

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Newsletter no.22
October 2006



Lewa cheetah – Photo by Robert Merrick 2005

Introduction from Ian Craig

During the year Jane and I have had the opportunity to travel widely across much of North Eastern Kenya visiting different conservation projects and talking to people.

It has been a wonderful opportunity to put into perspective the role of Lewa and the conservation ethic that the Conservancy has promoted over the past twenty years.

The reality is that endangered species such as black rhino and Grevy's zebra are either gone and gone forever in these areas or remain in such small numbers they can never be viable. Animals with any commercial value or sensitive to environmental competition with livestock simply have no chance of surviving outside of formally protected areas. Other species such as buffalo, giraffe, gerenuk and oryx are thriving they don't need the same level of formal protection; they need space with which North Eastern Kenya is so well endowed even the cats, lion, leopard and cheetah are all doing "well" in relative terms and we saw and heard them throughout our whole trip. Most of the communities we met were unaware of "conservation" or its need, they live their nomadic lives with nature, wildlife is purely part of this nature.

Talking with communities on the Kenya-Somali border which is porous and open, in Somalia turtles are commercially harvested, wildlife meat is openly sold in the villages and markets, yet 10kms into Kenya we have the luxury of Kenya Wildlife Service and a national ethic of conservation. Kenya's wildlife is lucky and flourishing in comparison to our Northern neighbours.

This trip has reinforced in the strongest way just how important, real and focused conservation is. How it needs time and continuity, political support and community participation. Conservation does not just happen, it is not just game guards and aeroplanes; it is a clear recognition of what the issues are and a vision to focus on the details behind these challenges.

The role of commerce and tourism are key in this whole process but secondary to the establishment of clear focused conservation. We can talk of being "sustainable" and even self funded, however the responsibility we hold as "conservationists" is to moving rhino into new safe areas, helping establish new community conservation areas, supporting those that promote them, share knowledge and lessons learned over time with others in this field. We need to work closely with communities to establish a climate where commerce can venture, wildlife flourish and communities benefit.

I am proud to state I feel strongly that our Conservancy promotes all of these elements and that we are clearly on the "right track" in the philosophy that we promote.

The rhino that we have cared for are being moved to new areas, the communities with whom we work are sharing their thinking with other Kenyans. The cross pollination of ideas stemming from Lewa's vision is simply good for Kenya and good for wildlife, without the combined efforts of all behind this philosophy Northern Kenya's rhino and Grevy's zebra would be in a much poorer state and many communities less able to benefit from wildlife.

Thank you for your role in making this possible, our achievements are meaningful, innovative and making a significant difference.



Lorian Swamp August 2006



Our Tana River camp August 2006

Ian Craig – Executive Director

Wildlife and Security

Lewa's white rhino – Past and present

In the last LWC news letter of April 2006, I outlined Lewa's black rhino, past and present. In this issue the focus is on white rhino.

Although not indigenous to Kenya, several white rhino have been introduced to various conservation areas over the years. They have all come from South Africa, apart from one male that came from California for a film shoot in Kenya. Some came by air and some by sea. The first to step foot on Kenyan soil was in 1966 where six animals were given to Meru National Park as a gift from Natal Parks Board in South Africa.

Today, Kenya's white rhino population stands at 235 animals, being located in both National Parks and on privately owned land.

White rhino have played a very important role in paving the way for the development of new rhino sanctuaries, be they State owned or private, in that the animals have been used as a measure and yard stick for security reasons. So if an area has secured white rhino for a given amount of time then this same area is generally deemed secure enough to hold the far more endangered black rhino. In comparison to black rhino, white rhino tend to be less shy making them easier to approach, track and follow movements, and this in turn makes them more vulnerable to poaching. They are a good indicator whether the area concerned is safe and could successfully hold black rhino without losses to poachers. In recent years, the re-introduction of initially white rhino and subsequently black rhino into Meru National Park is an excellent example of this tactic.

Lewa has played a key role in Kenya's white rhino conservation efforts over the last 22 years where it has helped to stock new rhino sanctuaries on land that is State, privately and community owned. The summary below shows Lewa's white rhino statistics – past and present.

Introductions: The first two in 1984 and three in 1988. A further ten (five from Natal Parks, South Africa) were brought in between 1993 and 1995. During this time territories and interaction between the white rhino were established and the population increased dramatically. A further six were introduced (from Solio Game Reserve, Kenya) to bring in new blood in late 2004 and finally one baby orphaned male was bought in to be hand reared in 2005, bringing the total introductions into Lewa to 22 animals.

Births: The first two births occurred in 1988 and since then Lewa has enjoyed a total of 41 births, with nearly 80% of them taking place in the last ten years.

Deaths: Since inception there have been twelve fatalities on Lewa through various causes, and although highly undesirable, the fact remains that accidents, fighting, falling over cliffs and still born calves do unfortunately occur.

Translocations out: 16 white rhino have been moved out of Lewa to help stock National Parks, community owned conservancies as well as rhino sanctuaries in their infancy. All these outbound translocations have occurred in the last six years. Lewa has been contracted to move white rhino on several occasions, such as moving four rhino from Solio to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary in Uganda in 2005. Lewa regularly partners KWS in rhino capture operations across Kenya and a strong working relationship has evolved with KWS Veterinary and Capture Unit as a result.

Today's population: Lewa presently holds 34 white rhino, having just moved out five animals (on a custodianship basis) in the last month to Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Laikipia, to whom Lewa is a partner. Lewa's white rhino structure is shown in the table below:

Age class	Male	Female	unsexed	Total
Calves	4	3	2	9
Sub adults	5	5	-	10
Adults	7	8	-	15
Total	16	16	2	34

The sex ratio is now better balanced, since the removal of four males to Ol Pejeta, and is presently one male to one female. The average inter-calving interval is a healthy 2.5 years and the present biological growth rate is just over 5%.

Finally, although Lewa is very proud of the fact that no rhino have been poached within its boundary, we must continue, at all times, to assume a vigilant guard over our rhino. The threat to rhino in Kenya is very real, it is serious, it is present day and recent history has shown this.

Richard Moller – Director of Operations (r.moller@lewa.org)



Mokora – The Sole Survivor

Mokora (Swahili for “naughty”) is an adult male white rhino who was born in Meru National Park in 1973. His mother, Matama, came to Meru Park in 1966 from South Africa along with another five rhino as a gift to Kenya from Natal Parks Board, as an initial trial to introduce white rhino to Kenya.

In 1984 a male captive white rhino was flown into Kenya from California, to star in the film “Sheena Queen of the Jungle” being filmed at the time. The animal was released in Meru Park and Mokora moved out to Lewa in exchange. Breeding in Meru had been slow over the years and it was thought that the Californian male would do better than Mokora! Unfortunately



he did not get a chance as he died not long after from Trypanosomiasis (Sleeping Sickness from Tsetse Fly), by not having any immunity to this sickness.

Mokora can count himself a very, very lucky rhino to have been moved, in the “nick of time”, to Lewa. In 1987, his mother along with all the remaining white rhino in Meru Park were wiped out by armed bandits. If he had still been there it is a certainty that he would have fallen the same way. He is the sole survivor of the original Meru Park white rhino population.

He was the first white rhino to step foot onto Lewa soil and remained a resident here for 17 years. He established his home range

as the territorial male around the Lewa Safari Camp and was a regular visitor to the camp lawns where he won the hearts of many Lewa visitors. During this time he also won the hearts of several female white rhino in the vicinity and sired over ten calves. Over time, the male calves he fathered reached maturity and started to dominate him in a number of severe fights and it was only a matter of time before serious injury occurred. At the same time as Meru Park was paving the way to re-introduce both black and white rhino back into the Park Mokora became the ideal candidate to set a precedent to re-stock Meru Park.

In March 2001, Mokora achieved yet another “first” by being the first white rhino to be moved back to Meru Park, his former home, following 17 years at Lewa. He went on to win several more female white rhino hearts in Meru and is now father to another three calves. In just five years and following introductions and births within the park starting with Mokora, Meru National Park can boast a population of 38 white rhino and 21 black rhino. If there ever was a white rhino Ambassador from Lewa, it was Mokora!

Ironically, the first black rhino to be moved back into Meru Park also came from Lewa. Kelele, a male, was moved on 22nd March 2003 and he too, like Mokora, paved the way for a further introduction of 20 black rhino in February 2006.

Richard Moller – Director of Operations



Overview

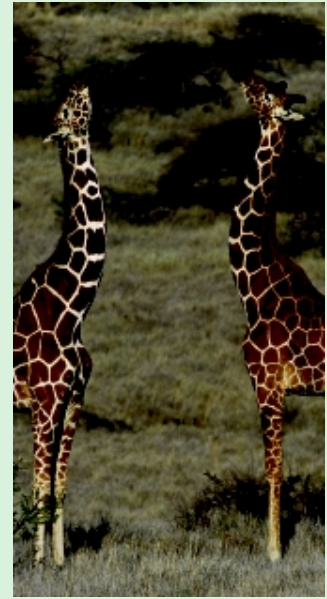
The management of the Conservancy has taken a major turn over the past year following the introduction of a formal management plan and linkage to the budget development process.

It was identified late in 2005 that our process of developing the budget was somewhat back to front and the activities very loosely linked to what the board wanted us to do! As a result we asked Derek Potter to come up from South Africa in order to mentor us through the production of a management plan. This plan took the mission statement as well as direction from the board and then developed a series of outputs and activities which would be required to achieve the aim. It is of course these activities which we identified which cost the money and lead to the budget (monitor wildlife, replace equipment, maintain infrastructure, pay salaries, assist communities, etc). We presented the results of this process in the form of the Management Plan 06-07 to the board in March for their endorsement (we included this year because they had not seen it before in this form!). The board made some minor changes and endorsed the plan.

For the past four months we have now been putting figures to the activities and by forecasting as best we can our income (unfortunately quite an inexact science). It is vital that I do present a “balanced” budget to the board in October in order that they can have some confidence that we can produce what they would like achieved – and from where the money is coming! Almost inevitably there is a gap between our plans and our activities and as I write we are going through the somewhat painful process of pairing back some activities, if possible moving them “below the line” such that they are not in the core budget but on the “radar screen” as projects to be funded if the chance and donors can be found.

It is believed that through this process we have developed a robust and tight programme of activities which can stand scrutiny and follow a logical process to ensure that Lewa continues to be an efficient leader in wildlife conservation, and of course attract the necessary funding!

David Parkinson – Deputy Director (d.parkinson@lewa.org)



A stand-off between two male giraffe

Finance

In late 2005, Lewa embarked on the process of changing from Sage to Pastel Accounting systems which has the capability to integrate personnel, stores, deal with multi-currency reporting and handle consolidation. This process is now complete and this has tremendously improved our way of doing things by ensuring financial reports are available on a more timely basis. To attain further efficiency we have this year (2006) acquired Roadbase Management system that will handle our growing fleet of vehicles, manage inventories and fixed assets, run the stores on an online-realtime basis and interface with Pastel seamlessly. Once fully implemented, we envisage a reduction in transaction processing time and higher accuracy.

Donor funding has continued to play a very significant role in enabling Lewa to carry out its broad reaching activities. In 2007, the total donor funding is projected to be 60% of the total recurrent budget. This is a decline from the 70% contribution in 2006. Lewa continues to be forever grateful for the tremendous goodwill and support received from local and international donors.

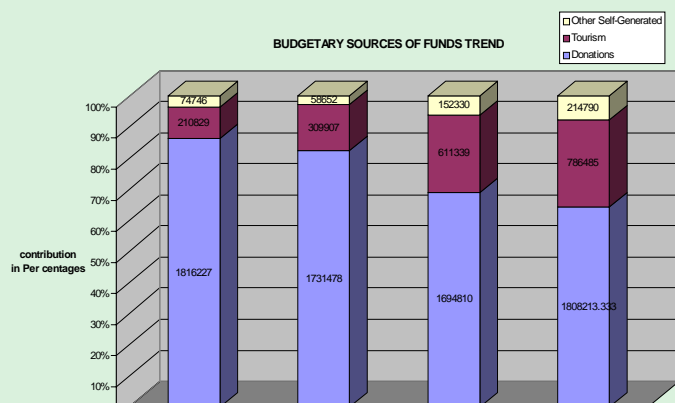
The formation of Lewa Enterprises in 2005 provided much needed direction to the Lewa’s tourism activities, with a

mandate of enhancing tourism’s contribution to conservation. The contribution from Tourism to our recurrent budget is targeted to increase from 25% (2006) to 33% in 2007. The medium to long-term agenda is to raise this contribution to 50% by the year 2008. We are enhancing the products on offer and engaging in niche marketing to raise the profile of our product to the target market.

Since September 11, Lewa embarked on a funds diversification strategy for its sources of funds. As depicted on the chart, this strategy is working well with donations having stabilized at 1800K, tourism revenue is expected to jump to 800K and other income to hit the all time high of US\$ 215K. Clearly the reliance on donors has gone down from the all time high of

90% (2004) to 64% anticipated for year 2007. The emerging trend towards more sustainability is dependent on the growth of our Enterprise Division with a fully fledged board and management team. Indeed, the focus is to achieve 50% contribution to our budget by the year 2008.

Isaac Njagi – Finance Manager (injagi@lewa.org)



Lewa Overseas

On 1st of June 2006 Hugh Crossley, Alex Rhodes, Thomas Vanstraubensee and Jessica Craig gathered up their friends, teamed up with Tusk Trust and Sarah James of Tim Best Travel and hosted a hugely successful and fun evening at the Kensington Roof Gardens in London, which was generously donated for the event.

The 550 tickets were sold out in 5 days!

The event was held in aid of two causes: Tim Best Travel's Safaricom Marathon team were raising funds alongside Hugh Crossley's efforts for the Ol Pejeta community with his "Cricket in the Wild" team. The organisational abilities of Olly Finding brought together music from The Black Voices, "Charity Black Jack" by Ladbrokes and a few African cocktails (not to forget Tusker of course) helping to raise over \$144,000 for the two charities. The star Auction prize, a trip to help capture rhino for Ol Pejeta went for an amazing \$27,000 (doubled up thanks to Tom Kaplan's offer to match all funds raised on the night!), however the most unexpected success was the spontaneous sale of two charming beaded Warthogs, made by a Samburu women's group, that raised an astonishing \$1,440!

All the organisers are so grateful for the enthusiastic support of conservation from London's youthful generation.

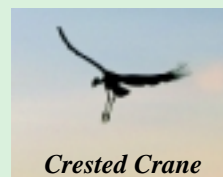
In April, Lady Holmes hosted an evening at Wardour Castle which raised £3000 for Lewa's general operating costs, quite accomplishment considering all the guests were new to Lewa. We thank Mary for all her enthusiasm in organising this wonderful evening.

The Lewa dinner is scheduled for 15 November at the Clothmaker's Hall. Please come and book through Tusk Trust at charlie@tusk.org

Lewa USA held a retreat in May which clearly defined the active partnership between Lewa USA and Lewa Kenya and demonstrated the board's strong support for LWC's general operations and the replication of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy model. One major decision of the retreat was to employ a Director of Development to coordinate fund-raising activities and travel and raise the profile of Lewa USA. Ian's annual fund-raising visit is taking shape with venues the length and breadth of the States – a trip which will keep Richard and Ian moving! Our most heartfelt thanks to everyone who has so kindly offered to host them and promote LWC's work! Finally, Lewa USA is delighted to announce that they will welcome Suzie Fehsenfeld of Indianapolis, IN and Judy Derse of Oconomowoc, WI as new trustees in October.

Canada is developing well with the addition of Lynne Adams to the team – a volunteer administrator who will do much to relieve the workload of Alexandra Montgomery and the rest of the board. We are pleased that this October Ian and Jane are adding Calgary to the venues in Canada and well as further opportunities in Toronto at the Zoo and with Upper Canada College.

If you would like any more information on Lewa Overseas please contact Alexandra Dixon on Alexandramdixon@aol.com



Crested Crane

Lewa Education Trust

A success story - Joses Muthomi Muthamia.

Lewa Education Trust started in 1996. From a humble background, I joined Ntugi primary school in the environs of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy for my primary education. After completing primary education and having performed well, Lewa awarded me a bursary to cover my secondary education since my parent could not support me. When I qualified to join university, I was already focused on developing a career in environmental conservation thanks to interactions with Lewa on environmental conservation issues. However, the greatest challenge was how to raise fees for university course considering that my parent depended on peasantry and the area is prone to recurrent droughts. Luckily, Lewa extended the bursary, which was initially secondary education to cover tertiary education and I was awarded a scholarship to study Environmental Science degree at Kenyatta University.

Lewa scholarship covered fees and subsistence hence I could concentrate well in studies. They also allowed me to undertake my internship in the Research Department and this helped me build my career further. My interactions with Lewa staff during this period inspired me to work hard and further my studies beyond a Bachelor's degree. I successfully completed my undergraduate studies in the year 2004 and graduated with a first class honours.

Currently I'm undertaking a Master of Environmental studies degree under Lewa Education Trust Bursary. It has been a great honour for me to get these scholarships that have enabled me get this far. To Lewa Education Trust and all those who have inspired me to get this far, I say thank you very much. You've really made me great and I would like to reciprocate to somebody else in future. Long live Lewa.

Joses Muthomi Muthamia (B. Env. Sci, M. Env. S.), Kenyatta University





Leaving no-one in doubt as to whose territory this is!

The three male cheetah who have dominated the cheetah world on Lewa for five years are back together again after one went missing. Tracks revealing that he was wounded and dragging himself along, and the failure of the other two to find him pointed to a pessimistic outcome. The distressed sound of this sibling repeatedly calling for him could be heard across Lewa. Finally, days later and to everyone's huge relief, he reappeared with the other two cheetah with nothing but a heavy limp. We are glad to report that he has now made a full recovery.

Another interesting, if disturbing, piece of cheetah behaviour from our three males was witnessed by a group of visitors on Lewa who came across them playing with something.

Nearby was a young female desperately trying

to intervene but being kept away by the others. To the guests' horror they realized that the object they were playing with was the female cheetah's cub. We are unsure why they exhibited this behaviour, but it is likely that they recognised the cub, the offspring of a clearly young and inexperienced female, as not being theirs. Possibly the cub had been left by its mother while she went off to hunt, and been stumbled across by the three males. Sadly the cub did not survive, but the female remained with them and within a few days they were seen to be mating.

Lewa Research

In the last six months, the Lewa Research Department continued with its noble mission of long term monitoring and assessment of the population performance of key wildlife species and habitats. Knowledge on population dynamics, intra and inter-specific interaction of wildlife species, their interrelationship with elements of weather and primary production are among the key ingredients of any wildlife conservation and management initiative.

The annual grass assessment aimed at determining rangeland condition was completed. Several blocks with moribund and unpalatable grass were identified. These blocks will be subjected to prescribed burning. The preferred option will be to apply cool burns since such fires causes minimal damage to woody vegetation, promotes instantaneous coppicing and regeneration of palatable grass. Similarly, low biomass of grass is maintained for considerable longer periods.

Determining the performance, survival and recruitment rates of Grevy's zebra continued through the monthly foal patrols. This entailed digital identification of all mares and their foals using mark-recapture technique on a computerized database. Recruitment of foals into yearlings and juveniles implies that their vulnerability to predation becomes minimal and hence their contribution to the long term viability of Grevy's zebra population in general. At the moment, about 90% of all Grevy's zebra on Lewa have been catalogued in this database. Just like our fingerprints, nature has provided natural bar codes that are used to identify individual Grey's zebra.

In collaboration with the Security Department, we continued to track the collared lions and determining the prey hair content in the scat of predators.

In terms of partnership, with funding from Marwell Preservative Trust, a new research complex was constructed. The facility with two-twin bedrooms, an office and dining area, a field laboratory and a separate kitchen, is beautifully set on an acacia woodland near the Lewa headquarters. The complex will accommodate local and overseas graduate students while undertaking research of exceptional conservation value in northern Kenya. Similarly, the Department entered into collaboration with Mpala Research Centre with an aim of facilitating usage of long term wildlife and ecological data and ensuring that research and monitoring activities on Lewa adequately address the Conservancy's management objectives.

Geoffrey Chege – Head of Research and Monitoring (chege@lewa.org)

Lewa Community



*Laikipia East MP Hon. Kiunjuri receiving
Bed lockers for Nanyuki hospital*

More support to healthcare

As the population increases in the region, the few health facilities face high pressure as many people place a demand on the meagre medical services. Due to this it has become a concern on how to improve the infrastructure in the local hospitals and clinics. This year, out of the Safaricom Marathon funds the healthcare in the region received a financial boost of Kshs1 million. This was divided to the three district hospitals; Meru, Isiolo, and Nanyuki as well as the Nanyuki Cottage Hospital. The money was used to purchase equipment such as trolleys, surgical kits, bed lockers, microscope, and other medical equipment. Most of the communities living around Lewa Wildlife Conservancy utilize our clinic and the referral cases are received in these three district hospitals.

Managing water shortage in the communities

Water is a scarce resource in the country which is why Lewa's efforts to ensure there is clean water for the household remains part of our implied mission. This year the Leparua community, which borders Lewa to the north, benefited from a project which will see water captured, stored and piped to the community clinic, school and the community livestock. Moreover, the project will benefit more than 500 families to access clean water for domestic use. This has also been a precursor for the communities to participate in environmental conservation and managing the existing meager natural resources and but one example of three completed and five other projects "in the pipeline".

John Kinoti – Community Development Manager (communities@lewa.org)

Lewa Enterprises

Since joining Lewa Enterprises last June, I have had the busiest period of my life. Lewa Enterprises manages all earning activities in the conservancy, which mainly are:

- ⌋ Income from Conservancy Fees paid by visitors to LWC (staying in our venues or in surrounding lodges)
- ⌋ Income from lodging in our different venues:
 - Lewa Safari Camp
 - Lewa House
 - Kifaru (donor's house)
 - Our 4 campsites
- ⌋ Income from our Shop
- ⌋ Income from Filming

Lewa Enterprises consists of over 80 highly qualified and motivated employees. We all work as a team to offer our guests the best experience of their lives, and to ensure that they leave Lewa wanting to contribute to the conservation of African Wildlife.

All profits generated by Lewa Enterprises go to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. This means we often have to walk the fine line between two conflicting goals: maximizing our profits (i.e. our contribution to LWC), and minimizing the negative impact on the conservancy while providing an amazing experience to our guests.

Our long term goals at Lewa Enterprises are very ambitious. We want wildlife to help pay its way, indeed "all the way" so LWC is not so dependent on donors' money. We plan to contribute at least half of LWC's budget by 2008. In order to be able to do this, we have committed to a major re-haul of our tourism venues and a redesign of our activities menu. By doing this, our guests will be able to continue seeing Lewa as the best wilderness in East Africa.

Since the beginning of the year until the end of July, Lewa Enterprises has produced 3,000 bednights, and our occupancy rates keep on increasing. It is our goal this year to be able to contribute over \$550,000 to LWC in profits even after financing most of the renewal of our facilities.

Josep Oriol – Managing Director, Lewa Enterprises (bookings@lewa.org)



The Lewa House pool

Lewa Logistics

Recently I have been trying to get my head around what Logistics actually does for Lewa. It's a broad term and it is difficult to define the exact description but here goes: Logistics is the largest service provider to the operations of Lewa. There is no department here which can operate without logistical support. It provides all mechanical and infrastructure requirements to Lewa, its building, repairing and maintaining, as well as all private individuals living within, and all community projects with whom we are involved.

Logistics is sub divided into three smaller departments:

- Workshops oversee all vehicle, plant and machinery operations and maintenance. This means a large capable workshop for servicing and repairs, a welding bay for metal fabrication, a large fleet of vehicles to provide transport to all departments and trucks for large material transport, tractors and graders for road, fence and construction work.
- Works manages all construction, maintenance of infrastructure and water supply. There are teams of plumbers, carpenters, thatchers, electricians, groundsmen, builders and maintenance personnel. There are over 14,000 square meters of buildings on Lewa which keeps everyone busy on maintenance especially as all are thatched. Almost all outside community projects requiring construction are either undertaken by Works or at least overseen.
- Stores handle all materials required for Lewa operations. Also most community projects draw fuel and rations. Every project undertaken by Lewa uses materials supplied by the Stores. For the first half of last year the average turnover was \$80,000 per month.

Since the last newsletter, Logistics has started or completed the following:

- Upgraded housing for NRT at Kalama Conservancy HQ
- Built a nurses house at Leparua
- Constructed a water project to supply piped water to Leparua community
- Built a dam and fitted a water wheel to provide piped water to Mkuu Springs community
- Built a camp in the Safaricom village.
- Built two classroom at Subwuiga School
- Il Ngwesi refurbishment
- Archers Post School Dormitory for girls
- A new generator house for the Social Hall
- A stores office extension
- Begun a new 9 room housing block at the airstrip
- Begun installation of a fleet management system with bar coding for the Stores.
- Improved the facilities and contributed to the Lewa Marathon
- Upgraded and wired the Mobile Security camp
- Rewired half of the Deputy Directors house
- Repaired the Mlima Hewa water tank for the Safari Camp water supply
- Started a lodge construction project at Sera which is being filmed by the BBC
- Rebuilt and adapted several vehicles for tourism activities.
- Refurbished the airfield.



Mkuu water project under construction

To achieve all these activities, we are fortunate to have an extremely well trained and motivated workforce; without them, life would be a lot more difficult.

Simon Dugdale – Logistics Manager (simon@lewa.org)



Northern Rangelands Trust

US Ambassador Launches NRT



Former US Ambassador Mark Bellamy and Regional Head of USAID, Steve Haykin

Held at the Kalama Conservancy headquarters on 30th May, the US Ambassador, Mark Bellamy, accompanied by the Director of USAID Kenya, Steven Haykin and his staff attended an official launching ceremony of NRT. This event was in recognition of a newly awarded grant by USAID to NRT. The launch was attended by members of the NRT Board, local MPs and County Council representatives from Samburu, Laikipia, Isiolo and Marsabit as well as over two hundred local people from Kalama and West Gate Conservancies. Following a guided tour of the Kalama Headquarters and formal speeches local women's groups honoured the Ambassador with traditional dance and song. The substantial grant to NRT is over two years and will significantly contribute to strengthening the organisation and its ability to support community conservancies in Northern Kenya.

Sera in the spotlight

The Sera Wildlife Conservancy also received the US Ambassador during the same visit. On this occasion the US Ambassador officially dedicated the Sera headquarters, unveiling a plaque acknowledging the support of USAID with its three year grant to Sera (currently midway through implementation), Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, NRT and Fauna & Flora International – the latter institution provided initial seed money to kick start the Sera Conservancy back in 2002. Again the Ambassador and his entourage were greeted with songs, dances and gifts. The Ambassador in his closing speech commended the communities involved with Sera for their vision and commitment in securing this pristine wilderness and restoring security. The visit ended with an amazing lunch under the doum palms on the Kauro lugga. Sitting there with the Ambassador, his colleagues and other VIP's it was amazing to think that less than five years ago one couldn't have stepped into the area without the constant threat of shifta. This clearly shows how wildlife conservation areas can be regained and restored.

The growing recognition of Sera as a key wildlife asset in Northern Kenya has been further underscored with the imminent arrival of the BBC. Having done a number of reccies to investigate possible locations for a forthcoming programme the BBC quickly saw the unique attraction of Sera and decided to have its prime location there. Filming started in mid August 2006 and will document a group of British volunteers with TV personalities Nick Knowles (known for his popular DIY programmes) and Ken Hames (a bush survival expert) constructing a small two bedroom guest house near the Sera headquarters – this facility will be used by visiting donors and researchers as well as NRT and Lewa staff when working in the area. In addition to the construction project the film team will rehabilitate a nearby well which will provide essential water for livestock from communities in the west, thereby minimising the need to range their livestock into the designated core conservation area of Sera. One of the highlights of the filming will be the translocation of six giraffe from Lewa to Sera. This is a precursor to a much larger translocation to restock Sera with game planned for early 2007. The current activities around the film are being funded through the BBC, Tusk Trust and Born Free Foundation. Filming will take place over a six week period with the 15 programmes scheduled to be aired the UK in January 2007.



A new conservancy is born

James Munyugi spent one week in June in Ngaroni/Sessia area mobilising the members of five group ranches on two administrative locations (with a population of about 10,000 people) to form one conservancy as an institution. The members of the Ngaroni and Sessia group ranches had started conservation efforts a little earlier under the Endangered Species Programme with the recruitment of six Grevy's zebra monitoring scouts. During James' recent fieldwork there was a greater focus on Ntirimini and Ilpus group ranches, and on the final day all the five group ranches gathered together at Ilpus and after a long brainstorming session the members agreed to establish one conservancy which they named Meibae meaning consensus or agreed conservancy. The members subsequently elected a 25 member committee, 5 representing each group ranch. Plans are now in place to provide training to the committee and to begin more intensive conservation activities in Meibae.

Latest Tourism Developments...

In tandem with its support to training, security and infrastructure developments in conservancies in the North, NRT continues to promote tourism investment to deliver community revenues to underpin conservation efforts. In the latest development NRT assisted in brokering a tourism deal between Westgate Community Conservancy and Tamimi Kenya Limited – a safari operation to manage a tented camp located near Samburu National Reserve. This agreement is an important step in securing long-term financing towards the conservancy, which could be augmented by a similar deal further upstream of Easo Ngiri within the core conservation area of the conservancy. In addition to this, NRT is working with Kalama Community Conservancy on a significant tourism development potentially involving a major East African safari company. Hopefully this exciting initiative can be reported finalised in the next newsletter!

Matt Rice - NRT Director of Operations (matt.rice@lewa.org)



Safaricom Marathon 2006

Records all round at Safaricom Marathon

For one week-end a year, Lewa camp site resembles something more akin to a tented city at an international pop festival, when it plays host to the annual Safaricom Marathon and has to struggle to



Elvis the orphan rhino running in the Safaricom Marathon 2006!

accommodate the huge influx of runners and their supporters from all over the world. This unique fundraising event was established seven years ago by Lewa and the UK's Tusk Trust to raise funds for the Conservancy and a wide range of community, education, and healthcare projects throughout Kenya.

The 2006 event was a huge success and produced record funds and entries, as well as some outstanding performances! Over 750 runners took part, although it is fair to say that the majority opted to complete just the half marathon on this hilly course around the conservancy – still regarded as one of the ten toughest in the world!

Olympic Silver Medallist and former World Record Holder Catherine Ndereba was on sparkling form, winning the women's half marathon in a new course record time - 1hr 17mins 52secs, which was almost 4 minutes faster than she ran in 2003. Indeed course records were also broken in the full marathon in both the men's and women's events. Hot weather and a dusty course did not make for easy conditions, yet Albert Matebor knocked over a minute off the record set in 2005 by international Daniel Yego, with a time of 2hrs 21mins 13secs. The 26-year-old Matebor, from Eldoret, looks set to become the latest model off the production line of great Kenyan marathon runners!

Possibly the most outstanding performance was that of Irene Mugaka, who won the women's marathon. The 20-year-old Kisii girl knocked no less than eight minutes off the 2005 record, running the 26-miles in 2hrs 45mins 56secs. She was ten minutes in front of last year's winner, Judy Kariuki, who came in second!

Safaricom Marathon cont'd

For the first time, the half marathon took the form of a team race and attracted more than fifty teams from some of Kenya's leading companies, as well as over a hundred overseas runners. World marathon record-holder Paul Tergat, who was recovering from injury, treated the race as a training run and 'jogged' round in 1hr 26mins, almost 20 minutes behind the winner, Joseph Mwaniki, and seven minutes behind the blind double Para-Olympic Gold Medallist, Henry Wanyoike.

Safaricom's Chief Executive, Michael Joseph, was delighted with the participation of so many domestic and international corporate teams, which contributed to the record amount of \$200,000 (profit) raised by the event this year. Tusk and Lewa are hugely grateful to Safaricom for their continued commitment to the race and their staff for their extraordinary fundraising efforts each year.

Charlie Mayhew – Tusk Trust



A huge thank you to Rob and Mona Merrick for taking the most wonderful photos for Lewa in the past two years.

Without your photos we would not have had the stunning front covers for the two latest newsletters.

Thank you!

Human Resources

The LWC HR department strives to develop and implement human resource management policies, systems, procedures and/or tools that ensure that LWC can attract, motivate, and retain an optimal mix of human capital to enable it to deliver fully on its mission and objectives. Lewa currently employs about 340 employees, a majority of whom are from the immediate surrounding communities hence improving the economic status of families surrounding the Conservancy. Approximately 1500 people benefit from the earnings of our staff. We are currently in the process of negotiating for terms and conditions of employment for 2006 – 2007 with the recognised union.

*Lucy Ndirangu HR Manager
(Lucy@lewa.org)*

Lewa Personalities



Daniel Kasoo was employed in June 1995 as an Armed Ranger. On 05/09/2000, a bandit shot him in the thigh as he pursued them. He has since recovered and went on to join the tour guiding team where he is the Senior Guide.



Johnson Ngila joined LWC in May 2003 as an Archeological Guide and changed to Tour Guiding in December 2004. He was bitten on the foot by a hyena in August 2005 but has now fully recovered and is now working as a guide for Lewa Safari Camp.

Lewa's Mission Statement

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy works as a catalyst for the conservation of wildlife and its habitat. It does this through the protection and management of species, the initiation and support of community conservation and development programmes, and the education of neighbouring areas in the value of wildlife.

Lewa Kenya

Joanne Machira
P.O Box 10607
00100 Nairobi
joanne@lewa.org

Lewa UK

Alexandra Dixon
2 Clifton Gardens
London W9 1DT
alexandramdixon@aol.com

Lewa USA

Helen Christian
P.O Box 368
Marshall, VA 20116
lewausa@hughes.net

Lewa Canada

Lynne Adams
14 Roan Drive,
Whitby,
Ontario, L1P 1L5
lynne_adams27@hotmail.com

Lewa Austria

Mag. Gabriella Dixon
Wohllebengasse 7
1040 Wien
gabriella.dixon@utanet.at

Lewa Switzerland

Monica Luethy,
Nigglistrasse 27
CH 5200 Brugg
lewa@magreb.ch

Photo credits; Robert Merrick, Richard Moller, Anna Parkinson, Tim Jackson, Barney Groom and John Kinoti

For more information about Lewa visit our website: www.lewa.org