# Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

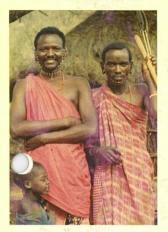


1995-2005

Ten years on...

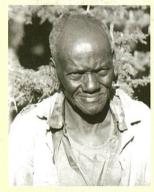
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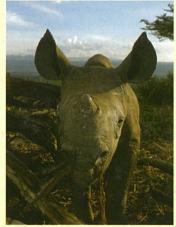


















# Wildlife and Security

### **Translocations**

Over the past two months, Lewa has been involved and assisting the Kenya Wildlife Service in the translocation and movement of 19 white rhino and one black rhino to different areas for a variety of different reasons.

At the end of December 2004, Solio Ranch and the Parfet family kindly donated six white rhino to Lewa as part of their ongoing rhino restocking programme. Three trucks complete with rhino crates, loading ramps, Super-cub spotter plane and pilot, camp equipment, darting equipment and a 22 man capture team assisted by a Kenya Wildlife Service veterinarian were all set to start at first light on the 28th with the intention of darting and catching three females and three males between the ages of three to five years old. Solio holds a very healthy population of one hundred plus white rhino and so finding suitable animals was not a problem. In fact by midday two females and one male were already on their way from Solio to Lewa, a journey of three hours by truck. All arrived safely and were free released onto the Conservancy, without any hitches.

The trucks turned around and headed straight back to Solio, arriving at camp at midnight. Again an early start on the 29<sup>th</sup> and this time by 11.00 am one female and two males were on their way to their new home – Lewa, where they were safely set free.

There are often so many problems of varying types and degrees with wildlife capture, but I am very pleased to say that this operation could not have gone better. Every aspect, from the Solio staff assistance, KWS's help and support, the LWC capture team and finally the cooperation of the rhino themselves, with six darts for six animals all on foot,

who can complain?

A further two white rhino (one male and one female) were caught on 29th and 30th January on Lewa, and moved to our holding pens to be "boma trained" for onward re-location to Enasoit Ranch in Laikipia. These two animals are a gift from Lewa to Enasoit, who are very keen to initiate a new rhino sanctuary in Laikipia. As I write these two rhino are in their final stages of boma (holding pen) training and are due to be moved by mid March.

The end of January was flat out on the rhino front and on the 30<sup>th</sup>, Ol Jogi Ranch (Pyramid Rhino Sanctuary) in Laikipia, requested urgent help from Lewa following some problems there with a male black rhino. They required logistical support with Lewa's modified capture truck and rhino crate along with a handful of capture crew to help in catching this problematic rhino. A combined effort with KWS and

other helping hands, the rhino was caught and the problem solved.



Next in line for capture was the Kigio rhino move. Kigio Wildlife Sanctuary situated in the Rift Valley, near Naivasha, has recently been the recipient of two white rhino from Lewa as an initial start to yet another rhino sanctuary in the making. The first rhino was caught and moved directly to Kigio's holding pens on 8th February and on the 9th, the second rhino was moved. Lewa provided all logistical, staff and transport support for the move and on the veterinary side KWS kindly assisted with a veterinarian, who did a fine job. Following this successful translocation, Longleat Wildlife Park in the UK have very kindly donated funding to both Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and to Kigio Wildlife Sanctuary, which will boost both conservation organizations. Longleat keepers observed the move as did cameras from the BBC.

On the 17th and 18th February, a joint rhino capture operation was carried out in Solio Game Reserve between KWS and Lewa, the plan being to catch eight white rhino. Four of these went directly to Meru National Park on the 17th as a donation from Solio to KWS and the remaining four are presently being held in the Solio holding pens, whilst they are "boma trained" prior to all relevant approvals and documentation, for their future move to Uganda's newly established Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary. This capture was a great success and carried out entirely as a joint venture with KWS. This well established partnership in wildlife capture has proven on many different occasions to work well and this rhino move was no exception. Once the approvals are through and relevant documentation complete, the move from Solio to Ziwa will be carried out by the Lewa capture team with veterinary support from KWS (within Kenya) and Uganda Wildlife Authority (once in Uganda).

Lastly, a very quick and unusual rhino move. On the 26th February, the management of Solio Game Reserve called Lewa for advice and help regarding a very young white rhino that had been found wandering alone. In fact as a vehicle approached, the baby rhino ran straight towards the vehicle, presumably thinking it was his missing mother. Sadly this was not the case. The rhino calf is a young male approximately two weeks old. The worst case scenario was immediately assumed, its mother may have been the victim of poaching, and an intense aerial and ground search followed. So far there has been absolutely no evidence or reason for this young calf to have been abandoned. The question still remains and ground searches are still ongoing within the reserve. The little fellow (named Maxx) is doing very well under the watchful eye of Jane. He has already found a girl friend, albeit a black rhino called Tula, also orphaned and a few months older, but they get on beautifully.





### Rhino anti-poaching News

Anti-poaching patrols within Lewa and its close environs are a never ceasing part of our daily routines and schedules. A huge amount of money, time, effort and man power is spent annually to this effect, with 56 unarmed men involved in rhino monitoring and surveillance within Lewa and a fence patrol and maintenance team of 24 men. There are a further 24 men manning various gates on the Conservancy, eight men caring for orphaned animals, eight armed men as trackers/armoury guards and a Tracker Dog team of three men.

The "strong arm" of our security force comprises 19 Kenya Police Reservists (KPR) all armed with automatic rifles, are employed by the Conservancy, but who are seconded from the Kenya Police. By having KPR status, it gives the Conservancy full legality to act and make follow-ups, in a lawful manner, to any security related incidents in the District. Most of these follow-ups are joint efforts and in conjunction with other Government security personnel.

Anti-poaching patrols are consistently conducted by our KPR men, not only on Lewa but also on a regular basis in two other rhino sanctuaries in Laikipia. Often these patrols are carried out in joint efforts with KWS men. In recent months the KPR teams have had their hands full, combating the poaching threat to these areas. Over 40 cable snares (specifically targeting rhino) and two automatic rifles have been recovered and six rhino poachers arrested. The numbers of poaching cases has very definitely decreased recently, but we must not relax our guard, the increased illegal market value of rhino horn and ivory will dictate that there will continue to be a poaching threat at any time. *Richard Moller – Wildlife and Security Coordinator* 

### Thank you Sam and Punch

The two tracker dogs on Lewa, Sam and Punch, have retired. After many years of hard work they have now handed in their notice. Punch is now living with Belinda Low, so he has not gone very far and Sam has gone to Nairobi to live with Mark Barrah. We shall miss them both and we say *Asante Sana* for all their hard work.

They will be replaced by two bloodhound puppies from Ol Jogi Ranch. Sara Spendrup – PR Officer

# Lewa Community

### **Lewa Education Trust**

LET has grown in leaps and bounds in the last couple of years. Due to our various generous friends we have had five class rooms built last year for our schools. Also there are feeding programmes in five schools and this has really made a big difference. We have experienced an increase in enrolment of children in these particular schools. Attendance has become consistent and this has led to a very positive index in the performance of Kenya Certificate of Primary Education Exams. Lewa sponsored students are getting admitted to good performing high schools and we will encourage them to keep up the good work. The bursaries to high schools have increased to 19 this year (we now have over 90 in the programme). We are very grateful to all the people that have given a hand in uplifting our standards of Education and giving us a vehicle to access education in different ways. With availability of resources, 2005 looks a very promising year and we believe it is going to be a great success!

Faith Riunga – LET Education Officer

### **Mutunyi Irrigation Scheme Commissioning**

It was all joy for Mutunyi community as Kenya's Minister for Finance Hon. David Mwiraria officially opened the Mutunyi irrigation scheme. The water project cost Kshs 18 million funded by CDTF with assistance from Lewa. CDTF availed Kshs. 14 million with the community contributing the rest. This project has now enabled the farmers to start export farming and there is a drastic change of the people's livelihood. Despite the huge amounts of funds invested in the project the capital recovery is assured with a projected reasonable interest rate of 10% per annum.

### Beds for the Hospital

The Lewa community development initiative was this year extended to the local hospitals. This was from the marathon funds raised in year 2004 where three district hospitals benefited from the contributions. This included Nanyuki General Hospital and Meru Hospital which were presented with 33 beds respectively and Isiolo Hospital bought clinical appliances and stretchers. The awarding of beds in Meru Hospital was done through the Finance Minister Hon. Mwiraria.

John Kinoti - Community Officer

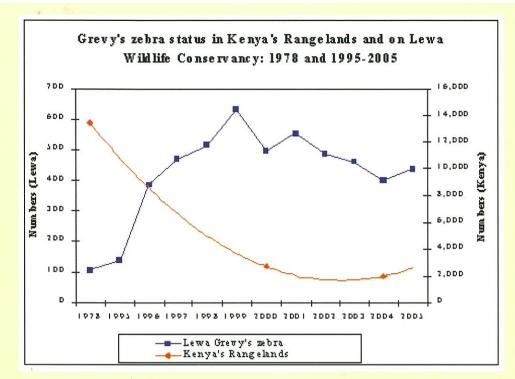




## Lewa Research

### **Game Count**

Game counts are aimed at showing animal trends over time. Game count figures assist in formulation of pragmatic management decisions. We conducted a very successful aerial and ground game count in February 2005. Most species showed very encouraging increments with several herds having calves, foals and fawns by their side. This is reassuring especially considering the massive mortality and subsequent decline in the population of most species due to post-drought effects of 2000-2001. When compared to 2004, waterbuck increased by 123%, eland 56%, warthog 31%, impala 23% and buffalo 9%. We counted 297 elephants and this was the highest number that we have recorded since 1977. This reaffirms that elephants have continually utilised Lewa as a dry season feeding ground because there is permanent water and lush vegetation along Lewa River and the Swamp.



### Grevy's zebra count is up!

It was a sigh of relief when we counted over 440 Grevy's zebra in February 2005 up from 399 in the previous year. This was a positive trend considering that Grevy's zebra have sadly continued to decline globally both in numbers and range (see figure left). With Lewa having over 20% of the global population, this sub-population is critical as it is probably one of the last remaining breeding nucleuses that is not faced with negative human induced threats facing other Grevy's zebra populations in the pastoral areas and hence can reveal insights into their basic ecology. Similarly, this sub-population can be used to restock their former rangelands and establishment of new populations. To this end, we have several

grammes aimed at understanding the link between Grevy's zebra and ecology, and their response to both competitors and predators. Our data has shown that competition is disproportionately in favour of Plains zebra. With Lewa having a ratio of 1:2.5 Grevy's zebra to Plains zebra, competitive edge will always be tipped towards the latter unless remedial actions that include reduction in numbers of Plains zebra to free some resources for Grevy's zebra are implemented. This has to be carefully balanced because Plains zebra act as a buffer prey. Similarly, analysis of predator scat has shown that lions preferentially prey on Grevy's zebra as opposed to Plains zebra. Therefore, lion numbers that currently stand at 24 resident and over 15 migratory individuals need to be monitored carefully to lower the impact on Grevy's zebra. At the same time, habitat manipulation including reduction of the biomass of grass in core Grevy's zebra areas along Lewa River through prescribed burning can further increase the visibility for Grevy's zebra and reduce their vulnerability to predation. The

response of Grevy's zebra to these manipulations will be monitored in future in order to identify the best adaptive management strategy that can be adopted by other conservation areas with similar problems.

### Prescribed burning

Lewa has a policy of prescribed burning on grasslands that is aimed at removing the moribund grass material. Cool burns as opposed to dry burns were applied on several blocks in January 2005. The rationale was that a cool burn would remove the unpalatable and moribund grass material, maintain the biomass of

grass at low levels for at least three consecutive years, promote regeneration of grass, enhance coppicing and shooting of tree seedlings and cause minimal damage to woody vegetation. The added benefit was that the resulting tender grass would attract plains game. In response to this, over 400 Plains zebra and 200 Grevy's zebra were counted within one hour in one of the burned blocks. Cool burns would be the best strategy in future, as it appears to be beneficial both to vegetation and wild game. Geoffrey Chege – Research Officer

### **Toki**

By Simon King

I sometimes ask myself if we can really justify the tremendous amount of effort, resources and emotion that have been and continue to be invested in one fairly small, Big Cat. Toki, the surviving brother from the cheetah twins that were brought to Lewa two and a half years ago has required a tremendous amount of help over the past few months.

After Sambu (his brother) was killed by lions last May, Toki found himself confused and directionless. We decided then to break our own rules and to reintroduce a degree of human contact for his own wellbeing. He continued to spend the nights out in the wilds, though for the first few weeks after losing his brother, he had the constant companionship from one of his guardians, primarily Stephen Nangunye whose devotion and care for Toki is unparalleled. Marguerite and I in the meantime had to go to the UK to complete the film we'd been making with the brothers over the past two years, and to prepare other projects. We were, however, in constant touch with Stephen, Ian and Jane via text, a wonderful communication life-line to his progress and dilemmas.

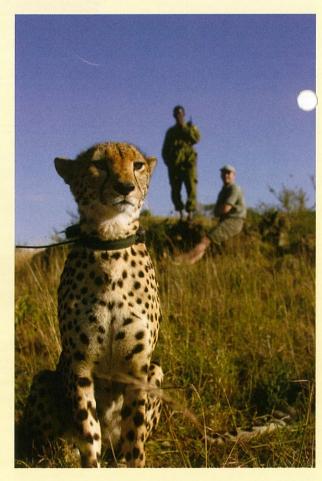
After a few weeks of close contact, I suggested that, once again, observations of Toki should be made from a distance and that human contact should be kept to a minimum. This was put into place and all was well. For the best part of six months he lived wild and free in Lewa, making all his own kills and going wherever he chose. This included, from time to time, him deciding to leave the Conservancy and enter into farming country. Though he never approached other people during these "outings" we all felt that the risk to his welfare (and livestock) was too great and that he should be encouraged to return to the reserve. His rapport with Stephen made this possible. Stephen running, calling like a cheetah, followed by a well-grown male cat through smallholdings and past goat herds must have been a curious sight!

In October of last year everything changed. As many of you will know, Toki was attacked and almost killed by the coalition of three male cheetahs that wander the Conservancy. It was only thanks to Stephen' sensitivity and quick thinking that Toki survived at all. Still, he was very badly injured and many felt that he might never run again. I was in the midst of a filming trip to Antarctica whilst this drama unfolded, and can't begin to convey the sense of anxiety and helplessness I was going through receiving such awful news. That said, I knew that with the support of Stephen, Belinda Low, Ian, Jane and all at Lewa, he stood the very best chance of recovery.

This January we returned to Lewa, and with some trepidation. What would we find when we were reunited with the cat we had already helped to nurture through three life threatening situations? What we found is the most magnificent success story. Toki has more than recovered from his ordeal, he has blossomed. We always feared that he would remain slight and frail from his difficult start in life, and that the attack would only exacerbate this. Instead we find a powerful cheetah, thigh muscles that were ravaged by cutting teeth are now strong and solid, back and shoulders

flexible and full of grace. But there has been one major change. It is now undeniable that if he is left to his own devices he will be sought out once again by the three males, and quite probably killed. So a new programme has been implemented. Each day he is shadowed by Stephen or another guardian, and each evening we try to encourage him into an enclosure for his own safety. If he wanders outside the Conservancy a team is scrambled, including air support with a tracking device, to locate and recover him as soon as possible. He is killing for himself, powerfully and regularly. He continues to lead an all but wild existence, but with the constant stewardship of man. In the short term this will be his future.

So is it all worth it? I believe the answer is emphatically YES. Toki is more than just a cheetah, he is representative of the care and dedication Lewa lavishes on any project it is involved in. Once a commitment has been made, whether it be to a community project, rhino conservation, or helping to raise endangered orphans, Lewa never looks away from that commitment. We are discussing plans for Toki's future. In the short term it will remain as now, a cheetah living wild with the care of man. In the future, who knows? There may be opportunities to relocate Toki into a territory that does not have such strong competition from other male cheetahs, and to reeducate him regarding human contact. The three males in Lewa have reigned for many years. Their situation may change, leaving room for a new king. No one yet knows. What we do know is that we shall all continue to support him and to give him the best possible quality of life, come what may.



# Lewa Overseas

### Lewa USA

We had a busy fall here in the United States, highlighted by Ian's visit in September and October. He, Jane and his assistant, Joanne Machira, attended meetings and events in San Antonio, Denver, and New York. Ian even made a whirlwind one-day visit to Boston from New York! We are very grateful to everyone who hosted them during their stay and to each of you who took the time to join us and hear our exciting updates from Lewa! As always, Ian provided interesting and motivating news for all of us here in the U.S. Lewa's Research Officer, Belinda Low, who attended an AZA conference in New Orleans (just missing a major hurricane), was able to join the Lewa staff and Lewa USA Board for its fall meeting in New York. She and Ian presented terrific information on Lewa and briefed the Board, in detail, about the Northern Rangelands Trust. The NRT is a community-led organization aimed at improving human livelihoods and increasing the capacity of communities to protect and manage their natural resources. Lewa has been the major catalyst behind this initiative.

Closer to home, Lewa USA is pleased to welcome new board members, Sue Anschutz-Rodgers from Denver and Gautam Kaji from Washington, DC.

Looking forward to 2005, we are preparing for a spring visit by David Parkinson, Deputy Director of Lewa, and James Munyugi, and major events next fall in New York, Denver, and other cities to celebrate Lewa's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We hope you will be able to join us and hear how far Lewa has come in 10 years and our exciting plans for the future! *Helen Christian and Ben Duke* 

### Lewa UK

### 'Simon King Lecture'

On the evening of Monday May the 16th, the acclaimed BBC wildlife filmmaker and presenter, Simon King, will give a talk about his time spent at Lewa filming Toki and Sambu the orphaned cheetah. This will be a unique chance to meet Simon and see some unseen footage of Lewa and the cheetahs. The venue has yet to be decided but for all those who are interested please contact Sarah Watson at Tusk Trust on 01747 831 005 or sarah@tusk.org

The Friends of Lewa annual dinner will be held in London in October. Details will be published closer to the time. For more details contact Sarah Watson on the email above. *Sarah Watson* 

### Lewa Canada

In November 2004 Ian Craig and Richard Moller travelled to Canada where they met with several foundations interested in Lewa's contribution to conservation, sustainable community development and/or wildlife. The Trustees of Lewa Conservancy (Canada) hosted a fund raising dinner for Canadian based donors where Ian spoke with Richard's full support. Ian and Richard also made a lively presentation to students at Upper Canada College while they were in Toronto.

We remain most grateful to the Jane Goodall Institute for allowing Canadian donors to make contributions to Lewa through JGI Canada until our own foundation is approved. (Confirmation of Lewa's Canadian charitable status is expected in the first quarter of this year).

exandra Montgomery

### Lewa Switzerland

In memorial of Evie Bernhard, who lived for 10 years on Lewa and died in 1999, her sisters (Monica Leuthy and Cathy Waldwogel) have founded the "Association of Friends of Lewa in Switzerland".

They have already raised a total of \$7500 for the Lewa Clinic including two microscopes and one of their members has also named the rhino Matterhorn.

Monica Leuthy

### Lewa Austria

Ian and Jane, accompanied by James Kinyaga plus David and Sonja Parkinson, presented Lewa to a select gathering of 50 at Manfred Mautner Markhofs house in Vienna. The evening was very well received with much interest shown.

Lewa Austria is crossing the mountains and heading towards Athens for a reception on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, hosted by Miranda Herberstein. Wish us good luck!

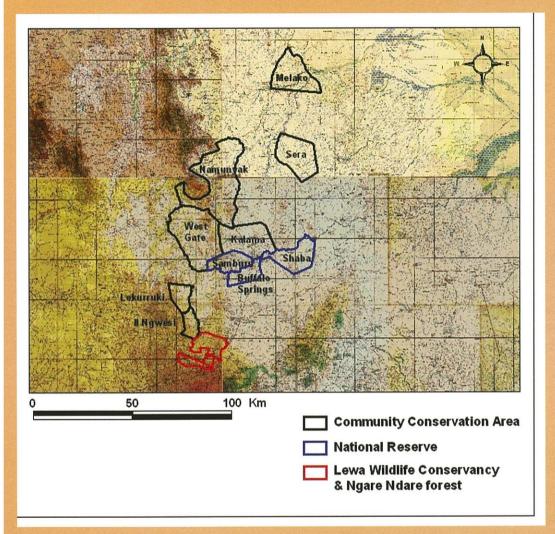
Gabriella Dixon

### Bowling for Rhino winners 2004

In March Lewa hosted last years winners of the annual AAZK event 'Bowling for Rhinos' and we were all delighted to meet Todd Bridgewater of Oklahoma City Zoo and Michelle Pratt of Detroit Zoo.



# Northern Rangelands Trust



### Northern Rangelands Trust

The Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) offices were officially opened on the 16th of January by the Board of Trustees led by the Chairman Hon. Ole Kaparo. The opening of the office doors also declared the start of the programme which endorsed James Munyugi as Community Programme Manager and Belix Low as Endangered Species Program Manager as the first staff for the Trust. The NRT will remain a vehicle for development focusing on all aspects of development including rangeland and pasture management, livestock production aimed at placing value on livestock keeping, increased income generation, water availability and management, empowerment and capacity enhancement.

The NRT will endeavour to develop wealth for communities living within the semi-arid area

the region. The development formula for NRT activities will include drawing expertise and participation of both development

agencies found within the region, individual and communities.

The framework of the Northern Rangelands Trust is such that the Trust is driven by 30 council of elders drawn from member representatives who represent community initiatives established with a purpose to conserve and sustainably utilise natural resources for the betterment of livelihoods. There is also three widely experienced people who form a conflict resolution team whose 3-faceted roles include: conflict mitigation, inter and intra initiatives, harmonization of distribution of available resources and advisory. This team will work on a retainer as and when the Trust needs them to address the concerns.



Hon Simeon Lesirma, Ian Craig and Hon Francis Ole Kaparo

In its operations, the Trust has engaged a full time field manager who will spend 75% of his time providing member institutions with the needed capacity through training and project management advice and providing feedback to the NRT management team which then trickles down to the Board.

Anne Ruihu - NRT office manager

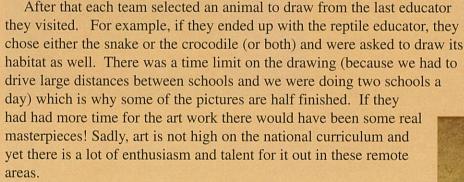
### **Education Goes Wild in Northern Kenya**

In February a team from Lewa, the Northern Rangelands Trust and Namunyak went on a three-day road trip to five different schools in northern Kenya with an education suitcase that was donated by the Brevard Zoo (USA) and very generously lugged over by Martha Fischer from Saint Louis Zoo. This suitcase is large and filled with fun educational tools including wildlife puppets and soft toys.



We developed our own lesson plan whereby we divided the animals that were available to us into four groups under predators (reptiles and mammals) and herbivores (grazers and browsers); each educator occupied a separate space under a tree or in a classroom with their set of animals displayed before them. The children were then divided into four teams and each team visited the four different

groups of animals to interactively learn about their ecology, behaviour and conservation.



We also worked with the school teachers so each one joined an educator and helped with the lesson. They thoroughly enjoyed it a in some cases this helped us with the language barrier as not all the children spoke Swahili. We also had many an adult in the community peeking in through classrooms to get a glimpse of the fun! We plan to do these trips every term so that the momentum is maintained and we can give these children a different type of learning experience that we hope will reinforce the value of wildlife conservation in northern Kenya.

By Belinda Low - NRT Endangered Species Coordinator







### Community feedback from the Grevy's zebra scout programme

"Since the project started we have been seeing the goodness of the work and we enjoy it. We are learning more and didn't know the importance of Grevy's zebra at the beginning. Before the project started, Grevy's zebra were afraid of livestock and humans but now they are not afraid. When we first started working they used to run away but now they let us go near. Even the herders accept them to pass next to them. Monitoring of Grevy's zebra was the responsibility of the scouts but now it has become the responsibility of the whole community and they report sightings to the scouts. Now Rikapo comes to meet with us and gives us more information than before so we are more aware of the Grevy's zebra than before. We are proud because we are eating food from the Grevy's zebra – not just the scouts but other members of the community. We have used this money to buy shoes, to buy clothes, to buy food. This is a good project." By Chereb Lechoriong (Sessia Group Ranch Scout)

### The Kikwa Bull

Sometimes in life destiny leads one to cross paths with individuals that portray the very essence of all one's highest aspirations and dreams. Such luck recently befell Richard Moller and I when we were called to treat a sick elephant in the Matthews Range.

We found a gentleman of such stature that he held us all in complete awe. He was just an old bull elephant, yes; but it was his ivory and what he represented in terms of having survived an onslaught of 20 years of poaching that placed him from a previous generation. In his fifty years of life, luck and intuition has been generous to him; he was born into an elephant population of many thousands of animals, twenty years ago they were decimated to a point where there were less than 100 animals remaining. He

survived through it all, clearly knowing these rugged hills, each valley, and water source, to the point where he was able to find the solitude and peace he needed in order to survive.

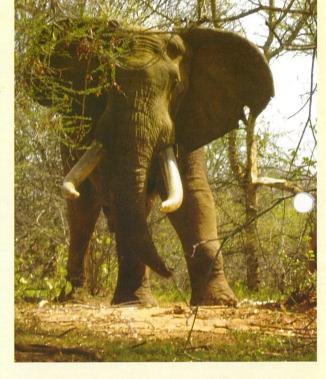
The injuries he sustained in a fight with another elephant were massive and far beyond any form of field treatment we could hope to provide – he died – his ivory weighing 115 and 112 lbs each tusk. The Samburu within the Kikwa valley had not seen an animal like this for over 30 years.

He not only represented a past generation but he also reflected clearly how adept nature is at recovering if only given the chance. This old bull echoed the generosity and commitment of many different individuals who over the past ten years have given time and money to protect the elephant of the Matthews Range whilst elephant populations in other montane habitats throughout Northern Kenya continue to decline due to poaching. This is purely thanks to the efforts of Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust, its partners and the Kenya Wildlife Service enabling the elephant population within the Matthews to flourish and providing the stable environment for this old bull to thrive.

The lessons: Well, the real lesson is that the habitat is here in abundance; the genes of these giants related to Ahmed and other world

renowned elephant are still here. It is we humans that changed everything for these animals and it is we that have the capacity to bring them back and provide their space. The time for this is now; and this is precisely why the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) has been established. The NRT is now formally operational, capitalizing on and staying closely linked with LWC, yet promoting itself as a new and independent community-led Trust dedicated to providing a future for the progeny of this old bull yet placing the needs and aspirations of the communities at the forefront of its programme.

*Ian Craig – Executive Director* 



# Lewa Personalities Lekario Kinanjui Belinda Low Tula Maxx

# Lewa's Missio Statement

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.

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