

# REPORT

## For the Rufford Small Grants Foundation



*Lion scouts in West Gate Community Conservancy*

**By Shivani Bhalla  
Ewaso Lions**

## **OVERALL PROGRESS**

During the grant period I have made the following progress in my project:

### **Data collection**

- Established the current status of lions in Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves by individual identification of resident lions.
- Recorded Grevy zebra presence and distribution in the 2 reserves during this period.
- Design/testing/adjustment of all data sheets needed for the project.
- 10 community questionnaires were conducted during this period. Each questionnaire on average took 3 hours to conduct.
- Conflict data was also recorded in West Gate Conservancy. Information on livestock loss to the different predators was collected.
- Mapping and measurement of 15 manyattas and assessing predator-proof effectiveness in West Gate Conservancy.
- Collection and preservation of 16 lion faecal samples (analysis ongoing)
- Mapping of all water points in the West Gate Community Conservancy
- 3 prey counts using line transects conducted in Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves.
- Identification of target lions for radio-collaring in Samburu Reserve and West Gate Conservancy.
- Established a base in West Gate conservancy to identify/monitor the lions in this area
- Set-up database for data entry of all results to date.
- Production of updated lion identification files for the protected areas.

### **Local Professional Development**

- Employment of 3 wildlife game scouts to monitor lions and record prey and livestock locations in West Gate Community Conservancy (see photo on front page). Each scout has been fully equipped with relevant field requirements (binoculars, Motorola hand-held security radios, GPSs, solar panels for charging radios, field bags and water bottles, field uniforms including boots, data sheets and stationery).
- Employment of a field assistant and training on data collection and computer entry, GPS use.
- Employment of a community liaison officer to work in West Gate Community Conservancy and collect data on conflict, map/measure manyattas and bomas, map water points, assist scouts and network with the communities. Please refer to Appendix 1 for a biography of the community liaison officer.
- An intern joined the team in 2008 and assisted with spotting and tracking lions whilst learning basic ecology on the reserves. At the end of his internship, Jerenimo Lepire did an exam on general ecology.

### **Training/Workshops**

- Workshop held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March with rangers and resident drivers of Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves; entitled "General Ecology, Identification and Aging of Lions in the Protected Areas".
- Training of community officer and game scouts on data collection, GPS and binoculars usage, radio handling and care on March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended the Society for Conservation Biology conference in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, June 2007.

- Completed 2 training sessions in Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders (EWCL); a US Fish & Wildlife Service programme, in Florida (April 2007 and 2008).
- Attended the Kenya Wildlife Service lion-hyena strategy workshop held in Nairobi between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2008.
- Participated (ongoing) in management plan of Isiolo County Council for Buffalo Springs and Shaba National Reserves (part of the Biodiversity taskforce team).
- Completed training on project design and analysis at the University of Oxford, England between October and December 2007.

### **Education & Liaison**

- Design and distribution of project information posters and lion conservation leaflets for Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves and tourist lodges.
- Establishment of a project website [www.ewasolions.org](http://www.ewasolions.org)
- Collecting of data and information for Swahili educational brochures, including design of graphics to be incorporated
- Establishment of a project blog via WildlifeDirect. Please refer to [www.ewasolions.wildlifedirect.org](http://www.ewasolions.wildlifedirect.org)
- The project initiated a tree-planting programme with 6 schools in the region. Ten trees have been planted in each school and are being looked after by teams of 4 students each.
- Meetings have been held with various collaborators and stakeholders in the region. This includes Save the Elephants, Mpala Research Centre, Laikipia Predator Project, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and the African Wildlife Foundation.

### **Future plans (2008)**

- Establish a base in Shaba National Reserve and identify lions in this reserve (September/October 2008)
- Supervise a Kenyan MSc student from Oxford university in scat collection and analysis and collaborate in publishing a paper (suggested title “Lion dietary preferences during the dry and wet season 2008 in Samburu”)
- Construction of predator-proof bomas in the West Gate Community Conservancy area.
- Continue recording Grevy zebra numbers and distribution in the reserves.
- Hold another workshop with rangers/drivers in August 2008 with an update on the lion status of the reserves.
- Continue monitoring progress of project

**PROGRESS AND STEPS TAKEN RELEVANT TO AWARD RECEIVED FROM THE  
RUFFORD SMALL GRANTS FOUNDATION**

*Breakdown of steps for award*

<b>STEP</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
1	Searching for lion scouts in West Gate Conservancy	Yes
2	Identifying and employing 3 lion scouts	Yes
3	Employment of community liaison officer for West Gate Conservancy	Yes
4	Equipment purchase for project, eg GPSs	Yes
5	Training scouts: workshop 1	Yes
6	Additional training scouts: workshop 2	No
7	Workshop held in Samburu National Reserve with rangers, resident drivers and wardens of the area	Yes
8	Scouts and community officer collecting data	Yes-ongoing
9	Stationery purchase for staff	Yes-ongoing

## EXPENSES TO DATE (in £)

NB: Upon usage of all funds, a final expense report will be provided (85% of funds have been used).  
**CONSTRAINTS**

RUFFORD SMALL GRANTS FOUNDATION – SUMMARY				
RUFFORD MAURICE LIVING FOUNDATION				
SUMMARY				
	Budget	Received	Spent	
<b>Research Equipment</b>				
Handheld Garmin GPS - Scouts	360	360	360	100%
<b>Staff - Samburu &amp; Turkana</b>				
Scouts and team members workshop	100	100	86	86%
Salary for community liaison officer	3360	1000	949	86%
Scouts wages for 2 years fieldwork	5040	3080	2800	83%
Stationary for staff	84	78	75	96%
	<b>0944</b>	<b>4990</b>	<b>1270</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>DETAILS</b>				
<b>Research Equipment</b>				
<b>Handheld Garmin GPS - Scouts</b>				
October 2006 - Purchase	116.5			
July 2007 - Purchase	61.5			
July 2007 - Purchase 2	63			
March 2008 - Purchase 2	117			
	<b>360</b>			
<b>Staff - Samburu &amp; Turkana</b>				
<b>Scouts and team members workshop</b>				
2 crates sodas 19th Mar 08	15			
Lunches 19th Mar 08	4			
Chris Leadership 19 Mar 08	4			
Microlite 19 Mar 08	4			
Michael cook 19 Mar 08	4			
Sodas 21 Mar 08	5			
Hotels and pass Nakomati	20			
Tee, biscuits	21			
	<b>86</b>			
<b>Salary for 1 community officer</b>				
Raphael Lekurayo salary (£71 per month)	940			
	<b>949</b>			
<b>Scouts wages for 2 years fieldwork</b>				
Francis Lendoop salary	934			
Jessie I otobole salary	933			
Jeremiah Lotoole salary	933			
	<b>2800</b>			
<b>Stationary for staff</b>				
Batteries Emergency Nakomati	23			
Books Isiolo Book Centre	12			
Batteries Gracels Nanyuki	17			
Ruler Zenith Nanyuki 30th Jan 08	2			
Datasheets for scouts	6			
Books for scouts	15			
	<b>75</b>			

In 2006, extensive flooding in the region hampered field efforts and the start of the project fieldwork was delayed. Roads were impassable and the entire reserve was cut-off for weeks. Eventually as it began to dry up, fieldwork started however at a much slower pace than originally intended. By 2007, project activities resumed at a normal pace.

Secondly, due to the unstable political situation in Kenya (post-election violence December 2007 and January/February 2008), fieldwork and data collection was interrupted and there were delays in planned completed outputs. As a result of these delays, I had to re-adjust the time-table. However, things have stabilized in Kenya and project activities have since resumed.

## GLOSSARY

Manyatta = Homestead. Outer fence with houses and animal bomas inside.  
 Boma = Thorn enclosures surrounding and housing livestock.

## Appendix 1 – Biography on Raphael Lekuraiyo, Community Liaison Officer

Raphael is a young Samburu warrior who comes from West Gate Conservancy, adjacent to Samburu National Reserve. Raphael grew up here, herding cattle and knows the area well. He went to primary school at Lpus Leluai and was then sponsored for 4 years of secondary education at Maralal High School by a local NGO.

Since completing school in 2006, he worked as a volunteer at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy on a botany project. He soon moved back to Samburu, to his home in West Gate, to begin work on this project as the Community Liaison Officer.



**Raphael with students**

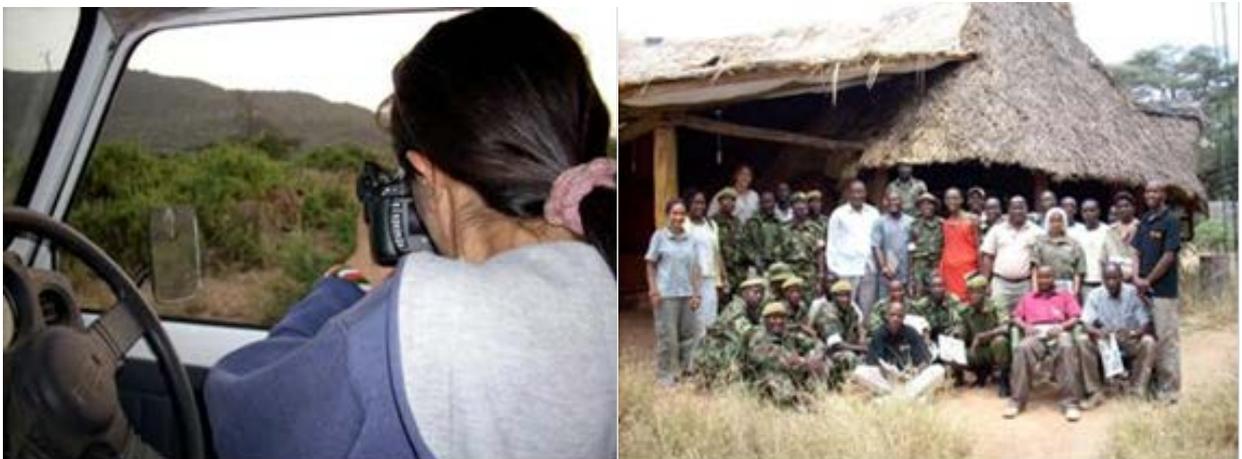


**Raphael networking with the community, learning how to use a computer and with Shivani**

**Appendix 2 - Photos relevant to project**



**Left: Training of scouts in West Gate Conservancy. Right: Project team members.**



**Left: Identifying and photographing lions. Right: Lion workshop held in Samburu.**



**Left: "Warrior" scout with equipment. Middle: Collecting lion scat. Right: Measuring bomas.**



**Left: Lion monitoring vehicle with lion scouts. Right: Scouts reading “Tracks and Signs” book.**



**Left: Jerenimo Lepire: intern with the project. Right: Ewaso Lions Tree Project.**



**Lion scouts on their routes**



*Thank you to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation  
for providing funds to start this project and  
for contributing to lion conservation in  
Northern Kenya!*

**Ewaso Lions team: Shivani Bhalla, Raphael Lekuraiyo, Jeneria Lekilele, Francis Lendorop,  
Jeremiah Letoole, Joseph Lepasiele, Ltalesi Lekuraiyo**