

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Laura Perry
Project Title	Communities and Conservation National Reserve, Mozambique
Application ID	32204-2
Date of this Report	21/02/2022

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
1. The development of ID kits for lions (using whisker patterns), leopards, and African wild dogs; 2. Monitoring records of predator and elephant sightings;				ID kits were developed for the lions in concession L7, Niassa. We also developed a logging protocol and image database of known leopard, wild dogs, and elephants recorded in the camera grid or through ad hoc sightings.
Documenting human-wildlife conflict. I will follow up on any reported conflict incidents, and record quantitative and qualitative data on the incident;				Yes, a quantitative protocol was set up for logging conflict events.
Recording trophy animals shot in the area, including performing age estimates for cats, and measuring key distinguishing attributes (e.g., bone fusion);				A database has been set up and will continue being used for trophy animals.
Recording data on mortality for predators and elephants.				This has all been recorded in a centralised system.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

The large camera trap grid, which was run through 2021, has provided important insight into the wildlife present in the area.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

In late 2021, Al Shabaab terrorists took over much of Niassa Special Reserve, as a result of displacement by Rwandan troops from conflict in Cabo Delgado, to the east. As this conflict is a huge threat to staff safety, all personnel were evacuated from the project, and it is not likely to be safe to return to the reserve in the near future. Therefore, although we were able to complete the activities outlined in the proposal earlier in 2021, the long-term project plan is currently hugely uncertain.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

Through 2020-2021, we worked closely with local communities to document human-wildlife conflict, and work towards developing plans for resolving this conflict. Unfortunately, with the civil disturbance ongoing, a large proportion of community members have been displaced from the area by armed conflict, so ongoing relations with local communities are uncertain.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

At present, the security situation does not allow for continuation of the project.

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

Results will be written up as publications, to be published in peer-reviewed journals. This is particularly important for the camera trap data, for which analysis is underway. Data has also been shared with the appropriate national and park authorities.

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

Crucially, this work should be written up and published, which is currently in progress. This is key to document the impact of war and insurgency in the area, to provide a pre-disruption comparison. Due to the ongoing conflict, there are no plans to continue fieldwork now.

8. 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?

Rufford will be credited on all publications and conference presentations resulting from this work.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Ildo Mepelamarebo – Community officer, responsible for community dialogue.

Derek Littleton – Operations manager, crucial for organising logistics in support of the fieldwork.

Laura Perry – PI, lead scientist and field operator.

Yasalde Massingue – Field assistant to **Laura Perry**.

10. Any other comments?

The unrest and insurgency in the Niassa area is devastating for everyone who works or lives there. We are inconsolable about the impact this conflict will have on local

people and wildlife. However, thanks to the Rufford support for this project, we will be able to document and publicise the state of the reserve prior to conflict, to set a baseline for future work to recover both the communities and wildlife from whatever the impact of this conflict may be.