

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. 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. 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	Rebecca Klein
Project title	Cheetah Conservation Botswana Community Outreach and Education for Carnivore Conservation
RSG reference	13071-B
Reporting period	May 2013 – May 2014
Amount of grant	£12,000
Your email address	rebecca@cheetahbotswana.com
Date of this report	31 st May 2014

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
Site visits conducted			Yes	Site visits were made to affected farms and villages to discuss their problems and non-lethal options for predator control. Since May 2013, CCB assisted 18 farmers with direct support site visits to reduce predation and improve current methods of livestock management in the catchment areas of Jwaneng, Ghanzi and workshop areas.
Community workshops conducted			Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seronga Mobile Workshops in June for 24 participants • Moreomato Mobile Workshops in June for 21 participants • Parakarangu Mobile Workshops in June for 30 participants • Zutshwa Mobile Workshops in July for 100 participants • Maokatumo Farmers Workshop in August for 38 participants. • Tlokweng Farmers workshop in October for 57 participants • Pallaroad Farmers Workshop in November for 96 participants • Mabutsane Farmers Workshop in December for 55 participants • Tsabong Workshop in March for 42 participants • Ghanzi Young Farmers workshop in April for 30 participants
Livestock guarding dog network			Yes	During the grant period, four vet clinics took place with 36 dogs treated. This was reduced from previous years as more members of the network had already been supported in previous years, therefore the number requiring treatment and sterilisation was reduced.
Livestock guarding dog demonstration farm			Yes	The CCB smallstock demonstration farm has been developing well and is integrated into CCB's farmer training programme with 92 goats, two herders and two livestock guarding dogs at the CCB Ghanzi camp. The demo farm has been utilised for CCB residential workshops, as well as for visiting farmers. The herd has doubled in size in 2013 and there were no losses to predators despite cheetahs, leopards, brown

				<p>hyenas and jackals regularly visiting the area. CCB has also begun hosting potential livestock guarding dog puppies at the demo farm. Here they learn to stay with the herd and receive the important early care that is crucial to their health, including vaccinations and sterilisation. When the puppies are ready, they are placed with a farmer and monitored regularly. 45 livestock guarding dog puppies were placed with new network members. These will be monitored for 2 years to provide support and mentoring to the recipient farmers.</p>
<i>Livestock guarding dog survey</i>			Yes	<p>Questionnaires about the use of livestock guarding dogs have been distributed to farmers on the CCB livestock guarding dog mailing list and opportunistically. The data from 232 surveys has been compiled to assess the effectiveness of livestock guarding dogs in Botswana. This will be written up as a master's thesis by the CCB Research Officer and submitted into peer reviewed journals.</p>
<i>Conflict mitigation studies</i>		Yes, and ongoing		<p>This study is jointly carried out by CCB research and community outreach staff and aims to evaluate how kraaling livestock and employing livestock guarding dogs will help to reduce livestock losses to predators and improve farmers' perceptions of predators. Ten farmers nominated by their community have been supplied with post-and-wire kraals, a livestock guarding dog and free food and veterinary care for the dog's first year. All but one of the farmers have had possession of their dog for a full year now and are no longer receiving project-supplied dog food and veterinary care. Follow-up visits to each farmer are being conducted at bi-weekly intervals in an effort to ensure the conflict mitigation activities are being properly implemented, as well as checking the condition of the kraals and dogs. Every 3 months, detailed questionnaires are conducted with each farmer to monitor livestock losses, assess perceptions of predators, and to monitor expectations about their farm and the project. This data collection regime will continue until 2015, and project results will inform our approach to implementing conflict mitigation efforts with community farmers going forward. Collaboration with Conservation Strategy Fund has been developed to include a cost benefit analysis component in the monitoring process.</p>
<i>Predator awareness raising</i>			Yes	<p>Four farmers' association meetings were attended. 10 awareness raising stalls were held (Africa</p>

programme conducted				<p>Environment Day, World Environment Day, Ghanzi show, Botswana Consumer Trade Fair, Southern Ranchers Agricultural Fair, Moshupa Environmental Education Fair, Southern Region Environmental Fair, Mabutsane Community Service Day, Sekoma Community Service Day, Khakhea Community Service Day).</p> <p>Two radio shows were conducted.</p> <p>12 articles were placed in newspapers and magazines (The Botswana Gazette, Mining and Travel, Peolwane Inflight magazine, Kalahari Conservation Society newsletter, Mokolodi newsletter, Daily News and a regular column every 2 months in the Farmers Magazine).</p> <p>CCB was featured on the Botswana Television in September 2013 in a local documentary which covered CCB's demonstration farm and conflict mitigation activities.</p>
School visits continued			Yes	<p>16 educational talks were conducted, covering primary, secondary and tertiary institutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramotswa JSS from Ramotswa for students with special needs, 45 students. • Crescent English medium from Lobatse 20 students. • Thornhill Primary School on three different visits for standard 4 students, 79 students. • Limkokwing University in Gaborone for Tourism students: 44 students. • Botswana College of Agriculture from Sebele: 13 students. • Gaborone Technical College from Gaborone: 12 students. • Northside Primary School: 70 students. • Nanogang Junior School Environmental Club: 30 students. • Limkokwing University in Gaborone for Tourism students: 70 students. • St Joseph's Primary School standard 4 and 5 students: 60 students. • Experience in International Living volunteers from USA, 20 volunteers. • Kopano Primary School: Standard 6 students, 60 students. • Mogobane Primary School: Standard 5 students, 30 students. • Ntlhantlhe Primary School: about 350 students. • Kumakwane Junior School Environmental Club: 30

				students. • Thornhill Primary School: Standard 7 students, 75 students.
<i>School visits to the Bush Camp</i>			Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lekgolobotlo Primary School - May 18th to 21st 2013 for 45 students. • University of Botswana Wildlife Conservation Society - 21st to 26th May 2013 for 35 volunteers. • Tswelopele Brigades from Ramotswa - August 14th to 18th 2013 for 31 students. • Kabakae Primary School Environmental Club - October 18th to 20th 2013 for 35 students. • Kumakwane Secondary School – May 16-19th May.

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

There was nothing unexpected.

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

Community Workshops: There is always a lot of interest in CCB's farmer training workshops and after this last year's activities CCB has been invited for accreditation with the Botswana Training Association. This was nominated by the Department of Rural Development which stated CCB's programs to be improving farmers' abilities to coexist with wildlife species, reducing conflict and improving livelihoods. It is great to have such government endorsement and support. With accreditation CCB will become eligible to apply for workshop funding through rural development government funding in 2015 and beyond.

Livestock Guarding Dog Programme: The preliminary findings of the livestock guarding dog survey have yielded some inspiring results. More than half the farmers surveyed reported being more tolerant of predators since getting a livestock guarding dog and 40% stated that they were less likely to use lethal control since getting a dog. 83% of farmers reported a reduction in the amount of livestock lost to predators since getting a livestock guarding dog, with the average reduction being 12 head per year. Sterilised dogs (spayed/neutered) were found to be significantly more effective. The health of the dog did have a strong correlation to its effectiveness. These results are very encouraging for the use of livestock guarding dogs in Botswana and will further encourage the government to integrate this program into their outreach activities.

Conflict Mitigation Studies: A similar project to that initiated by CCB in Kacgae has been replicated in Northern Botswana by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks. CCB is collaborating to provide support for improved management to mitigate livestock predator conflict. The selected villages are located in three biodiversity hotspots, i.e. Okavango Delta Panhandle, Chobe Linyanti wetlands and Makgadikgadi wetlands. In 2013, 26 kraals were built for selected farmers. In 2014, 38 livestock guarding dogs have been placed with selected farmers throughout the project area. The interventions will be monitored monthly for 2 years. It is hoped that successful outcomes for this project will result in a scaling up of the initiative by government.

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

Farming communities in areas of predator conflict are key beneficiaries. The main form of income generation for rural communities is livestock farming. The techniques being promoted improve livestock production and significantly decrease predator conflict, thereby bringing a reduction in livestock losses, improvements in income generation and an improvement in current perceptions.

Students and teachers benefit through learning about the importance of predator species as a national resource and in maintaining healthy ecosystems, through school visits, and residential visits to CCB camps. Schools and teachers will receive free educational resources and training in promoting conservation in schools.

Research communities' benefit from an increased understanding of the status and distribution of Botswana's cheetahs, enabling informed management decisions to be made towards their conservation. This information will be integrated into the National Predator Management Strategy and the National and Regional Plans for the Conservation of Cheetahs and Wild Dogs. Benefits should also come from the study of human predator conflicts and an understanding of how conflict varies with socio-economic and environmental factors.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Cheetah Conservation Botswana is a long-term project and registered charity in Botswana. Hence the project will continue with strategic planning and adaptive management to develop according to the needs of the cheetah and all stakeholders.

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

Results and lesson learned will be disseminated to the communities which CCB works with, through site visits, residential and mobile workshops, community meetings, radio shows, local and international magazines and newspapers, scientific journals and through internet coverage.

- Educational resources are produced for farmers, teachers and children.
- Articles are placed in national newspapers and magazines.
- Radio shows are carried out annually.
- General newsletters are produced bi-annually
- Livestock Guard Dog Network newsletters are produced annually.
- Reports are provided quarterly to the Government
- Annual reports are produced.
- Updates sent through the Botswana based email list the Predator Forum.
- E-newsletters go out every 2 months on project activities through the CCB website mailing list.
- Information is published in the CCB website.
- Data collected is published in scientific journals and made available to government ministries and archives. Information is provided to the global cheetah conservation community to add the Botswana perspective to the overall effort to preserve this unique species.

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

The RSG has been used for 12 months so far. We would like to request a 6-month extension to complete the utilisation of the funds.

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	Comments
1 community outreach officer	3071	2923	77	
Field subsistence allowance	756	692	46	
Vehicle repairs and insurance	1161	1134	0	
Vehicle fuel costs	1575	1538	0	
4 farmers workshops	2520	250	2211	CCB was sponsored by the Dept. of Wildlife to host 3 workshops collaboratively. Therefore, we were not required to utilise our own funds. The Rufford funding will be used for upcoming workshops by Nov 2014
Conflict mitigation Ghanzi	1500	1097	441	These funds will be utilised by Nov 2014
Printing of resources	1417	854	531	These funds will be utilised by Nov 2014
TOTAL	12000	8489	3307	

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

Community workshops – CCB plans to become an accredited training institution through the Botswana Training Authority. CCB aims to develop workshops collaboratively with other accredited training organisations to increase the number of topics provided to support farmers. These would include the Botswana College of Agriculture to bring a greater component on range management and disease control. With this accreditation CCB could then potentially access government funds for rural development when these become available in 2015.

Livestock guarding dog programme – This programme has been extremely well received and can be scaled up with government support. The Department of Wildlife has started to engage CCB to provide this support to farmers and monitor success. It is planned that regional demonstration areas will be developed with interested farmers who will be utilised for training potential farmers in their areas. These demonstration farmers could also breed dogs and train puppies for local distribution.

Conflict mitigation studies – The conflict mitigation interventions are being monitored for a further 2 years to assess the effect on livestock losses. This information will be compiled and written up in scientific journals. The outcomes will need to be disseminated to the relevant government authorities and farming communities. It is hoped that the interventions will result in a decrease in losses and that the cost benefit analysis will demonstrate utilising such methods is cost effective in the long term. If this is the case, CCB will lobby the government to evolve the current compensation program and that instead of direct monetary pay outs for livestock losses, farmers can instead be assisted to improve their conflict mitigation methods through the provision of materials and livestock guarding dogs.

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, on educational materials. Also, the RSGF was included as a supporter on our website, annual report and bi-annual newsletters.

11. Any other comments?

CCB would like to thank Rufford for this opportunity to develop our community outreach and education programmes for carnivore conservation.

We would like to share some stories from the farmers who have recently received livestock guarding dog puppies from CCB:

‘My livestock guarding dog (Sweetie) has started tracing the herd by sniffing for it. Once, we lost the herd and the puppy helped to find it. It is always with the herd, even when I go into the veldt during the day, to check on it, it is always with the herd’ Bodule Balemogeng, Boteti.

‘My livestock guarding dog (Titisi) guards effectively because some goats give birth in the veldt and we always find the puppy with the female goats and the newborn kids’ Ketlhaetse Poifo, Boteti.

‘My livestock guarding dog (Mochi) has really bonded with the herd. Amongst groups of different herds, I always find the puppy amongst my herd. This behaviour continues to amaze me!’ Kebonye Bantebetse, Boteti.

‘The past week, my goats didn’t return to the kraal in the evening. The following day I went to search for them, but to no avail. The next day, the puppy (Correction) had returned with the whole herd, not one goat went missing. This shows how the puppy has really bonded with the herd. It even separates my goats from other people’s goats in pasture’ Bakani Nakwela, Boteti.

‘My livestock guarding dog is showing full, guard-dog attributes already. It has bonded very well with herd and even sleeps on top of the kids, while some kids sleep on top of the puppy ‘Gasehele Ihako, Chobe.

‘I have great expectations on the performance of my livestock guarding dog as it always warns me when there’s someone or anything around the kraal or homestead’, Sense Mokoti, Chobe.