

A UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed in 2013

Lewa News





NEWSLETTER NO. 37 | OCTOBER 2015

Pg. 1 Rangers with a Purpose

Lewa: A Dynamic Catalyst & Pg. 3 Model for Conservation

Pg. 4 Lewa-Sponsored Eliud Gilisho's Amazing Innovation

Pg. 5 Google Meets Lewa & Northern Kenya's Elephants

Pa. 6 Step into the Wild

Pg. 7 Working Together to Protect

Pg. 8 Mobile Clinics: Reaching those Without Access

Pg. 9 Vet Unit: Traversing Northern Kenya, One Case at a Time

Pg. 10 Ten Years of Lewa in Switzerland & a Look at Lewa House

Pg. 11 How You Can Helr

Pg. 12 About Lewa

RANGERS WITH A PURPOSE

Committed to Keeping Wildlife and Communities Safe

by Lewa's Security Team

■ We have been able to protect all our rhinos from poachers since December 2013, but that does not mean we can now relax, even a little. The threat to rhino and elephant in Kenya (and Africa as a whole) has not waned, and as long as this remains the case, we cannot afford to be anything but efficient, vigilant and innovative." Edward Ndiritu, Lewa's Head of Anti-Poaching.

It is this spirit that has seen Lewa's security team record tremendous success in the past two years as they execute their duty across northern Kenya. The team of 150 men and women works tirelessly to protect Lewa's 130 rhino, as well as offer support to their affiliated anti-poaching units across northern Kenya.

Last year, Lewa was one of the few areas in Kenya not to lose rhino to poachers. 19 suspected poachers were arrested and 11 illegal weapons recovered. This year, elephant deaths in northern Kenya have declined and all our rhino are still safe.

The Lewa Security Team continues to assist local communities beyond the Lewa fenceline, serving as a well-respected pillar of peace and stability in the region. For example, thanks to

Continued on Page 2



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Keeping Wildlife and Communities Safe

Continued from page 1



the Lewa team, hundreds of raided livestock in the past few years have been returned to their owners, removing the potential for escalating conflict in the region. In 2012, elders from Tigania East visited Lewa to express their gratitude for our efforts in helping their community recover stolen livestock.

This success and efficiency has led to Lewa becoming a learning hub for others engaging in community-centric and holistic conservation, and the security team has received visitors from as far as Zambia and South Africa.

COMMUNITIES AS THE GREATEST PARTNERS IN PROTECTING WILDLIFE

"The one thing that surprises most of the visitors who come to learn from us is that our neighbouring communities are our biggest anti-poaching partners." says John Pameri, Head of General Security.

This appreciation and recognition by communities as partners in conservation is what has shaped Lewa to become the organisation that it is today. The partnership extends beyond development initiatives to include respect for the knowledge and imperatives of our community partners, gathering of intelligence, effective management of conflict with wildlife and more.

ostracise anyone who participates in this crime. When a person kills an elephant or a rhino, it is an evil benefit only to himself. But when that animal is alive, it represents schools, healthcare, water and security for the entire community." Mzee Lela, Leparua community elder.

Several poaching suspects from Mzee Lela's community have since confessed to their crimes after succumbing to community pressure.

A COSTLY AND RISKY AFFAIR - WITHOUT LOSING SIGHT OF OUR ULTIMATE GOALS

The communities' goodwill creates an environment for the rangers to work, but poaching rings are becoming increasingly sophisticated, and so must our team.

"Protecting rhinos and elephants is now more than just erecting a fence around a habitat. For us to work efficiently, we have had to set up complex infrastructure, hire and regularly train anti-poaching teams and patrol units, acquire expensive technology, establish intelligence networks and more. All these activities are costly while the job in its nature remains extremely risky – and would be a strain to most without the necessary resources." Edward Ndiritu adds.

A MOTIVATED RANGER FORCE IS KEY

Lewa's rangers are selfless men and women who go beyond their call of duty every day. To further motivate this force, the Conservancy begun to upgrade housing facilities for its rangers. Today, all the field rangers on Lewa are living in newly constructed, fully equipped camps.

"The provision of the new amenities has greatly improved the morale of the team. Everybody is happy with the great standards of living we enjoy, and it makes us motivated to continue working for Lewa and protecting wildlife." Francis Kobia, Lewa Field Ranger.



Lewa: A Dynamic Catalyst and Model for Conservation

by Mike Watson | Chief Executive Officer



A black rhino from Lewa charges into its new home on Sera Community Conservancy in northern Kenya.

ewa continues to fulfill its mandate as a catalyst and model for conservation in northern Kenya's ever changing landscape, most recently with the reintroduction of black rhino to the Northern Rangelands Trust's Sera Community Conservancy. Sera Conservancy is in Samburu, a native black rhino habitat that has not held the species in over three decades. In fact, many estimate that the animals have probably been absent in the landscape for close to 40 years.

Preparation to establish the sanctuary began more than five years ago, and to see the project come to fruition was a tremendous moment of pride and accomplishment for Lewa, NRT and the people of Sera. Lewa played an integral role by helping fundraise for the project, setting up the sanctuary's infrastructure, training scouts in anti-poaching and finally, contributing the rhino to form Sera's founding population.

Lewa's co-founder lan Craig aptly states that this is exactly the role Lewa was envisioned to play at inception – an anchor that demonstrates and facilitates community-centric conservation to the broader northern Kenya landscape and beyond. The people of Sera have now made history as the first

community in the country to be responsible for managing a viable black rhino population, a species that remains under heavy threat.

Broadly speaking, Lewa's engagement has not been limited to the black rhino. In this frontier that offers some of the last pristine wilderness areas in Kenya, it is vital to protect the biodiversity that abounds. As a result, we are undertaking numerous conservation projects cutting across other endangered species, from promoting human-elephant coexistence in Mount Kenya, to fixing tracking collars on Grevy's zebra in Turkana in collaboration with other partners.

Looking into the future, the next step for Lewa's catalytic role is in steering the preservation of habitats in its greater conservation region, most of which lies in community-owned areas. This includes forests, rivers and wetlands. The Conservancy, in partnership with NRT, will also begin to play a greater role in replicating its development models, with a special focus on education, to an increasing number of community conservancies.



EDUCATION

Lewa-Sponsored Eliud Gilisho's Amazing Innovation

by Faith Riunga | Education Programme Manager

Energetic and vibrant, Eliud Gilisho is one of Lewa's sponsored students, and his accomplishments continue to make the young man's star shine bright. Eliud, is an impressive young innovator, but he never imagined that his creation would lead him to the United States of America, or give him the chance to meet Kenya's Vice President William Ruto.

Eliud Gilisho demonstrates his project to fellow Lewa-sponsored students and guests. The teenager's innovation has received acclaim in Kenya and beyond.

Eliud and his team back in school have come up with a 'project' or app that is able to detect an explosive or weapon in any vehicle, sending an automatic signal to the police upon detection. Eliud will proudly tell you that he developed the app from a desire to provide a practical solution to help Kenya combat security threats.

In Eliud's own words:

"We started this project three years ago in our first year of high school. We presented it at a science congress a few months later as a concept, but it finished last. We were crushed, but did not give up. Many sleepless nights and hundreds of practical trials later, it finally worked as we wanted."

From finishing last, the project has since proven to be hugely successful. It won the award for the most innovative project in Kenya's science week, 2015. The team went

ahead to represent Kenya in the Diamond Challenge Africa, an international competition that was held in Delaware University in the United States of America in April. He has received accolades from Kenya's Interior Security Cabinet Secretary Joseph ole Nkaissery, and his most recent trip to meet the country's Vice President proves how important and crucial the invention will be for security in Kenya.

I cannot begin to express how proud we are of Eliud. He is an example of what we hope for all our students – that by making educational opportunities accessible to them, they can explore their talents and realise their dreams.

Eliud, despite achieving success at such a young age, remains humble.



"I'm forever grateful to Lewa for supporting my education, without which I wouldn't have accomplished what I have now."

What's the future for our young star? We can only wait and see! He has received several offers from people who wish to purchase the innovation, though at the moment he prefers to concentrate on catching up with schoolwork, and ensuring he passes his final high school exams. The Lewa Education Programme is only able to offer these educational opportunities to children like Eliud thanks to the support from friends across the globe. Get involved and help us set more dreams in motion by emailing faith.riunga@lewa.org.



TECHNOLOGY FOR CONSERVATION

Google Meets Northern Kenya's Elephants and Lewa

by Geoffrey Chege | Conservation and Wildlife Manager



For the first time in Kenya, Google has launched its Street View technology in a one of a kind partnership with Lewa, Save The Elephants (STE) and David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT) to raise global consciousness around elephant behaviour and the work that goes into protecting this iconic species.

The Street View technology will provide panoramic views of individual elephants and the landscapes where they reside, as well as other wildlife that benefit from large-scale conservation efforts across Lewa, Samburu and the DWST elephant orphanage.

FALL IN LOVE WITH ELEPHANTS

By featuring stunning images and stories of elephants and their families, as well as other wildlife, the new arm of the Street View project is intended to build viewers' connections to the animals, and share in the desire to take action in protecting them.

The Street View imagery also features the innovative elephant underpass built along the Mount Kenya elephant corridor. This underpass is the only one of its kind in Kenya and links the forest ecosystem of Mount Kenya with the savannah

ecosystems of Lewa and Samburu plains further north, allowing elephant and other wildlife to safely cross the busy highway that stretches from Meru to Nanyuki. The underpass has facilitated the opening of an historic migration route that had previously been blocked by human development, and now connects at least 2,000 elephants on Mount Kenya to over 6,500 in the Samburu plains.

TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF LEWA, THE MARATHON ROUTE AND HEADQUARTERS

Also featured on Street View are Lewa's stunning landscapes, the marathon route and wildlife such as the Grevy's zebra, rhino, giraffe and more. Additionally, there is coverage of our Security command room, the communications hub that facilitates all of Lewa and the Northern Rangelands Trust's conservation and security efforts across northern Kenya.

If you want to experience Lewa from your desktop or your phone, this is it! It is the best way to experience the Conservancy next to visiting in person!

How do I search for Lewa on this platform? Simply key in "Lewa Wildlife Conservancy" on Google Maps.



SAFARICOM MARATHON

Step into the Wild! by Wanjiku Kinuthia | Communications Officer



The 16th Safaricom Marathon, hosted by Lewa and Tusk Trust, attracted a record-breaking 1,400 runners. This was the biggest event yet, with participants ranging from professional athletes to dignitaries such as the US ambassador to Kenya, Bob Godec, Kenyan parliamentarians and representatives from the Finnish Embassy and British High Commission.

Almost 200 overseas runners took part over the hot day, including teams from Artemis Investment Management LLP, Black Rock, EMSO, Deutsche Bank and Investec Asset Management.

With an amazing time of just over 2hr 20 mins, Elijah Mbogo won this year's full marathon. The vast majority of runners chose to take part in the half marathon. Robert Wambua Mbithi won the race and finished in 1hr 5 mins.

Fredah Lodepa won the women's full marathon title for the third year in a row, making her the woman to beat in next year's race. An ecstatic Fredah dedicated her impressive run to hard work, determination and resilience.

Amongst the overseas runners was Pippa Middleton, who ran an impressive full marathon time of 3hr 56 mins. Pippa shared her experience running the race in an exclusive with HELLO! magazine.



Pippa Middleton was one of the overseas runners who took part

Before the race, the overseas runners had the chance to see first-hand some of the Lewa-sponsored schools and water projects that are funded by the marathon each year. Such visits always demonstrate the importance of the event and Tusk and Lewa's work in changing people's lives as well as preserving wildlife.

The Safaricom Marathon route is now available on Google's Street View. This means you can take an exciting, panoramic, 360 degree tour and encounter some of the wildlife that are protected in part by funds raised through this event. Simply key in "Lewa Marathon" on Google Maps.



COMMUNITIES

Working Together to Protect Forests by John Kinoti | Community Programmes Manager

ncrease in human population and settlement across the country continues to pose a threat to forests and other wild habitats, and the key lies in convincing communities to adopt sustainable development. Lewa's vision for next five years includes steering the protection of neighbouring forest landscapes that are key to the survival of our ecosystem. These landscapes - Mukogodo Forest, Ngare Ndare Forest and the northern slopes of Mount Kenya Forest - form an integral part of the greater conservation area that Lewa and the neighbouring communities rely on.

We are dedicating efforts to establish or strengthen already existing Community Forest Associations (CFAs). These associations will then be empowered to work with the government entity responsible for forests, the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), as well as other institutions, to facilitate consultative management efforts.

These efforts, to be developed with Lewa and KFS's support, will entail biodiversity conservation, security of habitats within the forest and will also form an avenue to discuss sustainable resource utilisation and development.

CFAs are run and managed by communities, giving a direct involvement to the people whose lives and survival are linked to the existence of these forests. It mobilises them to see the value of why the forests must be preserved. We want to empower CFAs to make forest conservation a way of life, to

become a part of people's culture.

Of the three forests within Lewa's area of engagement, the Conservancy has had the longest relationship with Ngare Ndare. Lewa has worked with the Ngare Ndare Forest Trust over the years to establish sustainable practises, and this has yielded successful results.

Ngare Ndare is the only indigenous forest reported to be expanding in Kenya. Ecotourism also supports the Trust's operations and proceeds are being channelled back to development work in the community areas such as grading of roads and more.



Additionally, a concessional agreement between the Kenyan government through KFS and the communities surrounding Ngare Ndare Forest has been signed, a rare opportunity that offers these communities exclusive rights to maintain the forest.

Out of this success, Lewa's Community Development team is looking at extending a similar model to the Mukogodo and the Mount Kenya forest. The communities' reception to this work has been hugely positive and most are beginning to understand that when you disrupt the ecosystem, you are ultimately disrupting the future.



HEALTHCARE

Mobile Clinics: Providing Essential Primary Healthcare

by James Kiogora and Ezekiel Karino | The Healthcare and Human Resources Team



A Lewa ranger volunteers to help during a mobile clinic visit to a school. In the past three months, the clinic team has carried out 31 outreaches to neighbouring schools.

Lewa's mobile clinics take healthcare services to rural people from communities that have little or no access to health facilities.

"The mobile clinics enable us to reach these remote areas and carry out physical examination and diagnosis, treat minor ailments, immunise children, initiate family planning services and help with referral for complication cases or emergencies." Ezekiel Karino, the Lewa Healthcare Administrator, explains.

The mobile clinics also visit neighbouring schools to carry out anti-jigger and de-worming campaigns, as well as treat the school children for minor diseases and ailments.

In the last three months, Lewa's Leparua Clinic carried out eight school health outreaches while the Lewa clinic held 23. Approximately 7,000 school children benefited from this. There were seven community health outreach meetings by Leparua and Lewa Clinics and close to 500 adults received treatment. Alongside treatment, school children were screened for developmental disorders and teenagers also received teen education and counselling.

DETECTION OF LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS

Perhaps one of the most crucial functions of the mobile clinics is to help diagnose life threatening conditions and

diseases not previously detected. Recently, during an outreach at Leparua, the Lewa nurses encountered a unique case. A 16-year-old teenager had given birth at home the night before to a baby girl, Lucy Kiluwa. The 18-hour-old baby had low birth weight, an occipital hematoma (collection of blood in the occipital region which is at the back of the head) and was breastfeeding poorly. The crew did initial first aid and urgently transferred young Lucy to St. Theresa, a mission hospital in Kiirua.

On the 8th of July, the Lewa team, along with visiting doctors from Canada, encountered several unique cases at an outreach in Ntumburi community. Of these was 10-year-old Karen Kinanu, whose examination revealed that she had undiagnosed childhood heart disease, was referred to a hospital for further cardiac tests. The tests indicated she had Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA), a condition which a child is born with, and known in layman's terms, as a hole in the heart.



Mobile clinics help detect diseases and conditions in remote communities that have limited access to healthcare facilities.

"The way we see it, our mobile clinics are health agents that treat minor diseases and ailments, and provide the link between detection of life-threatening conditions and eventual diagnosis and treatment in advanced health centres. We were able to detect Karen and Lucy's cases in hope that we could help save their lives." Ezekiel adds.



${f Vet}$ intervention

Traversing Northern Kenya, One Case at a Time by Matthew Mutinda | Veterinary Officer

y team and I are responsible for veterinary intervention not only on Lewa, but also across the northern Kenya and Laikipia landscape. Below is a look at some of the interventions we have recently undertaken.



This cheetah had been caught by a snare and was in obvious agony. Luckily we were able to help. We are working with our neighbours to reduce such cases of human-wildlife conflict and



Fixing a GPS tracking collar on a lion. This technology helps us determine the location of the animals, their preferred habitats to protect them while providing crucial research data.



This young giraffe survived a predation attack. We treated its wounds and it has since recovered fully. Lewa is home to approximately 240 reticulated giraffe that move back and forth to other contigous landscapes through our wildlife gaps.



A female elephant in Leparua was suffering from disease and dehydration. What impressed us all was the community's desire to help and see the elephant survive. They also protected the elephant until our team arrived. Increasingly, communities are becoming wildlife champions and protectors and recognise the value of these iconic species.



Sustainability

Featuring Lewa House and 10 Years of Lewa Switzerland by Ruwaydah Abdul-Rahman | Donor Relations Manager



Calum and Sophie McFarlane during a sundowner on Lewa. The couple has reinvented Lewa House into a stunning lodge.

ophie McFarlane and her husband Calum are the young and enthusiastic managers of Lewa House, one of the Conservancy's oldest properties. No strangers to conservation, Sophie's family has lived on Lewa for four generations, and their two children now form part of the fifth. After living abroad and elsewhere in Kenya, Sophie knew she'd always come back home.

"To do what I wasn't sure, but I always knew this is where I would end up somehow."

Turning their shared dream into reality, Calum and Sophie have re-created Lewa House into an artistic, uniquelydesigned lodge that blends naturally with Lewa's terrain. It has an open plan dining area and fire place, and the stunning cottages offer great views of wildlife. The infinity pool provides a beautiful setting for a swim, lunch or evening cocktails.

A visit to Lewa House does not only promise first class service, amazing cuisine and fantastic game viewing opportunities - it is also an intimate family experience that is part of Lewa's history. For more visit www.lewa.org or email Sophie and Calum at info@lewahouse.com.

A DECADE OF LEWA IN SWITZERLAND

Lewa Switzerland was founded in 2004 in memory of Evi Bernhard by her sisters, Monica and Cathy, and their families. Evi, who died in 1999, lived on Lewa for 10 years, and was a great supporter of the Conservancy's projects.

Today, the Swiss Team raises money to support programmes ranging from educational bursaries to healthcare. Over 50 children in the education programme are supported by Lewa Swiss donors. Lewa's further associations with Zoo Zurich and other partners has also generated Swiss support for conservation projects, such as the recent translocation of rhino to Sera Community Conservancy.

Last year in October, Lewa Swiss held an event to celebrate their decade of existence. 200 people attended the event that raised money to support the Lewa clinics.

If you live in Switzerland and would like to get involved in Lewa's work, don't hesitate to contact us at info@lewa.org.



Monica Villiger of Lewa Switzerland, the Lewa Education Programme's Mercy Mwirigi and children from Lewa sponsored



How You Can Help

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy occupies only 61,000 acres on northern Kenya's massive landscape but its role as the model and anchor of conservation in this ecologically, socially and economically vital region ensures that Lewa's influence and support extends far beyond its borders.

Working hand in hand with the communities, local authorities, the Northern Rangelands Trust and other strategic partners, Lewa continues to catalyse conservation in the region by providing technical, infrastructural and managerial support, recognising that regional success of conservation and community development holds the key to creating a sustainable and harmonised landscape for both human beings and wildlife to thrive. To achieve this, we need your help:

DONATE ONLINE

To make an online donation from anywhere in the world, simply visit our website and click on the Support Lewa tab. Select the country or region that applies to you to make the donation.

BY CHEQUE

Our overseas teams make it easy for you to give. Please email any of our representatives (listed at the back of this page) in your respective country to find out how to make out a cheque to support Lewa.

VISIT US

The most enjoyable way you can help Lewa is simply by visiting us! Lewa is world renown for its outstanding, low impact tourism practises. For every day a visitor stays on Lewa, we earn conservation fees, funds that contribute to our annual running costs.

Make a booking to stay in one our five unique lodges today! Visit our website for more information.

ATTEND OUR EVENTS

Lewa regularly hosts events across the globe to raise funds to support our numerous programmes. Please visit the website or contact our overseas representatives who will inform you of events coming up in their countries. You can also participate in the Safaricom Marathon held every year on Lewa to raise funds for community conservation.

STAY IN TOUCH

One of the easiest ways to support us is by signing up to receive our news!

Please email info@lewa.org to be added to our mailing list.

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.





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 notfor-profit organisation. Lewa evolved, over time, to become an internationally recognised catalyst and model for conservation that protected endangered species, empowered communities through development programmes and worked with government. Today, we aim to replicate this successful working model to a broader landscape beyond our borders and steer the establishment of conservation as a viable way of life for communities that share their land with wildlife.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- A UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed in 2013 as an extension of the Mount Kenya World Heritage Site
- One of two organisations in Africa to feature on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Green List for excellence in protected area management
- Silver Award in Poverty Reduction by the World Responsible Tourism Awards, 2014
- Runner Up, Best in Wildlife Conservation by the Safari Awards, 2014
- Tusk Wildlife Ranger Award for Lewa's Head of Anti-Poaching, Edward Ndiritu, in 2015.

LEWA AS A CATALYST BEYOND ITS BOUNDARIES

Lewa's mission is to act as a catalyst for conservation, and its successful model combines the protection of wildlife, community

development, and sustainable tourism. Acting as that model, we have helped to stimulate community-owned conservation throughout northern Kenya and beyond.

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

HOW YOU CAN HELP

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

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

Our Mission

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy works as a 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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