

6137

Ol Jogi, Ltd.

January, 2000

What is Ol Jogi?

A 67,000 acre acacia savanna that is home to 22 species of ungulates, 5 species of large carnivores, divers small carnivores, 3 species of primates, 310 species of birds and a spectrum of invertebrates. Within its boundaries we maintain a 13,000 acre black and white rhino reserve, an animal orphanage with 170 residents, a veterinary clinic, an active education program and a research facility. Two thousand Boran cattle and 250 camels graze on the ranch land. The vegetation is mostly acacias with a grass and xerophytic plant understory. Two rivers cross Ol Jogi and in addition 55 surface dams provide water storage for wildlife and livestock.

A note from Tom

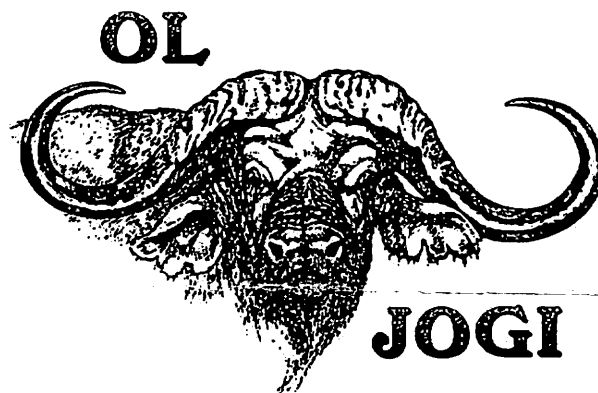
Ol Jogi is alive. We have labored to become a viable and sensible organization that practices conservation. Our projects are designed to have long term benefits, to have practical application, and to be a meaningful contribution to ecosystem conservation. Like the trees, planted 4 years ago, and now grown over my head, I have also grown. I have learned, my staff has learned and all the students we have touched, have learned more about conservation.

The 2 most recent memorable projects have been the movement of wild animals to new pastures. Four black rhinos were moved from a fenced sanctuary to unfenced wilderness. A breeding program is a success as animals are returned to a wild home. The circle has been made complete. In another movement impala were captured to stock a new wildlife reserve. This new reserve is designed to provide income to local residents and to secure expansion of an almost surrounded National Park.

Pyramid Game Reserve: Kimani and Mike

In 1999 the reserve received 70% of the long term annual rainfall (497.8 mm). This was a *La Nina* year. It was the driest of the previous 8 years. Fortunately the *El Nino* rains had filled dams to the brim and promoted a generous overgrowth of vegetation. Had it not been for these rains in 1997 and 1998 the animals would be having a difficult time right now. The reserve is in good condition, animals are reproducing well and we are awaiting the next rain cycle.

To enhance our agility in managing animals a set of animal pens have been built. Four interconnecting bomas each measuring 10 x 10 meters were enclosed by a log wall 3 meters in height. These pens are adaptable to hold virtually any type of herbivore. They were baptized by holding 2 black rhinos. Plans are underway to house generek for a reproductive exchange project.



Black Rhinos

Life is exciting with black rhinos, 5 births, a changing of our male blood line, 2 vehicles crashed, and most significant, the transfer of 4 animals to Tsavo East National Park by Kenya Wildlife Service.

Five animals were born during the last 18 months which collectively show an intercalving interval of less than 3 years. This translates to a 16% annual growth rate for our black rhino population. Mama Safi gave birth to Ol Jogi's 21st black rhino calf in May 1999. This was her 7th calf and makes her the undisputed record holder of calf production in Kenya. On the downside we had a serious threat of poaching for a time. At least 3 rhinos were killed on other ranches in the Laikipia area. However the security cordon of Ol Jogi remained intact and we are unscathed.

For some time we have been concerned about potential inbreeding. So 2 new males were brought from Nairobi National Park. The most rewarding enterprise was sending of 4 males out into the wilds. These Ol Jogi bred animals were taken from their fenced-in birth place, where they learned to care for themselves and sent to live in the great expanse of Tsavo, an unfenced wilderness. We wish them luck in the wild. May their genes live on. "*Hii ni shauri ya mungu.*" (Now it is God's affair.)

White Rhinos

Our population has increased from 4 to 6 animals. One of our adult females had her first baby, a male that is being mother-raised. In addition, a 2 year old female was brought from Solio Ranch in a work-for-rhino exchange. Mweiga joins our 3 year old handraised male, Rafiki, to form the nucleus of a second breeding group. Mweiga and Rafiki have bonded and are doing very well together.

Our Mission Statement

OI Jogi is a private initiative focused on contributing to ecosystem conservation. We will accomplish this with programs of conservation education, wildlife research, veterinary science, and endangered species preservation, seeking to use the latest knowledge and appropriate technologies, and maintaining an ever widening communication network with conservation throughout the world. Our goal is to be a center of excellence for the practice and study of ecosystem management.

Wounded Elephant Sanctuary

Whenever possible OI Jogi personnel investigate any elephant reported with a problem. Each case is coordinated through the KWS office in Nanyuki. Various types of lameness have been seen, some caused by snares and some by abnormal joints. Snares are removed and the wounds treated. Joints are more difficult. Reports on each immobilization are submitted to KWS's Veterinarians and Elephant Coordinator. Several of these animals were monitored closely on OI Jogi. Unable to follow the regular herd movement, OI Jogi provides them with protection and fodder to allow recuperation and gradual physical therapy. When the next elephant herd movement took place, they joined their compatriots and left.

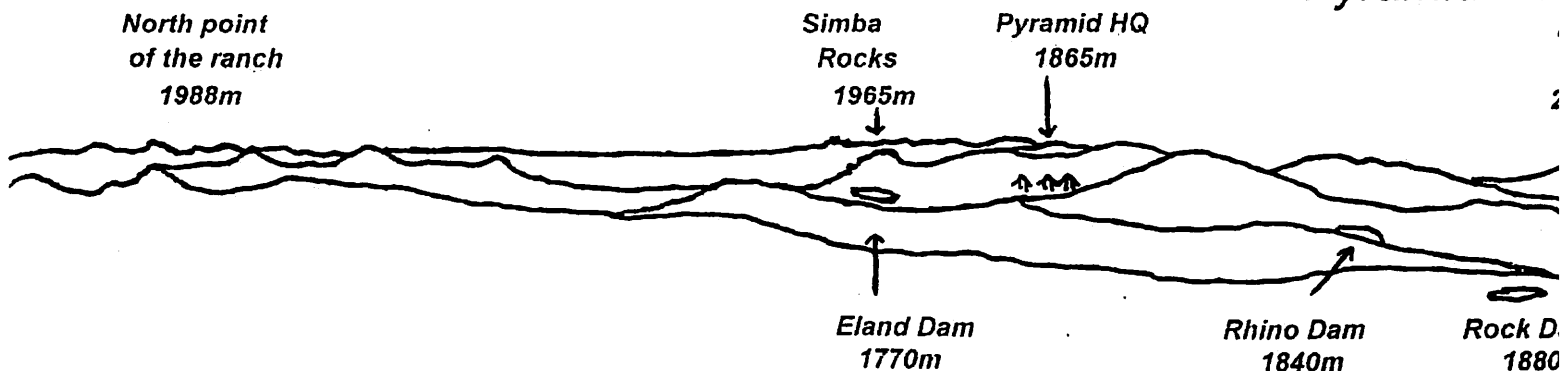
Geology of OI Jogi

The terrain is undulating dry woodland and bushed grassland dissected by seasonal water courses and interspersed with steep, isolated granite inselbergs. This forms a landscape relief with the famous "kopjes" known to any reader of African literature. The Pre-Cambrian granite arises from old volcanic cores that have remained standing while the ancient soils stretched and slowly eroded away. A remarkable piling effect can be seen with immense boulders perched on top of each other as if placed by a casual hand. On the eastern side a set of north-south ridges form successively larger hills that end in the Loldaiga Mountains. Elevations range from 1580 at the Ewaso Ngiro River's edge to 2234 meters at the high point of Black Rock.

II Polei Hills

North point
of the ranch
1988m

Pyramid Ga



Impala Translocation

This was an exciting project conducted in collaboration with Eden Wildlife Trust, KWS and Mwaluganje Travelers Camp. 14 impala were captured by hand and with nets, tranquilized and held for several days. They were loaded into a padded truck and transported for 18 hours to a release pen at the Mwaluganje Reserve adjacent to Shimba Hills National Park. After arrival they were released successfully. Eight months later all are well and one baby has been born. This is the beginning of a new wildlife area, a joint venture between the local community, KWS and a hotel chain. OI Jogi is proud to have provided the animals for this worthwhile project.

Muriithi, Animal Health Technician

Three and a half years ago I came to OI Jogi with a thirst for experience, armed only with a certificate and some domestic animal health skills. My techniques were too few and I could not give out as much as I wanted. I decided to turn every part of OI Jogi, the clinic, the equipment, the wildlife orphanage, the cattle and camels and all the wildlife into learning tools. Now I am happy to give sound veterinary aid which includes laboratory tests, anesthesia of small, large and wild animals, clinical medicine and surgical assistance. OI Jogi has been a fertile ground to realize my goal of providing good quality service in domestic and wild animal health.

Ecosystem Research

The question is: What changes are occurring in the veterinary ecology between the fenced reserve and the open ranch? What effect does a fenced nature reserve generate on Mother Nature? This question is faced by every wildlife area in the world today.

The major in-house research project has moved into its next stage. Samples for animal diseases, species genetics, and serum mineral levels are presently being analyzed at Cornell, Henry Doorley Zoo, KARI Muguga, Michigan State, and USDA's Plum Island. Over 400 animals from a variety of species have been sampled. A plethora of results are coming in and we hope to present the completed data. We have learned a lot about international

regulations and permits regarding transferring of biological samples between countries.

Butterflies:

A butterfly check list has begun. No official butterfly species list exists from the Laikipia region and it is possible that significant observations will be made. So far over 80 species have been identified. Over 870 species of butterflies have been recorded in Kenya. Butterflies could be a valuable ecosystem monitoring tool as their diversity parallels that of birds. However, since butterflies are directly linked to specific plants for feeding, a butterfly census allows correlations to both animal and plant kingdoms. In addition, the beauty of these multi-colored animals is spectacular. It is a pity that people pay more attention to the "big five" and beaches than to butterflies.

been confirmed by laboratory analysis

Teaching Conservation

Our school program has grown, this year over 700 Kenyan primary and secondary students visited and received a day-long on site program of wildlife conservation. We want to cover all of the surrounding communities. In addition, numerous professionals and graduate students were visitors. Each one takes home a personalized message of wildlife conservation. Visitors have come from Cornell Univ., Emory Univ., Henry Doorley Zoo, Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks, Kenya Wildlife Service, National Museums of Kenya, Texas A & M Univ., Tufts Univ., Univ. of Edinburgh, Univ. of Pretoria, White Oak Conservation Center, and Zoo Atlanta.

Marula Primary School

OI Jogi maintains a primary school for employees' children who are between the ages of 7 and 13. There are 250 students enrolled. School support includes all supplies, books, uniforms, a Wildlife Club and the facilities. The children have done well. In the most recent KCPE examinations the OI Jogi Primary School came first in the Mukogodo Division and Mukogodo scored first in Laikipia District. The government teachers and all the people who assist with the school are proud.

When the students complete their primary education OI Jogi offers a scholarship that covers the 1st and 4th years of secondary school education to the two best students of each year. It is designed to encourage completion of the 4 years of schooling. Presently there are 8 active scholarships.

me Reserve

Black
Rock
234m

34m
234m

Mt. Kenya 5199m

South point
of the ranch
1970m

Treetops Dam
1820m

Ndovu Dam 1755m
Hall's Dam 1750m

Animal Orphanage: Dan and Judy

Leo, a male pygmy hippo that was born here, just celebrated his first birthday. He was rejected by his mother, one of the three pygmy hippos acquired from KWS. Leo is being hand raised by Judy and lives happily in a kiddie pool in the back yard. Successful hand raising of a pygmy hippo has not been reported since the 1970's.

Yoko, the female lion that was found orphaned as a new born 2 years ago continues to grow but is still able to play and entertain guests together with Chai, Dan and Judy's yellow dog.

Jumbo News!

Jackie, our female African elephant has been successfully bred by our bull, Booper. The calf is due in August 2000. The pregnancy has

Ng'ang'a, Education Officer

The only project not done is one that has not yet been started. I did not believe I would succeed when Dr. Tom asked me to initiate and lead a wildlife club and a conservation education program. I did not have any teaching materials. I spent weeks in the library, wrote to zoos requesting assistance and soon I had enough to begin.

I wrote to our neighboring schools, delivered invitation letters personally and arranged transport. The visiting groups gave me practice and encouragement. The teachers and students who visited us took the conservation message from OI Jogi to their friends in other schools. Today I write very few letters and receive a tray full of applications.

I encourage schools to form wildlife clubs and apply for a tour. Our gates are wide open.

We are not going to lie back on our laurels, the school is being renovated to encourage further excellence. A complete new set of desks are being built and the entire compound is to be painted. New projects will be more lectures on conservation ethics and techniques, a tree nursery and sets of educational posters for all the walls.

Written products

We have been productive: 2 presentations given at the AAZV/AAWV, 2 presentations given to the Kenya Veterinary Association, a presentation to the 4th International Wildlife Ranching Symposium, a submission to the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine, a book review for Pachyderm, and an article for the Farmer.

Conservation education lectures have been printed and as a

booklet. The bird checklist has increased to 310 species. Additional observations to separate regular residents from infrequent visitors are in progress. Two bird ecology research projects are underway with the National Museums. Mammal and reptile information sheets have been

II Polei Nature Conservancy

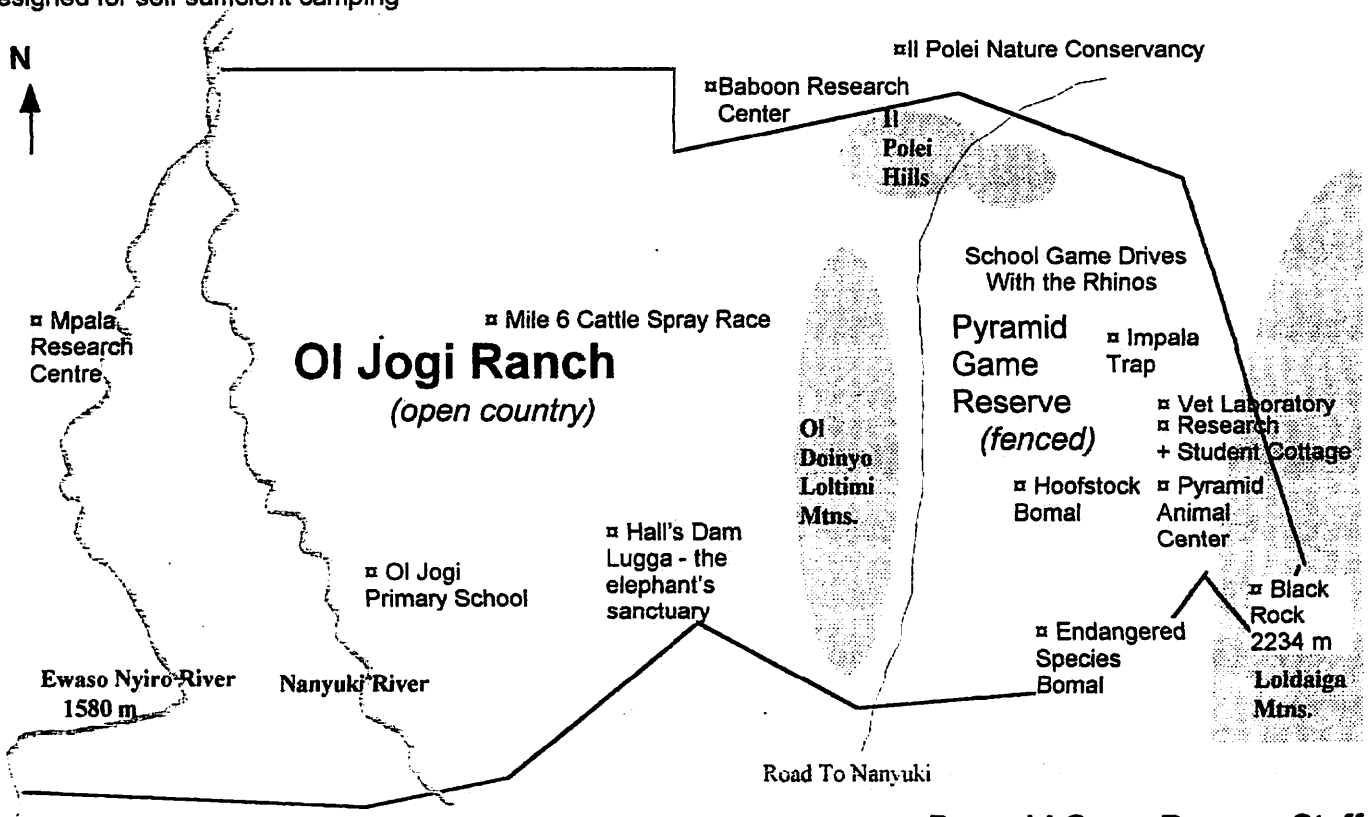
Our neighboring Masai group ranch's wildlife reserve and tourism venture is growing. The camping site is open for business, 2 staff members have been trained as nature and bird watching guides, and a brochure is available for distribution. This camp site is designed for self sufficient camping

generators. Vehicles are being overhauled to maintain optimum efficiency. Both of these changes reduce our use of diesel fuel. Gardening policies have been changed to reduce water usage. A very large surface water storage dam was completed and plans are underway to double its size. This will provide a rain water reserve capable of lasting over 2 years without rain. Hundreds of trees have been planted. A large vegetable garden has been created to provide for human and animal consumption. By growing our own food we provide additional jobs on Ol Jogi and improve the nutrition of everyone.

A field guide to contacting us

- 1) E-mail: <oljogi@africaonline.co.ke>
- 2) Tel: +254-176-31650/1/2/4
(Different lines work on different days.)
- 3) Fax: +254-176-31744/31653.
- 4) Satellite fax: +873-383133122
(Some fax machines are not compatible with satellite transmission systems.)
- 5) Radio: "Uniform one" via the Laikipia Wildlife Forum network.
- 6) Mail: Ol Jogi, Ltd., P.O. Box 259, Nanyuki, Kenya

Most importantly, be persistent and send messages via different routes.



by groups or individuals. The Twaala Masai Cultural Center is registering 500 guests a year. Camel safaris and baboon watching trips can be arranged. Thanks to the people of II Polei, Let's Go Travel, Ol Jogi and Mpala Research Centre a piece of land has been made a human/wildlife compatible zone.

Conservation Upgrades

In order to make Ol Jogi a more streamlined organization, changes have been made to reduce our use of resources. A new electrical system has been installed that eliminates a series of

Bloodhounds Track Thieves

The 2 bloodhounds that we acquired from the US 2 years ago for the purpose of tracking poachers, answered a theft call from Mpala Research Centre. The dogs and their handlers successfully assisted in apprehending the criminals.

Mail bag

A great challenge has been communications. Messages arrive whole, garbled, or not at all. No single communication mode is perfect. So check the following if you are looking for us.

Pyramid Game Reserve Staff

- Simon C. Barkas
General Manager
- Dr. Thomas W. deMaar
Veterinarian/Research Coordinator/ Newsletter Editor
- Mike D. Webley
Game Warden
- Dan J. Subaitis/Judy A. Subaitis
Animal Trainers/Animal Curators
- Kimani John Kuria
Game Warden/Wildlife Biologist
- Michael Ng'ang'a
Wildlife Technician/Education Officer
- Ekai Aule
Head Ranger
- Christopher Waitthaka
Lead Animal Keeper
- Mugo Josephat Muriithi
Animal Health Technician