

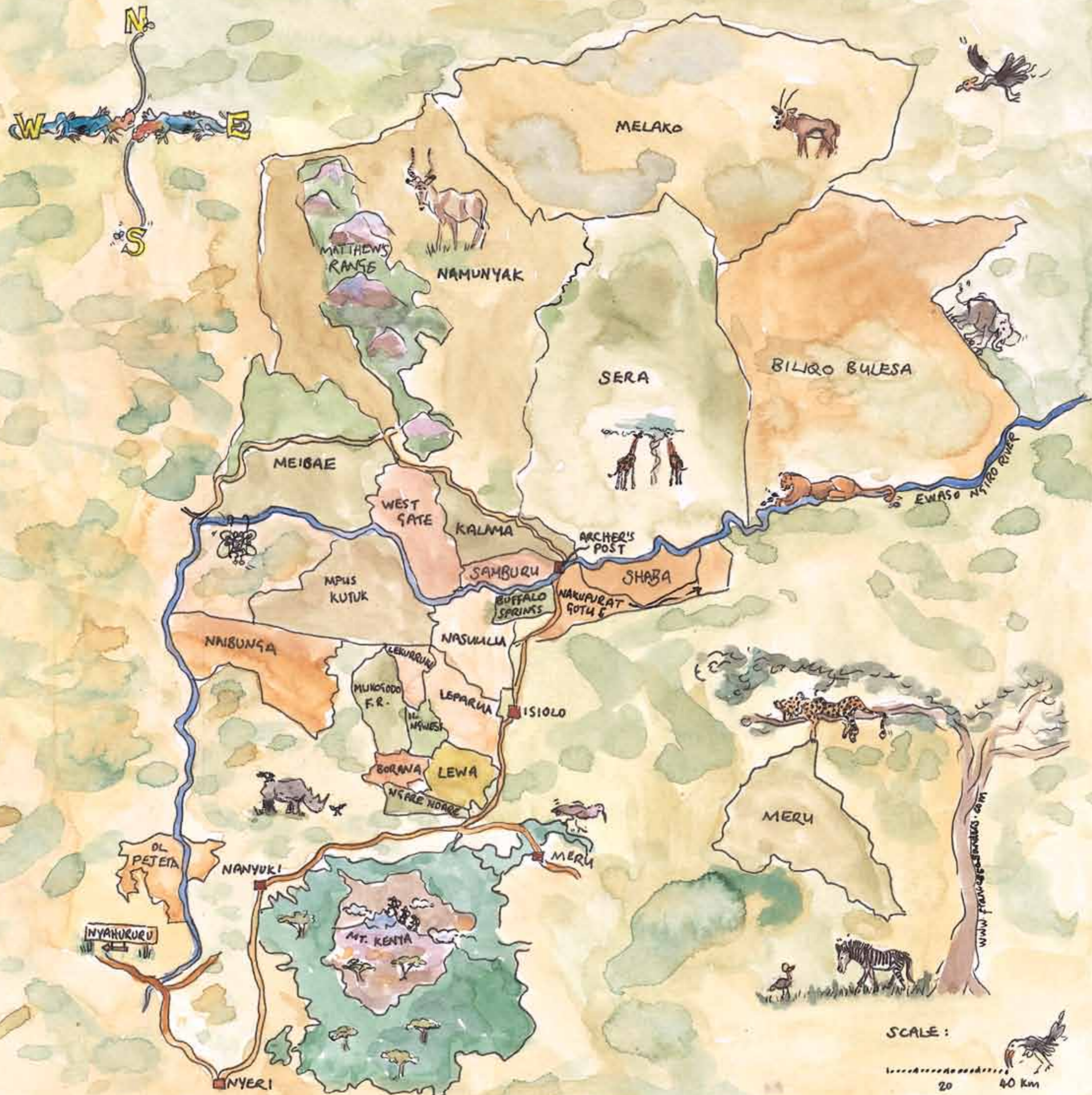


**LEWA**  
WILDLIFE  
CONSERVANCY

A UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed in 2013



**THE MAKING OF A CONSERVANCY**



SCALE :

20 40 Km

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## OUR MISSION

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy works as a model and 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.



# A PROUD HISTORY



**What started out as a 5,000-acre rhino sanctuary has grown to become a leading model for wildlife protection and a catalyst for conservation and community development in the region.**

It is a familiar story, for centuries the indigenous tribes of the African savannah lived an interconnected and compatible life with the wildlife that roamed the plains of an area we now know as Kenya. Then, human population growth, war and greed led to unsustainable loss of wildlife and habitat encroachment, and many species in the region faced the threat of extinction.

What is not as familiar is the story of Lewa and the Craig family. The Craig family first came to Lewa Downs in the 1920s and operated the land as a cattle ranch for more than 50 years. In the early 1980s, a woman named Anna Merz approached the family

with a request: horrified by the population decline of rhino throughout Africa, Anna wanted to build a black rhino sanctuary to protect the last remaining members of this endangered species. At this point in time, demand for rhino horn had reduced Kenya's 20,000 unique odd-toed ungulates to a few hundred in less than 15 years. The partnership between Anna Merz and the Craig family led to the creation of the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary, a fenced and guarded 5,000-acre refuge at the western end of Lewa Downs. In less than a year, they had created a safe haven surrounded by an electric fence and guarded by trained security staff and a piloted airplane, along with a number of vehicles, radios and state of the art equipment. Anna and the Craigs received permission from the Kenyan government and translocated most of the rhinos they could find still living in the wild in northern Kenya and formed security and wildlife supervision teams to manage their protection. Not only was the breeding programme and conservation extremely successful, it also began attracting tourists from around the world, anxious to see some of the last remaining rhinos in Kenya. Eventually the Craig family would devote their



# 11%

of the global wild population of the endangered Grevy's zebra live on the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

entire 40,000-acre ranch to form the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, which would later be augmented by 8,000 acres owned by others and 14,000 acres of a national forest. Today the Conservancy holds more than 11% of the global wild population of the endangered Grevy's zebra, over 11 percent of Kenya's critically endangered black rhino and over 14 percent of Kenya's white rhino, an abundance of the 'Big Five' as well as 70 other large mammal species native to east Africa and a multitude of birdlife. A fence to protect the wildlife runs around the perimeter with the exception of four "wildlife gaps" that allow for the migratory movements of elephant herds and other wildlife from the arid areas to Lewa's north, all the way to the forests of Mount Kenya.

From its inception, what made Lewa special was the awareness that unless the local communities could be enlisted to support the protection of these endangered species, the wildlife would never be safe and there would be no chance of success. In light of this fact, the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy was founded on the principle that the benefits of wildlife protection and the resulting tourism, should be funnelled back into the communities, helping them to develop and improve their own quality of life. This model, now known as community conservation, was unheard of at that time.

Many of Lewa's neighbouring communities are traditional pastoralists and subsistence farmers. For these communities, wildlife can be a threat to their basic livelihoods. In order to foster positive and constructive outlooks toward wildlife and natural resources, Lewa re-invests its profits into community development projects to serve the basic needs of the communities and give them the tools and training to improve their own lives.

Thanks to the trailblazing vision of Anna and the Craig Family, the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy now serves as a model for wildlife conservation worldwide and the successful concepts and designs that have made Lewa a safe haven for some of the world's most spectacular wildlife, are being replicated in conservancies across the globe.



**Clockwise from top left:** Elizabeth Cross, grandmother of Ian Craig and an early conservation pioneer; Lewa provides a safe refuge for the critically endangered black rhinoceros and hosts over 11% of Kenya's total population; Anna Merz, one of Lewa's co-founders and rhino champion with her beloved Samia, the abandoned rhino she hand-raised while living on the Conservancy. © Boyd Norton; Besides the black rhino and Grevy's zebra, Lewa is also home to a plethora of other wildlife species including the Big Five; From the majestic ostrich to the superb starling, Lewa is a bird lover's haven with over 400 species!

# LIFE OR DEATH



© Martin Harvey

A NUMBER OF SPECIES FACING POSSIBLE EXTINCTION ARE BEING GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT SURVIVAL THANKS TO LEWA'S CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION PROGRAMMES.

## BLACK RHINO – A SPECIES UNDER THREAT

The word rhinoceros is derived from two ancient Greek words: "rhino" – nose, and "ceros" – horn. Today, the rhino suffers endless persecution and the threat of extinction because of the very thing that gives it its identity and name.

Rhinos have roamed the earth for almost 60 million years, with a number of sub-species found throughout the Asian and African continents. Sadly, due to human greed and mismanagement, this magnificent creature is facing extinction worldwide as a result of illegal killing fuelled by superstition and crime. Throughout Africa and Asia rhinos are killed every day, their horns cut off and their bodies left to rot. Rhino horn, made of keratin, is no different than human fingernails. However, the market for this product is driven by a belief in Asian countries that it holds curative properties, and in Yemen where it is carved into dagger handles that are carried as a status symbol.

An increase in purchasing power of Asian and Yemeni consumers in the 1970s led to an upsurge in demand for these horns. In response to this growing market, from 1970 to the early 1980s the population of black rhino in Kenya dropped from 20,000 to fewer than 300 due to illegal killing for their horn. This represented an average loss of 4.5 rhinos a day for 12 years.

### The Birth of a Rhino Sanctuary

In 1984 the first black rhino arrived at the Ngare Seroi Rhino Sanctuary, which would later become the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. This long-awaited rhino inhabitant was named Godot and fathered his first calf in 1985, a female called Juniper, followed by Zaria. More black rhinos continued to arrive at the sanctuary, brought in by a succession of translocation programmes, until Lewa had achieved its objective of establishing a gene pool large enough to sustain a minimum viable population. Thanks to Lewa's incredibly successful breeding programme, today there are more than 120 rhinos on the Conservancy, the majority being indigenous black rhinos.

### Lewa's Flourishing Rhino Populations

Since 2000, Lewa's black rhino population growth rate has averaged ten percent, higher than the national target of six percent. Breeding intervals on Lewa are low and this has ensured that the rhino population has risen steadily over the years. The rate of reproduction has been so successful that Lewa has not only been able to sustain a viable population, but also help restock other depleted areas.

Wherever they are, rhinos require constant monitoring and protection involving an expensive team of rangers. Each rhino has a territory which is walked daily by rangers who radio in to a central communication room with details of the rhino they have seen, its body condition, activity, births, social interaction and any unusual behaviour. This is all recorded by the research team onto a computerised database to build a complete picture of each rhino and its daily activities.

Lewa's security team works tirelessly to protect the rhinos and other wildlife living on the Conservancy. One of the most important factors that makes Lewa's security force so exceptional is the understanding that their training is never over; they are constantly updating their operations and skill sets. The poaching gangs that the security teams face are increasingly organised and technologically advanced, as a result Lewa must always adapt and upgrade operations to match this growing threat.

Aside from these security forces, the most important factor in Lewa's wildlife protection success has been the strong relationships with neighbouring communities. Locals see Lewa as a source of economic



© Martin Harvey

opportunity, as well as the sponsor of their children's schools, the nearby health clinics, adult education programmes, agricultural and water development programmes, women's micro-credit programme and so much more. They see their future closely tied with Lewa; as a result if they hear of any potential poaching activities or plans, they call in tips to the 24 hour radio room, giving a head start to intercept any potential confrontations.

In June 2014, Lewa formally announced the removal of the fence separating it and the contiguous Borana Conservancy to create one conservation landscape for the benefit of rhino. This was after the successful translocation of 21 black rhino to Borana - 11 from Lewa and 10 from Lake Nakuru National Park- to establish a founding population in August 2013.

Dropping the fence will create a 93,000-acre rhino reserve with a capacity of holding at least 110 black rhino. This is the first initiative of its kind where two private land areas have removed their boundary fence in benefit of endangered wildlife. It is projected that the black rhino population of the greater landscape will top 100 within two years.

BLACK RHINO				Calving Intervals									Mean calving interval/female
No.	Name	Current age (yrs)	Age at 1st calving (yrs)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	Juniper	25.0	7.6	3.2	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	—	—	—	2.4
2	Mawingo	24.1	—	2.2	2.8	1.7	1.5	1.6	4.6	—	—	—	2.4
3	Meluaya	17.4	8.4	1.9	2.2	2.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.3
4	Ndito	23.5	9.3	3.2	2.2	2.1	2.7	2.8	—	—	—	—	2.6
5	Nyota	21.0	7.8	2.7	2.4	1.5	2.7	—	—	—	—	—	2.3
6	Solio	37.5	**	3.1	3.5	3.9	3.2	2.1	2.9	2.3	2.4	3.2	3.0
7	Sonia	21.8	7.1	4.7	2.4	2.4	1.8	2.6	—	—	—	—	2.8
8	Waiwai	18.0	6.8	2.1	2.3	2.0	3.1	—	—	—	—	—	2.4
9	Zaria	25.3	7.8	2.3	2.1	3.0	2.2	2.3	3.4	—	—	—	2.6
10	Nashami	14.9	—	3.4	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.0
11	Natumi	14.7	6.7	4.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.4
12	Samia	14.8	8.2	2.7	2.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.6
13	Seiya	14.2	5.5	2.7	2.8	2.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.7
14	Maxxine	11.0	6.5	3.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.5
15	Anna	7.3	6.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16	Tupac	7.9	7.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17	BB	9.7	5.8	2.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.2
18	Mama C	10.9	6.8	2.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.5
19	Sala	9.7	7.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	Winnie	8.8	7.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	Juno	7.4	7.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



© Suzi Eszterhas

## GREVY'S ZEBRA

**Lewa currently hosts 11% of the global wild population, slightly over 300 individuals.**

Grevy's zebra (*Equus grevyi*) numbers have declined rapidly in recent times. Their population was estimated at 15,000 in the late 1970s compared with more recent estimates of between 1,700 and 2,100 animals. The range of Grevy's zebra has also dramatically reduced in size. This species once ranged over large tracts of south western Somalia and northern Kenya, as well as Ethiopia and through to northern Djibouti and southern Eritrea. However, it is now only found mostly in northern Kenya, with a small population in southern Ethiopia.

Lewa currently hosts 11% of the global wild population, slightly over 300 individuals. Lewa's Grevy's zebra were founded from a small immigration in the late 1970's of approximately 70 animals. The founders arrived of their own accord in a migration from northern territories during a time of heavy poaching for their skins.

The decline of this species has been speculated upon and agonized over. It is generally believed to be largely owing to human population expansion. This has resulted in stiff competition for scarce water and forage resources.

Lewa is a member of the Grevy's Zebra Technical Committee (GZTC), which is a national forum, comprised of seven non-governmental organizations under the Kenya Wildlife Service. The GZTC provides guidance to ongoing and proposed Grevy's zebra research and conservation efforts

Lewa's vital population is nestled at the southern limit of the Wamba area, between more widely distributed sub-populations in Laikipia and Samburu districts. Movement between safe areas for the Grevy's zebra is fraught with risk, including large carnivores, dry savannahs, poachers and the growing pressure from expanding human populations and their livestock. Understanding these movements is essential to planning conservation measures, which will secure the species into the future.

In December 2013, Lewa helped fit GPS-GSM enabled tracking collars on five Grevy's zebras in the Leparua area, north of the Conservancy. This vital project enables us to study how they use remote waterholes and find their way around the many herds of livestock that share their habitat, to find enough to eat. Grevy's zebras are very hardy animals and can survive in dry conditions for up to four days without water. This

enables them to travel substantial distances between their grazing grounds and their water sources.

### Biology and behaviour:

Grevy's zebra are bigger than plains zebra (*Equus burchelli*) with large, rounded ears and thin elegant stripes. They have a wide black stripe running the length of their back and a conspicuously white belly.

A new-born foal is able to walk within an hour and forms a close bond with its mother, but is most vulnerable when left in a nursery herd. Its behaviour differs from that of the more abundant plains zebra. The Plains zebra live in close family groups or herd staking safety in numbers. Conversely, Grevy's zebra stallions are solitary and territorial, and there is little cohesion between the female and bachelor herds. Herds can range from small groups of three to several hundred individuals depending on the time of year and resource availability. Typically groups are larger during the rainy seasons.

### The Threat from Predation

The Grevy's zebra rangeland often overlaps that of the lion, as it does on Lewa, and the Research Department monitors lion kills carefully to identify proportional predation rates



What's in a stripe? The Grevy's zebra is easily distinguishable from its plain zebra cousin by its thin stripes that do not cut across the belly. It is also larger with trumpet-like ears. © Suzi Eszterhas

Additional research currently in progress is assessing the quality of fodder and availability of micronutrients in the soil and vegetation on Lewa. Initial results suggest that part of the overlap with lion's home ranges occurs because the highest soil nutrients are found in the swamp habitats of Lewa, and these areas also offer the best cover for lions. This is particularly true for lactating mares (mothers with nursing foals) during the dry season.

In January 2010, the Research Team deployed a series of remote, infrared camera traps at the four points of entry and exit in the 98Km long game fence surrounding the Conservancy. These so called "fence gaps" were installed to facilitate the movement of wildlife across Lewa and to allow the ancestral migratory routes of elephants to remain open. The camera traps were set to investigate whether the decreasing trend in Grevy's zebra was the result of emigration of the species from the Conservancy.

### The Future

Grevy's zebra are important environmentally, economically and politically for Lewa and Kenya alike. They perform environmental services in dry rangelands that ensure healthy grazing for both livestock and wildlife. They are part of Kenya's tourism product, offering a unique wildlife sighting which no other country in the world can provide. They are an iconic emblem of peace in areas where communities look to them culturally as an indicator of health and prosperity. As an endangered species, Lewa's Grevy's zebra will continue to be a focus of attention and a source of information guiding conservation, not only on the Conservancy but beyond its boundaries in future.



Lewa's vet treats injuries on a Grevy's zebra sustained after an attack by a lioness. Besides habitat encroachment, predation remains the greatest threat to this rare zebra in enclosed sanctuaries.

# ELVIS, LEWA'S MOST POPULAR BLACK RHINO

# ANIMAL CENSUS

## LEWA FIGURES IN 1977 AND 2003 - 2012



Elvis as a young calf with one of his handlers. His mother Mawingo is partially blind and all her calves have to be hand-raised to ensure their survival



"Hi there Elvis!" Lewa staff are always excited to see their favourite black rhino



Elvis is now an adult rhino and has since been reintroduced into the wild. © Ann and Steve Toon

Working at the Lewa Headquarters is similar to work at any office around the world. Most of the staff sit in front of computers, go to meetings, participate in conference calls and take the occasional break for a cup of tea. But every once in a while we are served with a joyful reminder that this is not your usual office environment. The best of these reminders is a visit from Elvis. It is considered perfectly acceptable for a meeting or conference call to be interrupted by a cry of "there he is!" and "hi, Elvis, we missed you!" All work is put on hold as people pile over to the windows to say hello and get a look at how he has grown since his last sighting.

To those that don't know him, Elvis would appear to be just another one of Lewa's resident black rhino population. But in fact, his special story is one that epitomizes Lewa's commitment to the survival of his species and quality of life for these amazing endangered creatures.

Elvis was born in 2005 to a mother named Mawingo, who, sadly, is blind and unable to care for her calves. In order to ensure that this newest member of the critically endangered black rhino species survived, the Lewa rangers collected Elvis and raised him by hand until he was ready to be reintroduced to the wild. Throughout the first years of his life, Elvis was never alone; there was always a ranger or other staff member with him to ensure that he was happy, healthy and well fed. As a result of all of this attention, Elvis grew comfortable with humans and their gadgets; to this day he can still turn on water taps with his mouth and drink from them whenever he gets thirsty (if only he could remember to turn them off again).

When Elvis was four years old it was finally time for him to be denied access to his "boma" or enclosure and introduced into the wild. It was not an easy transition and he always stayed close to headquarters, stopping by the offices or staff homes to have his ears scratched wreaking a bit of havoc. He is known for his dislike of rain and will cheerfully break windows, knock down walls or crush the sides of cars to get under shelter. As the years go by, he behaves more like a wild rhino and his visits have become increasingly rare. While the staff can all appreciate that Elvis is now moving closer to living a normal rhino life, we are still grateful for his occasional visits and will be sad when they stop altogether. Elvis serves as a wonderful reminder of the work that Lewa is doing and the commitment to protecting every animal, no matter what it takes!

SPECIES	1977	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Beisa oryx	7	62	85	49	69	91	115	65	76	72	76
Buffalo	78	203	233	255	339	343	349	402	403	332	399
Bushbuck	+	~20	>20	>20	>20	>20	>20	>20	>20	>20	>20
Cheetah	4	7	8	8	8	5	6	6	5	11	12
Eland	94	108	137	214	169	248	255	218	165	123	95
Elephant	62	157	216	297	392	256	177	211	207	184	297
Gerenuk	24	11	7	11	11	~10	~10	~10	~10	9	7
Giraffe	190	215	177	173	147	189	243	293	252	243	241
Grant's gazelle	174	167	261	258	320	362	452	376	371	378	386
Greater kudu	24	33	36	>20	>20	>20	12	17	16	24	23
Hippo	+	2**	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Hartebeest	25	4	2	2	2	2	2	24	5	7	7
Impala	231	760	679	836	739	829	922	1029	1227	953	895
Jackal (silver backed)	+	>15	>12	>12	>12	>12	>12	>12	>12	>12	>12
Klipspringer	+	>8	>6	>8	>8	>8	>8	>8	>8	>10	>10
Leopard	+	>8	>8	8	8	>8	8	8	8	10	10
Lion	4	18	28	24	16	12	12	16	19	17	21
Ostrich	16	65	68	48	36	48	74	44	50	20	41
Rhino, black	+	32	36	40	48	53	55	64	65	62	71
Rhino, white	+	32	32	39	36*	36	38	45	46	53	58
Sitatunga	+	16	16	14	14	<10	<10	<10	<10	2	1
Warthog	15	136	137	214	169	248	255	218	165	123	95
Waterbuck	59	64*	52	116	134	93	173	175	96	171	102
Zebra, Burchell	241	1025	1102	1094	970	1098	1184	1288	1164***	908	1151
Zebra, Grevy's	106	462*	435	448	400+	430	370	364**	343***	371****	378

### SPECIES PRESENT BUT NOT COUNTED

- Spotted hyena
- Jackal (side-striped)
- Striped hyena
- Duiker
- Crocodile
- Dik dik
- Hare
- Genet cat
- Steenbok
- Aardvark
- Reedbuck
- Caracal cat
- Civet cat
- Serval cat

### KEY

- > Greater than
- ~ Approximately
- \* Census after individuals translocated out of Lewa
- \*\* Excludes 56 GZ counted in LMD and II Ngwesi area on 28/2/09
- \*\*\* Excludes 51 GZ & 102 PZ counted in LMD & II Ngwesi on 21/03/2010
- \*\*\*\* Does not include count from LMD area, 16/03/2011
- Figure comprises of 4 big herds only correlated from daily sighting reports



Thanks to Lewa's vigorous conservation efforts, the black rhino population on the Conservancy has steadily risen throughout the years and now constitutes over 11% of Kenya's total black rhino population. © Martin Harvey

# WHAT A LONG STRANGE TRIP IT'S BEEN...

# TEACHING WITH A PURPOSE



Part of Lewa's commitment to working as a catalyst for conservation includes helping to restore and support endangered species in their natural habitats throughout northern Kenya. Nothing reflects this commitment more clearly than Lewa's participation in a joint operation that reintroduced eight Baringo giraffe back to their native home.

Originally named after Lake Baringo, one of the Great Rift's lakes in Kenya, the Baringo giraffe, also known as Rothschild giraffe, is one of the most endangered sub-species of giraffe, with only a few hundred left in the world. These precious animals had not been seen in their native habitat for over 40 years.

The complex translocation operation took more than four years to plan and was fuelled by a desire not only to re-establish this species in a region where it had disappeared, but also support the community-owned sanctuary in the area and boost tourism revenue to the local people.

Giraffe are some of the most difficult species to translocate, both because of their sensitivity to stress and their incredible size. This operation took place in several stages. First, the giraffe were captured and kept in a holding pen for a few weeks to ensure that they

were calm enough to be transferred across the water. When the time was right, the giraffe were then brought by lorry to the shores of Lake Baringo, arriving early in the morning. Just as the sun was coming up, they were separated into two groups to make the last, and most dramatic, leg of their journey. The precious passengers were loaded onto a restored landing craft and ferried for 90-minutes across the lake to their final destination.

Today, these eight lucky animals are healthy and living free in their natural homeland. From here, the hope is for this endangered subspecies to thrive and begin building up population numbers, while also attracting visitors to help support this impressive community conservation initiative.



The giraffes float across Lake Baringo to their new home. © Jose Kalpers

Of all the ongoing projects and operations here at the Conservancy, Lewa is particularly proud of its Conservation Education Programme (CEP). The Lewa CEP was established in 2010, with the aim of exposing Kenyan students and other members of the neighbouring communities to a holistic conservation experience, building environmental awareness and appreciation among the next generation of Kenyans.

In 2011, a purpose-built Conservation Education Centre was developed on Lewa near the Matunda Gate to provide a headquarters for the programme. To ensure the experience of visiting groups is exciting and interactive, exhibits were developed focusing on threats to biodiversity and methods of habitat conservation. The building was constructed and the core curriculum developed in partnership with the Lewa Education Programme and the Lewa Conservation Department, as well as Lewa's international partners the Denver Zoo, Schad Foundation, Earth Rangers, Kids Against Poverty, Marwell Wildlife and Peter and Kathy Linneman.

Thousands of students have had the opportunity to experience the CEP, with more and more school groups visiting every year. Each school visit begins with a guided game drive around the Conservancy, offering children a chance to see some of Kenya's most iconic animals – often for the first time in their lives. These game drives are an exciting and memorable experience and create an appreciation for biodiversity and humans' relationship with the environment.



Students from a Lewa sponsored school enjoy a game drive on the Conservancy. © Natalie Solveland

After game drives the students return to the Conservation Education Centre to take part in the interactive displays and teaching aids that provide insights into a range of environmental topics. One of the interactive displays is the Smart Board, an interactive whiteboard designed for engaging students and delivering unique presentations. They are exposed to everything from the effects of agriculture on the water cycle and the inner workings of a beehive, to the skeletal system of a giraffe. After they've had a chance to discuss their experiences and take part in the displays and activities, the groups move on to use the Centre's educational laptops. For many students this is the first time they've ever used a computer and they have the chance to play cooperative wildlife-oriented games like "Leaping Lemur" and "Compost Crunch".

In addition to school visits to Lewa, the Conservation Education Coordinator makes regular visits to all of the Lewa-supported schools to help organise environmental outreaches and build ongoing environmental curriculums for each class.

The response to the CEP has been very positive. The community conservation model can only be effective when it is fully understood by those that stand to benefit from it. The CEP provides the next generation of Kenyans with the opportunity to learn about the amazing potential in the wildlife around them, as well as to develop an appreciation and commitment to helping ensure its ongoing protection.



The Conservation Education Programme provides a fun and innovative way for Kenyan children to learn about their environment, wildlife and conservation. © Natalie Solveland



# CONNECTING THE DOTS, ELEPHANT STYLE!



In January 2011, a pioneering bull elephant named Tony took one small step forward for his species.

In fact, the project that brought Tony to this momentous place and time began in 2010, when Lewa began working with a group of other concerned businesses and conservation organisations to build an elephant migration corridor through the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and Ngare Ndare Forest up to the forests of Mount Kenya.

Several goals drove this project. The primary objective behind the corridor was to reduce human-wildlife conflict. Elephants are incredibly destructive and in an area where most people rely on subsistence farming to survive, an elephant passing through their land could push a family past the brink of financial ruin and starvation. Because of Kenya's booming human population, incidences of human-wildlife conflict have been growing and elephants' historic migration routes are becoming increasingly unsafe. As a result, many elephant herds were staying on Lewa for longer and longer periods of time, rather than migrating through the Conservancy. An individual elephant eats over 300lbs (136kgs) of grass and shrubbery every day and as more and more began to stay on the Conservancy the ecological strain was becoming too much to support.

In order to address these issues, a plan started to come together to form a corridor for these animals

along their historic migration route. Establishing a safe corridor would also have the added benefit of connecting families of elephants around Lewa with the otherwise isolated herds living on Mt. Kenya, and to thereby increase the genetic diversity and overall health of the species.

The partners involved in the project included Kisima and Marania Farms, two major agricultural operations near Lewa that were concerned for both the safety of the elephants and the sustainability of their crops. Lewa also worked closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Kenya Forest Service and of course the Mount Kenya Trust who first started this project.

As plans for the corridor came together, one key problem remained: a busy freeway stretching between the towns of Meru and Nanyuki that would serve as a dangerous barrier for any elephant travelling to or from Mt. Kenya. Finally a decision was reached to build an underpass to allow the elephants to walk beneath the roadway. A few conservationists were skeptical of this programme, doubting that elephants would be comfortable with, or even understand, the concept of passing beneath a freeway. However, those doubts were put to rest within days of the underpass' opening when Tony cautiously walked beneath the freeway.

Today the elephant corridor is a tremendous success with hundreds of elephants traveling up and down every year. The underpass is being so heavily used by elephant that the partners in the corridor project are now seeking funding for a second underpass on the rural road crossing near Marania Farm.



*Clockwise from top left: Elephants migrate through Lewa to and from Mount Kenya; An elephant is caught on the infra red camera mounted inside of the highway underpass; The red tracks on this Google Earth map show Mountain Bull (MT Bull), one of the notorious fence breaking elephants using the full length of the corridor on his way to Mt. Kenya; Mt Kenya is the highest mountain in Kenya and the second-highest in Africa, after Kilimanjaro; MT Bull's tusks are trimmed to limit his fence-breaking abilities.*

# GROWING TOGETHER



**Recognising that humans and animals must coexist if wildlife is to have a sustainable future, Lewa's Community Development Programme has evolved throughout the years to become a leading example of community conservation at its best.**

Over the past 25 years, Lewa has become the leading model for conservation on private and community land in East Africa – massively successful from an endangered species perspective and in conservation terms.

Yet, more than anything, Lewa's success is reflected by the degree to which Lewa's conservation efforts generate direct and indirect benefits for local communities – through healthcare, education, water development, and enterprise. Lewa supports 19 schools, manages three clinics, developed ten major community water supply schemes, and sustains adult education, women's microcredit, and agricultural extension programmes. Through this wide range of community development projects, Lewa is not simply sharing the benefits of tourism, employment, security, and donor funding. It is also leveraging a conservation agenda to meet the compelling priorities

of communities surrounding the Conservancy, thereby contributing directly towards a development agenda – meeting real needs, enhancing livelihood options, and addressing environmental priorities.

Quite simply, Lewa is determined to see conservation make a difference to the lives of ordinary Kenyans in otherwise challenging economic and environmental circumstances. Kenya needs more Lewas – a model that sees private, public, and philanthropic sectors working in partnership for the benefit of both wildlife and people, a model that, through both community development and education programmes, and their immensely dedicated staff, positively impacts the lives of so many.

## Community Water Development

Kenya is limited by an annual renewable fresh water supply of only 647 cubic meters per capita and is classified as a water scarce country. The water "crisis" is due to the recurrent drought, poor management of the water supply, under-investment, unfair allocation of water, rampant deforestation, pollution of water supplies by untreated sewage and a huge population explosion. This applies to northern Kenya, where the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and its surrounding communities are located. Despite Lewa's efforts to ensure that there is proper ecosystem management not only on the Conservancy, but also in the neighbouring communities; we are still facing water shortages. Yet the population is growing within our local communities so there is a need to establish proper infrastructure to

manage water resources effectively. Dealing with these issues has taken centre stage in our water development programme activities.

The last ten years have witnessed direct support to ten water projects, namely: Mutunyi irrigation scheme, Mkuu Springs project, Rugusu Springs project, Leparua water project, T.M. borehole project, Subuiga water project, Ngare Ndare water project, Manyangalo water project, Nthagana water project and Kadesh water project. These water projects run from springs' conservation, gravity-fed domestic and irrigation systems and underground water accessed by drilling boreholes. Lewa continues to remain focused on ensuring that every drop of water is conserved and used as efficiently as possible. In this vein, Lewa is working closely with the Water Resources Management Authority and directly involved in managing a local association of all parties that use the local river water, known as Ngare Sergoi, which has made it possible to develop equitable water sharing plans.



*Lewa currently supports ten water projects in the neighbouring communities, helping secure a constant and clean supply of this important resource. © Natalie Solveland*

## Agricultural and Forestry Development

Farming is the main economic activity for the communities surrounding Lewa. A key component of Lewa's Community Development Programme is training communities on sustainable and efficient farming techniques, as well as methods of diversifying crop production. By doing so, the communities now have a wider variety of farm produce that is sufficient for their daily food requirements and for the sale of surplus produce in various markets to earn income.

Over the past ten years a lot of training and capacity building on farming techniques, land management and crop production has taken place and most of the farmers have been able to reap more from agricultural activities. Both the rain fed and irrigation farms have managed to increase their food production through diversification of crop production and the benefits of water projects already implemented within the communities. For irrigation farming communities like Mutunyi, Manyangalo and Ngare Ndare, farmers have been engaged in fruit growing and horticultural production in addition to food crop farming. To ensure a positive impact on the environment, many farmers have also been engaged in agro-forestry through the community forestry programme.



*Lewa recently introduced the practice of conservation agriculture to the communities' farmers. © Natalie Solveland*

## Community Healthcare Programme

Lewa's three clinics- Lewa, Leparua and Ngare Ndare – and the sponsored Ntirimiti, are the only medical facilities within a 25 kilometres radius. These clinics shoulder up to 90% of the needs of staff and over 20,000 people from our neighbouring communities. The clinics offer diagnosis and treatment in reproductive, preventative, and general health; including HIV/AIDS counselling, testing and treatment, family planning and hygiene. During the last ten years, thanks to Lewa's commitment to improving healthcare, communities have enjoyed decentralized health services and child mortality has been lowered. Additionally, Lewa has been supporting district-based general hospitals in Isiolo, Meru, Nanyuki and Timau with medical equipment through funds raised by the annual Safaricom Marathon.



*With the nearest hospitals being kilometres away, the Lewa clinic is the closest health facility for many. © Natalie Solveland*



### Social and Infrastructure Development

In most rural areas, the poor state of access roads has been problematic for rural people making ongoing efforts to fight poverty and promote development all the more difficult. To ensure that the communities neighbouring the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy are able to access basic services we have participated in the rehabilitation of access roads. The Lewa logistics team has graded and constructed culverts for over 30 kilometres of roads over the last ten years. Moreover, most of the self-help groups within the communities have been trained to initiate income-generating activities that in turn alleviate poverty. Most of our communities are involved in a grazing programme where community livestock is allowed to graze on Lewa especially during the drought. To Lewa's northern boundary, communities who are primarily livestock keepers were enrolled in a holistic management programme that has seen over 2,000 head of livestock graze on the Conservancy, thereby reducing loss of livestock during the dry season.



One of the ways in which Lewa promotes infrastructural development in the neighbouring communities is through the grading and repair of community roads. © Natalie Solveland

### Women's Micro-Credit Programme

Women constitute nearly 60 percent of the world's two billion people living in poverty. Despite all the community development programmes around the world, the feminization of poverty is a growing phenomenon especially in the developing world. Over the last two decades, the number of rural women living in absolute poverty has risen by 50 percent (compared to 30 percent for men).

Women's economic empowerment is an essential element in any strategy for poverty alleviation. It is this belief that led to the creation of the Lewa Women's Micro-Credit Programme in 2003. More specifically, the Women's Micro-Credit Programme was started as a result of a close evaluation of the level of poverty of rural women in the communities surrounding Lewa. Over the years, more than 800 women have been able to start up their own businesses supported by soft loans of over eight million Kenya shillings. Types of enterprises range from crochet businesses to small farming operations. Training and capacity building on enterprise development is a key component of the programme, and is reinforced with exposure tours for the programme's beneficiaries.



### Bursaries

LEP provides opportunities for children to proceed to secondary school on completion of their primary school education. In the 19 Lewa-supported primary schools, with a total enrolment of approximately 700 children in class eight, only 20% of these children will proceed to high school each year. LEP supports half of those children while the rest are supported by their parents. Over the last ten years, Lewa has sponsored more than 500 children through the Bursaries Programme. The success rate of students from the sponsored schools from the beginning of education to employment is an impressive 80%.

Successful alumni of the LEP Bursary programme inspire and help mentor the younger students. For example:

- Richard Mbaabu is now a senior accountant at Uchumi Supermarkets in Uganda
- Dennis Kasoo runs a research consulting company
- Fides Mwenda is a highways engineer
- Catherine Mugure is a correspondent for Meru FM, a local radio Station
- Osman Hussein currently serves as the NRT Administrative Officer
- Lucy Kanorio is a Clinical Officer in Isiolo
- Fridah Gatwiri and Renet Karende are practicing nurses in Muranga and Thika respectively
- James Kijuki is a teacher in Ethi Primary school
- Esther Wandimi now works as an accountant with NRT

All of these students have returned to their hometowns over the years and have given back to their communities. Our current students have great role models to look up to and we hope to continue to provide more opportunities through bursaries so that there can be more scholars and leaders for better decision making throughout Kenya. We also have many extremely vulnerable children in the community



Peter Linneman, a longstanding donor to Lewa's Education Programme poses with beneficiaries of the education bursaries

who have received sponsorships over the years and are thriving in school.

### Schools

The Lewa Education Programme facilitates development in the schools, supplementing what the government already provides. The government focuses on operational and instructional resources and LEP assists in:

1. **Infrastructure:** Children have been learning in old dilapidated classrooms and LEP supports via



The Lewa Education Programme (LEP) provides thousands of local children with educational opportunities. © George Jewett

the building of permanent structures. Classes, latrines, kitchens, libraries have been built depending on the schools development plan and priorities. Over the last ten years, five libraries stocked with books, seven kitchens with kitchen stores, and 76 classrooms have been built equipped with at least 20 desks per class.

2. **Curriculum Development:** LEP tries to improve the teacher-student ratio in the schools by employing more teachers. 45 teachers have been employed and are working in the Lewa Supported Schools. This in turn has motivated parents to band together and raise funds to employ additional teachers. LEP organises seminars and workshops for teachers so that learning can be more child-centered. Additionally, some teachers have been sent to additional degree courses so that they can come back with enhanced teaching skills and knowledge. LEP also provides teaching and learning aides to facilitate learning in the schools and school supplies are provided to supplement the government deficit.
3. **Feeding Programme:** Parents have entrusted us with their children because we feed them ten o'clock porridge and a hot lunch every

# LEWA'S NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES

school day. This has led to high enrollment and retention rates in the schools. In support of this feeding programme, our schools have initiated farming activities so that they can supplement the ingredients we provide for school meals. This will lead to sustainability of the feeding programme through continuous production of sufficient food. We also encourage the children to duplicate various farming techniques in their homes as well as regularly eating vegetables and fruits for better nutrition.

4. **School Uniforms:** LEP tries to make sure that all children are happy and comfortable so that learning can take place. Over the years we have been able to provide uniforms to our children in the schools and we hope to continue to do so in collaboration with their parents.

## Volunteers

LEP has a volunteer programme that has provided opportunities for students and education interns to come teach in our schools. This has built strong relationships between the host schools and volunteers and given much needed continuous support to the children. Experts in the education field have come out and spent time with our teachers and have helped improved curriculum implementation in the schools. Living a basic, normal life with our neighbouring communities is an enriching experience for our volunteers, and helps them appreciate the resources they have back home.

## Conservation Education

Conservation education is a vital component of the education programme. After all, it is Lewa's conservation efforts within the Conservancy that fund all of the programmes that benefit local schools. LEP, in conjunction with the Lewa Conservation Department, visits Lewa-supported schools once every week to educate the students on wildlife conservation and environmental management. This has enlightened the community on the diversity of wildlife on Lewa, their adaptations, facts about all of them and most importantly, the importance of conservation especially to the community. Lewa provides educational game drives that attract schools from all over Kenya to visit the Conservancy and learn more about the variety of species and the benefits of wildlife conservation. The school visit is free of charge and has proven to be extremely popular with primary and secondary schools as well as colleges and universities.

## Adult Literacy Programme

The Adult Literacy Programme was created to provide an opportunity for adults in the neighbouring communities to learn how to read and write. Over a period of time it became clear that there was an additional need for education on relevant day-to-day life skills, as well as activities and knowledge that could help generate income. Today, skills such as crop farming, poultry farming, civic education and basics of business are offered. These adult students have been able to start and successfully operate a baking shop, sew uniforms for local schools, rear poultry and sell chickens and eggs, among other projects. As with the children's education programmes, conservation education has been key in raising awareness that these benefits spring directly from the protection of wildlife.



Lewa's adult literacy programme has helped empower over 300 adults from the adjoining areas who previously had no access to formal education

Lewa's participation in community development and education seeks to ensure that our neighbours enjoy the benefits of conservation for generations

Lewa's neighbours are as beautiful as they are diverse. The colourful and world famous Maasai neighbour the Conservancy to the west, the proud Cushitic Borana to the north and the Bantu speaking Meru to the East and South.

# IN WILDLIFE WE TRUST



© Ken Coe

## The Northern Rangelands Trust has helped communities benefit from wildlife via tourism-driven income, thus changing their attitudes towards wildlife.

“If we’d come here a few years ago, we would have run a high risk of being killed by bandits or cattle rustlers,” says Titus Letaapo, regional coordinator with the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT). He and his colleagues have come to witness a ‘peace marathon’, which will take place the following morning, and they have set up camp in a dry riverbed below the ruins of Kom, a remote settlement destroyed by tribal fighting in the late 1990s.

Over the decades, hundreds of Borana, Rendille and Samburu pastoralists were killed in this lawless region, and much of the wildlife was wiped out by poachers and cattle rustlers.

In September 2009, efforts to establish peace ended catastrophically, when 15 people were killed early one morning. But NRT and the three community conservancies whose boundaries meet near Kom – Biliqo-Bulesa, Melako and Sera – persisted in their attempts to broker a settlement between the warring tribes. A range of measures – better security, meetings between the elders and young people of different tribes and conservancies, new grazing agreements, the

presence of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the Kom peace marathon – have helped to reduce poaching, cattle rustling and banditry.

Biliqo-Bulesa, Melako and Sera are among the community conservancies – there were 26 by 2014 – which come under the umbrella of NRT. All, in one way or another, are helping to bring peace to areas, which have traditionally suffered from high levels of conflict. They are also helping to restore wildlife populations. For example, elephant have returned to Melako after an absence of some 20 years. In Sera conservancy the number of sightings of elephant rose from 3,000 in 2006 to over 11,000 in 2011; during the same period, sightings of the rare Grevy’s zebra rose from fewer than 250 to over 2,000. Indeed, the experience in northern Kenya suggests that community conservancies represent one of the most effective ways of conserving wildlife.

Northern Kenya is arid, poorly served by schools and health clinics, and sparsely populated by tribes who largely depend on livestock for their survival. In Isiolo, Samburu and Marsabit counties, poverty rates range from 72% to 83%, compared to 47% for Kenya as a whole. Life gets even tougher during droughts, the most recent leading to the death of up to 80% of the cattle. Malnutrition is widespread and many children – especially girls – never attend school.

In areas where the conservancies are operating, this is beginning to change, largely because the communities are investing the proceeds from conservation and

tourism in education and healthcare. In the past, many young men would turn to cattle rustling or head to Nairobi in search of work. Now, many are finding jobs as rangers and administrators in the conservancies.

### An Idea Whose Time Has Come

This story begins in the sweeping savannah to the north of Mount Kenya. Around the time that Ian Craig took over his parents’ cattle ranch at Lewa, some 30 years ago, the conservationist Anna Merz was searching for a place to establish a rhino sanctuary. By then, Kenya’s rhino population had been reduced by poaching from over 20,000 animals in 1960 to fewer than 500. The Craig family agreed to set aside 2,000 ha for the project. Some years after the initial steps the Craig’s decided to transform the entire ranch, covering 62,000 acres, into a conservancy devoted to conservation.

But there was a problem: while the rhino were restrained from leaving Lewa, other species, such as elephant, giraffe, zebra and lion, could move freely across the landscape. Frequently, animals that had spent time at Lewa were butchered for meat, or in the case of elephants killed for their ivory. It became clear that Lewa’s wildlife would only flourish with the help of surrounding communities.

When Ian Craig first floated the idea of setting up a community conservancy in Il Ngwesi, to the north of Lewa, it was treated with skepticism.

Visit almost any conservancy and you will hear much the same story from the elders. “Most of the people here feared that their land would be turned into a national park or a wildlife sanctuary, and cattle would be excluded,” says Tom Letiwa, the community coordinator of Namunyak conservancy. However, Ian kept coming back. “He explained what had happened at Lewa, and how we could benefit from looking



A room with a view. In 2011, Sarara Lodge contributed US\$210,000 to Namunyak conservancy.

Elephants sightings in Sera Conservancy rose from 3,000 in 2006 to 11,000 in 2011, illustrating that the NRT model is helping restore wildlife populations

after wildlife and attracting tourists.” He took the elders to see Lewa and Masai Mara, where wildlife-based tourism was generating a considerable income. Eventually the community accepted that the idea of setting up a conservancy was noble and good.

Il Ngwesi and Namunyak were the first two community conservancies to be established in northern Kenya. Before long, they were transforming the way the land was managed and the welfare of the pastoralists. “People began to care about the wildlife, because they saw that it would bring them an income,” recalls Tom Letiwa. “They used to think all the wildlife belonged to the government, but now they see it as their wildlife.” Safari camps in this large and spectacular conservancy, which encompasses much of the Mathews Range, raise around 16 million Kenyan shillings (US\$190,000) a year for the community, 60% of which is spent according to community priorities on education, health and development.

Ian began to spend more and more time encouraging communities to set up conservancies. Sometimes he approached the communities; but frequently, communities which were impressed by what they had heard and seen came to seek advice. He and his staff helped them to find funds, set up democratic management structures and attract investments for tourist facilities. In 2004, Francis Ole Kaparo, speaker of Kenya’s National Assembly and chair of Lewa’s Board of Trustees, suggested it was time to set up a new organisation to help the growing number of conservancies. “What we needed was an organisation which would provide advice and training and raise funds for the conservancies, while retaining the standard setting drive of Lewa,” says Ian.

The Northern Rangelands Trust was established in 2004. During its early years, Ian was chief executive of both Lewa and NRT. It was, as he says, a tidy marriage. Today they have separate identities, but still benefit from a close working relationship. NRT’s headquarters are based at Lewa. Lewa plays a key role in providing anti-poaching backup in the conservancies, assists with logistical operations and helps to support livelihoods in the surrounding community conservancies. Lewa, in turn, benefits from its association with NRT and the conservancies. “It’s vital for us that Lewa remains relevant at both the local, national and international, and our association with the conservancies helps us do that,” says Mike Watson, Lewa’s Chief Executive Officer.

# GROUND FORCES



© Marcus Westberg

## Protecting Lewa's wildlife from poachers is a team effort, involving highly trained security staff, vehicles, airplanes, helicopters and even bloodhounds.

The animals on Lewa will never be truly safe as long as the international demand for illegal wildlife products remains. That risk has been mitigated through Lewa's close ties with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and highly successful community development programmes. However the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy could not operate successfully without the critical combination of personnel, aircraft, trucks, 4X4 vehicles, machinery, radios, mechanics and tracker dogs that make up the Lewa security force.

Each component of Lewa's security operations is as vital as the next, and the combination of each element comes together to make Lewa one of the safest wildlife conservancies in the world. Lewa's two-seater Super Cub airplane and newly purchased helicopter make it possible for the security forces to mobilize a reaction team anywhere on the conservancy, day or night. The 98 km electric fence runs the perimeter of the Conservancy and is essential for minimising human-

wildlife conflict. Lewa's team of 24 fencers travel around the Conservancy on motorbikes checking the fence line daily and making constant repairs and alterations. Each component of the security team has its own vehicles, which require a maintenance and repair workshop that is kept busy year-round countering the ravages of hard terrain and constant use.

Since 1998, trained tracker dogs patrolling the Conservancy have proved a strong deterrent to poachers. The first two dogs, Bonnie, a German Shepherd and Murphy, a yellow Labrador, were donated by the British Army and proved to be worth



A great addition to Lewa's security team is the helicopter known as Sue! Sue will be crucial in enhancing aerial patrol

their weight in gold when their noses led to the arrest and conviction of several poachers. After Bonnie and Murphy retired, Lewa added two new recruits to the K9 team, bloodhounds Tash and Toffee. These hounds are regularly spotted, noses down, dashing along the Lewa perimeter or responding to a call concerning an incident from the local police or the KWS. In July of 2011, Ol Jogi (one of Lewa's partners) donated Lewa's newest security team members, Tiva and Tonny, who have adapted easily to their new home and are being shown the ropes by veterans Tash and Toffee.

In hopes of maintaining order and vital oversight of each component of the security operations, as well as to keep in close contact with our neighbours, the Lewa operations room is the focal point of a local radio communication network that operates year-round, 24 hours a day, covering a radius of more than



The Conservancy is divided into blocks patrolled by field monitors who are Lewa's eyes and ears on the ground. © Ann and Steve Toon

150km. This communication network involves all the community wildlife conservancies, game reserves and members of the Laikipia Wildlife Forum, as well as the KWS and local police. The Lewa radio room also hosts a Google Earth programme that traces elephant migration routes in the north, displaying travel patterns for the various collared elephants, assisting research teams in their study of elephant migratory routes.

With the ever-increasing and improved trends in

poaching techniques, Lewa is constantly evolving and refining its security systems and procedures to ensure that all teams are prepared and equipped to combat any attempts to harm our precious wildlife. A recent example is Lewa's transition from an analogue radio system to a digital communication network. Radio communication has long been the backbone of Lewa's successful rhino and elephant protection programme, enabling rapid responses to poaching and other security incidents. For many years Lewa used analogue radio communication however, this became unsafe, as poachers began tapping into the system. Through generous donations, Lewa was able to transition to a digital communication system where the information is encoded and transmitted safely, leaving the security teams in a stronger position to enhance its monitoring and patrol efforts.

## Lewa and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)

Lewa has always worked closely with KWS. The two bodies share a mutual objective to promote improved security in the area around the Conservancy and provide the highest possible levels of security for Kenya's iconic wildlife. Lewa is extremely proud of the level of trust that has gradually grown between the two organisations over time, to the extent that some Lewa rangers have been awarded Kenya Police Reserve status by the government. This means that while they are still paid and trained by Lewa, they have full authority to apprehend and arrest poachers outside Lewa, as well as within the Conservancy, and deal with other incidents in the county district when called on by local government agencies.

## Security Support

Lewa's security team is made up of general security rangers and armed wildlife protection teams, supervised by professional security officers. Included in this security force are teams comprised of Kenya Police Reservists (KPR), armed with G3 automatic weapons and as well as non-KPR personnel equipped with 303 rifles. These armed mobile teams patrol the Conservancy, with one team always stationed at Lewa's headquarters to react to any emergencies, 24 hours a day. Because of their status as KPR rangers, the Lewa security teams not only work within the Conservancy, but also respond to incidents of poaching and insecurity on neighboring conservancies and throughout the greater landscape.

# 98 kms

of electric fence runs along the perimeter of the Conservancy and is essential for minimizing human-wildlife conflict

# RACE FOR FUNDS



**Racing through the Kenyan wilderness in the Safaricom Marathon, competitors not only experience the thrill of running wild but also raise substantial funds for conservation and communities.**

The Safaricom Marathon, launched in 2000 with 180 entrants, has become an annual event at Lewa with a total of 1,100 competitors participating in 2012.

This internationally famous athletic event is funded by Safaricom, organised by Tusk Trust, and run on the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Since its inception, this unique fundraising event has generated more than \$4 million to support a wide range of conservation and community programmes across Kenya. Thousands of children in a number of schools will get new classrooms and improved facilities financed by the 'Marathon Education Fund.' Numerous pastoral communities to the north of Lewa will also see benefits as the Community Fund supports a range of initiatives designed to improve lives and increase security for both people and wildlife. Tusk Trust also directs funds into rhino and elephant conservation at Lewa, Turtle conservation in Lamu and a variety of other critical projects spread across the country.

Nowhere else in the world is a marathon run across a wildlife conservancy. Instead of hard city streets and

concrete blocks, marathon competitors run through Kenyan bush, surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of the snow-capped peaks of Mount Kenya to the south and the purple mountains of Shaba, Meru and Samburu to the north. Lewa's abundant wildlife adds to the spectacular experience and excitement of the event.

The logistics of providing security for this event are complex, involving helicopters, airplanes and a team of experienced armed rangers. The event attracts international attention with competitors arriving from every corner of the world to experience the thrill of running wild.

Kenyan runners are world famous for their speed and set a high standard for athletes eager to match themselves against the country's renowned athletes including Paul Tergat, winner of the New York Marathon in 2005, Catherine Ndereba, two-time Olympic marathon winner, and world famous long distance runner Martin Lel, three-time winner of the London Marathon.

For those less competitive participants, who just want to take part in this unique event, the experience is magical and the atmosphere friendly. A small town of tents is assembled across the Conservancy and warm bonfires and barbeques are held every night. Everyone is encouraged to take part, from children who run in the 5km Fun Run, to walkers, half-marathon runners and those who plan to complete the entire 42km of the challenging course. Water stations, first aid points and a cheering audience urge runners on to the finish line.

# VISIT LEWA

Every year a growing number of visitors, donors, supporters, zoo groups, conservationists and researchers land on one of Lewa's dusty airstrips. Recognising the importance of the income they provide for the community projects and the management of the Conservancy.

Lewa is a dynamic wildlife conservancy at work and guests are invited to join in and see what takes place there. Professional guides and trackers escort visitors on day and night game drives, bush walks and longer safaris through Lewa and neighbouring Il Ngwesi. Staff will also organise day visits to Lewa's supported schools, Lewa community projects or the Ngare Ndare Forest, where they can learn about indigenous plant life.

For the most active, there is riding- suitable for the experienced as well as the cautious - and day and overnight camel rides. Game watching can get up close and very personal behind secluded game blinds, and no night is complete without a sublime view, sundowner in hand, as the huge red African sun vanishes behind shimmering mountains and Lewa invites visitors to share it.

## Lodges

There are now five lodges on Lewa, each distinctive in its own way:

- Lewa Wilderness was the first lodge on Lewa and is still the family home of William Craig, his wife Emma and their children



- Lewa House is elegant, remote and run by the granddaughter of Lewa's founder, David Craig



- Kifaru, close to Lewa House, is considered to be one of the most elegant lodges on Lewa



- Sirikoi looks out over a natural watering hole and offers some of the most luxurious tented safari camping in the world



- Lewa Safari Camp is ideal for families and large groups and has a relaxed and friendly atmosphere



## Investment in Conservation

- Included in the cost of a night's stay on Lewa is a conservation fee
- All the profits that flow to Lewa from tourism are invested directly back into the Conservancy's programmes

# LEWA BEHIND THE SCENES



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE...

Lewa has a full time staff of almost 300 personnel from radio operators to office clerks, rangers to electricians, drivers to janitors and accountants to mechanics. Every member of Lewa's team is loyal, dedicated and committed to the Conservancy and its work to promote a peaceful and safe environment for humans and animals alike. Many of the staff have been here since the beginning and, although some inevitably move on, many will remain at Lewa for their entire working lives.



At the radio room, these rangers work "behind the scenes" to record daily sightings of rhinos and other wildlife on Lewa

### Logistics

Lewa's logistics team is the bedrock of the Conservancy's operations. Without this team to keep the vehicles running smoothly, the roads graded, the electricity on and the water running, Lewa's work would be impossible. The logistics team provides support, not only for the roads, buildings and infrastructure within the conservancy, but also for the health clinics, schools and other operations that Lewa supports in neighbouring communities. Their services are also sought out by neighbouring conservancies because of their stellar reputation for impressive work completed with efficiency and minimal environmental impact.

### Human Resources

Lewa takes great pride in being a fair and generous employer, providing competitive salaries and good benefits. The day-to-day needs of Lewa's employees are managed through the human resources department that oversees the logistics of health insurance, payroll, hiring, new employee orientation and housing, coordinating staff training as well as the administration of the Lewa healthcare programme and Lewa's three health clinics.

### PR & Marketing

Keeping Lewa's friends apprised of all new developments on the Conservancy is an integral part

of the organisation's operations. Our marketing and development teams coordinate with donors and past visitors from around the world to keep them abreast of the conservancy's successes, challenges and hilarious wildlife moments. Fundraising is an integral part of running the Conservancy, financing the operating budget and supporting all of Lewa's projects. Lewa has created a worldwide fundraising structure with registered, tax-exempt organisations in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. In addition, generous volunteers manage a smaller satellite office in Austria.

Lewa holds regular events around the world, including black tie dinners, gala fundraisers, art shows and educational talks. If you would like to be updated on any events happening near you, please make sure to fill out the "Friends of Lewa" pamphlet that comes with this brochure.

### Behind the Scenes Activities

The Conservancy is always happy for visitors to come and learn more about behind-the-scenes projects and daily operations. Lewa has been receiving enquiries from an increasing number of tourists looking for volunteer activities as part of their African experience. This sentiment has also been expressed by the Lewa Lodges, with guests expressly looking for new and exciting activities to participate in, whilst also feeling that they are making a positive impact to Lewa's good work.

Lewa now offers more activities for willing guests to feel more involved in their day-to-day operational activities. These volunteer activities include:

- Help the Lewa research team by collecting photographs of the right flank of Grevy's zebras and recording where each photo was taken. Once you've sorted the photos, your guide can make an appointment to hand over the data and chat with the research team about the Grevy's monitoring programme
- Guests may spend time with Security team tracker dogs and their handlers, participating in their daily exercise routines, helping during cleaning and grooming time. This activity is also subject to availability and confirmation by the Radio and Operations room
- Reading to young children at one of the Lewa supported schools. This activity is only possible during the school terms when the children are in school

### Lewa in the News

Lewa has hosted a range of television crews, producing programmes featuring personalities like Rory Bremner, Alistair McGowan, Griff Rhys-Jones, Ronnie Wood and Jack Hannah. Others include *Mission Africa*, a major BBC series, *Animal Park* on the Discovery Channel,

the 2006 BBC series *Vets in the Wild* and a 10-part wildlife series for UK TV's Channel Five. A BBC film crew, along with Sir David Attenborough, stayed on Lewa for several weeks in 2012 doing a series using "Elvis" the black rhino as their flagship success story. Journalists, reporters and writers have visited and written extensively about Lewa. The Conservancy has also been featured in print publications like National Geographic, Vanity Fair, Daily Telegraph, Time, The New York Times, The Economist and many more.

If you would like further information on becoming a Friend of Lewa or wish to donate to one of the projects, please visit the website at [www.lewa.org](http://www.lewa.org).



Paddy May, a volunteer with Lewa's research department feeds Hope, an orphaned calf, with formula milk



Volunteer Hugh Symington about to embark on an exercise with the tracker dog unit



# LEWA MILELE



# A WORLD HERITAGE SITE



## PROTECTING LEWA FOREVERMORE

What started out in the 1980s as a 5,000-acre rhino sanctuary, has now become one of Kenya's most successful private wildlife conservancies and a model for community-based conservation worldwide. For many years Lewa operated on land set aside by the Craig family - almost 40,000 acres, with an additional 8,000 acres owned by others and 14,000 acres of national forest. The Craig family granted Lewa the right to manage this land for conservation, but only temporarily. Without owning the land that it had worked so hard to protect and steward, Lewa was in a vulnerable position and the organisation's existence was under threat.

Given the complexity and importance of the situation, Lewa and its American partner, Lewa USA, knew they would in turn need a partner with experience in land conservation transactions. To protect its critical conservation investment, Lewa entered into a strategic collaboration with The Nature Conservancy. The three organisations engineered an innovative plan, now known as Lewa Milele (Swahili for "Lewa Forever"), for Lewa to acquire its core reserve and hold it in trust for the benefit of wildlife and future generations of Kenyans. Along with the primary goal to secure and protect the 62,000 acres of critical habitat, the plan also included a component to establish and fund a "conservation endowment" to protect Lewa from declines in the economy and otherwise decreased income from tourism and philanthropy.

Lewa and its partners crafted a promising arrangement and the Craig family generously agreed to sell their property at a significant discount from fair market value and to accept payment over time. With an amazing outpouring of support from donors, Lewa acquired 32,000 acres of its core reserve in December 2011. At that time, the Craig family transferred the majority of their ownership rights to the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Members of the Craig family continue to live on Lewa today, retaining some of their ownership rights and continuing to offer a positive influence on conservation and community development in northern Kenya.

With the first phase of the land transaction completed, Lewa and its partners are focused on securing the additional funds needed to finalise the remaining land purchase, as well as to fund the "conservation endowment" that will keep this influential organisation running for years to come.

For more than three decades the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy has worked to protect Kenya's iconic wildlife while helping build the capacity of local communities and guarantee a critical source of economic opportunity, which in turn supports cultural stability in the region. If you would like to join Lewa in this conservation vision and help secure Lewa's commitment to conservation and communities in perpetuity, please ask your lodge manager for more information.

## Lewa is not only a world class Conservancy, it is also a proud World Heritage Site.

In late June 2013, the World Heritage Committee extended the boundaries of the Mount Kenya World Heritage Site to include the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and Ngare Ndare Forest.

Through this designation, Lewa and Ngare Ndare joined other famous international natural and cultural treasures such as the Great Barrier Reef, the Galápagos Islands, Lake Turkana, the Great Rift Valley Lakes, the Taj Mahal, Fort Jesus and Lamu Old Town. The site continues to be known as the Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest to allow for future nominations beyond Lewa's boundaries to also be included.

World Heritage status is a prestigious recognition for places of outstanding universal value to humanity that, as such, have been inscribed on the list to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. The World Heritage Committee considered Lewa and Ngare Ndare for their outstanding natural beauty, as well as their varied and impressive ecosystems and biodiversity.

Lewa and Ngare Ndare are connected to Mount Kenya through the elephant corridor. This innovative 'highway' was constructed in 2010 to alleviate human-elephant conflict by providing a safe passage for the pachyderms as they moved back and forth between the

various landscapes. Steered by the Mount Kenya Trust with crucial support from Lewa, Kisima Farm, Marania Farm, Ngare Ndare Forest Trust, Borana Conservancy and the Kenya Wildlife Service, the historic passage way now serves as a route for landscape connectivity, stretching from the mountain through Lewa and onwards north into the wide expanse of the Samburu region.

This designation as a World Heritage Site is a true testament to all who have helped build Lewa into the Conservancy that it is today - a global model for protected area management and a catalyst for conservation.



Ngare Ndare Forest has hundreds of native tree species and Kenya's only canopy walkway. Photo courtesy of Lewa House.

# BECOME A FRIEND OF LEWA



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## HOW YOU CAN HELP

The easiest and most rewarding way to support Lewa is by visiting us. There are five boutique lodges nestled throughout the Conservancy and conservation fees are paid for every guest. This provides vital income, 100 percent of which is reinvested back into conservation and community programmes. While tourism revenue accounts for more than 30 percent of our income, we are also reliant on the support of individuals who believe in community conservation and the preservation of endangered species.

By joining the Friends of Lewa programme, you are not only contributing towards the protection of rhino, Grevy's zebras and other threatened species, you are helping empower local communities to develop and diversify their livelihoods by harnessing the benefits of wildlife. Friends of Lewa are kept up-to-date on all developments and activities on the Conservancy, as well as events and functions taking place around the world. For more information, please see the accompanying pamphlet and sign up today, or ask your lodge manager for more details.

### Keep In Touch

Don't forget to follow us on:

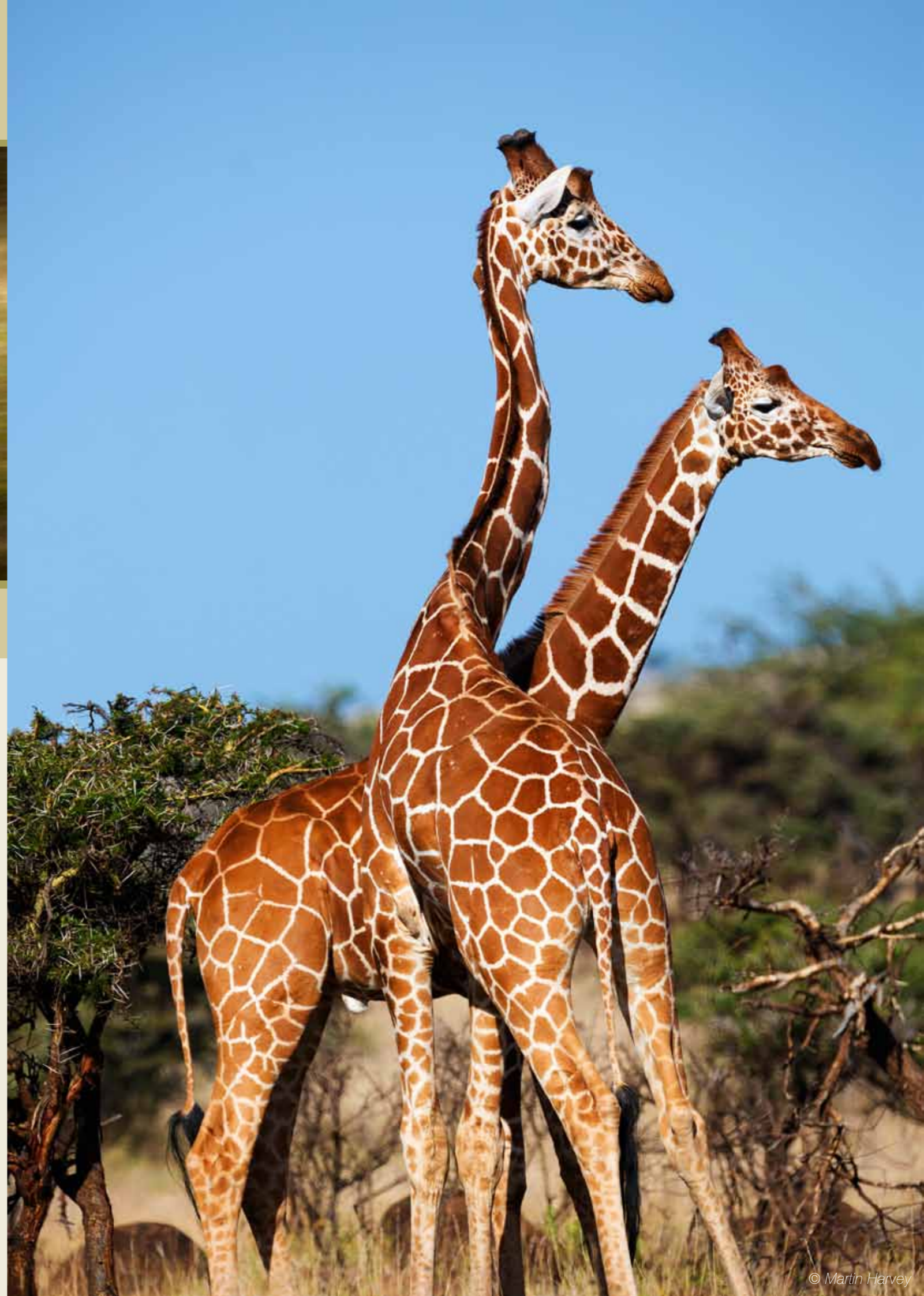
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LewaWildlifeConservancy](http://www.facebook.com/LewaWildlifeConservancy)

Twitter: [@lewa\\_wildlife](https://twitter.com/lewa_wildlife)

Instagram: [@lewa\\_wildlife](https://www.instagram.com/lewa_wildlife)

and visit our website at [www.lewa.org](http://www.lewa.org).

**We'll see you there!**



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**LEWA**  
WILDLIFE  
CONSERVANCY

A UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed in 2013

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