

ULTIMATE SAFARIS CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR CONSERVANCY RANGERS INTO 2025 – CELEBRATING 8 YEARS OF IMPACT

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Since 2018, Ultimate Safaris, through its Conservation Travel Foundation, has consistently provided annual support to communal conservancy rangers by equipping them with essential field uniforms and gear. The initiative, now entering its eighth year, underscores a steadfast commitment to conservation and community development.

Field uniforms and gear—ranging from boots, hats, and jackets to backpacks, tents, and bedrolls—are tailored to meet the specific needs of each year. For 2025, the program will benefit 150 communal conservancy rangers across 15 communal conservancies, including 85 Rhino Rangers, 50 Lion Rangers, and 15 Pangolin Rangers. The total investment amounts to nearly N\$600,000, ensuring these rangers are well-equipped to perform their crucial roles.

CONSERVANCY RANGERS: GUARDIANS OF NAMIBIA'S WILDLIFE

Conservancy rangers are selected from a pool of dedicated community game guards based on their expertise, commitment, and dedication to conserving Namibia's iconic wildlife species. This selection not only helps safeguard wildlife but also ensures that communal conservancies continue to reap the benefits of responsible tourism.

The program has yielded remarkable results:

- **Rhino Rangers:** Since their inception in Kunene in 2013, poaching has decreased by an impressive 80%.
- **Lion Rangers:** Their introduction has significantly mitigated human-wildlife conflict in Kunene, saving millions in livestock losses and protecting lions from retaliation.
- **Pangolin Rangers:** Newly introduced in 2024 in Northeast Namibia, this team aims to protect one of the world's most trafficked animals, with results anticipated soon.

ENSURING MOTIVATION AND EFFECTIVENESS

Providing rangers with proper uniforms and gear boosts morale and ensures they can execute their duties effectively. Without this support, conservancies would face significant financial strain, making this initiative a critical example of how tourism revenue can directly support conservation and community welfare.

“From supporting just 40 Rhino Rangers in 2018, we now back 150 Conservancy Rangers across communal conservancies,” said Jason Nott, Director of Ultimate Safaris' Conservation Travel Foundation. “We've witnessed the transformative impact of these dedicated rangers and are thrilled to continue our annual support.”

Additionally, Cymot, a key partner in the initiative, supplies the uniforms and gear on a cost-recovery basis, ensuring maximum conservation impact for every dollar invested.

Ultimate Safaris remains committed to its mission of fostering broad-based conservation that benefits both wildlife and the communities that steward them. END