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# LEWA

## WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

IMPACT REPORT  
2018/2019

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**We envision**

© BOBBY NEPTUNE



**a future**

© BOBBY NEPTUNE



**where people across Kenya and the rest of the world**

© AMUNGA ESHUCHI



© MARTIN BUZORA

**continue to value, protect and benefit from wildlife.**

# What we do

## TWO CONSERVANCIES, ONE LANDSCAPE

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and Borana Conservancy are wildlife sanctuaries based at the foothills of Mount Kenya. Conservation efforts on Lewa began in the early 1980s to protect the last of northern Kenya's black rhinos from extinction. From protecting rhinos, Lewa's work has expanded to the conservation of other species as well as catalysing community-centric conservation across northern Kenya and beyond. In 2015, Lewa and Borana took an unprecedented step by removing the fence separating them to create a larger landscape for the benefit of endangered species. Although Lewa and Borana remain independent entities, we approach conservation efforts jointly and work in collaboration to implement livelihood programmes.



### WILDLIFE AND HABITAT CONSERVATION

We provide a safe and secure habitat for endangered and vulnerable species such as the black rhino, Grevy's zebra, elephant, lion and reticulated giraffe. We use research, monitoring and technology to make informed conservation decisions and promote ecosystem health.

© MARTIN HARVEY



### IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

Our model puts people at the core of conservation. We work with local communities to make sure our conservation efforts are inclusive, participatory and beneficial to their livelihoods through education, healthcare, water management, enterprise and more.

© AMI VITALE



### CATALYSING CONSERVATION

We catalyse conservation by sharing our learning curve with like-minded organisations. We spearhead the reintroduction of endangered species to new habitats as well as support the conservation movement across northern Kenya, proactively enhancing the connectivity on which elephants, rhino, lion and other species rely.

© AMI VITALE



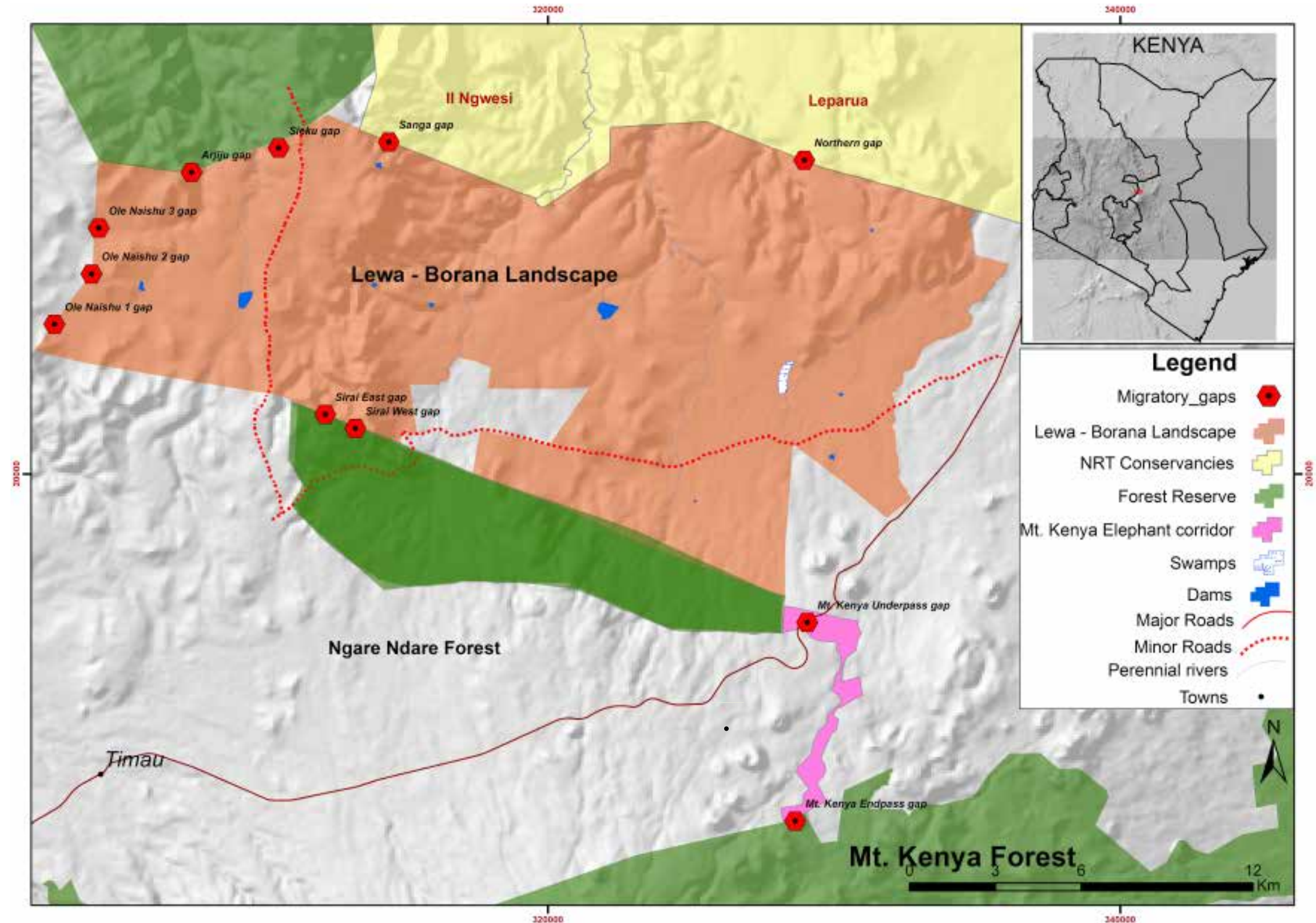
### SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

We have created a conservation tourism model that offers our guests an experiential trip of a lifetime that goes beyond a regular safari, while minimising impact on the environment.

© ELEWANA COLLECTION

# WHERE IS LEWA-BORANA?

With the Mt. Kenya ecosystem to the south, national reserves and 39 community conservancies supported by the Northern Rangelands Trust to the north and west, the Lewa-Borana Landscape lies at the very centre of a region hosting 46% of Kenya's black rhino population, 90% of the global population of the endangered Grevy's zebra, over 7,000 elephants and a plethora of other wildlife species.



## MESSAGE FROM THE LEWA KENYA BOARD

To save the world's biodiversity, conservation can no longer be the duty of conservationists alone.

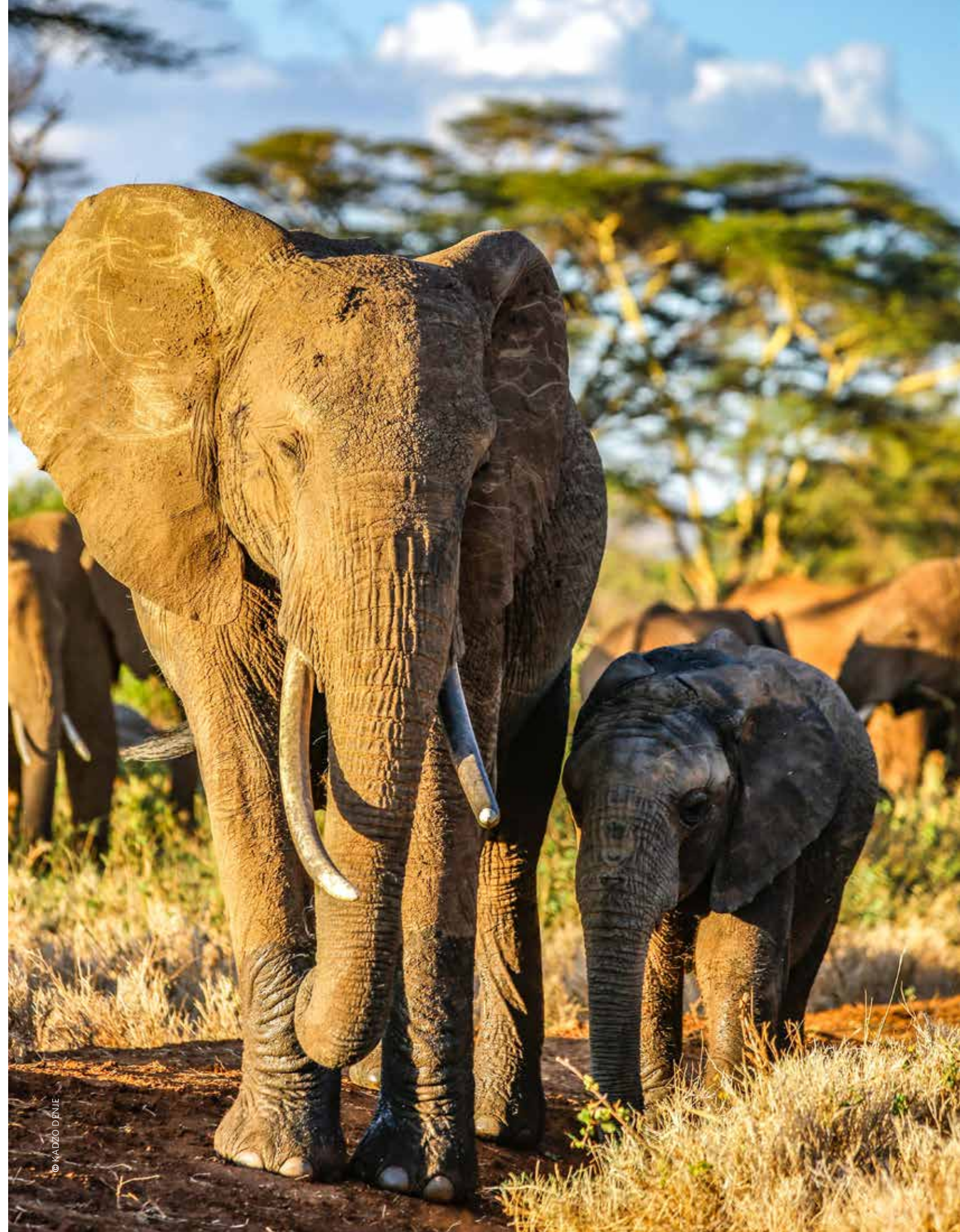
As a supporter of Lewa, you have most likely seen the May 2019 United Nations report that warns us of a 'dangerous' and 'unprecedented' extinction rate for close to a million species. The loss of biodiversity around the globe is apparent. In Kenya, as elsewhere, this is evident from diminishing forest cover and degraded rangelands. Across the world, people are exposed to daily news of a planet in peril, yet there are very few platforms that provide solutions. Lewa offers a message of hope, and its story delivers an important message rarely emphasised enough in conservation - for us to save nature, people across all industries and sectors must get involved.

Many of us currently serving on Lewa Kenya's board built careers in the corporate world and now understand the role that businesses can play in implementing national and global goals for conservation and development. In November 2018, we took this message to the business community in Nairobi, Kenya's capital. We held a wildlife-themed cocktail event to highlight Lewa's efforts and, most importantly, how corporate organisations can participate in helping us build a secure future for people and wildlife. From this event in Nairobi, Lewa has gained a

group of new supporters and champions, and we look forward to continuing this cultivation to form long-lasting, mutually-beneficial partnerships. Lewa continues to evolve in its strategic direction, operations and management. The new Strategic Plan (2018-2022) is an inspired set of goals that will only serve to strengthen Lewa's impact. It positions Lewa to continue to play its current role well, and at the same time enhancing its foresight and promoting intentional thought leadership.

Step by step, we are making measurable progress in increasing wildlife numbers and improving livelihoods. This past year was again filled with accomplishments, many of which we have described for you in this report. As a supporter of Lewa, you share these accomplishments. Your generosity makes our achievements possible. We still have more lives to impact and more conservation programmes to implement, but we hope these pages give you cause for optimism.

Wherever you are, let us inspire new thinking around conservation and engage new allies across industries. Thank you for your support and your generosity.



## LETTER FROM LEWA'S CEO AND BORANA'S DIRECTOR

2018 began with hope. Hope that it would be a less challenging year than 2017, which was characterised by volatility and resource-based conflict in the neighbouring Laikipia and northern Kenya landscapes. More positively, hope that we would accomplish the ambitious plans we had set out for ourselves.

From this hope, 2018 turned out to be an extraordinary year and 2019 is off to a similarly excellent start. The latest wildlife count results indicate that the majority of wildlife across the Lewa-Borana Landscape is increasing or stable. This outcome is the truest, measurable evidence that our rigorous conservation measures are working. In the communities we partner with, we continue to observe a marked improvement in living standards through our various development efforts.

The IUCN once again included Lewa in their prestigious Green List of Protected areas. Lewa was one of only three Kenyan organisations, and 40 globally, to feature. The sites on the IUCN Green List demonstrate a standard of excellence, with clear and measurable benefits for nature and local communities. Lewa was also the winner of \$250,000 in the Google Impact Challenge, Kenya, which will enable us to scale the impact of the Digital Literacy programme from 2,500 students annually, to 8,000 over the next five years.

Lodges across the Lewa-Borana Landscape were also nominated for various awards of travel excellence.

The partnership with our neighbours remains stronger than ever. Since Lewa and Borana's inception, the neighbouring people of Il Ngwesi have been critical conservation partners. In 2017, Il Ngwesi approached Lewa and Borana for a partnership to establish a rhino sanctuary on their land. The inaugural Lewa-Borana Ball in London, which some of you attended, was a resounding success. We managed to raise over £555,000 gross - a proportion of which will be instrumental in supporting Il Ngwesi to lay the foundation for the establishment of the rhino sanctuary.

To crown what was already a hugely successful year, we were privileged to have Her Excellency the First Lady of Kenya, Margaret Kenyatta, attend our annual marathon as the guest of honour. We hope you enjoy reading this report which highlights the successes that we've accomplished together. Thank you all for your continued investment in our work, and we look forward to another exciting year.

*Mike Watson,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy*

*Michael Dyer,  
Managing Director,  
Borana Conservancy*





# RETURNING RHINOS TO IL NGWESI

By Kip ole Polos, Chairman, Il Ngwesi Community Conservancy

*Il Ngwesi is a Maasai owned and managed community conservancy bordering Lewa to the north. Il Ngwesi became the first community-managed conservancy to invite close cooperation with Lewa. The latest three-way partnership between Il Ngwesi, Lewa and Borana represents a significant step forward in the conservation movement in Kenya, as one of the first private-community conservation partnerships of its kind in the country.*

Growing up, my cousins and I would often accompany my grandfather as he went to graze livestock. During these trips, he would recount stories of wildlife roaming our homeland. He would tell magnificent tales of rhinos, 'emuny' in our mother tongue, chasing them from watering holes and rivers, and having to be extremely careful as they were once as abundant as buffaloes. We all know the rhino's story in Africa took a disastrous turn – poaching decimated the populations, and the once free-roaming species became restricted to heavily protected

areas. Unlike my grandfather, the majority of my generation will most probably never see a living rhino. Rhinos across the world have now become the 'face' of disappearing wildlife and the threat of extinction.

I've been a safari guide for decades, transferring the wildlife knowledge I learned growing up to guests from all over the world. To me, the most critical message remains that it is not too late to reverse the decline of wildlife, and the answer lies in involving indigenous people in conservation.

KIP OVERLOOKS THE IL NGWESI LANDSCAPE (LEFT) AND ABOVE, WITH CHILDREN FROM IL NGWESI, AND PICTURES OF THE AREA'S TOPOGRAPHY AND ECO-LODGE.

PHOTOS: STEVE TOOM

## Making a new commitment

At Il Ngwesi, we live side by side with wildlife. We were the first to establish a community conservancy in northern Kenya, and the first to set up a community-owned and run eco-lodge.

During my time as a guide on Lewa, I was struck by how an endangered species, when systems are created to look after it, can impact all other nature positively and create an economy to benefit people. We have been Lewa and Borana's partners in conservation for decades. As the next step in Il Ngwesi's conservation commitment, we have made a bold decision, in partnership with Lewa and Borana, to follow in the footsteps of the people of Sera in Samburu and be the second community conservancy in Kenya to have the rhino return

to their land. I believe that returning rhino on Il Ngwesi will not only benefit the biodiversity of our home; it will also be a strong symbolic move. We will be demonstrating our dedication to seeing all nature on our land prosper once again. By doing this, we will be enhancing our conservation-driven economy, improving the opportunities for our people through increased tourism and biodiversity. It will not be easy, and it will take a long time, but we are excited about the future.

I look forward to telling my grandchildren a different story. I want to show them living rhinos on our land, and how we played a role in helping save the species from extinction.





AFTER FLAGGING OFF THE MARATHON, HER EXCELLENCY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT VARIOUS LEWA SUPPORTED PROJECTS.



## A SPECIAL VISIT BY THE FIRST LADY OF KENYA

Our annual marathon continues to attract top athletes and dignitaries from around the world. In 2018, we were incredibly privileged to have the First Lady of Kenya, Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta, attend the event and flag off the race. Her Excellency is passionate about conservation in Kenya. Her speech at the marathon award ceremony elaborated on the urgent need for Kenyans to continue protecting wildlife and nature.

"We must continue to promote human-wildlife coexistence to protect our country's rich natural heritage. All these conservation efforts and partnerships can contribute to greater social and human development."

Philemon Baaru, nicknamed King of the Lewa Marathon, won the race for the 6th year in a row. The remarkable athlete and the other winners of all the categories had the honour of receiving their prizes from Her Excellency the First Lady, who lauded them for their achievements.

During this trip, Her Excellency also had an opportunity to visit some of the Lewa-supported programmes which demonstrate the direct impact of the Conservancy and marathon. To learn more about our education programme, she visited Lewa Downs Primary School where we have improved learning conditions for the children by building new classrooms, a library, a kitchen amongst a host of other projects.



PHOTOS: DUNCAN NDOTONO

She also met the Digital Literacy Team who showcased how Lewa is supporting the government's digital literacy objectives. The provision of adequate and accessible maternal healthcare is a national priority that the First Lady has consistently championed through her Nairobi-based marathon, Beyond Zero. During her trip to Lewa, she visited the Lewa Clinic, which has been at the forefront of offering health services to mothers and their infants from the surrounding communities.

A Kenyan state visit is never complete without a dance! The children at Lewa School enjoyed singing and dancing with the First Lady. During her speech at marathon's award ceremony, she thanked all the participants for joining the race and making a difference.

"All these projects and more have been made possible because of your devotion, your energy, your resources and time," she said.



# OUR IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE

Over 30 years ago, we committed to protect, nurture and grow endangered species populations while providing a safe home for all other wildlife.

Years of rigorous conservation efforts have resulted in booming populations and we've recorded increasingly stable and rising wildlife numbers.

*Here are some of the results for the past four years, achieved with your support.*



## 100 BLACK RHINOS!

With the birth of the 100th calf, the Lewa-Borana Landscape is now a Key 1 black rhino population

This makes us home to the 3rd 'Key 1' population in East Africa. 'Key 1' rating is given by the IUCN's African Rhino Specialist Group to identify significant populations that are stable, increasing and have achieved continental importance. We are optimistic about the future of this critically endangered species - we recorded ten births last year and no mortalities.

Geoffrey Chege, Lewa's Head of Conservation and Wildlife, has steered various efforts in support of the black rhino's recovery on Lewa, Borana and beyond for the past 15 years. He says:

"This has been a dream come true for us. We have steadily grown our rhino populations from 15 individuals in 1984 to the 100 black and 94 white rhinos we have today. Reaching the 'Key 1' milestone is a great motivation for our team."

Kenya is now home to just over 760 black rhinos and 620 southern white rhinos. Lewa and Borana's rhinos constitute 13% of this population. As existing sanctuaries such as Lewa continue to record high growth rates, finding new homes for rhinos remains a national conservation imperative.

**BLACK RHINOS  
HAVE INCREASED BY  
25%  
IN 4 YEARS**



© ERICO HILLER



© MARTIN BUZORA



## MORE GREVY'S ZEBRA SURVIVE

An increase in foal survival rate has seen the endangered species stabilise after a worrying decline at the start of the decade

The Grevy's zebra, historically found across the horn of Africa, has suffered one of the most significant declines on the continent. Poaching, hunting, habitat degradation and competition for resources have reduced the Grevy's range to Laikipia and northern Kenya. In the 1970s, the global population was estimated to be 15,000 individuals. The second Great Grevy's Rally, held in 2018, indicates that the population now stands at 2,800, an increase from the recent estimates.

From the 2018 census, we recorded a greatly encouraging trend on Lewa. Foal survival rate has increased to nearly 20%, making the Lewa-Borana Landscape one of the few populations in the country that has shown this increase in the last four years. In the past decade, predation reduced the number of foals that survived into adulthood, thereby slowing down population growth. This is now changing, and our teams are actively monitoring this positive trend. The Grevy's zebras on the Conservancy remain a significant population in the re-emergence of the species across its traditional range.

**THE GREVY'S ZEBRA  
POPULATION IN KENYA  
NOW STANDS AT 2,800  
WE ARE HOME TO 11%  
OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION**



## RESILIENT LIONS

**Loss of habitat and conflict with humans remain the lion's biggest threats. We are working to mitigate these threats**

A report released by the Kenya Wildlife Service in 2018 about the lion population in Kenya confirmed most conservationists' fears - the population of Kenya's lions had declined drastically in the last decade. Kenya has only about 2,000 lions left compared to 2,280 in 2004. Researchers estimate that the overall African lion populations have dropped by 42% in the past 21 years. Loss of habitat, the decline of prey species numbers and human-lion conflict are the major causes of shrinking lion numbers. As a result, lion conservation primarily involves preventing conflict, securing their habitat and ensuring that prey species thrive.

Together with conservation partners and neighbouring communities, we have implemented monitoring and conflict mitigation initiatives to promote human-lion coexistence. In 2018, we monitored the activities and population dynamics of 47 lions occurring in seven prides and two coalitions. This population has remained stable in the past few years, benefitting from an abundance of prey species and a safe and secure habitat.

**OUR LION CUB  
SURVIVAL RATE NOW STANDS  
AT 70%,  
HIGHER THAN OTHER COUNTRYWIDE  
ESTIMATES**



© ANDREW CAMPBELL



## ELEPHANTS ON THE PATH TO RECOVERY

**Conservation efforts to save Africa's iconic species are yielding positive results**

Elephants are large herbivores that require vast tracts of land for their survival. As a result, they move across massive landscapes, searching for food and resources. A 2017 aerial survey of the Laikipia-Samburu-Marsabit ecosystem, where the Lewa-Borana Landscape lies, gave us hopeful news for the beloved species. During the census, 7,347 elephants were counted compared to 6,454 elephants in 2012. This represents a 12% increase in the population over five years. Concerted efforts by all stakeholders - communities, Kenya Wildlife Service and private conservancies - to curb poaching and reduce human-elephant conflict has contributed to this success.

Our landscape provides a safe habitat for elephants. We focus on promoting human-elephant coexistence, monitoring the movement of herds as well as ensuring landscape connectivity. In 2018, our camera traps recorded 774 elephant crossings at the Mt. Kenya underpass, an elephant tunnel constructed by the Mount Kenya Trust, Lewa, KWS and other partners in 2011 to re-establish an ancient elephant migration route that was disrupted by human development. Elephants now use the underpass to safely access Mt. Kenya from Lewa and Ngare Ndare Forest.

**THE ELEPHANT  
POPULATION IN THE LAIKIPIA  
NORTHERN KENYA ECOSYSTEM HAS  
INCREASED BY  
12%**



© ANDREW CAMPBELL



## THE MISUNDERSTOOD PREDATOR PROSPERS

The spotted hyena is the most abundant large carnivore in our landscape

Hyenas have traditionally suffered from an undeserved bad reputation. Far from being filthy scavengers, they are sophisticated hunters that live in highly organised, matriarchal societies. In 2016, we identified 99 different hyenas on the Lewa-Borana Landscape based on their unique spot patterns - this population has since increased to 134. As the hyena is a nocturnal species, we use mounted cameras placed on each of the clan's communal dens to identify individuals and estimate their population.

In any landscape in which it exists, the hyena is a dominant predator that often has a significant impact on both prey and predator species. In the past, hyenas have killed endangered rhino calves on Lewa. They have also hunted livestock in the neighbouring areas, attacks which were often attributed to lions. Additionally, hyenas shift dynamics by displacing other predators such as lions and cheetahs. We are still learning as much as possible about this elusive predator to better understand what conservation measures, if any, need to be taken to ensure a balanced ecosystem.

**SPOTTED HYENAS  
HAVE INCREASED BY  
34%**



© NIMIT VIRDI



## BUFFALOES AND OTHER UNGULATES THRIVE

Our habitat continues to be ideal for large, wild herbivores

In the recently concluded wildlife census, we counted 1,753 buffaloes. This expansion of the buffalo population indicates that our ecosystem remains healthy for ungulate species, which have shown resilience despite disturbances mainly caused by rainfall inadequacy. The Plains zebra, the Greater kudu, impala and Grants gazelle have also consistently increased over the same time. The Hartebeest, which was formerly widespread in Africa, has declined in numbers across the continent in recent years. On the Lewa-Borana Landscape, their population is steadily recovering.



### IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS

**43%  
INCREASE IN  
BUFFALO  
TO 1,753**

**26%  
INCREASE IN  
BEISA ORYX  
TO 227**

**17%  
INCREASE IN  
PLAINS ZEBRA  
TO 1,484**

**63%  
INCREASE IN  
IMPALA  
TO 1,817**



© KADZO DENJE



Kenya's former wildlife cabinet secretary Prof Judi Wakhungu, Lewa and KWS teams ear-notch a young male southern white rhino.



© ANNE & STEVE TOOM

A field ranger looks out for rhinos. These rangers patrol the landscape daily, ensuring the well-being of wildlife. They rely on notch patterns to identify and collect accurate data on individual rhinos.

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: YOUNG RHINOS GET IDENTITIES

Protecting rhinos often involves undertaking complex management activities. To enhance individual identification, 25 rhinos (14 black and 11 white rhino) were successfully ear notched from 1st to 9th February 2018. This project was carried out in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and funded by World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Kenya.

An ear notch is a pattern that is unique to an individual rhino in a particular area. This makes it possible for rangers and researchers to keep consistent and accurate records, monitor a rhino's body condition, movement and general health. It also enables rangers to know when an animal

goes missing. Currently, over 80% of the rhino population is identifiable through ear notches, unique horn morphology, cow-calf combinations, and other distinguishable body characteristics.

Subira, a four-year-old black rhino, was the first to get her notch pattern. Former Cabinet Secretary for Environment Judi Wakhungu joined us to notch the last rhino, a robust southern White male named Gidi.

Conservation of Kenya's wildlife remains top in the government's agenda. Kenya has seen poaching of rhinos decrease significantly – the country lost less than ten animals last year.

Our anti-poaching team works closely with the KWS and NRT, and often offers support to local law enforcement authorities.



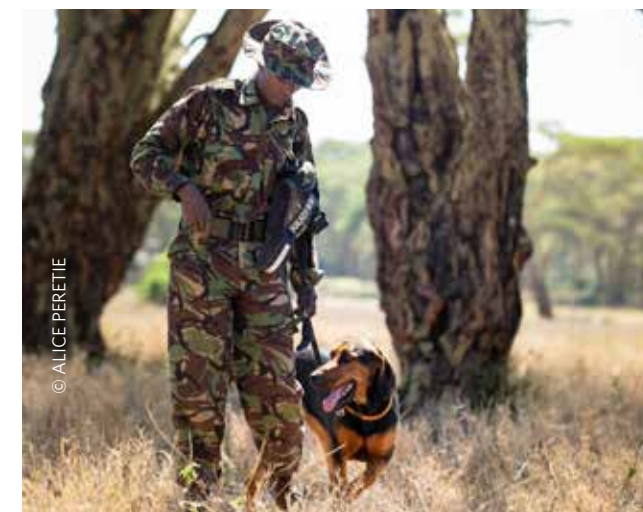
## PROTECTING WILDLIFE

### TIPPER AND TONY RETIRE: NEW DOGS SACHA AND RUBY HAVE BIG PAWS TO FILL

In 2018, we introduced new dogs to support rangers in their anti-poaching work. The dogs are Ruby, a full Bloodhound, and Sacha, a mix of a Dobermann and Bloodhound.

Ruby and Sacha have replaced brothers Tipper and Tony, the two Bloodhounds that have worked with our rangers for years. Sadly, Tony died recently from cancer while Tipper is due for retirement. The new dogs, after months of training, are proving to be excellent trackers.

Tracker dogs, particularly Bloodhounds, continue to prove invaluable to our anti-poaching work. Their extraordinary ability to read terrain and track scents has enabled our rangers and local law enforcement agencies to do what was previously incredibly difficult.



© ALICE PERTIE

Ranger Kisio takes one of the new dogs, Sacha, out on a training exercise. Sacha and Ruby, Lewa's new anti-poaching dogs, are already proving to be excellent trackers.



Tipper and Tony are now global superstars! They feature in a new IMAX film – Superpower Dogs – with other extraordinary dogs from around the world. The film was released across the US and Canada, with plans to show it in Europe and other theatres across the world.

# FROM KRUGER TO LEWA: RANGERS LEARN FROM EACH OTHER

Craig Jake Williams (left) with Lewa's Edward Ndiritu (centre) and Joseph Piroris.



For the past 13 years, South African ranger Craig Jake Williams has been at the forefront of the anti-poaching fight in Kruger National Park. Kruger is a world-famous, 2 million hectares wildlife sanctuary. Kruger is divided into zones and Craig oversees one of these zones. There is a high number of rhinos at the park, which means that they are under constant threat from poaching.

In 2017, he met Edward Ndiritu, our Head of Anti-Poaching, who was visiting Kruger on a field trip to learn about conservation dogs. The two rangers immediately had much to share and agreed on the need for greater interactions between conservationists across the continent. Edward invited Craig to visit Lewa, which he did in February 2019.

In February, we sat with Craig to chat about his trip, Kruger and Lewa.

**IT'S INCREDIBLE TO IMAGINE THAT KRUGER HOLDS MORE THAN 7,000 RHINOS. THAT'S ALMOST SEVEN TIMES THE SIZE OF KENYA'S POPULATION!**

**Craig:** Yes we have many rhinos in Kruger - South Africa in total has about 18,000. It's a huge challenge to keep them safe. My section, which I manage, is bigger than Lewa, and I don't have a team as big as yours. It's not easy, but we're trying our best.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN LEWA AND KRUGER?**

**Craig:** When I met Edward, I realised that while we are from different countries, the threats are the same. Rhino horn or ivory is also the same whether from a South African or Kenyan animal. Our anti-poaching techniques are similar too.

**WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM EACH OTHER?**

**Craig:** How Lewa interacts and works with its neighbouring communities was an interesting experience for me. It was great to go into the community areas and see how well regarded and respected Lewa, and the rangers, are. I attended a tree planting exercise at Lewa Downs Primary School too, and it was good to see the infrastructure that Lewa has put into place at the school. Lewa also works very well with government agencies, such as the KWS.

When Edward visited us in 2017, he was keen to find out what dog breed would help his team overcome the challenges they were facing. At Kruger, we use dogs that are 75% Bloodhound, 25% Dobermann. This means that the dogs retain the excellent tracking ability of Bloodhounds but don't get easily fatigued. I'm excited to see that as a result of that visit and the knowledge we shared, Lewa now has two new

working dogs better suited for tracking in hot and rough terrain. These are some of the learning experiences we've already exchanged.

I have been received and treated very warmly. I believe I have made good friends here at Lewa. I'll definitely be back and encourage my colleagues to visit.



# RESULTS FOR PEOPLE

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AMOUNT INVESTED IN EDUCATION AND LIVELIHOODS - 2018  
**\$1.66M**



**EDUCATION**

TOTAL GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS SUPPORTED WITH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT:



**30**

IN THESE SCHOOLS, WE BUILT NEW CLASSROOMS, DORMITORIES, LABORATORIES, BOREHOLES, TEACHERS' HOUSES AND KITCHENS. WE ALSO REPAIRED EXISTING FACILITIES.

**458**



CHILDREN RECEIVED FULL SCHOLARSHIPS



**5,105**

STUDENTS VISITED LEWA FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION



**2,500**

STUDENTS TRAINED ON DIGITAL LITERACY



**421**

ADULTS TAUGHT BASIC LITERACY & CONSERVATION



**62**

TEACHERS HIRED TO SUPPORT LEARNING IN THE SCHOOLS



**81**

STUDENTS HAVE ADVANCED TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES



**HEALTHCARE**



PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH HEALTHCARE SERVICES

**52,484**



**16,032**

CHILDREN TREATED DURING SCHOOL OUTREACHES



**WATER**

CARRIED OUT REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE TO ENSURE CLEAN WATER SUPPLY FOR AT LEAST 20,000 PEOPLE

**11**

WATER PROJECTS



**ENTERPRISE & EMPLOYMENT**



**\$275,415**

SALES

MADE FOR FARMERS THROUGH BORANA'S LIVESTOCK TO MARKET INITIATIVE



**\$15,000**

DISTRIBUTED TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE MICRO-ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME



≈ **1,300**

PEOPLE EMPLOYED

ACROSS THE LEWA-BORANA LANDSCAPE

# NATURE'S NEW STEWARDS

From Marsabit to Samburu, we are empowering northern Kenya's children to be stewards of their natural world.

In 2018, Abdul Sharamo and his classmates took their longest journey yet. It was the first time the 13-year-old student from Shurr Primary School had travelled hundreds of kilometres away from home. After a gruelling 10-hour journey, Abdul and his classmates arrived on Lewa to learn about conservation, the environment and their role in protecting nature.

Abdul, just like his classmates, had never seen some of the wildlife on Lewa, such as rhinos, before this visit.

"When we went out to the field on Lewa, Jonathan (one of Lewa's Conservation Educators) introduced us to the animals. I didn't even know there were black and white rhinos. I knew some bad people kill animals to sell their parts, but I didn't know all the things Jonathan told us."

His classmate, Jimal Magale, agrees that they learnt a lot from the trip and was fascinated by the entire experience.

"On the journey to Lewa, I saw many things that I had not seen before, such as the highway. I saw big cactus trees, as well as many towns with different names. When we got to Lewa, I learnt about water harvesting as we live in an arid area. Jonathan also told us why we shouldn't throw papers outside. I learnt that animals get affected by our actions. I don't want animals to suffer."



PHOTOS: STEVE TOOM

It is the unfortunate reality that many Kenyans do not have the opportunity to interact with endangered species found in their country. Consequently, children often have little access to information that can help them to become environmental stewards from a young age. Our goal is to change this in our neighbouring communities and across northern Kenya. For children living in these areas, conservation education is critical.

It equips them with knowledge on the issues facing their home, such as land degradation and human-wildlife conflict, and what they can do at home and at school to address these challenges. In 2018, Abdul and Jimal were two of the 400 students from 50 northern Kenya schools who came to Lewa for an immersive learning experience. The Conservation Educators provided them with lessons in threatened species, reforestation, water harvesting, wildlife protection, sustainable use of resources and more.

For many of these students, Lewa was the farthest they had travelled away from home, and the exposure offered them an invaluable experience which will help to transform their interaction with nature.

Ephantus Mugo, Lewa's Conservation Education Coordinator, says the 'Lewa Trip' has become extremely popular amongst schools from northern Kenya.

"Children are always eager to learn and this is the right age to champion the environment and nature to them. To ensure that the knowledge we pass along is also practiced in the classroom, we are training teachers as well on conservation education. This way, it's not just the students but with their teachers as well."



ADULT LITERACY

## EDUCATION AT ANY AGE

Established in 2004, Lewa's Adult Literacy Programme has opened new doors to hundreds of Kenyans who never had a chance to attend school. The new class at Ntebes is broadening horizons for its highly motivated learners.

The road to Ntebes is rocky and dusty - it meanders through rough terrain that is challenging even to a hardy Land Cruiser. It eventually opens up to a stunning, well-preserved landscape that is a part of Mukogodo Forest. It is evident from the area's geography that the people of Ntebes and Mukogodo have done a remarkable job of preserving their ecosystem in a rapidly changing world. So while they succeed in environmental preservation, low

literacy levels - especially for adults - remains a big challenge. Two years ago, the community approached Lewa with a request to set up an Adult Literacy Centre, similar to eight others in neighbouring communities, as a step towards improving literacy levels. Many of the learners from Ntebes were forced to walk for close to three hours to access literacy classes in other centres, which was too long a journey for many, as well as a stressful trip to make during times

The people of Ntebes and Mukogodo continue to successfully protect their biodiversity, including indigenous forests and wildlife.

of tribal conflict. In February 2018, Lewa began the Ntebes class with a group of 60 students. The class shares resources with a nursery school, and often, the adult learners sit under a tree for their lessons as the children use the classroom. Linet Mwenda, Lewa's Adult Literacy Coordinator, says that the determination of the Ntebes class is the most inspiring thing she has witnessed in the past 14 years of running the programme. Linet and her team also use the adult literacy classes as a platform to discuss pertinent conservation issues, such as human-wildlife conflict and sustainable farming practices.

Beatrice Saruni walks two hours every week to attend the class. Her classmates range from 70-year-old women to others much younger, like herself. She's only 17.

"I never had a chance to attend school. I see other girls my age proudly attending secondary

school, having career dreams. That's why I'm here. I want to study, find a way to sit for the Kenya national exams, and hopefully, one day, I'll be like the other girls my age."

Ann Kirobi is a 60-year-old mother of four. It was more common when she was growing up that girls barely received any educational opportunities. By attending the classes, she hopes to be able to write her name, read primary documents, and directions when she visits her children. She proudly adds that some of them are studying in university, and she wants to be able to join in their conversations occasionally.

By working with our neighbours to initiate development programmes that directly impact their lives, we are making conservation have tangible value to them.

# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

We are supporting over 1,000 farmers in Manyangalo to increase their yield while minimising the negative impacts of agriculture.

Samuel Kathiru has been a farmer for decades, depending on good harvests to sustain his family. However, whenever the rains fail, which is happening at an increasingly worrying frequency due to erratic weather patterns, Samuel and thousands of other farmers like him from the surrounding communities are left vulnerable. To survive, they often have little choice but to irrigate their land with water from rivers and streams. Globally, agriculture irrigation accounts for 70% of water use. However, this is often not done sustainably, which continues to deplete finite water resources that all life needs for sustenance.

Together with the farmers and local water users associations, our community development team is continuing with efforts to change irrigation practices to more sustainable methods. Previously, Samuel and the other farmers were forced to rely on a weak water catchment system which involved channelling water from the nearby river and then guiding it through furrows to irrigate their farms. The method proved to be hugely inefficient - a lot of water was 'lost' into the ground before reaching the crops. It caused soil erosion and was labour intensive. It was depleting the river at an unsustainable rate.

The solution was to transition to the more efficient sprinkler and drip irrigation systems, which have transformed farming in the community. Using these methods, storage tanks are used to harvest rainwater. The farmers then channel the water through pipes placed horizontally on the ground, which shoot water

close to the base of the plants through tubes running across their fields. Alternatively, an irrigation sprinkler is used to irrigate the crops. During the dry season, powerful water pumps tap water from the river into the storage tanks. The community can then have access to water for both domestic and farm use. Unlike the furrow method, the drip and sprinkler systems are extremely efficient - there is minimal wastage of water as runoff. As a result, the amount of water fetched from the river has dramatically reduced. Samuel says that he couldn't be happier with the yields from his farm.

"I'm now farming onions, cabbages, kales, tomatoes and potatoes. I started selling the surplus to local markets. The profits I'm making have enabled me to support my family better."

Lilian Nganga, also from Manyangalo, has a one-acre farm where she grows food crops and also keeps dairy cows. Lilian, who is also a member of Lewa's micro-enterprise programme, has also seen her farm produce increase.

"This irrigation system is much better than before - in fact, we cannot compare the two! I now run a fresh food shop on the edge of my farm to sell my crops."

Through our comprehensive Conservation Agriculture programme, we are helping farmers increase their productivity and adapt to erratic climatic conditions, while at the same time minimising the adverse effects of agriculture on scarce water resources.





## SAM KURARU REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Sam Kuraru grew up in a polygamous household with 15 siblings. Raised in Ngare Ndare, a community adjacent to Lewa, Sam's future changed when he realised he was academically gifted during his primary school studies at Lewa Downs Primary School. Lewa offered to support Sam's education, and he has not looked back since. In secondary school, he became a high performing and motivated student, passing his exams and gaining admission to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

"I became the first from my village to join the university. When I told my father that I was planning on studying geospatial engineering, he did not know what I meant, but I could see that he was very proud of me," he says.

Sam now heads the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) unit at the Northern Rangelands Trust. GIS are computerised systems used to collect, store, analyse, manipulate and present a range of complex geographical and spatial data. Sam's role at NRT involves laying out all the

natural resources in the community conservancies that NRT supports. He then converts this information into maps which inform management decisions such as ranger patrols and grazing plans.

While doing an aerial survey, he realised that pilots interact with technology that he's familiar with, such as maps and coordinates. This experience ignited his desire to learn how to fly. With further support from Lewa, Sam began his flying lessons in 2018. He recently completed his training and is now gearing up to become a conservation pilot to complement his GIS role. He's also a mentor back in his community, encouraging children, including his siblings, to attend and excel in school. Lewa is now supporting six of Sam's siblings, who are eager to follow in their brother's footsteps.

Sam remains passionate about conservation.

"Working for conservation isn't a job for me. It has made me who I am, and I'm proud to be one of the people shaping conservation in northern Kenya."



## POOLING RESOURCES FOR EDUCATION

You too can play a part in securing a child's future

In Lewa and Borana's neighbouring communities, thousands of children have incredible potential. Just like Sam, all they need is someone to believe in them and make a commitment to offering support that is beyond their families' capabilities.

While Sam was lucky to have a donor who enabled us to support him, others who have joined our programme have not been so lucky. A child's future is put at immense risk when a donor decides, for whatever reason, to no longer sponsor that child. As a result of this challenge, we are transitioning Lewa's Bursary Programme, which has traditionally matched individual donors to students, to a pooled fund scheme. This type of funding will allow us to allocate resources equally to students based on their performance and commitment. It will make our management of the education programme more effective and efficient, and most importantly, will ensure that we can fulfil our obligations to children to support them through all levels of education. To build this fund, we need your help.

OUR GOAL FOR 2019 IS TO RAISE

**\$225,000**

AND SUPPORT

**150** STUDENTS IN THE  
NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

It costs \$1,500 annually to educate a child. By making an annual investment and a four-year commitment, you will help us realise our goal. You can give directly to Lewa in Kenya, or if you're in the US, via our US office for charitable contribution deductions. UK tax-paying nationals donating via our UK office will see their donation increase by 20% if eligible for Gift Aid. To donate, visit our website at [www.lewa.org](http://www.lewa.org), or email us at [lewaintl@lewa.org](mailto:lewaintl@lewa.org) for more information.



## PROVIDING HEALTHCARE TO ALL IN NEED

Mobile clinics are enabling us to provide critical services to thousands living in remote areas.

Every week, the Lewa and Borana healthcare teams travel to remote areas to provide essential healthcare services. These mobile clinics improve healthcare access for vulnerable populations who cannot visit physical health facilities, often due to long distances and undeveloped road networks. They also act as an opportunity for early disease detection.

The Borana Mobile Clinic, on average, treated 160 patients weekly in 2018. During a routine visit by the clinic to Ngare Ndare village, Pauline, a nurse,

found three-year-old Irene Lerusa living with an incredibly painful condition called encephalocele. Encephalocele is a congenital disability caused by the skull not fusing correctly and therefore part of the brain, or the fluid surrounding the brain, protrudes through the forehead.

If left untreated, Irene would not only continue to suffer from the pain and social stigma, but would also have been left with brain damage. Fortunately, at three years old, Irene was the right age to receive treatment. In May, specialists from Kijabe

THANKS TO OUR HEALTHCARE INTERVENTIONS, IRENE LERUSA CAN LIVE A NORMAL LIFE WITHOUT ENCEPHALOCELE. MORE THAN 50,000 PEOPLE RECEIVED HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN 2018.

Children's Hospital examined her condition. After Borana secured support for her operation, Irene underwent surgery in September. The operation was hugely successful, and Irene is now out of pain and preparing to start nursery school.

The Lewa team referred 298 patients to higher healthcare institutions for specialised treatment and management. The school health programme also ensures that children in Lewa-Borana supported schools have access to primary health services. During the school terms, the teams visit

and treat the children for commonly occurring diseases such as respiratory and abdominal infections. In 2018, together with healthcare partner MEDCAN, we also screened children for visual impairment and eye-related diseases. Children in five schools received reading glasses.

Access to affordable and effective healthcare remains one of the most critical ways in which we improve the quality of life of our neighbours.

PHOTOS: BORANA TEAM

Chef, celebrity, author, TV show host and producer - the late Anthony Bourdain wore many hats. He became known for his bestselling book *Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly* (2000), and his food and world-travel television shows, which he continued to work on and produce until his death late last year.

In the first week of March 2018, Lewa was privileged to welcome Bourdain, as a result of a partnership with Lewa Wilderness and travel specialists Next Adventure. Comedian and presenter Kamau Bell, the host of CNN's *United Shades of America*, accompanied him on the trip. They stayed at Lewa Wilderness and spent days on the Conservancy, with a final visit to Il Ngwesi community. The team was filming for an upcoming series of the hit programme, CNN's *Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown*.

It saddened us all to learn of Bourdain's death, but the enigmatic chef's influence on travel and adventure has not waned. While we were not sure what would happen to the Kenya episode, CNN honoured Bourdain's legacy by airing the final season of *Parts Unknown*, which premiered on 23rd September 2018. It featured the Kenya episode, which was the only one completed before his death. Those who met Anthony here on Lewa describe him as dynamic and curious. He asked unusual questions and took an interest in everything, including the mundane.



## ANTHONY BOURDAIN ON LEWA



### VISIT US AND EXPERIENCE LEWA LIKE BOURDAIN

A visit to the Lewa-Borana Landscape is more than just your regular safari. We strive to offer guests the experience of a lifetime that includes incredible wildlife encounters and unforgettable 'Behind the Scenes' activities.

While staying at any of our lodges, you have an opportunity to participate in these activities. They include visits to schools, water projects, health clinics and our other development programmes. We encourage guests to visit us at the Headquarters to meet with the various teams on the ground - conservation, anti-poaching, security and logistics - to see what it takes to manage the landscape. This provides

our visitors with a greater understanding of our efforts and their impact.

Tourism plays a critical role in our conservation model. For every night a guest stays with us, we earn conservation fees, funds that constitute a significant percentage of our annual revenue. By visiting us, you'll be directly contributing to our conservation and development work.

We manage our tourism through a strict code of conduct informed by the Lewa Standard. The Lewa-Borana Tourism Committee, consisting of various representatives from both conservancies, ensures that we maintain our tourism experience to the highest possible standard.



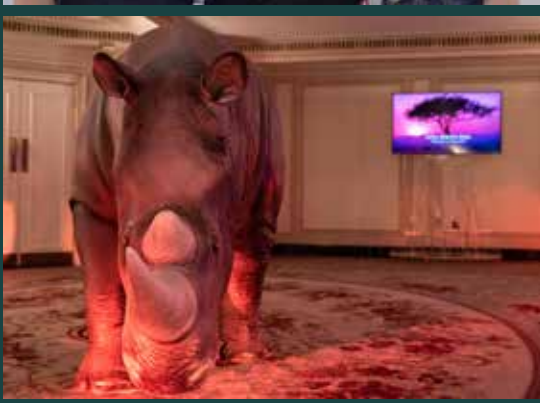
# THE LEWA BORANA BALL

FROM IL NGWESI TO THE USA, FRIENDS OF LEWA AND BORANA CAME FROM FAR AND WIDE TO ATTEND THE INAUGURAL BALL.

On 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018, a group of over 400 people from across three continents gathered at the Dorchester in London to celebrate and support Lewa and Borana, and our evolving partnership. Since their inceptions, Lewa and Borana have benefitted from the support of friends and family around the globe; and the Lewa Borana Ball was a proud continuation of that tradition.

The energy in the room was palpable. As one guest said:

"I have never seen such a gathering. The evening whirled past much too quickly, every time someone turned around there were cries of delight at seeing long lost friends."



Thanks to sponsorship from Rakuten and Ultimate Travel, the setting was dazzling, including a life-size acacia in the centre of the room that will surely serve as a Lewa and Borana icon for events in years to come. The results from the evening were astounding, with over £555,000 gross raised. Alexandra Ames Kornman (Lewa UK Development Director at the time and one of the engineers of the event) said "the highlight of the evening was seeing guests from all walks of life step up to show their support for Lewa and Borana's work."

Following the overwhelming success of the auction and pledges, there was nothing left to do but dance the night away!

© HENRIQUE MAIA

## TAKING THE WILD TO THE CITY

Business leaders from Kenya's top companies joined Lewa for an evening of conservation and learning.



Lewa Kenya board vice-chair, Mbuvi Ngunze, introduces Lewa to the guests.



In November 2018, we were privileged to host Kenyan business leaders for a cocktail party in honour of our work in Nairobi. It was a fantastic evening full of great conversations and ideas.

Organised and supported by the Kenya board members and the Lewa Team, the event proved that there is an appetite for Kenyan corporates to participate and take charge in supporting conservation efforts.

Our Kenya board vice chair, Mbuvi Ngunze, started the evening by introducing the audience to Lewa's work and its scope. To most people around the country, Lewa is mainly known for the annual Safaricom Marathon, and during his speech, Mbuvi expounded on our core programmes and their impacts.

Francisca Apua, a beneficiary of the Lewa Education Programme, spoke passionately about the opportunities Lewa has offered her, which have enabled her to pursue her dreams. John Pameri, Lewa's Head of General Security,

© STEVE TOOM



Lewa is increasingly getting recognition from Kenya's business community. Here, Lucy Ndirangu, our Chief Administrative Officer and James Kiogora, our Head of Human Resources, receive an award for Responsible Business Conduct from the Federation of Kenya Employers.



Ronald Marambii, CEO - Bank of Africa, spoke about his organisation's partnership with Lewa through education.

also spoke in the same vein, using his story as an example of the successes that can be achieved when conservation invests in people. Ronald Marambii, the CEO of Bank of Africa, offered his perspective as a partner investing in children's futures through the Lewa Education Programme.

Ruwaydah AbdulRahman, Lewa's Donor Relations Manager, says:

"It was a great way to introduce Lewa to a broader audience who would not naturally be inclined to work with a conservation organisation. Sustainability is important in the Kenyan corporate culture, and we need these partnerships from all industries to address the urgent need to conserve Kenya's threatened species and landscapes."



# PROMOTING THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



From left, Lewa's CEO Mike Watson and Head of Conservation and Wildlife Geoffrey Chege, TV Presenter Simon King and Il Ngwesi Chair Kip ole Polos.

## RGS Talk 2018: Learning From Community Partnership

The 20-year-old relationship between Lewa and the neighbouring community of Il Ngwesi has provided critical conservation lessons. In 2018, speakers Mike Watson, Lewa's CEO; Kip ole Polos, Il Ngwesi's Chairman; Geoffrey Chege, Lewa's Head of Conservation and Wildlife and TV Presenter Simon King, who has visited the area on numerous occasions, offered their perspectives at Lewa's second RGS panel discussion.

The speakers covered various topics, including the role of communities in conservation, how to ensure conservation directly benefits livelihoods, and the successes that both Lewa and Il Ngwesi have achieved as a result of the partnership. During the talk, Kip announced Il Ngwesi's plans to have the rhino return to their land, a culmination of the many years of collaboration. Over 400 people from all over the world attended the lecture.



© HENRIQUE MAIA

## RGS Talk 2019: Social Media and Conservation

Social media has become an integral part of our daily interactions and engagement. But how does it affect conservation? In 2019, Lewa's Conservation Conversations at the RGS sought to answer this question. The fascinating discussion featured Wanjiku Kinuthia, Senior Communications Officer, and Ian Lemaiyan, Rhino Scientist. They were joined by Rakuten's EMEA Vice President, Mark Haviland, and IFAW'S Project Lead - Global Crime, Tania McCrea-Steele. The topics ranged from both good and bad impacts, such as the incredible reach social media offers, but at the same time, the increasingly dangerous trend of trade in illegal wildlife parts on social platforms.



## Lewa Wins Women's Global Empowerment Award

In May 2018, Lewa was one of two recipients of the Women's Global Empowerment Awards from Women International Leaders (WIL), USA. This award recognised our work that improves the lives of women and their families. John Kinoti, Lewa's Head of Community Development, was in the USA to accept the award.

"Conservation is an engine for development. When women are empowered, they look after their families and the environment better, and the general living standards of a community improves. We are proud of what we've enabled women to achieve," he said.

# RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

**2018**

IUCN Green List of protected area management excellence, demonstrating long-term positive impact on people and nature. Also listed in 2014



**2017**

Federation of Kenya Employers Winner, Responsible Business Conduct and Runner Up 2018



**2015**

Lewa's Head of Anti-Poaching, Edward Ndiritu, Winner, Inaugural Tusk Wildlife Ranger Award



**2014**

Silver, Best in Poverty Reduction by the World Responsible Tourism Awards



Best Conservation Organisation, Runner Up, Safari Awards



**2013**

Inscribed into the UNESCO Mount Kenya World Heritage Site



## Find us online:



lewa\_wildlife



The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

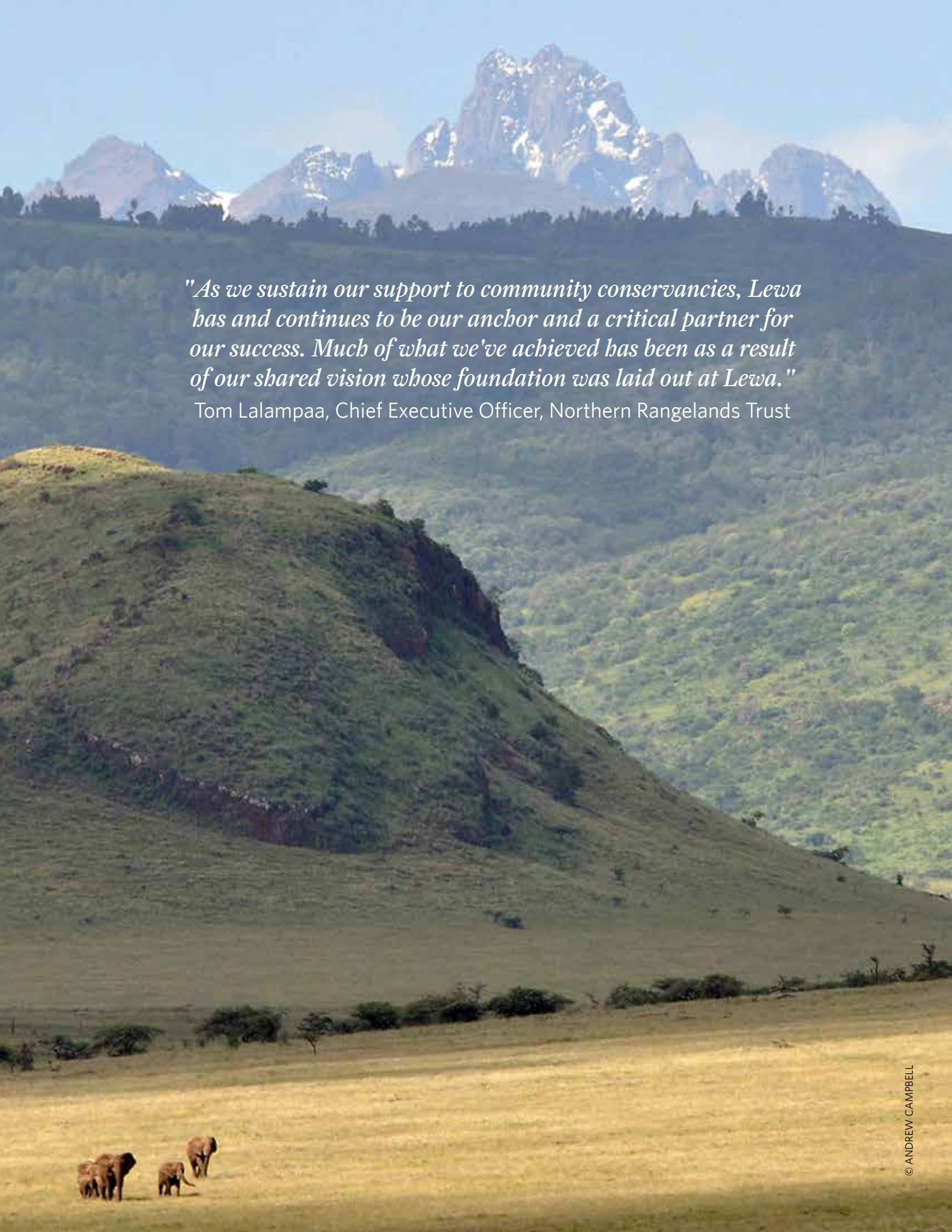


lewa\_wildlife



Lewa Wildlife Conservancy - Our official YouTube channel

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*"As we sustain our support to community conservancies, Lewa has and continues to be our anchor and a critical partner for our success. Much of what we've achieved has been as a result of our shared vision whose foundation was laid out at Lewa."*

Tom Lalampaa, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Rangelands Trust

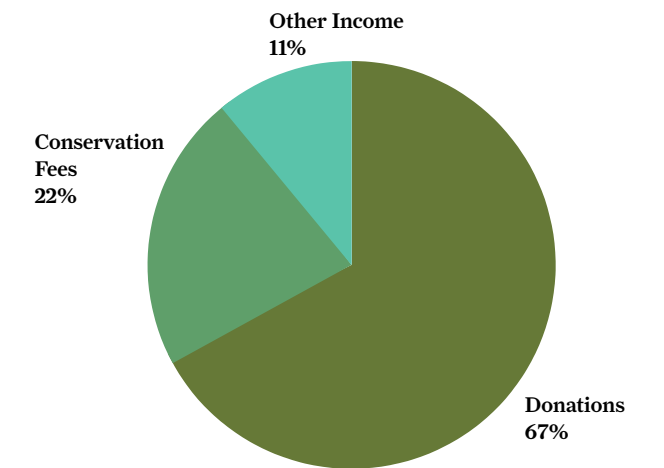
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# OUR FINANCIALS

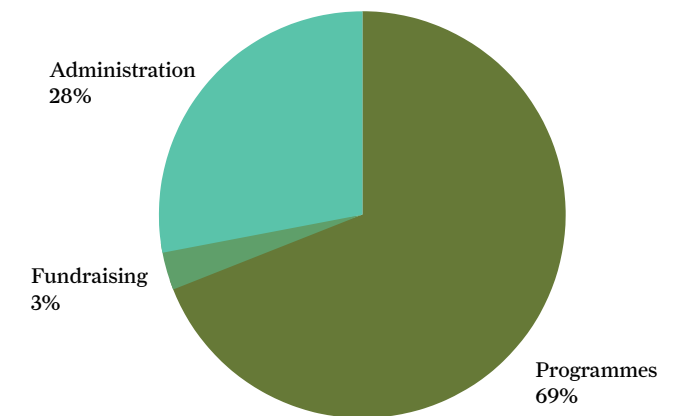
	2018	2017
<b>REVENUE</b>	USD	USD
Donations	3,968,715	3,876,534
Conservation Fees	1,279,004	1,170,496
Other Income	661,838	568,678
	5,909,557	5,615,708
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Programmes	3,953,554	3,950,223
Fundraising	198,651	127,145
Administration	1,583,091	1,465,775
	5,735,296	5,543,143
<b>Net Increase in Assets</b>	174,260	72,566

This financial extract is based on the audited financial statements by PricewaterhouseCoopers. To view the full statement, visit our website [www.lewa.org](http://www.lewa.org)

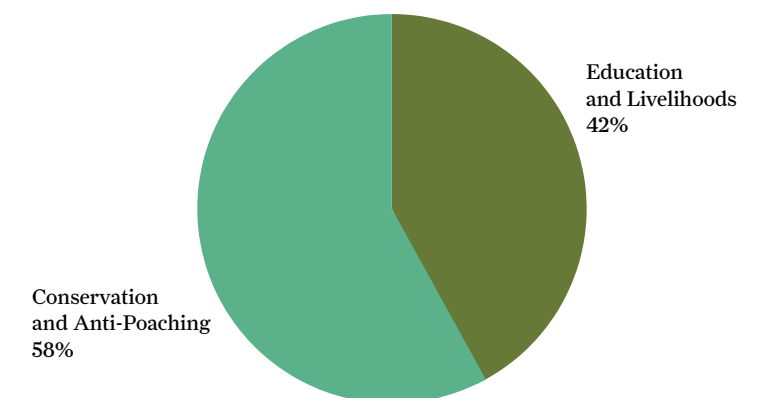
2018 REVENUE BY SOURCE



2018 TOTAL EXPENDITURE



2018 PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE



© BOBBY NEPTUNE

## WAYS TO GIVE

There are many ways to support Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. To learn more or to donate, please email us at [info@lewa.org](mailto:info@lewa.org) or visit our website at [www.lewa.org](http://www.lewa.org).

### OUTRIGHT GIFTS

- Make a one-time cash gift
- Make a charitable gift of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds
- Make a symbolic animal adoption
- Honour a loved one with a tribute gift
- Invest today in Lewa's future by supporting its endowment
- Become a monthly supporter.

### ESTATE GIFTS

- Remember Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in your will or living trust
- Beneficiary designations: leave a portion of your life insurance or retirement plan assets to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

### WORKPLACE GIVING

- Ask if your workplace participates in corporate matching gifts
- Donate by Shopping -It is so easy to support Lewa by using Goodshop.com. Select Lewa Wildlife

Conservancy and Goodshop will offer discounts on purchases and donate 20% of your total amount to Lewa.

### VISIT US

The most enjoyable way you can help Lewa is simply by visiting us! Lewa is world renowned for its outstanding, low impact tourism practices. Your conservation fees help fund our annual operating costs.

### RUN WILD FOR CONSERVATION

Lewa has hosted the Safaricom marathon for the past 19 years on Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Join the race and raise funds for local communities and conservation efforts in northern Kenya.

### STAY IN TOUCH

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter on our website to receive updates from Lewa.

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 George Rioba - Chief Finance Officer  
 Georgina Domberger - International Executive Director  
 Faith Riunga - Head of Education Programme  
 Geoffrey Chege - Head of Conservation and Wildlife  
 John Kinoti - Community Development Manager  
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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

*The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy sincerely thanks our partners and community of generous supporters. Without you, the excellent progress we have made safeguarding threatened wildlife, in partnership with local communities, would not be possible. We are indebted to our donors and honoured to be stewards of their gifts.*



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# DONOR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



SAVE A MIND, GIVE A CHOICE



Safarilink





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**LEWA**  
WILDLIFE  
CONSERVANCY

A UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed in 2013

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