

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
Full Name	Nancy Juma
Project Title	Establishing Cheetah Positive Landscapes of Coexistence in Athi Kapiti Plains through focal communities support.
Application ID	26746-2
Grant Amount	£5000
Email Address	nanjuma@gmail.com
Date of this Report	11th April 2021

**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
Understanding the cheetah conservation through awareness creation.				Awareness campaign successfully delivered to all 17 public schools via respective Environmental Clubs and to communities in and beyond project area via radio. This happened a long break due to pastoral conflicts. Impacts and awareness more difficult to judge but anecdotal evidence suggests that many within communities are sensitised.
Create and build positive cheetah landscapes (CPLs) through capacity building				<p>There is less evidence of capacity building with respect to planning, managing and monitoring biodiversity. Very little monitoring is being undertaken by elders and cheetah scouts, despite training initiatives, and none of the data are currently being entered into the information field book. This requires strategic direction, programming and coordinating, with the lead being taken by the project staff, given that it probably has the most competence in this area.</p> <p>However, a wide range of local institutions have been successfully established for purposes of income generation, environmental awareness and education in schools, human and livestock health and culture conservation. Most are likely to be sustainable; a few require further strategic development.</p>
Mapping cheetah human-conflicts hotspots				Explicit information provided to relevant authorities to support identification and prioritisation of corridor and dispersal areas for improved connectivity of cheetah and wild dog geographic ranges

				within three years. Database on cheetah distribution and status established and resident range map updated. Also, subgroup of cheetah researchers to oversee this monitoring, under a species of KWS Large Carnivore Working Group.
Involve optimal cheetah-friendly land use, livestock protection and measures to encourage the co-existence of local communities with cheetahs.				Encouraged and strengthened pastoral land management system as the best way to manage land and protect wildlife through traditional rules and regulation in pastoral management. From this angle our focus species (cheetah) is well protected.

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

a) Cattle rustling or 'cattle raids' within the borders of Isinya and northern part of Athi Kaputeui areas has been a great challenge. This scenario posed a security risks for our team in implementing the project's goals as scheduled as well as hindering local communities to conduct their daily activities. Conflicts related to livestock raiding are not a new phenomenon in many pastoral societies in Kenya. Traditionally, various pastoral communities use raiding as a cultural practice for restocking of herds, especially after periods of drought or outbreaks of diseases. However, in recent years, livestock raiding has become more frequent, violent and destructive and by extension around the borders of Athi Kaputeui and Isinya areas. The direct impact of violent raiding is felt in terms of loss of human life and property, reduction in livestock numbers, limited access to water and pasture resources and forced migration. Indirectly, violent conflicts create a strong and omnipresent perception of insecurity which results in ineffective resource utilisation, reduced mobility, food insecurity and closure of markets and schools. These factors combined undermined our project awareness strategies and survey plans to a halt.

We had to take a break (7 months) for security along the borders of Athi Kaputeui to normalise. This calls for recommendation for policy makers and county government a need to put a framework of conflict mitigations that addresses the specific raiding motives of each group.

b) Locals of the area are traditionally inclined to pastoral and farming activities that are very resource demanding. Hence, they are reluctant to undergo a behaviour change in their methods. However, we overcame the issue with live demonstrations, meetings and by extensive awareness creation.

c) A major drawback to the present arrangement is the lack of female leadership in the Masai community. Women, particularly from project areas, are reluctant to take leadership roles that can inform a huge change in cheetah

conservation and increasing combination of positive landscape sustainable livelihoods activities. We: i) partnered with Women of the Nation Enterprise (WON) to train the 50 selected women from the project area and across on the value addition on their artifacts and marketing of their products; and ii) helped form a village/Manyatta Environmental Groups (MEG) to champion marginalised groups especially Maasai women affairs in the project areas.

d) The continuing lack of any policy on community-based management of the Kaputei Plains, despite considerable efforts to resolve this issue, is the most significant failure of the project for reasons discussed above. We recommended the need to address the matter urgently by the Ministry of Wildlife and Natural Resource to avoid further erosion of goodwill and commitment among the communities towards the objectives of this Project and to allow the restoration of CPLs, to be implemented.

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

Much improved levels of biodiversity within the corridor, most noticeable with respect to the vegetation, which is regenerating well, and to a lesser extent, based on available data, with respect to abundance of ungulates including cheetahs.

With partnership of Northern Range Trust (NRT) and Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK), we are in the process of mapping and conclusively determining cheetah-human conflicts and other large carnivores in Athi Kapiti in relation to positive land use systems, cultural practices and perceptions. However, this can only be achieved in relation to peace and tranquillity in the area enabling the acquisition of enough data that outlast the duration of the project.

We have partially been successful in installing faith of local people on Cheetah Positive Landscape (CPL) through which we plan to use it as a tool for conservation and protection of cheetah in the future.

Strengthening and establishment of crucial community-based initiatives and institutions, with focus on engaging with women and other socially disadvantaged groups. Livelihoods have improved for a significant proportion of the 100 households identified as belonging to marginalised/disadvantaged groups through a range of initiatives including income-generating activities, alternative or improved livestock husbandry. These improvements are underpinned by provision of health and veterinary care facilities from our partners as a means of giving back to the community.

### **4. What do you consider to be the most significant achievement of this work?**

#### **Research**

- Established base-line research for our targeted species.
- Besides our project 1st and now the 2<sup>nd</sup>, there has been little or no research conducted for our targeted cheetah species AKP. By conducting some of these first surveys and basic research, we can provide a foundation for future research and long-term conservation planning.
- Areas of new research include studies into ecology, prey preference and

population distribution for our targeted species in Empatipat, Oloirien and Kisaju (EOK).

- Used innovative technology and approaches to create new understanding necessary at our field sites.
- Our team used rigorous efforts in temperature-sensing, spoor identification mapping, and GIS work to provide new data to evaluate and better understand our targeted species and the environment where they are found something that we hope to share to benefit other biologists and conservation projects.

### **Conservation**

- Public awareness and educational presentations in Empatipat, Oloirien and Kisaju (EOK).
- By providing access and opportunities for local people to learn about our activities and conservation goals, we were able to instil interest and support for our conservation efforts, improve awareness for our goals and enable children an opportunity to understand the importance of biodiversity, conservation and the survival of our targeted species.
- Training workshops allowed practical and intensive learning opportunities that otherwise would not have been possible for students and local participants.
- Workshops related to cheetah research methods and techniques have help spread awareness for our conservation project and get future students interested in continuing research related to our conservation goals and our targeted species.

### **Community Involvement**

- Partnership and collaboration of efforts with clan elders (Oloibon), Manyatta heads and local stakeholders have improved project efforts and contributed towards collective accomplishments and interests in conservation.
- Although not definitive, there have been cases where our team has created good relationships with local people at field sites that have changed their earlier habits of snaring and hunting wild animals and instead helped conservation by informing our team and Kenya wildlife for searching and de-snaring captured animals.

### **5. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.**

Partnership and collaboration of efforts with Kaputuei conservancy and local stakeholders have improved project efforts and contributed towards collective accomplishments and interests in cheetah conservation.

Through many collaborative field trips and field trips requiring local support and assistance, we have improved understanding for our project conservation goals and helped create interest and cheetah protection awareness within the community for establishing CPLs. Public awareness initiatives at local villages at high-priority sites have helped reduce cheetah-human conflicts and other species.

**6. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Definitely this work should continue for at least 3 more years because the project activities in general should consider more samples, and more detail in the association of habitat with flagship species, in addition to standardisation is necessary to consider the most habitat featuring on Kenya because the country is one of the most diverse in the type of habitats that is associated with wildlife

The project team is working continuously to achieve the above-mentioned activities, of which some of them have been successful and have shown results. A few of them however require policy decisions to be taken. We are however in constant touch with the Kenya Wildlife Service and policy makers to influence policy.

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

The results of the project will be published in scientific journal and talks for the general public will be made, especially with people living near the Nairobi National Park (NNP) and local environmental agencies for a future partnership approach and to solve cheetah-human conflicts and environmental problems that may present in terrestrial environments.

We would do a wide publicising of project outputs through media.

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

The grant was used for the longest period that was not anticipated due to unforeseen circumstances i.e., cattle rustling near the project area forcing the temporary halt of the project activities, otherwise we conducted sampling phase throughout 2018 and the first 4 months of 2019 making field survey in locations, some of which were visited once and other more than twice all relating to accessibility, security and abundance of wild animals found in it. With the outbreak of pandemic (Covid-19), we again reduced the tempo of our activities in the whole period of the year 2020. Generally, we were not able to make our work at one year under the proposed project time.

**9. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Capacity Building	1000	1000		In line with budget

Awareness creation	800	1000	+200	£ 200 need to increase awareness in adjacent areas due to cheetah sightings (Mlolongo)
Mapping Survey	600	700	+100	£100 to enhance survey work in Mlolongo and Isinyia areas (cases of cheetah sightings)
Allowances	750	750		In line with the budget
Contractor's fee	500	500		Budget line
Hire (Venue, vehicle & Transport)	650	800	+150	For more trainings to be conducted a surplus of £ 150 was required to cater for places of conflicts and thus to mitigate. This is a recurrence from earlier (1 <sup>st</sup> RSG) implementation
Equipment	330	330		In line with the budget
Project's preparation & recruitments,	200	200		As budgeted
Monitoring & Evaluation	200	200		In line with budget
Institution establishment	200	200		In line with the budget
Publication & Report	450	500	+50	£ 50 added from visits to enhance report dissemination
Drama & Theatre	250	300	+50	Performed more shows due to high demand from the adjacent locals outside project area. Hence the need to add £ 50 to the original budget.
Communication	150		-150	
Visits	200	150	-50	£ 50 deduction added to reports expenses
<b>Total</b>	<b>6280</b>	<b>6630</b>	<b>+350</b>	Additional expenses (in kind support& organization donation)

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

The project objectives may be achieved within Kaputuei plains and wildlife migration corridors through restoration and conservation of natural resources in combination with empowerment of local communities (particularly women and other groups) and the development of alternative means of livelihood. Furthermore, we have to take into consideration the likely or unlikely scenarios of pastoralist conflicts and pandemics.

Nevertheless, this initiative is in its infancy and requires more years (at least 3) and nurturing at all conservation agencies, social and political levels to secure long-term sustainability and cheetah conservation.



**11. 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, we used logo of RF in all awareness education material like posters, banners and during seminars. Logo was also used during workshop. Furthermore, logo will be used in our anticipation publication and detailed report of the project. The Rufford Foundation will also be acknowledged in my research paper.

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

**Janet Adhiambo**

Her role in this project was team co- leader and helped to organize research and conservation efforts for the targeted species of cheetah. She involved all key stakeholders from an early stage and provide clear and costed action plans for implementing and sustaining the network in long-term.

**Fredrick Otieno**

Supported and organized meetings, workshops/training as required in the project work plan. Performed other duties related to the project in order to achieve its strategic objectives

**Elvis Odhiambo**

His role in this project was as research assistant and helped to plan and fulfil research and conservation goals throughout the project.Coordinated M&E exercises to appraise project success and made recommendations for modifications to the project.

**Samwel Lekato**

Spearheaded the translation of English to Maa language whenever there was need to maintain working flow among local communities being a resident of the area. Was responsible in promotion of awareness outreach programs within the local and school communities in the project area. He spearheaded full administrative, logistical and community mobilization issues.

**Francisca Okwera**

Her role in this project was to provide project supervision and advice, including aspects of the project related to project planning, reporting, field work, and lab analyses. she also helped broaden connections necessary to collaborate with relevant project partners; such Action for Cheetah in Kenya (ACK), Norther Rangeland Trust (NRT), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) amongst others for research and conservation efforts.

**13. Any other comments?**

We appreciate all the help and support from RSG and our partners especially community members who dedicated their time and resources to make sure theproject was a huge success. We hope to continue with the same spirit as we gear towards the third phase of the project



