

Annual account and financial report 2023 Leo Foundation

Overview

At the beginning of January 2023, the Leo Foundation had a balance of €13,600.53. Part of this amount was earmarked for ongoing activities as part of our programs in Kenya, Nepal and India. In addition, the board expressed the intention to do more fundraising for Senegal and Cameroon, to continue the support of projects there. At the end of the year, the balance was €12,813.10, with three projects still running with expected expenses in 2024.

Following the 'Huishoudelijk Reglement' (vs 2022), a minimum of 5% from each project was set aside to cover overhead costs. Overhead is used to cover operational costs, including the website, memberships of the Leo Foundation (IUCN, Globe Guards (GG)), and to ensure that the foundation has some reserves to allow for pre-financing expenses.

Projects and activities

During 2023, the following projects were running, listed by country and source of funding.

- 1) Support lion monitoring Senegal: ABRI voor Dieren (available budget: €7,500.00)
- 2) Support lion monitoring Senegal: Stichting Dierenpark Amersfoort (available budget: €8.480.00)
- 3) Support Lion Guards Cameroon Waza: GG auction 2023 (available budget: €2,500.00)
- 4) Support PhD researcher Kenya: GG auction 2022 (available budget: €3,0000; partially spent in 2022)
- 5) Support PhD researcher Nepal genetics: GG auction 2022 (available budget: €2,500.00)
- 6) Support PhD researcher Nepal education program: donation + GG auctions (available budget for 2023: €12,500.00)
- 7) Education project Gir forest, India: GG auctions (available budget for 2023: €975.00)

In addition, the Leo Foundation decided to support one Kenyan PhD researcher for a study visit to Leiden and his work in Kenya (€600 for his accommodation in Leiden + €200 for expenses related to research permits in Kenya; both covered from the reserves) and a long-term collaborator in Cameroon to enroll in a leadership course (€500). This was covered by the strategic reserves of the Foundation. Further, one of the board members organized a workshop on conservation genetics at the International Congress for Conservation Biology in Kigali, Rwanda. This was geared towards participants from African institutions, and one of the PhD researchers supported by Leo Foundation attended the workshop. Although the activity itself was not a Leo Foundation project, we received a donation (€1,000.00) for this activity through the Leo Foundation (the workshop was further financed by the University of Copenhagen and the Genetics Society). Finally, we transferred €2,500 from the strategic reserve as the first tranche (of a total of €5,000.00) to the Institute of Environmental Science (CML), Leiden University, as part of our collaboration for using genetic techniques to analyse lion diet composition.

With our projects in 2023, we have supported two Nepalese PhD researchers, one Senegalese PhD researcher and two Kenyan PhD researchers.

Summary and Conclusions

An overview of the origin of funds in 2023 is shown in Figure 1. The major contributor was Stichting Leeuw, with Stichting Dierenpark Amersfoort, ABRI voor Dieren and the 2023 Globe Guards auction also contributing significantly. The obtained funding was split up across different projects to manage them most efficiently, e.g. funds from the Globe Guards auction support both a project in Cameroon and in Nepal.

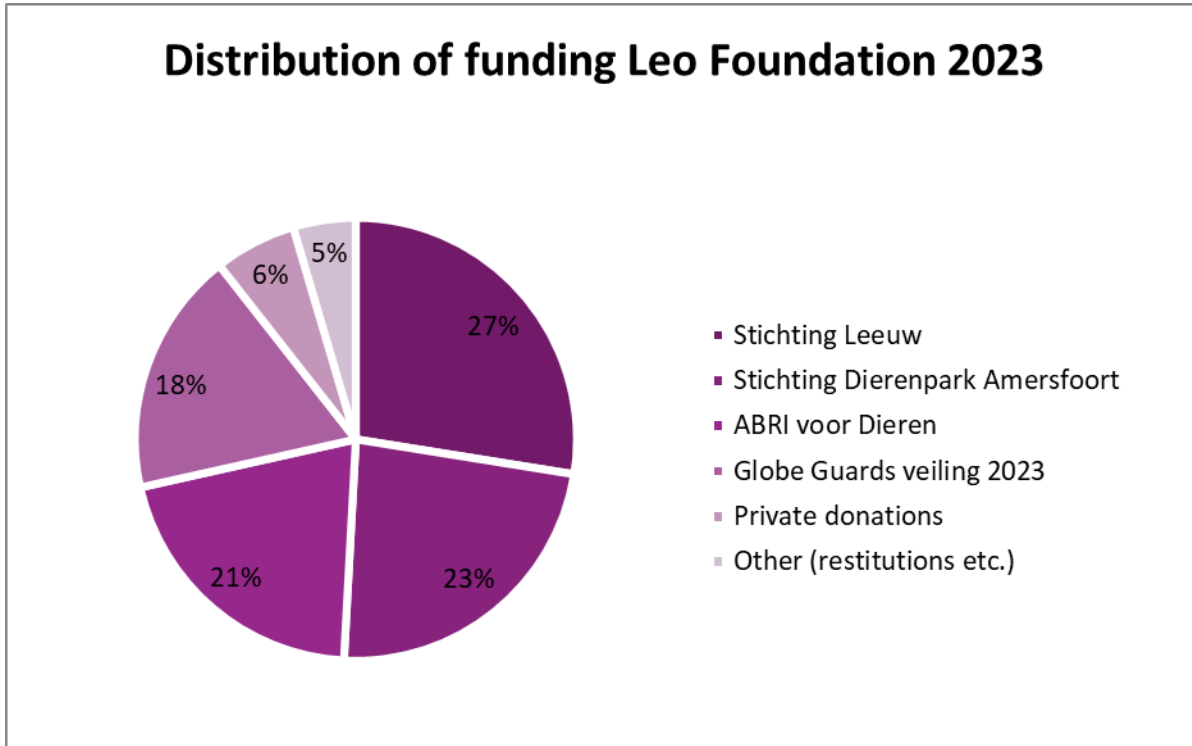


Figure 1. Origin of available funds for the Leo Foundation in 2023.

Since some contributors cover multiple projects, in multiple countries, we refer to the distribution of expenditures (Figure 2) for more details per country. Summarizing the results per country, 42% of our expenditures were for various projects in West and Central Africa (Senegal and Cameroon, 35% and 8% respectively). A total of 7% of the expenditures were dedicated to work in East Africa, on Kenyan lions and lion-livestock conflict research and management. With 32% of the expenditures, we supported projects in Nepal (tiger and fishing cat). We also supported an education program focusing on the Gir lion in India, with a total of 3% of our expenses. Expenses in the category 'Other' include costs for professional memberships (IUCN, Globe Guards), bank services, maintenance website, board meetings etc. Other large expenses within this category are the yearly contribution to the IUCN (€337.79) and the annual contribution to the Globe Guards (€250.00). Because we switched to a cheaper package for our website, we received a restitution halfway through the year. The category 'Other' also includes the workshop in Rwanda, as this was related to an international conference, and not a project which is based in Rwanda.

It should be noted that part of the funding received in previous years has not yet been spent and will be invested in ongoing projects during 2024 or will be added to the strategic reserve, to be decided by the Leo board. Of the activities mentioned above, projects 1 and 5 still have expenses planned for 2024. Of the other projects, some of the overarching programs are still running and we will look for options to continuously support these initiatives.

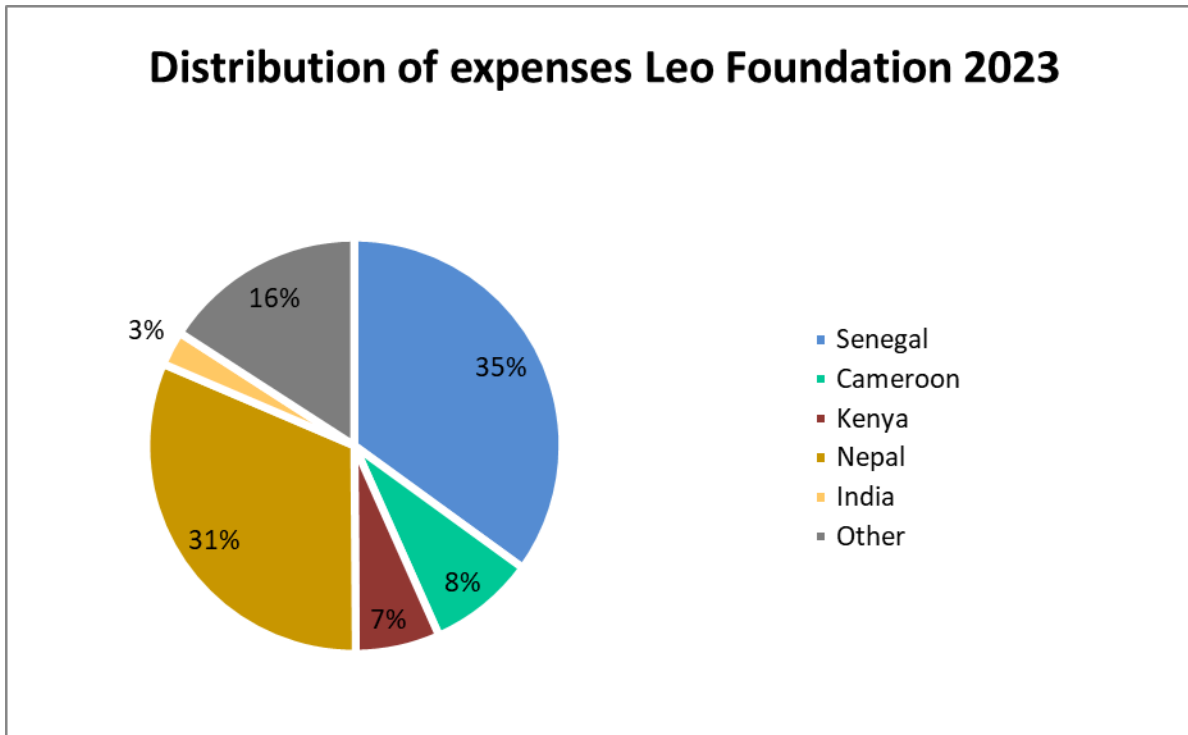


Figure 2. Distribution of expenses of the Leo Foundation in 2021.

All projects were managed properly and all unexpected expenses could be covered by the budgets. The policy to obtain overhead for each project was implemented.

Expectations for 2024

To use our time for grant applications more efficiently and in a more coordinated manner, the Leo board created a spreadsheet with grant opportunities, which provides a helpful overview for our annual schedule. We agreed that one board member has the lead in monitoring deadlines for grant applications, via a table shared on Google Drive, accessible to all Leo board members. We still rely on the commitment of all board members to write and submit applications.

The treasurer feels confident that we will be able to build up our reserves further in the coming year. In order to achieve this goal, there will be strict control of project budgets. Internal budgets for specific projects need to be realistic and have 5-10% of the total budget dedicated to unforeseen expenses. The treasurer emphasizes that it is not acceptable to cover extra expenses from the reserves of the foundation, unless explicitly approved by the Leo Board. There is a clear focus on the goal and ambitions of the Leo Foundation, and we should assess critically if activities sufficiently connect to those, and to the conditions of a Public Benefit Organisation. The treasurer does not foresee any problems in 2024.

Overview financial status

	January 2022	January 2023
Reserves Triodos internet betaalrekening	€ 357.56	€ 2,818.25
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Total cash reserves	€ 13,600.53	€ 12,813.10
Income		
Stichting Leeuw	€ 10,000.00	
Stichting Dierenpark Amersfoort	€ 8,480.00	
ABRI voor Dieren	€ 7,500.00	
Globe Guards veiling 2023	€ 6,500.00	
Private donations	€ 2,189.70	
Other (restitutions etc.)	€ 1,662.70	
TOTAL	€ 36,332.40	
Expenditures		
Senegal	Camera trap cursus	€ 12,000.00
	Meeting PhD researcher Antwerpen	€ 86.80
	Microscop adapter	€ 20.30
	Expenses project visit Senegal	€ 500.00
Cameroon	Lion Guards Waza	€ 2,500.00
	Contribution professional leadership course Came	€ 500.00
Kenya	Visit PhD researcher Leiden	€ 489.00
	Ticket change PhD researcher	€ 27.50
	Satellite costs GPS collars	€ 125.46
	Lunch Oostvaarders Plassen	€ 56.15
	Accommodation PhD researcher Leiden	€ 840.00
	Accommodation PhD researcher Leiden	€ 600.00
	Contribution PhD researcher Kenya (permits)	€ 225.00
Nepal	Expenses GPS collars	€ 5,845.86
	Visit two PhD researchers Leiden/Antwerp	€ 511.76
	Expenses project visit Leo board member 1	€ 750.00
	Expenses project visit Leo board member 2	€ 750.00
	Tax GPS collars	€ 780.30
	Shipment GPS collars	€ 11.50
	Contribution Globe Guards item (hawk ringing)	€ 200.00
	Shipment GPS collars	€ 11.50
	Education project tiger and fishing cat	€ 2,500.00
India	Final tranche education Gir	€ 250.00
	Continuation education project Gir	€ 725.00
Other	IUCN membership dues	€ 337.79
	GlobeGuards contribution	€ 250.00
	Website hosting and technical support	€ 423.34
	First tranche metabarcoding CML, Leiden	€ 2,500.01
	Workshop Kigali, Rwanda	€ 1,000.00
	Bank costs	€ 198.04
	Expenses board	€ 1,006.30
TOTAL		€ 36,021.61
Senegal	€ 12,607.10	
Cameroon	€ 3,000.00	
Kenya	€ 2,363.11	
Nepal	€ 11,360.92	
India	€ 975.00	
Other	€ 5,715.48	
TOTAL	€ 36,021.61	