

Wildlife Conservation

DOUBLE TRAGEDY FOR LEWA'S BLACK RHINO

by Richard Moller | Chief Conservation Officer

On December 26, 2009, three armed men attempted to poach rhinos on the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, resulting in one female black rhino called Ntoye being shot dead, and another called Tana, being seriously wounded in the shoulder.

Very sadly, Tana died on March 5, 2010, as a result of the shoulder injury she sustained in December. Huge efforts were made to give Tana every chance to survive this

effectively to the incident conveys the clear message that our highly trained, well-equipped, and motivated wildlife security team is well-prepared to react to any future threats to Lewa's rhino and its other endangered species. And, these threats remain ever-present.

Looking Forward

Lewa is not complacent however, and this incident has made us even more aware of the extent of the potential

threat; even Lewa is not immune to the increased global threat to endangered species. Indeed, we are responding directly to this incident by taking clear steps to ramp up our security efforts and strengthen our existing security infrastructure. We have now completed the construction of a further security outpost in the area where the incident took place, and Lewa has diverted funds from a number of its other key projects to enable this to happen.

Lewa has also been working to enhance its existing informer network specific to this incident, and although we now have a number of different leads, sadly none of the culprits have been apprehended as yet. Lewa is working hard to follow this up until at least the group has been identified.

In short, we are confident and determined that we will find those responsible, eventually.

attempted poaching incident; including three interventions by the Kenya Wildlife Service Vet Unit stationed on the Conservancy, to treat her with long-acting antibiotics; daily monitoring by a rhino surveillance unit; and the regular provision of supplementary feed. However, all of this was just not enough, and she eventually succumbed to her serious injuries, only surviving her very young calf by a few months, which had sadly died in the drought a few months earlier.

Lewa's Quick Response

The gruesome events of December 26th and loss of two of our black rhinos still weighs heavily upon us all but it is important to remind ourselves that this incident represents the very first partially- successful poaching attempt on the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Furthermore, the fact that our wildlife security units were able to respond so swiftly and



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Like many other rhino sanctuaries in Africa, Lewa has now suffered the loss of two black rhinos to poachers. This was a devastating event for all of us on Lewa and we are working diligently to make sure it never happens again.



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Construction of the Njoora Security Outpost is now complete. This comprises of two uniports, kitchen, toilet and bathroom and will significantly increase our security on our southern boundary.