

Annual account and financial report 2016 Leo Foundation

Overview

At the beginning of January 2016, the Leo Foundation had a cash reserve of €5989, which was freely available for new projects. Of these €5989, €2028 were remaining funds from two projects in 2015 (see 'Projects'), and €3961 were earlier cash reserves of the Foundation.

At the end of the year, this reserve had grown to €8864, of which €1500 is reserved for one of the projects in Cameroon. Another €1500 is reserved for costs related to active satellite collars in the Nairobi lion project.

In 2016 there was a stricter policy to obtain a minimum of 5% and a maximum of 10% of overhead for each project, which explains the increase in cash reserves. These reserves are of importance, f.e. to cover operational costs, including memberships of the Foundation (IUCN, Globe Guards), but also to allow for pre-financing expenses in order to execute projects efficiently.

Projects

During 2016 the following projects were running, listed by source of funding:

- 1) Hucht-De Beukelaar Stichting: 'Lion Guards' in Benoue area and Waza National Park (€2275). The project was executed by Iris Kirsten and Elise Bakker, who were stationed in Cameroon and integrated this in their activities for a project sponsored by the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). This project is executed in direct collaboration with the Ecole de Faune, Garoua (EFG), for which the Leo Foundation manages US\$25000.
- 2) National Geographic Big Cat Initiative (NG-BCI): participation of lion conservationists from West and Central Africa in the African Lion Working Group (ALWG) meeting, Botswana 2016 (€7966).
Because funds became available in a very late stage and there were a number of unclarities regarding the visa procedure, all four ALWG member from West and Central Africa were unable to attend the ALWG meeting. The only way to not lose the investment (plane tickets etc.) was to rebook the tickets. After consultation with NG-BCI it was decided to plan a study trip for ALWG members from West and Central Africa in July 2016.
- 3) Personal sponsor Eric Wentink (Cire Invest): Nairobi lion project (€5000).
Eric Wentink and his wife and daughter took part in a lion collaring in Nairobi National Park in July 2016.
- 4) Personal sponsor Jan Peeters (Score): Nairobi lion project and IUCN World Conservation Congress (€5000).
The funds were divided over the Nairobi lion project and the participation of two board members of the Leo Foundation at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, where they organized a workshop and participated as a speaker in a session about Conservation Genetics.
- 5) Globe Guard auction: 'Lion Guards' in Cameroon and Children's bushcamp (€3516).
Two items were auctioned: contribution to the 'Lion Guards' project in Cameroon and the possibility to 'adopt' a student for the Children's bushcamp (2017) in Benoue.

Further, two projects were finished in 2015, but still appear in the financial overview of 2016:

- 1) Prins Bernard Natuur Fonds: 'Lion Guards' Cameroon (total budget €20000?).
After execution of the project in 2015, €327 was remaining and was added to the cash reserves of the Foundation.
- 2) Federatie Internationale Natuurbescherming (FIN): Nairobi lion project & 'Lion Guards' Cameroon (€3500).
€1701 is remaining of which a total of €750 was used the Nairobi lion project (€500) and additional expenses to transport material to Cameroon (€250). After these expenses, €951 was remaining and was added to the cash reserves of the Foundation.

Other

It was planned to switch the funds from the Leo Foundation from ING to Triodos in 2016. Although this was done and there are no active funds on the ING account, a last payment on the ING account is expected early 2017. After this payment is received, the ING account will be canceled. Expenses on website hosting were cut by transferring the content of the Large Carnivore Initiative website to the Leo Foundation website.

Summary and Conclusions

An overview of the distribution of expenses in 2016 is shown in Figure 1. It should be noted that the expenses for the Lion Project Nairobi include €950 which have not been spent to date, but will be reserved for future costs regarding the employed satellite collars. Likewise, the Globe Guards auction for the 'Lion Guards' in Cameroon include an additional €1500 euro which were transferred in January 2017, but were already included in this year's overview of expenditures. The funds will be used for operational costs in 2017, as well as the organization of the Children's bushcamp. Expenses in the category 'Other' include costs for bank services and transactions, website, four annual meetings of the boards members, etc. Largest expenses within this category are the IUCN membership (€410,15), the Large Carnivore Initiative website (€295, cancelled in 2016), and the Globe Guards membership (€250).

Distribution of expenses 2016

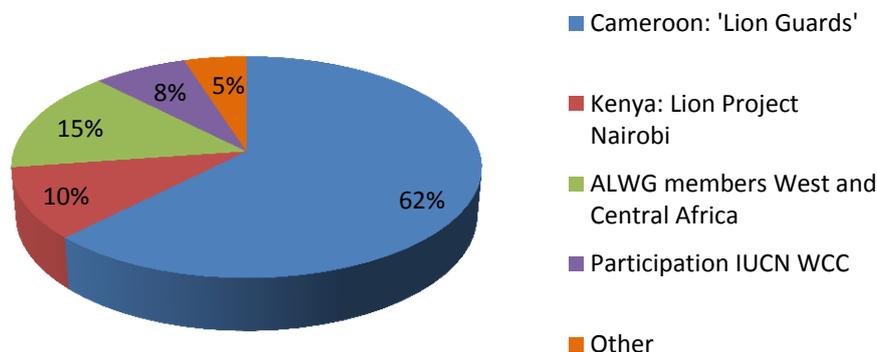


Figure 1. Distribution of expenses of the Leo Foundation.

All projects were managed properly and all unexpected expenses could be covered from the project budgets. The minimum level of cash reserve for the Foundation (€3500) was maintained. A stricter policy to obtain overhead for each project (minimum 5%, maximum 10%) was implemented successfully.

Expectations for 2017

In order to increase chances to obtain funding, the Foundation will start using an annual overview of deadlines for funding agencies. A number of programs where a proposal can be submitted have already been identified (f.e. PBNF, US-FWS). A proposal to conduct a survey in Waza National Park, Cameroon, was submitted end 2016 at WWF-INNO. Also, one of the volunteers of the Foundation, Elise Bakker, applied for a personal grant from the Rufford Foundation.

In 2016 we explored whether it would be feasible to expand our activities to other countries in West Africa. Initial contact with lion conservationists in Benin and Senegal has been established. Gueye Mallé (Niokolo-Koba, Senegal) has been invited as a PhD student to Antwerp University. Leo Foundation may decide to support this project.

The Foundation will further strive to find funds to cover running costs of the 'Lion Guards' project in Cameroon. We aim to include a larger outreach and education component, f.e. by organizing another Children's bushcamp in 2017.

Since the cash reserves of the Foundation are healthy, the treasurer does not foresee any issues in 2017.