

**Press Release EMRST**

**2 January 2018**

It is the professed goal of the *Erongo Mountain Rhino Sanctuary Trust* (EMRST) to reinstate the original natural biodiversity in the Erongo Mountains and its periphery, as it occurred in the Omaruru area until around 1870. We herewith once again confirm the decision of the Annual General Meetings of 2015 and 2016, to also make available habitat to lions in the EMRST area. In this light it is unimportant whether lions naturally migrate from neighbouring Damaraland, as has happened in 2016, or if we meet the request of the Nature Conservation Department, to accommodate lions that are not tolerated elsewhere.

In the zone of the EMRST, which forms the core area of over 100 000 ha within the *Erongo Mountain Nature Conservancy* (ca. 180 000 ha), lions have a safe haven. We are thankful for the cooperation of neighbours and non-members, who have a positive and tolerant attitude towards the lions.

With some surprise we take note that in certain circles apparently double standards are applied when considering lion conservation in communal or commercial areas. Time and again the value of lions for tourism is stressed. The Erongo Mountains are almost exclusively used for tourism, and tourism operators in the area have almost exclusively portrayed a positive and tolerant stance towards the presence of lions.



Hagen Denker