



ANNUAL REVIEW 2022

1st February 2022 - 31st January 2023

Photo Credit: Emmanuel Lufilisha, KopeLion

SAFINA LION CONSERVATION FUND

Registered Charity number 1172709

www.safinalionconservation.org



Kali, son of our namesake Safina, Linton Zoo, 2023

A Message From Our Chairman

2022 was our fifth anniversary and we had many plans this year to celebrate. To celebrate this anniversary we wanted to recognise and say thank you to those who have made special efforts to support us. I would like to make a special mention therefore to Rosie Badger and Jessica Riley who both received awards for outstanding fundraising support and to Folly Farm Adventure Park & Zoo who also received an award from us. It was great to go to Folly Farm in August to meet the team there, to see their wonderful lion facility and brilliant education room focussing just on lions.

Thanks to our fundraising success last year we were able to make a quick donation in May to Kopelion to sponsor another GPS collar which has been deployed onto young male lion Lendepesi, more details on him can be found on

further pages. This year however did see some mixed news from our friends at Kopelion with news of the death of Laipangwa, our first sponsored collared lion. His death was most likely caused from lion conflict related injuries but as you will read, his legacy lives on through the tolerance of the local communities within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

We have had another excellent year of fundraising with special thanks to the Knowsley three peaks team who raised over £2500 in total which puts us in a brilliant position in which to start 2023. Please take the time to read our annual review here which details all of the work we have undertaken throughout 2022. Thank you once again for all of your support.

About The Team

The Safina Lion Conservation Fund is made up of a group of four charity trustees. We are a small team of likeminded people each with our own differing skills to help achieve our objectives to our best ability. All of our trustees and advisors work completely voluntarily and no expenses have ever been taken, ensuring all of our income goes towards our mission to protect and monitor lion populations in the wild.

In order to help the trustees to achieve our charitable objectives a group of Conservation Advisors with varying skills, knowledge and experience have been selected to offer advice on the best ways to help impact lion conservation and share their views on potential organisations that we would support in the future.



James Welch

Chairman



Matthew Lloyd

Trustee



Sophie Cole

Trustee



Sue Welch

Trustee

The Purpose Of Our Annual Review

In compliance with the Charity Commission we are obliged to write a Trustees Annual Report and Financial Accounts. As a small charity we have decided to stick to the Charity Commission templates which are simple but unsightly for the general reader. The purpose of this Annual Review is to include everything we have done this year in a more aesthetically attractive manner with photos and other relevant information.

Our Aims & Objectives

Like any other charitable organisation we have a set of objectives that all of the work we carry out or support through another organisation, project or individual must fit under. Here at the Safina Lion Conservation Fund we go by the following:

1) To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation and protection of lions by:

A) Supporting conservation projects in such ways that are charitable

B) Conserving and protecting the natural habitat of lions

C) Supporting and publishing research into the conservation and husbandry of lions

2) To advance the education of the public in lion and wildlife conservation by such means as the trustees decide including through the support and publishing of research.

In 2021 we altered our mission and added a vision (seen above right) to better reflect the work that we carry out alongside our two core objectives which are to:

CONSERVE AND TO EDUCATE

Our Vision

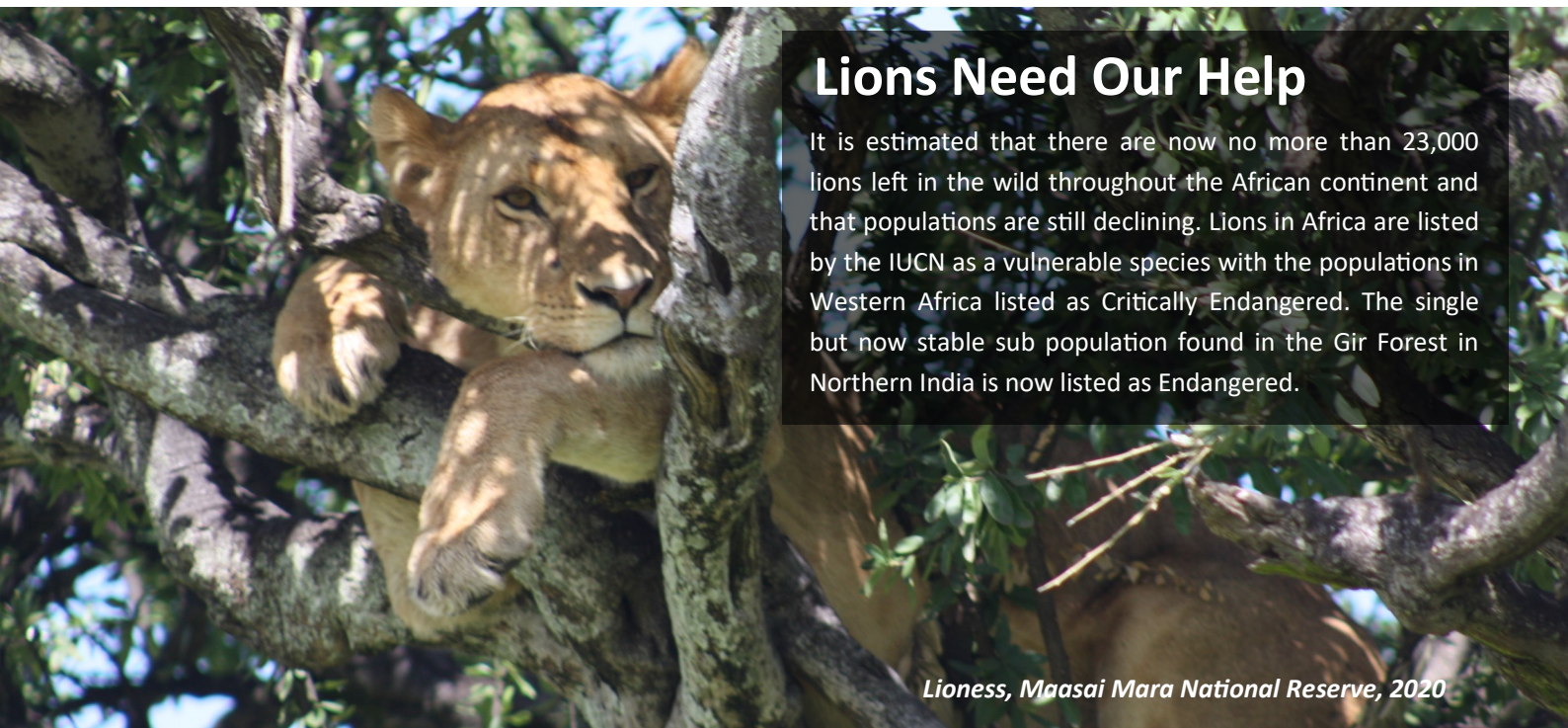
Is a future where viable lion populations thrive while coexisting with local communities in sustainable areas of habitat.

Our Mission

Is to work with others to protect and monitor lion populations in the wild.

Inspired by Zoo Lions

It has always been our aim to create a conservation legacy for our namesake Safina and her family through the conservation work we support as we try to connect zoo lions more closely to their wild cousins.



Lions Need Our Help

It is estimated that there are now no more than 23,000 lions left in the wild throughout the African continent and that populations are still declining. Lions in Africa are listed by the IUCN as a vulnerable species with the populations in Western Africa listed as Critically Endangered. The single but now stable sub population found in the Gir Forest in Northern India is now listed as Endangered.

Tracking our Sixth Financial Year

Our Sixth Year at a Glance

2022 has been an exciting year seeing us support all of our conservation partners and even add a fourth.

Following on from last year we had more interest in online educational presentations and one was carried out to students at the Nottingham University Veterinary Zoological Society to talk to them more about lion behaviour and conservation efforts. We also saw the support of college students at Moreton Morrell College as well as a team of zookeepers from Knowsley Safari both running their own sponsorship events to raise funds for our conservation efforts. We also celebrated our fifth anniversary by giving out three awards for outstanding support, these went to Folly Farm Adventure Park & Zoo and to Zookeeper Rosie Badger and Apex Extreme volunteer Jessica Riley.

We were also pleased to see our income greatly increase after the years affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. This has allowed us to not only be able to donate to our three existing conservation partners, fulfilling our traditional support but also begin starting a relationship with another organisation, Lion Landscapes, now our fourth conservation partner.

Financial Review

Our sixth year has seen us increase our income from last year and has seen sponsorship events and online fundraising taking up over 70% of our income.

Every year we never doubt how important online fundraising sites are for us. Together the money raised through Just Giving and Go Fund Me (PayPal Giving Fund) amounts to £3468.18 including a £1500 donation made through the Charities Aid Foundation through a nomination of a Just Giving sponsorship event.

We also had a very large donation of £849.31 from Folly Farm Adventure Park & Zoo who were the only zoo to donate to us this year. The pie chart to the right shows the proportion of income from different supporters.

Trustees now have a total of £3120.37 left in the bank account at the end of the year. This will enable a donation to be made to the Mara Predator Conservation Programme for a second GPS collar in the Spring. Expenditure has also grown from last year to a total of £4360.19 which has included £500 towards a brand new conservation partner.

£4,747.49 TOTAL RAISED
£4,311.29 SENT TO AID LION CONSERVATION EFFORTS
2 SPONSORSHIP EVENTS
1 ONLINE TALKS

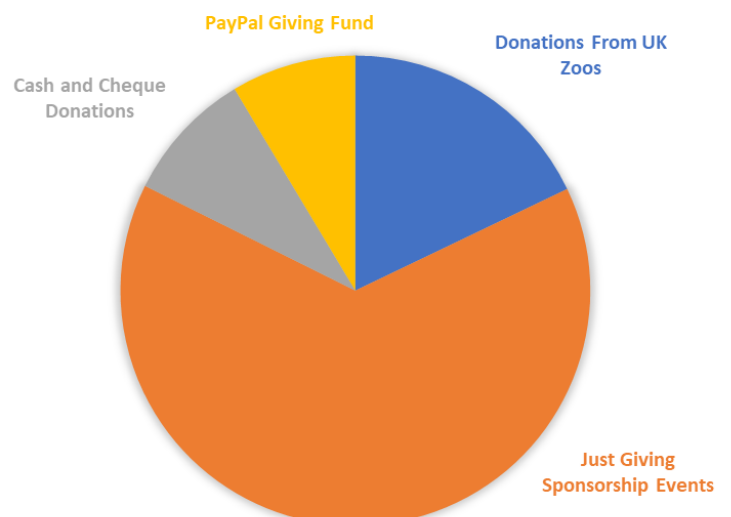


Lioness, Maasai Mara National Reserve, 2020

TOTAL INCOME = £4747.49

TOTAL EXPENDITURE = £4360.19 of which £48.90 were bank transfer fee related.

INCOME 2022



Fundraising Throughout 2022

Thank You From Us

We are so fortunate to have a wonderful group of supporters from zoos and online too.

We would like to extend our thanks to Apex Extreme for their continued fundraising early this year and to Linton Zoo for handing out our educational leaflets for World Lion Day. We would also like to say our thanks to Sean Robinson, long term regular visitor to Linton Zoo and their resident lions including our namesake, Safina who is a special favourite of his, who has donated £100 towards our charity. Thank you Sean for your endless enthusiasm for our work. We would also like to thank the following groups specifically below.

Knowsley Three Peaks Team

Zookeepers Charlotte, Sarah, Chris, Matt and Sam climbed Britain's three highest peaks on their fundraising mission.

On the 2nd June the team began to climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon all one after another! Due to traffic issues sadly they didn't do all three in 24 hours but we are astounded by their efforts! Knowsley keepers have a history of their support for us having organised our first fundraiser in 2017 of which Sarah was involved! They were also nominated through the Charities Aid Foundation a donation of £1500. They raised a grand total of £2471 with an additional £162.50 in Gift Aid through Just Giving. This has now become our largest overall fundraising total to date. Well done team!

Our Fundraising Champions

To celebrate our fifth anniversary this year trustees have decided to award two individuals for their outstanding effort in fundraising for our conservation projects.

Our two fundraising champions are **Rosie Badger** and **Jessica Riley**. Folly Farm Zookeeper, Rosie Badger has not only helped to raise funds and awareness at zoo events but also raised close to £2000 in 2018 by completing Ironman Wales in 2018.

Apex Extreme volunteer Jessica Riley is a young girl with a passion for animals. Throughout 2021 and this spring took part in and organised several sponsorship events with the help of her mother Emma raising a total of £1900!

Both have received certificates and a small gift to thank them for all of their wonderful support. We are so lucky to have supporters like Rosie and Jess.



Moreton Morrell College

We would like to say a massive thank you to Poppy Groombridge and other students and staff at Moreton Morrell College for raising £525 by organising a sponsored run/walk on the 8th June. A brilliant achievement and very much appreciated. Great work Poppy and team!! Picture of the participants is above.



Our Work With Zoos

Thank you Folly Farm

We would like to say a massive thank you to our friends at Folly Farm Adventure Park & Zoo.

Folly Farm donated £849.31 towards our conservation projects. Folly Farm donate 10% of their profits from adoption sales towards their several conservation partners. They have now donated a total of £4991 towards our conservation projects which makes them our largest supporter to date. Trustees also visited Folly Farm in July and were able to have a tour of the brilliant 'Pride of Pembrokehire' Lion Reserve and their wonderful education room that overlooks the lion area which can be seen in the photo below.



While we were there we presented the zoo team there with a glass award for outstanding support to celebrate our fifth anniversary.

Our chairman James can be seen below with Zoo Curator Tim Morphew and keepers Rosie Badger and Peter Bonser-Blake. The photo was taken next to the custom made sign that details the work that they have supported through our charity which also features a donation box if visitors are feeling particularly generous.

Thank you to Megan Lee Photography for allowing us to use these brilliant pictures of the Folly Farm lion pride.



Ambassadors For The Wild

We work with zoos and their lions to combine fundraising and awareness efforts for the protection of their wild cousins to make a bigger impact overall. We believe that these lions can become 'Ambassadors For The Wild' and we are proud to have worked with a number of UK zoos to see this turned into a reality.



Three Goals for Three Years

In August 2021 trustees published a Conservation Strategy Review which evaluated the progress of our work so far in line with our 2018 Strategy and planning our future impact.

Trustees decided on three goals to focus on for the next three years. These are realistic goals that take into account our current commitments and to add more focus to our community projects. These include:

1. Continue the sponsorship of our Lion Guardian Kuya Kipampa annually.
2. Save to donate and replace both lion collars with Kope Lion and the Mara Predator Conservation Programme when required due to the success seen so far.
3. Investigate a further organisation/project or a project run by a current conservation partner to donate towards so that we can increase our support for our focus areas to involve local communities and lions outside protected areas.

After 18 months how are we progressing in reaching these three goals?

Throughout 2022 we have supported our three now well-established conservation partners and have now added another organisation Lion Landscapes to become our fourth conservation partner. In particular to assist in our target above to increase involvement in local community support. Progress on reaching these goals set above are seen below and set out in more detail on the next page.

1. We have sponsored our Lion Guardian Kuya Kipampa for one more year.
2. We have donated the funds required for a GPS collar for Kope Lion and we have saved up the majority of the funds required for the Mara Predator Conservation Programme.
3. We have established a conservation partnership with Lion Landscapes by donating towards a community based project that involves local communities and monitors wildlife including lions.

Laipangwa's Story - Our First Sponsored Collared Lion

Throughout 2022 this collar and the GPS movements provided has proved especially useful as Laipangwa and the pride he associates with have at times preyed on livestock. 2022 has been a difficult year for the Kope Lion team with increased conflict and retaliation due to drought and a variety of other factors. In August 2022 we received the news that Laipangwa had been found dead. Details of his death are uncertain but other males had been seen in the area and with a recent injury observed it is most likely to be due to lion related conflict. Laipangwa leaves a legacy which you can read about on the next page.



Future Kings Project Support 2022

Kope Lion



Kope Lion works exclusively in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) in Tanzania where certain areas are considered multi-use and inhabited by both people and wildlife.

The Kope Lion team have been great at sending regular updates and photos of the collared lion Laipangwa up until his death. This stems from a donation made in 2019 of £2587.83 (\$3278) of which the collar was fitted in June 2020. Trustees would like to express their condolences the team on the loss of Laipangwa but we are very thankful for their communication on the issue to us. Laipangwa was born in the Ndotu area of the NCA and he moved to an area closer to the famous Ngorongoro Crater where he mated with lionesses that were born in the crater, opening up the genetic flow in and out of the crater once again, living in an area that had not seen a lion presence for several years. His legacy lives on through his cubs and the increased tolerance from the community. Laipangwa had successfully sired cubs in an area away from his birth pride, fulfilling the main objective of our Future Kings Project. His movements throughout 2022 up until his death can be seen in the map below.

Having sent a donation to KopeLion for a further collar in May 2022 of £2578.45 we were assigned Lendepesi a two year old male lion born into the same pride as Laipangwa who was about to set off on his journey as a nomad he had been collared in August 2022. We have received regular updates, maps and pictures of Lendepesi from the team, he can be seen in the photo top left. We are excited to see the journey that Lendepesi takes as he matures, over recent months he has been spending most of his time in the safety of the Serengeti National Park, staying out of the community areas of the NCA. The Kope Lion team have once again been tireless this year in the challenges that coexistence between lions and people has presented them. We plan to visit them in Spring 2023 to meet the team.



Ole Cook, MPCP



Lendepesi, KopeLion

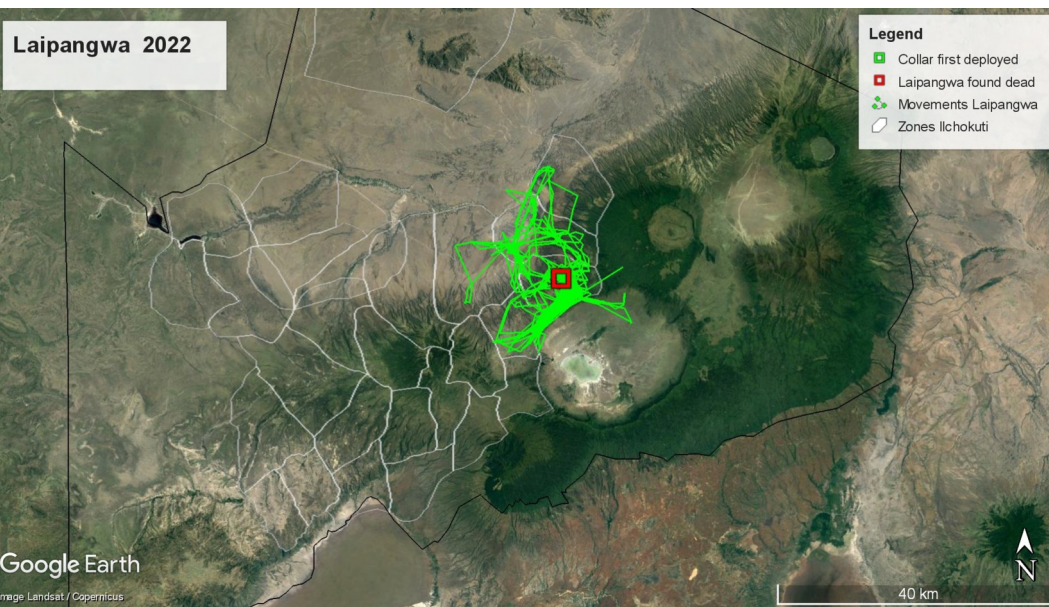


Mara Predator Conservation Programme



Following on from our trustees visit to the Mara in 2020, as previously agreed the MPCP assigned us a young male that was collared in March 2023 using the money donated in 2019, collaring was delayed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The collar was finally deployed onto a four-year-old male named Ole Cook. Living as part a coalition trying to increase its territory in the Ol Kinyei Conservancy, recently they ventured further and disappeared and when they returned one brother was missing. With no trace of the brother he is believed to be dead but it is unknown whether he was killed by other lions or people. This collar therefore is vital to track the movements of the two remaining males if they venture to the same area again and come into further problems.



Community Projects Support 2022

Lion Landscapes



Lion Landscapes are our newest conservation partner. It was founded in April 2016 with the aim of addressing key challenges facing carnivore conservation today.

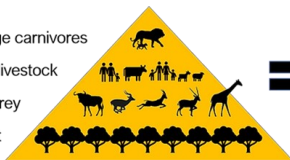
In 2020 the Ruaha Carnivore Project merged with Lion Landscapes for even greater conservation impact. Their collaborative and adaptive approach strengthens conservation efforts to secure important landscapes for viable populations of large carnivores. They do this in three main ways through building partnerships, science and data and innovation. Wild lions require huge landscapes to thrive - often including land relied on by people and livestock. A Lion Landscape is a landscape that supports a viable population of wild lions, or any other pinnacle carnivore species. To do this it must also support healthy wild prey populations, healthy habitat, and benefit local people. Their work focuses on how local communities, their livestock and lions can co-exist in a lion landscape. Our main area of interest in Lion Landscapes is the Ruaha Carnivore Project (RCP) which was established in 2009 by now joint Lion Landscapes CEO Dr. Amy Dickman. The vast Ruaha landscape supports around 10% of all remaining lions, as well as a large population of cheetah, the third biggest population of endangered African wild dogs as well as large numbers of spotted hyenas and leopards.

Viable populations of large carnivores

Tolerant people and livestock

Abundant Wild prey

Healthy habitat



A
Lion
Landscape

We have decided to support Lion Landscapes in their innovative community camera trap programme. Instead of their researchers setting out camera traps themselves on village land, Lion Landscapes have started to train and employ local communities to do it.

The images they collect translate into benefits for the community, with each animal captured on camera generating a certain number of points. Villages are organised into groups of four and compete against each other on a quarterly basis. The winning village in each quarter then receives the greatest share of community benefits (currently split equally between healthcare, veterinary medicines and education) followed by a lesser amount rolled down to the other villages in points order. The programme has proved successful in creating behavioural change by engaging and training local people directly in wildlife monitoring on their land. It also demonstrates an extremely clear link between the presence of wildlife (especially carnivores) and the provision of local benefits. In July 2022 a donation of £500 was sent to cover the cost of two of these camera traps as part of the programme. Trustees are proud to be involved in a project that focuses on giving communities a tangible benefit to living in such close proximity to lions and other wildlife.



Lion Guardians



Lastly, we have once again renewed our sponsorship of Lion Guardian Kuya Kipampa by sponsoring his yearly salary of \$1500 (£1232.84).

This is the fifth year that we have sponsored Kuya and the sixth year that we have sponsored a Lion Guardian. Based outside the Amboseli National Park, Kuya and other Lion Guardians work with lion conservationists and the communities to monitor the lions and mitigate potential conflicts. This year we received another letter of thanks from Kuya and sent some new photos of him. Thank you very much to the Lion Guardians team for sending them over.





Acknowledgements

We thank you all for reading this years Annual Review and we look forward to updating you with our progress next year. For up to date information please follow our Facebook Page and website.

We would like to thank everyone who has had a part in our efforts to raise awareness or have helped to raise funds for us this year. In particular:

- Folly Farm Adventure Park & Zoo
- Linton Zoo Conservation Park
- Wild Arena Ltd
- Apex Extreme
- Knowsley Safari 3 Peaks Team
- Moreton Morrell College
- Jessica Riley & her mother Emma Parker for organising their Go Fund Me page and all of their supporters.
- Everyone who has added resources to and become a part of the Lion Keepers Resource Group.
- Sean Robinson

We are proud to work with and sponsor the work of the following organisations:



LION
GUARDIANS

www.lionguardians.org



KOPE LION
NGORONGORO

www.kopelion.org



www.marapredatorconservation.org



www.lionlandscapes.org

Thank You

We are nothing without our supporters and we cannot achieve anything without their support. Being a small charity we rely heavily on one off donations and individually organised sponsorship events. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has donated and therefore allowed us to support such important conservation work over the last five years.

Contact Us

If you are interested in our work in lion conservation please follow our website and Facebook page:
www.safinalionconservation.org

Or if you want to ask us anything directly please email us at:
info@safinalionconservation.org