

Annual account and financial report 2024 Leo Foundation

Overview

At the beginning of January 2023, the Leo Foundation had a balance of €12,813.10. Part of this amount was earmarked for ongoing activities as part of our programs in Senegal and Nepal. The board expressed the intention to do more fundraising for long-lasting programs, to continue the support of projects there. At the end of the year, the balance was €27,324.48, with three projects still running with expected expenses in 2025.

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 2024, the following projects were running, listed by country and source of funding.

- 1) Camera trap workshop Senegal: Great Plains Foundation (available budget: €18,523.51)
- 2) Support lion monitoring Senegal: DierenPark Amersfoort Wildlife Fund 2023 (total available budget: €8.480.00; largely spent in 2023)
- 3) Support Lion Guards Cameroon Waza: Ouwehands Zoo Foundation (available budget: €5,000.00)
- 4) Human-wildlife conflict management Kenya: Stichting Leeuw (available budget: €5,000)
- 5) Project on monitoring leopards in Iraq: IUCN SSC grant (available budget: €3,067.92)
- 6) Vulnerability of small lion populations: WWF INNO (available budget: €10,000.00)
- 7) Outreach and education project Nepal: GG auction 2024 (available budget: €3,330.00)
- 8) Workshop IUCN Red Lists (available budget based on participation)

In addition, some funds were obtained for projects that started at the beginning of 2025, and are therefore not listed in above. One of the PhD students supported by the Leo Foundation sadly passed away, and Leo Foundation started a fundraiser to contribute to the expenses of his family.

Summary and Conclusions

An overview of the origin of funds in 2024 is shown in Figure 1. The major contributors were the Great Plains Foundation and WWF INNO, with Ouwehands Zoo Foundation, Stichting Leeuw and Stichting tot behoud van de natuur en biodiversiteit also contributing significantly. The Globe Guard auction was very successful and allowed us to raise funds for two ongoing projects, in Cameroon and Nepal.

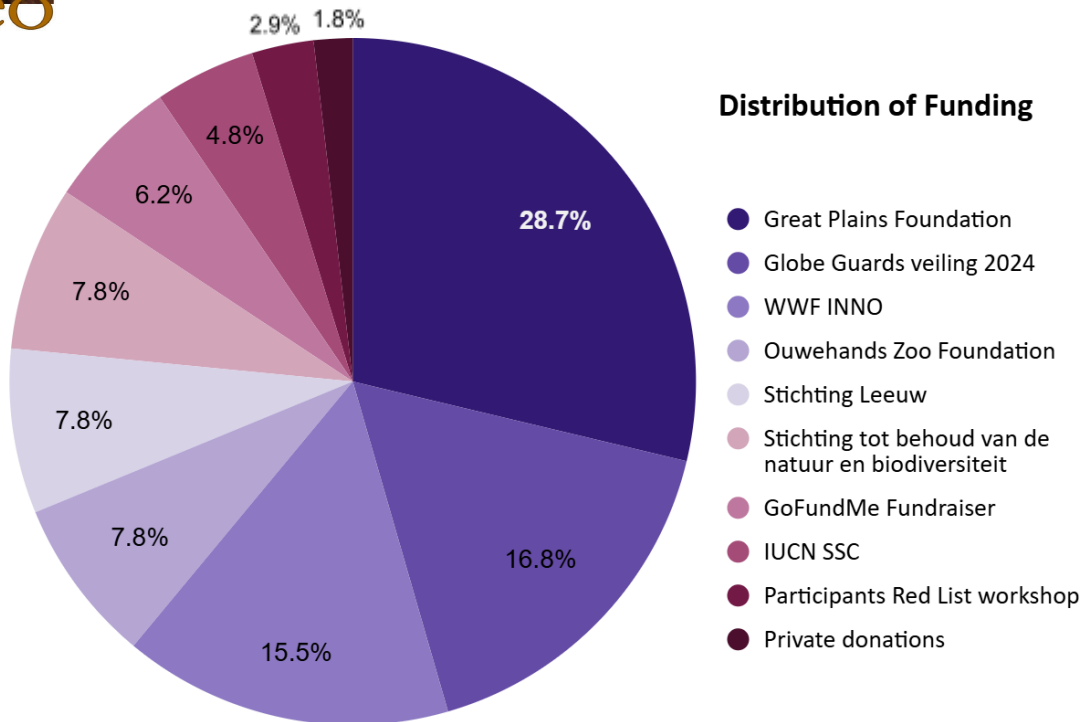


Figure 1. Origin of available funds for the Leo Foundation in 2024.

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, 49% of our expenditures were for various projects in West and Central Africa (Senegal and Cameroon, 38% and 11% respectively). A total of 9% of the expenditures were dedicated to work in East Africa, on Kenyan lions and lion-livestock conflict research and management. With 6%, 19% and 3% of the expenditures, we supported projects in Iraq, India and Nepal, respectively. Expenses in the category 'Other' include costs for professional memberships (IUCN, Globe Guards), bank services, maintenance website, minor expenses for sponsors, board meetings etc. Because the fundraiser for the deceased PhD student did not directly contribute to a local nature conservation project, this expense (€4,144.00) is also listed in the category 'Other'. Large expenses within this category are the yearly contribution to the IUCN (€300.00) and the annual contribution to the Globe Guards (€250.00).

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 2025 or will be added to the strategic reserve, to be decided by the Leo board. Of the activities mentioned above, all activities have been successfully executed, but some of the overarching programs are still running and we will look for options to continuously support these initiatives.

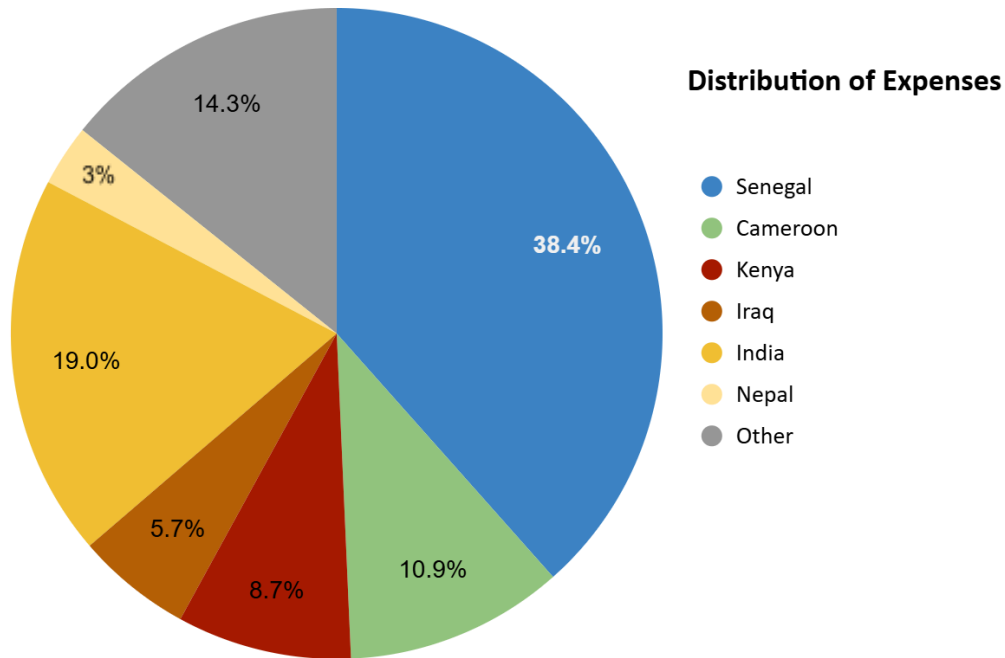


Figure 2. Distribution of expenses of the Leo Foundation in 2024.

All projects were managed properly and all unforeseen expenses could be covered by the budgets. The policy to obtain overhead for each project was implemented successfully, with the exception of one project, for which the overhead was used to cover unexpected overspending. This was ultimately approved by the board and overall project management was reviewed. The board took measures to avoid this happening in the future.

Expectations for 2025

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. We further have the impression that social media presence contributes towards visibility, and likely has contributed to a relatively successful year for donations through our website.

The treasurer and board feel confident that we will be able to build up our reserves further in the coming year, while simultaneously funding projects the board sees as promising. 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 unplanned 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 the board 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 2025.

Overview financial status

	January 2024	January 2025
Reserves Triodos internet betaalrekening	€ 2,818.25	€ 9,222.33
Reserves Triodos internet spaarrekening	€ 9,994.85	€ 18,102.15
Total cash reserves	€ 12,813.10	€ 27,324.48

Funding	
Great Plains Foundation	€ 18,523.51
Globe Guards veiling 2024	€ 10,830.00
WWF INNO	€ 10,000.00
Ouwehands Zoo Foundation	€ 5,000.00
Stichting Leeuw	€ 5,000.00
Stichting tot behoud van de natuur en biodiversiteit	€ 5,000.00
GoFundMe Fundraiser	€ 4,003.88
IUCN SSC	€ 3,067.92
Participants Red List workshop	€ 1,880.00
Private donations	€ 1,178.07
TOTAL	€ 64,483.38

Expenditures		
Senegal	Camera trap course	€ 18,532.19
	Camera traps	€ 403.93
	Camera trap hyena FC	€ 223.93
	Promotion materials	€ 71.90
Cameroon	Lion Guards Waza	€ 5,431.70
Kenya	Collaring operation Kenya	€ 2,350.00
	GPS collar Kenya	€ 1,761.01
	Refurbishing GPS collar	€ 126.50
	Administration MoU	€ 96.05
Iraq	Genotyping leopard samples	€ 2,533.00
	Project management Leopards beyond Borders	€ 334.53
India	Sequencing lion samples	€ 6,500.00
	Project meetings and conferences	€ 3,005.68
Nepal	Analyses tiger and leopard samples	€ 1,525.08
Other	Fundraiser (donation to family deceased student)	€ 4,144.00
	Organization Red List workshop	€ 469.40
	IUCN membership dues	€ 300.00
	Website hosting and technical support	€ 260.45
	GlobeGuards contribution	€ 250.00
	Bank costs	€ 209.16
	Other expenses	€ 703.29
	Expenses board	€ 794.70
	TOTAL	€ 50,026.50