

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Deogratias Gervas Katwana
Project Title	Patterns of large carnivore depredation on livestock and community tolerance behavior around Selous-Nyerere ecosystem.
Application ID	39182-1
Date of this Report	09 th January 2024

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
To show the current dispersal rate of large carnivores and evaluate the differences among wildlife management areas, open areas and forest reserves.				The distribution of carnivores was high due to the effective conservation and management of large carnivores within the ecosystem. Lion Landscape, Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), and WWF are currently monitoring the population of carnivores in the ecosystem and addressing the threats they face.
To collect evidence about large carnivores' livestock depredation from the villages adjacent to protected areas.				The presence of livestock attacks by large carnivores has been a long-standing rallying cry, especially for pastoral communities. For this reason, they have requested to be trained in scientific methods to mitigate the problem.
To assess human attitudes and responses towards the effect of large carnivores' dispersal in time and space.				The local communities show no support for carnivore conservation due to the economic loss they cause. They demand to be compensated for the loss.
To provide conservation education to the local communities specifically on the importance and behavioral ecology of large carnivores.				Despite this, the local communities still need to be educated to understand the value of wildlife and their habitat. Wildlife authorities prioritise human-elephant conflicts over human-carnivore conflicts.

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

- a). We were able to identify the key factors that led to human-large carnivore conflicts in the Selous-Nyerere ecosystem (SNE).
- b). We enabled the local community to understand the behavioural ecology of carnivores, their value to the ecosystem, and why it is important to protect their habitat.
- c). We were able to understand the local community's perception of carnivore conservation and identify the current local mitigation approaches to curb the challenge.

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

- Language barrier: Most of the respondents were indigenous people and unable to speak and understand the Swahili language. We hired a local person for a while to translate “Swahili” into their native languages, Sukuma and Mang’ati.
- Poor road conditions/rough road: During the rainy season it was very hard to reach all the targeted areas due to the impassibility of many roads. We rented a Toyota Landcruiser with 4WD.
- Fear of insecurity among respondents even after we showed them an introduction letter from the district council and a research permit. We had to walk with the chairman and the village executive in each house during a household survey.

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

The entire objectives of the study involved the participation of the local communities in the study area. During the study, local communities were able to learn a lot about carnivore behavioural ecology and understand the current threats they face. Furthermore, they were able to identify different types of carnivores as many were unaware of the visual differences between hyenas and leopards. Village Game Scouts (VGS) who are local Game Rangers, were heavily used during: (i) determining the dispersal rate of carnivores, (ii) collecting evidence on large carnivore attacks, and (iii) assessing human attitudes on human-carnivore conflicts. This helps to build their capacity to understand the conservation challenges in their area of duty.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, but it will depend on the funding, we have a plan to continue with this work. We aim to help the local community by enhancing the coexistence between people and large carnivores through the use of a modern livestock enclosure (Boma) and the monitoring behavioural ecology of carnivores in the study area.

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

This report will be shared with wildlife conservation authorities and the Liwale district executive director (DED) where the project was conducted. We also plan to publish the results of this project in a peer-reviewed journal.

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

We are looking to apply for the 2nd Rufford Small Grant to start helping the communities mitigate the human-carnivore conflicts.

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?

Yes, I was a winner of the CIC Young Opinion Research Award in 2023. I used the foundation logo during the presentation of my proposal (human-large carnivore conflicts) at the 69th International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) general assembly meeting. The meeting took place on 20-23 April 2023 in Paris, France. The foundation received publicity for funding this project.

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

Deogratias Gervas Katwana - Project Leader

Everlyn Estomiah Swai - Education Officer

Emmanuel Manfred Makwisa - Research Officer

Leonard Lewison Msaki - Research Officer

6 Village Game Scouts (VGS) - Field Assistants

10. Any other comments?

We thank The Rufford Foundation for supporting this project, and we hope for further support in our future projects to help the local communities reduce carnivore attacks on livestock.