



# Lewa News



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- Pg. 1 Growing Together: The Education Programme
- Pg. 3 Finally, a Greater Habitat for Lewa's Rhino!
- Pg. 4 World Acknowledged Tourism
- Pg. 5 Technology for Rhinos
- Pg. 6 Collaborating to Secure Wildlife in Northern Kenya
- Pg. 7 Spearheading Conservation Education
- Pg. 8 Expanding the Reach of Lewa's Healthcare Programme
- Pg. 9 Community Development: Facing North
- Pg. 10 A Dream for Coffee, a Boost for Conservation!
- Pg. 11 How You Can Help
- Pg. 12 About Lewa



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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Growing Together: Lewa's Education Programme

by Faith Riunga | Education Programme Manager

The past 10 years have seen the Education Programme establish itself as one of the most effective ways in which Lewa promotes development in the neighbouring areas. Its vision to provide local children with educational opportunities while forming strategic conservation partnerships with the communities continues to be realised with impressive, tangible results. Below is a timeline showcasing the growth and impact of the programme:

**2004:** The programme, existing as the Lewa Education Trust, supports five schools - Lewa, Munanda, Mutunyi, Ntugi and Leparua. It adds two more, Kanyunga and Karimba, bringing

the total number of supported primary schools to seven. This year, the bursary programme supports slightly over 50 children. The Adult Literacy Programme, initially started to promote literacy amongst Lewa staff, is expanded to include the adjoining communities. Three centres are set up for the programme.

**2005:** Subuiga Primary School is added to the list of Lewa sponsored schools. 111 bursaries are issued and the adult literacy centres are increased to five with a total of 256 students, 99% being women.

Lewa sponsors its first secondary school, Ntugi Day, to cater for

*Continued on Page 2*



# WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

## Growing Together: Education Programme

*Continued from page 1*



children from neighbouring areas that could not afford fees to attend boarding school. The school admits 51 students.

**2006:** Three more schools: Enaikishomi, Sanga and Ntalabany are included in the list of sponsored schools in recognition of the potential conservation leverage to be gained by engaging with this community.

Kenya is hit by severe drought and Lewa increases the capacity of the feeding programme to ensure that children from the sponsored schools receive meals. The feeding programme contributes tremendously to the performance of the schools and also helps retain and increase student enrollment.

The adult literacy centres increase to six.

**2007 - 2010:** The Lewa Education Trust is re-established as the Lewa Education Programme. The number of children under the Bursary Programme increases to 164. Lewa's environmental education evolves into the Conservation Education Programme and develops an engaging and exciting curriculum to teach local school children the importance of conservation. Conservation Education is given a big boost with the purchase of the Lewa Conservation Education bus that enables visiting school children to enjoy game drives on the Conservancy.

**2011:** Lewa constructs Ngare Ndare Day Secondary School to provide high school education to children living south-west of the Conservancy. 234 children benefit from Lewa's bursaries.

The total number of the sponsored schools stands at 15.

**2012 & 2013:** Lewa extends partnership to three primary schools - Ntumburi, Kilimani and Lokusero. The Conservancy also constructs the first secondary school at Lokusero to cater for children who previously had limited access to post-primary school education.

The partnerships between Lokusero and Kilimani have proven to be crucial to Lewa's conservation efforts. Lokusero is located in Mukogodo Forest, an area plagued with elephant poaching, while Kilimani is situated north of Lewa in an area often frequented by poaching gangs. Through this engagement, the communities are progressively embracing conservation. Lewa now receives anti-poaching intelligence from these communities as an act of goodwill previously considered impossible.

Lewa hosts its first Girls' Football Tournament for female students from its neighbouring primary schools.

**2014:** Lewa increases its supported schools to 20 by including Elsa School to the north of the Conservancy. Elsa is situated in an area crucial to promoting wildlife connectivity and development in northern Kenya. The total number of students in the sponsored schools now stands at slightly over 6,500. Since inception, more than 700 children have benefitted from the education bursaries.

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# \$5,400

Cost of transforming a child's life by sponsoring them through four years of secondary school.

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# FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## Finally, More Space for Lewa's Rhino!

by Mike Watson | Chief Executive Officer



Many may recall that last year, Lewa had reached its black rhino carrying capacity, with some rhino bulls already fighting for space and others being pushed into previously uninhabited territories by younger males. Basing our facts on the annual growth rate of approximately 6% per annum, this hardly came as a surprise! As a result, over the years it has become increasingly apparent that the future of Lewa's rhino relies heavily on our ability to afford them more space by removing the fence separating the Conservancy and our western neighbour Borana. Borana is prime black rhino habitat consisting of thick shrubbery, rugged terrain and plenty of natural resources.

After much deliberation and preparation, I'm extremely proud to announce that we shall now commence the removal of the six kilometre fence separating the two properties to form a 93,000 acre landscape and the largest rhino sanctuary in the country. This will ready the area to become a 'Key 1 population', as defined by the African Rhino Specialist Group, an advisory body of the IUCN, once it tops the 100 black rhino mark. This is projected to occur in the next two years - the two areas currently have a combined black rhino population of 87.

Lewa is also home to 63 white rhino and these will also benefit from the expanded habitat.

This partnership between Lewa and Borana is the first of its kind in Kenya. In readiness for this bold move, the two Conservancies have already initiated mechanisms to operate on similar platforms including coordinated deployment of the anti-poaching units, sharing of a secure digital radio communication network and maintenance of a single black rhino database known as Kifarū.

While the greatest benefit of the move will be the support offered to the enhancement of the ecological carrying capacity of black rhino on Lewa, we hope it will also ease the pressure exerted on the ecosystem by mega herbivores, notably the elephant and giraffe. Other wildlife from both areas will also gain from a greater pool of available natural resources including water and pasture.

The two organisations would like to thank all the supporters and partners, notably the Kenya Wildlife Service, who have been involved in making this landmark event possible.



# CONSERVATION TOURISM

## World Acknowledged Tourism

by Wanjiku Kinuthia | Communications Officer



Responsible tourism has, for the past decade, gained momentum at tourist destinations across the globe. Thanks to the vision of Lewa's founders, the Conservancy's tourism strategy since inception has been based on sustainable practices, promoting ecosystem management as well as beneficial community engagement.

Lewa's tourism is based on the Lewa Standard: "the ethos and attendant guiding principles serving to ensure that the Conservancy is managed to the highest standards." The Lewa Standard dictates that tourism is managed to generate significant financial contribution to conservation and community development without compromising core conservation objectives. This has, consequently, ensured that Lewa's practices:

- Are ecologically sustainable
- Contribute to the protection of the wildlife and its habitat
- Promote environmental and conservation education
- Are culturally sustainable
- Involve recreation, adventure and enjoyment.

Additionally, Lewa actively seeks to engage its visitors in various programmes, making a trip to the Conservancy more than just a regular safari adventure. Tourists are encouraged to visit the anti-poaching tracker dogs; the orphaned rhino calves;

the Lewa-sponsored schools; the water projects; and Lewa's Operations Room, among a host of other activities. These not only enhance the experience but also demonstrate the direct link between tourism, conservation and development.

It is because of this that earlier in 2014 Lewa was recognised as one of Africa's world heritage sites - and the only one from Kenya - represented at a workshop on sustainable tourism in Hongcun Village, Anhui Province, China, on the 23rd - 24th of May. Organised by UNESCO and the Zhongkun Group, the international workshop focused on the power of tourism for local economic development and the conservation of heritage values through international cooperation.

Participants showcased and shared international good practice approaches and other capacity-building tools, which promote, recognise and incentivise sustainable tourism practices and products at and around World Heritage sites, with a special focus on China and Africa.

It is expected that the outcomes of the meeting will be of considerable value to those countries that participated and others aiming to develop sustainable tourism within World Heritage sites. Further plans are in place to establish a UNESCO-run website that will feature sites with the best practises, including Lewa.



# WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

## Technology for Rhinos

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

Poaching continues to pose a great threat to rhino across their range states, placing immense pressure on those responsible for protecting these iconic pachyderms. To counter this threat, vital and dynamic proactive measures have become an absolute necessity, particularly those which facilitate intensive and precise monitoring of the animals. Technology is proving invaluable in wildlife conservation and, lately, Lewa and other organisations have started using innovations in this field to help combat poaching.

Late last year, the Conservancy began to implant GPS-GSM enabled transmitters into rhino horns in an effort to significantly improve monitoring and patrol efforts and thereby security of the animals.

The procedure is quick and painless – after the rhino is tranquilised a hole is drilled into the horn and the system placed inside. The hole is then sealed to conceal the chip. The movement of the rhino is then tracked via a Google Earth interface.



A transmitter is fitted into the horn of a sedated black rhino allowing its location and movement to be monitored 24 hours a day.

### BENEFITS OF THE TRANSMITTERS

- Ability to monitor and track individual rhinos from any location within the Conservancy. This provides Lewa's security team with a tremendous advantage. Previously,

the team relied heavily on foot patrols, which posed several challenges, not least trekking across Lewa's rugged terrain

- Regular reporting – the chips transmit signals at regular intervals, making hourly monitoring a reality
- Assisting in collecting data to establish animal behaviour and patterns.



Technology is proving increasingly valuable in ensuring the safety of Lewa's black and white rhinos, a population of over 130 animals.

### GEO-FENCING

Increasingly, GPS-GSM tracking is being combined with geo-fencing to enhance rhino protection and security.

A geo-fence is described as a predefined set of boundaries or perimeter; and the latest technology makes it possible to install custom digitised geo-fences. The chips in rhino horns are programmed to trigger an alert in the event of movement outside the geo-fence perimeter, thus facilitating swift follow-up procedures.





# SECURITY

## Collaborating to Secure Wildlife in Northern Kenya

by the Security Team



*Lewa's armed unit prepares for night patrol. The highly motivated unit will now serve under one command with the Northern Rangelands Trust's rapid reaction teams.*

The Lewa security team has, over the years, worked closely with the Northern Rangelands Trust's rapid reaction teams, assisting with crucial support through training, provision of technical expertise and in follow-up to cases of instability across the community conservancies. Historically plagued with sporadic violence and numerous cases of elephant poaching and cattle rustling, security in the areas where these community conservancies are situated has significantly improved as a result of the combined effort. Poachers have been arrested and thousands of stolen cattle, camels, sheep and goats have been recovered and returned to their owners.

This year, in order to improve general security operations across northern Kenya, Lewa and NRT's anti-poaching teams have further strengthened the operating partnership and now fall under the same command for effective coordination of both units' activities.

Edward Ndiritu, Head of the Anti-Poaching Unit at Lewa, explains:

"The benefits of centralising our operations are numerous. It is going to enhance rapid reaction to incidents as well as the flow of communication between the teams. Intelligence gathering across northern Kenya will be amplified, with both units sharing information crucial to ensuring the safety of both

the migratory elephants, Lewa's rhino population and as we look forward, the rhino population to be established in Sera Community Conservancy.

The two teams will also continue training together, as in the past, exchanging skills and learning from each other.

We welcome this move and its potential benefits in protecting the wildlife and people of northern Kenya."

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# \$425

Cost of uniform for a Lewa field ranger - boots, two trousers, two shirts and two pairs of socks. We urgently require 28 of these.

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### LEWA AS A LEARNING INSTITUTION

Frequently, the Conservancy welcomes visitors seeking to learn from its wealth of experience in wildlife conservation. In the past, the Security and Research teams have hosted guests from Kenya and beyond, including groups from South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania.

This year, the team welcomed Chiweshe Elias, the Wildlife Police Officer from the North Luangwa National Park in Zambia. North Luangwa is one of Zambia's biggest parks, home to about 25 black rhino. Chiweshe stayed on Lewa for three days and received training on security deployment, dog tracking, operation of communication channels and the importance of creating partnerships with neighbouring communities.

Other notable recent visits include Philbert M. Ngoti from Tanzania's Moru Rhino Project and teams from the Mara Elephant Project and Tsavo Trust.



# CONSERVATION EDUCATION

## Spearheading Conservation Education

by Ephantus Mugo | Conservation Education Coordinator



lectures, demonstrations and PowerPoint presentations.

During the period between June 2013 and May 2014, the CEC was able to initiate wildlife clubs in 10 Lewa-sponsored schools. The students in these clubs are now committed to environmental conservation in their schools and communities. They have taken responsibility to educate their fellow students, parents and community members on the importance of wildlife conservation.

For the past four years, close to 10,000 students and adults have visited Lewa under the programme! As a result of its appeal and engaging curriculum, it has been lauded as the best conservation education programme in northern Kenya and among the best in the country. During these visits, students get an opportunity to view Lewa's spectacular wildlife while on a game drive and later on participate in interactive sessions at the Conservation Education Centre (CEC). However, to date, these visits have been organised and planned as day trips and consequently only accessible to students living within Lewa's proximity.

### WELCOMING STUDENTS FROM FURTHER AFIELD

In 2013, Lewa raised funds for the construction of a students' dormitory to accommodate schools from areas that are further north and therefore unable to make day trips.

The dormitory's construction is now complete and is expected to start receiving groups by October, 2014.

Lewa's Conservation Education Programme (CEP) provides conservation and environmental education to visiting school groups from the Conservancy's neighbouring communities. The CEP works in conjunction with the Education Programme and targets students from northern Kenya with the ultimate goal of making Lewa more accessible to the local population, and thereby invigorates a positive attitude to conservation and environmental concerns. In the long term, the programme aspires to be a major catalyst and agent of change in conservation and environmental awareness in northern Kenya.

The Conservation Education Coordinator also visits all the Lewa-supported schools from time to time to assist them in initiating environmental activities as well as implementing a conservation education curriculum. This is done through



*Students enjoy a game drive organised by the Conservation Education Centre(CEC). With construction of the CEC dormitory complete, schools from further north will now be able to visit Lewa and engage in exciting conservation education.*



# HEALTHCARE

## Expanding the Reach of Lewa's Healthcare Programme

by Lucy Ndirangu | Human Resource Manager



*The opening of the Ntirimiti clinic that will now serve as the nearest health centre to thousands of residents in the area.*

On the 19th of March 2014, Lewa staff attended the opening ceremony of Ntirimiti Clinic, a project of the Mount Kenya Elephant Corridor. Ntirimiti lies adjacent to this corridor and over the years has had numerous cases of human-elephant conflict.

Previously in January 2012, Lewa, in partnership with the local authorities, had carried out a socio-economic survey to establish the most urgent needs of the community. The results of the survey indicated that lack of adequate healthcare was the region's greatest concern, with many having to travel lengthy distances to access medical facilities. Lewa, through its overseas outreaches, assisted in raising funds for the establishment of the Ntirimiti dispensary infrastructure. Although members of the community had attempted to pool resources to set up the dispensary, they remained in need of further financial support.

The construction of the dispensary and one staff house is now complete. The opening ceremony was graced by the Meru County Health Cabinet Secretary - William Muraa, County Chief Officer in Charge of Health - Dr. Gitonga, MoH Buuri - Dr. Kanana, as well as the local administration, residents, community elders, students and neighbouring conservation organisations. All spoke in support of wildlife conservation,

especially the importance of existing in harmony with the elephants. Lewa staff in attendance were very proud of yet another accomplishment.

The clinic is now operational and is expected to serve approximately 9,300 individuals annually. Already, it has helped improve the residents' outlook towards wildlife.



*A volunteer doctor treats patients at the clinic. The health centre has significantly contributed to the improvement of the community's attitude towards wildlife, especially elephants.*

"When I see an elephant now, I'll remember it has helped build our new clinic." An elder from Ntirimiti community commented.

### GOVERNMENT ISSUES FREE HEALTHCARE SOFTWARE

Recently, the county government of Meru donated a free health management information system to Lewa in 'appreciation and recognition of the level of commitment and health work being undertaken by the Lewa clinic in the communities and the school health programme - this bearing in mind that Lewa is not a public facility and as such has no obligation to take care of the health needs of community members and school children.'

The health management information system will improve service effectiveness and efficiency through the integration of data collection, processing and reporting.





# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Facing North

by John Kinoti and Purity Mwenda | the Community Development Team

Historically, insecurity and violence has been rife north of Lewa's boundary, making it difficult to establish a relationship with the immediate community living in the area. However, as envisioned in Lewa's Strategic Plan (2013-2018), engagement with this community is key in building wildlife connectivity and promoting development in northern Kenya. This region, referred to as the north-eastern quadrant, is nestled between Lewa's boundary and Isiolo town and has an estimated population of 7,000, mostly pastoral tribes. It is served by two perennial rivers - Isiolo and Lewa.



*This region to the north of Lewa is located in a semi-arid area served by two rivers. The rivers, including the one shown above, are the main sources of water for majority of the residents despite the water being heavily polluted.*

To ensure a well planned development and conservation strategy is put in place, Lewa undertook a socio-economic study of the area earlier on in the year. Using the random sampling method, the team from Lewa, Northern Rangelands Trust's Leparua Conservancy and local administration moved from house to house collecting data ranging from the community's most urgent needs to their current knowledge on wildlife conservation.

### RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

84% indicated their awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and were familiar with the threat that poaching

poses to rhino and elephant populations across the country, and specifically in northern Kenya. 60% of the residents are livestock herders, 27% practice subsistence farming, 10% sell charcoal and 3% harvest sand. Charcoal burning is of particular concern due to the detrimental effects it continues to have on the already semi-arid and fragile ecosystem. Clean and safe water is scarce in the community with an overwhelming majority, 71%, stating that they rely on water from the nearest river which is severely polluted.

The area has only four primary schools - Elsa, Kakili, Kambi ya Juu and Kilimani and as yet no secondary school or tertiary institution. Majority of the respondents also reported that they previously accessed healthcare from a Kenya Wildlife Service health centre which unfortunately had burned down three days prior to the survey.

Conclusively, the community prioritised its needs as follows: education, water, healthcare, security, roads improvement and lastly, governance. With this in mind, Lewa will now seek to develop a concise development and conservation plan in recognition of not only the strategic importance of the area, but of the newly expressed enthusiasm by its residents.



*The area is sparsely populated with 60% of its residents earning their income from livestock herding and 27% from subsistence farming.*



# SUSTAINABILITY

## A Dream for Coffee and a Boost for Conservation!

by Ruwaydah Abdul-Rahman | Donor Relations Manager



*Kenton Campbell, CEO of Zaraffas coffee, Australia. Kenton is as passionate about coffee as he is about endangered species conservation.*

Having been a donor, Kenton has since expanded Zaraffas' support of Lewa and community conservation by developing a partnership between Lewa and a coffee co-operative society in the neighbouring community in Meru.

When asked why the brand name 'Zaraffas' (Arabic for giraffe), he shrugs and says it is obvious that the giraffe is head and shoulders above the rest of the animals in the savannah and that is how his business model is set up. A model linking African coffee from Ethiopia and Kenya, opening the tastes of Africa to the Australian market and pushing the 'conservation message'. The brand name alone magnifies the respect and love he has for the environment, endangered species, and the need to support young businesses in their area of operations.

Kenton's passion and involvement with Lewa confirms our long held belief that there are indeed extraordinary people from all walks of life creating the change we need to save our beloved endangered species and help steer development in local communities.

**K**enton Campbell, CEO and founder of Zaraffas coffee in Australia, is well known for both his coffee industry expertise, as well as his generosity. With such a strong reputation, I was already in awe of the man before I'd even met him, though that didn't prepare me for the funny, down to earth and passionate individual I met.

Kenton first visited Lewa as part of a zoo group in the late 90s. Already passionate about conservation in Australia, staying on Lewa gave him the chance to witness community-based conservation first hand. He also saw an immediate opportunity for a connection between Lewa and coffee plantations in the neighbouring areas where he sources some of his coffee beans.

His idea was focused on the simple understanding of Lewa's model. In his own words . . ."if the local people aren't behind it, it's a lost cause. The local community needs to drive conservation in the area for it to be long-term and beneficial".



*Kenton feeds Ndito, a handraised reticulated giraffe, during his most recent visit to Lewa. His company's name, 'Zaraffas', is derived from the Arabic word for giraffe.*





# HOW YOU CAN HELP

For the last 29 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 recognised as one of the most successful safe havens to some of the world's most critically endangered species - black rhino and Grevy's zebra. In order for Lewa to continue providing safe and sustainable habitat to these species, it is extremely important that we carry on with our 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 four healthcare clinics, 20 schools in the surrounding communities, the Conservation Education Centre, an adult literacy programme, 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 into community projects and its core operation programmes has 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](mailto: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: [info@lewa.org](mailto:info@lewa.org).







# 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 61,000 acres that is home to over 11% 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 400 species of birds and 70 species of mammals, including the 'Big Five.' Lewa is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, inscribed in 2013 as an extension of the Mount Kenya World Heritage Site.

## 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](http://www.lewa.org) or email us at [info@lewa.org](mailto:info@lewa.org).

## Our Mission

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy works as a model and 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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