

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Newsletter no.23

April 2007



Ian's intro

With the diversity of tribes and political interests in Kenya, for many Kenyans wildlife and conservation remains a distant and unimportant issue. An issue promoted throughout the media as nationally important, a contributor to the nations coffers yet perceived by many as benefiting few rural Kenyans.

The conservation philosophy started at Lewa by Anna Merz in 1983 defies this very perception, it is a wonderful example of how a conservation dream can be turned into a national contributor and can change perceptions of wildlife across a broad spectrum of society from politicians to school children.

1982 Lewa Downs was a cattle ranch employing 65 people on an economy of \$ 200,000 per year with the only real contribution nationally being 500 head of beef cattle and paltry tax payments on salaries. This was agricultural land under traditional agriculture, contributing little to the national economy. Move 25 years forward, with the support and encouragement of the Kenya Government and conservationists worldwide, the number of employees benefiting from the conservation philosophy that grew out of Anna's dream is now 1,200 people, looking after 124 Black rhinos out of the national population of 480 and the budget has grown by over 30 times.

23,000 guests visit Ol Pejeta, Lewa and the Northern Rangelands Trust areas annually. Three scheduled flights from Nairobi fly into the Conservancy daily; the chain of supply to support this organization is long and impacts on the very rural Kenyans that previously viewed wildlife as "belonging to government". Levels of education have increased; all based on wildlife and improved facilities in the adjoining schools. Graduates are leaving colleges sponsored by and for ever affiliated with wildlife. Communities adjoining the conservation area of Lewa enjoy clean water thanks to wildlife.

The tiny seed planted by Anna in 1982 has grown into a shady tree providing cover and refuge to many people. That same tree now has seedlings through the Northern Rangelands Trust. The negative perception to wildlife and poor economies of many pastoral communities can change through the same focus and commitment to conservation that changed Lewa and has already changed Il Ngwesi and Namunyak. The most successful community project in Northern Kenya is budgeted to earn a net income of \$140,000 this year, a 70% increase over last year.

*I believe a die is cast where meaningful and complementary forces are coming into play:
An increasing capacity and interest worldwide to travel.*

The positive perception of Kenya worldwide and its stable politics.

An expansion of Nairobi International Airport as a hub within Central Africa.

The Pressure of tourism within Kenya's existing National Parks leading to a need for new wildlife destinations within Kenya.

The availability of community owned "Wilderness areas" and an increasing knowledge within communities of the value that can be brought through wildlife.

When all these factors come together it is only commitment and continuity that remains to catalyze good conservation across a broad landscape.

The realities of the conservation model that has grown out of Lewa is hard to dispute; I believe as the beneficiaries grow in numbers as will the philosophy and levels of support nationally, attitudes have already changed both locally and at a political level. In northern Kenya the future for wildlife certainly looks brighter than it has for many years, the pressure of poaching on elephants and rhino will undoubtedly remain but with communities as guardians they are surely safer.

These achievements are purely thanks to you, the individuals who in so many different ways at different levels have contributed to this success. Successful conservation is about continuity and trust. Thank you for being part of this.

Ian Craig – Executive Director

Wildlife and Security

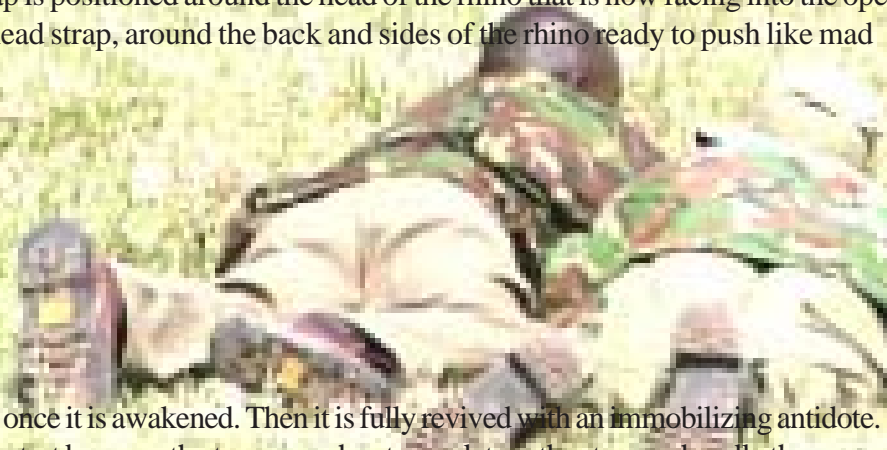
East Africa's Largest Black Rhino Move.

Imagine darting an adult wild black rhino on foot from just a few meters away! What if it charges you and there are no trees? What if you dart it and it runs off into thick bush and you cannot find it? What if you are trying to dart one particular rhino out of a group of four animals, there will then be four sensitive noses, eight ears and eight eyes on the alert for your approach? What if communications between the ground team and the aerial team fail at a critical moment, say when you are 25 meters from the rhino and in thick bush? Rhino captures present all sorts of varying problems, but first the safety of the rhino as well as the capture team personnel is of paramount importance. It is therefore very necessary to plan accordingly, with careful attention to detail, when undertaking an operation of this nature. Your problems are compounded by the fact that you are interfering with a critically endangered animal, it is a dangerous animal especially when pursued on foot and lastly, in this case, you are not just catching 1, but a total of 32 rhino!



In the largest known black rhino translocation in East and Central Africa, 31 black rhino and one white rhino were moved into Ol Pejeta Conservancy and Ol Jogi Ranch's; Pyramid Rhino Sanctuary (27 and 4 respectively). The first phase of the operation was to improve the genetic gene pool of black rhino in Ol Jogi by moving out four animals (two male and two female) and replacing these with another four of the same sex from Solio Game Reserve and Ol Pejeta in a swapping exercise. The second and largest phase was aimed at stocking the newly expanded Ol Pejeta Conservancy with 27 animals from Solio Game Reserve and at the same time to de-stock their over population of black rhino (three of these animals went to Ol Jogi) and the third phase of one white rhino from Lewa to Ol Pejeta.

In brief detail, the process that took place is to locate a rhino from the air and then guide the small darting team in on the ground using radio communications. If the rhino was positively identified by the sanctuary ranger as a candidate then an approach on foot, taking into account wind direction and bush cover, to a dartable distance of between 20 to 40 meters was made. Once the rhino was darted the aircraft, must at all costs, maintain a visual contact with the animal until it has the full effect of the immobilizing drug and at the same time to guide the ground capture team to the recumbent animal as fast as possible for stabilization and loading. The ground team consists of two Land Cruisers, one lorry with a rhino crate, one tractor to pull the crate on and off the lorry via ramp and a steel cable and finally a capture crew of at least 15 men that includes veterinary personnel, drivers and capture hands. The rhino is blindfolded first and then the vet quickly stabilizes the recumbent rhino, a radio transmitter was fitted to the horns of most the rhino and all were ear notched for individual identification purposes, thus making it easier for post release monitoring at the respective release sites. At the same time the crate is off loaded and positioned so that the rhino can be moved into the crate. This procedure can be tricky but often exciting! A heavy strap is positioned around the head of the rhino that is now facing into the open door of the crate. Capture crew are positioned on the head strap, around the back and sides of the rhino ready to push like mad when given the call.



The rhino is then given a tranquilizer injection to calm it once it is awakened. Then it is fully revived with an immobilizing antidote. The rhino is simply woken up! Now the fun and games start because the team now has to work together to man handle the now standing rhino into the crate! Once into the crate, blindfolds, straps and ropes are removed. The crate is then pulled back onto the lorry for onward transport to the release site. All the rhino were "free released" on Ol Pejeta and Ol Jogi. This too is a delicate process where the crate is off loaded again from the lorry, all vehicles and people must move some distance away leaving just two men on top of the crate to open the doors for release. It is critical that noise is kept to an absolute minimum and thus no disturbance is caused to the already distressed rhino. Post release monitoring has shown that these animals have settled better than we could have hoped.

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Lewa Research

GSM collaring of Grevy's zebra

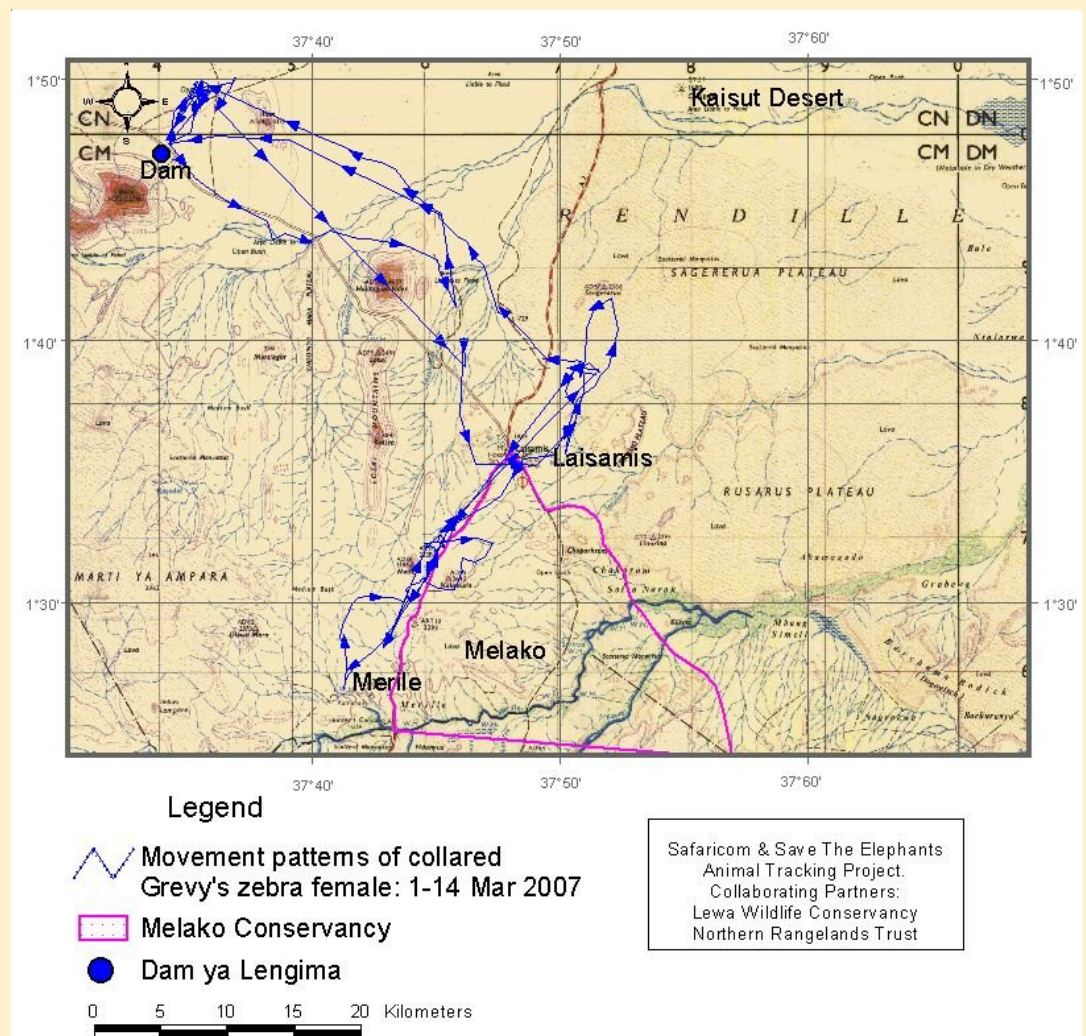
We all get mesmerised by the ease at which communication using mobile phones has proliferated and got embraced as a way of life in Kenya since their introduction in the late 1990's as they have completely revolutionised communication systems with clear reception being received even in the very remote areas. Similarly, conservationists have taken advantage of this vast network coverage to change the approach and thinking behind the conventional and widely used wildlife monitoring techniques that traditionally involved either tagging or tracking using transmitters.

In northern Kenya, one such approach involves the use of GPS/GSM collars to monitor vital population dynamics and ranging patterns of Grevy's zebra and elephants in as far north as Marsabit areas. This project is the brainchild of Save The Elephants and Safaricom Ltd with funding from Vodafone Ltd, while Lewa and the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) are collaborating partners. Simply stated, collared animals within the network range send text messages just like a mobile phone every other hour with information about the GPS location of the target animal into a central server that has an in-built customised database. With a few clicks of the button, users including field personnel on Lewa and the NRT can then download this data and display the output for management purposes including setting up of comprehensive landscape based plans and policies for wildlife to have adequate space and access to resources, while at the same time exploring ways for peaceful co-existence with pastoralists and their livestock.

In Melako Conservancy, which is the northern most community project under the umbrella of NRT (150 km north of Lewa), four Grevy's zebra were successfully collared in February using GSM collars in order to provide movement data on this otherwise very elusive population. The terrain in Melako is extremely rugged and hence Ian Craig had to use a helicopter to dart the animals. Previous attempts to collar this population by ambushing them on a water hole at night had proofed futile on a number of occasions. However, the presence of the darting teams always used to be an irresistible menu to the marauding swam of mosquitoes.

The Laisamis Grevy's zebra population is particularly critical since it has been the least monitored in the past yet it has persisted amidst stiff competition from the very high densities of livestock in the area. The collared animals are already confirming the extremely large distances that Grevy's zebra move between the grazing fields and water. In particular, one female made two trips from Laisamis to Merile through Mt Baio and covered a distance of about 260 km in just two weeks. We hope that in one year's time, data generated from these four Grevy's zebra will inform decisions about the location of the preferred critical resources both in the wet and dry season and that this information will be fed back to the management of Melako to make pragmatic zoning decisions of the Conservancy for future co-existence between Grevy's zebra and livestock. These vital decisions will only be made possible by the short message service facility that has been incorporated in the collars though the mobile phone technology and the extensive network coverage provided by Safaricom Ltd.

Geoffrey Chege – Head of Research and Monitoring chege@lewa.org



Lewa Community



From the pillow case to the rural bank safe.

For very many decades and of cultural practices, rural communities have had very simple ways of handling their financial resources. In most cases their cash has been put in holes dug in the ground, in calabashes or gourds, or under their pillows, as part of their security measures.

Fortunately, due to the conservation and development achieved in our communities there has been a marked improvement in the communities socio economic activities hence an increase the financial transactions within the communities activities. This has brought in a high demand for better financial handling methods and, most importantly, the security of the money.

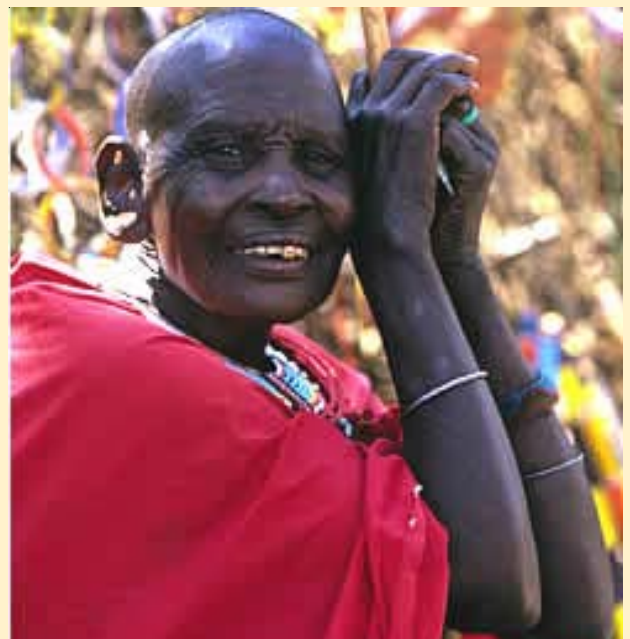
It is out of this need that we felt that we should set up a rural banking service that will allow the community to both save and access their money safely and accountably. The institution is owned by the community in conjunction with Lewa and provides mobile services to our neighboring communities. Apart from saving the money it has also credit facilities so that people can take a small loan if needed. Over the last couple of months while in operation we have seen communities increasing their propensity to save and operating bank accounts and for the first time they have made financial plans before spending their meager resources.

Water pumps water... appropriate technology.

The community in Mkuu has benefited from one of the successful springs conservation projects within the area. The project is serving nine villages where some walked up to 10 Km to look for water. With the successful completion of the project the pollution and continuous degradation of the spring it self has also stopped.

We thank the Tusk Trust for their support in this project.

*John Kinoti – Community Liaison Officer
communities@lewa.org*



Lewa Logistics

Lewa , along with most of the rest of Kenya had been suffering from a severe drought for the last three years. Therefore we met the beginning of October with immense trepidation as the question was, will the rains fail us again?

Although we try not to carry out too many building projects in October\November due to the prospects of rain, a lack of rain for the past few years led us to forget the difficulties of building in the rains. Therefore we took on a rather large task of totally renovating the Lewa Safari Camp. We were to start on the 19th of October and had eight weeks in which to complete the job before the first clients would arrive in December. Little did we know what we had let ourselves in for as two days in to the job our question was answered and the rains arrived. It didn't take us long to realize that these were not the normal rains, as by the end of October we had already had what we would normally get in a year.

Our infrastructure took a hammering with the main road to the camp becoming a quagmire, what was normally a sedate trip to the Camp became a mission of driving skills with vehicles often ending up stuck in the mud for hours.

This made getting materials to the camp and managing a work force of sixty odd extremely difficult especially with the days ticking by.

Meanwhile further north they were experiencing even heavier rains and a team we had building at Sarara on Namunyak Wildlife Conservancy became marooned as vehicles could not move. All the dry luggas had become flowing rivers and the crossings were feet underwater. At the beginning of November after three days of non stop rain disaster struck! We got



frantic reports across the air waves that four vehicles had got totally stuck and two of them were in rising river beds. The Lewa tractor on its way back to Lewa from Sarara was up to its engine in water in a lugga whilst at Sera their brand new Land Cruiser was stuck in a lugga with the water up to the roof, luckily its occupants managed to bail out just in time. Two other Land Cruisers which were on the way to rescue them had got stuck as well .You can imagine the panic stations that gripped us that day, planes were sent out immediately and a rescue team left in two vehicles. What a good job they did to as two days later all vehicles were rescued. The tractor got away with a water logged gear box whilst the Sera Land Cruiser had to have a total overhaul due to a water logged engine and that has just been completed as I write. Our building team were evacuated and stayed away until the rain eased slightly in mid November. Another team refurbishing Ilngwesi had to be airlifted out. The Ngare Ndare river was so high that no vehicle could get to Il-Ngwesi for weeks.

The rain did ease off towards the middle of November and it was during this time that we managed to patch up the road to the camp and get lots done thanks to the commitment of our team. We did manage to get the camp looking good enough for 'IDEA' design who were doing all the interior work. Chris Payne and Emma Campbell and their team started to set everything up two days before the first clients

arrived and the final touches were finished literally minutes before the clients checked in after a very extended game drive. I have to say the battle with the elements to get it ready in time was worth every minute as the Camp is looking really amazing and Chris and Emma did a wonderful job.

There were those among us that thought since the rain had stopped for nearly a month it would not return. We could not have been more wrong! There were also those among us who were fortunate enough to get away for Christmas and New Year, the rain did return and it was more and heavier than before. The rain did not ease up from Christmas day to New Years day, the road from Richard's turning to Ian's bridge became impassable and one night our tractor pulled out eight vehicles from one spot. Our lorry distributing food stuffs to the Safari Camp had to spend the night in the bush as it could not cross the Sirikoi crossing which was a raging torrent. It became so bad that on the 6th of January it was decided by management that Lewa couldn't cope and we closed to all visitors for one week.

It has not rained since and the weather is now made up of beautiful clear days. We are busy getting everything back to normal repairing bridges, grading and murraming roads and generally tidying up. Once we have got our general infrastructure back in line we have plenty of projects lined up to keep us busy for the foreseeable future.



Water, water everywhere...

The last few months has seen many new exciting developments. In fact enough to fill up this entire newsletter, but in brief:

Ruko Community Wildlife Conservancy – a new addition to the growing NRT family. Located right on the eastern shores of Lake Baringo, this 19,000 acre Conservancy involves Pokot and Njemp communities, and is being developed in close partnership with Samatian Island Lodge, an established tourism operation on the Lake. Already a board is in place and trained; 10 conservancy scouts have been recruited, and radios have been procured for anti-poaching and wildlife monitoring activities. Plans are underway (and funding has already been secured) for the translocation of 10 Baringo (or Rothschild) giraffe to this Conservancy later in the year. NRT and Lewa are currently applying for KWS authorisation for this move, which will bring this giraffe back to its very home. This Conservancy initiative has major implications for the broader landscape bringing the Pokot in particular into the conservation fold. It is hoped that this and other neighbouring developments will go along way in soothing tensions between the Pokot and Samburu, especially around Ltungai Conservancy to the north-east, which sadly saw major ethnic conflict last year.

Ishaqbini Conservancy – this is the newest development under NRT and is located around the eastern sector of the Tana River Primate National Reserve in Ijara District. What may you ask is NRT doing all the way down there! This is in fact within NRT's geographical mandate as our Trust Deed states the NRT area as being east of the Rift Valley and north of the Tana River, but specifically NRT has responded to a request from KWS and Ijara stakeholders to help protect the hirola antelope, Africa's most endangered antelope with an estimated population of around 500 animals. This species is now largely confined to Ijara District between the Tana River and the Somali border. The proposed Ishaqbini Conservancy will cover the major sub-population of the hirola. NRT has been extremely fortunate to secure seed funding very quickly and will assist the communities concerned in implementing the NRT conservancy model.

In other developments within NRT's core area of operations:

Kalama Community Conservancy is in the final stages of negotiating a joint venture agreement with Saruni Safaris to develop a formal tourism operation for this conservancy;

Melako Conservancy has entered into an agreement with Extreme Africa Ltd over game bird shooting safaris. NRT is assisting conservancy scouts with game bird monitoring to set sustainable quotas for these safaris, which are proving popular and are already beginning to earn the conservancy significant revenue. Also with the fantastic rains elephant and buffalo have been seen for the first time in years around Laisamis and Merille; Through Tusk Trust, funds have been secured to upgrade Sarara Tented Camp, which is having a bumper season and providing really fantastic income for the Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust. Additional Tusk funds have also been used to purchase Namunyak a new tractor, trailer and grader blade, which will be used for construction projects and to maintain roads;

A wet season aerial survey was conducted for Sera and its surrounds – over 600 elephant, 250 reticulated giraffe and 800 Grant's gazelle were counted amongst others! And;

NRT has begun 5-Year Strategic Plan exercises with its constituent conservancies – draft plans are already in place for Sera, West Gate and Kalama conservancies. Collectively these conservancy plans will guide activities and developments for NRT over the next five years. Overall a busy time for NRT staff!

Matt Rice – Director of Operations NRT matt.rice@lewa.org



LewaUSA

Last fall, Ian Craig, James Munyugi and Richard Moller spent three busy weeks in the US, participating in fund raising events and meetings throughout the country. Their hard work was rewarded with pledges of support from those who shared their vision of Lewa as a catalyst for conservation. LewaUSA thanks those who arranged all the successful stops for Ian, Richard and James and those who made a financial commitment to the critical work of the Conservancy.

A new team was put in place to assist the LewaUSA Board, following the retirement of Helen Christian in December. Linda Millard now serves as the Executive Director and Paula Morris as the Administrative Assistant for LewaUSA. Linda can be reached at her California office (650) 851-7738 and Paula in Washington DC at (703) 680-3182.

Three Inspirational Philanthropists- under 21!

In January, three young women, unknown to each other and living in different US cities, made the same commitment- to raise funds for the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (LWC). The youngest, Allie Wielansky, age 13, planned her Bat Mitzvah party at the St. Louis Zoo and asked her guests to make a donation to the LWC rather than send her gifts she felt she did not need.

Allie has always loved animals and credits her grandmother, a docent at the St. Louis Zoo, for her early exposure to African wildlife. When her grandparents went on safari they returned home with wonderful stories of their experiences in Kenya and Lewa in particular. Their stories were Allie's inspiration to give back to both Lewa's conservation and education programs. The word "mitzvah" means good deed and certainly Allie's "mitzvah" will reverberate for a long time to come.

Sixteen year old Thalia Durgham lives in New York and studies at Chapin School but, last summer, she was a teacher at the Ntugi Primary/Secondary School and a staffer at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. While teaching, she realized many of the local school children were unaware of the role conservation played in their country and, after much discussion with local elders and LWC staff, she decided to find a way to buy... a bus!

She knew a bus could transport local children to Lewa where they would be given an introduction to the principals of conservation by zoologists, rangers, and other local Kenyans and actually see endangered rhinos.

Thalia is planning an April fund raising party in New York.

She is handling all the details including sponsorship (Lalique, IF Boutique), obtaining a beautiful site (the home of Ambassador Christian Wenaweser), invitations (online) and entertainment (Thalia will perform her own compositions

from her first full length album entitled "Passing By").

She wants to give back to the Kenyan community that did so much for her and there is no doubt Thalia will make it happen

Lewa is trying to raise funding for a school bus through Paul Collis in the UK and Thalia in the US.

Claire Ryan, is 20 years old and a junior at Brown University. She grew up in Denver, spent lots of time outdoors and developed a deep appreciation for the wilderness. Claire went on safari with her family last summer and thought Lewa was one of the most beautiful places she had ever seen. She tells of knowing, on an intellectual level, what Lewa was all about but was profoundly moved when she was there in person. She found Lewa to be a "pure and fascinating place". When she left she knew she wanted to give back. Claire has since started a business called Zawadi!Products. "Zawadi" means gift in Swahili and Claire's gifts are lovely pieces of jewelry made by women who are not exploited for their creativity and who will benefit from Claire's sales. Proceeds will also go to Lewa and an AIDS orphanage called Nyumbani in Nairobi.

As the new Executive Director of LewaUSA, I applaud the work of these three young women and wish them every success. They are an inspiration to us all and speak well for their generation.

Linda Millard - Executive Director, Lewa USA



Claire



Thalia



Allie

Finance

Price Waterhouse Cooper have audited the Conservancy's book since inception in 1996. The board approved the change of auditors in the October meeting. The incoming auditors, Ernest & Young embarked on the audit in February with draft report expected to be submitted to the board in March 2007.

In 2006 Lewa changed its accounting systems from Sage to Pastel Accounting systems which has the capability to integrate personnel, stores, deal with multicurrency reporting and handle consolidation. This has tremendously improved our operations by ensuring financial reports are available on a more timely basis. To further enhance efficiency in the stores and fleet management we acquired Roadbase Management system. Roadbase has superior performance in fleet management, inventories management and fixed assets, besides which it has enabled our stores to run on an online-realtime basis. We are working to ensure that Roadbase interface with Pastel seamlessly.

The formation of Lewa Enterprises in 2005 provided much needed direction to the Lewa's tourism activities, with a mandate of enhancing tourism's contribution to conservation. The medium to long-term agenda is to raise this contribution to 50% by next year. We are enhancing the products on offer and engaging in niche marketing to raise the profile of our product to the target market. The year has kicked-off at a low note but the rest of the tourism period looks promising. Donor funding has continued to play a very significant role in enabling Lewa to carry out its broad reaching activities. In 2007, the total donor funding is projected to be 60% of the total recurrent budget. This is hoped to be reduced to 50% by the year 2008 as part of the long term self sustainability objective. Lewa continues to be forever grateful for the tremendous goodwill and support received from local and international donors.

Isaac Njagi – Finance Manager injagi@lewa.org



Lewa Education Trust

Stephen Kasoo- Giving back to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and the Community.

On finishing high school, Stephen who comes from Il Ngwesi community sort a job in Lewa as gatekeeper/security personnel so as to save for his college education as he knew his mother could not afford to educate him through college because he had other siblings in primary and high school. It was in this position that he realized that one of the key objectives of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is to empower the local community through education, health, security, and conservation awareness. He then decided to talk to Ian Craig and Ian indeed promised to look into the possibility of securing funding for him. Barely a year into employment Ian introduced him to Susan Lyall, who financed Stephen through his bachelors degree in finance and management of which he graduated with honors at United States International University in Kenya. Susan agreed to support him pursue a Masters degree in Finance at the University of Nairobi which he is about to finish. As he was pursuing his masters, he had been assisting in the administration of Lewa Nairobi Office.

With the ever increasing poverty levels, achieving a bachelor's degree leave alone a master's degree would have been a dream to Stephen. His future plans are to give back through ensuring the vision and mission of Lewa is realized. He secured a job with Lewa Enterprises as the coordinator starting in January 2007 and he has done LET proud by coming back to offer his services in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy as well as educating his siblings. He too is a member of the LET Alumni and contributing to the endowment fund so as to give an opportunity to a needy child just as was offered to him.



Lewa Education Trust education supported schools gave a positive index in the 2006 Kenya Certificate of primary education and this was realized due to the different initiatives being deployed by LET like feeding programme, refresher courses for teachers, providing conducive learning environment through construction of classrooms, desks, and school supplies. Through the five year development plan, development is being actualized as per the priorities of the schools. There are 156 children in the bursary programme who are in primary, secondary, college and in universities. The Adult Literacy Programme has grown to six centers all serving the communities within and around Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

Faith Riunga – Lewa Education Trust faith@lewa.org



Lewa Switzerland

Thanks to our loyal donors and the big effort by our volunteers (markets sales, lectures, sale of calendars etc) Lewa Switzerland could achieve in 2006 a new record result of donations since the foundation started in 2004.

*Jambo from Switzerland !
Cathy and Roli Waldvogel*

A President's view on Lewa!

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya was a place I had heard about from friends for years and in February 2007 I got to visit. Descriptions and photos can hardly do it justice. Everywhere you look nature is looking back. There were numerous herds of Grant's gazelle, Grevy's and common zebra, buffalo, impala, you name it and we pretty much saw it. Elephant were also numerous as were giraffe. White rhino were spotted frequently and not so frequently but even more exciting, black rhino. For those non-hoofstock people we saw lion, leopard, rock hyrax, hyena (at night on a game drive, quite exciting), olive baboons, vervet monkeys, birds too numerous to mention and even a few reptiles. Lewa is a beautiful place with a variety of micro-habitats but mostly savannah and is home to a myriad of wildlife. Should you decide to visit, and you should, you won't be disappointed with the game viewing. Our guides were great and extremely knowledgeable about the wildlife and plants. Lewa Safari Camp is a beautiful retreat and you'll have the best soup in the world there. Sundowners here are beyond compare.

Also while at Lewa I was privileged to visit one of the schools that the Conservancy helps support. Lewa doesn't just believe in supporting wildlife, although that is its main purpose. The Conservancy fervently believes that the surrounding community must gain from its protection of the wildlife. And I believe the community does benefit. What I saw at the school I visited was not despair, although they have far less to work with than many children around the world. In each of their faces I saw hope, not only for them as individuals but for Kenya, Africa and ultimately the world. Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is helping to give them a brighter future and that's extremely precious. They are also instilling in these children a deeper understanding of their wildlife and the importance of conservation and the role they can play in conserving their wildlife, their heritage. There are also many other community programs that Lewa helps support including health care programs, women's programs and water projects, all of which benefit the surrounding communities.

In short, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy helps animals and people. It's a system of beliefs and standards that in my opinion is visionary. Having been a supporter of Lewa for years I have become an even more fervent supporter of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. If you're looking for great wildlife viewing please visit, you certainly won't be disappointed and you'll be helping to protect wildlife and so much more.

*Denise C. Wagner
President*

American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.



Human Resources

Medical Services at LWC's clinic

Dr Abid Butt joined the Lewa team in November 2005. Since then the Lewa staff and immediate communities have a reason to smile since they have the services of a doctor fortnightly. The staff nurses refer complicated and emergency cases to Nanyuki Cottage Hospital for Dr Butt's attention. Those who can wait are requested to come and see the doctor when he visits the Lewa Clinic. Dr Butt attends to an average of 35 patients in a visit; most of whom would have otherwise not accessed such attention due to the cost implications.

Dr. Butt and the Lewa Clinic team.



Besides the clinical services, laboratory tests are conducted at the clinic. This service has led to an increase in the number of patients since they do not have to be sent to other clinics for tests. Laboratory tests and treatment are done at a subsidized cost. Since this started a total of 8,715 patients were treated at the LWC Clinic. The number had gone up by 55% from the previous year.

The Leparua Clinic opened its doors to the sick in November 2006. The clinic is run by Rodney Kaleke, a registered community nurse. Kaleke has adapted well to that community and has been accepted not only because of his expertise but also by virtue of the fact that he is a Maa speaker. As at December 2006, 196 patients had been seen at that clinic. The Leparua and Lewa clinics have been a success story in helping the helpless in the society. This can be attributed to the services of a doctor, trained and dedicated community nurses, a trained laboratory technician, availability of required drugs, committed support staff and a well maintained ambulance which takes care of emergency cases amongst other clinic duties.

Lucy Ngathia – Human Resource Officer lucy@lewa.org

Lewa and the Internet

In a continuing attempt to market Lewa as effectively as possible and use the full capabilities of the internet to harness our potential we are introducing "Blogging" to the range of mediums we will use.

For those of you unfamiliar with blogging (which included me until a few months ago!): it is a personal diary written about what is going on with the option of commenting. It is also an effective fund raising tool. You can see the Lewa weekly "blog" on <http://lewadiary.blogspot.com/>.

We have also formed a partnership with Wildlife Direct who will be taking this blog and also one written by our new KWS vet – Stephen Chege (<http://www.wildlifedirect.org/lewa> and <http://www.wildlifedirect.org/lewa/lewavet>).

We are also in partnership with Google Earth and hope to have even more information on the site about Lewa and the NRT. Do go to Google Earth and look for "Isiolo Kenya" – the detail on the images is remarkable!

Safaricom Marathon 2007.

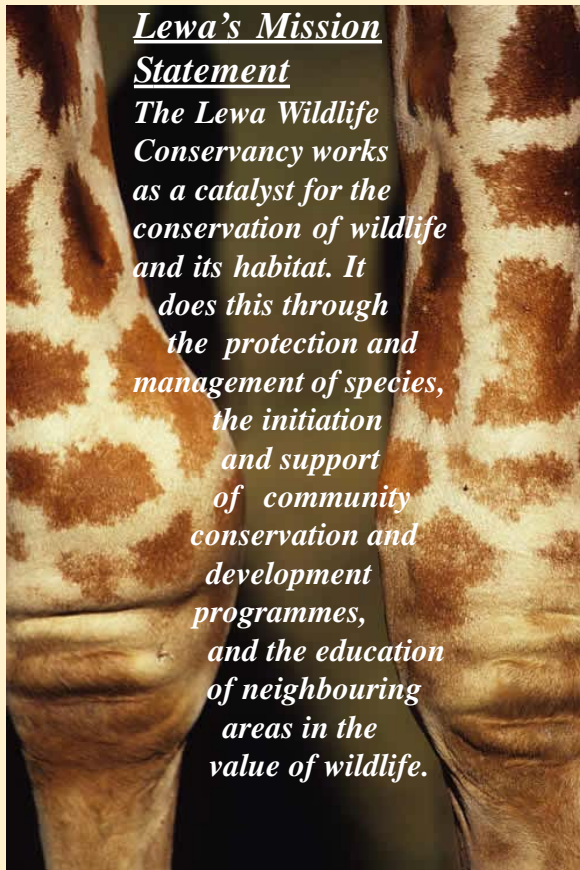
This year's race will take place on Lewa on the 23rd of June. If you are interested please contact Clare Moller on marathon@lewa.org

For reservations to stay at Lewa House, Lewa Safari Camp, Kifaru or Wilderness Trails please contact Bush and Beyond on info@bush-and-beyond.com Contact person; Kerin Tel; +254-723-723 668

For any VIP or donor bookings contact joanne@lewa.org or clare@lewa.org

Lewa's Mission 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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