



GOSCARS

GRASSROOTS OWEN-SMITH COMMUNITY RANGER AWARDS

open for nominations

Calling for nominations for 2023 GOSCARS

The outstanding work being done each day by Namibian community conservation game and fish guards, rangers and resource monitors will again be recognised and honoured – on 21 April 2023 - when the second annual GOSCARS – the Grass-Roots Owen-Smith Community Rangers Awards will be presented.

In addition, the GOSCARS panel hereby announces an additional CONSERVATION award, to the Community-based Organisation (CBO - conservancy, forest, residents' trust, fish reserve) that the panel thinks has done exceptionally well over the past few years. The panel will be looking at criteria such as (i) how well does the CBO monitor, manage, protect and sustainably use its natural resources (wildlife, forests, fish, exclusive conservation areas, wildlife corridors, etc), (ii) how much support and priority does the CBO committee give to the work of the community rangers, (iii) how well do the CBO members support the conservation work of their organisation, (iv) has the CBO had any anti-poaching or law-enforcement wins in the past years?, etc.

The Awards: The individual awards aim to recognize and celebrate up to three (3) top-performing Namibian conservancy game guards, conservancy lion or rhino rangers, fish guards and community resource monitors – those men and women who go the extra mile in doing their challenging and demanding jobs. The winners will each receive a cash prize of N\$15,000 plus a certificate. The Community-based Organisation from which each winner comes will also receive a cash prize of N\$10,000.

- a cash prize of N\$15,000 for each winning Ranger plus a certificate. The Community-based Organisation from which each winning Ranger comes will also receive N\$10,000; and
- a cash prize of N\$100,000 for the winning Community-based Organisation plus a certificate.

The Conservation award will recognize one (1) outstanding Community-based Organisation, which will receive a cash prize of N\$100,000 and a certificate.

Closing date for nominations is Tuesday 28 February 2023.

Donors: The annual GOSCARS have been made possible by generous contributions from Namibians and international friends and colleagues to an Owen-Smith memorial fund. The GOSCARS are being managed at no cost by the Namibian Chamber of the Environment.

Winners, panel, and ceremony: The GOSCARS panel comprises:

Dr Margaret Jacobsohn, founding IRDNC co-director and a founding NACSO member,

Mr Beaven Munalu, former Assistant Director of IRDNC Zambezi and retired chair of the Zambezi Regional Council, and

Mr Ronnie Dempers, Executive Director of NDT and chair of NACSO.

The first GOSCARs award ceremony took place at Wereldsend Environmental Centre last April 2022, attended by conservancy and community leaders, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), private sector and government.

The winners were:

Mr Hans Haoseb, a rhino ranger in //Huab Conservancy,

Mr Thalubengwa James Nandu, field officer for Salambala Conservancy,

Mr Rodney Tjavara, Human-Lion Conflict Rapid Response Ranger in Puros Conservancy, and

Mr Marthinus Sanib, rhino ranger for Torra Conservancy.

They were recognized for their outstanding front-line work, contributing to the protection and better management of the valuable wildlife in their conservancies.

General Information: The late Garth Owen-Smith initiated community-based conservation in Kunene in the 80s when this approach – empowering communities who live with wildlife to manage and benefit from it – was politically unacceptable. By independence, this way of doing conservation was showing irrefutably positive results, with poaching stopped and wildlife numbers increasing in Kunene, which led the new Namibian government to adopt community conservation as one of its driving philosophies. Conservation legislation was amended to give communal area dwellers the same conditional rights over wildlife that freehold farm owners had enjoyed since the 70s. Today Namibia has 86 communal conservancies, 43 communal forests, one community association for people who live inside the Bwabwata National Park, and 10 community fish reserves.

2023 Nominations: Please submit your nominations to the Namibian Chamber of Environment. Note that your nominee must work for a Namibian community-based organisation: a communal conservancy, a community forest, resident's trust, or community fish reserve. NGO, private sector, and government workers are not eligible but in good positions to nominate community staff with whom they engage. Nominations should be sent to the NCE before the end of February 2023. Forms are available online from the NCE or at their offices.

Email: admin@n-c-e.org

Postal: *PO Box 40723, Ausspannplatz, Windhoek*

Physical: *20 Nachtigal Street, Ausspannplatz area, Windhoek*

Tel: (061) 240 140

Cell & SMS: 081 162 5807

Contact person: Henriette Krohne-Frey