

Proceedings of the 46th Annual American Association of Zoo Keepers National Conference



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Papers



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Current State of Rhino Conservation in Lewa-Borana Landscape

Kenneth Onzere

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Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (Lewa) is a part of the Mt. Kenya UNESCO World Heritage Site, a Man and Biosphere Reserve, and is listed on the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas. The Conservancy works as a catalyst for the conservation of wildlife and habitat in northern Kenya using a model that integrates the socio-economic development of marginalized rural communities into wildlife conservation.

Kenneth Onzere, a Rhino Monitoring Officer that has been with Lewa for three years, will be presenting on the current state of the Eastern black and Southern white rhino populations across the Lewa-Borana Landscape (LBL). He looks forward to sharing first-hand experiences related to his monitoring work, as well as an overview of the Security and Anti-Poaching Unit's efforts to protect wildlife. Kenneth will also review some of the habitat management strategies and practices that are key to the survival of rhinos and other species that depend on the health of this ecosystem.

As Lewa's *Key 1* rhino populations continue to thrive across the 94,000-acre landscape, Lewa and Kenya Wildlife Service are currently evaluating options and developing strategies to repatriate rhino populations at locally and nationally led sanctuaries across the Kenya region. Kenneth will provide a broad overview of the anticipated plans related to these repatriation opportunities.

Most importantly, on behalf of everyone at Lewa, Kenneth looks forward to expressing gratitude for the decades of support the Conservancy has received from the Bowling for Rhinos initiative and its participants. Lewa's conservation success would not be possible without supporters like you.