

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Newsletter No.20 October 2005

Last month an elephant rescue operation took place which really brought home to me clearly the whole spirit of Lewa. It reflects how a partnership between so many different people throughout the world can contribute to saving an individual elephant's life.

The story started with a vague report through a community radio of an elephant stuck somewhere in a pit. Following it back to the source of the message we discovered the poor animal was stuck in a pit latrine on an old farm on Mt Kenya. Within half an hour a team was on the road in the Veterinary vehicle given to LWC by The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). The supercub given by the American Association of Zoo Keepers was air borne to get a team to the animal as fast as possible.



On arrival we found a young bull that had fallen down a pit latrine with no chance of getting himself out. Normally this situation would result in the destruction of the animal in the most humane manner, however clearly this was our very last option. The first call was to the Kenya Wildlife Service Veterinary department to seek their advice as to how the animal could be tranquilized without being completely immobilized when it would collapse and drown. Based on this advice he was lightly tranquilized. By now there was great interest within the community nearby and a kind hearted farmer offered his very aged tractor to pull the elephant out of the pit. Through the generosity of Zurich Zoo we had some wonderfully strong and broad crane straps capable of carrying up to five tons, these we managed to pass under the animal and with our old tractor pouring smoke and oil into the atmosphere we managed to tow him to freedom. He was totally exhausted and took several hours to recover, but once rested he was up and away.



This successful rescue was only possible thanks to a combination of many different people from all over the world yet all working for a clear and common cause. He and many other animals simply would not be with us if this partnership did not exist. I thank all who provide such dedicated and unwavering support to this cause and how in our own way we have all been able to give this poor old Elephant a new chance of life..

Thank You

Ian Craig - Executive Director



Wildlife and Security

International rhino move

In early 2005, Yvonne Verkaik of Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary in Uganda contracted Lewa to capture and move four white rhino, from Solio Game Reserve in Kenya to Ziwa, Uganda.

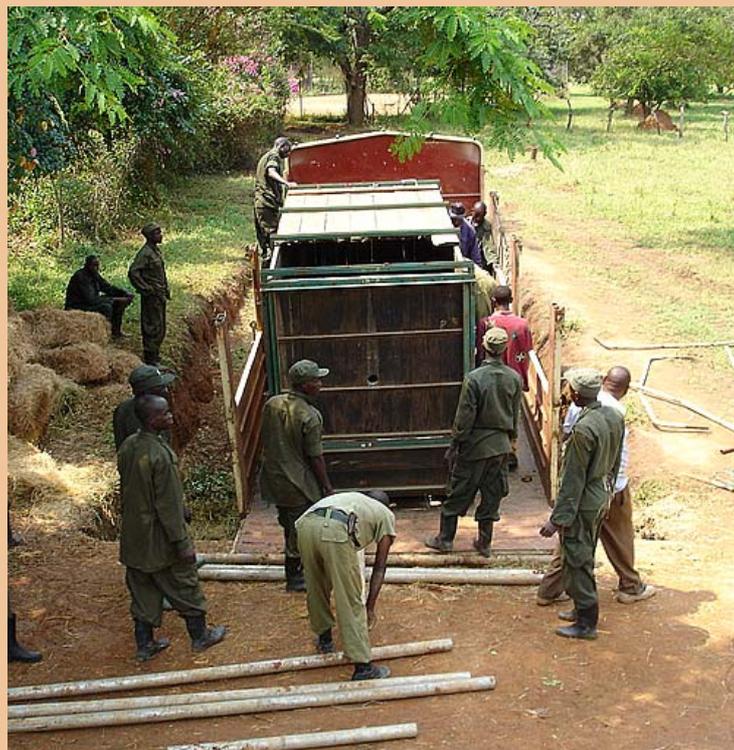
The first phase took place on February 17th and 18th, in a joint capture operation between Kenya Wildlife Service and the Lewa capture team, when all four rhino (two males and two females) were captured and moved to the Solio holding pens. The plan was to hold them for eight weeks in a holding pen (or boma), let them fully settle down in captivity and “boma train” them before the long journey to Uganda. Boma training is habituating the rhinos and enticing them into their transport crates with food so that when they are reloaded for the long journey the need for immobilizing them again is reduced. Without this boma training period, the rhinos could become dangerously stressed during transit and seriously injure themselves. The animals settled down very quickly, under the watchful eye of Ed Parfet, the Solio Manager, and were soon being hand fed in their respective rhino crates.

The second phase (also known as the frustrating phase!) turned out to be a long bureaucratic process of obtaining the relevant documentation necessary for a cross border wildlife translocation of this nature. Patience was the essence, to say the least, and after a five month wait, approvals eventually came through and plans for the final phase could now be implemented.

Now, trying to lure four rhino into four separate crates from one big holding pen is no simple maneuver. There ensued some interesting moments, trying to close steel grids/poles behind feeding rhino in the crates all at the same time! We would succeed with one or two at the same time, but not all four. Finally the solution of using a very low dose of Etorphine (M99) immobilizer on two animals that were not “playing game” remained our only option. This method is known as “walking” the semi drugged rhino into the crate and at the same time waving a pale colored cloth in front of the rhino to give it a direction to aim at. This system worked amazingly well.

At 4.00pm on the 18th July the convoy of four trucks (each with one rhino) and two support vehicles set off for the Malaba border town between Kenya and Uganda some 500 kilometers away. The journey was long and cold, especially going over the Londiani and Molo area that reaches an altitude of just over 9,000 feet, but the rhino behaved flawlessly throughout. At 4.30am the convoy reached Malaba in drizzling rain only to find a queue of lorries and trucks over a mile long. There were matatus and trucks hooting horns, people shouting and whistling with inquisitiveness at our freight, and all the things that wildlife in transit just do not need. To cap it all, the mosquitoes were particularly ferocious and enjoyed us as we waited for customs and immigration to open their offices at 8.00am.

By 10.00am we had cleared the Kenya side with no real problems and our spirits were high as we entered Uganda. As hour after hour frustratingly passed by, with this official wanting this stamp and that official wanting that signature and all officials being very official, by 3.00pm tempers were wearing thin. Lack of sleep and worrying about the welfare of the rhino was also contributing to a potentially disastrous situation. Finally at 4.30pm, 12 hours after entering Malaba, we were given the go ahead to proceed. The remaining 250 kilometers to Kampala and the final stretch to Ziwa, 200 kilometers beyond went well, however over some interesting grades of road. Exhaustion from lack of sleep began to play tricks on the mind and one started to see extraordinary objects in the middle of the road at night from non existent Police checks to fence posts to elephants, walls, lorries, road blocks and so on, until finally and unbelievably the “Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary” sign post. It was 2.00am, and the team had been on the move for 34 hours, not including the full day spent at Solio loading up the rhino.

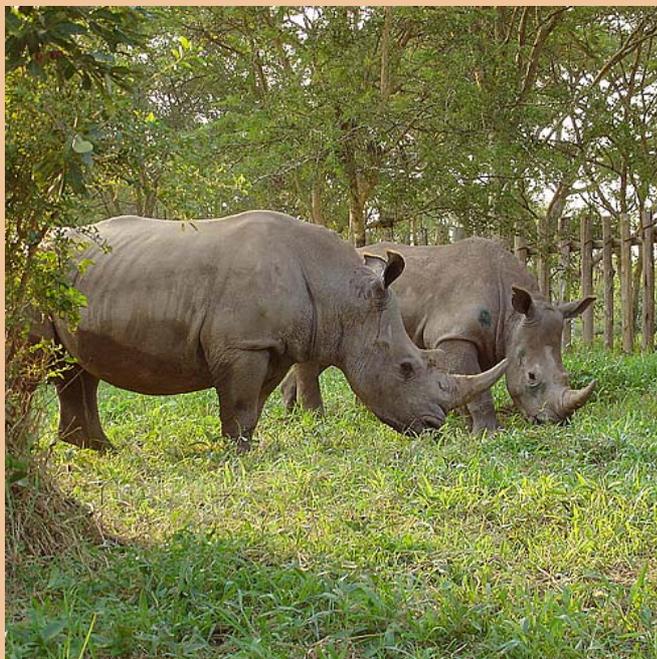


Rhinos being off-loaded in Uganda

The move was well worth the effort, when the four white rhino stepped onto Ugandan soil the following morning into pens with lush green grass that they immediately took to. They had completed this marathon journey without any problems and had behaved impeccably. Maybe their over stay in their holding pens at Solio was beneficial and that acted to calm them down to such a level to enable a relatively stress free journey. All Yvonne's tireless efforts over the last three years have now paid off and she has a core population of four rhino and is already starting the process of moving another 12 rhino in the future to boost this core group.

Our entire team contributed greatly to the success of this move. We have learnt much from this exercise and I am sure, next time round, things will be even smoother.

Rhinos inspecting thier new boma.



Elephant stuck in a tree!

Recently, a very unusual call came into the Lewa Ops room from one of our field security teams, saying they have found a young elephant stuck in a tree? As you can imagine I just had to see with my own eyes to believe it, although of course I did not doubt the security team's message!

Sure enough there was a year old elephant literally stuck in the fork of a tree, albeit at ground level. Two strong branches growing close together from ground level, forming a V-shape, had simply trapped the elephant around his waist and hips as he tried to move between them, making his escape impossible. Efforts were made to try and lift him from behind, but to no avail. We attempted to cut one tree with a chain-saw, but he was frantically moving his hind legs and trunk and we abandoned this plan before any injury occurred to him. Finally, a rope was tied high on one of the trees from a vehicle and pulled, allowing the trees to be pried apart, which in turn freed the elephant.

He tripped over once but was straight back on his feet and then gave the vehicle a strong and vocal charge before turning on the nearby security team, who had not yet found a suitable tree to climb! Knowing his parent family group was only one kilometer away down the valley, the security men ran in front of the charging baby elephant, in an attempt to draw him that way. This worked well and before long he was re-united with his family members once again.

How his mother was not able to lift him out of this strange predicament is still a mystery, as there was plenty of signs and spore to show that his family group had visited him at his tree for at least two days. To add to his luck, no lion or hyena had found him stuck in the tree!

*Richard Moller - Security/
Wildlife Manager*



Tourism



Elephants on Lewa



Dam dinner



Lewa Safari Camp sitting room

Responsible tourism

A safari on Lewa provides extraordinary game viewing, comfort, many varied activities, and also a chance to witness and participate in a successfully working conservation program. All profits generated by tourism are fully and immediately reinvested in one of Lewa's environmental, social, educational or health projects.

Lewa owns and operates three lodges, each of them with different characteristics: Lewa House, Kifaru and Lewa Safari Camp.

Lewa Safari Camp is a luxurious tented camp, with 26 beds distributed in 12 tents, all with ensuite bathroom.

Lewa House is an exclusive house. That means that when you book, the house is all yours and there will be no other guests around. The

house has six bedrooms and can accommodate up to 12 people simultaneously, and it comes fully staffed. Lewa House has been recently portrayed in Marie Clare, the NY Times Travel Supplement and the KoreanW Magazine. Kifaru is our donors' house. It has six chalets and, as Lewa House, it is booked on an exclusive basis. Kifaru is considered one of the most luxurious houses in East Africa and was cover of the Tatler Interior magazine early in 2005.

All lodges have their own private swimming pool.

Besides the amazing wildlife, our guests can see and enjoy one of the oldest hand-axes sites in Africa, amazing waterfalls, bush dinners, picnics, sundowners at the top of one of the hills, massages and aromatherapy, guided walks, night game-drives, horse and camel rides, visit to cultural bomas or to any of the many projects supported by Lewa such as schools and water projects etc.

Gustavo D. Romano Oliviera



Lewa Safari Camp tent

Lewa Wilderness

The main house at Lewa Wilderness was completely rebuilt during April and May, also one new room was completed, just in time for the start of June when we began a very busy season. This does mean that we have more rooms and are gradually improving the standards of all our rooms to reflect the requirements of our guests.

Lewa Wilderness has been managed this season by a graduate from the Lewa Education Trust, Esta Kagure, who has done a magnificent job and in September she returns to University to complete a master's degree in Tourism.

Kitonga Lipan has been her assistant and the management and guests are very grateful for their efforts. Kitonga is also from the local community and so it is very exciting to see the local people starting to manage the facilities at Wilderness.

Will Craig

Lewa Enterprises

Lewa Enterprise started operating on July 1st 2005. The department was created to manage all commercial activities at Lewa, including Lewa Safari Camp, Lewa House, Kifaru, the three camp sites, Anna's House, the two shops, conservancy fees, commercial agreements with third parties, and contact with travel agents and tour operators. Its creation was a decision of the LWC Kenyan board, so that all non donor-related revenue sources would be managed with a greater business focus.

Lewa Enterprise has its own board – currently composed by Giles Davis, Ian Craig, Tim Hobbs and Michael Joseph. All its profits are directly and immediately reverted to LWC. It was set up and run for the first two months by Gustavo Romano, on loan from Lewa UK. In its first month of operation it generated a net profit of US\$215,000, which represented 417% above the target for the same period and already 36% above the revenues expected for the whole year

2005 has been an extremely successful year for tourism at Lewa. During the first eight months, occupancy rate at Lewa Safari Camp increased by 110% and at Lewa House it increased by 390% compared to the same period in 2004. The average increase in Kenya was below 30%.

Gustavo D Romano Oliveira

Responsible partner



From September 1st SafariLink will be donating US\$6 for each client the company takes to or from Lewa. SafariLink is a successful fast growing Kenyan airline with daily flights to Lewa. The agreement came after both parties realized they share the same vision of sustainable development. With its very welcome contribution, SafariLink will be supporting number of Lewa's environmental and social projects. For more information and bookings, please check www.safarilink.co.ke



Kifaru Pool



Kifaru sitting room



Riding within the Conservancy



Lewa at its best!

Lewa Community

Lewa's adjacent community grazing programme.

Lewa started the community grazing programme in the dawn of the New Year. The programme is geared towards assisting the communities adjacent to Lewa with pastures for their livestock. This has been achieved by designating grazing blocks that are both close to neighbouring communities and require grazing to reduce the biomass in the block. The programme is managed by a committee consisting of community representatives and members of Lewa's research and monitoring team. Together with Lewa management, they have developed a comprehensive set of regulations that govern the way livestock utilises these respective blocks. This has seen Lewa's relationship with the neighbourhood becoming even more cohesive. The grazing is also part of our overall grass management plan in conjunction with burning.

Leparua Clinic.

It is all good news for the Leparua community as the construction of a new clinic is underway, thanks to support from ICAP. This means that the community will no longer walk the long distances they have been walking in the past to get medical services. More than 200 families will now have access to health care within their community.

John Kinoti –Community Officer



Lewa Education Trust

The LET sponsored student database has increased this year to 108 students. They are in university, mid-level colleges and primary schools. There are 12 orphans in the programme most of whom are in primary level of education. LET has been holding seminars for the beneficiaries of the bursary programme where they were taught and counseled on HIV/AIDS, drugs and career guidance.

We have also increased the number of the schools we work with to eight: Lewa, Leparua, Munanda, Mutunyi, Ntugi, Karimba, Kanyunga and Subuiga Primary School. We hope Subuiga Primary School is going to take a population of the students currently walking across the Conservancy to Lewa School this will reduce the traffic which will end the little existing human-animal conflict. Mutunyi Primary School is receiving a donation of exercise books for the whole school.

The Adult Literacy Program has grown with a total of 200 students in all five centres. The adult learners are very enthusiastic to learn and they are giving very positive feed-back on the change brought about by being able to read and write.

Faith Riunga – Education Officer

New Tracker dogs on Lewa



Lewa has received four new Blood Hounds to replace our old tracker dogs, Sam and Punch.

The Bloodhounds were born and trained on Ol Jogi Ranch and given to Lewa. A huge thank you to Ol Jogi!

Scap and Jack has gone to Ol Pejeta Conservancy to boost thier security over there and the other two, Tash and Toffee, are left here on Lewa. The are trained on a daily basis and have already some successful follow-ups under thier belt.

Lewa Overseas

As we remind readers, the work of Lewa Kenya is dependent on the support of our donors, many of whom are resident abroad. To respond to their needs and to capitalise on the contacts, enthusiasm, and experience that they offer, we have a growing network of Lewa offices. Lewa USA remains the most substantial entity but Lewa UK has grown considerably under the chairmanship of David Walker and in collaboration with Tusk Trust. The focus here remains the Friends of Lewa programme which revolves around two events. This year Simon King talked to a large audience in London on the story of Lewa's two hand-reared cheetahs and the aftermath to his film on their early lives. There will also be a Friends of Lewa black-tie dinner at the Clothmakers Hall in London on the 19th of October. Last year this event raised 30,000 pounds which we hope to top this year –please contact Tusk Trust for tickets!

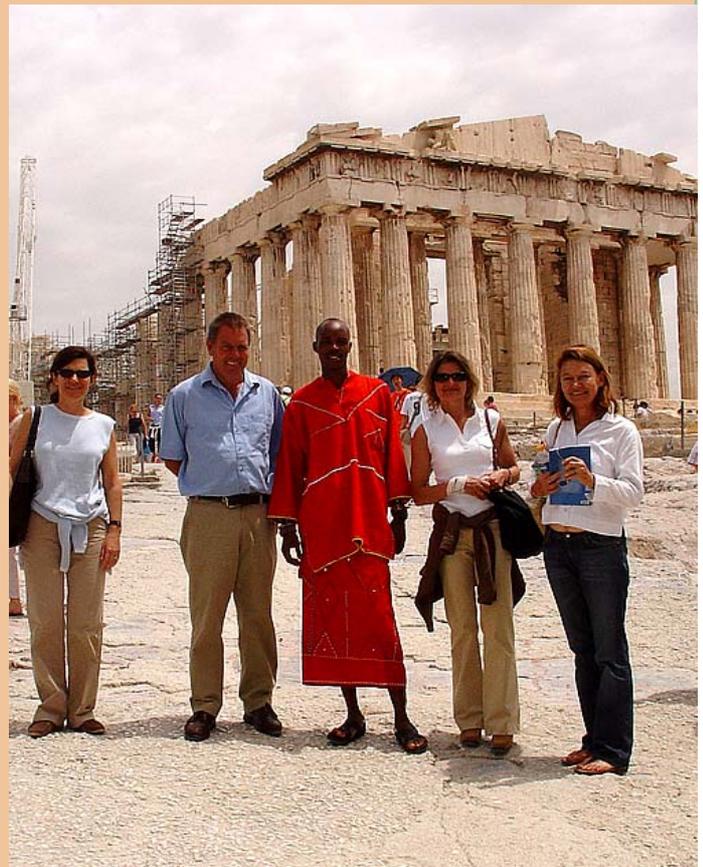
It is also exciting to report that we are now expanding the network. Lewa Canada was established as a charity this year as a result of the dedication of Alexandra Montgomery, Alexander Houston, Jason Stewart and George Yousseff. We are enormously grateful for this as Lewa has long had a special relationship with Canada through Alexandra's husband, John Cook, who sadly died two years ago. He had very much wanted to establish Lewa Canada and it is a great tribute to his memory that now it exists.

And not content with three offices, we are now expanding our efforts into continental Europe. We already receive substantial support from Switzerland and now through Gabriella Dixon, we are furthering our contacts in Austria and starting to do so in Greece. Our first objective in both cases is to get people to come and see Lewa for themselves. We think this is the best recommendation and accordingly we have had three "Austrian safaris" with a further two planned for early next year. In addition two receptions are planned as a minimum in the next few months in Austria and we are developing a series of proposals to address equipment and maintenance needs as well as an application to develop our Women's Credit Programme.

Greece is completely new territory to Lewa but thanks to the introductions and efforts of Gabriella Herberstein, her mother, Miranda Herberstein, Bessie Goess (Gabriella Dixon's mother), and others, two very successful receptions were held in Athens in Greece with Ian and Jane Craig and Jonathan Kipkorir Nteere from Il Ngwesi presenting Lewa and its greater work. Again our first aim is get people to come to Kenya, so we are hoping that the next few months will see an influx of visitors from Greece.

So far, we have raised over US\$100,000 in Austria and Greece and we hope to grow this. From my standpoint, the excitement is not just in the funds raised but in that we are expanding the number of people who have experienced Lewa and its dream and who want to be part of it all.

Alexandra Dixon - Overseas Director



The crew in Greece



Lewa Switzerland

We visited Lewa in May together with some friends and donors. It was a great pleasure for us to meet again with our sponsored orphans and to further support the clinic financially, and by bringing medicines sponsored by a Swiss pharmacy, and also a wheel chair for a paralysed lady at the Women's project.

Monica and Walter Luethy

Monica with the Lewa Clinic staff

Lewa Research

Review of the Lesser Known Populations of Grevy's Zebra in Northern Kenya

The numbers and range of Grevy's zebra have declined in the last few decades. In 1978, about 13,500 Grevy's zebra roamed the semi-arid range of northern Kenya. However, a comprehensive survey carried out in 2000 estimated about 2,500 animals. In 2004, a workshop that brought together concerned stakeholders including local communities, estimated that Grevy's zebra have further declined to between 1,567 and 1,976. However, participants in the workshop lacked updated knowledge about the numbers of Grevy's zebra that reside in the isolated northerly parts of Kenya. A rapid review was therefore necessary to provide contemporary information on the persistence of Grevy's zebra in pockets of their range and advise planners on the merits of a more comprehensive survey work as a prerequisite to conservation planning.

The expedition supported by Dutch Zoos Help Foundation through Marwell Preservation Trust was undertaken between 7th and 19th July 2005. The nine-member team in two cars followed a planned route where Grevy's zebra were likely to be encountered. In each target area, the team interviewed the local inhabitants about the presence of Grevy's zebra and their behaviour in terms of exploiting the range for food and water, their likely location, perceived threats and other wildlife species. The team later verified these reports either directly or indirectly, and assessed habitat suitability and presence of livestock.

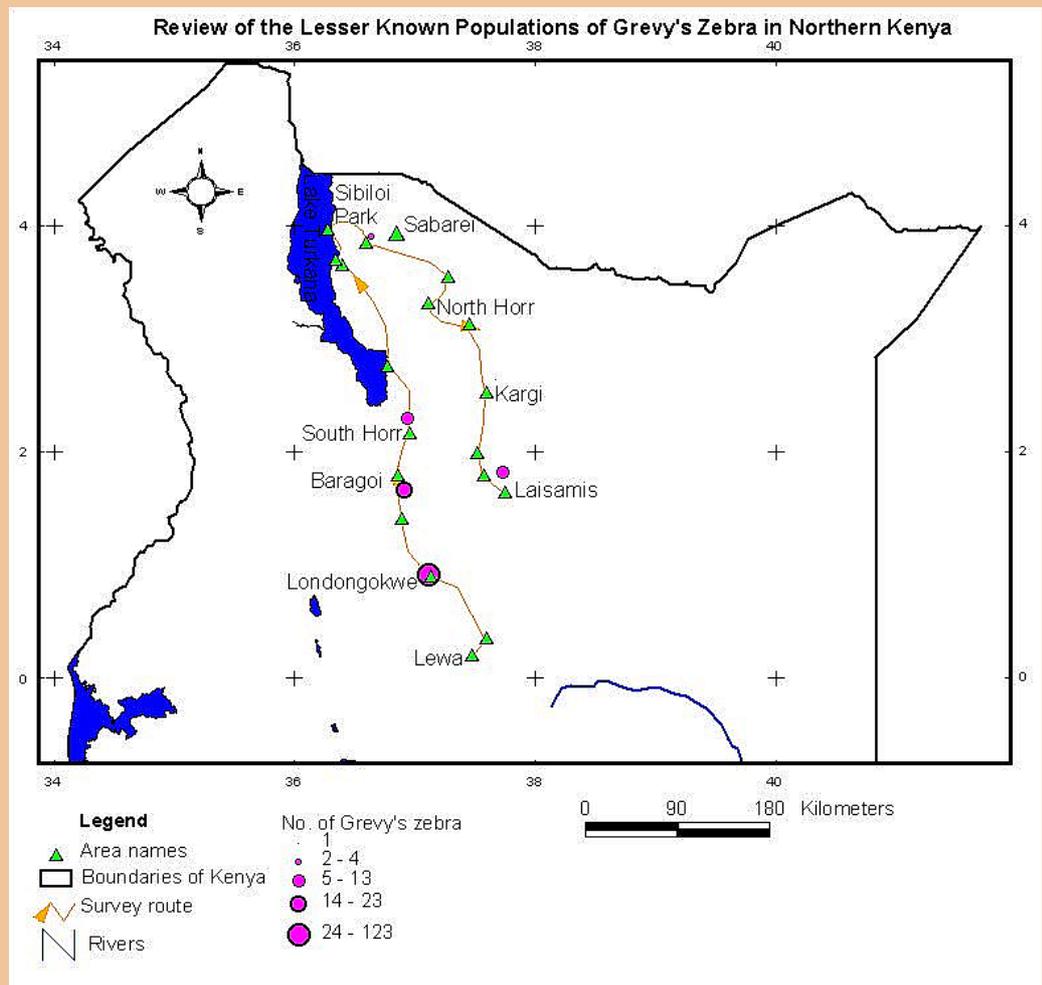
Close to 200 Grevy's zebra were individually counted in this 2,500 km long expedition. The majority of the zebras were encountered to the north west of Barsalinga near Lodongokwe. This population comprising of crèches of foals appeared to be living in harmony with livestock and the local Samburu community. Encouraging numbers were counted in Baragoi and South Horr although these populations appeared to be threatened by stiff competition from large herds of livestock and reportedly from hunting for food and traditional medicine by one community residing in the area. The least number of Grevy's zebra was encountered in areas around Sibiloi National Park. There were reportedly no Grevy's zebra in Illeret and Sabarei areas as a result of livestock and hunting pressure. Spoor of 14 Grevy's zebra were counted one morning in Karole/Kargi water hole whereas up to six animals were counted during a night watch in a water hole next to Mt Baio to the west of Laisamis.

Outcome of the review

What did we learn from this expedition?

Local knowledge largely contributed to the success of the expedition. In most of the areas surveyed, competition for food and water from livestock appeared to be the main threat facing Grevy's zebras. Hunting for food and medicinal purposes appeared to be a threat in Baragoi, Illeret and Sabarei areas. As a start, the traditional use of Grevy's zebra by communities residing in these areas and indeed the entire Grevy's zebra range is worth investigating. The sub-populations of Grevy's zebra in Sibiloi National Park, North Horr and Chalbi Desert were the most elusive and appeared to be the most isolated and vulnerable. Urgent action needs to be taken to determine their status. The Kenya Wildlife Service in the Park would be most useful in future monitoring of Grevy's zebra in the Park. There is possible connectivity of Grevy's zebra populations in Baragoi, South Horr, Mt Baio, Kargi and Laisamis areas. These areas are inhabited largely by communities that do not utilise Grevy's zebra. Therefore, there is a need to extend Grevy's zebra monitoring in these areas to determine current population sizes and trends.

Geoffrey Chege – Head of Research and Monitoring



Finance

A couple of years ago The Ford Foundation funded a Financial System study where one major recommendation was that Lewa needed to change its computerized accounting system or upgrade the same. Shortage of funds has occasioned some delays in implementing the same. In July Summer Trust gave a generous and unexpected donation some of which has been set aside to undertake this important system changeover. Effective September 1, 2005 the Sage Accounting System will be replaced by Pastel Accounting system which has the capability to integrate personnel, stores, deal with multicurrency reporting and handle consolidation. Staff training is underway and this will ensure that financial information will readily be available for decision making.

All heads of department have finalised their workplans and budgets for year 2006. The same has been consolidated and is being reviewed by the Deputy Director and Executive Director. Once the budget has been harmonized it will be forwarded to the Lewa Board of Directors for review and approval. Capital replacement plans benefited immensely this year from a one-off donation of £130,000 from ICAP. Most of these funds have been utilized for capital equipment and also construction of a clinic in Leparua Community area. Buildings and other heavy duty equipment continue to be postponed largely due to shortage of funds and other more pressing needs. This has a negative impact on our staff houses and repair of roads, airstrips, bridges among other projects.

On a positive note, tourism earnings in the current financial year have been over 50% above budget. Besides, we are seeing renewed and encouraging interest from both corporate and individual donors. The offshoot of Northern Rangeland Trust and the interest it has generated from non-traditional Lewa donors is a sure sign that conservation in the community areas has been taken to a new level and will improve the future for wildlife in these areas. This in turn will help deflate the excessive pressure on Lewa overstretched resources.

The Conservancy will continue to be forever grateful for the tremendous goodwill and support received from local and international donors. Your generosity has only challenged us to work even harder at our mission of conserving our flora and fauna in partnership with our neighbouring communities. For all our visitors, every dollar you pay has a lasting value in terms of endangered species dwindling elsewhere that are on a steady increase here in Lewa and neighbouring community areas. You can rest assured that this global heritage will be preserved for future generations.

Isaac Njagi – Finance Manager

Logistics

Lewa Logistics Department has been involved in many large scale tasks within and outside Lewa's boundaries since the last newsletter. To cope with the increasing number of projects Adrian Paul, who recently having completed the construction of Kifaru, has joined the team.

Some notable community projects include a ten km pipeline which was put in to provide water to Il Ngwesi lodge and their rhino Archers Post town water supply was overhauled and piping extended to deliver water into the previously dry area of Kalam Conservancy. At the same time we were constructing a 12 room housing block at Namunyak to provide ranger accommodation.

Back on Lewa the workshops assisted by manufacturing and fitting all the frame works, bumpers, and suspension upgrades on 10 new Landcruisers for the new Ol Pejeta Conservancy. The works department built three new senior staff houses, extended the Lewa Clinic and constructed the new Northern Rangelands Trust office to name a few projects. The maintenance team have refurbished all the staff housing and are now upgrading the communal shower blocks and washing areas in the Mbogo camp.

Transport problems have been greatly eased by increasing the vehicle fleet to cope, and now George Mwololo, the workshop foreman actually smiles at people who ask for transport assistance!

Simon Dugdale – Logistics Manager



Wildlife water pan constructed at Kalama Conservancy



Northern Rangelands Trust

The Northern Rangelands Trust is a dream come true! For the last five years, more and more community members in northern Kenya have expressed increasing desire to participate in conservation efforts through establishment of conservancies which they saw as a major opportunity for creation of job opportunities and income generation. On the other hand, the increased requests for expansion were a serious burden on Lewa due to the limited resources and the fact that this was going to be beyond her scope and mandate.

The creation of NRT, for the management team, meant getting into serious strategising, refocusing, and a reflective initiative in mapping out both human and biodiversity resource potential that existed within the NRT region. Through this process, we were able to identify NRT focus areas for the next three years restricted to ten community conservancies namely Il Ngwesi Group Ranch, Lekurruki Group Ranch, Kalama Community Conservation Area, West Gate Community Conservancy, Namunyak Wildlife Community Trust, Sera Conservation Trust, Melako Conservation Area, Naibunga Conservancy, Ltungai Trust and Ngare Ndare Forest Trust

The management team went through reflective strategising for the ten conservancies which helped in the clustering of the conservancies into five categories. The categorisation criteria that was used looked at the level of development for each of the conservancies, the level of management capability, the ability to generate income, which helped us to cluster the level of dependence on NRT. Out of this, it was discovered that Namunyak and Il Ngwesi for example only partially have dependence on NRT however Ltungai conservancy depends on NRT 100%.

The role of NRT in the propelling of this important programme will remain more facilitation and linkages for the different conservancies in proposal writing, fundraising, marketing and provision of technical expertise.

James Munyugi – NRT

Safaricom donates car to the NRT

Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) official James Munyugi (left) receives from Safaricom Foundation chairman Mr. Les Baillie (right) the keys to a new Toyota Landcruiser donated by Safaricom Foundation in aid of the recently launched trust. The NRT is a grand initiative geared at jump-starting economic development in the vast Northern Kenya region. The trust is currently spearheading external investment attraction efforts and tourism development projects in the region in an effort to diversify the current over reliance on livestock by the local communities.



Conservation Clubs

In July a three-day workshop was held by NRT at Lewa on “Training teachers and community members in the facilitation of conservation education”. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the idea of creating extra-curricular conservation clubs within eight community schools led jointly by teachers and community members. During the first year of this programme, the conservation club syllabi will be developed; in the second year teachers and community members from the selected schools will be equipped with the skills to teach children about conservation using an interactive and hands-on approach. The workshop was funded by the Saint Louis and San Diego zoos which are also providing technical support to the programme through their Education Directors together with Princeton and Moi Universities. This programme will be a platform for launching further education initiatives within the Trust area ensuring a fundamental link to conservation is maintained.

In addition to the conservation clubs, a local TV crew from Saint Louis called KMOV have committed to supporting some key elements of school infrastructure within some of the NRT membership communities. By establishing a connection between Girgir Primary at Kalama and Kirkwood middle school they hope to be able to fundraise within Saint Louis for school needs in the NRT area. KMOV were able to film some of the projects when they visited Kenya with Saint Louis Zoo.



Kim Diment Wildlife Art

Last year Kim Diment, a wildlife artist from Michigan, visited Lewa on an Artist's Safari that was led by the late Simon Combes. The idea of donating a painting of Grevy's zebra for auction to raise funds for their conservation was floated to the group and Kim jumped at the opportunity to do it. She returned this month and has spent a week studying, sketching and photographing the zebras as reference material for her painting. In order to get every possible perspective of the zebras, Kim found herself hiding inside the fork of an old fallen log while the research team gently herded the zebras towards her. However, the zebras were not about to fall for this trick and broke away at the last minute so she was left - yet again - with pictures of their resplendent rumps! The

piece will be 48" x 30" and will be auctioned at a fundraising dinner in Denver that will celebrate the 10 year anniversary of Lewa in October. A limited edition of smaller Giclee prints of the original painting will also be on sale at Lewa.

Belinda Low - Endangered Species Coordinator



Water, Water Everywhere.....?

As with most parts of the world water is becoming a major issue at Lewa and in the NRT area. In order to address the problem we are forming a Water department under Simon Dugdale (Logistics) headed by Peter Koinei. This branch will be responsible for such projects as the Mkuu Project, Rugusu, Mutonyi Kalama and Lekurruki; to say nothing of projects further north in the NRT area. The department will work closely with local water committees who are taking a much closer interest in abstraction and regulation. In this way we hope we can improve the management of the scarce resource to the benefit of communities and wildlife.

David Parkinson - Deputy Director

Safaricom Marathon 2005

Records were broken at the sixth Safaricom Marathon on 2nd July. This unique event, which is organised by Tusk Trust, in conjunction with Lewa is primarily staged as a key fundraising event to support a wide range of community development programmes, local schools, hospitals, and conservation initiatives in the area. Since the first race in 2000, the Safaricom Marathon has raised over US \$ 700,000.

This year's event attracted a record field of 650 runners from over 20 countries, including a number of world class athletes, such as World Marathon Record Holder, Paul Tergat, and Kenyan team member for the forthcoming World Championships in Helsinki, Joseph Riri.

The men's half marathon race was won by Joseph Nganga in a time of 1hr 06.52 whilst Kenyan international Joseph Riri finished second in a time of 1hr 07.05, while Paul Tergat finished in 18th spot. Paul Tergat said after the race, 'I really enjoyed running here again today. The Lewa event is unique – where else in the world can you run amongst wild animals in such a beautiful place? I was not on form, but today was more about training and raising money for the beneficiaries'

The race was flagged off by the Hon. Ayacko, Minister of Sport. Among the other VIP guests at this increasingly popular event were the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Tourism and the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.



Meanwhile the larger animals found on Lewa, such as elephant, buffalo, and rhino were kept at a safe distance by a large team of armed rangers, a helicopter and a light aircraft, which provided permanent aerial surveillance and gently shepherded them away if they began to take too

close an interest! Nevertheless many runners reported close encounters with zebra, impala and giraffe. Among the hundreds of 'fun runners' taking part were a number of corporate teams, including 50 Safaricom staff who raised a staggering Ksh 6.5 million for the good causes supported by the event. The winning corporate team was Vitacress.

This year's race raised over \$100,000. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Tusk Trust for all their fantastic support throughout the years!

Lewa Personalities



Joanne Machira
Information Officer



Anne-Marie Muchura
Manager LSC



Dorothy Karwitha
Manager Lewa House



Ruth Wanjiku
Manager Kifaru

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.

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