

Press Release EMRST

During the 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Erongo Mountain Nature Sanctuary (EMNS), the dilemma of rapid disappearance of habitat for the African Lion was discussed in depth.

The lion, as alpha predator, once belonged to the natural species diversity of the Erongo Mountains. The last lion in the area was shot in 1968.

During the meeting, it was discussed that due to overpopulation of some herbivores, especially mountain zebra and giraffe, lions would be welcomed as a natural regulatory species within the boundaries of the EMNS conservation area. The members also felt that there was a responsibility to contribute towards the protection of lions in general.

In a letter to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) on 28 January 2016, the EMRST (Erongo Mountain Rhino Sanctuary Trust) expressed its willingness to make habitat available to lions, should the need arise. This message was received positively by the ministry.

During the 2016 AGM, the decision to make habitat available for lions was confirmed unanimously.

In November 2017, we can confirm the presence of lions within the boundaries of the EMRST.

The Erongo Mountain Rhino Sanctuary Trust as the competent authority of the Erongo Mountain Nature Sanctuary, herewith reaffirms its dedication and determination to make habitat available for lions. We will make all effort to keep the lions inside the area and ensure their utmost protection.

To support this specific endeavour, especially in order to subsidise potential harm to livestock we have set up a special "Erongo Lion" account.

*Bank Windhoek Ltd. (Omaruru Branch)
Branch Code: 485 – 873
Account (EMRST): CHK - 800 203 1728
SWIFT: BWL INANX
Ref: Erongo Lion*

*Any donations, no matter the amount are welcome – let's give lions a chance!
Funds raised through this account will be used in accordance with the National Policy on Human Wildlife Conflict Management, more specifically human-wildlife-conflict mitigation and prevention measures.*