



**PROGRAMMATIC AND FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO  
KEEPERS.**

**Submitted By: Mike Watson**

**Mike.watson@lewa.org**

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**PROGRAMMATIC AND FINANCIAL REPORT TO AAZK FROM THE  
THE LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY RHINO CONSERVATION PROGRAMME**

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The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy remains extremely indebted for the financial support from The America Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) through the very successful Bowling for Rhino (BFR) events. AAZK has contributed a total of **US\$ 197,449.73** towards Lewa’s rhino protection and security operations over the past one year, funds that funds cumulatively make up approximately 15% of Lewa’s rhino conservation programme budget. By supporting Lewa, home to 12% and 14% of Kenya’s black and white rhino respectively, AAZK directly plays a vital role in helping ensure the survival of these endangered species.

The below report outlines how AAZK’s generous funds were put into use over the reporting period, to enable Lewa undertake its rhino conservation and security programmes through supporting armed anti-poaching units, the tracker dog unit, aerial surveillance, ranger salaries, vehicle running costs, a radio communication center and the maintenance of Lewa’s boundary fence line .

**Rhino Conservation Programme**



In 2012 alone, Lewa lost a total of **7** rhinos to poachers. The poaching threat continues to escalate and is attributed mainly to the rising demand for both rhino horn and elephant ivory. Rhino horn is now worth more per ounce than gold; this dramatic increase is the result of a variety of factors, most notably the growing purchasing power of the Middle East and Asian populations, as well as the sophistication of organized poaching gangs who sell these wildlife products to black market syndicates in range countries.

Lewa’s impressive anti-poaching track record is renowned through-out the conservation world and can be attributed to the attention to detail and constant adaptation to meet the ever growing and changing threats from poachers. Lewa strives to addresses conceivable angles of threat to its’ flagship species through the daily practice of monitoring each rhino, vigilant observation of all entry points and conservancy boundaries, round the clock maintenance of the fence line, regular aerial surveillance, and the continuous high skill training programmes of all LWC’s security forces and canine units in preparedness for any potential eventuality.

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### Kenya Police Reservists (KPR) Armed Anti-Poaching Teams

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30 members of Lewa’s 126-person security team are Kenya Police Reservists (KPR), meaning that they are trained and employed by Lewa, but are licensed to bear arms by the Kenyan government and may legally respond to incidents of instability or violence throughout the region. Lewa currently has its teams deployed on a daily basis to different locations to eradicate predictability of the coverage of the Conservancy. Many of the poaching incidents experienced on Lewa in 2012 - 2013 have been successful partly due to collaboration between the poachers and some rogue employees and/or former employees. The anti-poaching units are positioned throughout the Conservancy at any given time, with one team based at headquarters as an immediate response unit, ready to deploy 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The recently approved 8 new KPR officers will allow for greater flexibility, both in responding to incidents and in day-to-day organization of the teams activities and whereabouts.

Aside from their constant monitoring and regular responses to incidents on and off the Conservancy, Lewa’s KPR teams are always upgrading and improving their operations and training. A training regime that encompasses new training skills and refresher courses has been put in place where each member of the KPR teams receives basic medical training and one person on each team attends an advance field-medical course in case of serious injuries. The teams now carry medical kits with bandages, tunicates and other necessary supplies. Their uniforms have also been upgraded to include insulating base-layers and gloves to protect against the high-elevation bitter cold night time temperatures they at times experience.

The total cost over the reporting to effectively run the mobile KPR armed teams, including salaries, rations, medical, uniforms and allowances was **USD\$ 79,153**.

## Tracker Dog Unit

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Over the years, Lewa has developed a good reputation for its canine unit. This impressive team is regularly called upon by the Kenyan government to assist in a wide range of situations that require quick responses and scent tracking.

The team is now made up of four blood-hounds, Tasha, Toffee, Tony and Tiva. All four dogs are very well trained and continue to follow a daily regimen to keep them fit, alert and motivated. Tasha and Toffee have served on Lewa's security team for over a decade and are in the process of handing the reins over to Tony and Tiva. After retirement, Tasha and Toffee will move to a good home with one of Lewa's nearby families. From January to early August 2013, Lewa's tracker dog team has been used in a total of **26** security follow-ups and has provided invaluable assistance to many important situations arising within the conservancy and the boundaries contiguous to it.

The total cost to operate the four tracker dogs and their handlers over the reporting period was **USD\$ 10,758**

## Aerial Back-up

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Lewa's aerial surveillance continues to play a key role in all operations, supporting not just Lewa's security operations, but also partner organizations. The LWC Super Cub acts as back-up to security related follow-ups to Lewa and other conservation partners nearby such as Ol Pejeta, Ol Jogi and other Northern Rangeland Trust member conservancies.



Recently, the super-cub has been particularly useful in conducting follow up to poaching incidents, stock-theft and road banditry. The aircraft is also an invaluable resource in locating missing rhino and spotting wildlife during the annual game count. Lewa’s wildlife and security teams aim to locate every individual rhino each day and any lengthy disappearances sometimes are indicate sickness or undiscovered poaching. This sets off all staff on high-alert. However, often, rhinos change territory due to emergence of young males who chase away the old ones or due to scarcity of pasture that is on the increase on Lewa as the Conservancy has reached its black ecological carrying capacity and needs to move some of these rhinos urgently. The ability to carry out aerial surveillance is one of Lewa’s most important tools in protecting the rhino populations and combating insecurity. Without this tool, it would be impossible to provide the current high-level of wildlife protection and security responses that we currently enjoy.

Lewa recently acquired a MD 530 Helicopter which will greatly enhance response to the overwhelming poaching threat within the region, ease capture activities as well as facilitate more accurate game counts.

Over the reporting period, the total cost of operating the LWC Super Cub aircraft was **USD\$ 27,982**



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### Ranger Salaries

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Lewa’s rhino monitoring team is made up of **42** rangers that carefully monitor specific regions or “blocks” of the Conservancy. Recently in response to the escalating poaching threats, the Conservancy

has restructured its 18 blocks and reduced them to nine to increase the number of rangers in each block to four. This has ensured that the team now has a bigger presence and can conduct round the clock security on Lewa’s rhino population. The rangers radio back to Lewa's operations room to report on the location of each rhino, as well as any unusual signs of human behavior or entry into the Conservancy. In previous years the block system was made up of 18 blocks, but the system has been adjusted to maximize efficiency and increase the daily protection of each animal.

Lewa’s rangers are carefully trained and equipped to track the rhinos day and night. Using binoculars, they can identify each of the animals in their block based on age, ear-notching pattern, sex and behavior. In cases where the ranger teams are unable to locate an individual animal after three days, extra personnel are deployed in and around that rhino’s usual range area. If the animal is still not found an aerial search is conducted, checking every corner of the Conservancy until it has been located.

The total cost to operate 42 rhino surveillance rangers patrolling the “blocks”, 21 gate guards, 11 night watchmen, two armory guards, five dog handlers, six radio operators, two wildlife capture men, and two orphaned animal handlers for this reporting period is **USD\$ 198,465**

### Security Vehicles

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The LWC security team has three main vehicles, one for regular rhino monitoring and the other two for the armed KPR teams. Additionally, the fence maintenance team has one tractor and a motorbike to transport personnel and materials to areas of the fence in need of repair.

As a result of the increased poaching threat, the security vehicles are driven round the clock, to monitor every member of LWC’s rhino population. This level of mileage and overall wear and tear from constant usage on difficult terrain has taken a toll on these vehicles. While the Lewa workshop has done an excellent job of keeping these vehicles running safely and consistently, they will eventually need to be replaced.

AAZK's funding was used to support the running of these vehicles in 2013, total cost coming to **USD\$ 13,780**.

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### **Radio Operation Room Communication Costs**

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Lewa's radio room is the linchpin of the Conservancy's security operations, providing a central point of communication for the entire region. Lewa's impressive communication unit manages all aircraft coming in and out of Lewa, as well as maintaining records of each rhino's specific movements. Most importantly, the communications' team plays a vital role in the community, where anyone can call in with tips of potential poaching plans or other threats. Through its radio communication LWC has been able to relay messages accurately and coordinate effective interventions for many security occurrences.

AAZK funding contributes to the costs of radio repairs, purchase of spare batteries, staff salaries and radio licensing. In 2013 the radio communications operation and intelligence network operations on LWC cost **USD \$ 11,463**.

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### **Boundary Fence Maintenance**

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As drought continues to plague the region, LWC has increased its focus on minimizing human-wildlife conflict. In an effort to mitigate these problems we have been upgrading our boundary fence line to a predator-proof fence.

It is important to keep LWC's boundary fence well maintained to ensure the wildlife within our boundaries are safe and neighbouring community farmlands are not destroyed by wildlife. Proper fence maintenance leads to good community relations. Furthermore, due to increased threats from poachers, LWC has set up an additional security outpost which will significantly increase security on our southern border. Constant repairs and maintenance to the 147 kilometer boundary fence line are carried out on a daily basis. The fence department is manned by 24 fencers, including a trained repair team of four men.

The cost towards repair and the maintenance of the fence line inclusive of salaries, material costs, fuel, vehicle repair, and maintenance in 2012 amounted to **USD\$ 29,904**.

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### **Total Expenditure towards Rhino Conservation Programmes**

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Under the LWC core rhino conservation operating budget costs that came to US\$ 1.01m for the reporting period, AAZK contributed significantly by donating **US\$ 197,449.73** towards this figure. These costs reflect the core function of LWC day to day work that specifically focuses on rhino conservation. AAZK's long term and continuous funding makes it a vital contributor to the success of LWC in its conservation initiatives. We are indebted by the support AAZK has been contributing to Lewa over the years; you have not only been partners but grown to be part and parcel of Lewa fraternity.

We are very pleased to be able to continue hosting the BFR annual winner's trip and also the honorary BFR winner's trip to LWC. It is fantastic to see the commitment of BFR members and we look forward to working with you long into the future.

We at LWC are grateful to AAZK and BFR for their continuous support.





**Financial Report for Period, July 2012 to June 2013**  
**Lewa Wildlife Conservancy**  
**Submitted to American Association Of Zoo Keepers Bowling for Rhinos Program**

**Income**

Funds received from AAZK BFR on 11 <sup>th</sup> August 2012	\$ 30,000
Funds received from AAZK BFR on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2012	\$ 30,000
Funds received from AAZK BFR on 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2012	\$ 30,000
Funds received from AAZK BFR to November 2013	\$30,000
Funds received from AAZK BFR to December 2013	\$33,095
Funds received from AAZK BFR to March 2014	\$43,708
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$196,804</b>

**Expenditure**

AAZK contribution to salaries for KPR Anti-Poaching Team	<b>\$41,250</b>
AAZK contribution to boundary fence maintenance	<b>\$15,584</b>
AAZK contribution to Dog Section operational expenses	<b>\$5,607</b>
AAZK contribution to operating expenses for aerial Back-Up	<b>\$14,583</b>
AAZK contribution to LWC rangers salaries	<b>\$103,427</b>
AAZK contribution to Motor Vehicle running expenses	<b>\$7,601</b>
AAZK contribution to radio communication expenses	<b>\$8,751</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$196,804</b>

**Balance** **Nil**

**Note: AAZK contributed 49% of the total Rhino protection expenses incurred during the period**

**The total Expenditure incurred by LWC on Rhino protection during the period is as follows:**

KPR Anti-Poaching Team	\$65,864
Dog Section	\$13,677
	\$26,562
Aerial Back-Up-Super Cub	\$206,784
Ranger Salary	
Boundary Fence	\$59,108
Motor Vehicle Running Cost	\$14,288
Radio Communication	\$10,459
<b><u>Total Expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>\$396,743</u></b>

