

**Our mission** is to conserve lions and other large carnivores in Niassa National Reserve in northern Mozambique in collaboration with the Mozambican government and local communities.



### **Cub Survival Is Critical to Long-Term Sustainable Population in Niassa**

Cub survival is critical if lions are to be secure in Niassa. Our population is currently stable but only because new young males are regularly coming into the intensive study area from neighboring areas. They replace males that have been killed in snares and kill any cubs sired by other males when they take over prides.

We had a litter of three cubs last year from collared lioness Akomwana, but two are now gone. The third, Akeelah, is doing well and will soon be past the threat of infanticide. The F-pride is growing with a new cub born to Fatima, her first litter. Fabio is now 19 months old.



### **Environmental Centre Being Constructed!**

Work has started on building the Mariri Environmental Centre on a beautiful site on the Lugenda River. An entirely untrained group\* of 35 local men are being taught construction skills while building the Centre. Already this is making a difference. Since snaring and poaching are the biggest threats to lions in Niassa, providing an alternative way for young men to earn an income is critical. More than 38 local women also have been paid for collecting and combing thatching grass. Vocational training will be a primary part of the Environmental Centre's mission going forward. We will also be hosting field visits for children and teachers from schools within Niassa Reserve.



### **Training Anti-Poaching Scouts**

Local elders from Mbamba village chose twelve men to take part in a 16-day Reserve-organised scout training. Nine of them passed the course and were celebrated with a village parade. This is the first time in Niassa that a community has been positively involved in anti-poaching efforts as legal partners. Scouts will patrol the intensive study area and remove snares, alert us to lions and leopards caught in snares, and report elephant poachers so that the Reserve Management can deploy a rapid response unit. Scout training and employment is part of our effort to provide local men with alternative job opportunities beyond snaring and poaching. Several known past poachers are in this group.

You can learn more about our work, research, and news on the Niassa Carnivore Project [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Thank you so much to all of our donors!  
Colleen and Keith Begg and The Lion Project Team

