

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	Leela Hazzah
Project title	Lion Guardians: A community approach to carnivore conservation in Maasailand, Kenya
RSG reference	8628-2
Reporting period	12 months
Amount of grant	£5859
Your email address	Leela@lionguardians.org
Date of this report	August 29, 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
Expand Lion Guardians to Southern Olgulului (on Tanzania border)			X	Five Lion Guardians have been hired to cover 600km ²
Partner with a tourist operator to cover salaries of Lion Guardians			X	They are paying for the five new Lion Guardians and just donated \$20,000 to buy a new Suzuki for the Lion Guardian coordinator to help with conflict mitigation
Trained the new Lion Guardians on telemetry (for tracking lions), GPS, and basic literacy to fill out data forms			X	
To ensure no lion killing occurs in Lion Guardians project areas			X	There has been no lions killed since the programme's inception
Mitigate livestock-carnivore conflict			X	In the last year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGs successfully recovered 88% of all reported lost livestock (5874 found, out of 6708 reported lost) • LGs reinforced 303 livestock kraals that experienced livestock depredation by carnivores
Increase local capacity		X		In the past year LG coordinators ran the project with little oversight for 8 months, gave presentations at the annual Kenya Wildlife Service carnivore meeting, Amboseli lion meeting, and 30+ powerpoint presentations to tourist at nearby lodges
Increase Lion Guardian awareness & media coverage				Media includes: National Geographic film crew and magazine, and BBC film crew and many public talks in East Africa and USA

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

Fortunately, this year we were able to quickly expand our work into communities that experienced high levels of livestock-carnivore conflict and stop retaliatory lion killing. We had a great deal of support from the Maasai community, who were the main group encouraging this year's expansion, and also from the tourist operators who were being directly affected by decline of the lion population.

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

1. Successful expansion and training of all LGs to the remaining areas of the Amboseli Ecosystem.
2. Zero lions killed in any of the areas where Lion Guardians are working (now covering 4000km²). This is a huge achievement, since 6 months prior to our last expansion there was a minimum of 16 lions killed. And since we expanded into this area, there has not been any lions killed.
3. One of our most important outcomes this year was having the Lion Guardian coordinators run the entire programme (supervising 30 Lion Guardians, paying salaries, collecting and entering all data, allocating and monitoring equipment use) with very little supervision for an 8-month period. We are now a step closer to making this program a sustainable community driven initiative.

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

Preserving the traditional role of the Maasai warrior is critical to fostering long-term participation in lion monitoring and project decisions. One very important aspect of this project is that when a newly identified lion becomes resident in an area, the Lion Guardians give it a name. The Maasai name chosen by the Lion Guardians usually describes the personality of the lion (akin to the traditional lion name given to the first warrior after he successfully kills a lion) or the lion may be named after an influential elder in the community. By personalising individual lions, it not only provides the Lion Guardians with a sense of honour and prestige (they often 'introduce' their lion to their community through stories and photographs), but it may simultaneously deter communities from killing a lion if it is well-known. It has also proven to be an excellent method to provide a sense of ownership and increase tolerance by the local communities.

Monitoring activities are designed to help understand the movements and population change of carnivores in order to predict and mitigate conflict and enhance community participation in conservation. Activities include tracking using traditional ecological knowledge mixed with modern methods, daily use of handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) units, and weekly spoor counts to collect ecological data. We are the only project in East Africa where traditional local people, with no previous formal education, are collecting spoor count data which is used to assess population trends of all the primary predator and prey species.

Since the Lion Guardian programme was developed in partnership with the communities, by fully incorporating their culture and values into the foundation of the project, it has deep-felt impacts and benefits to the community, which are continually tracked and measured in a variety of ways.

The short-term impacts:

1. Reduced human-wildlife conflict.
2. Reduced lion killing.
3. Benefits – salary at the end of the month to supply food for families and pay for siblings' education.
4. Community education and awareness - we run educational workshops (e.g., film showings, discussion groups, role play) improving the capacity of people to defend their livestock from large carnivores.

The long-term impacts:

1. Local capacity building – literacy training (measured by an increase in LG literacy through yearly evaluations), ability of coordinators to run the programme with limited supervision as well as increased computer and technology skills (increase and improvement of coordinators responsibilities and quality of work), more educated and conservation-minded community members (measured by LG impact community survey and Government Census).
2. Increase in household wealth due to a decrease in carnivore depredation (i.e. in the past year LGs found 5,874 livestock that were lost in the bush, many of which would have been killed by carnivores, representing a value of approximately \$58,000).
3. Increase in lion and other threatened wildlife species populations – the LGs, working with biologists, closely monitor wildlife populations through spoor counts and individual IDs; providing critical information on trends of lion and other wildlife populations.
4. Sharing of knowledge – we hold training workshops for other conservation groups across East Africa, specifically on engagement of communities in monitoring and conflict mitigation.
5. Increasing tourism revenue – an increase in lion numbers and LG involvement with tour operators (LGs accompany tourists to see lions), results in an increase in visitors, resulting in an increase in tourism-related employment and revenue for local communities.

Low levels of literacy and high rates of unemployment in rural communities make wildlife a viable natural resource investment option for improving and ensuring a higher quality of life for humans and wildlife. Overall, Lion Guardians is a feasible, low cost, replicable model for reducing human-wildlife conflict by acknowledging the economic and social needs of humans and creating personal incentives for them to protect their natural environment and conserve endangered carnivores as future investment.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we plan to continue this project and expand it to Tanzania this year, as long as there are funds available. We plan to apply for the Rufford Booster Grant this year.

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

Through presentations and conservation conferences and workshops, scientific articles, popular articles, and lastly by example, through showing that local people can indeed collect accurate

ecological data. This year we will begin an exchange programme, where current tenured Lion Guardians will travel to new sites in Tanzania and conduct all the training with the new Lion Guardian recruits.

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 from August 2010 through July 2011, which conforms to our original timeline.

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
Telemetry receivers and aerials to track collared lions	3000	3000	0	4 units bought
Mobile telephones	225	262	-37	Price increased per phone (9 units bought)
Airtime credit for Guardian and Coordinator	660	670	-10	
GPS units	408	453	-45	Price increased, bought 8 GPS units (5 for new LGs plus 2 replacements)
Solar Battery Chargers	80	80	0	
Rechargeable Batteries	72	58	14	32 batteries on sale
Solar-Flashlights	200	190	10	
Small field laptop	300	250	50	Bought netbook on sale
Printer toner	220	165	55	Needed only 3 cartridges
Office supplies	510	500	10	Hard drive, memory sticks, new computer battery, computer adapters, power inverter, computer modem, DVD, pens, printing paper, staplers, field notebooks
Miscellaneous supplies	184	230	-46	Maglite bulbs, tire gauge, first aid books, hi-lift jack repair, power inverter
TOTAL	5859	5858	1	

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

We will continue to improve the Lion Guardians model by designing and testing new monitoring and conflict mitigation techniques. Our success in the past year has proven that not only can Lion Guardians conserve lions by reducing conflict and effectively monitor lions on communal lands, but that this model is finally ready to be expanded and tested in other areas where lions are highly persecuted by people.

Requests pour in from local communities beyond the Amboseli ecosystem to expand the programme across a wider area – even beyond the regional borders of East Africa; NGO's, tourist operators, and governmental organizations have approached me to initiate Lion Guardian programmes across the countries of southern and eastern Africa. The ability to soundly replicate this model will have a direct impact on improving rural livelihoods by utilising local cultural values to increase the local capacity of future conservationists.

The first planned expansion site will be West-Kilimanjaro communities in Tanzania (approximately 1000 km²), directly across the Kenyan-Tanzanian border from the Amboseli ecosystem. This site was chosen for the following reasons: (a) the community requested the programme; (b) as a way to show their interest, they have not killed any lions since our first meeting in May 2011, while at least five lions were killed there during the months of January – April 2011; (c) the leaders have submitted a letter to the Tanzanian government requesting a formal invitation on Lion Guardians behalf; (d) livestock depredation by carnivores is an immediate concern facing the Maasai living in this area, with a high percentage of households (ranging from 61.7% to 80%) losing livestock to wildlife in the past 12 months; (e) high rates of retaliatory lion killing have been recorded (a minimum of 17 lions killed over 15 months); (f) movement data on collared lions show that lions are frequently using this area; and (g) the groundwork has already been laid, in terms of selecting communities to begin work with and building partnerships with four local conservation groups (Big Life, Honeyguide Foundation, African Wildlife Foundation, and the community-run Wildlife Management Area of Enduimet). The Lion Guardians team will help provide on-the-ground training for the new Tanzania Lion Guardian recruits. We have discovered over the years that the most efficient and successful way of training new Lion Guardians is by having tenured Guardians carryout the training sessions. Our hope is that this experience will provide our current Amboseli Lion Guardians with a sense of pride in their achievements and importance in their work.

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, I used the RSGF logo on our support page of our powerpoint presentation

11. Any other comments?

I would like to thank RSGF for their continued support of the Lion Guardian programme. Our success thus far has not been without your support, and we thank you.