

Final Evaluation Report

We ask all grant recipients to complete a project evaluation that helps us to gauge the success of your project. This must be sent in **MS Word and not PDF 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 – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please DO NOT fill in and submit this form until the project has been completed.

Complete the form in English. Note that the information may be edited before posting on our website.

Please email this report to jane@rufford.org.

Your Details	
Full Name	Simbarashe Pride Chatikobo
Project Title	Protecting lions and livelihoods: Using visual deterrents to reduce livestock depredation by large carnivores
Application ID	41425-1
Date of this Report	13 January 2026

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
<i>To assess the effectiveness of lion-lights in reducing livestock depredation.</i>			X	<p>No losses were recorded across ten households over the monitoring period.</p> <p>40 lion-lights were procured. Four were installed on each household.</p>
<i>To raise community awareness about non-lethal mitigation measures.</i>			X	<p>Community awareness increased through training and engagement.</p> <p>10 Community Guardians were trained, two from each of the five target wards.</p>
<i>To enhance the capacity of participating households to protect their livestock sustainably.</i>			X	<p>Household capacity improved through skills on installation, maintenance, herding, and kraaling.</p> <p>10 households (approximately 2 people per household) were trained to construct the kraals. The training was done at household level with each Community Guardian responsible for one household.</p>
<i>To provide data-driven insights for scaling lion-lights to other vulnerable areas in the district.</i>			X	<p>Data from 13 monitoring visits showed repeated carnivore presence without losses, which provided strong evidence for scaling the intervention.</p>

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

a) Zero livestock losses at night among all beneficiary households. This confirmed 100 percent effectiveness for kraaled livestock despite frequent carnivore visits.

b) Improved tolerance toward lions and hyenas. Farmers reported reduced fear and less motivation for retaliation after losses stopped.

c) Demonstrated proof of concept for scale. High demand followed early results, leading to expansion beyond the pilot group within the same year.

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

1. Increased cost and new import duty reduced planned procurement. The team adjusted scope and focused on fewer households while maintaining monitoring quality.
2. Theft of one device occurred. The team replaced the unit later and changed placement and charging practices to improve security.
3. One case of battery failure arose. Batteries were replaced and functionality restored. Monitoring visits helped identify and resolve issues early

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

1. Traditional and Local Authorities participated from planning through implementation.
2. Community Guardians selected beneficiaries, supported installation, and led monitoring.
3. At household level, they gained direct benefits through protection of livestock, reduced financial losses, and improved peace of mind. Skills in livestock management improved herd health and productivity. The success story from Ward 10 shows sustained protection and strong peer influence within the community

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. The intervention has already continued through scaling up using additional funding from USAID, with more than 60 households supported with lion lights after this pilot phase. To date, the intervention has been launched in two other districts (Mbire and Binga) with plans to further launch it in Hurungwe in 2026. The implementation approach has been guided and refined using lessons from this project.

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

The project results will mainly be shared through donor reports, success stories, and presentations to stakeholder over review meetings. They will also be shared via community

meetings and farmer to Community Guardian technical support. Lastly, the data from SMART monitoring of the several interventions including lion-lights will be used for national reports and conservation conference presentations.

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

1. Expand coverage to more households in conflict hotspots.
2. Strengthen long term monitoring to track durability and behavior change.
3. Support local access to devices to reduce reliance on external procurement.

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. The Rufford Foundation logo was used on project reports and related communication materials. The Foundation was acknowledged in reports and during stakeholder engagements linked to the project.

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

1. Simbarashe Pride Chatikobo, Wildlife Conservation Action, Project Lead – Overall coordination, procurement, stakeholder engagement, training facilitator and reporting.
2. Community Guardians, Wildlife Conservation Action, Project Support – Beneficiary selection and support, lion light installation and biweekly monitoring.
3. Environment Department, Nyaminyami Rural District Council (NRDC) – Oversight, coordination, and local authority support.
4. Traditional Authority (Chiefs and Village Head) – Community mobilization, buy in and legitimacy at village level.
5. Matusadona Conservation Trust (MCT) – Technical collaboration and local conservation support.

10. Any other comments?

This project shows simple non-lethal tools reduce losses and shift attitudes fast. Community trust and frequent field presence drove adoption. The pilot provided strong evidence to inform district level human wildlife conflict strategies and future investment.

ANNEX – Financial Report

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