

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Aleksander Braczkowski
Project Title	Conflict and status of a large carnivore community in southwestern Uganda
Application ID	23059-1
Date of this Report	10 May 2022

1. 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
Execute the first and most cutting-edge spatially explicit estimate of large carnivores (African lions, spotted hyenas and leopards) in the Queen Elizabeth National Park and adjoining community lands.				Published results in the journal Ecological Solutions and Evidence – this research has now been expanded into every major protected area system in Uganda as part of my postdoctoral work.
A conflict risk map which will be used by the conservation NGO's and Ugandan wildlife Authority to identify critical zones for conservation interventions to be applied in 2018 and beyond.				Due to a lack of available data on conflict in the region I shifted attention to a nearby protected area (the Lake Mbuoro National Park). I assessed conflict in this region based on ten years of data for leopards and spotted hyenas. The data are published in the journal Conservation Science and Practice.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

a). Three high impact scientific publications (Ecological Solutions and Evidence, Mammalian Biology and Conservation Science and Practice).

b). Two national geographic documentaries.

c). My research assistant built a house with the salary I paid him – he now works for Chester Zoo on a pangolin project. Of all the outputs that came out of this project it was the ability to support local Ugandans financially that made me most proud. I continue to do this today with my postdoc project.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

The overarching aim of my project was achieved (assessing the densities of large carnivores in the Queen Elizabeth National Park) using both camera trapping and a recent search encounter technique for African lions – this data will now be featured in the soon to be released Ugandan Carnivore Action Plan.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

Sam Isoke and Mustafa Nsubuga were trained in SECR techniques, they co-authored two publications with my broader co-author team and now each lead respective lion and pangolin studies in the Congo and Uganda respectively. Apart from this UWA rangers Daniel Tiromwe and Nicholas Nuwajuka learnt critical data collection and management skills during the 2018 surveys.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I have been continuing this work since my grant period ended.

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

Results were shared through three high impact publications, several popular pieces and more recently two high profile national geographic and Disney+ documentaries.

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

Pretty simple – rather than myself lead this research, I now seek to provide the technical framework and resources for UWA and Makerere University to repeat an annual census with conservation stakeholders every year.

The biggest challenge is raising the 150-200K US\$ to be able to make this annual monitoring programme a reality.

My final goal is to make all data from my current postdoc open source. I want to set an example that we can get more done by giving stakeholders access to data.

8. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

No – only mentioned them in my outputs (as per the grant agreement).

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Mustafa Nsubuga – now part of the Virunga Foundation (helped collect data, co-authored our seminal lion paper)

Sam Isoke – helped collect SECR data on leopard and hyena, co-authored our Mammalian Biology paper

Nicholas Nuwajuka – UWA ranger helped collect data

Daniel Tiromwe – UWA ranger helped with data collection

10. Any other comments?

The nearly £5000 that The Rufford Foundation provided my project was the make or break to make my project happen in the first place. It wouldn't have happened without it! I am grateful.