

IMPACT 2021

LION
GUARDIANS



Embulunoto naadede nemayiana:

To thrive, to have successful
and consistent growth.
To be your best self.

At Lion Guardians, we believe local communities are the best stewards of the wildlife and the landscapes they live in. Our goal is to transform conflict into co-thriving in the places where people and predators share landscapes.

In 2021, we found our stride amidst the world's new normal and the many challenges of doing conservation in the twenty-first century. The lions we monitor are doing well and the population has seemingly stabilized after a decade of nearly continuous growth. The Lion Guardians Amboseli team took giant leaps towards full empowerment by taking on nearly all aspects of running the Amboseli program.

We had many favorite days in 2021 helping us to thrive as individuals, as a team, and as part of a global conservation community.



Click on the video above to watch our team share
their favourite day of 2021



ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

Our teams covered **nearly 1 million acres** in the Amboseli ecosystem, **outside of national parks**, helping thousands of people, hundreds of lions.

Our teams spent more than a **1/3 of the year in conflict camps**, on the frontlines, dealing with conflict side by side with the communities to reduce tensions and keep lions alive.



Every 2.5 weeks, we used **Maasai traditions to discourage lions** from coming near to human settlements, usually after depredation has occurred, to prevent any further depredations in the area.



Every 1.5 months, Lion Guardians conducted **night patrols** as needed during high conflict times (driving around the affected communities all night, every night without sleep to prevent lions from attacking bomas) to keep lions away from homesteads and reducing lion attacks on livestock.



We facilitated and **led dozens of community meetings** during high conflict times to support collaborative ways forward for communities, other stakeholders, and the lions.



Every 1.5 weeks, we hired a **Master Herder** to mitigate conflict before it occurred; Master Herders provide support while livestock are between water points and through dense areas to prevent any depredations from occurring.



Every month, we prioritized **collaboration with other conservation stakeholders** to ensure conservation efforts are aligned, impactful for conservation, and most beneficial to the communities and the lions.



IMPACT 1: THE CONSERVATION OF LIONS

Our long-term goal is that lion populations grow and stabilize. Our intensive efforts to find and identify all the lions in the greater Amboseli ecosystem annually have documented a rebounding population over the past 16 years. And we are proud that the lion density in our ecosystem is higher than in some of East Africa's world-renowned protected areas and the fastest growing lion population within community lands across Africa. This is an example of true coexistence, considering our lion population is outside any formally protected area, amongst high densities of people and livestock. As far as we know, the human-dominated landscapes where we operate host the highest densities of lions of any large, contiguous, non-protected region worldwide.

The number of lions detected and identified in the population from 2009-2021*

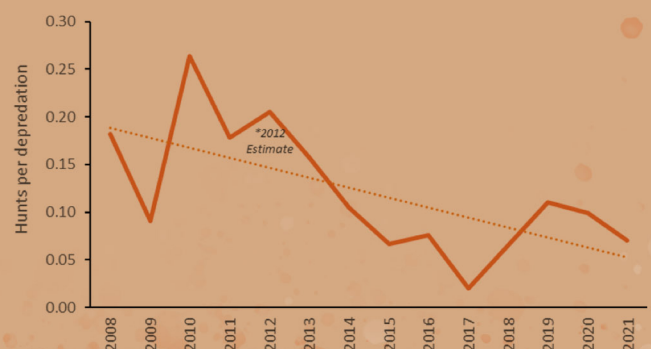


* Includes lions of all ages

IMPACT 2: CONFLICT MITIGATION

"Conflict is good in a negotiation process... it's the clash of two ideas, which then, all being well, produces a third idea." - Luke Roberts

Over time, we have documented a decrease in hunts that occur in response to depredations, exemplifying the high tolerance of lions by livestock owners and the broader community.



IMPACT 3: ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

From its inception, Lion Guardians was a project by the community, in the community, and for the community. The Lion Guardians senior management team, primarily drawn from the surrounding communities, has, over time, taken on increasing responsibility beyond responding to incidents of conflict and lion monitoring. Decision-making power relating to operational budgets, community outreach, and the recruitment and deployment of Guardians and Master Herders rests with the team. This graphic demonstrates the strides we have made as an organization to become fully actualized in being community-owned; we continue to push boundaries of community conservation.

2004-2005 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:

Maasai warriors offered their tracking skills, and their knowledge of the bush to help researchers to find and begin to know the lions.

The warriors also provided their ideas and sprouted the idea of a warrior-based onservation program.



2006-2013 COMMUNITY-BASED:

Lion Guardians is born and proliferates through community contributions of culturally- appropriate ideas and solutions for the conservation of lions. The program is requested and spreads across the ecosystem and beyond to areas around East Africa, then across Africa, and even beyond to other continents.



2013-2021 COMMUNITY-LED:

Lion Guardians staff take on leadership roles, decision-making power, and responsibility for managing budgets.



2021-2023 COMMUNITY-OWNED:

The remaining steps to achieving full ownership include complete responsibility for budgets, fundraising, operate in a flat governance structure, and direct accountability to the Lion Guardians Board, supported by a team of advisors.



REVENUE & EXPENSES

CALENDAR YEAR ENDING 2021

Our fiscal sponsor, Lion Guardians U.S., accepts donations on behalf of Lion Guardians for our on-the-ground operations across East Africa. Here we detail the revenue earmarked for Lion Guardians that has come through, and our expenditures which are broken down by program area. Please note that these financials reflect what it takes to run our field operations. In addition, our fiscal sponsor, Lion Guardians U.S., incurs costs that support community-based conservation initiatives in Africa. In total, for both these entities, we need to raise \$1.19 million per year to operate effectively and sustainably. (Complete financial reports are available upon request.)

2021 TOTAL REVENUE: \$840,921

Restricted
\$416,879

Unrestricted
\$411,850

Gain/Loss on Exchange
\$12,191



EXPENDITURE

Lion Guardians Amboseli \$435,965

Science & Research \$117,090

Impact Scaling \$29,708

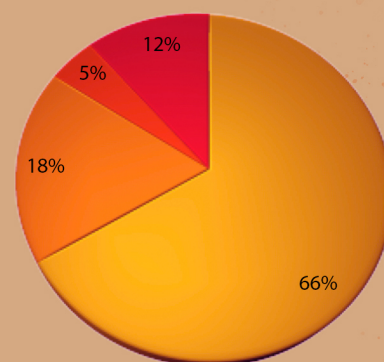
Supporting Pillars & Special Projects \$78,327

Total Expenditure \$661,091

Change in Net Assets* \$179,830

* Which contributes / supports our long term sustainability model/reserve

- Lion Guardians Amboseli
- Science & Research
- Impact Scaling
- Supporting Pillars & Special Projects



A LEGACY OF LIONS

Thinking ahead toward long-term financial sustainability continues to be a priority for Lion Guardians. We have been making a concerted push toward legacy giving. We are also building our long-term reserve. Our goal is to raise ten million dollars by 2026 (Lion Guardians' 20th anniversary!) to ensure the financial future of Lion Guardians Amboseli - and with over three million dollars currently, we are a third of the way there! This reserve is being invested under professional financial guidance with Board oversight.



It takes a community to conserve lions and preserve cultures – we are grateful you are part of ours.

www.lionguardians.org