

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Rebecca Klein
<b>Project title</b>	Cheetah Conservation Botswana Community Outreach and Education program
<b>RSG reference</b>	58.12.09
<b>Reporting period</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2011 – 31 <sup>st</sup> April 2012
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5992
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:rebecca@cheetahbotswana.com">rebecca@cheetahbotswana.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2012

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

**Objective 1: Promotion of Best Practices in Farm Management**

To promote effective methods of livestock management and nonlethal predator control which facilitate coexistence with cheetahs and other predators. Encouraging communities and government to integrate such methods into their farm management and policies. This will take place through farm visits, surveys, farmer support, community meetings, farmer training workshops, livestock guarding dog network and veterinary clinics, and distribution of resources.

**Objective 2: Awareness Raising for Predator Conservation**

To conduct education programmes aimed at building awareness among educators, students and the general public of the plight of cheetah and all predator species and their role in healthy ecosystems. This will take place through school talks, school visits to the CCB Ghanzi Education Centre, teacher training workshops, attendance at public events and engagement with the local media.

**Timeline for Activities**

Every month: site visits, surveys, farmer support, mobile workshops, school talks.

Every 3 months: farmer training workshops, teacher training workshops, school visits to CCB, stalls at farmers' days, agricultural shows and events.

Objective	Not achieved	Partly achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Objective 1: Promotion of Best Practices in Farm Management			site visits, surveys, farmer support, farmer workshops, livestock guarding dog network and veterinary clinics, resource distribution	see below
Objective 2: Awareness Raising for Predator Conservation			school talks, school camps, teacher training workshops, public events, local media	see below

**Activities May 2011 – April 2012**

**Objective 1: Promotion of Best Practices in Farm Management**

**Training Courses and Workshops**

**Small-Stock Farmers Training Course**

CCB facilitated at a 1-week small stock farmer's training course, organised by Department of Animal Production in August 2011. The training was held at Lubu Agricultural Research Centre in the southern Kalahari. Many of the training attendants were beneficiaries from government schemes and had already received funding to venture into small stock farming. The training was aimed at providing knowledge on various agricultural components that support productivity and sustainable livelihoods, including record keeping; breeding seasons, prevention of disease and parasites and good husbandry practices. CCB gave presentations on identifying predators; adequately assessing livestock losses; methods to reduce losses to predators and the successful use of livestock guarding dogs.

### **Rangeland, Livestock and Conflict Management Course**

CCB hosted a 5-day Range and Livestock Management course for field officers from relevant government departments such as Wildlife, Animal Production, Vet Services and Range Resources at the CCB Ghanzi Tiisano camp. It was attended by 40 participants in order to build capacity to support farmers to improvement management methods and supported in part by the Smithsonian Institute. Instructors included the Africa Centre for Holistic Range Management, Endangered Wildlife Trust and Botswana College of Agriculture. Presentations from CCB included Correct Identification of Livestock Loss, Reducing Human Predator Conflict and Livestock Guarding Dogs. This included a visit by participants to our LSGD goat demonstration site. Other topics included: grazing management strategies, holistic range management, herd health, fertility and reducing diseases, along with practical visits to two working farms using various methods of management. The course was a great success with very positive feedback.

### **Northern Botswana Workshops**

CCB conducted three farmer training workshops under the Department of Wildlife's Reducing Human Wildlife Conflict project, which is targeted at communities in Northern Botswana. The three workshops were carried out in the Chobe, Boteti and Okavango regions, with approximately 40 people at each workshop. Government departments and NGOs were also present.

### **Southern Botswana Workshops**

CCB conducted a further three farmer training workshops in collaboration with Department of Wildlife in the Southern (Mabule) and Western Kalahari (Tsabong and Ghanzi). Other stake holders who facilitated included the Departments of Animal Production, Vet Services, Immigration and Botswana police.

### **Community Outreach**

#### **Kgotla (Community) Meetings**

Thirteen consultation and community mobilisation meetings were conducted in the three main focal areas for the Department of Wildlife's Human Wildlife Conflict project, in 13 settlements of the Okavango, Boteti and Chobe regions. Information was collected on levels of predator conflict and appropriate mitigation methods. Selected members of the community will receive support to build strong kraals and initiate the use of livestock guarding dogs.

### **Best Farmer in the Western Kalahari Conservation Corridor**

The 'Best farmer in the WKCC' competition is complete. The winner is a full-time communal farmer implementing excellent livestock management, including using livestock guarding dogs with goats and with calves; keeping good records and herding at important times of day. He received a prize of CCB merchandise, farm hamper and a safari weekend out with his wife, courtesy of Grassland Safaris. The farmer was very thankful and excited about the award. Articles about the competition and responsible farming were placed in Farmers Magazine and newspapers and reported on Radio Botswana.

**Livestock Guarding Dog (LSGD) Network** CCB has an ongoing network of farmers using guard dogs throughout the country. Information is shared among these farmers on training and care of dogs through a newsletter and regional workshops. Free veterinary support is provided to members of the network annually. The network is made up of 250 members across the country.

**Livestock Guarding Dog Clinics** CCB conducted an LSGD clinic in Grootlaagte village in August 2011. 41 dogs were vaccinated and sterilised. The activity aims to strengthen and promote the use of dogs as livestock guarding animals. The health of a dog determines their performance so proper care, feeding and overall well being of working dogs is essential. In February 2012, in collaboration with Maun Animal Welfare Society and Vets on Wheels, a successful dog clinic was conducted in four settlements being Tshootsha, Tshobokwane, Qabo and D'kar. In total, 60 dogs were vaccinated and sterilised.

#### **Livestock Guarding Dog Demonstration Site CCB**

The LSGD demonstration area has been a great success and has become an integral part of CCB's farmer training workshops. It is made up a herder, small herd of 20 goats and two very competent Livestock Guarding Dogs. It is proving extremely useful in demonstrating the technique practically to farmers. Through camera traps CCB is able to demonstrate the significant presence of cheetahs and other predators in the area and yet with the LSGD's protecting the herd no losses are experienced.

#### **Research and Monitoring**

##### **Livestock Guarding Dog survey**

Questionnaires about the use of livestock guarding dogs have been distributed to farmers on the CCB LSGD mailing list and opportunistically. The data from 110 surveys are being compiled and will be part of a student's MSc project to assess the effectiveness of livestock guarding dogs in Botswana.

##### **Ghanzi Conflict Mitigation Study**

CCB is carrying out an assessment of the effects of herding, kraaling and livestock guarding dogs. Along with the assistance of DWNP and after community meetings, Kacgae has been selected as the settlement to receive support. 10 farmers will be provided with materials to improve kraals, livestock guarding dogs and incentives for herding. They will be monitored to assess the success of the methods to reduce losses to predators. A workshop took place in early April 2012 for community members at the CCB Tiisano Education. Community members were selected for support and new strong kraals have been built for each. The placement of livestock guarding dogs will follow in the next 2 months.

#### **Training and Capacity Building**

##### **Holistic Land Management Training**

CCB's 2 community outreach officers attended the Holistic Land Management Course at the Centre for Holistic Land Management in Zimbabwe. The course was attended by various NGOs and government agencies from all over Africa and focuses on land regeneration through the use of livestock herds. Topics covered include healthy grass, grazing plans, biological monitoring and kraaling, improving water infiltration. Participants were also trained on good facilitation skills and mobilising rural communities towards a certain goal.

#### **Objective 2: Awareness Raising for Predator Conservation**

##### **Charleshill Teacher Training Workshop**

A teacher training workshop was conducted in Charles Hill, covering 15 schools in the northern Kalahari. Teachers and coordinators of Environmental Clubs were resourced on predator conservation and its infusion into the curriculum. Teachers were provided with training in infusing carnivore conservation into lessons and given resources including activity guides, schoolbooks,

posters and DVD's. These schools were invited to attend school camps at the CCB Ghanzi camp. The workshop was done in partnership with the Department of Wildlife.

### **School talks**

Schools that have been completed in 32 schools in Gaborone, Jwaneng and the Kalahari region. These include talks on the importance of healthy ecosystems, the predators of Botswana, human wildlife conflict and livestock management to reduce conflict. Each school is given schoolbooks, teacher resource guides and posters. Predator talks have also been conducted in various Tertiary Institutions, including Botswana College of Agriculture, Environmental Conservation Society, Limkokwing Wildlife Society and Environmental Conservation Society.

### **School visits to CCB camps**

The Kuru Development Trust brought a group of 20 Kalahari San youth to spend 3 days at the CCB Tiisano Education camp in December 2011. CCB spent time with them teaching them about environmental issues and predator conservation.

In September, 16 students from the Lehutshelo Junior Secondary School Conservation Club came to the CCB camp in Ghanzi for 3 days of conservation education organised. The students were introduced to a range of ideas including basic ecology, predator conservation and predator friendly farming, as well as having fun on the ropes course, playing football and in the pool. Bush Camp's are an excellent way to help spread the word of conservation, teaching people about healthy environments and the crucial role that predators play in the ecosystem.

30 students from Gabane Secondary school in Gaborone came for a bush camp to the Education Centre at Mokolodi Nature Reserve in Jan 2012 for environmental conservation activities, game drives and a visit to the ambassador cheetah.

### **Awareness Raising stalls**

Stalls were held to promote predator conservation and best practices in livestock management in various locations: The Trade Fair in Gaborone, the Environmental Education Fair hosted by Association of Environmental Clubs Botswana and the Department of Wildlife Awareness Raising Week in Kokong, Southern Kalahari. Materials, information and support are provided to the public.

### **Media Relations**

One radio show took place in July 2011 to promote the Best Farmer competition. Another took place in November 2011 to promote responsible livestock management. Various articles have been submitted to local newspapers and magazines. CCB also now has an agreement with the nationwide Farmers Magazine to produce a regular article, every 2 months, for their magazine, which is widely read by farmers.

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

The project progressed successfully, although there were delays to some activities in 2011 due to a 2- month long government worker strike affecting the productivity of this important collaborator.

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

- The provision of training and informational resources to approximately 800 farmers through workshops.
- The provision of information and educational resources to 75 schools through school talks, visits to CCB camps and teacher training workshops.
- The expansion of CCB's livestock guarding dog network to 250 members and the successful treatment of 100 members livestock guarding dogs, enabling them to efficiently utilise this effective tool.

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

Farming communities were key beneficiaries. The techniques promoted during activities improve livestock production and significantly decrease predator conflict and reduce livestock losses, resulting long term in improvements in income generation.

Schools and teachers benefit through learning about the importance of predator species as a national resource and in maintaining healthy ecosystems, through free school visits, residential visits to the CCB, teacher training workshops and provision of educational resources.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, the activities have been well received by the communities and CCB will seek ongoing funding to support continuation and expansion of the programme. Community education is one of the keys to conservation of the cheetah and other threatened predators in Botswana. CCB would appreciate the opportunity to apply in future to the RSGF and will utilise the leverage of this successful programme to engage future donors.

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

Public reports go out quarterly on project activities through the CCB website mailing list. Data collected is collated into published papers and made available to government ministries, including Departments of Education; Wildlife and National Parks; and Animal Health and Production. It will also be provided to the global cheetah conservation community in order to add the Botswana perspective to the overall effort to preserve this unique species.

Publications are also available from CCB including,

- Living with Predators: A livestock management guide for the farmers of Botswana.
- A Manual for Reducing Predator Conflict for Farmers of the WKCC.
- Various information sheets and posters on identifying predators, livestock management techniques and predator conservation.
- Cheetah: A predator resource for the children of Botswana.
- Teacher Training Resource Activity Guides.
- Spirit of the Kalahari DVD's.

Radio and Television: CCB's activities have been covered eight times by the national radio and once by Botswana television during the granting period.

Newspapers and Magazines: CCB has produced 10 articles in local newspapers and magazines during the granting period.

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

Funds were received in May 2010. In May 2011, funds were still remaining for workshops and community outreach staff allowances, as although the planned for number of activities took place, some of these were directly sponsored by the Botswana government. CCB requested Rufford that these funds be applied to the ongoing programme of Community Outreach and Education, with the aim that the funds are to be utilised by early 2012. The funds were completely utilised by end April 2012.

**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.**

£6000 was granted by RSGF and sent on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

This arrived in the CCB account as 58708 Botswana Pula (£5992) at an exchange rate of 9.796.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Spent May 2011	Remaining May 2011	Spent Apr 2012	Remaining Apr 2012
Four residential farmers workshops	2968	1021	1947	1188	759
Local subsistence allowance for two community officers	1113	466	647	459	188
Fuel for site visits and mobile workshops	1911	2105	-195	752	-947
Total received	<b>5992</b>	3592	<b>2399</b>	2399	0

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

It is essential that provision of information and resources continues to be provided to the communities of Botswana to support them to coexist with predator species. The maintenance and development of this relationship, with adaptive management and community feedback is required on an ongoing basis. It is CCB's intention to continue with this positive and well received program and encourage the integration of such activities into government action. The CCB Community Outreach and Education programme has already attracted the interest of the Ministry of Environment and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks. These government organisations aim to roll out a similar program of Community Outreach and Education in Northern Botswana in 2012. CCB will be assisting in the development of activities. On the success of the project, there is a strong possibility that successfully demonstrated management methods to reduce predator conflict will become required by nationwide government policy. This is an important opportunity for the CCB Community Outreach and Education programme to have a lasting impact on improving current methods of livestock, range and wildlife management amongst rural communities in Botswana.

**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?**

The RSGF logo was placed on the training course materials for farmers and teachers. The RSGF was acknowledged as a key supporter during workshops, on the CCB website and in CCB's annual reports.

**11. Any other comments?**

Many thanks to the Rufford Small Grants Programme for your ongoing support!