

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION

NAMIBIA LEARNING EVENT 2023



REPORT



13 - 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

Bringing together Rufford Foundation grantees from across southern Africa to network, exchange knowledge and strengthen capacity through workshops.

#RuffordLE_Namibia

TABLE OF

CONTENTS

1	SUMMARY
2	PROGRAMME
11	NETWORKING
14	EVALUATION
19	BUDGET
20	CLOSING CEREMONY
23	FULL PROGRAMME
26	TEAM PROFILES

SUMMARY OF THE LE ACTIVITIES

PRESENTATIONS

- Keynote Speaker: **Mr Marthin Kasaona**, Deputy Director for Central Region, Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism
- An introduction to The Rufford Foundation small grants programme: **Mr Stuart Paterson**, The Rufford Foundation
- Human-wildlife Coexistence: Cheetah Conservation Fund team, led by **Dr Bogdan Cristescu**

WORKSHOPS

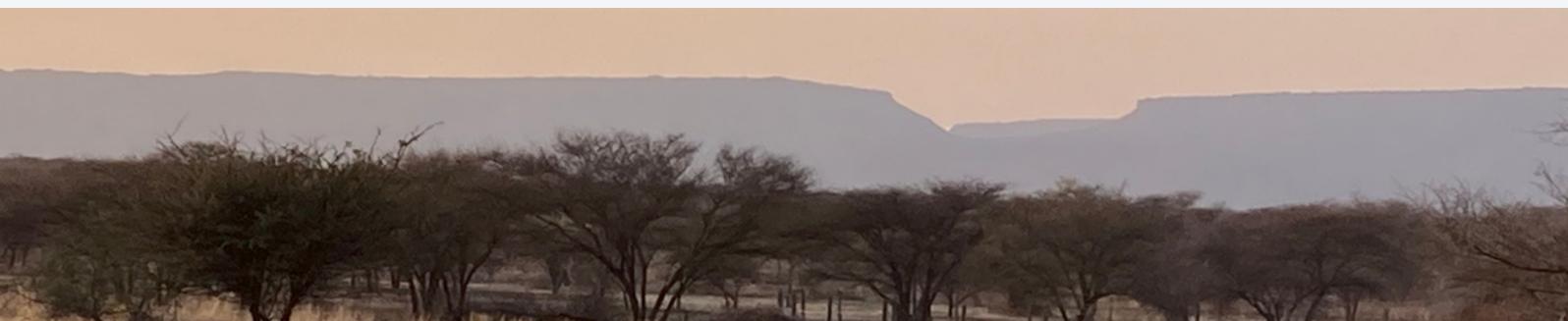
- Workshop 1: Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) assessments – **Dr Simmy Benzeng**, BirdLife South Africa | IUCN KBA team
- Workshop 2: Measuring your Impact (Theory of Change) – **Dr Rachael Cooper-Bohannon** and **Ms Helen Taylor-Boyd**, Bats without Borders | University of Stirling
- Workshop 3: Fundraising (grants, crowd funding and corporate sponsors) – **Ms Mariam Weston**, The Rufford Foundation

CAREERS

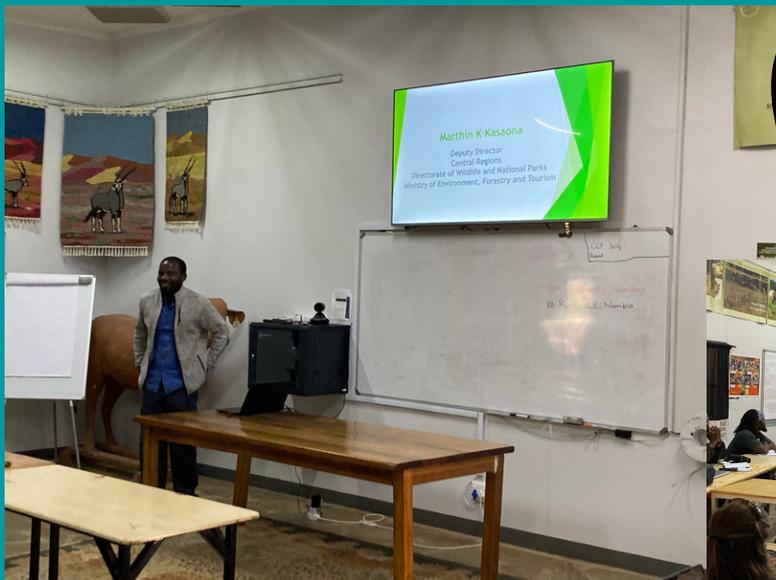
- We ran two sessions to understand challenges and opportunities for early careers and women in conservation science.

NETWORKING

- Tour of CCF facilities, including the genetics lab, guarding dogs and goat husbandry.
- Game drive with sundowner drinks and an opportunity to unwind and further network.
- Bat walk, led by **Danny Boyd** and **Helen Taylor-Boyd**, which included CCF staff, volunteers, students and interns to learn more about bats and take part in a bat walk
- Sunset walk, organised by one of the CCF staff members in tourism team after she enjoyed the bat walk and connected with the Rufford Foundation LE participants.
- We also scheduled long lunch breaks and regular coffee breaks to promote networking.



SNAPSHOT OF SOME OF THE LE ACTIVITIES



Keynote speaker:

Mr Marthin Kasaona - Deputy Director, Central Region, Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism



Presentation:

Mr Stuart Paterson- CEO of The Rufford Foundation giving an overview of the TRF small grants programme, joined by **Ms Mariam Weston** (TRF Grants Officer)



Workshop 1:

Dr Simmy Benzeng - BirdLife South Africa | IUCN KBA team, given a day workshop on KBA assessment methods and criteria.



SNAPSHOT (CONT.)

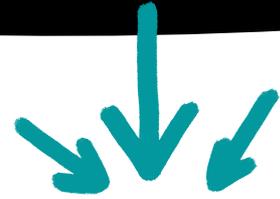


CCF tour:

CCF staff - gave a tour of the facilities, including the dog guarding programme, goat husbandry and training facility and the genetics lab.



CCF's renowned morning cheetah run!



SNAPSHOT (CONT.)



Game drive and sundowner team builder

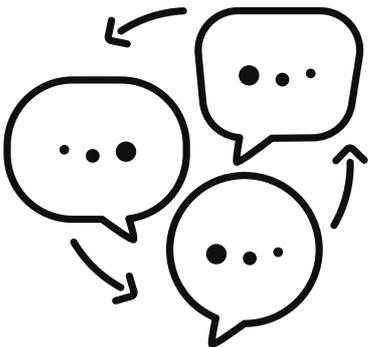
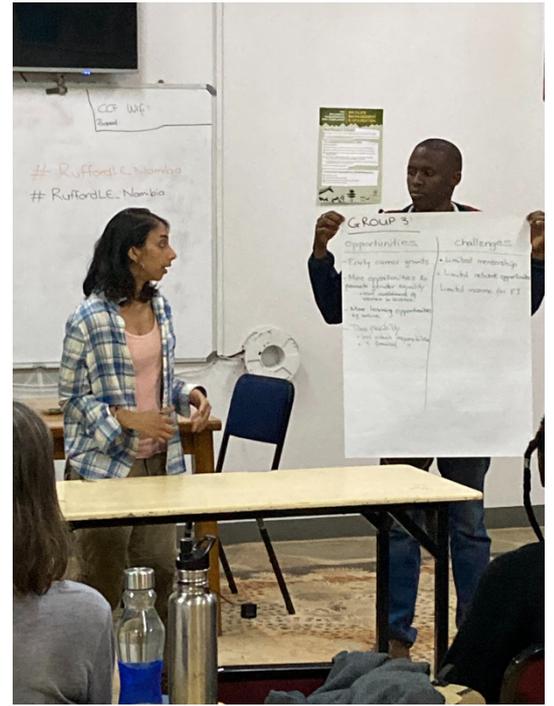
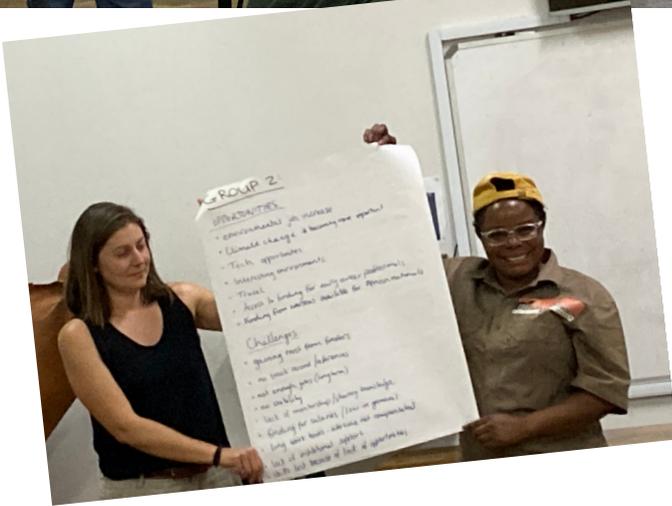


SNAPSHOT (CONT.)

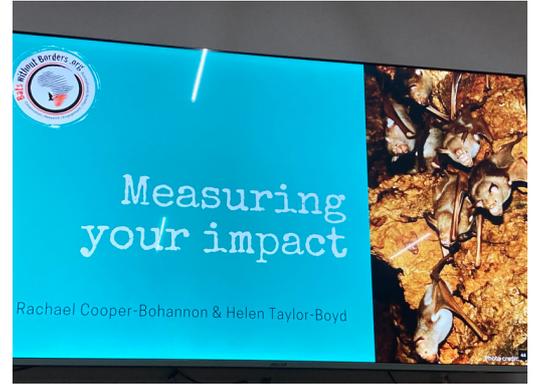


Career discussion 1:

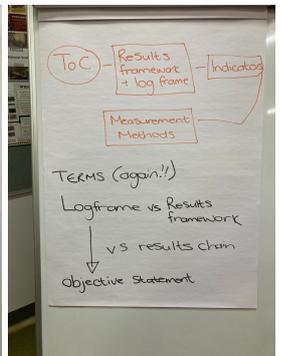
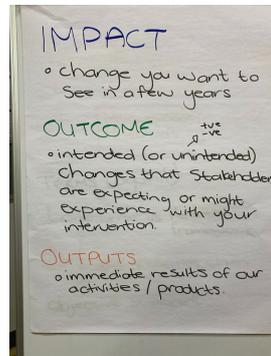
Dr Christopher Imakando, Bats without Borders Capacity Development Officer leading discussion about early career researchers, ecologists / conservationists.



SNAPSHOT (CONT.)



Workshop 2:
Dr Rachael Cooper-Bohannon and Ms Helen Taylor-Boyd, Bats without Borders ran a workshop on **Measuring your Impact (Theory of Change)**



SNAPSHOT (CONT.)



Workshop 3:

Ms Mariam Weston, Grants Officer for TRF - an interactive session on grants, crowd funding, business funding - with lots of advice and questions answered!



Bushblok visit:

Finding out how CCF is engaged with sustainable wood brickettes, while helping conservation!





Career discussion 2:

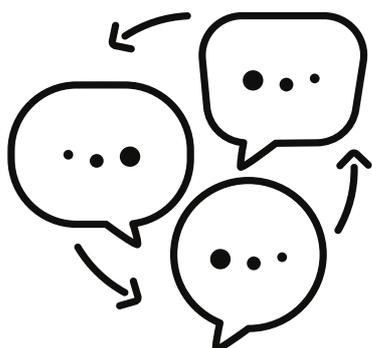
Women in Conservation Science – female delegates discuss their experiences and share ideas to support other women in conservation.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Key discussion points, to support women in conservation:

1. We need materials or tools to boost our confidence, as lack of confidence was one of the most important highlights.
2. We need to find ways to include males in the conversation, too.
3. In the experience of the participants, women are usually better mentors due to their empathy and more sensitive social skills.
4. Creating spaces where women can safely be involved in field activities could enable more women to participate in conservation.



SNAPSHOT (CONT.)



Research dog demo:

Tim Hoffman, CCF – scat dog handler, research manager and coordinator gave the group a demonstration of using dogs to find cheetah scat.



NETWORKING

As well as dedicated networking activities, such as ice breakers, game drive, bat walk and CCF centre tour, the group enjoyed lunch and tea/coffee breaks and evening meals together as well as group activities during workshops and much needed downtime and camp fire discussions, laughs, singing and dancing too!



NETWORKING (CONT.)

Bat walk

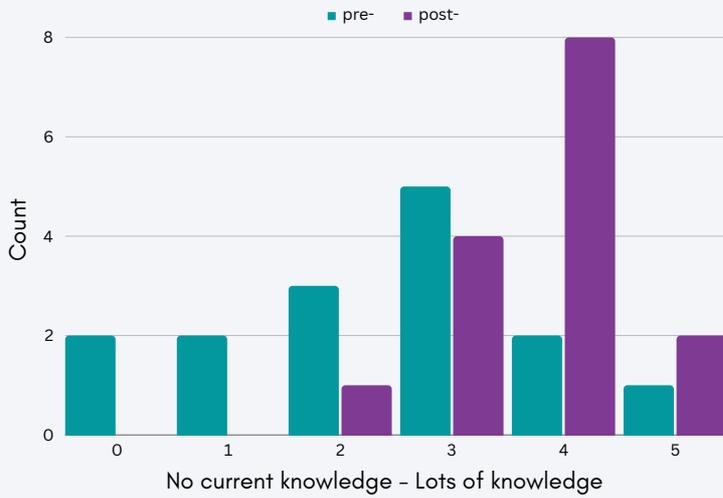


NETWORKING (CONT.)

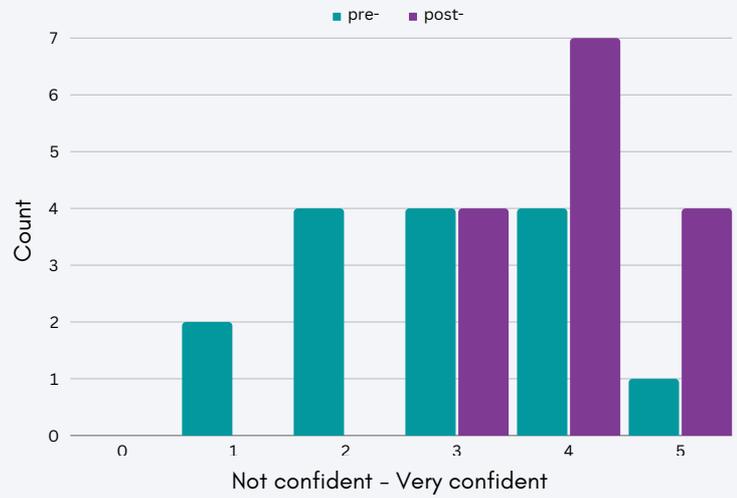


WORKSHOP PRE- AND POST-TRAINING EVALUATION

How would you rate your current understanding of Theory of Change?



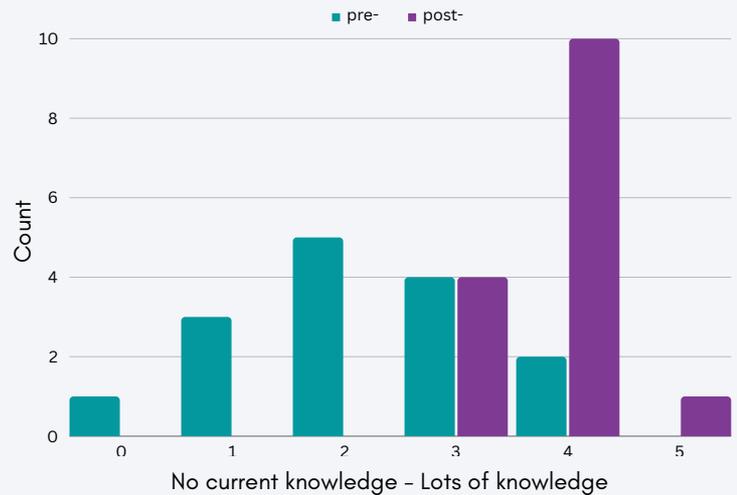
How confident do you feel about monitoring your project impact?



How confident do you feel about fundraising?



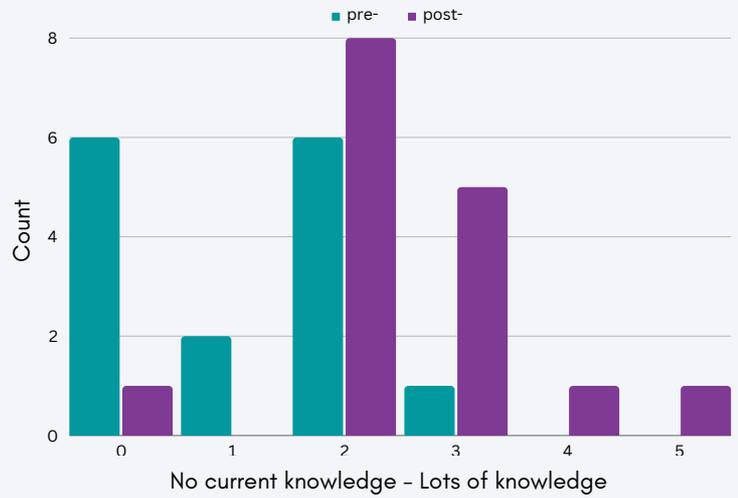
How would you rank your knowledge of the requirements for grants, corporate or crowdfunding fundraising?



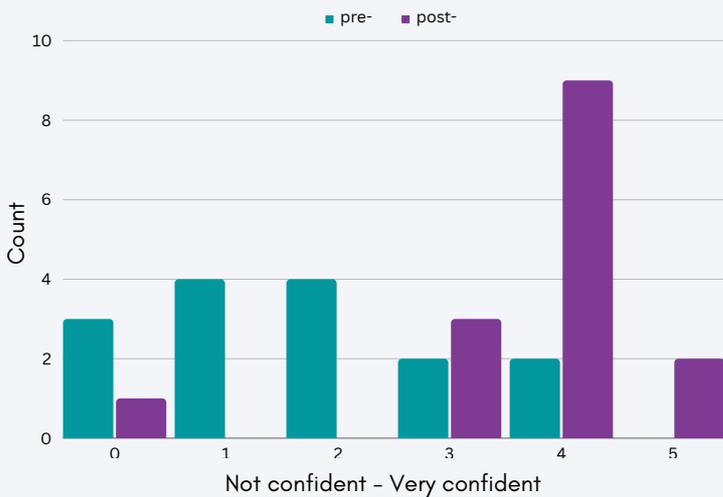
How would you rank your knowledge of KBAs - KBA standards, criteria, thresholds and delineation procedures?



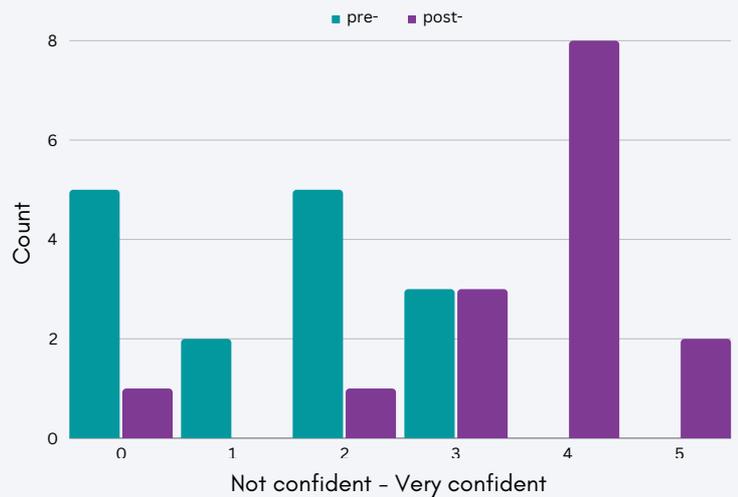
How would you rank your knowledge of assessing KBA parameters?



How confident would you be to ID species that would trigger KBAs?



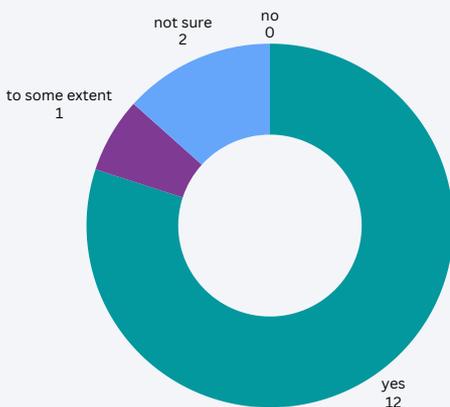
How confident do you feel about knowing species and ecosystem-based criteria for KBAs?



Gender



Could the information and workshops presented in the Namibia LE help you address the biggest challenges and needs to achieve conservation in your context?



Were the activities and the LE environment helpful for networking?



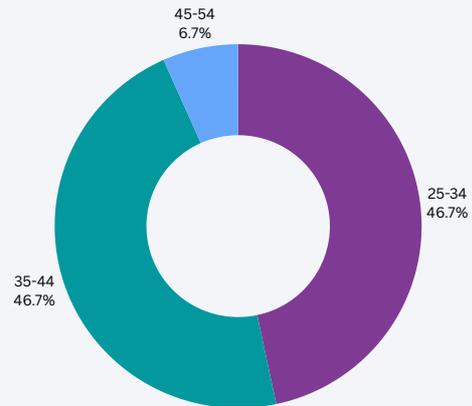
highly agreed (87%) or agreed (13%)

After TRF talk and 1:1 discussions, do you feel encouraged to apply for further TRF funds?



yes!!!

Age

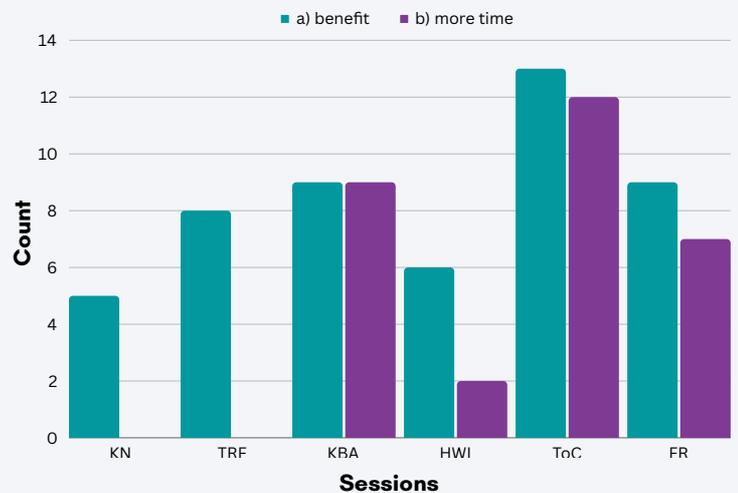


southern African countries represented



- Botswana
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- South Africa
- Zimbabwe
- Zambia

Of the sessions, **a)** which one(s) did you benefit from (or enjoy) the most; **b)** if we had had more time which one(s) do you think you would have benefited from more time?



KN = keynote presentation; TRF - Rufford Foundation small grants; KBA = key biodiversity assessment workshop; HWI = human-wildlife interaction presentation and discussion; ToC = Theory of Change (Measuring your Impact); and FR = fundraising.

EVALUATION (CONT.)

In our post-evaluation survey we ask participants what three words described their experience of the Namibia LE....



Do you have any ideas on how we can better network and work together as Rufford grantees?

"...grantees dealing with the same thematic area or species should be encouraged to collaborate more."

"I suggest having a online meeting maybe once or twice a year where 2 or more can present on the conservation work they are doing."

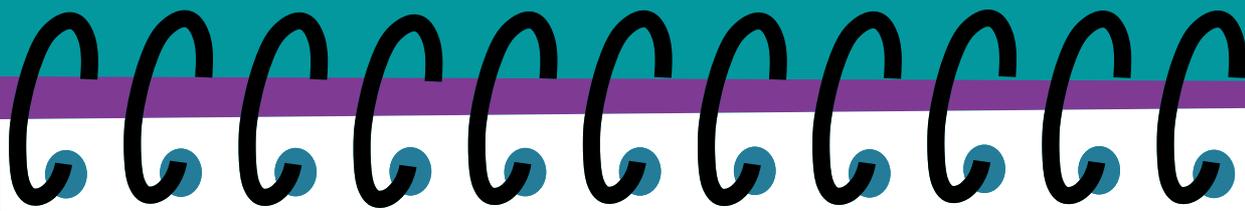
"Through Zoom meetings and maintaining an active Whats App group to be discussing progress grantees are making in their various projects."

"Create grants specifically for TEAMS of Rufford Alumni."

"Having a platform to share resources and have discussions would be useful. Perhaps something like a Facebook group. Having more informal catch up/ networking events via zoom would also help."

"I would definitely keep this kind of event and the personal level I felt when attended."

"We can have a database where we share our data from different species in different landscapes and collaborate, write papers. Also compare species behaviour in different landscapes."



ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

"This event was really amazing and I, like most other attendees, agree that the interactive style of the event was much more useful and it is great to see the Rufford's Foundation moving towards this format. What will probably be useful is staying connected after the events to continue learning about challenges that other conservationists face and how best they can be supported."

"Once again thank you for organising the workshop. Indeed it was educating and motivating. Personally I was motivated to further my career in conservation."

"Thank you so much for the LE it was great. As discussed in the LE would be great if Rufford Foundation could have a dedicated grant to support small NGOs based on the field with running costs (salary, etc.). This is probably the biggest challenge for early professionals who want to do conservation in remote places. Thank you for all. It was a fantastic event!"

"The workshop was well organised and many thanks to all who worked hard to make it a success. The CCF was also a good venue and we learnt and a lot and the accommodation was great. The staff were also friendly."

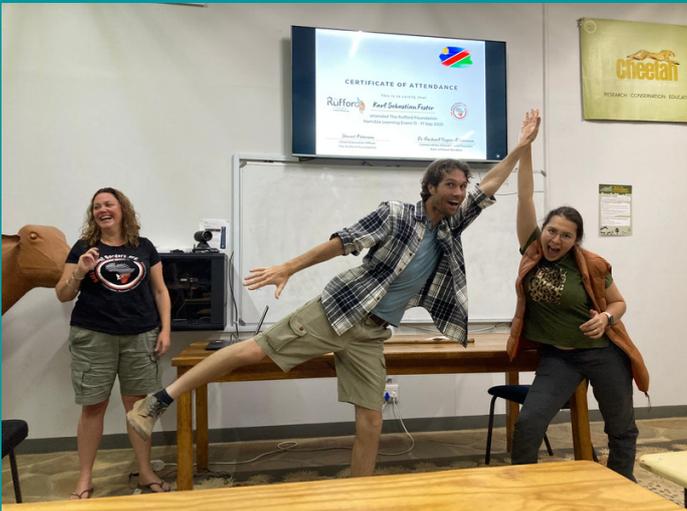
"I commend TRF for supporting sustainability principles - the plant-based food, bringing our own water bottles and our travel coffee mug gifts. Thank you so much to TRF for the support and encouragement, and to Rachael and team for organising, and to CCF for hosting us. Much appreciated!."

"Thank you for an amazing event! I feel privileged that I was invited and really appreciate all the effort that went into it."

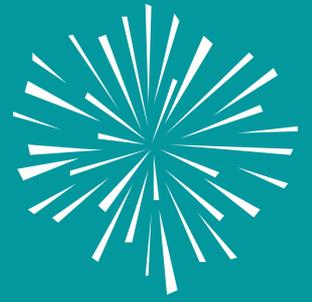
"Thank you for such an informative workshop."

"really great event - well organised and really great bunch of people thank you!"

CLOSING CEREMONY AND CERTIFICATES!



CLOSING CEREMONY (CONT.)



CLOSING CEREMONY (CONT.)



CONGRATULATIONS

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION NAMIBIA LEARNING EVENT

Location: Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), Otjiwarongo, Namibia

Dates: 13 - 17 September 2023

PROGRAMME

#RuffordLE_Namibia

Time	Activity
13 September (Wednesday)	
Afternoon	Arrive and settle in
17:30	Welcome and logistics/housekeeping
19:00	Dinner
14 September (Thursday)	
07:00 - 08:00	Breakfast
08:30	Introduction to the programme and icebreakers
09:30	Keynote speaker (Marthin Kasaona, Ministry of Environment and Tourism)
10:15	Q&A
10:30	Tea / coffee break
10:50	The Rufford Foundation small grants programme (Stuart Paterson & Mariam Weston, The Rufford Foundation)
11:20	Q&A
11:30	Tour of CCF facility (Shannon Kandjai)
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Human-wildlife coexistence discussion (panel discussion) - <i>interactive session</i>
15:30	Tea / coffee break
15:50	Game drive
19:00	Dinner
20:30	Early career conservationists - opportunities and challenges (all participants)



#RuffordLE_Namibia

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION NAMIBIA LEARNING EVENT

PROGRAMME CONT.

#RuffordLE_Namibia

Time	Activity
15 September (Friday)	
07:00 – 08:00	Breakfast
Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) assessment workshop (Simmy Bezeng, BirdLife South Africa)	
08:30	Module 1.1: Introduction to KBAs
09:00	Module 1.2: KBA Standards
09:30	Q&A
09:40	Module 2: Overview of the KBA identification and delineation process
10:10	Q&A
10:20	Tea / coffee break
10:40	Module 3.1: Single species criteria
11:10	Module 3.2: Multi-species criteria
11:40	Q&A
11:50	Module 4: Ecosystem-based criteria
12:20	Q&A
12:30	Lunch (lunch served at 13H00)
14:00	Module 5: KBA Delineation
14:30	Q&A
14:40	Module 6: Consulting and involving stakeholders
15:10	Q&A
15:20	Tea / coffee break
15:40	Introduction to multi-site & online KBA proposal form
16:40	Closing and next steps
17:00 – 18:00	Networking / *Rufford Foundation 1:1 sessions / free time
Evening	Optional bat walk
19:30	Dinner



#RuffordLE_Namibia

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION NAMIBIA LEARNING EVENT

PROGRAMME CONT.

#RuffordLE_Namibia

Time	Activity
16 September (Saturday)	
07:00 - 08:00	Breakfast
08:00	Cheetah run
10:00	Tea / coffee break
10:30	Measuring Your Impact workshop (Rachael Cooper-Bohannon and Helen Taylor-Boyd, Bats without Borders) - <i>interactive session with questions throughout</i>
12:00	Women in Conservation Science - opportunities and challenges (female participants)
13:00	Lunch
14:30	Fundraising workshop (Mariam Weston, The Rufford Foundation) - <i>interactive session with questions throughout</i>
16:00	Tea / coffee break
16:20	Free time
19:00	Dinner
20:00	Certificate ceremony and wrap up
17 September (Sunday)	
07:00 - 08:30	Breakfast
09:00	Depart / move onto ASMS



#RuffordLE_Namibia

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION NAMIBIA LEARNING EVENT

KEYNOTE

#RuffordLE_Namibia



MARTHIN KASAONA

Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Marthin Kasaona, Deputy Director for Central Region, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism based at ministry head office in Windhoek. His primary role is to ensure that administratively the Central Parks and Regional Services under Central region are successfully managed as per the Ministry mandate and vision. Mr. Kasaona holds a Masters Degree in Environment and Development, he majored in Environmental Management Stream from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; B-Tech degree in Nature Conservation from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in South Africa. In addition, Mr. Kasaona has a National Diploma in Natural Resource Management: Nature Conservation from Polytechnic of Namibia. Kasaona has represented Africa on the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), which serves as advisory body to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD). At a local level he has served on National Commission on Research, Science and Technology as a Biosafety Council member. Currently, he is serving on many non-profitable organisations including Bats without Borders.

TRAINERS



STUART PATERSON

The Rufford Foundation

CEO of The Rufford Foundation since 2022, responsible for the Foundation's strategy, administration and management. I work with our Trustees on governance and strategic financial decisions; and with the Foundation's staff to ensure delivery of our funding objectives and support to our grantees - especially Rufford Small Grant recipients. Experienced in grant-making, programme management and capacity building. I enjoy working with a wide range of stakeholders and seeking collaborative relationships to deliver shared conservation goals. Previously at Fauna & Flora (2005-2022) and Executive Manager of the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) - directing a partnership between BirdLife, Fauna & Flora and Wildlife Conservation Society that specialises in enhancing the capacity of early-career conservationists through small grants, training, internships and networking. MSc in Environmental Management (University of Nottingham, UK), BSc in Latin American Studies (University of Liverpool, UK).

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION NAMIBIA LEARNING EVENT

TRAINERS (CONT.)

#RuffordLE_Namibia



MARIAM WESTON

The Rufford Foundation

Mariam is an Engineer in Sustainable Development with an MPhil in Conservation Leadership from the University of Cambridge and an unfathomable passion for wildlife conservation and sustainable social development. For more than eight years, she has led, promoted, fundraised, and developed interdisciplinary, sustainable and community-based conservation strategies for biodiversity. Mariam has experience building strategic alliances between several stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, academia and NGOs. She is also interested and experienced in producing creative and efficient communication and funding strategies, which I have implemented for NGOs such as Animal Karma Foundation, WWF Mexico and Panthera Mexico. Mariam is a contributor to the Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation through the coordination of the Ocelot Working Group. And is also a human-wildlife coexistence, sustainable development and nature-based solutions enthusiast, and my biggest dream is to help stop extinctions by engineering sustainable conservation solutions!



SIMEON BEZENG

BirdLife South Africa

Simmy Bezeng completed his PhD in Botany from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa in 2015. He is an Invasion Biologist, with a diverse interest in using modern technological innovations to understanding drivers of biodiversity loss. Bezeng is a certified IUCN Red List and Key Biodiversity Areas Trainer and works primarily across several African countries to support capacity building initiatives to develop National Red List and identify Key Biodiversity Areas. Bezeng heads up the Regional Conservation Programme at BirdLife South Africa and is a staff of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Chair's Office. Additionally, he is a member of the following groups within the IUCN SSC network - Hornbill, and Invasive Species Specialist Groups and Steering and Red List Committees.

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION NAMIBIA LEARNING EVENT

TRAINERS (CONT.)

#RuffordLE_Namibia



RACHAEL COOPER-BOHANNON

Bats without Borders

Rachael is a Conservation Scientist with research interests in species distribution modelling; conservation planning; community science and monitoring and human-bat interactions. Rachael was born in Zambia and grew up in South Africa, she completed her PhD at the University of Stirling in 2015 titled: 'Assessing the distribution of bats in southern Africa to highlight conservation priorities' with extensive fieldwork in the Northern Cape, Namibia and Botswana. She is the Founder of Bats without Borders, an NGO dedicated to bat research and conservation working across southern Africa. After completing her PhD Rachael moved to Malawi for four years, and now lives in Scotland and works for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. She is also on the IUCN Bat Specialist Group and Global Bat Network steering group member for priority species and habitats subgroup.



HELEN TAYLOR-BOYD

Bats without Borders

Helen is an ecologist and conservationist with a particular soft spot for bats with her main interests being behavioural and landscape ecology. She started up the 'Bats in Zambia' project, supported by the Rufford Foundation and Bats without Borders, to improve bat research, public engagement and capacity strengthening in Zambia. She is currently finishing up her part-time PhD on bats in agricultural landscapes with the University of Stirling and will continue to develop 'Bats in Zambia' project activities as she progresses through to the next steps of her career.

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION NAMIBIA LEARNING EVENT

BATS WITHOUT BORDERS (CONT.)

#RuffordLE_Namibia



CHRISTOPHER IMAKANDO

Bats without Borders

Dr Christopher Imakando is a Wildlife Ecologist currently working as a lecturer, researcher, and consultant at the Copperbelt University, School of Natural Resources, Department of Zoology and Aquatic Sciences. Christopher has just started as a part-time Capacity Development Officer with Bats without Borders. He holds a PhD Ecology from the University of Greenwich (UK), MSc Ecology from the Prince of Songkla University (Thailand), and a BScED from the University of Zambia (Zambia). He has experience working with smallholder farmers to develop ecologically based rodent management strategies in maize fields. He has extensive knowledge and understanding of conservation, taxonomy, and ecology of small mammals (i.e., rodents, shrews, and bats) and conducting ecological assessments including using camera traps. He also has extensive experience of teaching in higher education. His current research interests are in the impacts of habitat fragmentation on the diversity and distribution of small mammals and biological control of pest species in agricultural systems. He is a creative, dedicated, and hardworking researcher/consultant who can operate in a team or individually with minimum supervision.

DELEGATES



SHANAN ATKINS

Shanan Atkins is a marine biologist based in Johannesburg, South Africa which is 600km from the ocean - so is a fish-out-of-water/one-of-a-kind depending on whether the glass is half empty/half full. She recently finished her PhD at the University of the Witwatersrand's School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences investigating the human-wildlife conflict regarding sharks, bathers and bycatch at Richards Bay, South Africa. She started out studying the conservation biology of endangered humpback dolphins, especially their interactions with KwaZulu-Natal's shark nets which threaten the population. But a narrow focus was not helping to reduce the threat so she broadened her view and mapped the whole bather-shark conflict, and worked to involve a variety of stakeholders in the process of seeking solutions.

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION NAMIBIA LEARNING EVENT

DELEGATES (CONT.)

#RuffordLE_Namibia



FELEMONT BANDA

Felemont Banda is an academic with passion for environmental conservation. His area of interest is environmental planning law and the confluence of law and environmental conservation. He holds a MSc; BSc, LLB and currently studying towards an LLM at the University of Witwatersrand. He holds a faculty position in the School of Built Environment at the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS).



KUDZANAI DHLIWAYO

Kudzanai is a PhD student studying vultures in Zimbabwe.



GREGORY DOWO

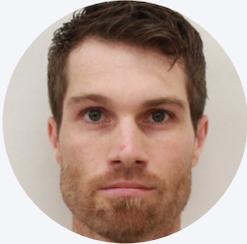
University of Zimbabwe

Gregory Dowo is a lecturer in the Applied Biosciences and Biotechnology Department at the Midlands State University, Zimbabwe. He holds a BSc (Hons) in Biological Sciences and an MSc in Tropical Resource Ecology from the University of Zimbabwe. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Terrestrial Ecology also with the University of Zimbabwe. His research interests include socio-ecological systems, ethnobotany, ecological restoration and participatory conservation. He is a fellow of the IPBES, which published the regional assessment report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Africa) in 2018 in which he co-authored Chapter 3 on Status and Trends. He received a Rufford Small Grant in 2015 on the topic of reducing resource harvesting in protected areas around Gonarezhou National Park, in Zimbabwe.

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION NAMIBIA LEARNING EVENT

DELEGATES (CONT.)

#RuffordLE_Namibia



SEBASTIAN FESTER

University of Queensland

Karl Sebastian Fester, but prefers just using Sebastian, is from Otjiwarongo in north-central Namibia but have lived in and visited many parts of the world, taking every opportunity to travel. Most of his education was completed in the United States, earning a BSc in Natural Resource Management and Policy before moving back to Namibia. Currently, he is pursuing his PhD in Australia at the University of Queensland on wildlife ecology and conservation, with a focus on interspecific interactions and a passion for conserving Africa's lesser-loved wildlife, especially scavenger species. He has worked in African carnivore research and conservation for almost ten years with Namibian NGO groups and have helped to establish and maintain a private protected area in the south Namib Desert landscape in that time. When not actively working on a research or conservation project Sebastian indulges in his second passion of aviation, with plans to use it to compliment his future research and conservation work.



HAFENI HAMALWA

Cheetah Conservation Fund

Hafeni Hamalwa is from Namibia, and holds an MSc in Biology (THESIS) and a BSc in Microbiology from the University of Namibia. He is currently a Laboratory Manager at Cheetah Conservation Fund Genetics Laboratory. Where he has been involved in research work focusing on conservation genetics of cheetah in Namibia, Kenya, and Somaliland supported by the Rufford Foundation. Cheetahs, together with other species are experiencing a decline in their population and distribution due to human-driven activities such as human-wildlife conflict, habitat fragmentation and illegal trafficking. Cheetah have received extensive research attention mainly on distribution and taxonomy but there are uncertainties around systematics in some countries such as Kenya and Somaliland if we are able to find answers to some of the question we will then be able to improve and implements conservation strategies and management of cheetahs in those countries.

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION NAMIBIA LEARNING EVENT

DELEGATES (CONT.)

#RuffordLE_Namibia



CARRIE HICKMAN

University of Cape Town

A PhD student at the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town, dedicated to researching the effects of climate warming on the Southern Ground-Hornbill, an endangered, iconic bird species. For over 7 years, Carrie has been an integral part of the APNR Southern Ground Hornbill Research and Conservation Project, in South Africa, based in the greater Kruger region where she contributes to the conservation of these birds through the implementation of artificial nests, monitoring reproductive success and public engagement. Carrie is Scottish and loves being outdoors, trail running or birding, to connect with nature. Her academic journey is driven by a passion for understanding the intricate relationship between environmental changes and wildlife, with the ultimate goal of contributing to their preservation.



ABIGAIL KARIMANZIRA

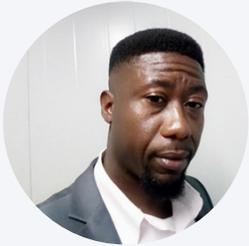
BirdLife Zimbabwe

Abigail Karimanzira is an ecologist based in Harare, Zimbabwe. She is enthusiastic in project planning and management on environmental conservation issues. She holds a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management from Bindura University of Science Education and a Post Graduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management from the University of Zimbabwe. Currently, Abigail is a conservation and project officer at BirdLife Zimbabwe and her work incorporates bird research, monitoring and avitourism products development. In year 2020, as an early career conservationist, she received an African Bird Club conservation award to study the availability of Lilian's lovebirds in Mana Pools National Park in Zimbabwe. This year she has received a Rufford Foundation 1st small grant to research on the interaction of lovebirds and humans in the Middle Zambezi Biosphere Reserve in Zimbabwe. Abigail strives to achieve environmental protection and climate justice through creating livelihood options, education and awareness, and youth empowerment. In her leisure time, she enjoys taking nature walks, hiking, bird watching and reading.

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION NAMIBIA LEARNING EVENT

DELEGATES (CONT.)

#RuffordLE_Namibia



RICHARD MAZEBEDI

Botswana International University of Science and Technology

Richard has an MPhil and PhD in Freshwater Biology but towards the end of his PhD he had a chance to study cave ecology at Oxford University, and that led to a parallel career that he leads now: he is a freshwater ecologist and a cave ecologist. Richard is a passionate conservationist, and always looks for better ways which natural resources can be used to benefit human welfare in a sustainable way, including local communities. Richard is currently teaching at Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST). When he is not at work, he likes spending time with his family and doing farming (arable and horticulture).



TSHEPO MOATSWI

Organized and dependable individual with experience in wildlife research and conservation. An aspiring carnivore ecologist with MPhil in natural resource management and currently in the process of enrolling for a PhD in carnivore ecology.



HIRAL NAIK

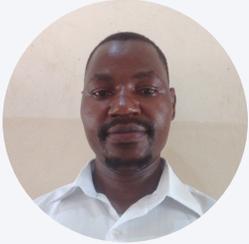
Save The Snakes

Hiral Naik is a herpetologist and conservationist, and is the Africa Program Manager at Save The Snakes, a non-profit organisation dedicated to mitigating human-snake conflict globally. Hiral currently runs a snake education and outreach program in South Africa in collaboration with Hoedspruit Reptile Centre. Their Snake Education and Community Awareness Program (SECAP) involves working with learners at schools, community members and healthcare workers to educate them about snakebite and snake safety. Hiral is also a PhD candidate in the Alexander Herp Lab at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. Her research focuses on the behavioural ecology of venomous snakes in relation to snakebite and the eco-epidemiology of snakebite in South Africa. Hiral is a member of the IUCN Snake Specialist Group and through here science and conservation efforts she aims to change the perspective people have of snakes to protect them.

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION NAMIBIA LEARNING EVENT

DELEGATES (CONT.)

#RuffordLE_Namibia



WISDOM NYONDOH

Savannah Foundation Trust

Wisdom Jaccob Nyondoh is the founder and coordinator of Savannah Foundation Trust, a local community based organization in the northern region of Malawi that focuses on environmental rehabilitation and biodiversity conservation. Wisdom has a decade of experience in his field and believes in developing context specific integrated approaches that restores the environment while systematically improves the wellbeing of the community members who are the ultimate custodians. He is currently evaluating the efficacy of participatory conservation programs within Misuku Hills Bio-reserve and examines the levels of participation for communities within this key biodiversity area. His skills include; organisational skills, stakeholder engagement, proposal development, research analysis and communication and he is most passionate about the restoration of native forest ecosystems. Wisdom holds a degree in Sustainable Human Development from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa in Nairobi, Kenya and a Masters of Science in Environmental Forestry from Bangor University, Wales UK. He is also an alumna of the US Department of State funded professional fellowship program called the Community Solutions Program and a beneficiary of the Marshal Papworth Scholarship program.



GUGULETHU TARAKINI

Research and Education for Sustainable Actions

Gugulethu Tarakini is the founder of Research and Education for Sustainable Actions a conservation trust based in Zimbabwe. The main focus of her work is on pollinator conservation particularly bees. Through the conservation trust, she leads projects on research, education and conservation of pollinators. Most of her work is with smallholder farmers and schools and encompass establishment of pollinator gardens, indigenous tree nursery management, beekeeping social enterprises and native bee research. Gugulethu holds a Masters in Agroforestry and PhD in Agro ecology. For more information on her work visit website: www.resa.co.zw, Facebook page: Research and Education for Sustainable Actions.

THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION NAMIBIA LEARNING EVENT

DELEGATES (CONT.)

#RuffordLE_Namibia



YARA TIBIRIÇÁ

Yara Tibiriçá is an accomplished marine scientist and dedicated conservationist with a diverse range of experiences spanning marine research, project management and environmental education. Holding a Ph.D. in Science from the Universidad de Cadiz, Spain, she has exhibited remarkable dedication to the study and conservation of marine ecosystems, particularly in Mozambique. Her journey includes positions as a post-doctoral researcher, project manager, and marine field technician in various esteemed institutions worldwide. Yara's academic contributions are centered on taxonomy of marine invertebrates, in particular Heterobranch molluscs including the description of several new nudibranch species. Beyond academia, Yara's expertise shines in her diving career, boasting multiple certifications like Technical Cave Diver, Rebreather Diver and Scientific Dive Instructor. Presently, Yara is engaged as a post-doc researcher for the marine component of the COREBIOM project in Mozambique. In this role, she is actively involved in training aspiring students in the field of marine biology. Her research pursuits encompass investigating mollusc diversity and the impacts of coral bleaching on Inhaca Island.

THANK YOU

#RuffordLE_Namibia

To our delegates, trainers and The Rufford Foundation for making this event possible.