>98,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSERVATION CONTRIBUTION</td>
<td>26,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expolars</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia Horse Safaris</td>
<td>3,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safaris Unlimited</td>
<td>8,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobi Safaris</td>
<td>13,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOWAPAN Ecotours</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED DURING 2015/2016</strong></td>
<td>N$ 292,297</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funds Out 2015/2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>N$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH</td>
<td>142,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Lion Conservation</td>
<td>142,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khimmo Carnivore project</td>
<td>12,072</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desert Elephant Conservation</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIVING WITH WILDLIFE</td>
<td>100,562</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purus Lion ranger</td>
<td>15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhino-ranger</td>
<td>23,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservancy support</td>
<td>30,212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation contribution</td>
<td>26,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snake conservation</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBLIC AWARENESS</td>
<td>38,198</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsible travel brochures</td>
<td>7,015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desert Elephant pamphlet</td>
<td>7,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giraffe conservation foundation</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanishing Kings DVDs</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toscco stickers and website</td>
<td>6,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES FOR 2015/2016 PROJECTS</strong></td>
<td>281,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMINISTRATION COSTS</td>
<td>2,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANK SERVICE CHARGES</td>
<td>2,449</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCOUNTING FEES FOR 2015/2016</td>
<td>2,704</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FUNDS PAID OUT DURING 2015/2016</strong></td>
<td>286,253</td>
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**2014 / 2015**

**Funds**

**Funds in 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSORSHIP</th>
<th>N$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOURISM OPERATORS</td>
<td>178,829</td>
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<tr>
<td>NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS</td>
<td>21,650</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRIVATE COMPANIES</td>
<td>14,262</td>
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**Funds Out 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSOR</th>
<th>N$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with wildlife</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Awareness</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin costs</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funds From 2012 to 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS</th>
<th>TOURISTS</th>
<th>PROFESSIONALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>89,759NAD</td>
<td>323,000</td>
<td>18,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>138,329NAD</td>
<td>351,000</td>
<td>30,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>196,929NAD</td>
<td>351,000</td>
<td>30,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>292,297NAD</td>
<td>351,000</td>
<td>30,212</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**2015 Activity Report**
Sponsor Benefits

TOSCO TEAM: your sponsor benefits
1. **Enhance your image** as a responsible travel operator
2. **Enjoy privileged relationship** with program beneficiaries on the field
3. **Be part of a conservation community** that cares about Namibia’s wild places!

2016 SPONSOR PACK includes:
- TOSCO 2016 car stickers and license discs
- Giraffe conservation posters and booklets
- Vanishing Kings DVD
- Desert Lion Conservation stickers
- Responsible travel guidelines
- 2015 Activity report
TOSCO - A tourism community that cares for Namibia’s wild places! You care!

Please share your ideas and get involved for projects that make a difference - Hand in your proposal, together we can achieve more.

TOSCO supports projects that:
- reduce or mitigate human/wildlife conflict
- do research that can contribute to the conservations of habitats of endangered species
- responsible tourism projects that to contribute to ensuring that visiting Namibia’s wild places is as enjoyable in the future as it is now

TOSCO will prefer projects which suggest a measurable impact.

www.vimeo.com/thetoscotrust/tosco
Send an e-mail: info@tosco.org
Phone us: (Felix) 081 45 35 855 or (Barbara) 081 39 95 113
let’s meet and join us on Facebook (TOSCO Facebook page) and TOSCO closed group) or Twitter

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CHAIRMAN
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LION RANGER PUROS
Bertus
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pollenk7@hotmail.com

Contact us to join. We need you!

TOSCO Trust – N°T86/12
PO Box 91159 - Windhoek - NAMIBIA
Website: www.tosco.org
“Words of Appreciation

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world—indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.” — Margaret Mead

This is exactly what TOSCO is—a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens that are changing the world. A few years ago a group of tourism operators got together after a pride of lions got poisoned in the North West of Namibia. They realized that those lions were very important for the biodiversity of the environment and essential for tourism in the country, thus they had to contribute to their conservation from then on.”

Travel News Namibia.

“Dear TOSCO Team,

Thank you for such a report and congratulations on your fund-raising on behalf of conservation in Namibia. It is great to see your commitment and involvement to this sector and a real pleasure to be a partner with you in your efforts. Keep up the great work.”

Chris Weaver, director WWF Namibia.

“TOSCO would like to express its gratitude and appreciation to TOSCO for their continued and sustained support of conservation in the Kunene Region. While the actual contributions aiding the direct conservation of our desert adapted lions, rhinos and elephants helps significantly, the importance of the involvement and commitment of all your members is tremendous. Exposing tourists and visitors to Namibia to the challenges of conservation in our country is important. Further, it is great to see a group within the hospitality industry buying into the resource they sell and use with such energy and commitment.”

Russell Wijeward, IRDNC.

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“For the past few years, the Kwando Carnivore Project has received support from TOSCO in the form of funding and equipment for field projects. This support has contributed significantly to our monitoring efforts, particularly where sensitive activities are required. Through our partnership with TOSCO, we have also had the opportunity of sharing information about the Zambezi Region and our conservation efforts with some of their guests. We are most grateful for this support from the TOSCO Trust.”

Lise Hjortsen, Kwando carnivore project.

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