

Annual account and financial report 2019 Leo Foundation

Overview

At the beginning of January 2019, the Leo Foundation had a cash reserve of €15,023.39. Of this amount, €9,000.00 was earmarked for ongoing projects (Nepal – leopards), making the remaining €6,023.39 our strategic reserve. This budget can be made available for new projects, if decided by the Leo board. At the end of the year, this reserve was €5,567.68, of which €3,500 is reserved for projects in Nepal and Kenya, to be spent in 2020.

We kept a strict policy to keep between 5% and 10% from each project to cover overhead costs. These are used to cover operational costs, including memberships of the Leo Foundation (IUCN, Globe Guards), but also to allow for pre-financing expenses in order to execute projects efficiently. E.g. this year, the Leo Foundation committed to organize the African Lion Working Group (ALWG) meeting in Mpala, Kenya, which lead to expenses for organization and participation.

Projects

During 2019 the following projects were running, listed by country and source of funding:

- 1) Participation conservationists West&Central Africa + India in ALWG Mpala 2019 meeting: Lion Recovery Fund (LRF) + Houston Zoo (through Wildlife Conservation Network, total amount €17,739.62)
- 2) Kenya: Globe Guards: support for two Kenyan PhD students, on lions and human-wildlife conflict (total amount €3,450.00)
- 3) Nepal (leopards): Globe Guards + donation through website: support for Nepalese researcher for research on leopards causing human-wildlife conflict (total amount €2,199.46 + €9,000 available from 2018)
- 4) Nepal (fishing cat): Globe Guards: support for Nepalese PhD student, on fishing cat ecology (total amount €1,600)

In addition, the last phase of our project Involving Religious Leaders in Conservation Communication in Panna, Madhya Pradesh, India was executed (financed by DeFries-BajPaj Foundation, total amount €5,219.16). This project is included in the financial report of 2017, because funding was received and spent in 2017, even though the project continued to run throughout 2018 and 2019.

Summary and Conclusions

An overview of the distribution of funds in 2019 is shown in Figure 1. Summarizing the results per country, 71% of our funding was dedicated to the ALWG Mpala 2019 meeting in Kenya. This funding was specifically used to enable the participation of seven lion conservationists from range countries of the northern subspecies of the lion, *Panthera leo leo*. The selected participants were from Senegal, Niger, Benin, Cameroon, Sudan and India. We believe that this investment has contributed to lion conservation in West and Central Africa, as well as in India. 14% of the received funding has been dedicated to lion-livestock conflict research and management in Central Kenya (support two Kenyan PhD students). The remaining 15% of the funding is earmarked for two different projects in Nepal: one on leopard (support Nepalese researcher, 9%) and one on fishing cat (support Nepalese PhD student, 6%).

It should be noted that part of the funding received in 2019 has not yet been spent, and will be invested in projects during 2020. This refers to project 2), 3) and 4) mentioned above.

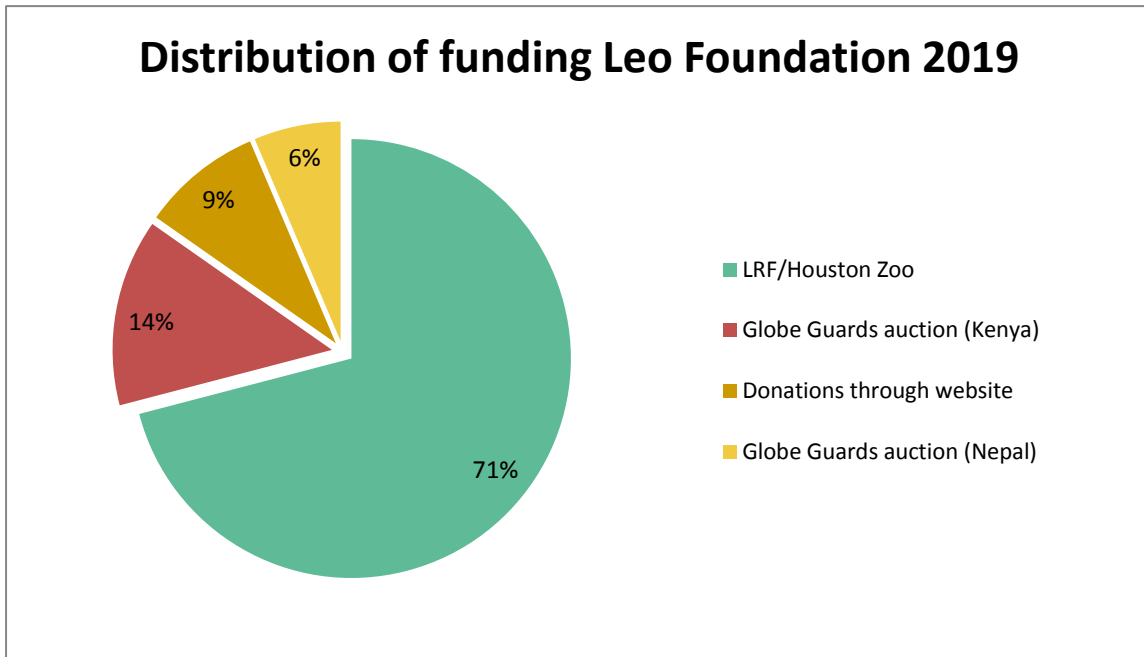


Figure 1. Distribution of available funds for the Leo Foundation in 2019.

An overview of expenses in 2019 is shown in Figure 2. Expenses in the category ‘Other’ include costs for bank services and transactions, maintenance website, four annual meetings of the board members, etc. Largest expenses within this category are covering the participation of board member Elise Bakker in the ALWG Mpala 2019 meeting (€1,315.00), support of our partner CEDC in Cameroon (€507.50), the yearly contribution to the IUCN (€405.41) and the yearly contribution to the Globe Guards (€250.00).

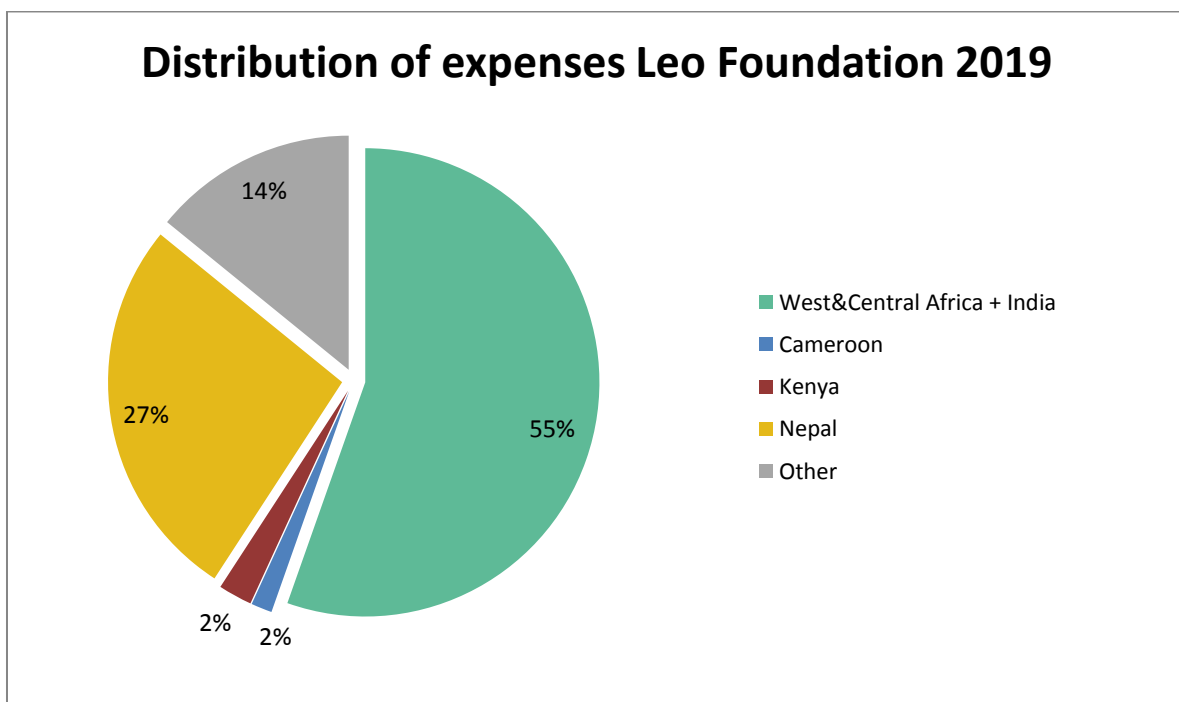


Figure 2. Distribution of expenses of the Leo Foundation in 2019.

Other significant expenses are related to an update of our website, making it compliant with the current privacy laws. This included an SSL certificate (€37.51) and a cookie consent banner (€90.75). Due to a hack of our website, in July 2019 we had to restore and update the website (€210.54).

We also updated our statutes (€270.00), in order to comply with the regulations for the ANBI (Public Benefit Organisation) status for the Leo Foundation. Obtaining this status was necessary to be able to receive tax-deductible funding from private donors.

By committing to organizing the ALWG Mpala 2019 meeting in Kenya, we also committed to covering expenses related to the organization. This financial report does not go into detail regarding this specific project. Individual participants paid a registration fee (€35 per person) and consumptions (through an honesty box), and costs related to the organization were covered on site (in cash). The vast majority of the expenses related to the organization were covered through these contributions.

Finally, the board of the Leo Foundation agreed to a loan of €250 for a Kenyan MSc student at Antwerp university to cover his tuition fees. Since it was agreed to be a loan, this has not been listed as an expense.

All projects were managed properly and all unexpected expenses could be covered from the project budgets. Due to extra (but expected) expenses related to the organization of the ALWG Mpala 2019 meeting, cash reserves are relatively low (~€2000) and the board has committed in increasing these reserves in the coming year. The policy to obtain overhead for each project (minimum 5%, maximum 10%) was implemented successfully.

Expectations for 2020

In order to increase chances to obtain funding, we have to focus on grant opportunities with reasonable success rates. It is advisable to think about responsibilities of the board members regarding the preparation of grant proposals. We agreed that one board member should have the lead in monitoring deadlines for grant applications.

The Leo Foundation expects to have provided a positive impact on carnivore conservation in West and Central Africa by giving seven lion conservationists from six range states of the northern subspecies of the lion the opportunity to participate in the ALWG Mpala 2019 meeting. Without this initiative, the meeting would have had no representation from the northern range states, and would have severely lacked African representation.

Although cash reserves are relatively low, the treasurer feels confident that investment in these year's projects was sustainable and that we will be able to build up our reserves further in the coming year. The treasurer does not foresee any issues in 2020.

Overview financial status

	January 2019	January 2020
Reserves Triodos internet spaarrekening	€ 1,922.42	€ 1,466.66
Reserves Triodos internet betaalrekening	€ 13,100.97	€ 4,100.97
Total cash reserves	€ 15,023.39	€ 5,567.68

Income

LRF/Houston Zoo: ALWG 2019	€ 17,739.62
Globe Guards auction 2019: Kenya	€ 3,450.00
Donations through website: Nepal - leopard	€ 2,199.46
Globe Guards auction 2019: Nepal - fishing cat	€ 1,600.00
Other donations	€ 20.00
TOTAL	€ 25,009.08

Expenditures

West&Central Africa + India	ALWG meeting Mpala 2019	€ 19,407.36
Cameroon	Support CEDC Cameroon	€ 507.50
Kenya	Lion-livestock conflict Central Kenya	€ 818.19
Nepal	Leopard conflict I	€ 8,448.30
	Leopard conflict II	€ 200.00
	Fishing cat	€ 699.62
Other	Participation Elise Bakker ALWG Mpala 2019	€ 1,315.00
	IUCN membership	€ 405.41
	Meetings board Leo Foundation	€ 504.30
	Globe Guards membership	€ 250.00
	Website	€ 189.97
	Website onderhoud (hack) en update	€ 338.80
	Update statutes (notary)	€ 270.00
	Organization ALWG Mpala 2019	€ 398.06
	Other	€ 448.03
TOTAL		€ 34,200.54