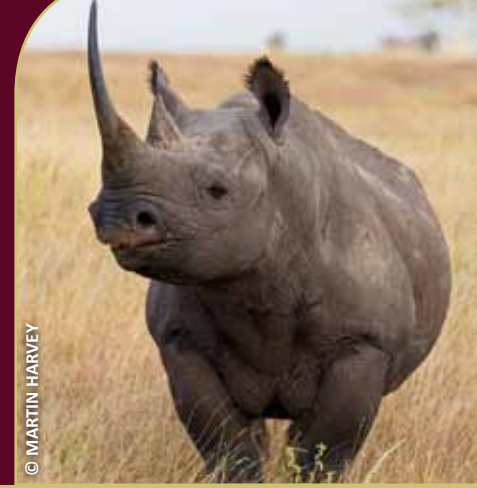




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WILDLIFE
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Lewa News



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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Historic Black Rhino Translocation: Letter from Borana

by Sam Taylor | Chief Conservation Officer, Borana Conservancy

On the 26th August 2013, a plan that had been nearly 15 years in the making finally came to fruition. Borana Conservancy opened up its gates to rhino, thus crossing the final obstacle on the journey towards fully integrated collaborative management with the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

to the survival of the species as the anti-poaching initiatives. Closer to home, Lewa's undoubted success as a rhino sanctuary has meant that their carrying capacity had been reached. Lewa needed more space if the successful breeding of black rhino in the wild is to continue.

The reasons for doing this have never been more glaring. With a national metapopulation facing one of the worst poaching epidemics in decades, the need to enhance breeding rates as a measure to combat these alarming losses is as critical

The obvious step was next door on Borana: 32,000 acres of fantastic rhino habitat with a dedicated team devoted to its protection. Under the guidance of Lewa and the Kenya Wildlife

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Black Rhino Translocation

Continued from page 1



Songa, the 7.7-year-old male from Lewa was the first black rhino to arrive on Borana. Five days later, all the 21 rhinos from Lewa and Lake Nakuru National Park had been moved in this historic translocation.

Service (KWS), Borana began to develop its infrastructure; incrementally training and equipping its security team, upgrading fencelines, and developing the systems for biological and security management needed to protect this critically endangered species.

It was a long drawn out process and there were, understandably, given the gravity of the threats facing rhino, many hoops to jump through before KWS agreed that Borana was ready. Finally a date was set and 11 candidates were carefully selected, whose age, social standing and fecundity would establish a strong breeding line on Borana. A further 10 would come from Nakuru National Park, who too were experiencing declining breeding rates due to over-population.

At 9:00 am a young male rhino, appropriately named *Songa* ("move" in Kiswahili) was captured on Lewa, and somewhat reluctantly manoeuvred into a crate where he began the hour long trip up the road to Borana. He announced his arrival in belligerent fashion, charging the KWS veterinary car before storming into thick bush, huffing and puffing. Two more males followed suit that day from Lewa, who accepted their eviction

with a little less indignation. A further three males arrived from Nakuru.

From then on it was thick and fast for a week, with Lewa animals being brought on during the day and Nakuru animals concluding their long journey late at night, or in the early hours of the morning.

The monitoring team, having all received training on Lewa, enthusiastically engaged in the task of tracking their new charges, and, such was the excitement, the conservancy radio channel rattled on permanently through the day in the manner of a call centre in Delhi!

A week later, the founder 21 rhino were all on Borana, and one or two of the new tenants had already settled down into their own areas. Though many sleepless nights lie ahead – it is difficult to describe how wonderful it is to see these incredible animals roaming Borana, much as they would have nearly a century ago.

Whilst financially it makes little sense, and in terms of stress and workload even less so, all on Borana agree this is undeniably the right thing to do. We do not see this as the newest private sanctuary in Kenya, rather an expansion of one of Kenya's oldest and most successful private conservancies: Lewa.

We are most indebted to both Lewa and KWS for their hard work, planning and guidance, not just over the translocation period but also in the years preceding it. Very importantly, both Lewa and Borana recognise that the translocation could not have taken place without the financial support provided by Symphasis through Zurich Zoo, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Fauna and Flora International, Lewa Canada, KWS, World Wildlife Fund, Paul Hopkins and Save the Rhino.

We hope that Borana can contribute to Lewa and Kenya's rhino populations in the best possible way: by giving them space to breed.

Lewa, a Case of Two Sides to a Coin?

by Mike Watson | Chief Executive Officer

Never a dull moment on Lewa and recent months have been no exception:

Local and international media declare:

- 'IUCN's World Heritage Committee announces inscription of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy as part of Mt Kenya World Heritage site'
- 'Internationally renowned Safaricom marathon held on Lewa Wildlife Conservancy'
- 'Kenya Wildlife Service and Lewa Wildlife Conservancy move 11 black rhino onto Borana Conservancy, establishing vital new habitat for rhino in the midst of a global poaching crisis'
- 'US / Chinese basketball star, Yao Ming visits Lewa'!!!

The question may be posed, 'Does Lewa contract the same PR Company as Kim Jong Un of North Korea?' 'What no bad news?'

No flippancy intended and of course the answer is no, well not yet anyway!

As all supporters of Lewa and of conservation across the broader landscape of northern Kenya will be acutely aware,

there are inevitably huge challenges to the work we undertake.

Lewa's perennial challenge of generating sufficient revenue to meet annual operating costs, inextricably linked to external influences over which we have little control continues to frustrate and as an organization we are acutely aware that we must enhance fundraising capacity and be a preferred destination in the highly competitive Kenyan tourism industry.

It has also long been acknowledged that we must look to diversify our revenue streams and it has never been clearer than now, in 2013, a year in which the world is slowly recovering from a protracted financial crisis and when national elections have resulted in reduced numbers of visitors to Kenya.

Lewa has historically demonstrated a huge capacity to meet challenges head on and turn them into opportunities and I am confident we will continue to do so.

With no 'PR spin' needed, news emanating from Lewa and from conservation work across the broader northern Kenya landscape will continue to be positive.



Mike Watson chats with Peter Knights of WildAid and international basketball star, Yao Ming. They visited Lewa on the 15th of September 2013, spending time with the orphaned baby rhinos. Yao Ming is on a fact-finding mission to Africa filming a documentary to be aired later this year.



Mike Watson took part in the colourful naming ceremony for Kilifi, the youngest black rhino calf currently being hand-raised on Lewa. The event was sponsored by the Rhino Cement Foundation and officiated by the Kaya elders of Kilifi County.



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Mitigating Human-Elephant Conflict

by Matthew Mutinda | Veterinary Officer and Geoffrey Chege | Chief Conservation Officer

An elephant consumes an average of 500kg of fodder every day. While this is sufficient to maintain the animal's massive size, in a delicate ecosystem it can lead to depletion of resources for other herbivores in a very short time. Lewa is home to approximately 200 elephants, with the number sometimes rising close to 400 depending on the season. Recognizing the vital importance of securing browse for the critically endangered black rhino, the Conservancy has fenced off certain areas, known as exclusion zones, to prevent entry of elephants and the other mega herbivore, the giraffe.

Recently, however, four elephant bulls had developed a penchant for breaking past the exclusion zones and more dangerously Lewa's main perimeter fence. This boundary fence not only deters entry of unauthorized persons but also ensures that animals do not roam outside the Conservancy and into community areas, acting as the greatest deterrent against human-wildlife conflict. The bulls' continuous damage to this fence as well as the rampant raiding of the neighbouring farms was increasingly posing danger to both human and elephant lives.

Named *Bullet*, *Right Notch*, *Javet* and *Flynn*, the pachyderms had devised various techniques to snap electric fence wires while carefully avoiding electrocution.

In order to alleviate further conflict and damage, the four were recently translocated to Meru National Park. Managed by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the park covers an area of roughly 870 km² and hosts a plethora of wildlife species. Its expansive size enables it to hold mega herbivores without depletion of resources. It also has sparsely populated neighbouring human settlements, making it an environment conducive for elephants.

The exercise was a week-long event that involved a large experienced team from KWS and Lewa. Field rangers were sent out to look for the jumbos at the onset of the first light. *Right Notch* was the first elephant to be identified and was promptly darted and immobilized. The elephant was then lifted using a crane and moved to a heavy-duty lorry that had enough space to let him move once the effects of sedation had worn off. The operation went very well and *Right Notch* was off to his new home in Meru.

Javet was the next one to be moved. His trimmed tusks and conspicuously larger size made him easy to identify. This operation was equally a success and the elephant arrived safely at Meru. Two days later, *Flynn* and *Bullet* were also translocated from Kamwaki, an area adjacent to Lewa.

« The elephants were first immobilized, then lifted using a crane and moved to a heavy-duty lorry. The translocation was very successful and all the elephants have settled well in their new environment.

Most fence breaking elephants have discovered that tusks do not conduct electricity, but trunks do! Using this clever tactic, they roll up their trunks to avoid electrocution and use the tusks to snap wires.



SECURITY

Empowering the Security Team Through Training

by John Pameri | Chief Security Officer and Edward Ndiritu | Head of Anti-Poaching Unit



Lewa's armed team during an exercise in field craft. The entire unit of 33 has received three types of training since beginning of the year, equipping them with vital anti-poaching skills.

The illegal killing of wildlife has become an increasingly sophisticated activity, receiving support from well-funded criminal gangs eager to make quick money. In order to better equip Lewa's security team with skills to combat the threat to the Conservancy's rhino population, continuous training has been carried out since beginning of the year, with majority of the rangers strengthening their existing knowledge as well as acquiring new techniques.

GENERAL SECURITY AND PATROL UNIT

61 general security and rhino patrol rangers, divided into three groups of 17-20, have so far received 10-day long training in the following:

- **Wildlife identification** - Refresher courses and new skills in rhino monitoring, tracking of wildlife, endangered and commonly occurring species identification
- **Field craft** - Rigorous practise in patrol techniques, drill, first aid and discipline as well as challenging tests in physical fitness
- **Communication** - Sensitisation on the importance of accurate and timely dissemination of information, the proper use of hand-held radios, ground to air communication and reporting procedures
- **Community relations** - The importance of enhancing the good relationship Lewa shares with its neighbours to encourage collaborative efforts in conservation

- **Law enforcement and arrest procedure** facilitated by the Kenya Police

ARMED TEAM

Lewa's armed unit, which consists of 33 Kenya Police Reservists (KPR), has received three types of training this year:

- **Annual mandatory KPR courses in April** - The entire team was trained for two weeks, polishing up their skills in range practice, physical fitness, field craft, patrol techniques, use of thermal imagery, helicopter deployment and law enforcement
- **First aid training** in May for six rangers
- **Commanders course in July** - Six corporals, their five deputies and two officers were trained in new operating techniques and leadership. They also benefitted from exchange of skills in intelligence gathering from the Kenya Wildlife Service and law enforcement procedure from the Kenya Police.

The team will have another 10 days of refresher training before end of the year. Additionally, *Tony*, one of Lewa's tracker dogs, along with his handler, has received special skills training.

This training has greatly enhanced the entire security department's ability to execute its duties in protecting Lewa's rhino population, while at the same time boosting the morale of the highly dedicated and motivated team.



Lewa's CEO, Mike Watson, and John Pameri, the Chief Security Officer, address a team from the general security and patrol unit upon completion of their training.



EDUCATION

The Realisation of a Community's Dream

by Faith Riunga | Lewa Education Programme Manager



Kip ole Polos from Il Ngwesi with Ann Bent (right) and Mollie Fager (left) during the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of Lokusero Secondary School

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Elders from Il Ngwesi pray for the success of the soon to be constructed school generously funded by Ann Bent through The Nature Conservancy



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Growing up, tour guide Kip ole Polos wanted to be a doctor. Sadly, as a young boy his desire was soon shattered. The nearest secondary school was hundreds of kilometres away, which he was only able to attend for one year before dropping out due to a lack of funding. Unlike his peers however, Kip was lucky in that he later managed to get a job at Sirikoi, one of the lodges on Lewa. So when visitor Ann Bent, impressed with Lewa's community development programmes, asked the 38-year-old guide what he thought would best benefit his community, he did not hesitate.

"We desperately need a secondary school".

Ann has since channelled a generous donation to the building of the first secondary school in Il Ngwesi through The Nature Conservancy (TNC). A site visit facilitated by the Lewa Education Programme, the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), TNC and the people of Il Ngwesi to establish a suitable location was carried out earlier this year. The team agreed to build the school next to Lokusero Primary School in Mukogodo Forest.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the construction took place on the 15th of August 2013, with the historic event attracting guests from far and wide. The Speaker of the County Assembly, the Deputy District Commissioner and the area Member of Parliament represented the government, while members of the Il Ngwesi community, including elders and primary school

children, came in huge numbers. Lewa and Il Ngwesi Community Conservancy staff were equally represented, proud to have played part in such an important occasion. Entertainment was provided by the women and children of Lokusero, all singing songs in praise of Ann and in support of education.

The most important of the guests however, sat silently at the VIP table, overwhelmed with emotion. Ann Bent and Kip, both resplendent in traditional Maasai regalia, watched what had begun as a simple idea materialize, with the realization that they had potentially changed the fate of hundreds of children.

"It was a dream come true for me. Over 95% of the people in my community are not educated and therefore end up missing out on so many opportunities. This is the beginning of a great and positive change", an elated Kip stated.

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy deeply appreciates Ann Bent's great kindness and the partnership extended by TNC, Il Ngwesi and NRT. A special thank you to Mollie Fager of TNC for accompanying Ann during the ground-breaking trip.

The construction of Lokusero Secondary School will not only help shape the future of the children of Il Ngwesi, it will also foster conservation efforts and engagement with the people of Mukogodo where elephant poaching has been rife.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Celebrating 10 Years of Women's Engagement

by John Kinoti and Purity Mwenda | The Community Development Team

"When the poorest, especially women, receive credit, they become economic actors with power. Power to improve not only their own lives, but, in a widening circle of impact, the lives of their families, their communities and their actions."
Kofi Annan, Former Secretary General of the United Nations.

This year, Lewa will celebrate 10 years of successfully running its women's micro-credit programme. The idea of forming this programme began in 2002 with 40 women from Lewa's southern boundary. Divided into two groups, the women received training in group formation, entrepreneurship, conservation, home economics and fighting poverty through income generating activities. In 2003, a revolving fund was set up to extend credit to 30 of these women, with each receiving Kshs. 5,000.

engaged in small-scale farming of onions, maize and beans as well as poultry keeping and animal husbandry.

Recently, the community development team issued loans ranging from Kshs. 10,000 to Kshs. 45,000 to over 300 women. A total of Kshs. 4.8 million was disbursed, the highest amount since inception of the programme. This represents an extremely impressive growth of over 256% every year, more than was hoped for at the onset in 2003.

The micro-credit programme has since grown to support over 800 women from all of Lewa's adjoining communities. Administered through eight active groups, this programme has provided a platform to change the lives of these rural women and a channel to share in the benefits of wildlife conservation. Most of them have used the funds to start small businesses in cereal trading, tailoring, beading and knitting. Others have

To these women, it is not just about the money. It is about gaining means to make a living, lifting themselves out of poverty and vulnerability. These women have been able to achieve economic empowerment within their homes and villages thanks to Lewa, and to a larger extent now act as ambassadors of the Conservancy.



Most of the women have used the funds from the micro-credit programme to start small businesses in cereal trading, tailoring, beading and knitting. Others have engaged in small-scale farming.

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A Maasai woman from Leparua community getting her loan approved. The programme now supports over 800 women from all of Lewa's neighbouring communities.

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SUSTAINABILITY

A Unique Black Rhino Naming Ceremony on Lewa

by Wanjiku Kinuthia | Communications and Marketing Officer

Naming ceremonies for infants are normal events in African culture. On the 24th of August however, the Kaya elders from Kenya's Mijikenda community in Kilifi county travelled hundreds of kilometres away from home for a similar albeit peculiar ceremony - the naming of a baby black rhino.

The elders were invited to carry out this unique rite by ARM Cement Company, who, as part of their corporate social responsibility, decided to adopt a rhino calf on Lewa. Recognizing the fact that rhino poaching is at an all-time high and the black rhino species is facing the threat of extinction, the cement manufacturing company had previously expressed a desire to support endangered species management on Lewa, with the naming ceremony being the first activity to launch this partnership.

Pradeep Paurana, CEO of ARM, profoundly stated the following at the onset of the occasion:

"We decided to name the baby rhino Kilifi, in honour of our first cement plant in Kilifi County. Our decision to have the Kaya officiate at the ceremony was not only geographical; these highly respected elders act as protectors of their communities' forests, ecosystems, wildlife and culture. Who better to lead a naming ceremony for a rhino whose species is facing extinction? The Kaya are a perfect example of community-led conservation that we should all emulate."



Young Kilifi kept calm as the elders 'named' him and bestowed blessings. The rhino calf was adopted by ARM Cement Company in their efforts to support black rhino conservation in Kenya.

The colourful ceremony was also graced by various dignitaries, notably the Secretary from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Richard Lesiyampe, and the political leaders of Kilifi county, His Excellency the Governor Amason Kingi and Senator Steve Mdzayo. All three reiterated the government's commitment to fighting the illegal killing of wildlife, with the

Principal Secretary promising the implementation of strict anti-poaching laws.

Lewa staff, including the CEO Mike Watson played host to the excited visitors.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY

Three-month-old Kilifi, despite being surrounded by the largest group of people since birth, kept calm as the elders placed their traditional 'kanga' on him while issuing numerous blessings. In a few minutes, his keepers walked him back to his boma with not only a new name, but with new family and friends as well.

"While back home in Kilifi, it will be great to know that we have one of our own all the way in northern Kenya

and will constantly inquire on his well-being", the governor stated in his closing remarks, reinforcing what all thought was a successful event whose symbolism cannot be overstated. In the fight to save the black rhino and other endangered species, conservationists alone cannot win the war- industries, cultural and political leaders all need to take charge in protecting Kenya's heritage.



SUSTAINABILITY

Lady Holmes - A Story of Dedication, Commitment and Love for Nature

by Ruwaydah Abdul-Rahman | Donor Relations Manager

Lady Mary Holmes is one of Lewa's most loyal and avid supporters. Growing up in the English countryside, she learnt from an early age to appreciate and love nature. She made her first trip to Africa in the early 90s and immediately fell in love with the continent's wildlife, from the majestic big five to the abundant bird species.

Her husband Peter was acquainted with the Craig family over a long time and had made several visits to Lewa, and in 2004 he brought her along on a trip. Having heard so much about the Conservancy, she was keen to learn and engage in Lewa's work. Her first impression on its success lay behind the vision and passion displayed by Ian Craig and thus began her interest, support and love for both Lewa as a landscape and a sanctuary.

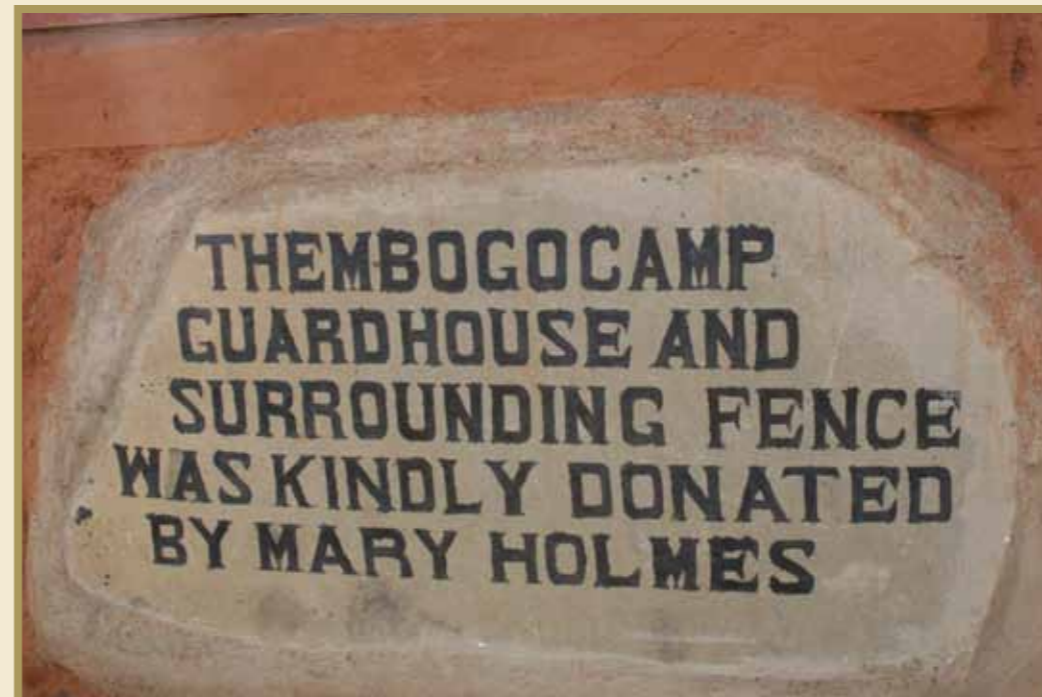
Mary recounts in her own memorable words one experience with Ian and Lewa's day-to-day activity with wildlife:

"One day an urgent call came in to Ian while I was at the house that the three cheetah brothers had attacked a young cheetah

named Toki. The brothers attacked so swiftly that the ranger watching Toki could not scare them off on time. While Ian went to pick up Toki and his ranger and bring him back to a small safe enclosure, I helped Jane disinfect a couple of rocks in the enclosure on which they would lay the cheetah, and the medical supplies to treat him. We were all very concerned but the thing that really moved me was that within a pretty short space of time, rangers from all over Lewa appeared to see what they could do and Toki's ranger spent that night lying right next to him. Luckily Toki did recover in time and was moved to Ol Pejeta. That kind of concern and dedication typifies what Lewa is about, and is why I continue to offer my support in any way that I can."

This visit crystallised Mary's commitment to Lewa. She has since visited the Conservancy many times over the years often accompanied by Alexandra Dixon, Lewa's former Overseas Director. She continues to support a range of activities mostly in the security department, providing funding for vehicles, training and infrastructure development. Lady Holmes currently sits on the Lewa UK Board and is one of its longstanding members, continuing to assist the Conservancy acquire the resources it critically needs to run its operations by hosting fundraising events.

It is with the support and passion of individuals such as Lady Holmes that Lewa continues to carry out its most important work in conservation and community development. The entire Conservancy remains eternally grateful and is looking forward to hosting Lady Holmes and her family as they make their way to Lewa once again in October this year.



Lady Holmes has donated funds for infrastructure development, including the construction of Mbogo Camp Staff Quarter's guard house and perimeter fence in 2011.



14th Safaricom Marathon: Endurance, Fun and the Perfect Engagement!



Philemon Baaru became the first runner in the marathon's history to retain his title. An elated Philemon hopes to not only win again next year, but set a new record as well!

Lekepan Perentis from Namunyak won the women's half marathon. They both took home a Netbook N150 plus Kshs. 80,000.

PHILEMON MAKES HISTORY

Philemon Baaru became the first athlete in the marathon's history to win the race for two consecutive years. An ecstatic Philemon says he owes his success to hard work and resilience and is determined to win again next year. He also hopes to set a new record. All the best Philemon!

THE PERFECT PROPOSAL...

Like most runners, when Shuying Ong set off for the 21km half-marathon, all she could think of was reaching the finishing line. Unknown to the Deutsche Bank employee, the finish line was also going to serve as ground for a life-changing event. Her boyfriend of six years, Sengjin Soh, had secretly followed her from Singapore, booked himself into a different lodge on Lewa (she was staying at Kifaru, he was at Lewa House) and was patiently waiting to pop the question upon her completion of the race.

Spectators, the media and everyone else were ecstatic and cheered on loudly when at 12:05pm Shuying appeared at the final curve of the race. After the initial shock of seeing her boyfriend settled in, Sengjin promptly went down on one knee and proposed, much to the delight of onlookers. Luckily, she said yes!

"This is my first time in Africa. I have to tell you it's the most amazing place and getting engaged here is the cherry on top of the cake", the happy bride-to-be gushed.

LEWA'S NEW HELICOPTER 'SUE' ENHANCES AERIAL SURVEILLANCE DURING THE EVENT

Lewa's new helicopter, nicknamed Sue, has helped augment Lewa's security and wildlife operations since its arrival in May. During the marathon, it greatly facilitated clearing of the course and aerial surveillance, ensuring that both the runners and wildlife were safe.

Every year in June, Lewa bursts into a flurry of activity as the 'marathon fever' engulfs the entire Conservancy. The race track is laid out, banners are put up, hundreds of tents are pitched along with so many other preparations as Lewa, Tusk Trust and Safaricom get ready to receive athletes, fitness enthusiasts, amateurs and spectators from all over the world. Declared one of the toughest races on earth, the marathon is now in its 14th year, and its appeal as an unmatched world-class sporting event continues to grow, receiving publicity across the globe.

Missed out on this year's event? Here are a few highlights:

THE PROUD WINNERS

Philemon Baaru won the men's full marathon title while Fridah Lodipa outran all the female contestants to clinch the number one position. Each winner received Kshs. 150,000 and a 32 inch LCD TV. Jackson Limo led the half marathon men's race, clocking the finish line with a personal best time of 1:06:25.



For the last 28 years, the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy has been a catalyst and model for conservation throughout East Africa. This continues to be possible today thanks to the commitment and generosity of loyal supporters.

Donations to the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy may be designated to one, or allocated between all of the following areas:

Protecting Endangered Species

Lewa is internationally recognized as one of the most successful safe havens to some of the world's most critically endangered species - the black rhino and Grevy's zebra. In order for the Lewa to continue providing safe and sustainable habitat to these species, it is extremely important that we carry on with our ongoing wildlife and veterinary operations, anti-poaching efforts, conservation education, research and wildlife monitoring activities. Support in this area goes towards purchasing drugs for wildlife treatment, rhino surveillance field teams, armed security team patrols, vehicle maintenance and habitat research, amongst many others.

Supporting Community Initiatives

Lewa's community development programmes fund and support three healthcare clinics, 18 schools in the surrounding communities, the newly introduced Conservation Education Centre, an adult literacy centre, women's micro-credit scheme, water development projects and much more. By

directing the benefits of Lewa's success in supporting our neighbouring communities, we are successfully molding responsible individuals in the community, creating awareness and enthusiasm on the importance of wildlife conservation. With your contribution we can continue to try and eradicate poverty, provide essential quality healthcare, improve access to education and create reliable employment that will provide better livelihoods for our neighbours.

Conservation Tourism

By paying us a visit at Lewa, you are making a difference in a holistic manner. Lewa provides one of the finest and most exciting safari experiences in Africa. Re-investing 100% of its tourism benefits to community projects and its core operation programmes have made Lewa an excellent model where the value of wildlife is evident. If you are planning to, or are already scheduled to visit us and would like to learn more about the Conservancy's day to day operations, kindly contact Ruwaydah Abdul-Rahman (ruwaydah.abdul@lewa.org) and we will arrange a behind-the-scenes tour for you to experience first-hand Lewa's amazing programmes in action.

Have you visited Lewa? Do you have spectacular pictures and videos from your stay? Share them with us and we will share with the rest of the world! Email: alexandra.ames@lewa.org.



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ABOUT THE LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LEWA

The Craig/Douglas family first came to Lewa Downs in 1922 and whilst the land was managed as a cattle ranch for more than half a century, the family also recognised the great importance of the wildlife living on Lewa, and engaged in wildlife tourism. In the 1980s, when the plight of the black rhino became desperate in Africa, part of the cattle ranch was converted into the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary, with the enthusiastic support and funding of co-founder and rhino conservationist, Anna Merz.

WHO WE ARE TODAY

In 1995 the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy was established as a not-for-profit organisation, and today it manages 62,000 acres that is home to over 10% of Kenya's black rhino population, over 14% of Kenya's white rhino population and the world's largest resident population of Grevy's zebra. The Conservancy is also home to over 350 species of birds and 70 species of mammals, including the 'Big Five'.

WHAT WE DO TODAY

- We monitor and protect endangered species and their habitat
- We ensure wildlife conservation generates direct benefits for neighbouring communities through our dedicated education, healthcare, enterprise and water development programmes
- We finance wildlife conservation by combining tourism with carefully focussed donor support
- We support the Kenyan Government with wildlife translocation, veterinary intervention and armed anti-poaching teams across northern Kenya

LEWA AS A CATALYST BEYOND ITS BOUNDARIES

Lewa's mission is to act as a catalyst for conservation, and its successful model combines the protection of wildlife, community development, and sustainable tourism. Acting as that model, we have helped to stimulate community-owned conservation throughout northern Kenya and beyond.

The Conservancy has been instrumental as the foundation for the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), headquartered on Lewa. NRT is an innovative partnership which works to facilitate community-led conservation initiatives in northern Kenya, promoting the collective management of ecosystems for improved human livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and enhanced rangeland management. This dynamic partnership has increased the amount of land under integrated conservation management to around two million acres, allowing wildlife to begin to migrate throughout their historical natural ranges once more.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Lewa's mission of conserving endangered wildlife, and supporting community development, has been made possible by generous supporters from all over the world.

For more information and to pledge your support, please visit us at www.lewa.org or email us at info@lewa.org.

Our Mission

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 WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY KENYA

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
Private Bag
Isiolo 60300, Kenya

t: +254 / 6431405 or
+254 / 722 203562/3
info@lewa.org

LEWA USA

Attn: Ginger Thomson
38 Miller Avenue, #507
Mill Valley, CA 94941

t: +1 / 415-627-8187
ginger@lewa.org

LEWA UK

Attn: Kathleen Crook
UK7 Abingdon Road
London W8 6AH

t: +44/ 20 7937 9435
kathleen_crook@yahoo.co.uk
UK Registered Charity
Nº: 1069800

LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY (CANADA)

283 Oriole Parkway
Toronto, Ontario
M5P 2H4

t: +1 / 416-485-3188
lewacanada@sympatico.ca

LEWA SWITZERLAND

Attn: Monica Villiger
Nigglistrasse 27
CH 5200 Brugg
Switzerland

lewa@magreb.ch

LEWA AUSTRIA

Attn: Gabriella Dixon
Wohlliebengasse 7/12a
Vienna, 1040, Austria

t: +43 / 664-337-9050
f: +43 / 1-5040747
annagabriellad@yahoo.de