



**PROGRAMMATIC AND FINANCIAL REPORT
LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY RHINO CONSERVATION PROGRAM
JULY 2015-JUNE 2016**

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 **\$246,986** towards Lewa's rhino protection and security operations. 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 have been utilized between July 2015 to June 2016. This support enabled rhino conservation and security operations including operations of the Lewa armed anti-poaching units, canine unit, aerial surveillance, ranger salaries, vehicle running costs and the radio communication center.

Rhino Conservation Programme

Lewa remains one of the few lucky sanctuaries to have zero poaching of rhino from 2014 to date, having previously lost 18 rhinos within a span of three years. An immense amount of dedication and effort has gone into deterring continuous attempts on Lewa's rhino population. The combination of a dedicated security and wildlife unit, coupled with effective patrols and the ongoing support of the communities living on Lewa's boundaries enhance its ability to effectively conserve and protect rhino and other wildlife species against ongoing threats.

The poaching menace continues to escalate amidst an increase in demand for rhino horn and elephant Ivory. This dramatic increase is as a result of a variety of factors, most notably the growing purchasing power of both the Middle Eastern and Asian populations, and the sophistication of organized poaching syndicates, selling illegal wildlife products on the black market in range countries.

There are great steps being taken in a joint effort to curb poaching in the country, between the government and other stakeholders resulting in a notable decrease in rhino and elephant poaching across different parts of the country. Lewa's impressive anti-poaching team's track record is well known throughout the conservation world. This can be attributed to the attention, detail and constant adaptation of activities to meet the ever growing and newly emerging threats from poachers. Lewa

strives to address all conceivable forms 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 related community development support required in addition to continuous training of its entire security team and canine unit in preparedness for any eventuality.

The rhino population translocated to Sera Conservancy has stabilized., In 2014, Lewa translocated 11 of its own rhino in addition to others from other KWS parks, bringing the overall total to 21 black rhino. Since then Sera Conservancy has had three rhino births and Borana Conservancy has had four new individuals born on newly formed conservancy's, in areas that have not bred or sustained rhino within their habitat for over 25 years. The re-introduction of rhino into new sanctuaries, gives both the NRT and Lewa family renewed hope in the global fight to prevent the extinction of endangered species and community development in areas with wildlife. Efforts towards the growth of populations of critically endangered black rhino in Kenya, remain dependent on the availability of suitable and secure habitats to resettle and or re-introduce rhino. These efforts have helped the Conservancy maintain its ecological carrying capacity at a manageable level allowing rhino to breed and roam freely with less conflict over territory, a condition critical to the effective management of this species.

National Police Reservists (NPR) Armed Anti-Poaching Teams

37 members of Lewa's 150-person security team are recognized as National Police Reservists (NPR), trained and employed by Lewa, but licensed and armed by the Kenyan government to respond to any incidents of instability or violence throughout the region. Lewa operates a daily deployment system covering different locations on a rotational basis for effective patrols and coverage of the Conservancy and surrounding communities. The anti-poaching units are positioned throughout the Conservancy at all times and particularly at night, with a rapid response unit based at headquarters 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year- ready to deploy at any given moment.

Aside from their constant monitoring and regular responses to incidents on and off the Conservancy, Lewa's NPR teams are always augmenting and improving upon their operations and training. Training regimens encompassing new skills training and capacity development have been set in place, with each member of the NPR teams being trained. The training includes basic first aid training with one person from each of these teams attending an advanced field-first aid course in order to be prepared to deal with any case of serious injuries. Each NPR team is equipped with medical kits including bandages, tourniquets to control heavy bleeding and other necessary supplies. With the global increase in the demand for rhino horn and ivory and poaching attempts on the ground to feed that demand, more and more poachers have access to state of the art equipment including silencers for guns, night vision goggles as well as informers who leak information on animal locations and security detail. This is driven by the large sums of money on offer in exchange for information in order for these gangs to successfully carry out the illegal killing of endangered wildlife species. As a result of the ever changing dynamic of

attempts on rhino Lewa, Borana and NRT NPR anti-poaching units have also set in place structures to further augment responses to emerging threats. The teams patrol efforts are further supported with modern equipment including but not limited to night vision goggles, thermal imaging equipment, and a trained canine unit which enhances their ability to work at night in response to any poaching incidents or attempts and other security threats. Lewa's NPR team has continued to enhance its collaboration with the Kenya Police, Kenya Wildlife Service and other government agencies including judicial bodies especially in the counties of Isiolo, Meru and other neighboring counties in addressing security matters.

The total cost to effectively run the Lewa NPR armed team including salaries, rations, medical, uniforms and allowances was **USD\$227,762** .The table below indicates all operations and responses in conjunction with some joint responses with the NRT 91/2 teams to incidents between July 2015- June 2016.

Incident	Total reported during the Period
Armed NPR deployments / follow-ups to serious security incidents	39
Tracker dog deployments	28
Aerial follow-ups and reconnaissance	21
Rhino Poaching incidents reported within Lewa	0
Road banditry reports	24
Stock theft reports	76
Elephant carcasses / tusk recovery	26 (15 recoveries)
Robbery reports	2
Arrests	20
Firearms / weapons recovered	8

Canine Unit

Over the years, Lewa's canine unit has and continues to be recognized as one of the best in the country due to their success rate in tracking and support towards the armed units whenever they are called upon to support in incident follow-ups. 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 Lewa has five dogs attached to its canine unit including two male blood-hounds ,two Belgian Milionis and one Dutch herder (NRT Canine)managed and handled by a team of seven dog handlers

and one Canine unit section head-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 canine unit has been used in 28 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\$22,262**

Aerial Surveillance & Support

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. Patrols further up North of Lewa are greatly assisted by SUE-Lewa's helicopter, whose success can be seen by a 40% reduction on elephant poaching incidents in northern Kenya, and success in increase in the number of elephant's in the area.

The introduction of the MD 350 helicopter-SUE has enhanced operations on Lewa by reducing response time to security and or poaching incidents to a bare minimal, easing wildlife capture and intervention activities as well as supporting game counts.

The super-cub has been particularly useful in responding to the upsurge in poaching threats, local stock-theft incidences and road banditry. The super-cub is a light aircraft that proves as 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.

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\$ 43,868** (cost calculated on an hourly basis).

Field Monitors Salaries

Lewa's rhino monitoring team is made up of **27** field monitors who follow a daily monitoring regimen in specific regions or "blocks" of the Conservancy. In response to the escalating poaching threats the Conservancy has restructured its 18 block patrol system into a nine block system, in order to increase the presence of the general security on the ground, in addition to enhanced 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 implementation of an advanced digital communication system. The team is also further responsible for the reporting of 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.

The security team has also set in place an intelligence unit attached to the NPR unit, but working closely with the monitoring team on the ground that are able to facilitate the collection of any information that may assist in preventing any poaching activities through collaboration with neighboring communities.

Lewa's field rangers are well trained and equipped to track rhino. 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, act as a sign of a variety of issues ranging from illness, injury, calving and or poaching. The field staff treat the non-sightings as high-alert situations and double their efforts to ensure each rhino is spotted and safe. In most instances rhino's change territory due to the emergence of younger males who displace much older males. This is 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 more generally in northern Kenya. The drought conditions push ranging wildlife (Elephant, Giraffe, Eland, Oryx) into Lewa and result in additional pressure on vegetation.

The orphaned rhino handlers are also categorized under the general security, and form an integral part of the team raising and caring for Lewa's, hand raised male black rhino *Nicky* and *Kitui*. The team continues to monitor the two remaining baby rhino closely, staying with them day and night. Having lost two orphaned rhino within a short time of each other as a result of a bacterial infection, it has become increasingly important to ensure the health and welfare of the two remaining. These keepers (surrogate rhino mothers), have a unique relationship with both the calves in their care- understanding their character, behavior and needs -teaching them one on one how to survive as they best understand. The experience and training they provide to all orphaned animals who have been in their care is invaluable and can be witnessed in yet another of Lewa's more famous baby rhino calves 'Elvis' a ten year old , hand raised black rhino, who was successfully re-integrated into the wild.

The total cost to operate 27 rhino surveillance rangers patrolling the "blocks", 21 gate guards, 11 night watchmen, two armory guards, five dog handlers and an additional two in the first quarter of 2016, six radio operators, two wildlife capture men, and three orphaned animal handlers for this reporting period was **USD\$ 295,059**

Security Vehicles

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, 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 **USD37, 803**.

Radio Operation Room Communication Costs

Lewa's radio room is the linchpin of the Conservancy's security operations, providing a central point of communications for the entire region including NRT conservancies. Lewa's impressive communications unit manages all security communications, all aerial communications for any internal and external flights 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. The team is also integral in maintaining and supporting Lewa's relationship with the communities by acting as the point of contact and providing a platform for the address of community calls for assistance, the gathering of Intelligence from community members who call in and warn team of imminent threats on Lewa's wildlife and other situations of insecurity.

Through its radio communication, LWC has been able to relay messages accurately and effectively coordinate effective interventions for many security occurrences within Lewa, its neighboring areas as well as NRT conservancy areas. These efforts are enhanced through collaboration and linkage with relevant security agencies like the KWS, Kenya Police and other government agencies. The radio communications on Lewa are augmented with the support of a modern state of the art, digital communication system and highly trained personnel who man operations 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year.

Within this reporting period, AAZK funding contributed towards the costs of radio repairs, purchase of spare batteries, staff salaries and radio licensing- contributing towards the overall costs of the radio communications and intelligence network operations on LWC cost **USD \$29,992**.

Submitted to American Association of Zoo Keepers Bowling for Rhinos Program

INCOME RECEIVED BY LEWA, KENYA	AMOUNT
Funds received from AAZK BFR on 22 nd December 2015	-\$227,186
Funds received from AAZK BFR on 3 rd August 2015	\$17,600

Funds received from AAZK BFR on 4 th November 2015	\$2,200
TOTALS	<u>\$246,986</u>
Expenditure	Amount
AAZK contribution to salaries for KPR Anti-Poaching Team	\$51,502.00
AAZK contribution to Dog Section operational expenses	\$7,373.00
AAZK contribution to operating expenses for aerial Back-Up	\$ 15,336.00
AAZK contribution to LWC Rangers salaries	\$108,066.00
AAZK contribution to Motor Vehicle running expenses	\$11,650.00
AAZK contribution to radio communication expenses	\$9,550.00
AAZK contribution to boundary fence maintenance	\$16,645.00
AAZK contribution to Lewa oversight, administration, travel	<u>\$26,863.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$246,986</u>
Balance	NIL

Note: AAZK contributed 35.9% 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	227,762
Dog Section	22,262
Aerial Back-Up-Super Cab and Helicopter	43,868
Ranger Salary	295,059
Motor Vehicle Running Cost	37,803
Radio Communication	29,992
Boundary fence	31,513
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>\$688,257</u>