

LION GUARDIANS



ANNUAL REPORT 2015



2015 'YEAR OF THE LION'

From the illegal hunt of Cecil to new disturbing figures about lion declines across the continent, the fate of the lion is bleak.

But where Lion Guardians operate, the story is different; it is more positive...



LION GUARDIANS

We believe the fate of the lions lies in the hands of the people who live with them. By empowering warriors who once killed lions and working closely with communities, Lion Guardians proactively minimizes conflict and enables coexistence.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Since we founded Lion Guardians in 2007, we have been growing in reach and scale every year. Eight years ago, we started working with five communities in one region. To date, we have currently assisted more than 100 communities across three countries of East Africa.

Through our daily work, we have buffered and connected critical lion populations and have documented a tripling of the lion densities at our core site. Our growth and impact has been monumental.

In 2015, we took a moment to reflect on our growth and refocus our vision to have greater and more sustainable impact on a broader scale. We spent much of the year developing a new organizational vision, while on-the-ground our operations continued to reap results. Some of our additional achievements from the past year include the launch of LINC, building conservation capability in Rwanda and working with our partners to continue to increase their autonomy and conservation effectiveness at their sites.

In this report, we present details of our accomplishments from the year, which have only been possible because of your support. We are grateful that you share our vision to conserve lions and preserve cultures by engaging with communities and hope that in the coming years we continue to make significant impacts together.

Ashe Oleng ('Thank you' in Maasai)



Leela

Dr. Leela Hazzah - Executive Director



S. Dolrenry

Dr. Stephanie Dolrenry - Director of Science

*“Follow effective action with quiet reflection.
From the quiet reflection will come
even more effective action.”*

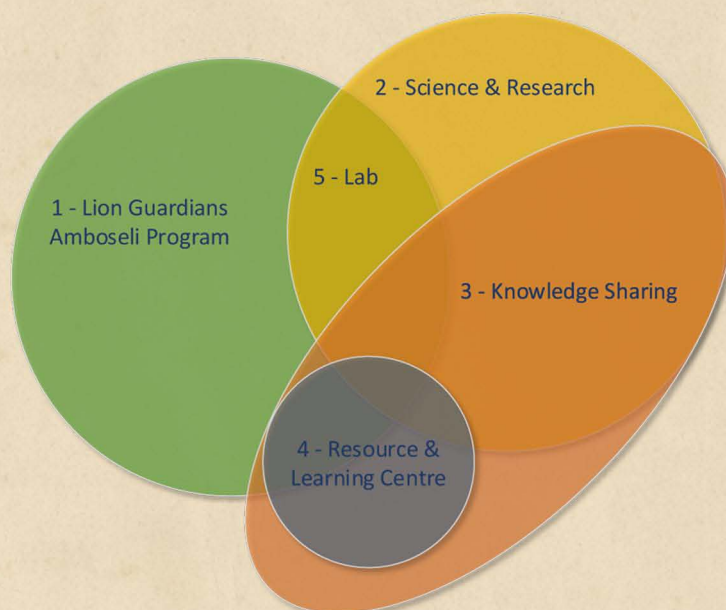
Peter Drucker,
Founder of Modern Management



DESIGNING OUR FUTURE

We spent 2015 reviewing our growth and progress. From this, we designed a vision to maximize conservation impact in a sustainable manner. Specifically, we have begun to:

- Evolve our focus and team capabilities to deepen and broaden our conservation impact
- Build on eight years of lessons learned
- Respond to changing contexts by refining our approach
- Strengthen our science and research focus
- Shift our approach towards sharing knowledge through customized training
- Evolve partnered-sites to reflect their independence and our refocused vision



This diagram illustrates our refined vision



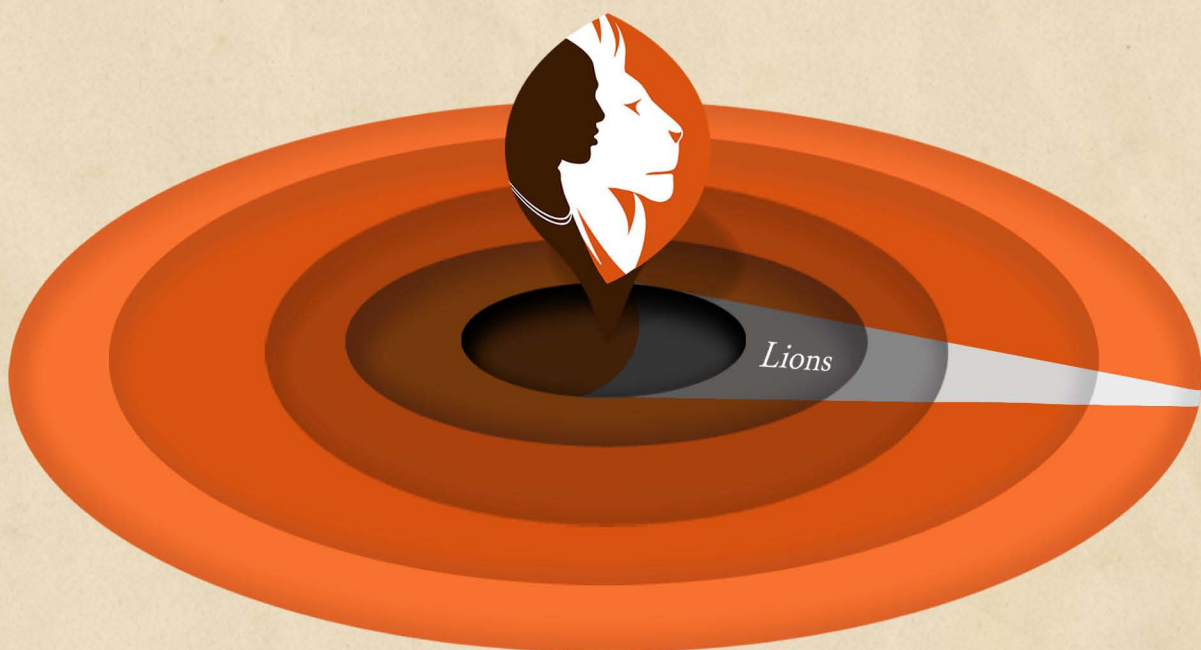
“Lion Guardians are the best investment I have ever made in conservation. And I am very excited about their refocused vision for the future”

Susan Wallace, President, Woodtiger Fund



SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

Over the years, Lion Guardians sphere of influence has grown over ten-fold from one site in Kenya to multiple countries and to thousands of people. Today, apart from our core operations in Kenya, organizations in Tanzania, Rwanda and Zimbabwe are using tools, methodologies, and approaches based on the Lion Guardians model.



The diagram above illustrates the ripple effect of our spheres of influence. Lions are affected at each sphere.

- 1. Akagera National Park ★ 2015
- 2. Ilchokuti, Ngorongoro ★ 2014
- 3. Tarangire Lion Research Initiative ★ 2014
- 4. World Animal Protection, Mikumi ★ 2014
- 5. Lion Defenders, Ruaha ★ 2012 ★★ 2015
- 6. Long Shields, Hwange ★ 2012

★  LION GUARDIANS
TRAINED

★★  LION GUARDIANS
CERTIFIED



 LION GUARDIANS, AMBOSELI



KNOWLEDGE SHARING IMPACT



92

NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAINED
& COACHED IN 2015

70

NUMBER OF COMMUNITIES
ASSISTED IN 2015

LION POPULATION SUCCESS

KENYA

- Amboseli-Tsavo: Community rangelands transformed from a sink to a source lion population
 - Stable lion population after four years of growth
 - Improved connectivity via increased number of dispersers
- First ever documented connectivity between Nairobi, Amboseli and Tsavo National Parks

TANZANIA

- Sighting of cubs on Ruaha community lands for the first time
- Ruaha National Park lion population buffered
- Dispersers documented successfully moving from Serengeti National Park to Ngorongoro Crater

RWANDA

- Coached rangers to safeguard first Rwandan lions in nearly two decades in Akagera National Park

COMMUNITY IMPACT

2015 METRICS

AMBOSELI

NGORONGORO / RUAHA



LIVESTOCK RECOVERED IN THE COMMUNITY

20,254

10,813

WORTH OVER
\$3,000,000



LOST CHILDREN FOUND

26

28

100% of the 54
lost children reported to Guardians were found



BOMAS REINFORCED

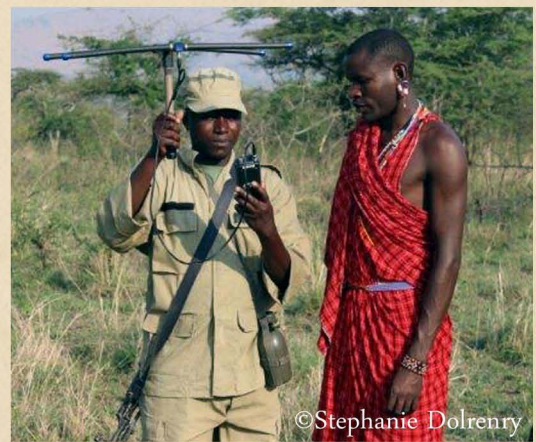
343

294

In Amboseli, 98% of bomas reinforced did not suffer further depredations post-Lion Guardians help

KNOWLEDGE SHARING IMPACT

In 2015, seven lions were reintroduced to Rwanda after almost two decades; and the local rangers were uncomfortable monitoring these individuals. We were invited by African Parks to train 42 rangers and 700 senior management, on monitoring and protect their 'new' lions.



LINC LAUNCHED

We launched the Lion Identification Network of Collaborators (LINC), a cutting edge technology that has the potential to revolutionize lion conservation on the broad scale. Currently we can upload lion images, search for lions by various identifying marks and match lions based on facial recognition. LINC has also sparked interest from organizations working with other species.



To learn more about LINC and how it works, please visit the dedicated website.



*“ I now know the importance
of lions to the Akagera
ecosystem and the entire
Rwandan tourism sector.
These lions are now a national
asset that needs to be guarded
jealously”.*

Ranger Anthony,
Akagera National Park

LOOKING AHEAD

The Lion Guardians team is very excited about what the future holds for us. In 2016, we plan to:

- Maintain strong impact in our core area of operations by sustaining a healthy source lion population on community lands
- Formalize our knowledge-sharing services including customized coaching
- Design and scope a physical and virtual space for knowledge consolidation
- Develop a research agenda to inform impactful conservation
- Leverage our existing knowledge base to test and develop cutting-edge conservation tools to mitigate conflict
- Build on our strong science and research foundations by strengthening ties with academia
- Streamline our organizational support pillars to increase efficiency and maximize our impact
- Broaden our fundraising base to include Europe



COMING

SOON



AN EXCLUSIVE PHOTO BOOK BY
PHILIP J. BRIGGS
AND LION GUARDIANS

A first hand photographic
narrative of the lions and warriors
of East Africa, launching end 2016

FINANCIALS

Every dollar raised goes towards improving local livelihoods, conserving lions, and preserving traditional cultures.

\$ Total funds raised in 2015: \$315,588

- 95% RESTRICTED
- 05% UNRESTRICTED



\$ Total expenses incurred in 2015: \$290,402

- 61% OPERATING
- 33% PERSONNEL
- 03% CAPITAL
- 03% ADMINISTRATIVE



THANK YOU

Throughout this report we have shared with you highlights of Lion Guardians achievements and impact in 2015. None of these would have been possible without your support. Every dollar donated supports us in maintaining high levels of impact year after year.

Each day, people coached by Lion Guardians help to create positive conservation waves in their communities and beyond. We would like to share with you a short story of how one Guardian has helped his community. As you read through the story, remember that your support allows Guardians to help thousands of community members in similar ways across East Africa.

*It takes a community to conserve lions & preserve cultures
– thank you for being a part of ours!*

Ashe Oleng – Asante Sana



Acacia
Conservation
Fund



“I am proud of the Lion Guardians organization as they have helped me and others in numerous ways. This year, Guardian Orumoi helped fence our boma and kept vigil night after night during a time when lion attacks were high. This allowed many of us to sleep at night so we could work the next day and provide for our families.

Another time, Orumoi helped to look for my lost cows. I gave up due to the difficulty of the search but Orumoi encouraged me to soldier on. The search took more than five hours, but we eventually found the cattle and arrived home safely. I was able to sell my cows and send my children to school and buy food for my family.

Through their efforts, Lion Guardians have shown us they have the interest of the community at heart. Lion Guardians helps thousands of community members and we hope that they will continue growing from strength to strength.”

-Mzee Kapaito Ole Seleka, Village Elder, Enkong’u Narok



“Meetai naimutie kiret”

One that will help you is never late



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