

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	Amelia (Amy) Dickman
Project title	Resolving conflict between humans and threatened carnivores around Ruaha National Park, Tanzania
RSG reference	41.12.09
Reporting period	1 year
Amount of grant	£5845
Your email address	amy.dickman@zoo.ox.ac.uk
Date of this report	25 th May 2011

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
To select, train and employ village 'conflict monitors' in study villages			Yes	We have worked closely with the study villages and selected 11 people to work as conflict monitors across the study area. These monitors have been trained to respond to all conflicts and teach other villagers best-practice methods of livestock protection. This has been very successful and we now want to train at least another 10 monitors over the next two years.
To use the village monitors to reduce livestock depredation and conflict with carnivores, and improve kill identification			Yes	The monitors have worked with over 220 local households, and we have seen a drop in depredation rates at study households. This was particularly true where we used fencing to fortify livestock enclosures, and this is something we want to develop further in the future. Our follow-up surveys showed decreased antagonism towards carnivores, but this is a relatively small sample size and may be biased by people reporting what they think we want to hear, so should be treated with a little caution. We found that people were becoming more accurate at correct kill identification over the course of the project, thanks to the outreach and training by the monitors.
To improve the local benefits associated with carnivore presence		Yes		We have begun developing benefit schemes, such as the provision and school equipment and medical equipment. This has been very popular, and our surveys showed that far more people are now recognising benefits from carnivore presence. However, financial limitations have meant this has been restricted to 4 villages so far, and we would like to extend these schemes at a wider scale in the future.

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

There were no significant difficulties that arose during the project – we had problems with our vehicles breaking down, which sometimes slowed our work, but this was not significant over the course of the year.

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

The three most important outcomes were (i) training and employing conflict monitors in the study area, (ii) using those monitors to help other villagers reduce depredation and improve their kill identification, and (iii) using these methods to improve attitudes towards carnivores on village land. These outcomes are described below:

i. *Training and employing conflict monitors*

We worked with village leaders to select 11 local villagers were trained as ‘conflict monitors’ to work in the villages close to Ruaha National Park. We successfully trained and employed these monitors, helping them with their numeracy, literacy and record-keeping, as well as training them in how to identify carnivore attacks and how to implement best-practice methods of livestock husbandry to protect peoples’ livestock assets, and provide information on carnivore killings. This has important benefits for the monitors and their households (through substantial wildlife-related income), and also benefits other villagers, as they have a contact person for any problems, and can learn the best methods for identifying what has caused their stock loss and receive help with how best to prevent such problems in the future. Livestock are incredibly important economic and cultural assets in this area, so this is a very important service for local people.

ii. *Using monitors to reduce attacks and improve kill identification*

The monitors have worked throughout the year to advise local people on best-practice livestock husbandry, help improve their bomas (livestock enclosures), provide tools such as noisemakers to help them protect their stock, and have helped provide extensive outreach and education on carnivore behaviour, ecology, kill identification and conservation. They have also regularly monitored over 220 households, to examine trends in depredation rates over time, and assess the characteristics of livestock enclosures which are regularly attacked compared to those which are not. We have seen a marked improvement in livestock husbandry, assessed during our regular household visits, which has resulted in a significant drop in depredation rates – in the first month of monitoring, survey households experienced 252 livestock losses, with depredation accounting for 15% of losses. However, by the end of the year, overall monthly losses had declined to 183, with depredation only accounting for 5.4% of losses. We also observed a significant improvement in local knowledge over time regarding large carnivores and kill identification, which is important for helping people implement the most appropriate livestock protection methods

iii. *Reducing local conflict with large carnivores*

The work of the monitors has definitely had a significant impact on attitudes towards large carnivores and their presence on village land – whereas in the initial survey, over 55% of the respondents in the initial survey said they wanted large carnivore populations to decrease or

disappear entirely, this has dropped in the follow-up survey to only 38%. Overall, 76% of respondents in our follow-up survey said they had benefited from the Carnivore Project's work with the monitor scheme.

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

The local communities have been at the heart of our work, and have helped guide and develop the project's activities. The local communities have benefited by the training and employment of local people to help them better protect their livestock, which are extremely important in these pastoral communities. The monitors have helped them reduce the levels of depredation, while the monitors themselves have received significant income through employment, and their training in literacy, GPS use and other techniques has substantially improved their chances of future employment in the wildlife industry. In addition, the project has trained three local Tanzanians as research assistants, has helped one attend university, and intends to help two complete their Masters degrees in the next 2 years.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we intend to continue and extend this work over the next 3-5 years. So far, we are working intensively in 8 of the 21 villages, and we want to extend the successful elements of our work at a broader scale across the study area.

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

We produce two reports every year on our work, and some of the results of the work will be shared in these reports. We are currently writing three articles on our work for a local Tanzanian magazine, and will write up the scientific data in peer-reviewed journals. We have also set up a Facebook page to keep people updated on our work and progress. In the local study area, we use DVD nights and community meetings to share the results of our work with the local communities.

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 over a 12-month period, which was the period anticipated.

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
Salaries and wages	£3,300	£3,322.28	-£22.28	Paid more wages to help follow up on carnivore attacks
Fuel	£700	£706.74	-£6.74	Fuel became more expensive over time
Lodging & subsistence	£800	£800.95	-£0.95	N/A

Equipment for monitors	£325	£297.29	£27.71	We found the bikes at a better price than expected
Vehicle maintenance	£500	£511.58	-£11.58	Vehicles broke down numerous times!
Printing	£220	£206.57	£13.43	Bought own printer for camp so saved slightly on this
TOTAL	£5,845	£5,845.41	-£0.41	

**At the start of the project, the exchange rate was £1 = 2200 Tanzanian shillings, but at the end of the project, the exchange rate was £1 = 2400 Tanzanian shillings.

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

The most important next steps are to extend the conflict monitor scheme, employing more monitors across more of the local villages. Given the success of our initial work at fencing livestock enclosures to protect them from carnivore attack, this is something we will definitely want to continue and extend in the future. We may also look at other ways of reducing attacks – for instance implementing a pilot livestock-guarding dog scheme, to try to reduce carnivore attacks on livestock while grazing in the day, as this has been hard for us to reduce so far.

We are also very keen to build local capacity and enrol our staff in more training courses – we would like to help one of our research assistants complete his Masters degree in the next year, with the aim of enrolling another the year afterwards. Ultimately, we would like to have our Tanzanian staff obtain their higher degrees and play a major role in directing the project in 3-5 years time.

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 – the RSGF logo was used during many talks about the project's work, including talks in Oxford, Oregon, Seattle, San Francisco, Washington DC, Columbia and Windhoek, Namibia. The RSGF was also highlighted as a sponsor in our project reports, which are emailed to a wide number of interested people as well as being posted online.

11. Any other comments?

This has been an extremely useful start to the project, but there is a lot more to be done, so we intend to re-apply for future Rufford grants, with the aim of continuing and extending our work in the future. This should have important benefits for both people and predators in the Ruaha landscape.