

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	Paul David van Helden
Project title	Namaqua National Park: Anatolian dogs for Wildlife Conservation
RSG reference	11076-2
Reporting period	October 2012 to November 2013
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	pvh@sun.ac.za
Date of this report	26th November 2013

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
Breed 15-30 puppies per year			16 puppies born	No mortalities, net puppies 16
Supply and place dogs with farmers around the park			16 new dogs placed	Currently 46 dogs have been placed with farmers in the area.
Establish itself as the premier herd dog supplier for the Northern Cape		Not aware of any other competition or in the region		CURRENT BREEDING STOCK: 3 X males, 4 x females. Still too early to claim this "title". Demand for pups is very high and the project cannot keep up. This would indicate that the dogs are successful, since word-of-mouth drives the demand. One female now suspected to be infertile.
Educate future and potential owners that dogs should be paid for to ensure pride of ownership, realisation of value and ensure some degree of self-sustainability for the project		X		A dedicated website was created for the breeding project (www.anatoliandogs.co.za) Banners for shows were deployed. Promotional DVDs and brochures were handed out. Various shorts appeared in the media regarding the dogs and park in general, including SAA and GETAWAY magazines Elanza van Lente attended various shows where the dogs were promoted. (e.g. Getaway show in Johannesburg) Visitors are taken on guided tours to the dog breeding project. It is proving immensely popular. The project is used as an educational tool for school groups. NGOs are taken to the breeding project. These include Conservation SA, Cape Nature, The Cape Leopard Trust and other groups.
Create awareness amongst the farmers of the benefits of the dogs, not only for themselves but also		X		It would be perhaps overstating the case to say that we fully achieved this aim. I think that the fact that demand cannot match supply shows that the awareness is high.

the environmental benefits				
Ensure that dogs placed are well cared for and perform as desired		X		Training of dog owners remains a challenge- they expect immediate results whereas the dogs only really start working properly after a year.
Secure further funding				R5000 (approx. 350 GB pounds) was donated. No other funds were raised in cash terms; however, a dog food donor company was found and this food supply is currently secured for at least another year.
Identify marketing methods to create awareness amongst the proposed target market and raise such awareness.				At this stage, word of mouth has created so much awareness that demand for the dogs exceeds supply. We do not think that more awareness would help at this stage and thus this aim is perhaps somewhat redundant.
Develop funding for a research person to monitor success both in terms of livestock protection as well as wildlife preservation	X			It was not possible to raise funds for a post in the current economic climate; however a research project has been planned and approved. We hope to secure funding for this in the future.
Reduce the number of animals caught in traps and increase the numbers on surrounding farms		Yes. Not yet enough dogs placed and no quantitative monitoring in place.		Feedback is positive. Farmers report considerable reduction in losses. It is difficult to estimate the exact effect on wildlife without a control area and extensive research, but it would seem that far fewer traps are set (verbal communication with farmers). The fact that the dogs are performing as expected would have this effect. Traps are expensive and labour intensive, and farmers would not use these unless they lose stock animals to predators.

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

We prefer to use the phrase “CHALLENGES”, since most difficulties were not entirely unexpected.

We have had a number of health problems, particularly scorpion stings and general injuries sustained by dogs (the terrain is very rugged). Tick fever is also prevalent, in spite of tick bite

prevention steps being taken as much as possible. All inoculations are done, including those needed for the working dogs. Breeding success/ impregnation was relatively low- although pups born were within the 15-30 hoped for per annum. We suspect the low pregnancy rate might have been the dog food (different from the year before) and have since changed the food. Because the total number of pups was less than expected we put a lot more effort into dogs already placed, particularly for training and veterinary care. It seems to have a positive effect with the dogs working better and being healthier.

Two working dogs were taken back. One was a case of suspected abuse and another owner immigrated to Namibia and could not take the dog. One working dog is also currently at the breeding pen for cancer treatment.

Training of dog owners remains a challenge- they expect immediate results whereas the dogs only really start working properly after a year. Long distances to farms and shortage of manpower puts a strain on resources. This is particularly relevant, since SANParks is effectively no longer government subsidised. This has meant that travelling distances for park vehicles have been drastically curtailed which is a major problem in this huge area.

The park appointed a contractual person to assist with the project. Unfortunately, the funding for her salary will be finished by the end of 2013. The three persons working with the project received rabies inoculations, since they worked a lot in the field this year with the working dogs. The initiation of research on this project was cancelled due to a lack of funding for the researcher. However, a research project has been approved. This project will start to investigate the effects and outcomes of various methods of livestock protection, including Anatolian dogs. The groundwork is currently being done, and hopefully in a years' time the actual research will start if funding can be secured.

Unfortunately, the dramatic rise in rhino poaching in South Africa has had a knock-on effect on all SANparks activities, since huge resources are being directed towards this problem at the cost of other activities. In the case of this project, it means that there is no funding for a researcher or project manager and none likely for the foreseeable future from SANparks.

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

- The project remained stable during this period.
- Many dogs were placed.
- Demand exceeds supply.
- Fewer traps for wildlife have been set.
- Funds have been secured by Cape Leopard Trust for two master's students to do research into predator control in the area.

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

The person responsible for the project (Elanza van Lente) attended various shows where the dogs were promoted. Visitors are taken on guided tours to the dog breeding project. It is proving immensely popular. The project is used as a regular educational tool for school groups from the

area. NGOs are taken to the breeding project. Local communities' benefit, since they lose less stock to predators, which alleviates poverty.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We are nowhere near market saturation. In addition, dogs have a limited lifespan and will need replacement over time. Research into outcomes will be done from 2014.

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

As we have done in the past: A dedicated website was created for the breeding project (www.anatoliandogs.co.za). Publicity at shows, e.g. Getaway and Outdoor activities, where DVDs and brochures are handed out.

Continue to promote awareness through the media, e.g. radio, TV and magazines.

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 payment date in October 2012 to date, as we had planned.

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
Field worker salary contribution	1380	0	1380	None paid as salary covered unexpectedly by SANparks for 2013.
Vet expenses	4300	1928.46	2371.54	Very difficult to predict what needs will be. Lower than expected because fewer puppies were born than hoped
Admin and maintenance costs e.g. bank charges, housing for dogs, paperwork,	320	29.05	290.95	Most costs covered by Hon Rangers and Namakwa park itself to preserve funds for Veterinary expenses.
(remainder at time of submission)	(6000) N/A	1957.51	4042.49	Plan to keep this as reserve for veterinary bills in future. We have no other way to cover these expenses.
Total	6000	1957.51	4042.49	

The exchange rate at the time the grant was received was 13.1516, giving an amount of ZAR 78909.60. I shall use this exchange rate figure for the sterling equivalents' although the rate is now approximately 16.4.

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

To sustain the project and keep the project running. To try to sustain funds for veterinary and food expenses and maintain a research position to monitor outcomes and impact.

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. Namakwa Park used the logo to make a small plaque that was placed in the park at the dog pens, visible to all visitors.

11. Any other comments?

Although we are considerably underspent on this project, there have been extremely positive developments and we ask that we be allowed to keep the unspent funds for veterinary expenses. We have no other means to cover these critical costs.