

SEPTEMBER 2001  
INTERVIEW

# LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

Since April, the Conservancy has experienced a nice change in rains. Laws, floods, famine. We had good rain throughout April and the conservancy dried out in May. In November when the rains have started.

Northern Kenya. Elephants are now less frightened to roam widely. This is a welcome change for the Conservancy's vegetation and if the situation remains we can certainly expect a recovery in our woody vegetation over time.

The conservancy has always been built on intuition and enthusiasm but with the increased success and associated income, we have decided that a more strategic plan was needed in the coming years.

After the severe drought of last year much of the wildlife appears to be pregnant and we expect a big calving from September through until January/February. To-date the only animals to have produced their young are the Impala; young fawns are now abundant. Interestingly, elephant numbers are much reduced within the Conservancy this season. I believe this is a direct result of the ivory ban and subsequent low values of ivory in conjunction with the increasing success and awareness of the different community projects in

the conservancy. We have decided to expand our operations and we will continue to expand and increase our outside involvement within the community but as a more independent wing of the Conservancy operating under its own budget and personnel but still under the direct supervision of the Conservancy's Executive Director.

Ian Craig  
Executive Director

Photo: Fred Hoogervorst



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# Kisima Fence Line

This is an area of fence line 5.5 km long and joined to Kisima on the south east boundary of LWC. In the past there have been numerous conflicts between wild animals (particularly lion and leopard) and livestock that are raised on Kisima. Although there is an electrified fence, this only stops elephant, buffalo, rhino and other herbivores from straying across the boundary.

By early April 2001 a crisis was looming. A lioness was making regular visits to Kisima and taking full advantage of the succulent sheep that provided easy pickings for her. Despite several attempts to lure her back to Lewa permanently and to trap her, she continued to elude capture and continued to kill sheep regularly. After 75 sheep and five cows had been killed, only two solutions to the problem remained. Firstly to shoot her - clearly a last resort - and secondly to try and dart her for relocation. After two cold nights sitting over a bait, the wily lioness was darted, and translocated to Meru National Park. She now sports a radio collar so that her movements can be monitored.

We must thank Kisima Farm for their patience and assistance in dealing with this problem animal. The most positive outcome of this episode is that Kisima and LWC are now upgrading this section of fence with funding from Kisima and LWC USA. The cost of this operations is 20,000 dollars and will be split between the two. When finished it will be fully cat-proof. LWC will benefit greatly from this and Kisima will no longer have the historic problem of lion, leopard and hyena decimating their flocks.

Richard Moller - Works Manager

Kisima, a far preferable solution was arrived at - luring the animals for re-location.



Richard Moller - Works Manager



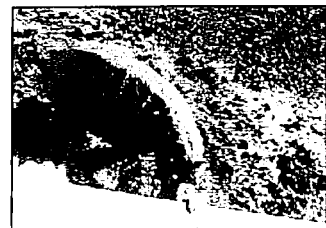
...forests to...  
 ...the local police force, the...  
 ...forest sports of the Bill Wood...  
 ...community education is...  
 ...issues and farming in close

...and Security Coordinator

On the 17th August 2001 we translocated another hippo from Naivasha to Leva via hope that our only female will find him very attractive



Hippo leaving our



First step on Leva side



And off he goes



seems to be thriving with guests now assured of a good sighting. This is surely one of the rarest wildlife experiences in Africa as Sitatunga are traditionally so secretive.



Photo: Fred Hoogervorst

of white rhinos present - thanks to the three calves - in good condition. In the spring of 2000, the calves were named Geronimo and Jakeri respectively. The rhino herd is growing at a rate of less than two and a half years. The rhino herd has declined to 90, two more white and three black rhinos. At the end of the year, this should coincide with the arrival of the new calves. The rhino herd will be a mix of the new calves!

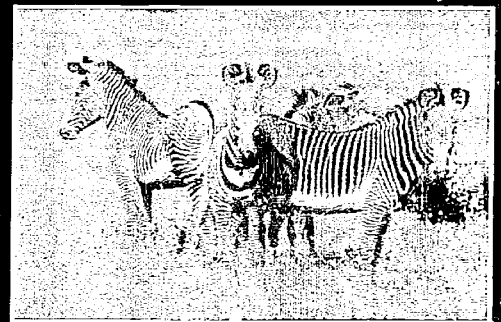
The rhino herd of the white rhino and white rhino males has been reduced to 100. The rhino herd has been reduced and we have been receiving a lot of rhino security patrol. This method has been used to protect the rhino herd.

Conservation Research Department

Photo: Dan Watts



## GREVY'S ZEBRA



LWC is home to 25% of the world's dwindling population of Grevy's zebra, making it an ideal place to

study the highly endangered species and develop an effective conservation strategy. Appreciating this, Lewa, with the help of Daniel Rubenstein, PhD of Princeton University, formed a partnership with Earthwatch Institute, an NGO committed to the support of scientific research around the world, in order to determine how to best help the Grevy's zebra. One of the major questions being addressed is whether Grevy's zebra is in competition with the more common Plains (or Burchell's) zebra.

On September 1 2000, Earthwatch volunteers began coming to Lewa in order to help the research staff collect basic demographic and behavioral information on the Grevy's zebra. Preliminary results indicate that Grevy's and Plains do use the same habitat, but that there are some subtle differences. Grevy's females with young foals, for instance, are heavily dependent on water and utilize very different areas of the Conservancy than do females without foals. These results are quite compelling given the great numbers of pregnant Grevy's now on the Conservancy.

With further study, LWC hopes to develop strategies that can be used to protect these animals not only within the Conservancy's borders, but also in other places in the animals' range in Northern Kenya and Ethiopia.

The results of LWC's partnership with Earthwatch Institute have been promising and the project will continue this coming year. The maximum number of volunteers accepted will be increased from four to five and some additional work involving thick abundance on Lewa and its possible effects on the Grevy's will be conducted.

Cassandra Nunjes - Earthwatch Coordinator

Photo: Dan Watts

# SAFARICOM MARATHON

THE ONLY MARATHON IN THE WORLD RUN INSIDE A GAME PARK



On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2001 over 300 people lined up for the start of the second Safaricom Marathon. Listed as one of the top ten marathons in the world, it is certainly one of the most demanding. At 5,500ft, run under the blazing sun, this race is not for everyone; however of the 300 starters very few didn't make it to the finishing line.

As the spotter plane and helicopter circled above as the runners set out on the 42km loop

course around the conservancy. The runners were watched by zebra, giraffe, rhino and warthog and cheered on by hundreds of spectators! Water was provided every 5km and AMREF were on standby at the finish to deal with any casualties.

Jack Chembo from Eldoret won the men's full marathon event with a scorching time of 2hrs and 24 minutes. (For the full race report and results take a look at the News Page on our [www.lewa.org](http://www.lewa.org))

The event was a huge success, enjoyed by runners and spectators alike. This year we raised 7,000,000Ksh for the beneficiaries, this is over twice the amount raised last year!

Sponsored by Safaricom, hosted by Lewa and organised in conjunction with Tusk Trust and Tullloh Nicolson Sports Consultancy, this winning combination will be put to the test next year for the 2002 event, which we can now announce will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002.

We would like to thank all of you who entered and sponsored the event, we hope to see you again next year. A special thanks to Barty Pleydell Bouverie one of the overseas runners who at 8 years of age raised £30,000, likewise a big thank you to Mark Ross, who ran his second Safaricom marathon and gain raised over US\$20,000.



Some Statistics:

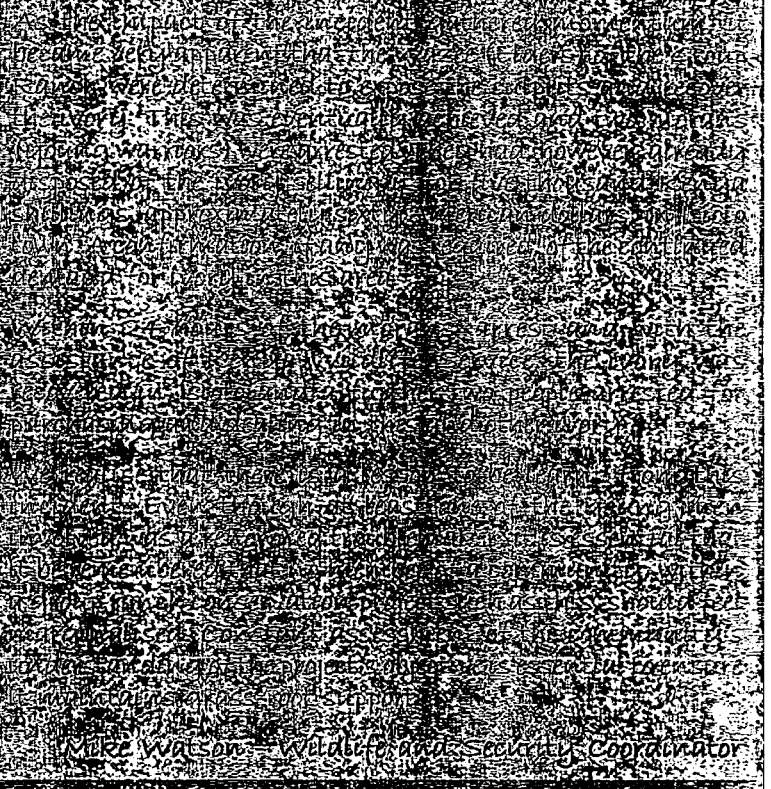
Photos: Fred Hoogervorst

320	People entered the race
137	Finished the full marathon
155	Finished the half marathon
15	Minutes were knocked off last year's winning time
20	Different countries were represented in the race
33	Overseas runners
250	People stayed in the Marathon Campsite
15	Community teams entered the race
19	Kenyans in the top 20 full marathon finishers
1100	Litres of Highland Water were consumed on the day

Sarah Blomeleu- Marathon Coordinator

## ELEPHANT-POACHING

In an incident reminiscent of 10-15 years ago, an elephant was poached in the southern part of the Lower Great Rift Valley. It was obvious from the marks that members of the local community had tracked the wood and had access to this incident and... (The text is very blurry and partially obscured by a large, dark, textured area that covers the right side of the page.)



Mike Watson - Wildlife and Security Coordinator

## Ngare Ndare Forest

The Fora Foundation very generously donated \$70,000 for the Ngare Ndare Forest Reserve. This substantial amount will go towards the annual recurrent costs for the implementation of a five year management plan. This community based initiative will be coordinated by the recently constituted Ngare Ndare Forest Trust, with funds being administered by the Conservancy.



Photo: Dan Watts

## Addition to The Lewa team...

As all of you know, Lewa needs outside support for its activities. A proper fundraising programme directed at not just generating funds for recurring costs but also establishing an endowment is absolute essential. We are happy therefore to announce that we have recruited Alexandra Dixon as our Director of Development. Alexandra was Director of Conservation for the Zoological Society of London so she has a background both in developing and funding projects.

Alexandra will be based in London (e mail: [Alexandria.dixon@zsl.com](mailto:Alexandria.dixon@zsl.com)) but will visit Lewa several times a year to ensure that she is directly involved in its work. Please feel free to contact her with ideas, questions, requests, bequests.

## RONNIE & JO WOODS

In early March the Conservancy played host to the Rolling Stones drummer, Ronnie Woods and his wife Jo. Five years ago, Ronnie purchased two White rhino for Lewa - Spike and Giant, and this trip was to visit his rhino and meet their progeny. He was rosted by Ian and Jane and had a wonderful three days painting and being

Painted by Omni and Digby having their mud bath. Their trip ended with two days at Namunyak, staying at Sarara Camp where they were witnesses to an unfortunate incident when an elephant that had been speared was darted in an attempt to remove the spear. The animal had been too badly injured to recover and subsequently died. A sad occasion indeed, but it's important to understand that the sharp end of conservation is not only shady trees and animals at peace but also the harsh reality of greed, conflict and competition for resources: the consequence of which was the death of our poor old bull elephant.

Ian Craig - Executive Director

Photo: Jean Paul Brooke

## WILDERNESS TRAILS

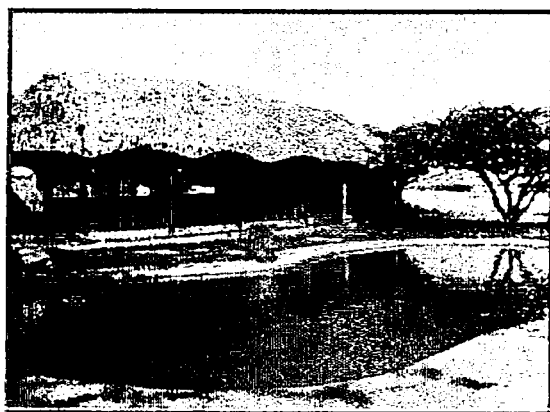
As usual, there are many exciting changes under way at Wilderness. The new cottage is nearly finished and the view from its second story veranda is simply stunning. We're looking forward to having the first guests try it out very soon. The new Walking Wild safaris have begun weekly departures and are a great success. Guided by Phil, the five-day safaris are spent walking through Lewa and nearby Il Ngwesi (pack-camels carry all the gear) and the five nights are spent camping under the stars. For first-timers as well as returning guests, it is a fascinating way to experience the wild and to get to know the area.

There have been many baby animals near the camp this season - tiny cheetah cubs, impala and gazelle fawns, twin baboon infants and a large crèche of miniature giraffe. Some of our guests even watched a giraffe being born. Other guests saw an unbelievable sight - a black-backed jackal grooming a wartnog! Come and see us soon.....



Will and Emma Craig

Photo: Dan Watts



## LEWA TENTED CAMP

The Lewa Tented Camp swimming pool took just six weeks to build - John and his team spent the whole of April and half of May (while the camp was closed for the rains) digging and building.

The pool and pool house have wonderful views to the north, towards Ol Lolowe and the Mathews Range - and it is not unusual for guests to be watching rhinos, giraffe or elephant on the far side of the valley while they are swimming.

The pool has a salt-water system and is delightfully refreshing. The pool house provides a comfortable retreat from the heat of the day, and is an excellent venue for al fresco dining.

Julu Archer - Tourism Development

Photo: Dan Watts

## MUKORA

In early July, we returned the male White rhino, Mukora, to Meru National Park: he had been part of Lewa's community since 1989. Born in Meru National Park under the protection of the then warden Peter Jenkins. Mukora was moved to Lewa just three months before - following Peter's departure - all the other White Rhinos in Meru were poached.



The implications of this recent move back stretch far beyond the pure presence of Mukora as an individual: he serves as a forerunner for a major re-introduction of Black and White rhino into Meru National Park. This shows the enormous confidence and commitment the government and KWS place in the new Chief Senior Warden, Mare Jenkins, who is Peter's son. Lewa is proud to be able to contribute and participate in re-building this unique and very special park. Mukora is back and so are the Jenkins family - good news for Meru, good news for Kenya.

Ian Craig - Executive Director

Photo: Richard Moller

## COMMUNITY

We continue to work with our neighbours on the Lososin and Vest gate group ranches. These areas have big populations of elephant so by assisting them we will also be enlarging the elephant rangelands and opening further the migration route. Currently, subject to insecurity, the establishment of community-based eco-tourism projects in the areas will help improve security for both people and wildlife.

Nicholas Muteni has recently joined LWC as Education Officer and is already making great progress. We now have five schools under the Lewa umbrella which have been greatly helped by funds from the Safaricom Marathon. All the bursary students are doing very well and special thanks to Marcel Burgauer for personally sponsoring four children thus raising the number of bursary students to 27.

Through the support of the GEF community, Utalii College carried out a 14-day in-house staff training programme for staff at both Savara and Il'Ngwesi. Also with support from GEF, neighbouring Il'Ngwesi and Bekkurake group ranches held a joint meeting to discover how they could benefit from working together on projects of common interest.

Kalama project is located next to the famous Archers Post north of Samburu National Reserve and south of Namunyak. Kalama is owned by members of Girgh Group Ranch. The group ranch covers an area of 32,000 ha with a population of 5000 people. The members of Kalama started desiring to establish an eco-tourism project after seeing these activities in development at Namunyak. Through the support of Lewa, the members were mobilised in preparation for this project. Lewa also facilitated their application for funding from BCP and the European Union and just a few weeks ago a project development fund of KSh. 16 million was approved where the community are expected to contribute 25% of this funding.

This project funding was launched on the July 18 2001 at Kalama. The occasion was attended by all the leaders in both Kalama and Namunyak including the DC of Samburu and the MP of Samburu East, Hon. Samany Lishore. The project aims at developing wildlife to tap the eco-tourism potential. The revenues will go to meet the needs of the members.

James Munyugi - Community Development Officer

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### Message to all our donors and supporters

In a letter we omitted the name of the donor. Trust from our thank you list we are extremely sorry and we do apologise. But this highlighted a mistake that as our list of donors and supporters increases, it becomes increasingly difficult to ensure that each receives a proper mention and the list takes up a lot of space which we could be better spent on news. We have to make the decision therefore to list supporters only in relation to projects but if this makes anyone unhappy please let us know.