

NEWSLETTER



East African Wild Life Society | P.O.Box 20110-00200 Nairobi, Kenya Riara Rd, Kilimani, Nairobi | Tel: +254 (020) 3874145 | Mobile: +254 (0) 722 202 473 /+254 (0) 734 600 632 | Email: info@eawildlife.org

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Kenya Begins Translocating Black Rhinos in Conservation Triumph

Kenya's black rhinos were on the brink of extinction three decades ago. Today, their numbers have surged so rapidly that sanctuaries grapple with 'overcrowding.' In response, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) initiated a groundbreaking translocation operation in January, relocating 21 eastern black rhinos to Loisaba Conservancy in Laikipia County.

Loisaba Conservancy is set to witness the return of rhinos for the first time in half a century, marking a significant milestone in Kenya's conservation efforts.

Kenya's black rhino population has witnessed a remarkable turnaround, soaring from 240 in 1984 to 966 today. Kenya now boasts the third-largest rhino population in Africa, trailing only South Africa and Namibia.

As black rhinos are solitary animals requiring ample space to disperse, the urgency to create new sanctuaries with ideal conditions has become paramount. Loisaba Conservancy has allocated half of its 57,000 acres to secure this new sanctuary.

The KWS-led translocation, which commenced on January 16, will involve

highly skilled veterinarians transporting rhinos weighing up to 1,400 kilograms by truck to their new home. Partnering organisations provide crucial support, including the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, The Elewana Collection, and Space for Giants. The rhinos will originate from Nairobi National Park, Ol Pejeta Conservancy, and Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

Erastus Kanga, KWS Director-General, emphasised the historic nature of the translocation, stating, "As we embark on the historic translocation of 21 black rhinos to Loisaba Conservancy, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the protection, conservation, and expansion of Kenya's black rhino population."

The move aligns with Kenya's vision to establish viable habitats that foster optimal conditions for rhinos to thrive, as outlined in the 7th edition of the Recovery and Action Plan for black rhinos in Kenya (2022-2026). The strategic relocation to Loisaba Conservancy is a testament to Kenya's dedication to preserving its rich biodiversity and ensuring the continued success of black rhino conservation.



A black rhino in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy/
File photo