



LEWA
WILDLIFE
CONSERVANCY



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

Submitted By: Mike Watson

Mike.watson@lewa.org

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PROGRAMMATIC AND FINANCIAL REPORT
LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY RHINO CONSERVATION PROGRAM
July 2013 - June 2014

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy remains extremely indebted for the financial support from America Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) through the very successful Bowling for Rhino (BFR) events. AAZK has contributed **US\$ 209,525** towards Lewa’s rhino protection and security operations over the past one year. These funds cumulatively make up about 15% of Lewa’s rhino conservation program budget. By supporting Lewa, home to 12% and 14% of Kenya’s black and white rhino respectively, AAZK is directly helping to ensure the survival of these endangered species.

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

Rhino Conservation Programme



(Waiwai and her 2.2 year old calf)

In 2013 alone, Lewa lost a total of 6 rhinos to poachers while in 2014 to date, no rhino have been lost; with great efforts greatly employed to deter any poaching within the conservancy. The poaching threat continues to escalate to heights never experienced before mainly due to demand for rhino horn and elephant ivory that continues to rise, reaching the highest levels in history. This dramatic increase is the result of a variety of factors, most notably the growing purchasing power of Middle East and Asian populations, and the sophistication of organized poaching gangs who sell wildlife products to black market syndicates in a range countries.

There are great steps being taken by the government and other stake holders to curb poaching ; Within the last five months of 2014-- there has been reduction in rhino poaching across different parts of the country, although still rife in other parts of the country such as in the Lake Nakuru national park and some other conservancies who have experienced significant losses in the numbers of rhino as a result of poaching activities.

Lewa’s impressive anti-poaching track record is well known throughout the conservation world, and can be attributed to the attention to detail and constant adaptation to meet the ever growing and changing threats from poaching. Lewa strives to addresses conceivable angles of threat to its' flagship species through the daily monitoring of each rhino, vigilant observation of all entry points and conservancy boundaries, constant maintenance of the fence line, regular aerial surveillance, and continuous training of all security forces and canine units in preparedness for any potential eventuality that would pose a threat to the conservancy’s resident wildlife.

Kenya Police Reservists (KPR) Armed Anti-Poaching Teams



(KPR team during a training exercise with trainer Pete Newland)

33 members of Lewa’s 150-person security team are categorized as Kenya Police Reservists (KPR), meaning that they are trained and employed by Lewa, but licensed and approved by the Kenyan government to carry firearms and respond to incidences of instability or violence throughout the region. Lewa's teams are deployed on a daily basis to different locations to ensure greater coverage of the conservancy. Many of the poaching incidents experienced on Lewa in 2013 - 2014 have been successful partly due to collaboration between the poachers and other very well organized criminal syndicates and sometimes as a result of insider information. The anti-poaching units are positioned throughout the

conservancy , with one team based at headquarters as an initial rapid response unit, ready to deploy at anytime 24/7, 365 days.

Aside from routine patrols and regular responses to incidences on and off the conservancy, Lewa’s KPR teams are always upgrading and improving their operations and training. An annual training regimen that encompasses new training skills and refresher courses, has been set in place to ensure each member of the KPR teams received specialized armed training skills and technique alongside medical training with one person from each unit also undertaking an advance field-medical course in case of serious/complicated injuries during call-outs.

The teams now carry medical kits with bandages, tunicates and other necessary supplies. Their uniforms were also upgraded to include insulating base-layers and gloves to protect against extreme weather conditions including high-elevation, cold night time temperatures experienced during deployment.

Lewa's anti-poaching unit continues to enhance its collaboration with the Kenya government, most especially the Kenya Police and the Kenya Wildlife Service. After the elections, the Lewa Security team has had more engagement at county government level with the counties of Isiolo, Meru and other neighbouring counties in addressing security matters. This level of concentration at county level is mandatory as security matters primary to their capacity as a KPR unit will be greatly dependant on any matters security at County government level and thereafter at a National level.

The figure below shows comparative poaching incidences for July 2013- June 2014.

Incidence	Total reported during the Period
Armed KPR deployments / follow-ups to serious security incidents	37
Tracker dog deployments	22
Aerial follow-ups and reconnaissance	15
Poaching incidents reported rhinos	6
Road banditry reports	33
Stock theft reports	73
Elephant carcasses / tusk recovery	40
Robbery reports	4
Arrests	16
Firearms / weapons recovered	8

The total cost over the reporting period July 2014- June 2014, to effectively run the mobile KPR armed teams, including salaries, rations, medical, uniforms and allowances was **USD\$207,056**.

Tracker Dog Unit



(Tiva and his handler during a training exercise)

Over the years, Lewa's canine unit has developed a good reputation with regards to high success rates in all deployment follow-ups. This impressive team is regularly called upon by the Kenyan government to assist in a wide range of situations that require quick responses and scent tracking.

Having lost Tash and Toffee who faithfully served as Lewa's tracker dogs for ten years, in October--the team is now made up of 2 male blood-hounds, Tony and Tiva. There are plans to introduce a further two dogs to what will now be known as Lewa's canine unit, consisting of two extra dogs in addition to the tracker hounds. These dogs are currently at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy training with a larger group of dogs. All of whom are part of a more complex form of training to compliment the KPR teams during engagement, ambush, patrols and recce exercises.

Over this reporting period the tracker dog team has been involved in a total of 22 security follow-ups and has provided invaluable assistance during these situations.

The total cost to operate the canines and their handlers over the reporting period was a total of **USD\$20,238**.

Aerial Back-up



(SUE- Lewa's MD 30 Helicopter)

Lewa's aerial surveillance continues to play a vital role in all operations, supporting not just Lewa's security operations, but also those of partner organizations such as NRT and OI Pejeta Conservancies. The LWC Super Cub acts as back-up to security related follow-ups to Lewa and other conservation partners nearby such OI Pejeta, OI Jogi and other Northern Rangeland Trust member conservancies. The super-cub has been particularly useful in responding to the upsurge in poaching threats and attempts, that included night flying, follow ups to local stock-theft incidences and road banditry.

The aircraft is also an invaluable resource in locating missing rhino as well as offering aerial support for the annual game count. Lewa's wildlife and security teams aim to locate every individual rhino each day-- should a rhino not be spotted for three days an aerial survey is immediately launched alongside a ground survey of the area until the rhino is found and or spotted. Often rhinos change territory due to emergence of young males who claim territory and displace the older; mostly due to scarcity of pasture that is on the increase on Lewa due to increased number of rhino; as Lewa is over the recommended carrying capacity of rhino; even after the successful translocation of eleven rhino from Lewa onto Borana.

The ability to carry out aerial surveillance is one of Lewa's most important tools in protecting the rhino populations and combating insecurity. Without this support, it would be impossible to provide the current high-level wildlife protection and security responses.

Lewa also acquired a MD 30 Helicopter which has greatly enhanced response to the overwhelming poaching threat within the region, ease capture activities as well as accurate game counts. This Helicopter has and will

greatly continue to support anti-poaching activities, being able to almost halve the time a vehicle response would take on a 62,000acre conservation expanse.

Over the reporting period, the total cost of operating the LWC Super Cub aircraft and MD 30 Helicopter in support of the security deployment and surveillance was **USD\$ 39,880**

Field Monitors Salaries



(Baby Kilifi our newest edition)

Lewa's rhino monitoring team is made up of **42** field monitors who carry out daily patrols and monitor specific regions or "blocks" of the conservancy. In response to the escalating poaching threats the conservancy has restructured its 18 blocks system into 9 sections, with the aim to create larger presence and consolidated patrolling routine. The field monitors radio back daily to Lewa's operations room to report on the location of each rhino, as well as any unusual signs of human behavior or entry into the conservancy. The monitoring system and protocol has been adjusted to maximize efficiency and increase the daily protection of each animal.

Lewa's rangers are well trained and equipped to track rhino. Using binoculars, they identify each of the animals in their patrol block based on age, ear-notching pattern, sex and behavior. In cases where the ranger teams are unable to sight an individual rhino within 3 days, extra personnel are deployed in and around that rhino's usual range area. If the animal is still not found an aerial search is conducted, checking every possible corner of the conservancy until it is located.

In addition to this team, we have 4 orphaned animal handlers who take care of the 3 baby rhinos to ensure they well taken care of and protected from any attack from other wildlife like adult male rhino, and predators.

The total cost to operate 42 rhino surveillance rangers patrolling the “blocks”, 21 gate guards, 11 night watchmen, two armory guards, five dog handlers, six radio operators, two wildlife capture men, and two orphaned animal handlers for this reporting period was **USD\$ 268,235**

Security Vehicles



The LWC security team has three main vehicles, one for regular rhino monitoring and the other two for the armed KPR teams. As a result of the increased poaching threat and rough terrain within and outside of the conservancy and neighboring community, the security vehicles are driven round the clock, to monitor every member of LWC’s rhino population and other wildlife as well as offer support to the community. This level of mileage and overall wear and tear from constant usage on difficult terrain has taken a toll on these vehicles.

While the Lewa workshop continues to do an excellent job of keeping these vehicles running safely and consistently, these eventually need to be replaced. The age and continued wear and tear to these vehicles, has contributed to high cost related to maintaining and running these old vehicles.

AAZK’s funding was used to support the running of these vehicles in 2014, total cost coming to **USD\$ 34,366.**

Radio Operation Room Communication Costs

Lewa’s radio room is the heart of the conservancy’s security operations, providing a central point of communications for the entire region. Lewa’s impressive communications unit manages all aircraft coming in and out of Lewa, as well as maintaining records of each rhino’s specific movements through tracking with the help of the field monitors located in different areas within the conservancy sighting and reporting the rhinos’ movements.

Most importantly, the communications’ team plays a vital role in the community, where anyone can call in with tips of potential poaching plans or other threats. Through its radio communication LWC has been able to relay messages accurately and coordinate effective interventions for many security occurrences. This is enhanced through collaboration and linkage with relevant security agencies like the KWS, Kenya Police and other government agencies. It is adequately equipped with modern communication devices and manned by highly trained personnel.

AAZK funding contributes to the costs of radio repairs, purchase of spare batteries, staff salaries and radio licensing. In 2014 the radio communications operation and intelligence network operations on LWC cost **USD \$27,265**.

Total Expenditure towards Rhino Conservation Programmes

AAZK contributed significantly by donating **US\$ 209,525** over this reporting period. These costs reflect the core function of LWC day to day work that specifically focuses on rhino conservation. AAZK’s long term and continuous funding makes it a vital contributor to the success of LWC in its conservation initiatives. We are indebted by the support AAZK has been contributing to Lewa over the years; you have not only been partners but grown to be part and parcel of Lewa fraternity.

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

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

Financial Report for Period, July 2013 to June 2014.

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Submitted to American Association Of Zoo Keepers Bowling for Rhinos Program

Income received by Lewa, Kenya	Amount
Funds received from AAZK BFR on 07 th August 2013	\$22,000
Funds received from AAZK BFR on 16 th September 2013	\$52,800
Funds received from AAZK BFR on 29 th October 2013	\$30,800
Funds received from AAZK BFR on 27 th November 2013	\$29,318
Funds received from AAZK BFR on 31 th December 2013	\$74,607
Totals	<u>\$209,525</u>
Expenditure	Amount

AAZK contribution to salaries for KPR Anti-Poaching Team	\$ 43,917.00
AAZK contribution to Dog Section operational expenses	\$ 5,969.00
AAZK contribution to operating expenses for aerial Back-Up	\$15,526.00
AAZK contribution to LWC Rangers salaries	\$110,113.00
AAZK contribution to Motor Vehicle running expenses	\$ 8,092.00
AAZK contribution to radio communication expenses	\$ 9,317.00
AAZK contribution to boundary fence maintenance	\$16,591.00
Total	<u>\$209,525</u>
Balance	Nil

Note: AAZK contributed 33.5% of the total Rhino protection expenses incurred during the period

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

Description of cost line	Amount (US\$)
KPR Anti-Poaching Team	207,056
Dog Section	20,238
Aerial Back-Up-Super Cab and Helicopter	39,880
Ranger Salary	268, 235
Motor Vehicle Running Cost	34,366
Radio Communication	27,265
Boundary Fence	28,648
Total Expenditure	<u>625,688</u>