



**PROGRAMMATIC AND FINANCIAL REPORT  
LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY RHINO CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
July 2014 - June 2015**

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The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy remains extremely grateful for the continued support from the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) through the very successful Bowling for Rhino (BFR) program. AAZK contributed a total of **\$266,951**, inclusive of support received from Zaraffas Coffee Franchise, Australia-- towards Lewa's rhino protection and security operations between July 2014 and June 2015. By supporting Lewa, home to 12% and 14% of Kenya's black and white rhino respectively, AAZK is directly linked and involved in *insitu conservation* efforts ensuring the survival of these endangered species.

This report outlines how AAZK's generous funds were utilized over the reporting period. This funding enabled support towards rhino conservation and security operations including the armed anti-poaching units, tracker dog unit, aerial surveillance, ranger salaries, vehicle running costs and radio communication center.

**Rhino Conservation  
Programme**



Lewa was lucky to not lose any rhino to poaching in 2014, in the wake of having lost seven the previous year. An immense amount of dedication and great effort went into deterring continuous attempts on Lewa's rhino. The poaching threat continues to escalate to heights never seen before mainly because of an increase in the demand for rhino horn and elephant Ivory. This dramatic increase is the result of a variety of factors, most notably the growing purchasing power of both Middle Eastern and Asian populations, and the sophistication of organized poaching gangs who sell these wildlife products to black market syndicates in range countries.

There are great steps being taken in an effort to curb poaching in the country --by the government and other stakeholders-- resulting in a notable decrease in rhino poaching across different parts of the country with minimal incident reports. Lewa's impressive anti-poaching team's track record is well known throughout the conservation world, and can be attributed to the attention, detail and constant adaptation of activities to meet the ever growing and changing threats from poachers. Lewa strives to address all conceivable angles of threat to its' rhino population through daily monitoring of each rhino, vigilant observation of all entry points and conservancy boundaries, constant maintenance of the fence line, regular aerial surveillance, intelligence gathering and the related community development support required and the continuous training of its entire security force and canine unit in preparedness for any eventuality, that could threaten the Conservancy's resident wildlife.

The Lewa rhino population has stabilized after a successful translocation of 9 black rhinos to the Sera Conservancy, the first community conservancy in East Africa to receive black rhino, early this year with the approval and assistance of Kenya Wildlife Service. This has somewhat helped the Conservancy to maintain its' ecological carrying capacity at a manageable level allowing rhino to breed and roam freely with less conflict over territory, a condition that is critical to the effective management of this species.

### **National Police Reservists (NPR) Armed Anti-Poaching Teams**

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37 members of Lewa's 150-person security team are categorized as National Police Reservists (NPR), trained and employed by Lewa, but also approved by the Kenyan government to carry firearms and respond to incidences of instability or violence throughout the region. Lewa currently has its teams deployed on a daily basis to different locations to ensure greater coverage of the Conservancy. And surrounding communities. The anti-poaching units are positioned throughout the Conservancy at all times and particularly at night, with one team based at headquarters as a rapid response unit, ready to deploy at any given moment and around the clock.

Aside from their constant monitoring and regular responses to incidences on and off the Conservancy, Lewa's KPR teams are always augmenting and improving upon their operations and training. A training regime that encompasses new skills development and skill training refreshers has been put in place where each member of the NPR teams and no includes basic medical training with one person on each team attending an advanced field-medical course in order to be prepared to deal with any case of

serious injuries. The teams 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 high-elevation bitter cold nighttime temperatures that they sometimes experience. The team is also well equipped with modern equipment including but not limited to night vision goggles and thermal imaging equipment, which enhances the team's ability to work at night in response to any poaching and other security threats. Lewa's NPR team has continued to enhance its collaboration with the government system especially the county government of the counties of Isiolo, Meru and other neighbouring counties in addressing security matters.

The total cost to effectively run the NPR armed team including salaries, rations, medical, uniforms and allowances was **USD\$207,056** .The table below indicates all operations and responses to incidences between July 2014- June 2015.

<b>Incident</b>	<b>Total reported during the Period</b>
Armed NPR deployments / follow-ups to serious security incidents	28
Tracker dog deployments	18
Aerial follow-ups and reconnaissance	15
Rhino Poaching incidents reported within Lewa	0
Road banditry reports	30
Stock theft reports	44
Elephant carcasses / tusk recovery	26
Robbery reports	6
Arrests	19
Firearms / weapons recovered	6

### **Tracker Dog Unit**

Over the years, Lewa has developed a good reputation for its canine unit. The Kenyan Government calls upon this impressive team regularly to assist in a wide range of situations that require quick responses and scent tracking. Currently there are 2 male blood-hounds, Tony and Tipa and five dog handlers all of whom are well trained and continue to follow a daily training regimen to keep them fit, alert and motivated.

Over the grant period, the tracker dog team has been used in a total of 18 security follow-ups and has provided invaluable assistance to these situations.

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

### **Aerial Surveillance & Support**

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

The super-cub has been particularly useful in responding to the upsurge in poaching threats, local stock-theft incidences and road banditry. The aircraft is also an invaluable resource in locating missing rhino and in completing the annual wildlife count.

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

Lewa also acquired a MD 350 Helicopter, which has greatly enhanced response to the overwhelming poaching threat within the region; this aircraft eases capture activities and ensures accurate game counts. This Helicopter has and will greatly continue to support anti-poaching activities.

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** ( cost calculated on an hourly basis).

### **Field Monitors Salaries**

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Lewa's rhino monitoring team is made up of **27** field monitors who daily monitor specific regions or "blocks" of the Conservancy. In response to the escalating poaching threats the Conservancy has restructured its 18 blocks to 9 so that the team can have a bigger presence and conduct round the clock security and surveillance of Lewa's rhino populations and other wildlife. The field monitors radio back to Lewa's operations room to report on the location of each rhino, as well as any unusual signs of human behavior or entry into the Conservancy. The monitoring system has been adjusted to maximize efficiency and increase the daily protection of each animal, by the use of an advanced digital communication system. The team also facilitates the collection of any information that helps in preventing any poaching activities through collaboration with the neighboring community. Finally the team has now been called upon to report on all wildlife activity to help Lewa better understand and manage migrations, territorial turf competitions, browse and grassland conditions and other relevant elements of the environment.

Lewa's rangers are highly trained and equipped to track the rhino's day and night. Using binoculars, they can identify each of the animals in their block based on age, ear-notching pattern, sex and behavior. Lewa's wildlife and security teams aim to locate every individual rhino each day with the main objective of reporting 100% rhino sightings to the operations room at Lewa Headquarters. Any lengthy disappearances of any individual rhino, acts as a sign of either illness, injury, calving and or poaching; all field staff treat these situations as high-alert incidents and double up to make sure each rhino is spotted. In most instances rhino's change territory due to emergence of younger males who chase away the older ones, mostly attributed to the scarcity of grass land (whites) and forage (blacks) due to increased number of rhino and prolonged dry periods with no rainfall on Lewa and in northern Kenya more generally. The drought conditions push ranging wildlife (Elephant, Giraffe, Eland, Oryx) into Lewa and result in additional pressure on vegetation.

The other very important teams include the orphaned animals handlers who take care of Lewa's 3 baby rhinos to ensure they are protected from any attack from other wildlife like the lions, leopard and elder rhinos. These keepers are with the young rhinos day and night.

The total cost to operate 27 rhino surveillance rangers patrolling the "blocks", 21 gate guards, 11 night watchmen, 2 armory guards, 5 dog handlers, 6 radio operators, 2 wildlife capture men, and 3 orphaned animal handlers for this reporting period is **USD\$ 268,235**

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### Security Vehicles

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The LWC security team has three vehicles, one for regular rhino monitoring and two for the armed NPR units. As a result of the increased poaching threat and the rough terrains within the conservancy and the 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 in response to reported situations of instability in the community settlement areas. This level of mileage and overall wear and tear from constant usage on difficult terrain has taken a toll on these vehicles. While the Lewa workshop has done an excellent job of keeping these vehicles running safely and consistently, the old vehicle for regular rhino monitoring will eventually need to be replaced. This has contributed to a higher cost of maintaining and running the vehicles within this reporting period.

AAZK's funding was used to support part of the running costs of all three vehicles, total cost support from AAZK coming to **USD\$ 34,366**.

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### Radio Operation Room Communication Costs

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Lewa's radio room is the linchpin of the Conservancy's security operations, providing a central point of 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 security 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. Over this period the radio communications operation and intelligence network operations on LWC cost **USD \$27,265**.



*(Lewa Communication Centre)*

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



AAZK contributed significantly by donating **US\$266,951** towards the Conservancy's overall expenditures to protect rhino. These costs reflect the core function of Lewa's day-to-day work, specifically focusing on rhino conservation. AAZK's long term and continuous funding makes it a vital contributor to the success of Lewa, in its conservation initiatives. We are indebted for the support AAZK has been contributing to Lewa over the years.

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 continued commitment of BFR members and we look forward to working with you long into the future.

We at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy are grateful to the American Association of Zoo Keepers and Bowling For Rhino for their continued support spanning the last two decades.



**Financial Report for Period, July 2014 to June 2015.**  
**Lewa Wildlife Conservancy**

**Submitted to American Association of Zoo Keepers Bowling for Rhinos Program**

<b>INCOME RECEIVED BY LEWA, KENYA</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Funds received from AAZK BFR on 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	<b>-\$100,000</b>
Funds received from AAZK BFR on 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	<b>-\$141,951</b>
Zarrafas	<b>\$ 25,000</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b><u>\$266,951</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Amount</b>
AAZK contribution to salaries for KPR Anti-Poaching Team	<b>\$55,665.00</b>
AAZK contribution to Dog Section operational expenses	<b>\$ 7,969.00</b>
AAZK contribution to operating expenses for aerial Back-Up	<b>\$16,576.00</b>
AAZK contribution to LWC Rangers salaries	<b>\$116,801.00</b>
AAZK contribution to Motor Vehicle running expenses	<b>\$ 12,592.00</b>
AAZK contribution to radio communication expenses	<b>\$ 10,322.00</b>
AAZK contribution to boundary fence maintenance	<b>\$17,991.00</b>
AAZK contribution to Lewa oversight, administration, travel	<b><u>\$29,034</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$266,951</u></b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>NIL</b>

Note: AAZK contributed 42.7% 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:**

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