



LION RECOVERY FUND

October 2024
Progress Report



LIONS, LANDSCAPES, AND LIVELIHOODS

The African savanna at dusk resonates with life, blending the distant roar of a lion with the gentle bustle of a local village preparing for nightfall. Both lions and people are intrinsically tied to the same landscape, each holding a critical role in the ecosystem's health. This latest report delves into the complex interplay between these three focal points for lion recovery: lions, landscapes, and livelihoods. As the Lion Recovery Fund (LRF) has extended its support to conservation areas covering 52% of Africa's lion range, we've seen a pattern in this iconic species' declining populations. Poaching, habitat loss, and retaliatory killings drive lion populations down, no matter the area, and require solutions that balance conservation efforts with community needs.

Your support has enabled the LRF and our grantees to navigate the interconnection of wildlife conservation and human welfare. We fund a diversity of initiatives that transform conflict into coexistence, from creating alternative livelihoods to restoring habitats that reduce resource competition. This report showcases innovative projects across Kenya, Mozambique, South Sudan, and other countries, demonstrating how the work we support can simultaneously protect lions, preserve ecosystems, and empower local communities.

As you read about the LRF's achievements, we hope you recognize the profound impact of your generosity. Your contributions aid in the protection of one of the most awe-inspiring species on our planet, the restoration of wild places, and the security of neighboring communities.

THE LRF HAS INVESTED IN 52% OF LION RANGE.



25
COUNTRIES

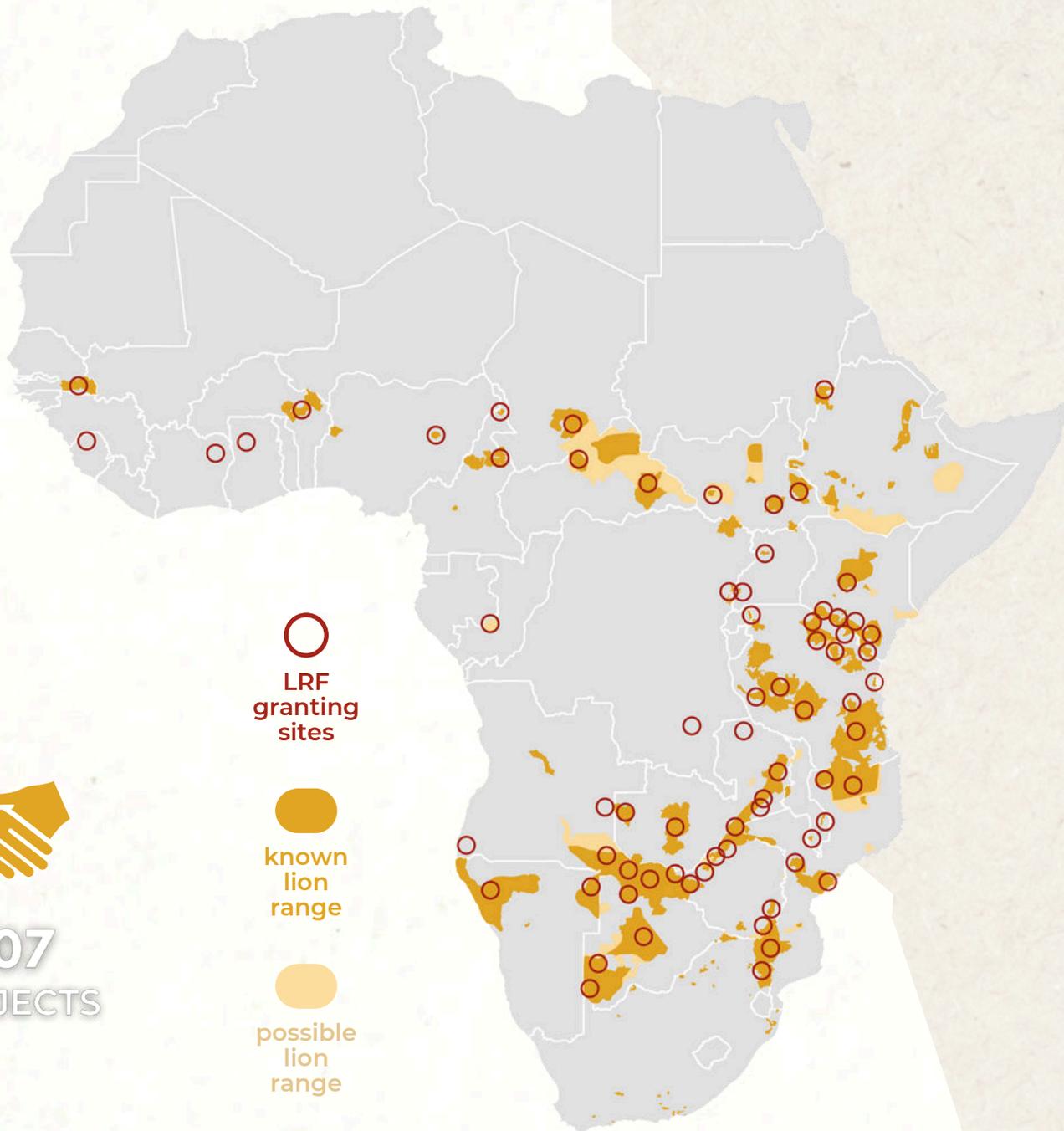


\$42M
GRANTED

Since 2017



307
PROJECTS



○
LRF
granting
sites

●
known
lion
range

●
possible
lion
range



COEXISTENCE AND PROTECTION EFFORTS

Warriors tracking predators to reduce conflict between livestock and predators in Tanzania. (c) Felipe Rodriguez

Conserving Lions and Other Large Predators in the Greater Mkomazi Landscape African People & Wildlife Tanzania

Tanzania is among the last remaining strongholds for large carnivores and is critical in conserving Africa's lions. The country has dedicated over 30% of its land to conservation, but wildlife doesn't recognize these boundaries. Preventing conflict between people and carnivores in buffer zones outside of national parks, game reserves, and wildlife management areas is a priority of the government and critical to the persistence of carnivore populations. With support from the LRF, African People & Wildlife is working in the community lands around Mkomazi National Park in partnership with the Tanzania National Parks Authority and other conservation stakeholders to protect big cats and their habitat by decreasing human-carnivore conflict and improving habitat and livestock management.

Improving Collaborative Management of Southern National Park Fauna & Flora International South Sudan

South Sudan's wildlife areas have suffered decades of civil war and instability, leading to a situation where parks became effectively unmanaged and highly vulnerable to human pressures such as poaching. As the country has emerged from war, Fauna & Flora International (FFI) has been working with the South Sudanese government to restore effective management to Southern National Park (SNP). SNP, South Sudan's

largest and oldest protected area, holds significant potential for lion recovery. FFI has demonstrated that a breeding population remains within the park, in addition to a variety of other key species, such as chimpanzees and endangered African wild dogs. The LRF has provided a significant boost to FFI and their ability to scale up management in this massive protected area and provide the preconditions necessary for wildlife and other species to recover and for the park to deliver sustainable benefits to communities.



Rangers and Community Wildlife Ambassadors receive human rights and social safeguards training at the Ibba ranger post in South Sudan. (c) Francois Retief/Fauna & Flora

Conservation Law Enforcement and Human Wildlife Coexistence Lipilichi Wilderness Investimento, Lda Mozambique

Located in the Niassa Province of Mozambique, the Chipanje Chetu Community Conservation Area is home to a significant lion population that is a westerly extension of that occurring in the adjacent Niassa Special Reserve. These lions face a suite of threats, including, among others, targeted poaching for their body parts, poaching of their prey for bushmeat, and habitat loss. With

support from the LRF, Lipilichi Wilderness aims to strengthen the management of this area to tackle these threats while creating tangible livelihood benefits for communities.

Increasing the Lion Conservation Footprint with Lion Ambassadors in the Maasai Mara Kenya Wildlife Trust Kenya

The Lion Recovery Fund provided funds to Kenya Wildlife Trust to expand their Lion Ambassador Program. Although the Maasai Mara ecosystem has seen amazing conservation successes through the development of community conservancies, the proximity of large numbers of livestock to Kenya's largest lion population creates conditions conducive to severe human-lion conflict. The LRF is supporting Kenya Wildlife Trust in hiring a team of 'Lion Ambassadors' from the affected communities to work with local pastoralists to reduce human-lion conflict and promote coexistence with and tolerance of lions.



Scouts patrolling and collecting data in Chipanje Chetu Community Conservation Area. (c) Lipilichi Wilderness Investimento, Lda



Lion Ambassador speaking to a group of local herders. (c) Kenya Wildlife Trust



Lion Ambassador program in action with local communities working on protective fencing. (c) Kenya Wildlife Trust



A member of FZS's de-snaring team holding up a snare found in the park. (c) Frankfurt Zoological Society

Lion Conservation Support in the Serengeti Landscape Frankfurt Zoological Society Tanzania

The LRF supports Frankfurt Zoological Society's (FZS) program in Serengeti National Park with operational funds to tackle two key threats to this iconic park, home to the world's largest lion population. The LRF is a major supporter of four permanent de-snaring teams and two additional teams deployed during peak snaring season. These teams, deployed by the Tanzanian National Parks Authority (TANAPA) in partnership with FZS, are designed to tackle the intense threat posed by poaching of lion prey species for the commercial trade in bushmeat and save thousands (and potentially tens of thousands) of animals per year. Additionally, the LRF's funds support two anti-illegal livestock teams deployed to tackle large-scale livestock incursions into the park, which can create problems for lions and increase the risks of human-lion conflict.

LION RECOVERY FUND GRANTEES HAVE SAVED AND TREATED 78 LIONS CAUGHT IN POACHING SNARES.

SINCE AUGUST 2023, THE LRF HAS SUPPORTED:

[A Tent with a View](#)

[African Parks Network](#)

[African People & Wildlife](#)

[African Wildlife Conservation Fund](#)

[Associação NATURA Moçambique](#)

[CLAWS Conservancy](#)

[Conservation and Wildlife Fund](#)

[Conservation Lower Zambezi](#)

[Conservation South Luangwa](#)

[Endangered Wildlife Trust](#)

[Fauna and Flora International](#)

[Frankfurt Zoological Society- U.S.](#)

[Gonarezhou Conservation trust](#)

[Greater Kruger Ecological Protection Fund](#)

[Honeyguide Foundation](#)

[Kalahari Research & Conservation](#)

[Kenya Wildlife Trust](#)

[Landscape and Conservation Mentors Organization](#)

[Lion Guardians Ltd](#)

[Lion Landscapes](#)

[Lipilichi Wilderness Investimento, Lda](#)

[Macalester College](#)

[Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism's Wildlife Service](#)

[Mozambique Wildlife Alliance](#)

[Musekese Conservation](#)

[National Park Rescue](#)

[Nelson Mandela University](#)

[North Carolina Zoo](#)

[North Luangwa Conservation Programme](#)

[Nsumbu Tanganyika Conservation Programme](#)

[Panthera Corporation](#)

[South Rift Association of Landowners \(SORALO\)](#)

[Tanganyika Conservation Programme](#)

[Tanzania National Parks](#)

[The Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford- WildCRU](#)

[Tsavo Trust](#)

[Victoria Falls Wildlife Anti-Poaching Unit](#)

[Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust](#)

[Virunga Foundation](#)

[Wildlife Conservation Society](#)

[Wildlife Crime Prevention](#)

[Wildlife Research and Training Institute](#)

[Yale University](#)

[Zambeze Delta Conservation](#)

[Zambia Department of National Parks and Wildlife HQ](#)

[Zambian Carnivore Programme](#)

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your support drives lion conservation, and we take pride in showcasing your invaluable impact in this report. Thanks to your generosity, there have been important successes in projects across Africa and recoveries in several lion populations. However, lions still face many persistent threats. Lethal snares and targeted poaching continue to harm these impressive and irreplaceable animals. Additionally, prey shortages and habitat loss due to agricultural and mining expansion contribute to their dwindling numbers, emphasizing the need for holistic conservation.

These challenges stand in the way of our goal to recover the 50% of lion populations lost in recent years. Your continued financial support is critical to maintaining our progress and creating a better future for this magnificent species.

In the coming years, our investments will continue to help stabilize lion populations and promote their growth, prioritizing projects that address the complex relationships between lions, their habitats, and local communities. While the task ahead is formidable, we're unwaveringly optimistic about improving lion conservation. This confidence stems from our collaboration with an exceptional network of conservation groups and the dedication of our expanding supporter base.

Please know how grateful we are for your ongoing support and trust as we work together to save lions.



[LIONRECOVERYFUND.ORG](https://www.lionrecoveryfund.org)

