

People-predator safety service development

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Annex summarizes the key concept of the proposed project support to develop a new professional service. i.e. people -predator safety service. It builds on the new lion ranger program, which the mission finds one of the most appealing proposals and proposes to amend the program as an opportunity to develop a needed service to make living with lions and other predators safe for the lion and other predators and its habitat, and safe for the people and their assets.

Technical investments are covered under Result 2 and detailed in [Annex 10](#).

2. LION RANGER PROGRAM

The Human-Lion Conflict Management Plan for North Western Namibia (NW Lion Plan) suggests an immediate and urgent re-activation and deployment of a system of Lion Rangers¹ in conservancies identified as experiencing high levels of HLC. In accordance with the recommendations set-forth in the NW Lion Plan, the Lion Ranger program will begin operating in three communal conservancies: Anabeb, Puros, and Sesfontein in 2018. While the NW Lion Plan focuses within western Kunene, MET has further identified Ehirovipuka and Omatendeka as conservancies experiencing high-levels of human-lion conflict. Following feedback meetings with each conservancy in October 2017 it was decided that the Lion Ranger program would begin operation in the three conservancies noted, with the others joining soon. The Lion Ranger program is headquartered at Wêreldsend Environmental Center in the Palmwag Concession and is supported by the IRDNC Windhoek Office team.

The objective of the lion ranger program is the long-term sustainable safety management of human and lions and other predators in Kunene to ensure the continued survival of desert lions and other predators, and ensure community benefit.

The program has built on more than 20 years of research and working with conservancies. It is driven by conservancies and lodges most threatened by, but also benefiting from lions. The Program is well designed and has inbuilt evidence-based indicators (refer to [Annex 17](#)). It offers an excellent opportunity to develop a professional service to live in safety with predators.

The program will support villagers; conserving lions; and developing skills and knowledge to live safely with lions through the development of local lion rangers.

¹ This proposal prepared by IRDNC staff and shared with the Mission. The program was piloted in 2013 but had gone dormant due to lack of funds and institutional support.

Salient features of the program are:

Training: Lion Ranger training. Initial three-day training sessions

- **Session One: The Lion Ranger Program:** Introduction to Lion Ranger program; pan-African lion conservation and HLC; Lion physiology, life history, and behaviour; Roles and responsibilities as Lion Rangers; data collection, reporting, and management; action Plan for next six months.
- **Session Two: Developing Field Skills:** Reports from Lion Rangers with feedback; practical lion identification and tracking in the field; HLC scene investigation skills; farmer support at conflict scenes; field equipment operation and care.
- **Session Three: Assessment and Supporting Skills Development:** reports from Lion Rangers with feedback; reviews of Lion Ranger performance; practical livestock management techniques; kraal construction and repair; Communicating with farmers and conservancies; basic field first aid.

Tasks of Lion Rangers: Lion rangers will become permanently deployed Lion Rangers within conservancies. Lion Rangers in each of the focal lion-range conservancies will work with routinized responsibilities for well-defined field-based, community-based, and organizational tasks. Lion Rangers will receive continuous training and mentoring by the Lion Ranger program - by a core of reputed lion ranger specialists. This will include regular ranger review of performance by program. Lion Rangers will be primarily responsible for activities in their conservancies, but on request may assist Lion Rangers and the Lion Ranger program in other conservancies and even beyond.

Duties of lion ranger development are oriented around two needs:

1. Monitoring: Kunene lion patrol within conservancies for collecting relevant individual lion demographic, identification, body-condition, movement, and certain other data. This data collection will take place on regular patrols and on-demand as needed. In addition to the Event/Incident Book System through which conservancies monitor wildlife and HWC incidents, Lion Rangers will carry and fill-out forms uniquely designed for lion monitoring and recording human-lion conflict at each relevant sighting. Data from these forms will be communicated back to the Lion Ranger program on a regular basis and aggregated data on both lion monitoring and HLC will be communicated to conservancy committees as agreed-upon by each conservancy and the Lion Ranger program.
2. Interceding in lion conflict area: Lion Rangers will be responsible for interceding in human lion safety issues in measures to manage, mitigate, and prevent conflicts. This duty includes
 - a) Rapid response to conflict events after they occur, on-site where the conflict took place. Collect relevant issue data from farmers at conflict sites and assisting farmers as fits the situation. Such service activities include:
 - Helping farmers to herd livestock and/or return livestock to kraals to prevent further immediate conflict;
 - Assisting with the repair of kraals or other livestock infrastructure, and in appropriate cases remaining within the affected area to prevent further immediate lion incursions;

- Support farmers in making HLC claims to MET;
 - Communicating lion movements: Because lion movements and therefore safety issues are somewhat unpredictable, Lion Rangers will also be responsible for communicating lion movements with potentially affected farmers and community members on an as-needed basis.
 - Where lions pose a potential acute threat to conservancy residents livelihoods and well-being, Lion Rangers, working with the both the IRDNC and MET Human-wildlife Conflict Rapid Response Teams, will inform residents of lion movements and take steps to minimize the risk to residents' livelihoods and well-being and take necessary steps to assist residents.
- b) Long-term conflict prevention will be various and likely will change over time. Initially long-term conflict prevention measures will focus on assisting farmers in the construction of reinforced 'lion- proof' kraals as is appropriate and helping farmers develop herding techniques suited to limiting human-lion conflict.

2.1 Project duration and target area

Phase one of the lion program is planned for three years in three to four conservancies – depending on funding opportunities to commence in 2018, but it will be extended to at least five conservancies and a longer period in case the development of the lion ranger program in the new conservancy starts later.

3. FROM LION RANGER PROGRAM TO PROFESSIONAL PREDATOR SAFETY SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

The Mission proposes to take the lion ranger program as an opportunity to develop a new service with the five most affected conservancies in Kunene, the sub-regional conservancy association and lodges depending mainly on lion sightseeing. This should be run as a consulting service. The service provider could be located either at the regional conservancy association or as an independent consulting company in the long run.

3.1 Performance indicators

In conjunction with other measures - improve the safety and security of residents in focal lion-range conservancies and conserve lions and other predators.

Indicator	Target:
1. Reduce livestock losses of all predators in focal lion-range conservancies in Kunene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% reduction in livestock losses due to predators (in conjunction with other measures) • 90% reduction in lions lost to human lion conflict retaliation.
2. Manage Kunene’s lion population as an asset to Kunene residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income from lion sightseeing increased by payment of wildlife credits of xx NAD and other spill off effects of lion tourism is contributing to the revenues of the targeted conservancies by xx percentage compared to baseline.
3. Standardize high-quality communication of lion ecology, population composition, and movements to conservancy resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >75% of Human lion incidents responded to within 24 hours • 80% of the population in affected area have developed a higher tolerance and know what to do and not to do • Communicate >95% of relevant lion movements to affected farmers. • Quarterly updates to conservancy committees concerning lion movements and ranger deployment. Annual report to all conservancy members
4. Lion safety service in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service of rapid predator response teams are requested (fees paid) by lodges, conservancies and other stakeholders impacted by imitate threats of problematic lions, and lion rangers act as technical advisors in prevention and mitigation and assessment of damage and support in claim application by 2021

4. MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Major activities are:

1. Procurement of basic equipment and set up infrastructure of scheme;
2. (Re)train and employ Lion Rangers from within Kunene conservancies experiencing high-levels of human-lion conflict;

3. Permanently deploy Lion Rangers within conservancies as a conduit between Kunene lions, individual farmers and local communities, and monitoring and management activities associated with Lion Ranger program;
4. Proactively monitor Kunene lions and intercede in human-lion conflict to manage, mitigate, and prevent conflicts in the conservancies;
5. Standardize high quality communication between the Lion Ranger program and conservancies;
6. Maintain regular communication with the Lion Ranger program;
7. Support and enact the recommendations of the NW Lion Plan;
8. Merge the lion ranger scheme into a people predator safety management service organization.

5. COST AND FINANCING

Since the Lion Ranger program is headquartered and supported by the IRDNC Windhoek Office team and experienced rangers are in place and lions are given high priority attention in the international wildlife conservation community, it is assumed that the Project will co-finance the program from year 2019 onward only.

The cost estimate is based on the one prepared by IRDNC but provides contingencies to extend the scheme in 2019 to five conservancies. A proposed contribution of 32 % of the total program is budgeted by the Project.

Further budget is allocated for development of other services like elephant ranger program once the human-elephant regional conflict management plans are in place (Table A7-3).

Table A7-1: Cost and financing of lion ranger program (2018-2020) and upscaling

#	Item	Description	Unit	Cost estimate per year			Yr	Tot.cost NAD	Cost per year			Financing		
				Unit cost NAD	Q'ty	Total NAD			Yr1 NAD	Yr 2 NAD	Yr 3 NAD	GFC NAD	Other NAD	Remark
1 Remuneration														
1.1	Ranger	Salary: NAD 1500/PM; plus performance based bonus: NAD 1500/NAD/a	Person	19,500	12	234,000	3	702,000	234,000	234,000	234,000	234,000	468,000	
1.2	Field allowance	5 days/PM/ranger, 50 NAD/day		3,000	12	36,000	3	108,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	72,000	
2	Initial training	Table below		70,600	1	70,600	1	70,600	70,600				70,600	
3 Equipment														
3.1	Uniform	Uniform	Ranger	3,250	12	39,000	1	39,000	39,000				39,000	
3.2	Field equipment	Tent, bedroll, sleeping bag, GPS, bin	Ranger	12,320	12	147,840	1	147,840	147,840				147,840	
4 Management & mentoring														
4.1	Response team	Assigned already												
	Teamleader 1		PM	16,000	12	192,000	3	576,000	192,000	192,000	192,000	192,000	384,000	Part covered: Ultimate Safaris
	Teamleader 2	66% of time	PM	16,000	8	126,720	3	380,160	126,720	126,720	126,720	126,720	253,440	Part covered Highveld Safaris
	Teamleader 3		PM	16,000	12	192,000	2	384,000		192,000	192,000	192,000	192,000	
	OP field assistant		PM	3,000	12	36,000	3	108,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	72,000	
4.2	Management team	Assigned already												
	Member 1	Vinjevd 1/2 time @ NAD 2000/day		288,000	1	288,000	3	864,000	288,000	288,000	288,000	288,000	576,000	
	Member 2	Shivute 1/4 time @ NAD 2000/day		144,000	1	144,000	3	432,000	144,000	144,000	144,000	144,000	288,000	
	Member 3	Heydinger 1/2 time @ NAD 2000/day		288,000	1	288,000	3	864,000	288,000	288,000	288,000	288,000	576,000	
5	Transport	Details in proposal	Year	582,000	1	582,000	3	1,746,000	582,000	582,000	582,000	582,000	1,164,000	Part covered by lodges
6	Lion deterrent	Firework	CC	5,000	4	20,000	3	60,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		
7	Basic cost 1 (1-6)							6,481,600	2,204,160	2,138,720	2,138,720	2,138,720	4,302,880	
8	Contingencies	Assuming upscaling to 5 conservancies						1,918,400				561,280	1,397,120	
9	Grand total							8,400,000				2,700,000	5,700,000	
												32%		

Table A7-2: Cost estimate of for initial training of communal lion rangers

Item	Unit	Unit cost	Qty	Total
Trainees (Ranger)				
Accommodation	Night	150	12	1,800
Perdiem	Day	100	12	1,200
Transport	km	7	1,000	7,000
Subtotal trainees				10,000
Trainer (2 consultants)				
Accommodation	Night	150	24	3,600
Perdiem	Day	100	24	2,400
Transport	km	7	7,800	54,600
Subtotal trainer				60,600
Total				70,600

Table A7-3: Cost estimate of service development for human-wildlife safety management

Item	Description	Total cost		Financing	
		NAD	NAD	GFC	Others
		NAD	NAD	NAD	NAD
Human-predator safety management	Tab above	8,400,000	2,700,000	32%	5,700,000
Other human wildlife service development	TBD	1,800,000	1,800,000	18%	
Total		10,200,000	4,500,000	44%	5,700,000