



Namibian *Lion* Trust
FOR LIONS • FOR LIFE • FOR OUR FUTURE



SUPPORT OUR LION GUARDS



Lion Guards and GPS-Satellite collars keep Lions Alive and farmers, with their livestock, Safe ...

Our Lion Guards, 'Keepers of the Wilderness', are dedicated to protecting the lion as well as mitigating farmer-lion conflict in Namibia's north-west (Kunene Region).

These highly respected community members are elected by their Conservancies, essentially carrying the message of Conservation from the highest authorities to the farmer; some of them once formed part of the community game-guard programme.



The Lion Guards

- Assist in locating within the study area, the lion to be fitted with GPS-Satellite tracking collars that provide invaluable data at 2-hourly intervals (the intervals may be set according to need). The Lion Guards monitor the whereabouts of both collared and uncollared lion in order to establish movement patterns and, together with the data retrieved from the widely dispersed trail cameras within their area and lion-sightings by community members, the Lion Guards are able to forewarn farmers who live in conflict zones ('hot-spots').
- When the Early-Warning System (EWS) detects lion movement or when an incident is reported, the Lion Guards (who actually form the Rapid Response Unit) move out to support the affected farmer or community as well as to protect the lion. Their night- and / or day-time patrols contribute to the protection of both the livestock and the villagers; the collection and evaluation of valuable information on lion whereabouts, livestock management as well as lion and livestock mortalities, provides for reliable reporting and assessment.



- Contribute towards greater understanding and acceptance of wildlife. This takes time and patience, with many hours spent 'under-tree', meeting with farmers and traditional leaders to discuss workable solutions. By providing guidance and encouragement, they help the farming community to adopt our Livestock Protection Programme, which includes employing herdsmen and protecting their livestock at night.
- Last but not least, Lion Guards identify communities in need of our support and livestock protection 'bomas'.
- Together with the Ministry of Environment & Tourism (MET) and the Department of Veterinary Services staff, they patrol & repair Protected Area fence-breaks, also reporting on poaching and other illegal activities.

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The long hours spent in the field and their dedicated mitigation of the farmer-predator conflict, is slowly but surely showing results: for those farmers who have adopted the Livestock Protection Programme, reports show a notable reduction in livestock loss due to lion & spotted hyaena predation and a drop in the number of lions killed.

Farmers who leave their stock in the field at night and allow their animals to graze inside of Wildlife Protected Areas, continue to suffer losses.

The work of a Lion Guard is never done: a change of heart & mind-set, attitudes and behaviour, especially 'modernizing' age-old farming practices, takes time, determination and steadfastness... but will bring us all one step closer to co-existence between man and lion.



**Sponsor an essential salary for a Lion Guard:
Funding in Namibian \$ and US\$**

	Namibian \$	US\$
1.1 The Namibian Lion Trust Lion Guards		
- Senior Lion Guard	60,000	4,000
- Junior Lion Guard (7 Lion Guards @ N\$ 42,000)	294,000	20,000
1.2 Five Lion Guard Volunteers	90,000	6,000
1.3 Fuel and food parcels @N\$ 3,000 per Lion Guard per month)	36,000	2,400
Total Approximate Funds Needed in N\$	480,000	
Total Approximate Funds Needed in US\$		32,000