

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Daniel M. Parker
Project title	An assessment of the population size and spatial ecology of leopard ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> ) in the Marula area of Zimbabwe
RSG reference	8667-1
Reporting period	2011
Amount of grant	5992 GBP
Your email address	<a href="mailto:d.parker@ru.ac.za">d.parker@ru.ac.za</a>
Date of this report	13 October 2011

**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
Assess the population density of leopards in the Marula area of Zimbabwe			Yes	We were able to successfully determine the leopard population density of leopards in the area
Determine the spatial ecology of leopards in the Marula area of Zimbabwe			Yes	Although the sample size was limited, we were able to discern the spatial ecology of male and female leopards in the Marula area of Zimbabwe.

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

N/A

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

- Our data will contribute towards the development of a more informed and reliable conservation management plan for the leopards in the Marula area, and Zimbabwe as a whole as part of the National Leopard Management Programme (NLMP) - we view this as a long-lasting contribution.
- A MSc thesis which will contribute to Human resource development in South Africa.
- The presentation of our results at national and international meetings/workshops.

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

Three local field workers were employed by the project for 2 years, learning skills in telemetry and camera trapping - which they are likely to use as the project continues. In addition, a conscientious effort was made to promote conservation amongst the local community using the photographs from the camera traps in particular. Significantly, many community members saw animals close up (and learnt about them) that they would have never really got a chance to see in the wild (e.g. brown hyaena and leopard).

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

Yes, we are in the process of developing a proposal with a local Zimbabwean student and the Zoological Society of London in order to assess the socio-economic factors that influence the attitudes of landowners in the area towards predators, leopards in particular.

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

Through the production of scientific and popular articles (this has already begun and are attached to this progress report), the presentation of results at scientific meetings and stakeholder workshops (also begun) and the marketing of key results on our website.

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

1 year; the project has been 3 years thus far and is likely to continue for at least another 2-3 years.

**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.**

**Exchange rate: £1 = R9.22**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
GPS collar	1429	1480	-51	Affected by exchange rate at the time of disbursement
Camera traps	991	1085	-94	Affected by exchange rate at the time of disbursement
Batteries	447	432	+15	We were able to secure a lower price from the supplier
Travel and subsistence	2580	2160	+420	We managed to maintain this item under budget
Rhodes University Administration fee	545	599	-54	Rhodes levies a 10% administration fee on all funds entering the University and this is influenced by exchange rates
<b>Total</b>	5992	<b>5756</b>	+236	

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

Initially, to quantify landowner attitudes and relate this to the biological data collected thus far and then to try and establish a longer-term project in the area to begin to make a substantial contribution to conservation in the region.

**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, it was loaded onto our website and was used in all public presentations of the work.