

Budget justification

The funds being sought from the Leakey Foundation will cater for a four-week (28 days) field work. Because of the multi-disciplinary nature of the field work and the distance from Nairobi to the research area, one four 4-wheel-drive vehicle will be required (hired) for use by the fossil prospecting team. A 4-wheel-drive lorry to ferry field equipments and items (e.g., food, fuel, etc.) will be provided by the NMK. However, the lorry will require fuel, a spare tire and some minimal maintenance, all of which are reflected in the budget. For all the vehicles, it is estimated that 1 litre of fuel will cover approximately a 4 km journey, and that on average, the hired vehicle will cover at least 30 km a day while in the field. In the course of the field work, the hired vehicle will cover a round-trip of about 250 km to Lodwar town to replenish field supplies. It is projected that at approximately 60 km will have been covered in Nairobi by the two vehicles prior to departure for the field (buying supplies, and running other errands) and upon return from the field (running a number of post-field work errands). All the above explain the need for 1183 litres of fuel.

During the field work, there will be two categories of field assistants, i.e., senior and junior. The senior field assistants (6 in number) will comprise field assistants/fossil prospectors and a cook who have over 15 years of experience working in the field, while the junior field assistants (4) will comprise field assistants/fossil prospectors who have worked in the field for less than five years. It is noteworthy that at least 4 of the field assistants were born in the general area of research, and thus the proposed field work will provide some short-term employment to some local people. This number of field assistants is necessary because of the many sites earmarked for investigation.

Fieldwork extension of two weeks and other costs associated with post-field work will be met by Palaeontologic Scientific Trust (PAST) of South Africa, as part of their pan-African campaign which aims at extending grants to African researchers/scholars from outside South Africa. In sum, a total of US\$9,480 is expected to come from PAST. The funding from the Leakey Foundation and the one expected from PAST will enable a successful completion of the proposed project.

There will be post-field work processing and analysis of the fauna, and this explains the allocation in the budget of funds to engage an assistant (for two months) to help in processing the fauna.