

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. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other 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. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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	11.01.08
Reporting period	
Amount of grant	£5,001
Your email address	leelahazzah@hotmail.com
Date of this report	September 1, 2009

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 Olgulului Group Ranch			X	Not only have we expanded Lion Guardians onto Olgulului, but have also expanded it onto another area, Eselenkei Ranch.
Hire another 15 Lion Guardians			X	
Trained the new Lion Guardians on telemetry (for tracking lions), GPS, and basic literacy		X		
Created a new non-invasive method of using local people to collect ecological data (spoor counts and DNA hair and scat collection)			X	
Updated objectives, aims, goals, and measures of success for Lion Guardians			X	
To ensure no lion killing occurs in Lion Guardians project areas			X	
Increase local capacity			X	The Lion Guardians coordinator (Maasai) was accepted on a conservation programme at Oxford University
Increase Lion Guardian media coverage				Media includes: National Geographic magazine and TV, Discovery, 60 Minutes, BBC, Reuters, Vogue.

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

The greatest difficulty that delayed various aspects of the project was the horrible drought that has hit East Africa; said to be the worst in decades (if not in the last century). The majority of Maasai warriors and cattle left southern Kenya and moved to other regions of the country, and some in Tanzania. Since our project focuses around warriors, we were forced to wait until they returned to the region to begin hiring Lion Guardians. As I write this report, still over half of the warriors and livestock have yet to return to their homes.

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

1. Successful expansion onto two group ranches in the Amboseli-Tsavo Ecosystem, where lion killing was a serious threat to the remaining lion population.
2. Increased awareness to the public, scientific organizations (IUCN, etc), and other conservationists around the world about the plight of Africa's lions.
3. No lion have been killed in any of the areas where Lion Guardians are working (over 4000km²)

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

Lion Guardians is all about high rates of local participation and empowerment. Through involvement in key decision making of the project and larger conservation issues, the community begins to feel ownership over their environmental resource (in this case, lions). Communities have benefitted through employment, a reduction in livestock killed by carnivores (though Lion Guardian mitigation techniques used, i.e., over 10,000 livestock have been found in the bush lost and brought home safely by the Lion Guardians-the livestock would have likely been killed by predators if left out in the bush), awareness and education of future benefits of wildlife (through films, workshops, etc). Also, two of our lead Maasai coordinators have been accepted to top universities (one in the UK, and the other in the US).

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we will continue this project as long as there are lions and funds available.

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.

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 September 2008 through September 2009. Due to the drought, building a new camp and other data collection activities the expansion of Lion Guardians did not take place until September 2008. I first hoped we could start in May or June 2008.

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	2040	3000	960	A grant from Panthera paid the difference. With the expansion we needed more receivers to track lions

Cell phones	255	255		
Phone Credit for and Guardian Coordinator	312	312		
GPS Units	408	408		
Solar Phone/Battery Chargers	160	160		
Solar-flashlights	200	100	100	We got a donation of four so I only needed to buy another four
Laptop	511	520	9	With taxes
Printer	95	100	5	With taxes
Office Supplies	510	510		
Miscellaneous	510	610		Additional GPS units, track sticks, cell phones, and other equipment
Total	5001	5945		

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

My goal is to use this project as a template or model of a successful community conservation initiative at increasing local tolerance of carnivores and reducing depredation events. I would like to create a "Lion Guardians Handbook" that can be used by other conservation organizations around the world where carnivores and pastoralists share the same land and resources.

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 Lion Guardian fact sheet, which we give out at conservation events, fundraisers, talks, conferences, etc.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to thank RSGF for helping to support the expansion of Lion Guardians. This is a major step in the right direction for conservation, thank you.