

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Leela Hazzah
Project title	Lion Guardians: A community approach to carnivore conservation in Maasailand, Kenya
RSG reference	11098-B
Reporting period	March 2012-March 2013
Amount of grant	£12,000
Your email address	Leela@lionguardians.org
Date of this report	March 3, 2013

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
I. Analysis of current situation/context in expansion site in West Kilimanjaro (northern Tanzania)			x	We interviewed community members and gathered information on lion killing through informants to better understand the conflict situation.
II. Development of methodology to be used for LG programme based on information gathered in activity I			x	This phase focused on fine-tuning our model to fit within the local cultural context.
III. Acquisition of necessary permits and permissions		x		We spent almost 8 months getting the necessary permits from the district council and all other local level authorities which allowed us to start the project. However, after the project was running successfully for many months, the Tanzania law changed at the end of January 2013 and we are now in the process of obtaining the additional permits needed to continue operations.
IV. Hiring of Lion Guardians			x	We employed five Lion Guardians in West Kilimanjaro area (patrolling over 500 km ²)
V. Training of Lion Guardians			x	All the new recruits were taught basic literacy, data forms, conflict mitigation techniques, GPS and telemetry tracking of radio collared lions. The training was done by an experienced LG from Kenya.
VI. Mitigation of conflict and prevention of lion killing			x	Lion Guardians have worked very hard to recover 90% of all lost livestock in their area (n=560), reinforced 22 <i>bomas</i> (none experienced further depredation) and stopped eight lion hunting attempts
VII. Partner with a tourist operator to cover salaries of Lion Guardians			x	Tourism operators are paying all the salaries of the new Lion Guardians and offering special tracking trips for their guests (each guests pays \$250) to go out with Lion Guardians to help us raise additional revenue. Additionally, a tourism operator gave us funds to purchase a vehicle.

VIII. Partner with local collaborators			x	We have worked very close with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) which has provided us with valuable logistical support as well as with Big Life Foundation who runs game scout teams throughout the ecosystem.
IX. Increase awareness & media coverage of Lion Guardians project				Media includes: Featured in BBC AFRICA series (narrated by David Attenborough), Africa Geographic magazine, and public talks in East Africa, Italy, and India.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The most challenging issue that we have had to deal with during this expansion is permits. We spent 8 months getting all the necessary permits from all levels and we were finally able to start the project. However, just at the end of January 2013, we were approached by Tanzanian Government officials who requested that we apply for another two permits as the national law changed in with the New Year. We are now working closely with the community and AWF to help secure these new permits. However, the additional cost related to these permits are high and had not been budgeted so we are trying to negotiate a better rate. We will keep you up to date about our progress obtaining these permits.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

1. Reduction in human-wildlife conflict - LGs recovered over 500 lost livestock and safely brought them home while the majority would have been killed by carnivores, reinforced 22 livestock kraals, and found two lost herders.
2. Successful engagement of local operators and involved parties to support the programme, providing long-term sustainability (local operators paying full salaries for LGs and coordinator and helping with vehicle and logistical support).
3. Increased capacity building of local community through employment and training for LGs, but also through wider community education and awareness programs.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

Preserving the traditional role of the Maasai warrior is critical to fostering long-term participation in lion monitoring and project decisions. We go to great lengths to involve the Maasai communities in the development and execution of the project's objectives and processes. For example, the Maasai have taught us that family is very important to them and that the process of naming a child and then of a warrior getting a name when he kills a lion. So the naming process has become a very important aspect of this project. When a newly identified lion becomes resident in an area, the Lion Guardians give it a name. The Maasai name chosen by the Lion Guardians usually describes the personality of the lion (akin to the traditional lion name given to the first warrior after he successfully kills a lion) or the lion may be named after an influential elder in the community. By personalizing individual lions, which has proven to generate a deep connection between the local Maasai and "their lions," it not only provides the Lion Guardians with a sense of honour and prestige (they often 'introduce' their

lion to their community through stories and photographs and our new lion trading cards), but it may simultaneously deter communities from killing a lion if it is well-known. The naming of the lions allows the communities to associate history and possible motivations to the conflict since that lion is now a known entity with a developed back story instead of an anonymous lion. It has proven to be an excellent method to provide a sense of ownership and increase tolerance by the local communities.

Since the Lion Guardian program was developed in partnership with the communities, by fully incorporating their culture and values into the foundation of the project, it has resulted in deep-felt impacts and benefits to the community, which are continually tracked and measured in a variety of ways. Furthermore, low levels of literacy and high rates of unemployment in rural communities make wildlife a viable natural resource investment option for improving and ensuring a higher quality of life for humans and wildlife.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes we plan to continue this project in West Kilimanjaro (as long as the appropriate permits can be acquired!) and continue to expand this model into areas where lions and other carnivores are declining due to conflict with pastoralists. We plan to apply for the Rufford Continuation Grant next year.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

This year we will be sharing our work through multiple avenues. We are scheduled to present at multiple conservation conferences and workshops around the world. In addition, we have also submitted several scientific articles for publishing, and plan to participate with several popular media outlets – documentaries (featured in Feb 2013 in BBC's *Africa* series with David Attenborough, National Geographic, a documentary focused on lion conservation) as well as being the subject of several articles in various magazines and newspapers. We are also preparing a film in Maa and Swahili about our work and the benefits it presents to local communities to be shown to other pastoralist communities in East Africa that could potentially benefit from having the programme. This film will be available by April 2013. We are also in the process of constructing a training camp where we will host and show community members, from both nearby areas and potential expansion sites, how the Lion Guardians program works on the ground and give them the opportunity to talk first-hand to the Guardians and local communities benefiting from the programme. It will be the site where current Lion Guardians can train new Lion Guardians on our program's methods.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The RSG was used from March 2012 through March 2013, which conforms to our original timeline.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference Over (under)	Comments
Telemetry Receivers and Aerials to track collared lions	2,071	2,071	0	Four units bought
Mobile telephones	157	157	0	
Airtime/Internet credit for Guardian and Coordinator	878	900	22	Our communication costs increased because of long distance calling between Tanzania and Kenya as a result of high levels of conflict
GPS units	627	627	0	
Solar Battery Chargers	75	85	10	Price increased per unit
Rechargeable Batteries	47	33	(14)	32 batteries on sale
Solar-Flashlights/phone charger	264	254	(10)	
Small field laptop	251	231	(20)	Found netbook on sale
Printer and toner	157	188	31	As a result of FAA ban on carrying laser cartri baggage on airplanes, we are now required to source toner locally, where it is only available at great expense.
Camera and accessories	251	260	9	We needed an additional memory card
Rucksacks	75	80	(5)	Price increased
Pangas	50	50	0	
Binoculars	125	125	0	
External hard drive + thumb drives	78	74	(4)	
Vehicle Insurance, Permit, and Transport to site.	310	410	100	Motorbike registration is still in process so not all funds have been used yet
Fuel and maintenance	3,137	2,368	(969)	We were able to use our smaller, fuel efficient vehicle more often than anticipated. Therefore, would like to apply these leftover funds to 2013 costs.
Office supplies (and power inverter)	156	156	0	computer adapters, power inverter, computer modem, DVD, pens, printing paper, folders, binders, staplers, field notebooks
Community meetings	314	350	36	

Tents/camp supplies	1,255	1,255	0	Portable solar power supply system
Miscellaneous supplies	157	180	33	Maglite bulbs, tire gauge, first aid books, hi-lift jack repair, first aid kit and fire extinguishers for vehicle, dual sim device
Overhead	1,565	1,565	0	
TOTAL	12,000	11,109	(781)	

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

We are very excited about Lion Guardians' strong momentum and in 2013 we intend to focus on strategically scaling up our programme while also maintaining our positive results in our current working areas. Local coordinators are currently capably running our core program in Amboseli and we hope that over the next few years, which will be filled with intense training and experience, our new expansion sites will need less and less external supervision as well. In addition, our tenured Lion Guardians, with their perfected skills and knowledge, are proving to be huge assets because of their natural ability to train new Guardians at expansion sites, and their exemplary performance this year showing that they are ready to transition to higher positions, such as LG coordinator. Over the years, we have discovered that dedication, passion, and local knowledge supersedes formal education, and that our most gifted conservationists are those men who have devoted many years to saving lions in their communities as Lion Guardians. Therefore, a major push next year will be to continue to focus on capacity building at all levels of our programme.

In our drive to apply and share the Lion Guardians model as broadly as possible, we will continue to visit and evaluate potential expansion sites, especially in areas that are experiencing rapid decline in lion numbers due to conflict with pastoralist groups. We also plan to invite various conservation groups from East and Southern Africa to visit our new training center in Amboseli with their teams, so that we can provide them with training on our community conservation and carnivore monitoring techniques.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, I used the RSGF logo on our support page of our power-point presentation, and it is also used on our website on the sponsor's page.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to thank RSGF for their continued support of the Lion Guardian programme. Our success thus far has not been without your support, and we thank you.