



LEWA
WILDLIFE
CONSERVANCY

A UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed in 2013



IMPACT REPORT

2017

THE LEWA-BORANA LANDSCAPE

Lewa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, serves as a safe refuge for rhino, elephant, Grevy's zebra and other iconic wildlife species in Kenya. What makes Lewa unique is our long-term commitment to partnering with our neighbours to care for the delicate ecosystem on which we all depend.

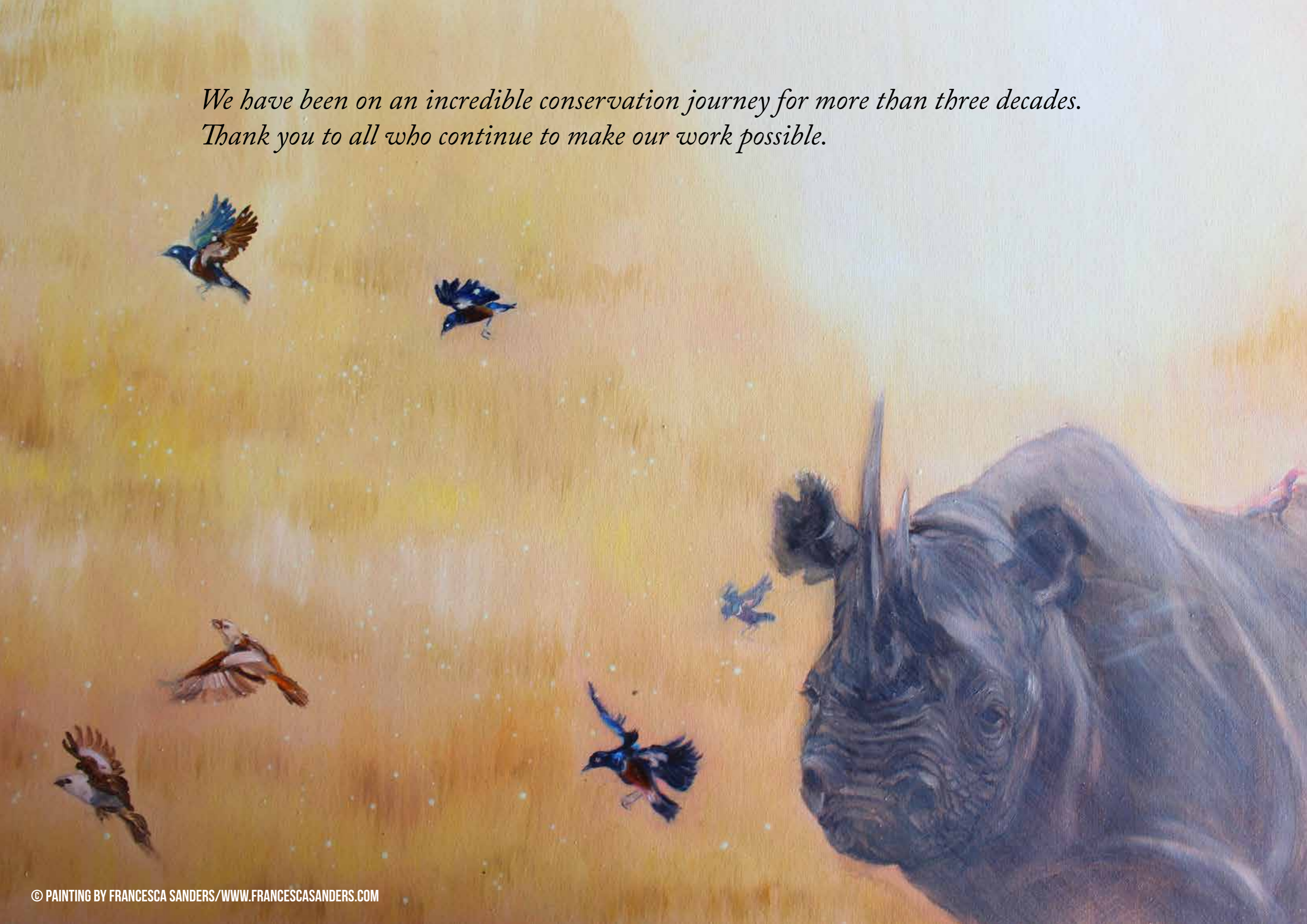
To people, Lewa represents more than the wildlife it protects. Lewa provides neighbouring communities an opportunity to maintain their traditional way of life in a modern and sustainable context through progressive and innovative livelihood initiatives. Lewa offers families living near its boundaries improved economic opportunities with our comprehensive education and women's microcredit programmes, community-managed water projects, and access to healthcare through four clinics. Lewa benefits thousands of children in local schools by opening doors to a future with more possibilities than those available to their parents and grandparents.

In 2014, we removed the fence separating Lewa from Borana Conservancy. Aligned with Lewa's ethos, Borana Conservancy is dedicated to the sustainable conservation of critical habitat and wildlife. Borana's mission is to provide a sustainable ecosystem, in partnership with its neighbours and communities, for critically endangered species on the brink of extinction. The Conservancy's holistic approach commits income from tourism, ranching and other enterprises, which contribute to building local livelihoods and enhancing ecosystem integrity.

This partnership between two privately-owned and run properties has created a thriving ecosystem dedicated to the protection and care of both endangered and abundant species. Lewa and Borana also house nine tourism properties that offer an unparalleled, intimate, conservation-focused safari experience.



*We have been on an incredible conservation journey for more than three decades.
Thank you to all who continue to make our work possible.*



A PARTNERSHIP FOR CONSERVATION

Q&A WITH MIKE WATSON, LEWA'S CEO AND MICHAEL DYER, BORANA'S MANAGING DIRECTOR.

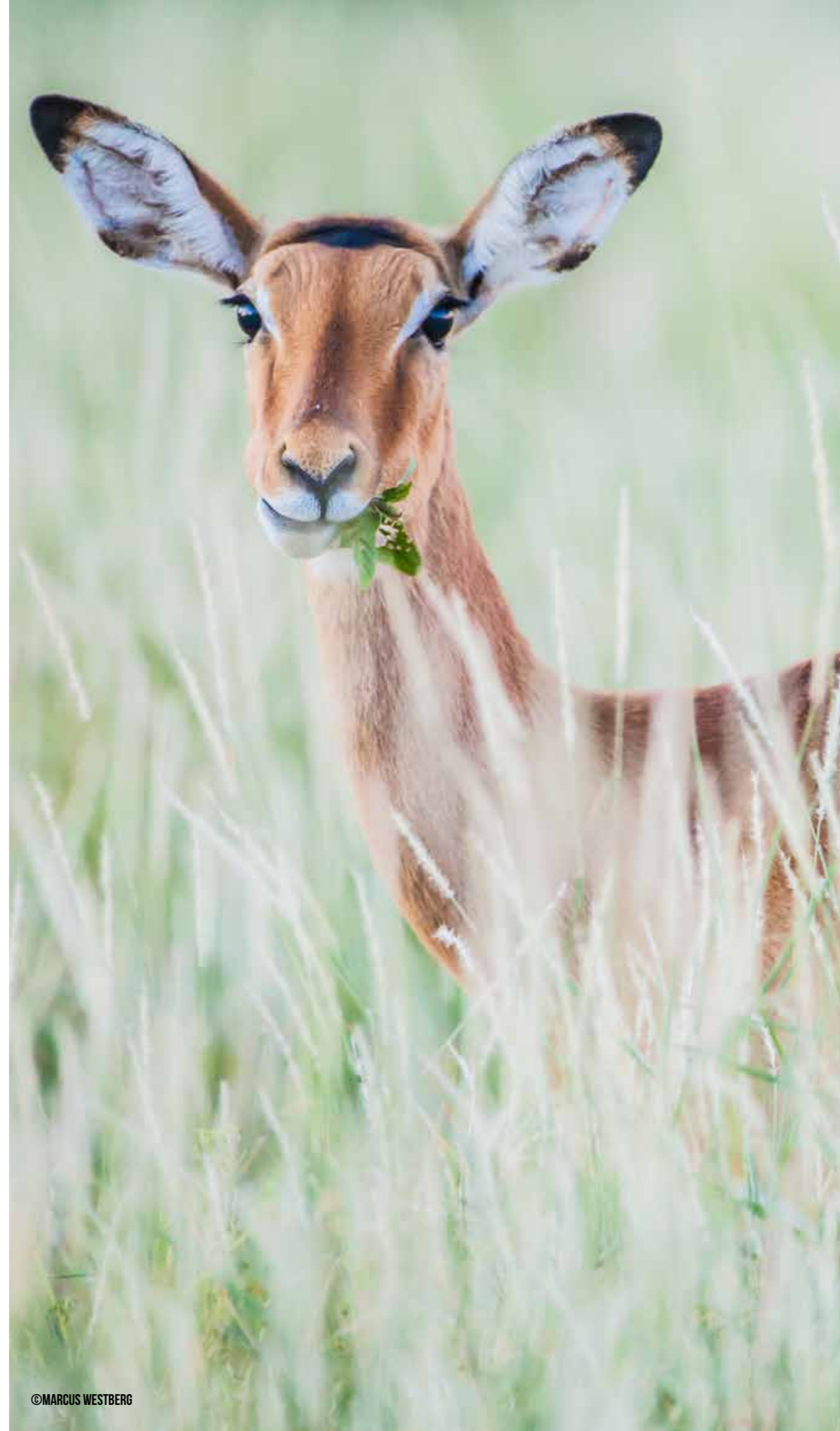
IN 2014, LEWA AND BORANA TOOK AN UNPRECEDENTED STEP AND REMOVED THE FENCE SEPARATING THE TWO CONSERVANCIES. HOW HAS THIS BENEFITTED THE WILDLIFE POPULATIONS, PARTICULARLY ENDANGERED SPECIES?

Mike Watson: Removing the fence between Lewa and Borana was a significant part of Kenya's Conservation and Management Strategy for the Black Rhino, 2007 - 2011.

We are thrilled to have achieved this, which was one of the many targets for rhino conservation in the country. With this step, an additional 50% of secure habitat was made available not just for rhinos, but for all wildlife in the landscape. This also created a more varied habitat for wildlife to access food and water that they need for survival. We are observing an increased frequency in the various wildlife species utilising the entire landscape, which is highly encouraging.

THERE ARE NUMEROUS CHALLENGES IN THE REGION, MOSTLY BASED ON THE INCREASING PRESSURE ON NATURAL RESOURCES THAT BOTH PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE DEPEND ON. HOW ARE LEWA AND BORANA HELPING WITH THIS?

Michael Dyer: People in this landscape have lived alongside wildlife for generations. However, we are now faced with great challenges, such as diminishing natural resources. This means that we need robust efforts to ensure that we optimise the ecosystem to support livelihoods and still hold sustainable numbers of wildlife. It is indeed an achievable goal - we are working with our neighbours and local governments to strengthen community-based institutions such as Water



Resources Users and Community Forest Associations. We continue to invest in healthcare, education, micro-enterprise and other development initiatives. We are working with the surrounding communities to strategically fence off croplands and settlements to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, as well as using other strategies. We have also set up a Livestock to Market Programme to support livelihoods dependent on pastoralism.

All these contribute to a healthy and progressive society, built on the collective ownership of the benefits of well-managed, natural capital. In recent prolonged dry conditions, our neighbours managed to keep rivers flowing, springs protected and grass banks largely intact. The commonality of purpose and a true sense of community ensures that we all address challenges collectively.

DESPITE THE CHALLENGES, THERE IS CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM. WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE LANDSCAPE?

Mike Watson: The future looks good for rhinos and other endangered species whose survival is dependent on the guardians of this landscape. To date, we have significantly reduced the poaching of rhinos and elephants. We have also set up mechanisms to control and mitigate human-wildlife conflict.

Lewa and Borana are working together with the state-owned Ngare Ndare and Mukogodo Forests, and the people of Il Ngwesi, to establish a formal relationship that enables us to jointly manage our shared ecosystem.

We are promoting tourism opportunities in this ecosystem - from camping options to high-end facilities - which in return will support conservation and livelihoods. We are working together to identify the greatest development needs and find avenues to meet these needs.

Never before have collaborative conservation efforts that bring together all stakeholders - people, private and community-owned conservancies and government - been more critical. We are blessed with some incredible resources and collectively, as a community, we should be able to continue to protect and secure vital habitat, and find opportunities to use conservation as a platform to improve lives.

Michael Dyer: This kind of collaboration between state, private sector and communities we hope becomes a benchmark for future conservation models across Africa.

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

93,000 ACRES OF SUITABLE HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE

14% OF KENYA'S BLACK AND SOUTHERN WHITE RHINOS

12% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION OF THE ENDANGERED GREVY'S ZEBRA

0 POACHING INCIDENTS IN 4.5 YEARS

215 WILDLIFE TREATMENTS, RESCUES AND OTHER INTERVENTIONS

22% REDUCTION IN PIKE (PROPORTION OF ILLEGALLY KILLED ELEPHANTS) ACROSS THE NRT-SUPPORTED COMMUNITY CONSERVANCIES COMPARED TO 2016

23 ILLEGAL IVORY PIECES RECOVERED

26 SUSPECTED POACHERS ARRESTED



FROM RANGELANDS TO RHINOS



©LARA JACKSON

NEW TEAM MEMBER DAVID KIMITI, PHD, EXPLAINS WHY UNDERSTANDING ECOSYSTEM-SCALE ECOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS IS A NECESSITY FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION.

I might be described to you as a rangeland ecologist, a plant ecologist, a wildlife biologist, or even a soil scientist. This muddle is a typical reflection of the complex cobweb that is an ecosystem, especially in the dry rangelands of northern Kenya. I started my scientific career studying elephants in Laikipia; where they went, what they ate, and what that meant for the woody vegetation in those areas. I quickly realised I had to understand vegetation distribution in order to understand where elephants were likely to go. As soon as I began studying vegetation patterns, I realised I had to understand the relationship between soil types and rainfall first. In essence, I had to study soils in order to understand elephants. All of nature is interconnected.

A similar interconnected problem was one of the many reasons I joined Lewa after my PhD. Shifting climatic conditions, combined with shifts in land ownership, have led to breakdowns in traditional pastoral coping mechanisms like mobility and landscape-level rotational grazing on rangelands. This has in turn led to degradation on pastoral lands, and when the grass on these lands is stripped away, there is nothing left to hold the soil or stop flowing water, and massive soil erosion is the inevitable result. This compromises

the ability of the landscape to recover and produce forage for wildlife, which tend to increasingly rely on refuges like Lewa and NRT-supported community conservancies to find food and escape resource-based conflict.

This increased residency, especially in closed or partially closed ecosystems, can lead to unexpected impacts on vegetation. On Lewa, this has taken the form of reduced woody vegetation cover due to elephant browsing pressure, which in turn affects the amount of forage available to black rhino on the Conservancy. In the same way that the problem is multi-faceted, solutions have to be holistic. To provide more habitat and forage to black rhino on Lewa, we need to strengthen partnerships across the landscape aimed at halting and reversing degradation. We have to continue working with communities to diversify livelihoods, manage grazing, halt soil erosion, and bring back vegetation. In that way, improving grasslands hundreds of kilometres away can lead to creating a more conducive habitat for black rhinos on the Lewa-Borana landscape.

POWER IN PARTNERSHIPS

What does a successful private sector and government partnership look like? For our Anti-Poaching Team, it means close collaboration with local law enforcement authorities to ensure a safer landscape for both people and wildlife. George Ntembea, the former County Commissioner for Isiolo, the town north of our boundary, says that working with the Lewa Team provided invaluable support to his work.

“When I first came to Isiolo, there were many challenges such as stock theft, elephant poaching, raiding and road banditry. We began working in partnership with the Lewa Team - they would offer their tracker dogs, aircrafts, teams and real time technology whenever we needed reinforcement. I'm grateful for Lewa's support - it was one of the best public-private partnerships I've ever been a part of. Together, we helped to make Isiolo safer.”

WILDLIFE GUARDIANS

THEY ARE MORE THAN JUST WILDLIFE PROTECTORS. MEET SOME OF LEWA AND BORANA'S RANGERS.

RIANTO KISHAMBA

Rianto is a father of three daughters - Anne, Rita and Sharon. He is the second in charge of Borana's Anti-Poaching Team, and also acts as a link between tourism and conservation.

"I keep inspiring my daughters to be future conservationists and wildlife managers. They like that. I have brought them here to Borana and they get very happy to see animals, particularly Rita," he says.

Rianto is particularly proud of the fact that his team has kept rhinos safe from poaching. He's been on Borana for the past 10 years and hopes to stay on until retirement. "The work that we are doing, it is something I'm willing to dedicate my life to. If not me, then who?"



© DUNCAN NDOTONO

KUNTARI & MARTIN LEPERERE

The father and son duo, nicknamed by fellow rangers Leperere 1 and Leperere 2, have widely different interests. The older Leperere, Kuntari, loves dogs and is happiest spending time with bloodhounds Tipper and Tony. His son is interested in technology, and like any other millennial, is active on social media. Through conservation, both father and son have been able to do what they love. Kuntari has been on Lewa for more than 30 years and is now based at the Dog Unit as Tipper's handler. Together, they've tracked down poachers and criminals, and recovered hundreds of stolen livestock. Martin works as a Radio Operator for the Northern Rangelands Trust.

Kuntari is a proud father: "Martin is my first born, and I'm glad he's followed my footsteps in conservation. He's a hardworking boy, and I couldn't be happier with him."



© ANNE AND STEVE TOON

JOHN TANUI

Tanui has been on Lewa for 23 years, helping transform the operations of the Anti-Poaching and ranger teams. A technology guru, he heads Lewa's Anti-Poaching Communications. If you've been to a presentation at our Operations Room, then you've most likely met Tanui. He says it's incredible to see the evolution of technology's use in conservation:

"A decade ago, we only had analogue radios. Today, we have a state of the art, integrated system (DAS) that people from other parts of Africa are coming to see how it's working. I like my job because it's dynamic."

Tanui's wildlife and bird knowledge is also impressive, and he often acts as a guide to Lewa's guests. His favourite rhino is Elvis.

KAPUNA 'NANYUKI' LEPALE

Nanyuki is a former poacher. After years of illegally killing wildlife, he became overwhelmed by the impact of his activities and decided to turn his life around. With the help of elders, Nanyuki left his life of crime. He joined Lewa 18 years ago as a ranger to atone for his actions and has since become an indispensable member of the team.

"I have committed my life to making up for what I did. When I decided to change, there was no better way to 'clean my hands' than to become a wildlife protector. My family and community, who had ostracised me, are now my biggest champions," he says.



© STEVE TOOM

WILSON SAMBAINE

Wilson started off at Borana as a night watchman at the lodge. Soon, his passion for wildlife set him apart. He would use his free time and after-work hours to voluntarily assist in lion monitoring, and he quickly established himself as the authority on lion prides. It soon became apparent that this was his calling and he was transferred to the wildlife section. He now heads the monitoring team and has helped to instil a wonderful work ethic amongst his colleagues.

"I approach my job with enthusiasm. I love to learn new things, which makes monitoring and research an ideal field for me."



VET IN THE FIELD

LAST YEAR, OUR KWS VET, DR MATTHEW MUTINDA, CARRIED OUT 215 WILDLIFE INTERVENTION CASES WHICH INCLUDED TREATMENTS AND PREVENTION OF DISEASE OUTBREAK.



Dr Mutinda examines a critically endangered wild dog for canine distemper, an often fatal illness with no known cure. He was relieved to discover that this individual was not infected. A tracking collar was fixed to monitor the dog and his pack's movements.

CURBING CANINE DISTEMPER

A core responsibility of the veterinary unit is the control and management of wildlife diseases. Last year saw a widespread outbreak of canine distemper in the neighbouring Laikipia ecosystem.

Canine distemper is a contagious, and often fatal, viral illness with no known cure. Worryingly, a large number of critically endangered wild dogs got infected, putting the already vulnerable population in jeopardy. This was the first known outbreak of canine distemper in wild carnivores in the country.

The spill-over of the canine distemper virus from domestic dogs has been associated with severe declines in wild carnivores. In 1994, a violent outbreak of the virus in Serengeti, Tanzania, killed one-third of the

lion population, approximately 1,000 animals. In 2000, it struck a breeding group of African wild dogs in Mukomazi, Tanzania, killing 49 of 52 animals within weeks.

To prevent the virus from spreading to other carnivores in our landscape, Lewa, alongside the Kenya Wildlife Service, Laikipia Wildlife Forum, local communities, Laikipia County Veterinary Services and other conservation partners, facilitated a massive vaccination exercise of domestic dogs in the area. Domestic dogs are often a reservoir for the virus. These efforts helped prevent the spread of the disease. The vet team will continue to actively watch out for its presence and impact across the Laikipia-northern Kenya landscape.



A NEW COLLAR FOR MATT THE ELEPHANT

Collaring is the fixing of tracking devices on animals to tell their movements and activities. On elephants, the collars are fixed on the neck of the animal and last about three years. They provide vital, secure data that would be otherwise difficult to access. Our conservation partners Save The Elephants (STE) and NRT strategically pick which animals to fix the collars, often matriarchs who move in large herds, or prominent bulls. Tracking collars have enabled us here at Lewa to map out elephant traditional migration routes. They have also made it possible to identify where elephants find their resources. This way, we are able to determine their preferred habitats,

and recognise any changes in patterns and behaviour. This informs anti-poaching and human-elephant conflict mitigation efforts.

Matt is a charismatic northern Kenya elephant. He was fitted with a new collar last year, in partnership with the KWS and STE. So far, it has helped us learn how he and his herd traverse the vast region, in both dry and wet seasons. Apart from elephants, together with our conservation partners, we also fix tracking collars on Grevy's zebras, lions, giraffes and hyenas.



GREVY'S ZEBRA MAKES A FULL RECOVERY

The dynamics of Grevy's zebra and lion populations remain one of the most challenging predator-prey interactions on the Lewa-Borana landscape. Last year, we recorded 26 cases of Grevy's zebras that had survived lion attacks. This female, severely injured after a failed predator attempt, made a remarkable recovery after we treated the large wound on her rump. She is now back to full health. Predator-prey interactions are standard in a wild ecosystem. Yet, in the case of an endangered species, such as the Grevy's zebra, interventions remain necessary. The 2016 Great Grevy's census results indicated that Kenya is home to 2,350 Grevy's zebras, 90% of the world's population. While there is cause for optimism for the species, we must continue to put in place management strategies to support its survival.

FOCUSING ON BIRDS

THE CATASTROPHIC DECLINE OF SOME AFRICAN BIRD SPECIES HAS REQUIRED US TO SCALE UP OUR AVIFAUNA RESEARCH.

Much of our focus over the years has been on critically endangered large mammal species. However, the catastrophic decline of some African birds has necessitated the scaling of our avifauna research. In 2017, Lewa-Borana carried out a three-day survey of bird species in collaboration with the Peregrine Fund and National Museums of Kenya. The team identified a preliminary bird list, and held training sessions for the Lewa Research Team to familiarise themselves with the methodology involved in this field.

“We want to identify species of interest that will serve as ecological indicators for management,” says Geoffrey Chege, our Head of Conservation and Wildlife.

At the moment, two kinds of birds occurring in our area are of particular ecological concern - the Grey crowned crane and the vulture.

CRANES IN PERIL

Large and elegant, the Grey crowned crane is usually found in grasslands, close to bodies of water. Unfortunately, its population has dwindled across Africa during the past 45 years. The IUCN now lists it as endangered, with the species facing threats such as habitat loss, and the illegal removal of birds and eggs from the wild.

The National Museums of Kenya carried out a snap assessment of the Grey crowned crane in our landscape and identified 32 individuals.

“We will continue to track this population and support conditions for its increase,” says Chege.



© MARTIN BUZORA

VANISHING VULTURES

Vultures have an undeserved bad reputation, often viewed as dirty scavengers. However, as natural cleaners of the environment, they are vital to our ecosystem. A vulture's ability to pick clean a decaying carcass is critical to controlling the spread of disease to humans, livestock, and other wildlife. But their greatest strength is now their biggest threat. Poisoning is becoming a widespread practice among livestock owners wanting to eradicate predators, and this is taking a huge toll on vulture populations.

In the wake of drastic declines of vulture populations across Kenya, The Peregrine Fund partnered with Lewa, Northern Rangelands Trust, and Marwell Wildlife to monitor and protect critical breeding sites in northern Kenya. In January 2017, Munir Virani of The Peregrine Fund, who have been monitoring vultures in northern Kenya since 2012, conducted a helicopter survey of Mt. Ololokwe with support from Lewa. Mt. Ololokwe, according to Munir, is home to “the

largest and most important breeding colony of critically endangered Rüppell's vultures, and many other species of rare and endangered raptors in Kenya.” The flight aimed to provide The Peregrine Fund with an idea of just how many vultures were nesting on Ololokwe's sheer cliff faces. With this information, they hope to contribute to the baseline by which future conservation actions will be measured.

Additionally, with NRT and Lewa's support, the Peregrine Fund is working to developing field and community-based programmes to reduce wildlife poisoning and understand habitat requirements of bird communities over the larger landscape of NRT supported community conservancies. The team also plans to assist with capacity building to develop tomorrow's bird conservation leaders.



© DAN WATTS



“We believe conservancies go far beyond just wildlife conservation and instead have the potential to improve livelihoods, unite communities and promote wildlife and community coexistence. In the last few decades, Lewa has inspired private and community-led conservation and demonstrated that international conservation best practices can be achieved.”

Dickson Kaelo, CEO, Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association.

IMPACT ON EDUCATION



69

Teachers' and librarians' salaries were facilitated by Borana and Lewa.



©AMI VITALE

4,177

Children and their teachers participated in the Conservation Education Programme.

Lewa and Borana support a total of

29 SCHOOLS

Estimated number of children in the schools.

11,000



463

Students received bursaries to support their education. We provide bursaries based on both need and academic potential, which enables hundreds of children to set their dreams in motion.

©AMUNGA ESHUCHI



15

Classrooms, teachers' houses, a lavatory block, fences, borehole and a water tank were built in the sponsored schools.



40

Students graduated from universities, colleges and tertiary institutions.

2,500

Enrolled in the Digital Literacy Programme.



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318

Adult Literacy learners.



SHAPING A GENERATION'S FUTURE

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 2014, LOKUSERO SECONDARY SCHOOL IS CHANGING THE FATE OF HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN.

For many children in the Lokusero community, education ended upon the completion of primary school. For decades, there was no secondary school in the area. The low education levels consequently meant that the youth had few livelihood and employment opportunities. Four years ago, in partnership with the Kenyan government, Ministry of Education, the community and a generous donor, we established Lokusero Secondary School. Today, it is a busy learning centre for both boys and girls, with a total of 263 students. Equipped with dormitories, a library, dining hall, classrooms, teachers' facilities and more, the school is transforming the Lokusero learning landscape.

"We have taken close to 90% of the students from the area who, a few years ago, wouldn't have proceeded on to secondary school," says Daniel Kirera, Lokusero's Head Teacher. Girls were most affected by the lack of further educational opportunities, and often got married off young.

Daniel adds: "The school has had the most impact on the future of girls. When they are attending school and pursuing education, it's harder for them to get married off. If anyone 'takes' a girl away from the school, they face legal consequences. We are working with elders and community leaders to ensure that girls stay in school."

Luckily, many in the area understand the benefit of education, as they have seen the transformation it has had on other rural communities. The school is also an extension to help parents and adults acquire basic literacy. Lewa runs a weekly, free Adult Literacy Programme and parents of children in the school are encouraged to attend.

Alongside formal learning, there is a heavy focus on environmental and conservation education. Lokusero, and the larger ecosystem in which it falls is prime elephant territory. It is also home to the Mukogodo Forest, an indigenous forest that has been preserved by the residents for centuries. "We conduct environmental classes so that the children are aware of the challenges our wildlife and environment are facing. We also have plenty of elephants and sometimes conflict is rife. The forest surrounds our school. Our classes help children understand all these things," Daniel adds.

The school's motto is "Only the Educated are Free". Daniel says that he wants to see meaningful change in Lokusero society through the school. This means freedom in children choosing their own paths. "I have great hopes for the children, and the opportunities they'll now have."

IGNITING A PASSION FOR READING

HOW THE NEWLY LAUNCHED MOBILE LIBRARY IS TRANSFORMING LEARNING IN OUR SPONSORED SCHOOLS.

Every week, Simon Mwangangi and his Team drive around Lewa-sponsored schools with large suitcases in the back of an old, ratty Landcruiser. Inside the suitcases are hundreds of books, with subjects ranging from maths to literature, for distribution to students.

"We realised there was a desperate need to help students improve their comprehension and language skills. Reading has been proven to be most effective in achieving this. Unfortunately, most of Kenya's public schools do not have well-equipped libraries," he says.

To tackle this challenge, Simon and his team have now established a 'Library on Wheels'. They began last year by focusing on students who were due to sit for their final primary school exams. The team has since distributed more than 300 books. Alongside giving books, they also help students practise on narration

and dramatisation of stories, identification of character traits, writing summaries, basic comprehension of concepts, and more.

After reading an average of 14 books, the students' mean score in English improved by 6%. English is the language of instruction in Kenyan schools, and a better grasp of the language greatly enhances students' learning capabilities. These results have been encouraging for Simon and his team, and they have a plan to expand the programme.

"We now have a partnership with Book Aid International to get more resources to support this initiative. We also want to focus on environmental education and conservation narratives. Conservation is a key message we want to pass along. Our goal is to not only improve the children's literacy levels, we also want to ignite a passion for knowledge and discovery."



CHILDREN AND NATURE

INFLUENCING YOUNG MINDS ON ATTITUDES, KNOWLEDGE, AND BEHAVIOUR ABOUT WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES.

Northern Kenya is facing a range of environmental challenges. The community engagement in conservation is a cause for optimism, and to support these efforts, we are focusing our conservation education on children from this landscape. Our learning experience uses practical examples that engage the children with ideas and skills on how they can tackle environmental challenges found

in the region. "When the students visit, they learn best practices such as protecting wildlife and habitats, human-wildlife coexistence, reforestation, organic farming, water harvesting and waste management. We also use simulations that students relate to in order to help them understand the effects of degrading the environment, as close to 70% of northern Kenya's land is degraded," says educator Jonathan Odongo.



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CREATING A BETTER LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Fourteen-year-olds Faria and Ruwayda from Kilimani Primary School have a chat in their dormitory. Lewa built the facility to help keep girls in school.

resulting in poor performance. Every year, we carry out infrastructure development in our sponsored schools to address their most urgent needs, such as this girls' dormitory in Kilimani.

"Schools provides a safe environment away from detrimental practises such as early marriage and female genital mutilation," explains Faith Riunga, our Head of Education. Most girls are also burdened with chores when they get home after school. This affects the time they spend studying or doing homework,

Last year, we initiated a variety of projects across our sponsored schools - we built new classrooms, teachers' houses, a borehole and a water tank. We also purchased new classroom furniture and did repairs and maintenance of existing facilities.



©AMI VITALE

School children at the Lewa Conservation Education Centre study the skeleton of Ngororika, the last rhino that was poached on Lewa, and a rhino foetus whose mother was shot dead before giving birth. Through conservation education, we are helping children understand the complexities of ecological problems, and how they can be a part of the solution.

Alongside having more children visit the centre, the team is now planning on venturing out and taking the conservation message to the schools. Some recent studies indicate that while most young Kenyans understand the need to protect wildlife and the environment, many find conservation as it's communicated complex. Ephantus Mugo, our programme's Coordinator, says that using practical examples within the students' environment is a step

in the right direction. So is involving teachers, and assisting them to deliver environmental education in a simplified, easy to understand method. Ephantus adds:

"We also plan to use sports to engage the children. We want them to understand that nature is linked to our survival, and use the school environment as a classroom to promote sustainable practices."



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BEYOND READING AND WRITING

Flora Mumbi's father didn't believe that educating girls was important, so she never had a chance to attend school. "He claimed that educated women became 'headstrong' and acquired bad habits," she says.

But Flora never gave up her dream to be literate. Now in her 70s, she is finally learning how to read and write. She was one of the 318 students that attended our free Adult Literacy classes last year. Her teacher, Aloysius Mutuma, says she has made good progress, and can now perform basic maths.

Beyond learning how to read and write, the Adult Literacy Classes have become platforms for the learners to empower each other. They have established 'Table Banking', a group funding strategy that enables them to jointly save and borrow every month. They also learn new skills such as tailoring and sustainable farming. The learners have also become champions of conservation in their communities.

RESULTS FOR PEOPLE

IN 2017, LEWA AND BORANA CONTINUED TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN BOTH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. HERE ARE SOME OF THE RESULTS.



45,683

People provided with access to healthcare through Lewa and Borana's programmes

Providing accessible and affordable healthcare remains one of the strongest ways in which we link conservation to development. The four Lewa-supported clinics remain the nearest health centres to thousands. Both Lewa and Borana's mobile healthcare initiatives ensure that people living in remote areas also have access to healthcare.

186

New women joined the micro-enterprise programme to improve their livelihoods

From an initial 30 women in 2003, our micro-enterprise programme has expanded sizably to more than 1,800 members. Majority of these women couldn't receive loans from traditional financial institutions, which limited their access to business capital. Today, many who now run small-scale businesses can provide for their families and educate their children.

150

Young people from different communities participated in youth empowerment activities

Despite forming the majority of Kenya's population, many young people are unemployed, lack access to opportunities, or basic information required to succeed in complex and changing environments. Conservation has enabled us to offer youth from our neighbouring communities a platform to interact and learn through sports, gatherings, mentorship, and more.

5,060

Community cattle grazed on Lewa-Borana to mitigate drought and support livelihoods

Lewa continued to support pastoral livelihoods through the Northern Rangelands Trust - Trading, with 1,060 cattle grazing under this programme. Borana's Livestock to Market Project helped farmers sell 412 steers. The entire landscape also provided emergency grazing to more than 4,000 community cattle to mitigate the effect of drought.

13

Water projects providing access to clean and safe water for both people and livestock

Lewa's latest water project at Ntumburi community is a gravity-fed pipeline system. Done in partnership with the government, this project alone will serve at least 10,000 people living in the area. Our water initiatives range from dams and boreholes to troughs for livestock, and provide more than 20,000 people with access to clean and safe water.

1,306

People employed across the landscape, Lewa awarded for Responsible Business Conduct

Lewa and Borana, including the lodges and safari properties, are a source of livelihoods for hundreds of families through employment. In 2017, the Federation of Kenya Employers awarded Lewa with a Responsible Business Conduct Award in recognition of the Conservancy's work in enhancing sustainable development.

SUPPORTING PASTORAL LIVELIHOODS

FROM BORANA'S LIVESTOCK TO MARKET INITIATIVE TO LEWA'S PARTNERSHIP WITH NRT-TRADING THROUGH THE LIVESTOCKWORKS PROGRAMME, WE ARE WORKING TO FIND THE BEST WAYS TO SUPPORT PASTORAL COMMUNITIES.



Pastoralism supports the livelihoods of millions of people living in harsh environments where alternative land use systems are highly risky or simply not possible. Alongside sporadic weather patterns, a changing landscape and lack of basic services, one of the challenges that pastoral communities face today is limited access to adequate markets.

Three years ago, elders from Borana's neighbouring areas approached the Conservancy's management with an idea of setting up a viable commercial livestock project. Borana agreed - it made economic sense, and would help to improve livelihoods. Borana would assist in the establishment of a system for managing and fattening cattle, and then help to look for good markets. The

Conservancy would also provide the space and pasture, and take part in the day to day management of the project. This plan was put into action and launched in August 2016.

Since then, 754 cattle worth Kshs. 33,136,517 (\$330,670) have been sold, despite the drought that ravaged much of northern Kenya last year. When sales are made, the farmers receive 80% of the money and 20% is retained as management fees. While on Borana, the cattle are not only fattened, they are also treated against ticks, infections and diseases, ensuring that they are healthy. Records are kept to monitor the livestock's progress.

Ochen Maiyani, Borana's Community Development Officer, has high hopes for the project: We are planning on selling 2,000 heads of cattle annually on behalf of the communities. We want to promote sustainable pastoralism and ensure that farmers get better value for their cattle. Our emphasis is on quality livestock rather than quantity. We also want to help improve the genetic quality of the cattle."

Lewa supports pastoral livelihoods via the Northern Rangelands Trust Trading's 'LivestockWORKS'. Livestock farmers from northern Kenya often trek cattle for days to market, only for middle-men to pay poor prices for good cattle, and very low prices for low-grade livestock. LivestockWORKS provides an alternative

market, paying fair prices, purchasing directly from the community conservancies. In 2017, 1,060 head of cattle grazed on Lewa under this programme. Last year's drought had a devastating effect on livestock farmers. To mitigate the negative impact, Lewa and Borana provided emergency grazing for more than 4,000 head of cattle from the surrounding communities.

Ochen says: "We are all custodians of this landscape and should help each other in time of need. We must also work together to find ways that ensure the ecosystem can support both conservation and livelihoods."

ENERGY-SAVING STOVES FOR 1,000 FAMILIES

SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT, MAKING COOKING HEALTHIER FOR WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES.



©AMUNGA ESHUCHI

Aniko Lalaur from Manyangalo community uses her new energy-saving stove. These stoves, popularly known in Kiswahili as 'jikos', are fuel efficient, requiring significantly less biofuel such as firewood and charcoal. They are also cheaper to maintain and release less harmful emissions. The use of these stoves is a win for the environment, healthcare and helps to slow down climate change.

In the past year, our Community Development Team has distributed energy-saving cooking stoves to 1,000 women from neighbouring communities.

90% of Kenyan rural households use biomass fuel such as firewood and charcoal for cooking, a prime cause of environmental degradation. Additionally, the health implications of using open fires for cooking are severe; the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that this causes 1.6 million deaths each year across the globe.

“At our clinics, we frequently receive patients suffering from allergen diseases that result from smoke inhalation; reactive airway disease, allergic conjunctivitis and even reactivated asthma inhalation. Women, who do most of the cooking for their families are highly vulnerable, as well as young children who spend the majority of their time next to their mothers,” explains Phoebe Wakasa, a nurse at the Lewa clinic.

This continued reliance on firewood and biomass fuel has had detrimental effects on biodiversity in ecosystems across the continent. Sustainable solutions are necessary to prevent further devastation. Currently, most options for a complete shift to 'clean cooking' are expensive, far beyond the reach of many rural households. This means that dependence on charcoal and firewood will continue for many years, and energy saving stoves are critical in mitigating the destructive effects.

“By providing efficient cooking stoves, we are helping reduce household air pollution and improve the health of our neighbours. This is also a direct initiative on our part to slow down the degradation of biodiversity,” says John Kinoti, Lewa’s Community Development Manager.

TOURISM WITH AN IMPACT

A TRIP TO LEWA-BORANA IS BEYOND YOUR REGULAR SAFARI. EXPERIENCE CONSERVATION AND ITS IMPACT ON PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE.

2017 was a good year for our tourism, receiving close to 10,000 visitors across the landscape. Thank you to all who came to visit and enjoy the beauty of what we are working hard to protect. By staying at any of our lodges, you are directly supporting our work - tourism contributes a significant percentage of our revenue every year. Visit us and get to understand Anti-Poaching operations by spending time with rangers or go out tracking with the Dog Unit. During your stay, you can also meet children at a sponsored school or beneficiaries of our micro-credit programme and understand how we link conservation and development.

We were immensely touched by this wonderful review posted by Chloe on TripAdvisor after spending time with us:

"Lewa is the most enchanting and exhilarating place I have ever seen! Not only is the conservancy itself wonderful, but even more so the people there are the hardest workers, who care so very dearly about what they do. They strive to educate the neighbouring communities about the importance of conservation by supporting a multitude of community development programmes. The actual safari surpasses any experience I have ever had. The guides are extremely knowledgeable about the area and they always knew just where to find the wildlife. Thank you always to the team at Lewa, you are doing the work of heroes."



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RUNNING WILD FOR THE WILD

THE 2017 SAFARICOM MARATHON ON LEWA WAS ANOTHER SUCCESS, ATTRACTING 1,400 RUNNERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.



©COURTESY OF SAFARICOM

In 2017, professional athletes and amateurs challenged themselves to take on one of the world's toughest marathons here on Lewa. The punishing hills and the blistering heat didn't deter many, who gave it their all to complete both the half and full marathons.

The funds raised, \$673,000, will have numerous beneficiaries alongside Lewa, including community

rangers who patrol Mount Kenya on foot and horseback; the marine scouts at Watamu's Local Ocean Trust who patiently watch over endangered turtle nests; and the forest scouts at Ngare Ndare Forest who guard over indigenous forest species. Now in its 19th year, the race is organised jointly by Lewa and Tusk Trust, and sponsored by Safaricom.

TEAM BLACKROCK

Diane Henry (farthest right), was a part of the BlackRock team that run the 2017 marathon and raised the most funds in support of the race. She shares her experience:

"What initially attracted me to the Safaricom Marathon was the chance to tackle a significant athletic challenge while raising money and awareness for the important work the race supports. Between the heat, the hills and the altitude, I can say I have never suffered more. But it was also the most amazing race I've ever been a part of, with tremendous support on the course and even impalas crossing my path at mile 20!

What made the trip so unforgettable was spending time with a great group of colleagues who are now lifelong friends as we visited the schools, hospitals and conservation sites that our fundraising supported. We encouraged each other through



the most challenging race any of us had ever attempted and marveled at the wildlife just steps away, including a giraffe who showed up for morning coffee. It was amazing to see first-hand the impact of our financial support but it was also clear how much more still needs to be done."

PARTNERS IN THE FIELD



AL AIN ZOO, UAE

Naser Al Mansoori had never been to Africa despite a lifelong dream to visit the continent. The Senior Safari Officer from Al Ain Zoo finally got a chance last year with a trip to Lewa. Naser shares his experience: "I saw and felt how it is like in a wildlife area in Africa. And how the community takes responsibility to protect wildlife. I'm now always advising everyone to visit Africa to see the life and amazing people."

Naser was accompanied by his colleague from the zoo, Safari Guide Nasser Al Dhaeri. Their trip, and of other team members in previous years, was made possible by the long-standing partnership between Lewa and Al Ain Zoo. Al Ain Zoo is a governmental agency situated in a natural landscape at the foothills of the Jebel Hafeet, in the United Arab Emirates. So what do a wildlife conservancy in Kenya and a zoo in the UAE have in common? Geoffrey Chege, our Head of Conservation, says because conservation is not insular: "Both organisations, though fundamentally different, share a common goal of the conservation of arid land biodiversity. We are both committed to the conservation and research of endangered species and their habitats, specifically for those which we both share responsibilities."

The partnership is also focused on building the capacity for conservation and research at the zoo through direct involvement in conservation and research activities here on Lewa. Mr Mark Craig, Director Life Sciences, Al Ain Zoo, explains the significance of the partnership:

"Our partnership with Lewa is very special and demonstrates Al Ain Zoo's commitment to wildlife conservation and conservation leadership. Our staff experienced exceptional wildlife training with our Lewa colleagues that will help them to develop valuable experiences for our guests and, crucially, to raise awareness of conservation issues. We are extremely thankful for the opportunities that Lewa provides to Al Ain Zoo and our work together for the long-term conservation of African wildlife."



©STEVE TOOM

WOMEN'S MICROFINANCE INITIATIVE

Robyn G. Nietert, president of the Women's Microfinance Initiative (WMI) meets with Pamela Kilua, a beneficiary of our micro-credit programme. WMI establishes village level loan-hubs across East Africa. On Lewa, they have supported infrastructure development, increase of the micro-credit revolving fund, and the purchase of solar lights for women in the programme.

MADISON INSURANCE

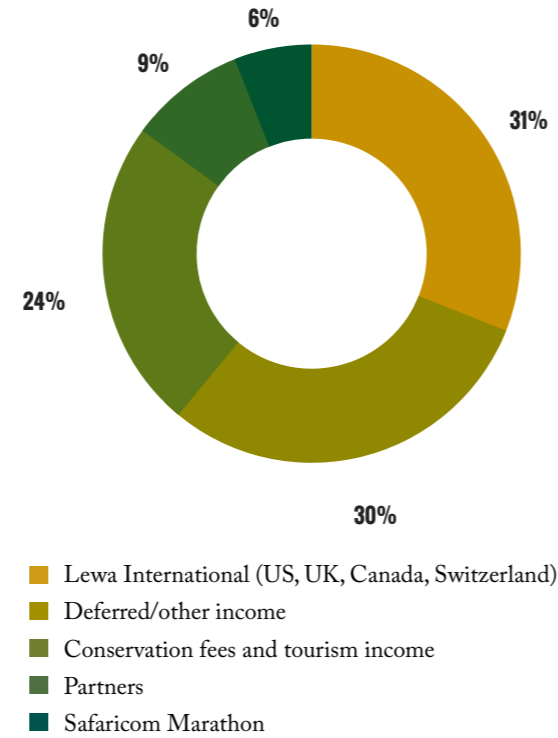
The insurance company supports our school health programme, enabling us to provide critical services to more than 7,500 children. The partnership is a demonstration of Madison's commitment to contribute to a better and healthier society. A joint Madison and Lewa Team recently conducted a school health exercise at Lewa School, where the children were dewormed and treated for minor diseases and ailments. The Madison team also provided all the kids with provisions for basic hygiene.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

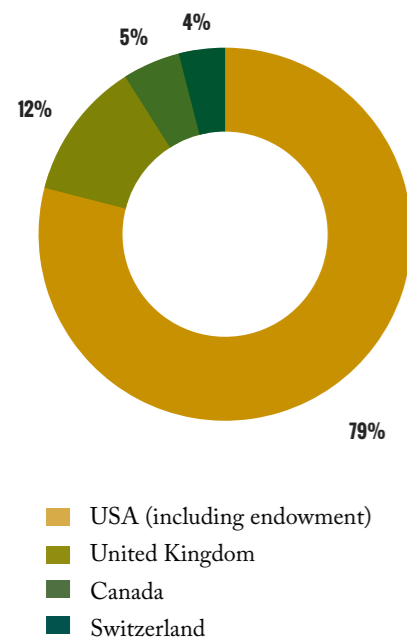
	2017 (USD)	2016 (USD)
Revenue		
Lewa International Fundraising	2,027,167	2,080,646
Conservation fees and tourism income	1,566,939	1,055,338
Partners support	618,747	1,094,312
Marathon	410,939	260,180
Other income	2,002,236	601,737
	<u>6,626,028</u>	<u>5,092,213</u>
Expenditure		
Programmes	5,060,764	3,812,344
Fundraising	570,290	456,594
Administrative expenditure	922,409	774,668
	<u>6,553,463</u>	<u>5,043,606</u>
Surplus/Deficit	<u>72,565</u>	<u>48,607</u>

This financial report is based on audited financial statements by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

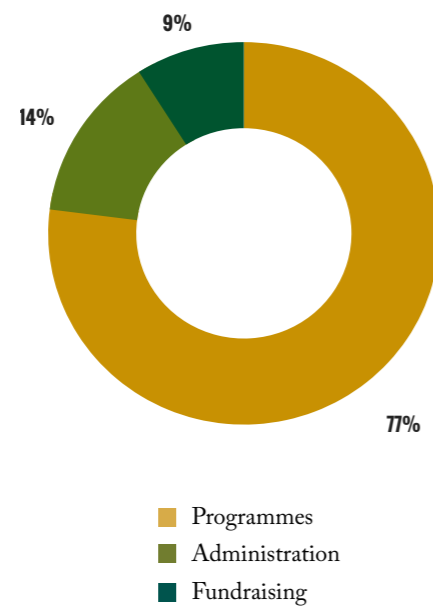
TOTAL REVENUE



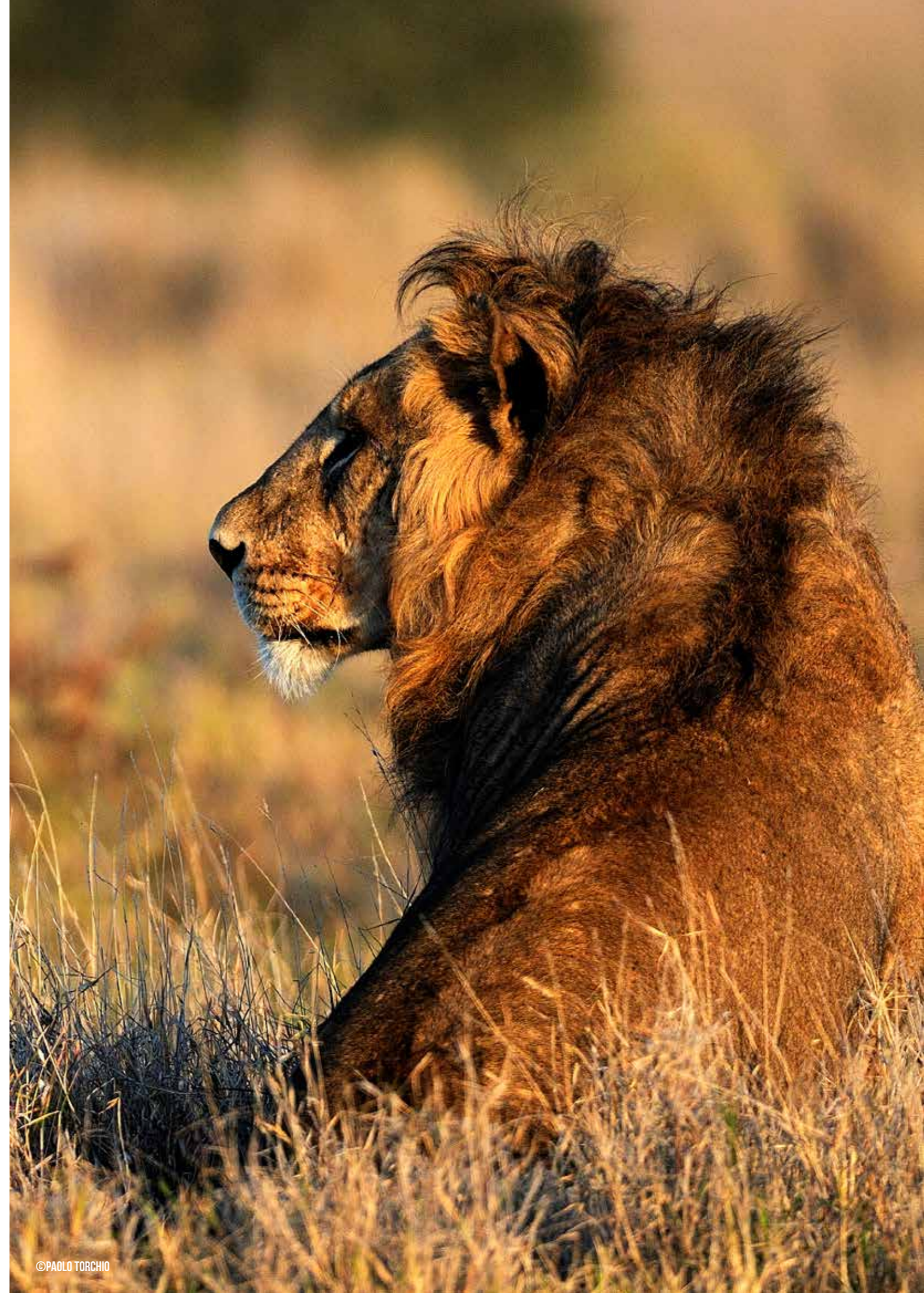
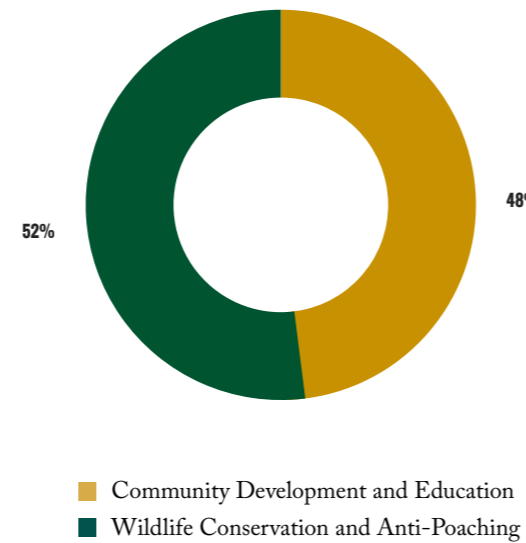
INTERNATIONAL LEWA CONTRIBUTIONS



TOTAL EXPENDITURE



PROGRAMMES EXPENDITURE



WAYS TO GIVE

There are many ways to support Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. To learn more or to donate, please email us at info@lewa.org or visit our website at www.lewa.org.

OUTRIGHT GIFTS

- Make a one-time cash gift
- Make a charitable gift of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds
- Make a symbolic animal adoption
- Honour a loved one with a tribute gift
- Invest today in Lewa's future by supporting its endowment
- Become a monthly supporter.

ESTATE GIFTS

- Remember Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in your will or living trust
- Beneficiary designations: leave a portion of your life insurance or retirement plan assets to Lewa.

WORKPLACE GIVING

- Ask if your workplace participates in corporate matching gifts
- Donate by Shopping –It is so easy to support Lewa by using Goodshop.com. Select Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and Goodshop will offer discounts on purchases and donate 20% of your total amount to Lewa.

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 practices. Your conservation fees help fund a portion of Lewa's operating costs.

RUN WILD FOR CONSERVATION

Lewa has hosted the Safaricom marathon for the past 18 years on Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Join the race and raise funds for local communities and conservation efforts in northern Kenya.

STAY IN TOUCH

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter on our website to receive updates from Lewa.

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The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy would like to acknowledge our highly valued, long-term partners and supporters who passed away recently – Willie Roberts, Alan Root, Rose Dyer, Gil Boese, Susan Lyall, Bokara Legendre and Lynn Blackie. We remain deeply grateful for their support throughout the years, Lewa will always be part of their legacy. They will be dearly missed by us all.

OUR DONORS

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy gratefully acknowledges and appreciates all the support it receives from around the world. The following individuals and groups contributed US\$500 or more to Lewa in the year 2017. We are grateful for every gift, including anonymous donors and those who gave less than US\$500, each of which is an investment towards wildlife and communities. We apologise for any errors or omissions in recognising our donors. Kindly inform us of any corrections.

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