



Walking for Lions (WFL) started during 2012 with the aim to make a difference. The name 'Walking for Lions' was chosen to illustrate how one can make a difference and to be an example by walking or cycling through Africa promoting lion conservation. WFL is a consultant organization that assists where we are needed but have been setting up our research base in a small village in Botswana named Pandamatenga since 2014.

During 2012 we assisted the Masai Triangle (Masai Mara) with their annual lion/cheetah census. After our work was completed, we sponsored a trip for the village elders to attend the first ever Masai Olympics that was held outside Amboseli National Park.



In 2013, several members walked through Namibia and Botswana where the aim was to create awareness, educate school children and join forces with the likes of Cheetah Conservation Botswana, the Botswana defense force and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks of Botswana in taking a stand for conservation. The journey received great attention locally and especially in South Africa which assisted us to receive a

contract to help the Wildlife Department of Botswana in their annual lion census in 2013.

The year of 2014 took a drastic turn as it was decided to create even more awareness as we felt we could do more and so took on the massive challenge of cycling up to Kenya from Botswana. The journey was cut short in Tanzania due to Malaria but our campaign reached hundreds of local people and we managed to visit several schools and spread the conservation education.



The journey indicated to us that the general lion population is in dire straits and the largest problem with the decline of their

population is Human/Wildlife conflict. Our current project is based in the North Eastern boundary of Botswana that borders Hwange National Park (Zimbabwe) We are currently testing the method of using light as a nocturnal deterrent when lions approaching cattle posts with LED Motion Detection Lights installed on each corner of a kraal (boma)

The study has indicated a large decline. We joined forces with engineers from South Africa and developed a new concept where the light units are supported by a small siren that goes off simultaneously once the motion sensor is triggered by lions approaching livestock kraals. At this current point in time, our light/siren combination has a 100 % success rate since installation in August 2015 but we require a larger sample to collect efficient data.



Education and awareness builds the foundation for the future conservation of lions in Africa. The young generation will determine whether or not this species will survive or evidently fall from grace, but it is our responsibilities as conservationists to share our knowledge and passion to them. One of our current initiatives is to teach local children that live with lions how to 'survive lions'. It is not as dramatic as it sounds but we discuss general lion biology, lion trigger points and why lions enter villages. We provide them with knowledge on how to react when they ever encounter a lion on foot or at their cattle posts. You cannot ask people not to kill lions if you do not provide them with the correct tools required to survive with them.

If you would like to help wild lions in Botswana we urge you to contact us direct at info.walkingforlions@gmail.com Donation are extremely important for us to continue our work and help make a difference to one lion or one child.