

Lewa News

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy



www.lewa.org

A Catalyst for Conservation

From the Chief Executive Officer

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Dr. Jonathan Moss | Chief Executive Officer



The 25 years of conservation development on Lewa have been a remarkable success in terms of the Conservancy's core agenda – endangered species.

Yet Lewa's value lies not only in the integrity of an ecosystem that supports an extraordinary density and diversity of wildlife, including over 10% of Kenya's black rhino and the largest single population of Grevy's zebra in the world. It lies not only in the exceptional scenic beauty of the open grasslands, Acacia woodlands, spectacular ravines, and dense cedar forest that, together with abundant wildlife, provides the foundation to Lewa's exclusive tourism.

Lewa's value also lies well beyond its boundaries. For it is only by looking outward that Lewa remains true to its mission. And beyond the Conservancy it is Lewa's long term partnerships that ultimately ensure we sustain our role as the leading catalyst for conservation across the region.

Foremost amongst these partnerships is that with the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) and NRT communities. Lewa is proud to continue to serve as the foundation for the NRT, as the model that emerging conservancies strive to emulate, and as the provider of conservation services to communities across northern Kenya.

Lewa's strategic objectives are also critically dependent on partnership. In securing more than two decades of conservation investment on Lewa, by placing conservation easements in perpetuity over the

land, Lewa has been fortunate to obtain The Nature Conservancy's technical support—a partner with a well-deserved reputation as world leaders in conservation land protection.

And in securing Lewa's financial sustainability, and thereby our catalytic role in wildlife conservation and community development, we aim to develop new partnerships in tourism, and to secure a steady stream of donor support – for we cannot hope to sustain our efforts to provide security for endangered species, or ensure communities derive direct benefits from conservation, without the support of our committed partners overseas.

As a direct result of the Conservancy's success as a rhino breeding sanctuary, Lewa will aim to build partnerships with its immediate neighbours, and thereby create further space for endangered species. Critical ecosystem connectivity will be developed with Borana, Il Ngwesi, and Lekurruki, as well as through the elephant corridor to Mount Kenya – a project led by our partners the Bill Woodley Mt. Kenya Trust.

Further critical strategic partners include the more immediate Ngare Ndare Forest Trust, without which 14,000 acres of the protected wildlife habitat would not exist on Lewa's southern boundary; the Laikipia Wildlife Forum, which provides critical support in policy advocacy, as well as fostering regional level conservation development; Safaricom and Tusk Trust, who coordinate the annual Safaricom Marathon on Lewa; and Marwell who support the Conservancy's research efforts.

We are acutely aware of Lewa's dependence on strategic partnerships – and extremely grateful for the long term commitment of our many partners.



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Wildlife Conservation

ELEPHANT EXCLUSION ZONES

by Richard Moller | Chief Conservation Officer

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy has traditionally been an extremely important dry season feeding ground for elephant from the Samburu/Laikipia ecosystem. Up to 400 elephant have been counted on Lewa at any one time. During the rainy season, elephant are able to freely migrate out of the Conservancy to Samburu and Laikipia via two “elephant gaps” in the Lewa boundary game fence – one to the North and the other to the West.

In recent years, however, elephant numbers on Lewa have remained more constant as a result of an increased number of illegal firearms to the North and East of Lewa, where elephant poaching has increased, thus forcing the animals to remain in areas where they feel safe. This is magnified by the fact that major human encroachment on elephant habitat has taken place across the entire region.

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is facing a problem with its permanent elephant populations, which are devastating woody vegetation and browse. This is compromising black rhino conservation within the Conservancy. We do not

want to have to chase out elephant and close the “elephant gap” thereby cutting off elephant access to Lewa and further constricting their range.

In recent years, Lewa has developed a very simple but effective two-strands electrified fence that keeps elephant and giraffe out of designated areas. With these fences, all other wildlife species, including rhino, can move freely underneath to feed in what we call “elephant exclusion zones.” Our ultimate

goal is to continue to provide

safe habitat for elephant on the greater part of the Conservancy, but at the same time conserve vital areas of woody vegetation for black rhinos and other browsers. We are seeking a long-term coexistence of the species within the outer boundary of Lewa’s electrified game fence.

Elephant conservation has been, and continues to be an extremely important part of Lewa’s operations, both within the Conservancy boundary and outside. The establishment of more “exclusion zones” within the Conservancy does contribute to elephant conservation because the zones take up only a small percentage of available habitat within Lewa (approximately 5%), leaving a large percentage available for elephant range.

Gradually over the last 10 years, Lewa’s fencing unit has increased the size and the number of “exclusion zones” from approximately 1% of the total area covered by the Conservancy (62,000 acres) in the year 2000, to 5% by 2008. The objective of this project is to increase the area under “exclusion zones” by approximately another 5%, for a total of 10%. The success of these zones can clearly be seen within the Conservancy and even via satellite imagery. The fact that black rhinos are constantly seen within these zones is also a clear indicator that they must continue to be used as a tool in balancing the complex challenges faced by a conservation area that is ecologically small and fenced, such as Lewa.

Several other wildlife organisations have adopted this method of fencing with great success. The Bill Woodley Mount Kenya Trust has several kilometers of this two-strand fencing on the slopes of Mt. Kenya, where forest land meets small-scale farms to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts. Meru National Park uses this type of fence in the Kinna area to help in human-wildlife conflict situations. Just like Lewa, the Ol Pejeta Conservancy within the Laikipia District has adopted this style of fencing to create “elephant exclusion zones” to allow recovery of woody vegetation.

We feel that this is the best option, simply because it allows both elephants and other wildlife species to coexist on the same restricted conservation area, rather than take more drastic measures and fence-out elephants altogether.



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The success of the elephant exclusion zone can clearly be seen on this picture. All the woody vegetation stands behind the 2-strands electrified fence which keeps elephants and giraffes out.



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Black and white rhinos alike are striving on the Conservancy. As of April 2009, our total population stood at 111: 65 black rhinos and 46 white rhinos. Lewa continues to be one of the most successful rhino sanctuaries in the world because of our sophisticated security system.



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LEWA RHINO UPDATE

by John Pameri | Wildlife & Security Manager

2008 was a good year for Lewa’s rhinos. Not only did we reach an important milestone of 100 rhinos on the Conservancy, but we continued to serve as a critical rhino breeding sanctuary for Kenya. A total of 15 rhinos were born during the year: eight white and seven black. This raised the total population to 61 blacks and 44 whites representing 11% and 13.5% of the country’s total rhinos respectively.

Even better, as of April 2009, our population now stands at 111 (65 black rhinos and 46 white rhinos) with an **additional 6 calves born during the beginning of the year.** These growth rates are way above the national meta-population target of 6% for black rhinos. For those of you who have been there from the beginning, you might remember that when Lewa started, 24 years ago, we only had 13 rhinos on the Conservancy. In 2008 alone, our recruitment rate exceeded our original numbers!

Lewa is one of the most successful rhino sanctuaries in the world because we keep our rhinos safe. Our fence continues to be upgraded, our ranger

teams are made of exceptional individuals who have shown exceptional commitment to the welfare of these endangered species. In addition, rhinos on Lewa have been allowed to stabilize over the years. Living undisturbed, the population has flourished faster than anyone could imagine.

But we are wary of the future. Poaching in Kenya is on the rise, and this year alone,

three known rhinos have been poached in the near vicinity. We are fully aware that it is not a case of IF but a case of WHEN further attempts to poach rhino on Lewa are made. We must continue to strengthen our security teams, maintain a high level of motivation and do everything possible to ensure that our core objective of rhino conservation continues into the future. A good example of our commitment to this cause is the fact that over eighty percent of our rhinos are individually identified on a daily basis.

In addition, we are running out of space and are actively looking for areas where excess rhinos can disperse, or be translocated to, once Lewa’s ecological carrying capacity is attained. We are very aware that a huge amount of time, funds, effort and tremendous support from many friends that have believed in the Lewa model has enabled us to reach our original dream of having too many rhinos. With this in mind, we are very carefully examining the options of where we can move rhino to where they will be safe and where Lewa still has a say in their welfare and security. This is all in conjunction with the Kenya Wildlife Service. One option is to increase the ecological area of Lewa, by dropping its western boundary fence and incorporate the newly established Borana Conservancy into a greater Conservancy for rhinos. Borana welcomes this conservation approach and plans are well under way for this to become reality. Secondly, in line with KWS’s 2007-2011 Conservation and Management Strategy for the Black Rhino in Kenya, Lewa and the NRT are at an advanced stage in incorporating a part of the Sera Conservancy as the first community-owned black rhino conservancy in East Africa.

If it wasn’t for the support of many passionate individuals, large and small conservation organizations, foundations and Kenya Government support, the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy would not be in the exciting position it is now.



The latest black rhino born on Lewa. The calf was born on the 16th of April, 2009 to our oldest rhino called Stumpy. Stumpy was one of the 10 founder rhinos introduced on Lewa in 1984. She is believed to be 41 years old!

Wildlife Conservation

HARTEBEEST TRANSLOCATION

by Elodie Sampéré | Head of Conservation Marketing

Early in 2008, it was announced that the entire Sector D of Solio Ranch that adjoins Naromoru Town, measuring approximately 15,500 acres, had been sold to the Government of Kenya's Settlement Trustee Fund to re-settle squatters from Laikipia District. Sector D held numerous wildlife species including approximately 543 Lelwel hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus Lelwel* - a rare sub-species in the District); 805 plains zebra; 210 impala; 1,615 Thomson's gazelle; 36 oryx; and 41 eland.

Sector D was to be sub-divided into 4-acre plots for farming and livestock rearing purposes, and ½-acre plots for residential houses. This kind of land use is not compatible with the region's harsh climatic conditions. The area is of marginal agricultural productivity and ranching and wildlife conservation is the ideal form of land use. Consequently, the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy Research Department, working with partners, including the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), predicted significant human-wildlife conflict once the intended resettlement was to be completed. It became clear that the wildlife within Sector D would be decimated once the take-over of the land was finalized. This became a particular concern to conservationists in the region because of the presence of hartebeest on the land.

Hartebeest once ranged over much of Africa but have significantly declined in numbers and range over the past few decades. Today, they persist in small populations in West Africa, East Africa and sporadically in some protected areas in South Africa. Within Kenya, hartebeest with Lelwel affinities are only found in two places: (1) Ruma National Park, where only a few dozen animals remain. This population is in decline due to very low genetic variation; and (2) a population of approximately 1,000 individuals in Laikipia District, **with about 75% of this population in Solio Ranch alone.** This Laikipia population has been shown to be genetically diverse. Therefore, the population of Lelwel hartebeest in Laikipia is of high strategic importance for the conservation and continued survival of the entire subspecies.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, in partnership with the Ol Pejeta Conservancy and TUSK Trust raised emergency funds which enabled the translocation to get underway.

On November 8, 2008, the translocation started. When this first phase ended on November 21, a total of 199 hartebeest had been relocated; as well as 140 plains zebras. The capture technique used for this translocation involved the use of helicopters and



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trucks to transport the animals. The animals were helicopter-shepherded into curtained traps that funnelled them into loading ramps which led to the trucks. It was, by all means, a difficult and exhausting exercise for our teams. Given the urgency of the situation, the translocation had to take place during the rainy season. The team lost about 4 days to the rain, when the exercise had to be suspended. As the days passed, the animals got smarter and became more difficult to catch, and it was decided that the animals should be captured at night.

But the team didn't give up, and given the success of the first phase, Lewa raised additional funds and started a second translocation in February 2009. This phase lasted 5 days; 44 hartebeest and 13 impalas were captured and moved. The exercise took place solely at night, testing our team even further. A helicopter cannot be used at night and all the work is done with vehicles and by foot. The animals are pushed into nets using the vehicles and strong lights. It's difficult work which requires a lot of experience and dexterity.

After Lewa ran out of funds and was forced to end the capture, the KWS released significant funds to continue this important exercise. KWS is determined to move as many animals out of Sector D as possible and has worked relentlessly for the last few weeks, and with great success. The latest numbers (received on April 12th) were that an additional 181 hartebeest, 1 reedbuck, 2 beisa oryx, 2 impalas, 2 Thomson's gazelles, 1 eland and 203 plains zebras had been successfully captured and moved to various recipient sites in the region.

This translocation shows the commitment of donors who supported the exercise, of organisations like the Ol Pejeta Conservancy and the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy who are committed to be part of wildlife conservation in the region and of the Kenya Wildlife Service whose mission is to sustainably conserve and manage Kenya's wildlife and its habitat in collaboration with stakeholders.



Total Animals Captured and Translocated Since November 2008:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ⊙ 424 hartebeest | ⊙ 1 reedbuck |
| ⊙ 343 plains zebras | ⊙ 2 Thomson's gazelle |
| ⊙ 30 impalas | ⊙ 2 Beisa Oryx |
| ⊙ 1 eland | |

CELLO THE ELEPHANT, FIGHTING FOR HER LIFE

by Susannah Rouse

Cello, one of Lewa's best-known elephant and matriarch of the Instrument family, is fighting for her life. Her three month old daughter is most certainly dead.

On April 18, Lewa security received a report that two elephant had been shot. Eight days later, a wounded Cello made her way back onto Lewa and safety.

Cello was immediately spotted by a ranger; the veterinary team quickly darted and treated her. On May 1, the decision was made to treat Cello one more time — knowing there was a good chance that she may not get up. However without treatment, she would certainly die. At 3:45, Cello was darted.

Working as quickly as possible, the team cleaned and flushed the wound and injected massive doses of long acting antibiotics. The "wake up" drug was given and everyone anxiously stood by. At first, nothing. Slowly, Cello began struggling to get to her feet, but it soon became apparent that she could not get up on her own.

The Lewa team sprang into action and over the course of the next hour strategically put ropes and cars in position. One car angled to pull the ropes; the other stationed behind her neck

to help push her to her feet. Just when it appeared that Cello

no longer had the strength to try again, all of the pieces of the puzzle came together. The ropes were in place, the vehicles were in position and Cello began to rock. At 5:13, Cello was on her feet.

Amazingly, Cello made no effort to charge either of the vehicles or even the men who were on the ground. On some level, she must have known that despite the fear and trauma, everyone was there to help her. She had thanked us in her own way.

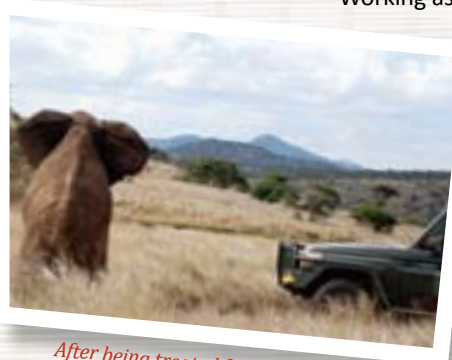
As of this article going to press, Cello is still alive and appears to be improving. However, her life still hangs very much in the balance. We promise to keep you updated on her progress.

The illegal killing of elephant is dramatically on the rise in northern Kenya. The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy hopes to establish a unit designated solely to the investigation of reports of elephant death in the region. This data is critical if we are to combat the growing threat to elephant. If you would like to make a contribution to this program, please designate your funds for the "elephant monitoring program."



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On May 1, 2009, Cello was treated with antibiotics for the second time by the Lewa team. Cello was shot on April 18 and walked for eight days to find safety on the Conservancy. We hope she recovers from her injuries.



After being treated for the second time, Cello struggled to get to her feet. She finally got up after the Lewa team strategically helped with ropes and cars. Cello is currently being carefully monitored by our security team.

WILD DOGS ON LEWA

by Geoffrey Chege, Research and Monitoring Manager

Since early 2008, a pack of African wild dogs has been regularly sighted on the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. The numbers seen range from 3 to 17 members. All reports indicate that the pack is in extremely good health. While wild dogs have come on and off Lewa for a long time, this pack seems to be spending a lot more time on the Conservancy and to be a lot easier to spot. Since Lewa provides a good source of food for predators, and since a lot of areas around Lewa have been encroached upon significantly, it's not a big surprise that this pack has decided to make Lewa their home.

The African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) — which has a colorful, patchy coat, large bat-like ears and a bushy tail — is one of the most endangered large carnivores in the world. Their numbers have declined significantly due to human encroachment on their habitat, disease, and snaring and poisoning by communities and farmers.

While wild dogs are a great tourist attraction, with their return also comes the potential for human-wildlife conflict. This particular pack killed 26 goats outside the Conservancy, creating a lot of resentment from our surrounding communities. Additionally, because wild dogs are social animals that skillfully cooperate on hunts, making them the most efficient hunter amongst the large carnivores, Lewa's research team is worried that this may negatively impact the impala population in particular on Lewa.

This challenge demonstrates the need for Lewa to continue working with our local communities while at the same time expanding wildlife habitat to the north.



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Community Development

THE NGARE NDARE FOREST TRUST

by Charlie Wheeler

The Ngare Ndare Forest Trust has been at the forefront of protecting the Ngare Ndare Forest for over a decade. The Trust is really Lewa's first community project, but is rather forgotten because it stood on its feet quite quickly. Without the Trust, the forest survival would be at stake.

Located on the northern foothills of Mount Kenya is the 5,300 hectare indigenous Ngare Ndare Forest, with pencil cedar, podo, African olive, wild fig and acacia trees. Ngare Ndare is a safe haven for large mammals including elephant, and a paradise for monkeys, birds and butterflies. The forest – which traverses two districts and provinces namely Buuri in Eastern province and Laikipia district in Rift Valley province - is a critical piece of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy's ecosystem. Not only is it an important part of the wildlife corridor especially for elephants extending from the forest cutting across through Lewa to Laikipia and Samburu districts. But it also offers suitable habitat for the black rhino and increases range for different wildlife species not only for the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, but also for Borana Conservancy. Most importantly, the forest supports the hydrological balance of the entire ecosystem. It is a source of four rivers, some of which sustain the drier lowlands. The forest supports the various life forms and contributes to the flow of Ewaso Ng'iro, the lifeline for the pastoral communities in Isiolo and Samburu districts.

In charge of protecting this forest is the Ngare Ndare Forest Trust (NNFT), a small organisation comprised of local stakeholders whose only goal is to ensure the forest survival. The Trust was officially registered in December 2001.

The history of the Trust started in the early 90s, when local stakeholders, including Ian Craig and myself, realized that human-wildlife conflict was increasing dramatically around the forest mostly because elephants were moving through the local communities and destroying crops. These conflicts accentuated forest degradation by humans. We realized something needed to be done. Through the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, we were able to raise funds to build an electric fence around the forest, which was completed in 1992. This fence greatly reduced human-wildlife conflict and forest destruction. In 1997, in realization of the importance of this forest all the stakeholders came together to form what was known as the Ngare Ndare Forest Working Committee to help improve conservation and management of the forest. These stakeholders include the five communities adjacent to the forest, neighboring large-scale farms (Kisima, Lewa, Borana and Northern Frontier Ventures), the Forest department, KWS



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and Provincial Administration.

Today, the Trust proudly stands on its own, and has made remarkable achievements in the conservation of the forest and community empowerment having planted over 1 million trees on adjacent farmlands and undertaken enrichment planting in the degraded areas within the forest. Forest canopy has improved, while utilisation of the forest resource by the local community is now planned with sustainability highly emphasised. Forest fires have been significantly reduced through increased community scouts patrols and introduction of modern honey harvesting technology and capacity building of community groups.

A grazing plan for the herdsmen as well as improvement of local breeds has enhanced forest regeneration, reduced soil erosion and enhanced protection of the numerous water catchments and springs.

Despite all of these achievements, there are still a number of challenges posed by the ever-present threat of accidental fires, existing dependence on the forest resource by the adjacent community for firewood, pastures, water extraction and also harvesting of medicinal products. Other challenges

include maintenance of access roads into the forest and the underdeveloped capacity of Ngare Ndare Forest Trust to support itself. The institution is currently starting initiatives, which will be able to generate income for forest protection and operational costs. These initiatives include development of low impact ecotourism, bee-keeping initiative and commercial tree nurseries. Infrastructure development for the ecotourism include a game-viewing platform, nature trails and campsites, these have generated considerable interest from neighbouring tourism operations on the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, and the Borana Conservancy. A canopy walkway is currently being constructed to attract more tourists to the forest.

If you would like more information about the Ngare Ndare Forest Trust and how to support its initiatives, please contact Charlie Wheeler at 4wheeler@northernfrontiers.com.



CONSERVATION EMPOWERING WOMEN

by John Kinoti | Community Development Manager

Women constitute nearly 60 percent of the world's 2 billion people living in poverty. Despite all the community development programmes around the world, the feminization of poverty seems to be a growing phenomenon, especially in the developing world. Over the last two decades, the number of rural women living in absolute poverty has risen by 50 percent (compared to 30 percent for men).

The primary cause of the feminization of poverty is gender bias, which prevents women from obtaining the education, training, health services and child care they require to escape poverty. In developing countries, women's economic activities take place mostly in the non-wage economy, either as unpaid work for the purposes of household subsistence, or as paid work in the informal sector. Women who engage in such work usually are not granted access to land, credit and other resources that improve productivity and would enable them to generate increased income. Even when women are involved in the wage economy, they often receive considerably less remuneration than men.

In Kenya, despite significant progress in the field of women's empowerment, some major challenges still need to be faced. Women bear the brunt of rural poverty with literacy rates in some areas being as low as 4 percent.

Women's economic empowerment is an essential element in any strategy for poverty alleviation. And it is this belief that led to the creation of the Lewa Women's Micro-Credit Programme in 2003. More specifically, our Women's Micro-Credit Programme was started as result of a close evaluation of the level of poverty within rural women in the communities surrounding Lewa.

Culturally, the women are in most cases left out of the decision-making process, yet they play the key role of holding their families and the entire society together.

Micro-credit is the extension of micro-loans to the unemployed, to poor entrepreneurs and to others living in poverty. These individuals lack collateral, steady employment and a verifiable credit history and therefore cannot meet even the most minimal qualifications to gain access to traditional credit sources. The Lewa Women's Micro-Credit

Programme supports rural women living in the communities surrounding the Conservancy. We provide them with small loans, so they can initiate micro-enterprises – such as tailoring, homestead retail shops, poultry and agricultural-based activities – to enhance their livelihoods and improve their socio-economic activities. This is one of Lewa's ways of helping in the fight against the fast-spreading poverty in the region and in supporting women's empowerment.

The Lewa Women's Micro-Credit Programme helps local women in three ways:

1. By providing independent sources of income outside their home, micro-credit tends to reduce economic dependency of the women on men and thus help enhance autonomy
2. The same independent sources of income together with their exposure to new sets of ideas, values and social support make these women more assertive of their rights
3. Our micro-credit programme - by providing control over material resources - raises women's prestige and status in the eyes of men and thereby promotes equality

It has been five years since the inception of the Women's Micro-Credit Programme and already it has had a big impact on the otherwise voiceless and poor rural Kenyan women in the neighbourhood of Lewa. Over 400 women have benefited from this programme. Our aim is to continue to grow the programme to try and assist as many women in the region as possible. The programme has the following major objectives:

- Promoting the development of women's micro enterprises
- Training women on entrepreneurship
- Fundraising in support of women enterprises
- Marketing women's businesses and products
- Facilitating gender equity and access to resources by women
- Supporting development efforts of women living around wildlife conservation areas
- Fostering linkages and liaison with other women development groups

One of the beneficiaries of the Women's Micro-Credit Programme is Salome. She was amongst the first women to have access to a small loan. Salome has said that "the Lewa Women's Micro-Credit Programme is so important to me and my fellow women, just like the umbilical cord is to the unborn child." When Salome became part of the programme, she started with a small vegetable garden. She now owns a retail shop where she sells her agricultural products. She also owns a maize mill that serves the entire community. Women like Salome show that with very little resources and a lot of good will, anything is possible.



Some of the beneficiaries of the Lewa Women's Micro-Credit Programme. Top photo is Salome who owns a maize mill that serves the entire community.

Community Development

CHILDREN SUPPORTING CHILDREN

by Faith Riunga | Education Officer

Most of the donors who support the Lewa Education Programme are adults. But at Lewa we also try to inspire young people to develop as socially conscious global citizens and become agents of change for their peers around the world. From time to time, we have witnessed, with great pride, children from abroad initiating special projects to help our local children:



1. **Calhoun School** in the United States has been an avid supporter of the **Leparua School**. Students from Calhoun raised enough funds to build a kitchen garden for the school – the first farming initiative in the area. They have planted kale, spinach, coriander, green banana trees, mangoes, pawpaw and passion. The garden is key to supplementing the diet of the children with much needed nutrients. In the near future, the school plans to rear rabbits, chicken, geese, goats and fish. This project will help the school become more sustainable.

2. Children from **Repton School** in the UK fund-raised for the construction of a new Kindergarten classroom for **Karimba School**. Until now, the younger children were attending classes in a very dilapidated building. This will, with no doubt, provide a much more conducive learning environment for the children.

3. **Brentwood Sunshine Pre-School** in the United States fundraised to build a library for **Kanyunga School**. The library will be used by the school as well as the community as a resource centre. Libraries help the children

broaden their education and expand their thinking.

4. Recently, **Upper Canada College (UCC)** sent two teams of students. One team participated in the initial construction of the **Subuiga School Library**. The other team set up 7 computers at the **Ntugi Secondary School**. The team which went to Ntugi Secondary School had brought with them solar panels and OLPC laptops. Despite the challenge of having to install a solar power system - and starting from scratch (none of the students or staff had ever used a computer, or heard of the internet), within a matter of days the team had rolled out internet access at incredibly low cost - and given students access to online libraries. This has brought a whole new enthusiasm to the school and to the students. UCC has committed to meeting the monthly charges on internet connection so that Ntugi remains online.

5. **Sanga School** has greatly benefited from the efforts of **All Hallows School**. Over the years, the children of All Hallows have supported initiatives such as the feeding programme, building proper hygienic latrines, providing proper piping to bring in water, bought school uniform and school supplies.

6. Many of our children have **pen-pals**. That programme helps improve their English and it helps them learn about a different culture. Very often we are able to witness, through the letters or the drawings, that our local children understand the linkages between wildlife conservation and the many benefits they have received throughout the years.

Mobilizing the energy, ingenuity and compassion of young people, beginning at an early age, to discover their power and potential to solve real world problems through volunteer opportunities is what all these projects are about. It is also about teaching our local children that other children care about them and that anything is possible.





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There is more pressure on land, on food production, the price of ivory is increasing and there is an ever-increasing demand for wildlife products. With more illegal firearms, and more people living in poverty placing more pressure on natural resources, the role of Community Conservancies become

A CONVERSATION WITH IAN CRAIG

Since early 2008, Ian Craig has taken on a wider role with the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) and the Ol Pejeta Conservancy. The majority of Ian's time is spent on the NRT Conservancies where he is using his expertise and experience to assist the communities. To help our partners and supporters better understand what Ian's new role entails and how he sees the future, our Head of Conservation Marketing, Elodie Sampéré, sat down with Ian to get his thoughts.

Elodie: Ian, the theme of this newsletter is "partnerships"; do you agree that no conservation work can be done without strong partnerships?

Ian: I would rather use the word synergies. I believe that one good thing that has come out of this economic downturn is that organizations are being forced to work together, to maximize and share expertise and resources. The whole world has come to a reality check, including the world of conservation. The community conservancies are now working much closer on issues such as security, anti-poaching, tourism and grazing; challenges that are common to us all and that will establish a far stronger foundation for conservation in the long run.

Given these new synergies and the increasing economic and social challenges, I believe the NRT model becomes even more relevant. The Conservancy model is helping pastoral communities to come together as formal organizations through which all development issues can be routed. These Conservancies have brought together Communities that for generations have been fighting or arguing over resources. By having a common institution in place there is an entry point to bring healthcare, education, cooperative livestock marketing and tourism to the North. The management capacity of the community institutions is improving every year. I am extremely proud of what has been achieved and it's all done through strong synergies.

Elodie: Are you worried about the future Ian?

Ian: The world is not running out of money, it is simply running out of empty promises. The reality is that the work we are doing is more important now than it was five years ago.

more and more relevant. Just a few days ago, I was sitting at a community meeting in northern Laikipia, where no rain at all has fallen for the main rainy season. The pressure on the land is such that there is simply no room for wildlife, yet it is in the main wildlife corridor connecting Samburu with Laikipia and the migratory route for several thousand elephant each year. This was a sharp reminder that without communities committing to conserve and care for wildlife, it is doomed to isolated pockets within our lifetime. It was a stark reminder of the vital importance of the role that Lewa and NRT together with their worldwide supporters play. I am not worried about the future as long as those in privileged positions such as ours commit the effort, time and resources to catch the moment and opportunity of today.

Elodie: Can you talk about maybe two projects that you are working on that you are excited about?

Ian: Well the first one would be the new enterprise development initiative we are working on with NRT. This is all about scaling up enterprises that fall under the umbrella of the NRT in particular, tourism and micro-credit and livestock marketing. It's about providing money and using NRT as an entry point for these community institutions to have access to credit to develop alternative opportunities to livestock and traditional land-based livelihoods.

The second project is about bringing back black rhino to a community conservancy. Under the 2007-2011 Conservation and Management Strategy for the Black Rhino in Kenya, the Kenya Wildlife Service calls for two community rhino sanctuaries in the next five years. Even though it's still early days, NRT is working through all the modalities of this with the Sera Community and KWS. With Lewa's growing rhino population and our knowledge on rhino management, we are well-placed to work with communities. This would be the first community rhino sanctuary in East Africa. It will without a doubt raise the profile of black rhinos in Kenya and will provide the Sera Community with a unique tourism product for the future.

Sustainability

TWO SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING DINNERS

In 2008, Lewa UK and Lewa USA held fundraising dinners in London and in New York City respectively to raise awareness about the work the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is doing. It was the first of its kind for Lewa USA but the response from our supporters was overwhelming. In the UK, with the invaluable help of Tusk Trust, the Friends of Lewa dinner is already in its 10th year, and was as successful as ever.



FRIENDS OF LEWA DINNER, LONDON *by Sarah Watson*

The historic Drapers' Hall in the centre of the City of London was the stunning venue for the annual Friends of Lewa Dinner organised by Tusk Trust. Generously underwritten once again by one of Tusk's key corporate partners, Artemis Investment Management, it proved to be a hugely successful evening, generating nearly £ 65,000 (US\$ 100,000) in support of the Conservancy's work.

Over 240 guests attended the dinner for an op-

portunity to hear from Ian Craig about his new role as Strategic Advisor to Lewa and the positive impact that the Conservancy has had in the region since its inception. The dinner also gave Lewa's new CEO, Dr. Jonathan Moss, the chance to outline the Conservancy's aims for the future. The formal speeches were rounded off by a moving contribution from Jonathan 'Kip' Nteere, who braved a cold English winter's night dressed in a traditional Maasai shuka and 'thousand miler' sandals. Kip explained how Lewa had worked for many years to dramatically improve the livelihoods of his community at Il Ngwesi.

Lewa and Tusk would like to thank the following people and companies who generously contributed towards the evening and helped to make it such a huge success: Artemis Investment Management, Basecamp Foundation, BlackRock, Boodles, Bob Reeves, Kenya Airways, Lin Barrie, Real Flowers, Richard Britten-Long, Sandstorm Kenya, Samatian Island Lodge, SaSaab, Sophie Walbeoffe, Tim Best Travel and Tom Aikens.

The date for the 2009 Friends of Lewa Dinner will be advertised later in the year. For more information, please contact Sarah Watson at sarah@tusk.org.

THE INAUGURAL LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY US DINNER, NEW YORK CITY *by Deborah Gage*

Over the years, it has been touching to sense the continuing enthusiasm and passion that Lewa evokes in us all. We have recognised that everyone loves keeping in contact with Lewa! Our regular e-mail updates and the Lewa Newsletter go a long way to achieve just that – and yet there is nothing to compare with the personal touch, which has long been the hallmark of Ian Craig's magnetic vision.

The Lewa US Committee decided that the annual London dinner would be a wonderful occasion to emulate. Thanks to our Board Member, Edith McBean, the inaugural US dinner was held at the Explorers Club in New York on September 25, 2008. We had decided to 'test the water' with a low key occasion for our first event, and in fact were overwhelmed by the response; we were quickly oversold!

The event was a resounding success, netting US\$ 35,000, which was a tremendous achievement and will provide welcome funding towards Lewa's core programmes this coming year. There was an excited buzz throughout the evening as Ian Craig, Lewa Kenya's new chairman, the Hon. Francis Ole Kaparo and new Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Jonathan Moss circulated among the guests. The reception was quickly followed by an excellent dinner, when Gordon Pattee, Lewa's US chairman

extended a warm welcome. Our dessert was enlivened by an auction of ethnic jewellery and various lots, conducted with great wit by Hugh C. Hildersley of Sotheby's.

Lewa USA would like to thank the following people who generously contributed towards the evening. Michael Coleman for donating his sculpture of a life-size warthog, and two rhino book-ends at cost; Murray Grant, who presented a bronze of a warthog, and Hillary Hurt a photograph of a giraffe; Vicki Chignall, who came up with a selection of jewellery made in her workshop by the Maasai; and Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Roditi, who donated a crate of wine from South Africa. Paolo Torchio, a photographer based in Kenya, for allowing us to use his photograph for our invitation; Nora Padua, who took enormous trouble designing our invitation; Michele deSouza, who devoted much time to hand-addressing our envelopes; Alda Spina and all the staff at the Explorers Club who ensured our evening ran like clockwork; Jacki Nager, who, together with Linda Millard, Lewa USA Executive Director, Paula Morris, Michelle Guillermin, and Bronwen Jones proved a 'dream team' picking up so many of the organisational details for such an event.

The second Lewa USA dinner is planned for October 1, 2009, so please put the date down in your diaries.

ONE BAG AT A TIME

by Stephen Kasoo | Conservation Tourism Coordinator

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is first and foremost about wildlife conservation. But at Lewa, all of us understand that without the support of our surrounding communities, the work we do would be futile. In the end, we are all seeking to make positive changes. And at Lewa, the management welcomes innovative ideas from all employees, and everyone is encouraged to get involved to make a difference. Michael Ndirangu is a waiter at Lewa Safari Camp. He has worked on Lewa since 2002. He recently became involved in an inventive project to better the life of his community.



While working at the Lewa Safari Camp, Michael recently met a guest named Lisette Gelber. Lisette is a repeat visitor to Africa, and during one of her conversations with Michael she mentioned how bothered she was by all the plastic bottles, plastic bags and trash that cover the roads in many towns on the continent. She noted that the roads to and around Lewa were not immune from the problem. She encouraged Michael to do something about this growing problem.

They came up with the idea of giving empty trash bags to a number of community members and asking them to fill up one bag each with the trash found on the road – each bag could carry about 10 kg. Once they came back with a bag full of trash, they would exchange it for a re-usable canvas bag. The canvas bags are attractive to our local communities because they provide a much easier and sturdier way to carry the goods bought at the local markets. But most importantly, people who would have a canvas bag would stop using plastic bags.

Michael knew that for the project to work, it needed to be approved by the Elders in the local communities. He thought a good place to start would be his hometown of Nanyuki, which is only about 60 kilometres from the Conservancy. Michael approached a number of the Elders and convinced them to endorse the project. In January 2009, the project was born!

So far, approximately 5,000 kilograms of trash have been collected and about 500 canvas bags have been distributed. The project is on-going and Michael continues to spread the word around the region to get more people involved.

We want to commend Michael Ndirangu for finding the time and energy to jump-start this important project.

Donor Profile

KIRSTEN-COOK ZABA – A LEGACY OF GIVING

On the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, we have been fortunate to secure the generous support of many individuals. And there are times when supporting Lewa becomes a family affair. The Cook family has been an instrumental part of making Lewa what it is today, and we want to honour them by telling their story.

A native of Canada, John Cook first visited Lewa in 1988. He was a guest of Anna Merz who convinced him to purchase one of the three original female white rhinos to help grow our population.

John visited Lewa regularly, and kept up a strong connection with Anna, then the Craig family. After a few years of helping to fundraise for Lewa he decided it was time to incorporate Lewa Canada as a fundraising and awareness tool for the Conservancy. Sadly, John passed away in 2003 before Lewa Canada had received official charitable status. After John's death, his wife, Alexandra Montgomery, picked up the torch on his behalf, seeing to the eventual establishment of the Canadian charity in its current form.

John's legacy lives on through his family. His daughter Kirsten, her mother Marilyn, her husband Dwayne and their two children, Jasmine and Tristan visited Lewa recently. Their continued commitment to the Conservancy is enormous. Both Kirsten and her brother, Norman serve on the Advisory Board of Lewa Canada. They ran the Safaricom Marathon in 2004, and there is a white rhino named Cookie on Lewa, in honour of their father. All the family members, including the children, continue to be ambassadors for Lewa's work we and can tell the story with unparalleled enthusiasm and love. They particularly enjoy Lewa's approach to conservation, working with the surrounding communities.

We are honoured that generation after generation, Kirsten's and Norman's families have decided to support our projects and our vision. We want to thank all of them for their unconditional support, and hope they inspire others to become involved in the work Lewa is doing.



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Our Mission

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy works as a catalyst for the conservation of wildlife and its habitat. It does this through the protection and management of species, the initiation and support of community conservation and development programmes, and the education of neighbouring areas in the value of wildlife.

Conservation Tourism

'FRIENDS OF LEWA' RATES FOR YOUR NEXT VISIT TO LEWA

Supporters of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy come from all corners of the world. Their interests are varied but their commitment is focused on the mission of Lewa. Many of our supporters have never come to Lewa, or are itching for a return visit. We recognise the desire for many to experience first-hand what we do on the Conservancy.

Lewa is happy to offer special rates for our loyal and passionate "friends" until the end of the year. We have two lodges that are available for such rates. We can also assist you with Nairobi transport, hotel and round trip Nairobi/ Lewa airfares. For details on those special rates and to make a booking, contact us at reservations@lewa.org.

LEWA SAFARI CAMP

The Safari Camp with its lush green lawns, a pool and tented accommodations, provides visitors with an insight to conservation and wildlife management at its best. The Camp can sleep 26 guests, and comprises of nine twin rooms, one double, two family/triple tents and a handicap accessible tent all with en suite bathrooms, hot and cold running water and flush toilets. The tents are actually erected on a concrete base beneath thatch roofs. This means you have plenty of space to relax in the shade close to home should you just wish to while away the hours looking at the superb scenery.



LEWA HOUSE

Lewa House is set on top of a hill with an engaging panoramic view of the rolling landscape of the Conservancy. Lewa House overlooks the luggas (valleys) and hills, with the horizon rising to eye-catching views of the Mathews Range and the sacred mountain of the Samburu – Ol Lolokwe. The house has six individual bedrooms all with en suite bathrooms and terraces, making the property suitable for 12 people. A large swimming pool overlooking a waterhole with a thatched bar area for those all important sundowners is also yours to enjoy at Lewa House. Eating and relaxing takes place in the spacious lounge and dining areas with comfortable sofas, an open fire, fresh flowers, paintings, carvings and piles of coffee table books to read.

WHY VISIT LEWA:

⊗ One of the world's most important conservation areas ⊗ Magnificent views of Mt. Kenya ⊗ Over 10 percent of Kenya's black rhino population ⊗ The largest single population of Grevy's zebra in the world ⊗ Lewa re-invests all of its profits from tourism into our core programmes