



LEWA
WILDLIFE
CONSERVANCY

A UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed in 2013



THE HEART OF NORTHERN KENYA

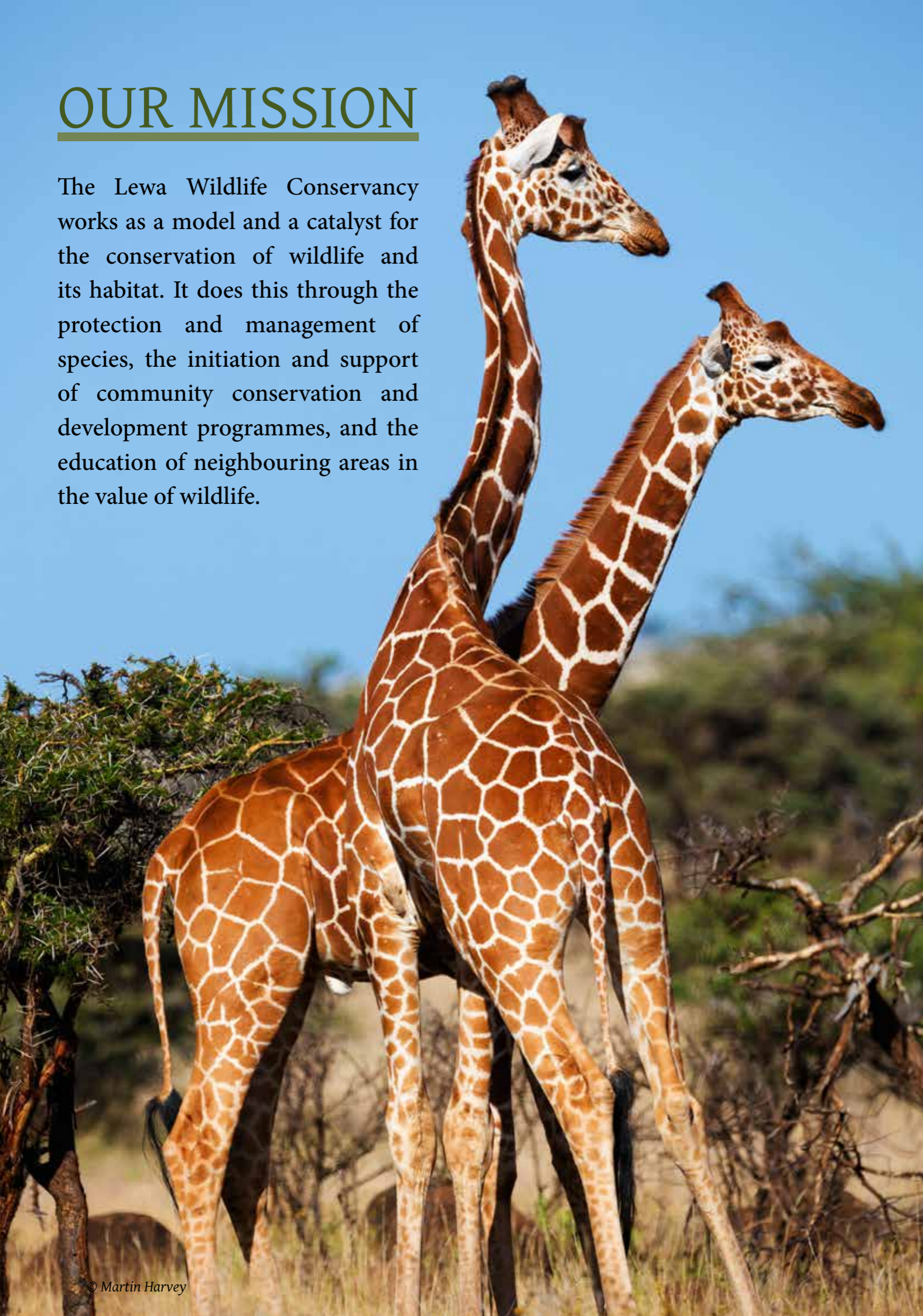


SCALE :

20 40 Km

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 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



12%

of Kenya's endangered black rhinos live on the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

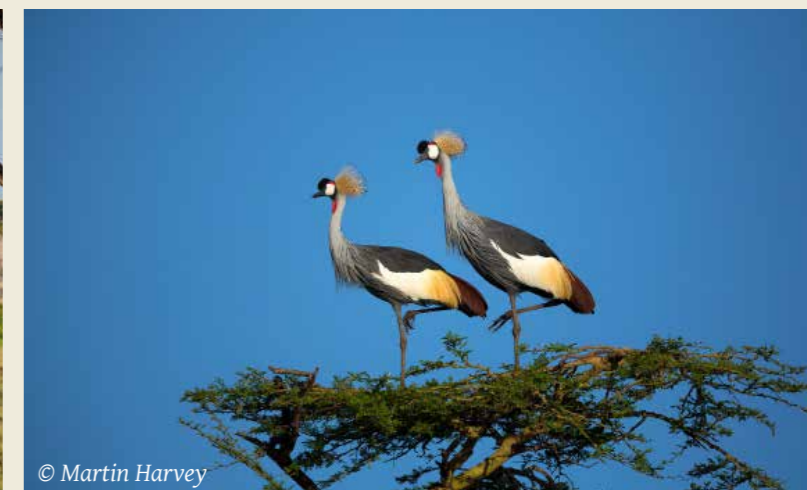
still living in the wild in northern Kenya and formed security and wildlife supervision teams to manage their protection. Not only were they extremely successful, but the conservation work also began attracting tourists from around the world, anxious to see some of the last remaining rhinos in Kenya.

Eventually the Craig family would devote their 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 12% of Kenya's critically endangered black rhino and over 14% of Kenya's white rhino, an abundance of 70 other large mammal species native to East Africa and a multitude of bird life.

From its inception, what made Lewa special was the awareness that unless local communities could be enlisted to support the protection of endangered species, there would be little chance of success. In light of this fact, Lewa was founded on the principle that the benefits of wildlife protection and the resulting tourism, should be channelled 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 pastoralist and subsistence farmers. To foster a positive relationship with wildlife, Lewa invests into community development projects to serve the basic needs of these communities and give them the tools to improve their own lives.

Thanks to the trailblazing vision of Anna and the Craig Family, Lewa now serves as a world-wide example of successful wildlife conservation practises and its model is being replicated in conservancies across the continent.



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; 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. Sadly, due to human greed, 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. 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 Sergoi 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 programme, today, there are more than 130 rhinos on the Conservancy.

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. 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. 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 opportunity, as well as the sponsor of their children's schools, the nearby health clinics, adult education programmes 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.



© Martin Harvey

Creating new sanctuaries



Ami Vitale

In 2013, Lewa was pivotal in the reintroduction of the black rhino to Borana Conservancy to the west, with 11 animals from Lewa forming part of Borana's founder population. To create more space for wildlife to roam freely over a larger area, Lewa and Borana removed the fence separating the two properties to form a 93,000 acre landscape. The rhinos on Borana are thriving and closer collaboration between the two conservancies is harmonising wildlife management and research practises.

Perhaps the most historic translocation and venture undertaken recently is the reintroduction of rhinos to Northern Rangelands Trust's Sera Community Conservancy. As free ranging areas for wildlife become increasingly rare, the future for Africa's iconic species now lies in communities acquiring a sense of ownership over the animals in their landscape and consequently, a commitment to sharing their land and resources, and protecting the most threatened.

Last year signalled the beginning of this journey for Kenya, with Sera becoming the first community-led initiative to protect endangered black rhino. Nine of Lewa's rhinos were moved to the new sanctuary in an historic translocation across northern Kenya. For Lewa, this was the truest example of how we play our role as a catalyst and model for conservation: our team was instrumental in formation of the sanctuary through infrastructure development, ranger capacity building, enhancement of managerial expertise, and of course, providing the rhinos who are now Sera's pioneer population. Lewa's teams continue to work with the team on Sera to protect and nurture the population.

TEACHING WITH A PURPOSE



GREVY'S ZEBRA

Lewa is currently home to 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 2,600 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 and poaching for its skin. 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. The Conservancy is nurturing this population with the hope that it will be key in the reemergence of the species in northern Kenya.

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

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 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.

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.

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.

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 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.



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



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 Lewa and Ngare Ndare Forest up to Mount Kenya.

Several goals drove this project. The primary objective behind the corridor was to mitigate human-elephant conflict by creating a safe passage way for the pachyderms to move across the landscape. Establishing a safe corridor would also promote genetic diversity of the elephants by connecting them to previously isolated herds in Mount Kenya.

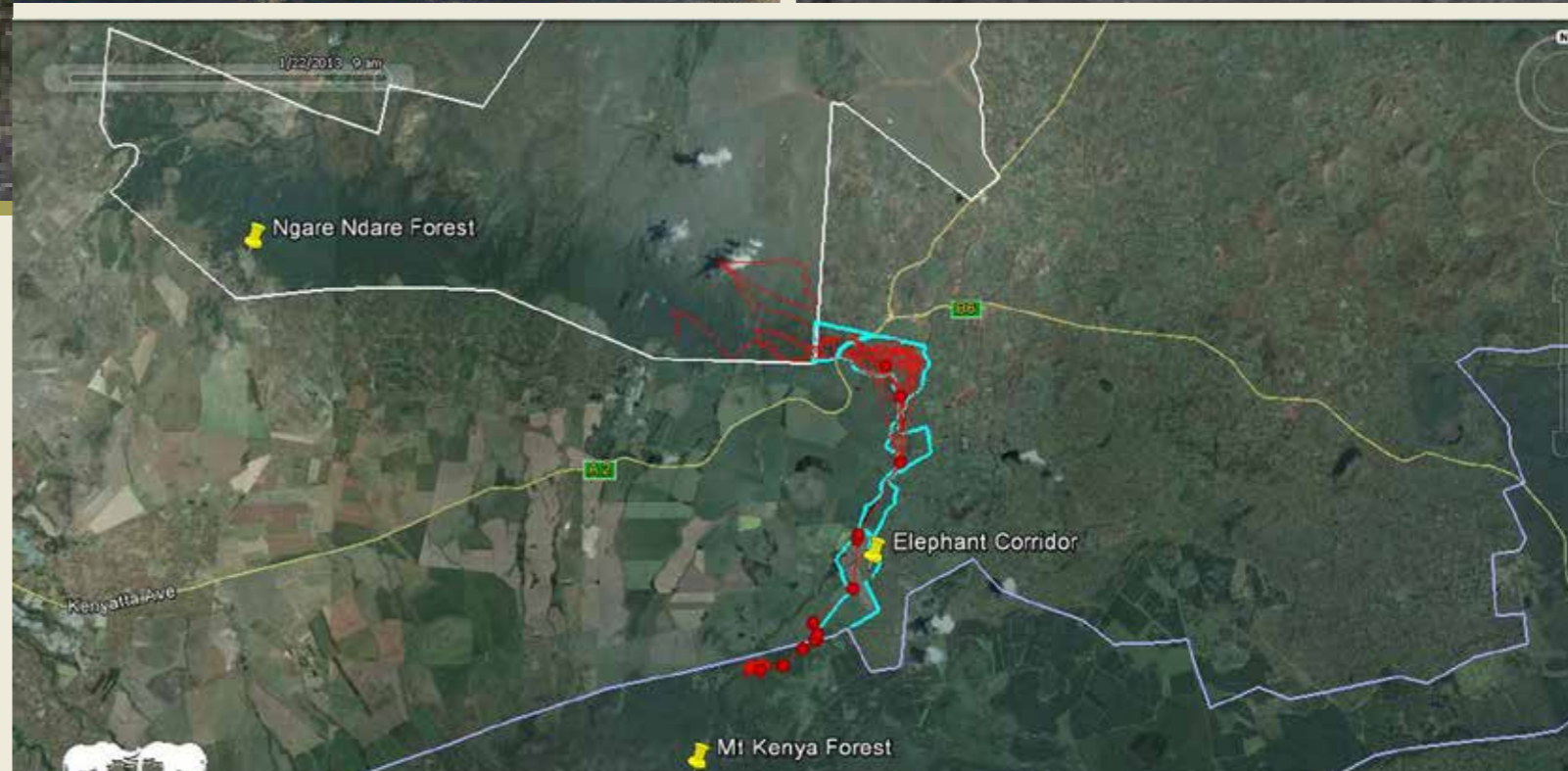
The partners involved in the project included Kisima and Marania Farms, two major agricultural operations near Lewa that were concerned for both the safety of the elephants and the sustainability of their crops. Lewa also worked closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Kenya Forest Service and the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

As plans for the corridor came together, one key problem remained: a busy highway stretching between the towns of Meru and Nanyuki that would serve as a dangerous barrier for any elephant travelling to or from Mount Kenya.

Finally a decision was reached to build an underpass to allow the elephants to walk beneath the road. A few conservationists were skeptical of this programme, doubting that elephants would be comfortable with, or even understand, the concept of passing beneath a highway. However, those doubts were put to rest within days of the underpass' opening when Tony cautiously walked underneath on his way to the mountain.

Today the elephant corridor is a tremendous success with hundreds of elephants travelling up and down every year. It has greatly reduced cases of human-elephant conflict and elephants are now able to once again move from northern Kenya through Lewa, Ngare Ndare Forest and Mount Kenya safely. The corridor has facilitated the interaction of over 6,500 elephants previously blocked by human development.

The underpass remains a symbol of how innovation and partnerships can help promote human and wildlife's coexistence.



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, one of the northern Kenya's most famous 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; Tony, the first elephant to use the Mount Kenya Underpass when it was newly opened.

PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE



© Marcus Westberg

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

Every day, Lewa's rangers, the passionate men and women in uniform, risk their lives to protect endangered wildlife and the communities that neighbour the Conservancy. The team, divided broadly into General Security and Anti-Poaching Units, work as one entity to improve the safety of both humans and animals across northern Kenya.

Rhino Monitoring

The Conservancy is divided into blocks that are patrolled daily by field monitors. As Lewa's eyes and ears on the ground, these rangers start work at the crack of dawn and report back throughout the day to the Lewa radio room on their rhino and other animal sightings. Armed with a pair of binoculars, a radio and extensive knowledge on wildlife behaviour, they ensure the well-being

of rhinos and Lewa's other wildlife and are quick to alert in case of any emergencies or unusual sightings.



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

Anti-poaching

Lewa's Anti-Poaching Team are Kenya Police Reservists with a mandate from the Kenyan government to respond to and investigate cases of insecurity on the Conservancy as well as in the neighbouring communities.

To Lewa's north lies a volatile region plagued with sporadic violence and numerous cases of elephant poaching and cattle rustling. To enhance security for both people and wildlife in the region, the team works closely with the Kenya Police, the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Northern Rangelands Trust in gathering intelligence and follow up to any incidents.

They also train the NRT community conservancies' security scouts, providing technical and managerial expertise. The team's greatest assets are five tracker dogs - two bloodhounds, Tipper and Tony, alongside new members of the team, Dutch Herders Jack and Zack and Belgian Malinois Maxo. These highly trained dogs supplement the unit by acting as trackers, often for lengthy distances and with successful results.

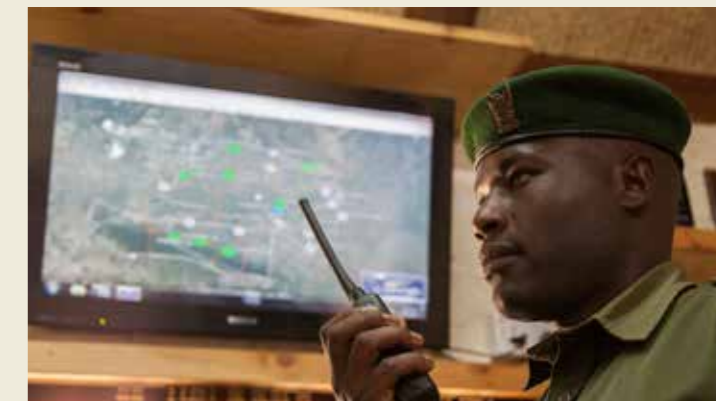


Bloodhound Tipper and his favourite handler, Kisio. Tipper and four other dogs play a vital role as trackers for the Anti-Poaching Unit.
© Ami Vitale

The unit's efforts have not only ensured the safety of Lewa's rhinos but also significantly improved the security of wildlife and people in the neighbouring areas. Poachers have been arrested and thousands of stolen cattle, camels, sheep and goats have been recovered and taken back to their owners. In 2015 alone, the anti-poaching team and tracker dogs helped recover 974 sheep and goats, 199 cattle and 60 camels, saving the owners of this livestock from financial ruin. In return, many of our neighbours now understand the value that the security team has in not only protecting Kenya's national heritage but also in securing their own livelihoods.

Communications

Lewa's radio room serves as the communications hub to the entire Conservancy and all the NRT conservancies - covering a radius of more than 300km. It is the central place where all rangers, NRT scouts and members of the neighbouring communities call in to give information. The room is equipped with state of the art radio



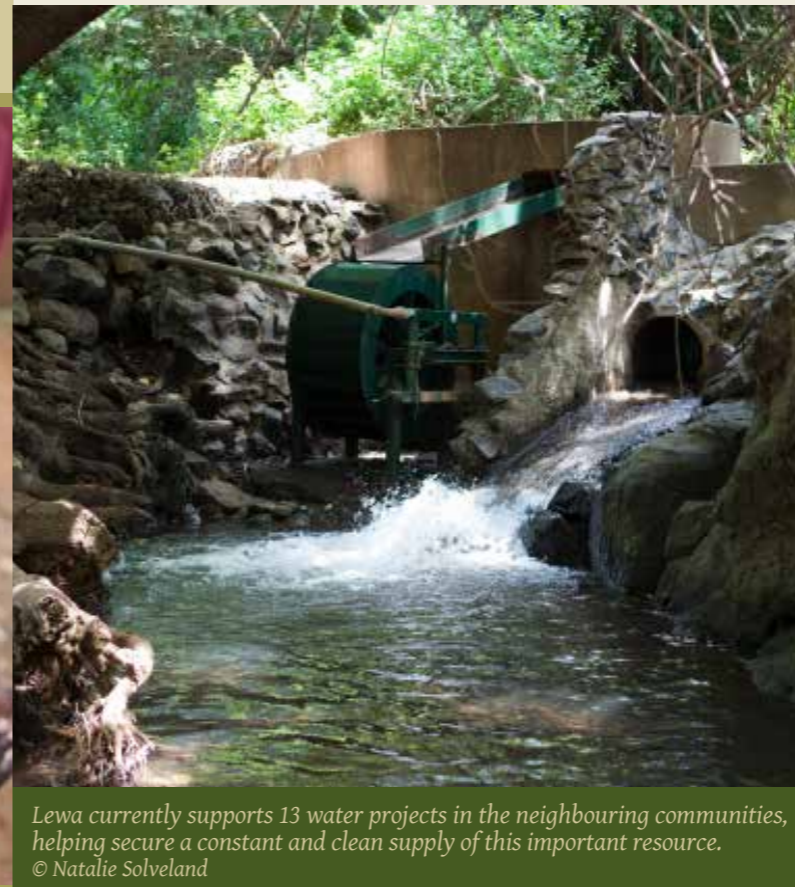
John Tanui and his team oversee radio communications for Lewa and the Northern Rangelands Trust community conservancies, a radius of over 300km.
© Anne and Steve Toon

equipment that connects Lewa with the Police, Kenya Wildlife Service and other partners. It also has screens that display wildlife tracking technology which enables the rangers manning the room to receive up to date information on elephant herds moving across the landscape as well as the migration patterns and preferred habitats of Grevy's zebra, lion and hyena. This technology, in partnership with Save The Elephants and Google, has helped rangers plan their patrols along the elephant migration routes and also assisted the research team to collect important data on other key species behaviour across the landscape.

GROWING TOGETHER



© Natalie Solveland



Lewa currently supports 13 water projects in the neighbouring communities, helping secure a constant and clean supply of this important resource. © Natalie Solveland

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.

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 21 schools, manages four clinics, 13 major community water supply schemes, and sustains an adult education programme, a women's micro-credit scheme 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 needs of communities surrounding the Conservancy, thereby contributing directly towards improving livelihoods.

Water Development

Kenya is limited by an annual renewable fresh water supply and often, this crucial resource is scarce due to recurrent drought, poor management of the water supply, under-investment, unfair allocation of water, rampant deforestation and pollution of water supplies by untreated sewage. This applies to northern Kenya, where Lewa 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.

The last ten years have witnessed direct support to 13 water projects across various neighbouring communities. 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 is 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.

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.

Community Healthcare Programme

Lewa's four 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 decentralised 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 four Lewa clinics are the closest health facilities to many. © Natalie Solveland

The Lewa clinic also carries out mobile clinics to offer healthcare to communities living in remote areas. The mobile clinics not only treat common ailments but also diagnose more serious cases and offer referral services for further treatment.

Since inception of the healthcare programme, thousands have sought treatment for a wide range of common ailments and diseases across the four clinics. Many lives have been saved, hundreds of children have received immunisation against diseases and mothers can now deliver safely in our clinics. This has greatly improved the lives of our neighbours.



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

In most rural areas, the poor state of access roads has been problematic for 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 alongside other infrastructural upgrades.

The Lewa Logistics Team have graded and constructed culverts for over 30 kilometres of roads in 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.

Lewa, in partnership with local government authorities, will continue to address the infrastructure needs of its neighbours and thereby improve quality of life.

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 10 million Kenya shillings. Types of enterprises range from bead works 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.

For many of these women, the Micro-Credit Programme's impact has extended far beyond lending money. It has given them a platform to create groups of mutual interest, learn from each other, share their experiences and generally have a feeling of belonging.

Bursaries

The Lewa Education Programme (LEP) provides opportunities for children from under privileged backgrounds to acquire formal education and realise their dreams. Most of the bursaries are offered to students joining secondary school and are based on both need and academic potential. In the 21 Lewa-supported primary schools, with a total enrollment of approximately 700 children in the last year of primary school, only 20% of these children will proceed to secondary 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 700 children through these educational sponsorships. 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's 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.



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

All of these students have returned to their hometowns over the years and have given back to their communities. They are great ambassadors of Lewa and are symbols of conservation's ability to transform the lives of the people who share their land with wildlife.

Schools

The Lewa Education Programme facilitates development in 21 government schools, supplementing what the government already provides.



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

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 building of permanent structures. Classes, latrines, kitchens, libraries have been built depending on the schools development plan and priorities.
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

LEWA'S NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES

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 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.

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



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

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 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.

VISIT LEWA

With gentle rolling hills and natural, unspoiled beauty, Lewa offers guests the trip of a lifetime with its unforgettable combination of scenery, superb game viewing, excellent hospitality and conservation education.

Visit Lewa and enjoy an intimate and exclusive experience in the wild. While on the Conservancy, you will get a chance to go on game drives and bush walks, view wildlife from horseback, enjoy stunning sundowners, take a trip to the canopy walkway in Ngare Ndare Forest, go on a camel safari, delight in a bush breakfast and much more!

Our five lodges, each unique in its own way, offer the best possible accommodation for the discerning traveller. By visiting Lewa, you will be directly contributing to the future of northern Kenya's endangered wildlife while helping us develop the communities that call this landscape home.

A trip to Lewa is more than just a regular safari; it is also a chance to experience African conservation at its best.

KIFARU



SIRIKOI



LEWA SAFARI CAMP



HOW YOU CAN HELP



© Martin Buzora

Lewa 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.

We have been able to record tremendous successes for over 30 years of practising community-centric conservation, and can achieve much more with 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 info@lewa.org to find out more.

Visit Us

The most enjoyable way you can help Lewa is

simply by visiting us! Lewa is world renowned 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 of our five unique lodges today! Take a tour on 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 Lewa's efforts is by signing up to receive our news. Please email info@lewa.org to be added to our mailing list.

LEWA WILDERNESS



LEWA HOUSE



Keep In Touch

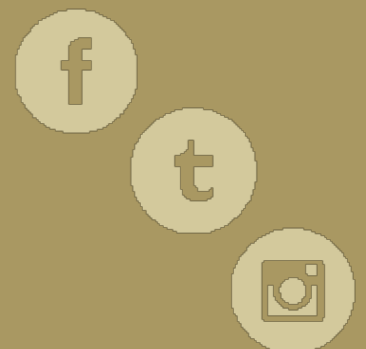
Don't forget to follow us on:

Facebook: 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.





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LEWA
WILDLIFE
CONSERVANCY

A UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed in 2013