



N/a'an ku se Foundation
Farm Faruenstein 277
Windhoek
Namibia

30th August 2018

Re. Media Statement regarding re-location of five lions from Brandberg Region to N/a'an ku se

The N/a'an ku se Foundation was contacted by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) early in August regarding lion in the Brandberg region that had been hunting livestock and causing unacceptable livestock losses to communities in the region.

Thursday 9th August:

The research and veterinary team at N/a'an ku se was contacted directly by an official from MET to discuss the urgent removal of 2 adult lioness from this conflict situation.

Over the next week, planning and logistics of this operation were put into motion, with help from another research team that was already on the ground in the Brandberg region and very familiar with these lion. Both lioness were part of an ongoing monitoring and research group and already had satellite and VHF tracking collars fitted. Their whereabouts was thus known and their movements could be monitored. During this period it was discovered that one of the lioness had recently given birth to cubs.

Friday 17th August:

Once planning was finalised and all the legal documentation (movement permit) from MET had been received, the veterinary team from N/a'an ku se travelled to the location west of the Brandberg where these lion were currently residing.

Both lioness were chemically immobilised (darted) and transported to the 9500 ha Zannier Reserve by N/a'an ku se 50 km east of Windhoek. The three cubs were found and transported in a small cage with their mother no form of tranquilisation was given to the cubs for the journey. Every precaution was taken by the veterinary team to ensure safe translocation of all 5 lion to their destination. They were monitored continuously for the duration of the journey and no major complications occurred.

On arrival at N/a'an ku se, the 2 lioness and their cubs were placed into a 10 hectare, temporary holding facility with electrified fencing. The aim of this temporary holding facility is to allow them time to adapt and settle into their new environment.

Movement into and around this camp at N/a'an ku se is strictly controlled; only the team monitoring these lion have access to this area.

Direct observation and monitoring of the lion is done on a daily basis. Both lioness and their cubs appear to be in good health. Carcasses of wild game animals are left at a remote location within the camp every 3-4 days as food; camera trap photos at the carcasses assist in monitoring food intake and condition of the lioness.



On Friday 24th August a veterinary official from MET came to inspect the temporary holding facility and observe the lioness and their cubs. Feedback from this visit was supportive of our efforts on behalf of these lion.

When the veterinary team and N/a'ankusê management team of dr. Rudie and Marlice van Vuuren is satisfied that the lions are ready they will be released into a 9500 ha Nature Reserve fenced with electricity, where they will hunt for themselves. This is planned within the next 3-6 weeks. The translocation of the lions is part of the ongoing quest to find sustainable solutions to human wildlife conflict. Instead of shooting the lions the decision by MET is a pro active decision to look for innovative sustainable solutions to the ongoing lion human conflict.

The translocation of the lions could serve as potential genetic bank for the desert lion population and the 2 lionesses might even be translocated back into a protected area or National Park as part an scientific management program lead by MET and involving The Desert Lion Project and the Naankuse Foundation.

The Naankuse Foundation categorically states that the social media reports of lions being bought and cubs dying in transit is totally untruthful and false information and tries to create unwanted emotional hype around the situation.

From our understanding these lions were habituated for tourism by baiting them and therefor lost their fear of humans and became a problem, so the root cause of the problem once again starts with humans. The MET is unfairly criticized in this matter because if the lions were shot or trophy hunted to mitigate the conflict / threat, then there would also be a social media uproar, it is the opinion of the Naankuse Foundation that the MET acted in the best possible way.



