

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Rebecca Klein
Project title	Developing capacity to utilise guarding dogs for livestock protection amongst Kalahari farming communities
RSG reference	21544-D
Reporting period	21 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2017 – 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2018
Amount of grant	£10,000
Your email address	rklein@cheetahconservationbotswana.org
Date of this report	3rd March 2018

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
<p><b>Objective 1</b> - Provide farmers experiencing high levels of carnivore conflict with LSGD puppies and provide support for early care and management.</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CCB smallstock farm continues to be maintained as a practical training demonstration for farmers and place for the training of LSGD puppies.</li> <li>• 23 LSGDs were placed in the last 12 months with farmers experiencing cheetah conflict</li> <li>• 21 LSGDs are performing well, protecting their herds effectively and reducing conflict levels. 1 dog was repossessed due to insufficient care and 1 dog died from snakebite.</li> <li>• 21 LSGDs were sterilized by qualified veterinarians in order to ensure effective performance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 2</b> - Provide farmer training on best practices in livestock and conflict management to reduce livestock losses, improve perceptions towards carnivores, and facilitate coexistence.</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support visits reached 35 farmers in response to complaints of conflict incidents with cheetahs. Farmers were provided with potential solutions including appropriate livestock management and non-lethal options for predator control.</li> <li>• 3 farmer training workshops and 4 mobile workshops were held reaching 270 farmers with information on carnivore behaviour, assessing livestock losses and effective methods of range, livestock and conflict management.</li> <li>• In addition a Farmers Network has been developed comprising of 78 farmers and provides a means to strengthen communication and access to information, including good practices in rangeland and livestock management.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 exchange visits for 30 members of the Farmers Network took place to share knowledge and experience and benchmark on successful farming operations.</li> <li>• A farmers' newsletter 'Masakeng (at the kraal)' has been developed to share information amongst network members and relevant stakeholders. 200 copies of the 1st newsletter have been distributed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 3</b> - Monitor the outcomes of the program activities to assess the progress of LSGD placements and effects of training workshops, including increased knowledge and use of improved conflict mitigation methods.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 3-6 month post workshop evaluation demonstrated that 92% of farmers stated an increase in knowledge. 83% had made direct improvements to livestock management and of those 89% had seen a decrease in conflict.</li> <li>• 91% of the livestock guarding dogs placed through this grant are performing well and reducing the number of carnivore conflict incidents experienced by farmers by 78% from previous levels.</li> <li>• It is estimated that each dog will potentially protect its herd from approximately 30 cheetahs during its expected average lifetime.</li> </ul>

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

The major challenge of the project was the plan to utilise LSGDs for protecting cattle. The first step was an exchange trip across the border to Bray in South Africa to assess the use of LSGDs with cattle from farmers known to be trialling the method. Unfortunately the effectiveness of LSGDs with cattle was not clear and it was felt that the method was not reliable. Due to this CCB did not go ahead with this method and will rather focus the use of LSGDs with smallstock while promoting herding, kraaling and breeding seasons for cattle. CCB would request to utilise the RSG funds allocated for this line item to the extra three LSGDs placed with the smallstock in 2017 and an additional two LSGDs which will be placed in 2018.

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

1. The livestock guarding dog program with smallstock (goats and sheep) has been very successful and 91% of the dogs are performing effectively and reducing conflict by 78% and this is likely to increase as the dogs mature. This technique has a lot of

support from the farmers and government and will be an ongoing programme for CCB. The puppies are also sourced from local animal shelters so gives the dogs a second chance at life as working dogs for conservation.

2. The training workshops have been well received from the farming community with 270 farmers receiving training in improved livestock management techniques. 83% of these reported to have improved their management since training with 89% of these farmers reporting reduced conflict with carnivores.

3. The farmers' network has seen a lot of activity with 78 farmers in the network receiving support and training. Along with 30 of these farmers having the opportunity to take part in exchange visits to the CCB demonstration farm and agricultural learning events. The network has now been officially handed over the members although CCB will continue to support training workshops and exchange visits for the network. Demonstration farmers have also been identified who will act as a learning resource for other members in a similar way to the CCB demonstration farm.

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

Farming communities have been the key beneficiaries. The main form of income generation for rural communities is livestock farming. The techniques being promoted improve livestock production and significantly decrease predator conflict, thereby bringing a reduction in livestock losses, improvements in income generation and an improvement in current perceptions.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Cheetah Conservation Botswana is a long term project and registered charity in Botswana. Hence the project will continue with strategic planning and adaptive management to develop according to the needs of the cheetah and the communities with which they coexist.

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

Results and lesson learned will be disseminated to the communities which CCB works with, through site visits, residential and mobile workshops, community meetings, radio shows, local magazines and newspapers. In additions results are shared internationally through international magazines, newsletters, scientific journals, the CCB website and social media platforms.

- Educational resources are produced for farmers and shared during site visits, workshops and meetings.
- Radio shows are carried out 4 times a year.
- Articles are placed in national newspapers and magazines.
- Farmers' newsletters are produced annually.
- Reports are provided quarterly to the government.
- Annual reports are produced.

- E-newsletters go out 4 times a year on project activities.
- Information is published on the CCB website.
- Data collected is published in scientific journals and made available to government ministries and archives.
- Information is provided to the global cheetah conservation community to add the Botswana perspective to the overall effort to preserve this unique species.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The grant funding was received on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017. The majority of the funding has been utilised over a 12 month period, although there are some remaining funds which will be utilised by December 2018. We would like to request for an extension until the end of 2018 to utilise the remaining funds for the stated activities.

**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
1 community officer (12xGBP487.26/month 100% salary)	1751	1751		Completely utilised
6 mobile workshops (20 people, GBP7.50/person)	900	900		4 mobile workshops took place although due to the numbers of people participating the funds were completely utilised
4 residential workshops (30 people, GBP18.74 / person / day)	1754	1754		3 residential workshops took place although as Rufford provided partial funding for this activity the funds were completely utilised
Production of 250 T-shirts at GBP6.37 / shirt	1593	0	1593	Not yet utilised as an unexpected donation was provided by a local donor. The funds are to be used for T-shirt production in 2018.
Demo farm maintenance (GBP37.48 / month)	450	450		Completely utilised
2 herders (GBP187.41/month)	167	167		Completely utilised
Demo farm dog food (GBP29.99 / month)	360	360		Completely utilised
LSGD placements (20	1445	1445		23 LSGDs were placed and the funds

dogs at GBP187.41 / dog)				were completely utilised
5 LSGDs placed with cattle (GBP187.41 per dog)	937	0	937	Not yet utilised as pilot project did not support the method for cattle. It is requested that this funds by reallocated to additional LSGDs with smallstock
Printing of 30 posters (GBP2.25 per poster)	67		67	Not yet utilised but activity will take place in 2018
Prize giving event (40 people, GBP7.50 per person)	300		300	Not yet utilised but activity will take place in 2018
Certificates,prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners	131		131	Not yet utilised but activity will take place in 2018
Administrative costs and supplies	146	146		Completely utilised
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6972</b>	<b>3028</b>	CCB requests an extension until Dec 2018 to utilise remaining funds

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

1. The livestock guarding dog program for smallstock is very successful and we aim to continue and expand this program to a greater number of farmers in our focal area of the Western Kalahari. We have also been asked to be a strategic partner for the government Drylands Ecosystem project which aims to create demonstration landscapes where livestock farming is carried out sustainably and in coexistence with wildlife. The use of LSGDs will be a component of this project and we continue to encourage the government to integrate this approach into their future farmer support activities.

2. The farmer interventions developed by CCB are achieving success at reducing conflict incidents and improving tolerance. CCB aims to continue to partner with the Departments of Wildlife, Animal Health and Veterinary Services to hold training workshops for their officers so they can build their capacity to support farming communities with relevant approaches to reduce conflict.

3. There are additional communities found in the important wildlife management areas south of CCB's key focal farming areas. These are predominantly San communities and since Botswana banned hunting in 2015 their livelihood streams have been severely impacted. CCB plans to work with these communities to support them to diversify their livelihood options incorporating sustainable livestock farming but also cultural and ecotourism initiatives.

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

The Rufford logo was featured on our website [cheetahconservationbotswana.org](http://cheetahconservationbotswana.org) under our supporters' page and the Foundation was featured as a supporter in our Enewsletters. When the final production of T-shirts goes ahead the Rufford logo will be featured on the sleeve of the T-shirts and the design will be shared with Rufford.

**11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.**

- **Rebecca Klein** - Executive Director - MSc Wildlife Conservation, BSc Wildlife Biology – Oversight of project implementation.
- **Nidhi Ramsden**- Development Manager - MSc Resource Conservation Biology, MSc NGOs & Development – Developed and monitoring detailed work plans for project activities.
- **Douglas Thamage** - Operations Manager - Diploma in Community Based Development, Diploma in Modern Management and Administration - Ensured the smooth running of infrastructure, staff, finances and programmes.
- **Morulaganyi Kokole** - Community Coordinator - BSc Wildlife Management and Sustainability - Engaged community members through direct visits, meetings and, workshops.
- **Phale Seele** - Field Camp Coordinator - BSc Conservation, Sustainable Development, Diploma Education - Engaged community members through direct visits, meetings, and workshops.
- **King Modise** – Community Outreach Officer – BSc Environmental Science – Placement and monitoring of livestock guarding dogs.
- **Reginald Phillips** - Herd Manager - Cambridge School Certificate - Managed the demonstration farm, livestock herd, training and care of livestock guarding dog puppies.
- **Connie Sebati** - Public Relations Officer - BSc Environmental Science - Reported to participating communities and general public on project progress.
- **Dr. Leanne van der Weyde** - Research Coordinator - PhD Environmental Science, BSc Life Sciences – Oversight of the monitoring and evaluation through surveys, data analysis, and report generation.
- **Chris Mbisana** - Research Officer - BSc Soil and Water Conservation - Data collection, entry, and analysis.
- **Boitumelo Mokgosi** - Admin & Finance Officer - BSc English, Accounting – Maintained database of project costs and sourcing supplies.

**12. Any other comments?**

CCB would like to thank Rufford for this opportunity to develop our community outreach and education programs for carnivore conservation.

We would like to share some stories from the farmers who have recently received livestock guarding dog puppies from CCB:

**Ms. Neo Motseothata - Farmers network member and LGD recipient**

"Before meeting CCB, the normal practice I knew was that you kill cheetahs and carnivores whenever livestock is lost. Ever since attending a farmers' workshop I have been more tolerant of wildlife than ever. CCB intervened by letting us know how to respond to conflict and through them placing a livestock guarding dog with my small stock, I can satisfactorily say I have never experienced any conflict. This should encourage us even more to work together and coexist".

**Ms. Puisano Mosimanewakgang - Farmers network member and LGD recipient**

"I got to know CCB through attending a farmers' workshop. I had 10 goats plus a ram in 2015. It was my only livelihood but the number dropped to 5 due to carnivores in the area. After receiving an LGD from CCB, the number of my livestock has increased and twice a year I sell the excess numbers to make my own income. I look after my children alone and this has helped me to support them. After CCB's assistance, we are now well aware of wildlife in our area and are coexisting peacefully with them".

**Mr Tumediso Haube - LGD recipient**

"If you own a herd of goats or flock of sheep, you will need to protect your animals from carnivores, thieves and other unwanted elements. If you use poisons or traps, your animals (herd) may end up being casualties. So, I should consider safer alternatives and one of such alternative is a guard dog. I am thankful and feel very privileged to have been given a dog by your organisation (CCB). Having a livestock guarding dog around my farm is a good, safe and cheaper/reliable method compared to using a herder or other methods to protect my animals. Such a dog would always stay with your herd, watch out for carnivores and other intruders and fight fiercely to protect livestock. I am looking forward to seeing my herd grow, hence making more profit from this business of livestock farming. Thank you CCB!"

**Mr Batshidi Tsae - LGD recipient**

"I am a small stock farmer specialising in rearing of goats. During my first days here, there were many jackals troubling my goats in this land. I was losing most of my goats to jackals and cheetahs. I would lose approximately 4 goats in a month and that was hard on me. I wanted to give up farming, until the day I met the CCB people who told me about their programs and I was privileged to be given a well-trained dog "Radipodi" free of charge by them. With pleasure, I tell you this dog is doing well. It has chased away all jackals and other carnivores in my area. The dog is always with the herd, he goes out with goats from morning to evening every day. I no longer worry about losing my goats to carnivores. I thank CCB for this livestock guard dog program, they are doing an excellent job. It is a positive support to farmers to help us coexist with wildlife and I recommend it to anyone with carnivore problems. Thank you for your support".





King Modise farmer's workshop in Ghanzi.



Left: Doug Gimesy mobile farmer's workshop in Karakubis. Right: Phale Seele training farmers in goat care.



Left: King Modise Ghanzi farmer recipient of LGD. Right: Phale Seele LGD puppies at CCB demo farm.



Left: King Modise Bere farmer recipient of LGD. Right: Phale Seele monitoring livestock guarding dogs.



Rebecca Klein LGD at demo farm in Ghanzi.