

Lewa News

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY



From the Chief Executive Officer

A CATALYST FOR CHANGE



Dr. Jonathan Moss is the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. In this his first letter to our donors and supporters, he talks about his vision for Lewa's future and its role as a catalyst for conservation. But most importantly, Jonathan describes how he sees Lewa creating change for the future of Kenya's wildlife and people.

Dr. Jonathan Moss | CEO, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy's mission is to be a catalyst for conservation. And that we are. But that mission could easily be re-cast to be a **catalyst for change**. **Change** is at the heart of Lewa's success and **change** has been central to Ian's vision over the years. **Change in the prospects for endangered species** – creating space for wildlife and reversing a downward trend in black rhino numbers. **Change in attitude towards wildlife** by local communities – wildlife seen as a real benefit, not simply a liability, not simply a hazard to life or livelihood, not simply a source of meat or horn. **Change in the opportunities afforded those same local communities** – through community development, through enterprise, through water projects and through access to health care. And **change in the aspirations of local children** – through education.

This past year has seen **significant change** on Lewa itself. Ian Craig, Lewa's Founding Director, has taken on a wider role, serving as Strategic Advisor across a series of organisations, with a focus on the Northern Rangelands Trust. David Parkinson, Ian's Deputy Director, has left Lewa to establish a consulting firm.

And I have been charged with taking Lewa forward as its Chief Executive Officer. Following in Ian's footsteps is an immense privilege, an immense challenge and, undoubtedly, an immense responsibility – a responsibility that would weigh heavily on my shoulders were it not for two things. First, the fact that I can draw on the incredible support of

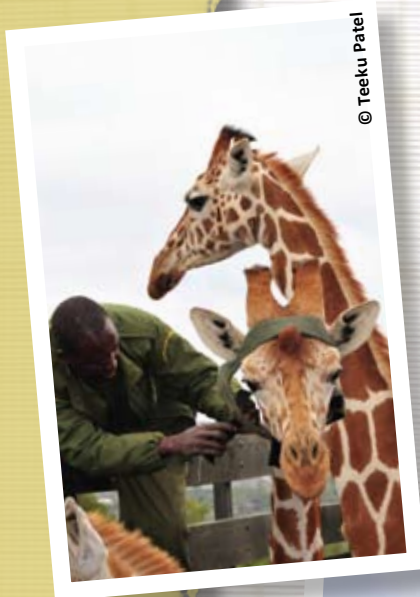
a highly-qualified and committed team on the ground at Lewa itself. And I have been pleased to welcome some outstanding new members to that team – Elodie Sampéré as Head of Conservation Marketing, and Mary Siboe as Finance Manager. And second, the incredible commitment of Lewa's supporters across the globe.

The year ahead will see further significant **change** at Lewa. An immediate priority is to improve our financial sustainability. This will mean tighter cost control, enhancing the contribution of our self-generated revenue streams through tourism, and the gradual development of an endowment or capital fund. Second, with the support of The Nature Conservancy, we will be working to **change** the status of the land upon which Lewa depends – securing, through easements in perpetuity, our investment in conservation and community livelihoods. And then **change** in our relationship with our neighbours – as a direct result of Lewa's success as a rhino breeding sanctuary, we will be building partnerships with the Borana Conservancy, with Il Ngwesi, and beyond, in an effort to create more space for our endangered species. Finally, we look forward to the completion of the Mt. Kenya Elephant Corridor – providing a link between Lewa and Kenya's foremost World Heritage Site.

So as Lewa continues to serve as an agent for **change**, I thank you for your continued support and for your commitment to all that Lewa represents – in terms of the conservation and management of endangered species, in terms of the potential to serve as a catalyst for conservation across the region, and in terms of the direct benefits conservation can and does generate for communities.



Wildlife Conservation



© Teeku Patel

One the giraffes is being fitted with a head-harness that incorporates a transmitter, which will allow for post-release monitoring

Three giraffes are being transported from Aberdare Country Club to Sera Conservancy. Needless to say, the convoy surprised a few people along the way



© Teeku Patel

TRANSLOCATING GIRAFFES

Moving a giraffe is a tall order. In fenced environments, when populations grow too large for the habitat available we are forced to move the animals to other, more hospitable lands. But rounding up and moving a giraffe takes an extraordinary level of skill, planning and teamwork. They are technically the most challenging animals to relocate.

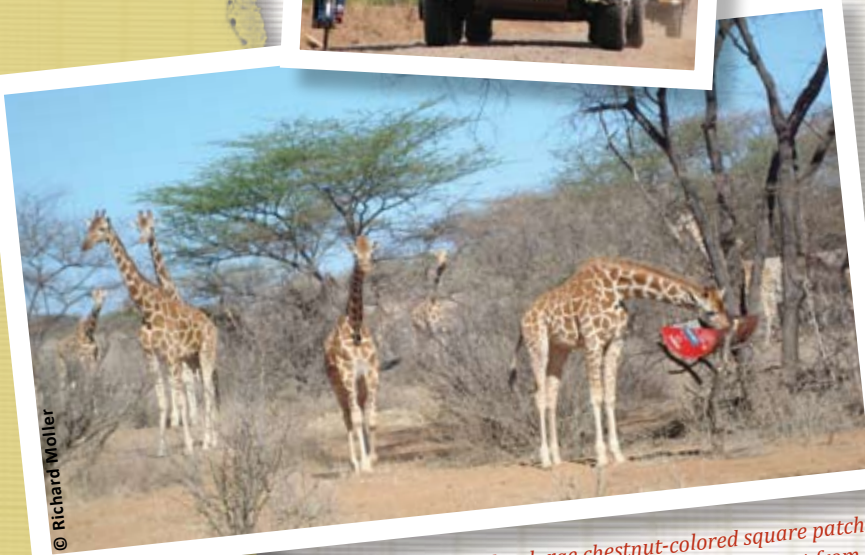
In August 2008, in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and under the watchful eye of Lewa and KWS joint veterinary department, the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy successfully translocated 22 reticulated giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata*) from the Aberdare Country Club to Sera Conservancy, in northern Kenya. This is the first phase of a translocation approved by KWS to boost existing animal population in the Sera area.

Historically, Sera held viable population of wildlife. But an influx of illegal firearms in the region in the last two decades has helped decimate wildlife populations. In recent years, the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), has helped create a community conservancy at Sera, providing increased security for the people and the wildlife. There are plans for a tourism initiative at Sera, but the wildlife population must be present first. When all is said and done, Lewa hopes to have relocated about up to 80 reticulated giraffes, 400 impalas, 100 beisa oryx, 50 ostriches and up to 100 elands to Sera. These translocations will take time and resources, but are necessary to boost Sera's wildlife populations.

For this phase of the translocation, it was decided that animals should be moved from the Aberdare Country Club. Their population had reached critical levels and needed to be reduced. Unless something was done, some of the animals would have undoubtedly died of starvation.

When the animals arrived at Sera, they were held within a fabricated holding facility for about six to eight weeks. This is done in an effort to stop them from dispersing far and wide, which would have happened had they been released right away in the wild.

We are thrilled to report that all the animals that were moved are doing well. Three of them have been fitted with a head-harness that incorporates a transmitter. This will allow for post-release monitoring, most likely by air, which is the most productive way, given the lack of road system in the Sera area. Our team will be able to gather valuable information which can be used to guide future translocations.



© Richard Moller

The reticulated giraffe has large chestnut-colored square patches defined by a network of fine white lines which is different from the Rothschild and Maasai species. It is found in the arid acacia bush scrub of north eastern Kenya

SOUNDING THE ALARM: POACHING ON THE RISE IN KENYA

Poaching is on the rise in Kenya, and not in a small way.

According to local conservation organisations, since the beginning of the year, 46 known elephant carcasses have been found in northern Kenya alone, and several armed and unarmed poachers have been apprehended. Between June and August, KWS statistics show that 682 kilogrammes of ivory had been seized. This is a dramatic increase from previous years, and one that should worry conservationists everywhere.

Poaching in Kenya, particularly in northern Kenya, is not a new problem. There are important elephant migration routes running through the region, which make the job of poachers a lot easier. But in the last few years, after extensive security network improvements, after the ivory trade ban and after an influx of resources, we had thought the worst was behind us. We were wrong.

Many are linking the slow but steady increase in poaching to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which in July allowed Botswana, South Africa and Namibia to sell a total of 108 tonnes of ivory to China and Japan. In Kenya, it is believed that Chinese workers, who are building the great northern highway, from Isiolo to Marsabit, might be stimulating the local market. Informer's networks tell us that the price of ivory is at an all-time high, and the increase in poaching coincides with their coming to Kenya. It is a difficult and sensitive issue, but it must be addressed.

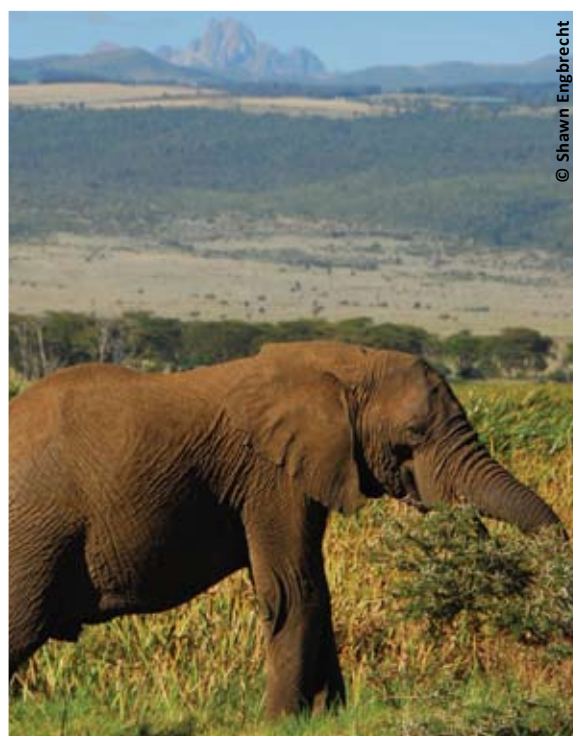
The Lewa Security Department has been busy trying to keep poachers away and dismantle poacher's networks. We have received numerous calls via our radio room, alerting us of poaching attempts, or of animals already dead. We were instrumental in the arrest of four Somali poachers in early August, one of whom had been on the KWS "most-wanted" list for years.

Lewa will continue to invest resources into the fight against poaching. We will continue to support KWS by lending our resources and expertise to them. But most importantly, we will continue to work with the local communities, as they are ultimately the best guardians of wildlife.



© Richard Moller

*Above: one of the elephants that was killed by poachers this year. Our team intervened before they had time to take his tusks.
Below: an elephant feeds peacefully on Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. With your help, we will continue to invest resources into the fight against poaching.*



© Shawn Engbrecht

Wildlife Conservation

GREVY'S ZEBRAS ON THE MOVE

Since 2000, the oscillating trend of the number of Grevy's zebra (*Equus grevyi*) on the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy has been of concern not only to us, but to all the stakeholders involved in the conservation of this critically endangered equid.

Lewa has always been a vital refuge for Grevy's zebra: it holds the largest single population of Grevy's zebras in the world, and provides a key birthing area and dry season refuge for the species. Lewa's population is protected and consequently does not face the intense human pressures characteristic of populations across northern Kenya. In addition, Lewa's sub-population is only one of the three that have been shown to increase in numbers, making it of high conservation significance.

One of Lewa's main objectives is to use its population to improve existing Grevy's zebra populations elsewhere in northern Kenya and to restock their former rangelands; but this can only be achieved if our population reaches its optimal level. Until now, the two limiting factors to the growth of Lewa's stock have been identified as competition with the ubiquitous plains zebra (*Equus quagga*), and of course, predation.

However, in March 2008, the aerial count of Grevy's zebra on Lewa registered a significant drop in numbers compared to the 2007 census. It was difficult for us to explain this drop: the predation levels witnessed over the last two years were low, and we knew that we had improved foaling rates. At the same time, aerial security *reces* in the Livestock Marketing Department (LMD) – a block of land contiguous to Lewa by the northern elephant gap – showed over 50 breeding Grevy's zebras in the area. This represented quite a shift: LMD is characterized by a high density of livestock, and Grevy's zebras rarely used it in the past. The Lewa Research & Wildlife Departments were keen to determine where these zebras were coming from, but more importantly, if they had moved from Lewa.

To answer this question, we did routine aerial surveys and ground patrols using vehicles, to establish location and trends in numbers. We managed to photograph the stripe patterns on the rumps of all females encountered. These photos were compared against a customised standard ID database containing over 90% of all female Grevy's zebras on Lewa. The results have been very intriguing. Over 75% of the females were actually Lewa animals, some of them having been sighted in the Conservancy as late as November 2007.

If these zebras survive in LMD, they will significantly contribute towards Lewa's aim of being a source for restocking the former rangelands of this species. In order to make a more informed assessment of the levels of emigration and immigration into Lewa, plans are at an advanced stage to install an infrared camera at the elephant gap. Similarly, ecological factors that may be favouring Grevy's zebras in the LMD area will be investigated.

One can distinguish the Grevy's zebra from the plains zebra by its larger size, big rounded ears, white unmarked belly, and finer black stripes. An endangered species, Grevy's zebras are only found in northern Kenya and south eastern Ethiopia



Grevy's zebra foals are born with a coat that is stripped reddish-brown. This gradually darkens to black. Young zebras also have a dorsal mane extending all the way to the base of the tail, which can be raised when the animal is excited and lies flat when it is relaxed



© Shawn Engbrecht

MILESTONE IN RHINO CONSERVATION

On Friday, August 21st, one of our white rhino females, named Opondo, gave birth to a very healthy calf. Opondo is 22.6 years old, and this is her sixth calf. This new birth brought the total number of rhinos on Lewa to 100, with 58 black rhinos and 42 white rhinos.

The future of black and white rhino is still uncertain. Over the last 30 years, they have been driven to near extinction, with the world rhino population falling by more than 90 percent. The only cause of this decline is man's relentless pursuit of the animals' horn. In Kenya alone, the numbers of black rhino dropped from an estimated 20,000 in 1973 to just under 300 animals in 1983. This represented an average loss of 5.5 rhino per day in 10 years!

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy's efforts to protect rhinos in the wild are critical to the survival of the species. Lewa now holds 12% of the confirmed black rhino population in Kenya. The constant population increase we are witnessing on Lewa is a direct result of our security efforts. There has not been one poaching incident on the Conservancy to date. We are extremely proud of these achievements and realize it would not have been possible without the constant support of dedicated individuals around the globe.

If you would like to adopt one of our rhinos, please contact Sarah Nkatha at sarah.nkatha@lewa.org. Rhino adoptions go directly towards supporting our rhino programme.



Opondo, one of our female white rhino, and her new calf. This photo was taken just a few days after the calf was born. This is Opondo's sixth calf

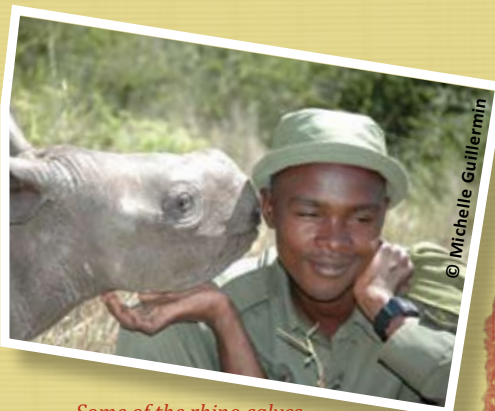
From the Field

BY IAN CRAIG

The past six months have been testing times for many of the NRT community conservancies. With the dry conditions, competition between livestock and wildlife resulting in conflict over grazing and water all came to a head. This forced much of the wildlife into the more remote corners of the conservation areas and also resulted in direct conflict between adjoining communities. Thankfully the rains have come easing these tensions. The Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) can now look carefully at the issues that catalyzed these conflicts and those that helped mitigate them.

The key issue is the depth of the understanding amongst the land-owning communities of the role that conservation can play. In the older and more established conservancies - such as Namunyak and Il Ngwesi - with strong self-generated cash flows and leadership, conflicts were managed by the respective committees and resolved promptly with acceptance by the community at large. In the newer conservancies this was not the case, and the historical fears of community conservation - loss of land to wildlife - came clearly to the fore allowing skeptics of conservation within the communities to capitalize on this fear. Historical tensions that have been simmering for years resulted in direct conflict between adjoining communities. However, conservation played the key role in keeping all the factions talking. There is little doubt that without the resources, communication and elected committees in place, these tensions would be significantly higher.

Tribal-based conflicts will continue to be part of NRT's challenge in promoting conservation. If wildlife is to flourish within this environment, it will be once revenues such as those in Sarara, Il Ngwesi and West Gate bear fruits. Only then will we see a cohesive and coordinated community response to this challenge facing much of pastoral Africa.



Some of the rhino calves born on Lewa Wildlife Conservancy need to be hand-reared at a cost of about \$9,500 a year. These calves need to be hand-reared for a total of four years

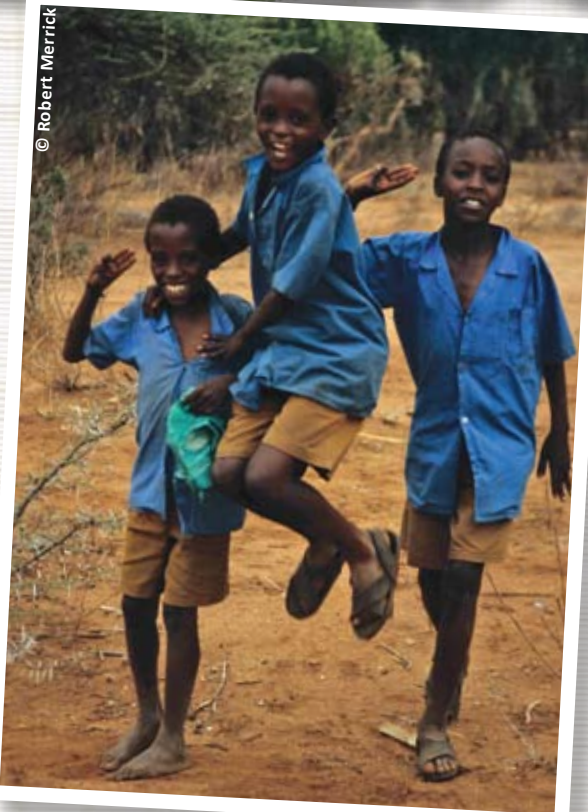
Community Development

EDUCATION MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Every once in a while, there is a student that sets him or herself apart from the rest – one such student is Hussein Kadir.

Hussein, now 21 years old, was born in Mutunyi, one of the many communities supported by the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. His father passed away when Hussein was very young, leaving his mother responsible for raising eight children on her own. A hard worker by nature, Hussein graduated first in his class from Mutunyi Primary School. His accomplishments caught the attention of Peter Linneman, one of Lewa Education Programme's most generous donors. Peter sponsored Hussein through four years of secondary school, and, once again, he graduated first in his class.

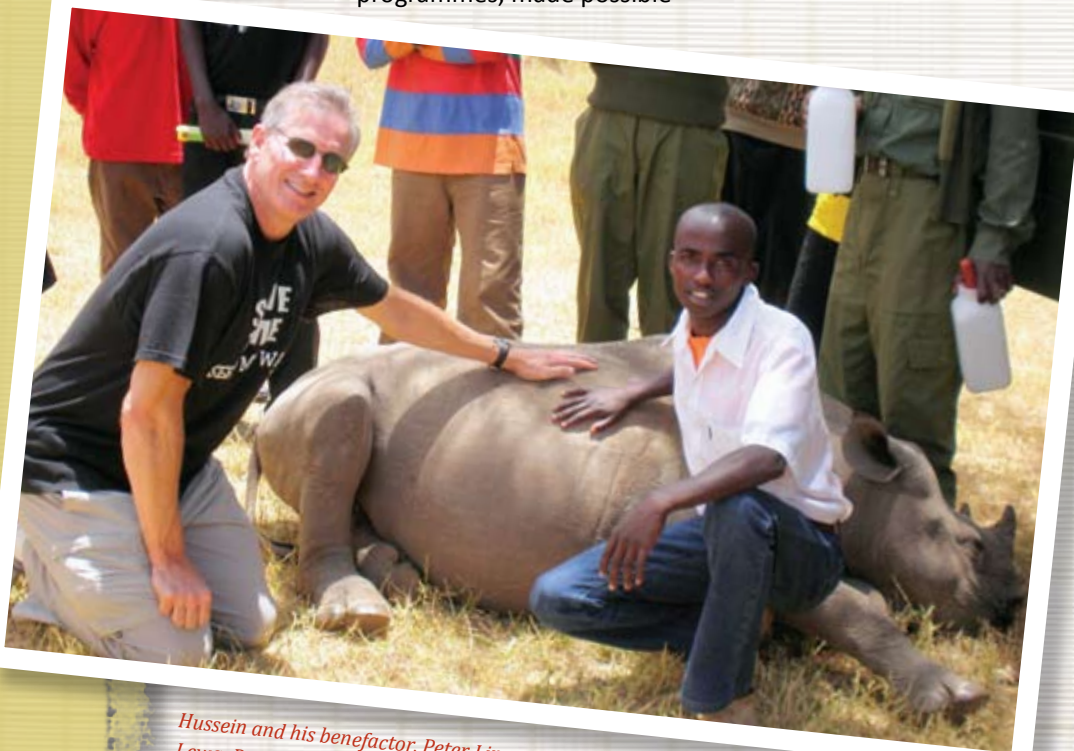
Hussein now volunteers at Mutunyi Primary School; he has been admitted to a public university and hopes to find a sponsor. In the meantime, he serves as a role model for the children in his community. It is our hope that through such programmes, made possible



© Robert Merrick

only through the generosity of our donors, other students will seek to emulate his success.

We are very proud of Hussein and his accomplishments and wanted to share his success with you.



Hussein and his benefactor, Peter Linneman, visit Lola, one of our hand-reared black rhinos on Lewa. Peter and Hussein spent some time together in August when Peter came to visit all the students he sponsors through the Lewa Education Programme

ONE ADULT AT A TIME

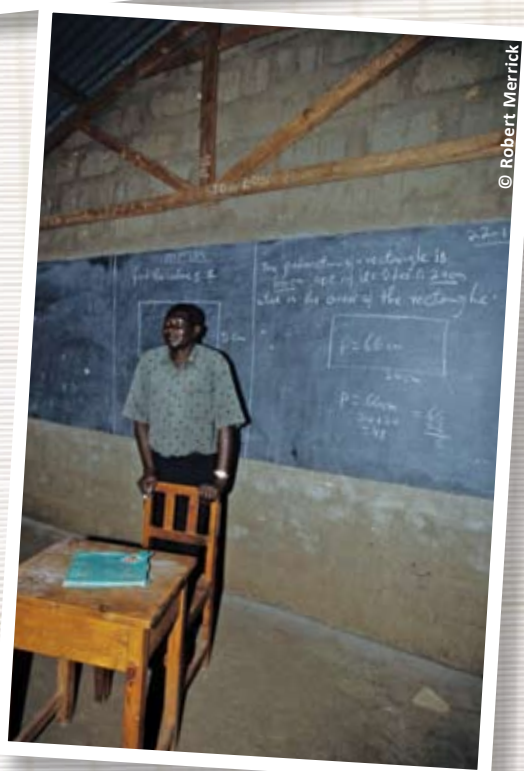
Educating and empowering adults has become an important part of Lewa's Education Programme. When the adult literacy programme was started at Matunda in 2004, 50 students were enrolled. Today the programme covers 336 students.

The rationale is simple: if parents are literate and have better access to education, they will understand the need to educate their children. Our goal is to give every adult living around the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy the opportunity to acquire the necessary basic skills to make informed decision about their health, their family and their children. In addition, adult learners acquire a deeper understanding of the positive linkages between conservation and community development. One adult at a time, we are able to change attitudes towards wildlife, which is now seen as a real benefit to the communities. And that is the real victory.

Adult Literacy students are being taught basic reading and writing, basic arithmetic, Kiswahili, English, nutrition, general hygiene, agriculture, HIV/AIDS awareness and civic education. In addition, the students are engaged in income-generating activities such as dressmaking and baking. Finally, the Lewa Conservation bus has taken these students to see wildlife first hand – for many, this was their first time to experience wildlife in a non-conflict situation.

Since the programme was started, we have seen a significant reduction in ethnic conflict. Team work has been introduced; standards of living have been raised. In the long-term, we would like to build a resource centre for our adult students. The centre would undoubtedly allow us to improve our programme further and to ensure that we create more income generating activities for the communities.

For more information on the Adult Literacy Programme and to find out how you can help, please contact Faith Riunga at faith@lewa.org.



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The Lewa Education Programme takes its Adult Literacy Programme very seriously. The students are also very committed to learn new skills in order to improve their livelihoods and that of their families. Our goal is to give every adult living around the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy the opportunity to acquire the necessary basic skills to make informed decision about their health, their family and their children



Community Development

THE COMMUNITIES PLAN FOR THEIR FUTURE

There are many challenges facing Kenya today. Reduction of poverty, conservation of our natural resources and sustained economic growth are three that concern the communities neighbouring Lewa. As a leader in the region, and acting as a catalyst for development, Lewa has taken on the mission to mobilize communities to engage in conservation of their natural resources as a means to reduce poverty and to create economic growth. This we call the Lewa Community Development Programme.

The Lewa Community Development Programme was born out of the needs of our local communities. They are living close to wildlife, sometimes negatively affected by its presence, and struggling to feed their families and send their children to school. It is paramount that the communities directly benefit from wildlife; otherwise, the work Lewa does will never be understood or accepted and, indeed, may be threatened. In the past ten years, we have worked extremely hard to improve the livelihoods of our local communities. We have given communities incentive to conserve their land – and treat wildlife, not as a threat to their livelihoods, but as a boon to

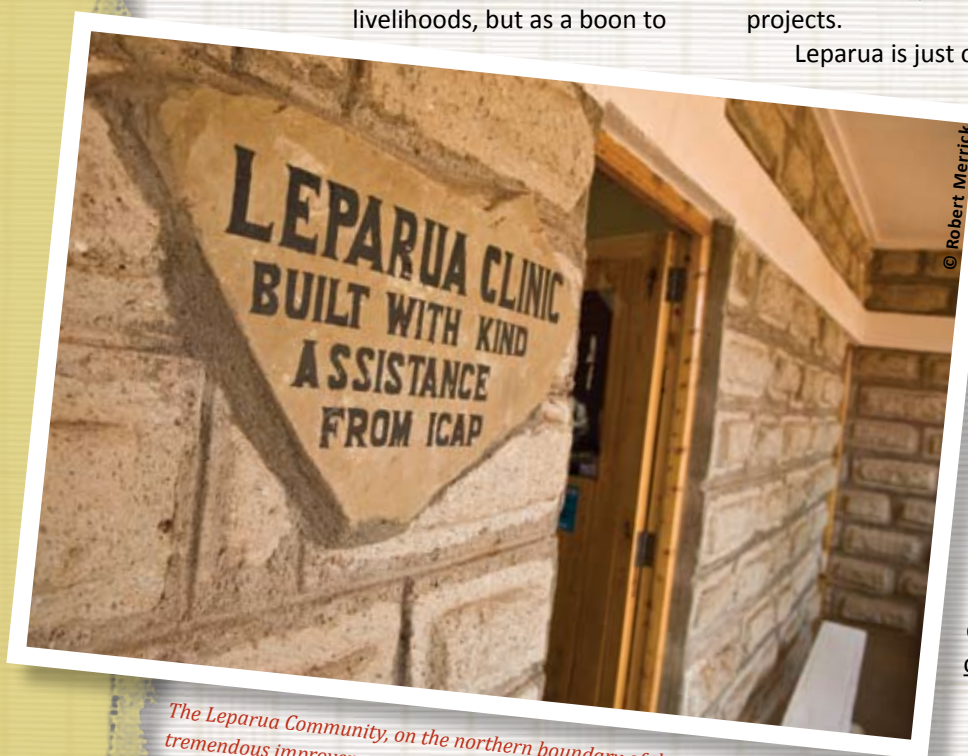
their prosperity.

The Leparua community, on the northern boundary of the Conservancy, is one of the Programme's success stories. When Lewa first engaged with Leparua, it was an extremely poor community, with virtually no infrastructure in place, no school, no health care services and livestock was their only source of income. Lewa, with significant input from the elders, put in place a development plan which helped the community not only to identify their long-term needs but to realistically prioritize them.

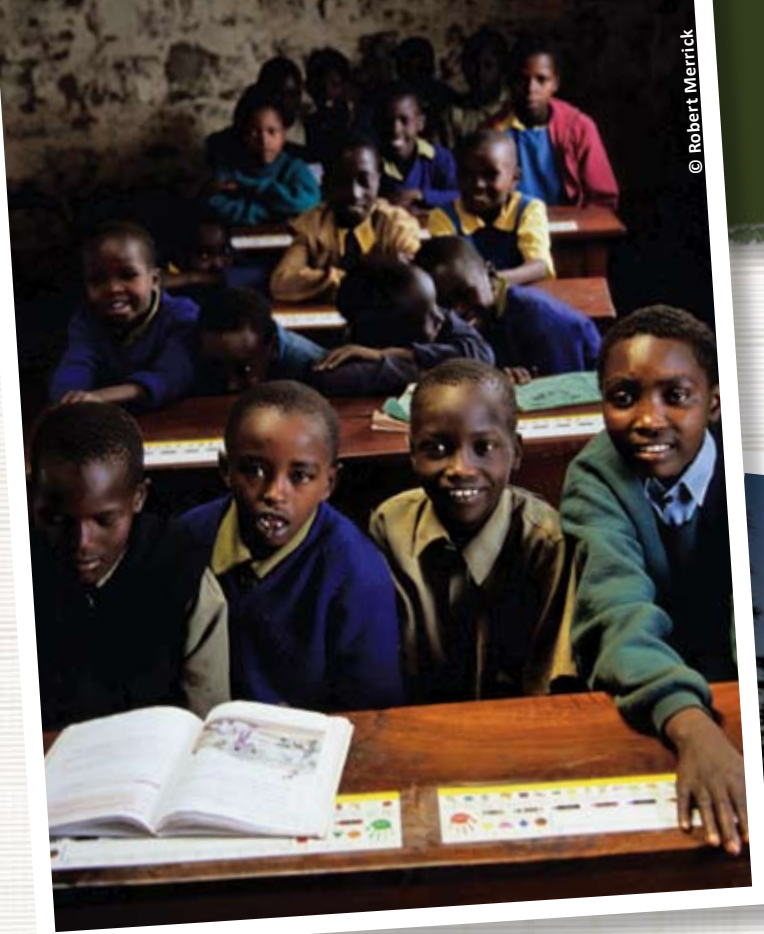
There is now a school at Leparua, which educates 208 children, and which continues to be improved through the Lewa Education Programme. There is a clinic which sees on average 150 patients a month, not only from Leparua, but from surrounding communities. In addition, the community is now managing their livestock to avoid rangeland degradation. There are also plans to create a Conservancy at Leparua to ensure the conservation, management and sustainable use of natural resources, with the ultimate goal of developing tourism and other environmentally sustainable income-generating projects.

Leparua is just one example of the work

Lewa is doing to support its surrounding communities and ensure that they directly benefit from wildlife conservation. There is more work to be done, but our innovative work continues to reinforce the investment of communities in conserving the wildlife that is their legacy. For more information on the Community development Programme and to find out how you can help, please contact John Kinoti at communities@lewa.org.



The Leparua Community, on the northern boundary of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, has seen tremendous improvements to its infrastructure. The Leparua Clinic, which sees an average of 150 patients a month, is just one of the many benefits the communities has witnessed since working closely with Lewa



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© Yvonne Muinde

LEWA PERSONALITIES: PETER MUSEE MUTUKU

Before the work day starts at 7am on the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, the first person to arrive is always Peter Musee Mutuku. Mutuku's job is to make sure close to 50 staff members enjoy a clean and tidy work space. And he takes his job very seriously.

Mutuku has worked on Lewa since 1994, when he started as a casual worker at the old farm house next to the Lewa Headquarters. He quickly got himself

promoted to a full-time position as a cleaner. Mutuku is one of Lewa's most lovable staff. His infectious laughter can be heard through our Headquarters as he goes about his work. And it runs in the family: Mutuku has a brother that works as a gardener at Lewa House. Mutuku was born in 1953, the first-born of five children. He has a wife and seven children, who he proudly says "all go to school."

In early September, after a bad fall, Mutuku had to undergo a very serious operation to remove a blood clot in his brain. The surgery went well and Mutuku is now recovering at home. He will be back at work in November. We all wish Mutuku a very speedy recovery!



© Joanne Machira

Peter Musee Mutuku is one of the many people that make the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy such a special place. Peter has worked on Lewa since 1994

Sustainability



The children line up in the early morning anxious to start their race at the Safaricom Marathon on Lewa



Competitor Mark Muinde and his sister Yvonne proudly cross the finish line together after completing the grueling full-marathon on Lewa

NINTH SAFARICOM MARATHON ON LEWA RAISES RECORD-HIGH FUNDS

Over Ksh31 million (approximately US\$450,000) was raised by this year's Safaricom Marathon on Lewa, the highest amount ever from the annual race. Since its inception in 2000, the Marathon has raised more than Ksh150 million (approximately US\$ 1.7 million).

Ten percent of this year's proceeds will be donated to the Kenya Red Cross Society, to assist those who were internally displaced following the post-election crisis. Other beneficiaries of the Marathon will include health, education, conservation and community development projects in and around the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, as well as similar projects Kenya-wide.

Sponsors of the 2008 Marathon included Huawei Technologies, Nokia Siemens, Cementers Ltd., Morgan Stanley, Standard Chartered, GlaxoSmithKlein, Hewlett Packard, Nokia, Motorola, General Motors, Ericsson, DHL, RIM – BlackBerry, Linksoft Communications, Pesa Point, Safarilink, Kobo Safaris, Psitek, Ribena – GSK, KPMG, Uchumi, Highland Water, Nakumatt and BATUK. Safaricom staff, known as the Safaricom Lions of Lewa, raised Ksh5 million.

"The satisfaction of taking part in the Safaricom Marathon for many participants lies in the fact that they are running for a good cause. This is an event with purpose – to raise funds to make life better for others. On behalf of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, I convey a big thank you to everyone," said Dr. Jonathan Moss, Lewa's Chief Executive Officer.

Organised by Lewa in close partnership with the UK

charity, Tusk Trust, the marathon has not only become a firm fixture in Kenya's event calendar, but it also attracts runners and spectators from around the world, including the UK, USA and Australia. This year, the runners were cheered on by over 5,000 spectators. Some walked, some jogged and some ran their way around the dusty tracks which wind their way through Lewa's spectacular scenery. Although all the big game is moved away from the route prior to the race, many runners reported seeing elephant, zebra and giraffe on their way round!

The event will celebrate its **10th anniversary** on Saturday, the 27th of June, 2009. For information on entry and accommodation please contact marathon@lewa.org.



Runners enjoy the spectacular scenery on Lewa

WALKING ON LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY: A UNIQUE SAFARI EXPERIENCE

The Conservation Tourism department oversees three lodges on the Conservancy: Lewa Safari Camp, Lewa House and Kifaru. All of the earnings from these operations go directly towards Lewa's core conservation programmes. This tourist season has presented challenges beyond our control, but Lewa has weathered the storm, thanks, in large part, to return visitors.

Lewa enjoys many repeat guests, such as Shawn Engbrecht, a long-time visitor. He has taken to foot, literally, as on his last extended stay he opted for walking rather than driving game safaris. Always accompanied by a highly qualified, armed guide, Shawn tells of his experience walking around the Conservancy. Our hospitality team looks forward to his next visit in January 2009.

"As a nature photographer, vehicle safaris provide unfettered access to the wildlife of Lewa. It is a ringside seat, peering into the goldfish bowl of animal activity that is fascinating to us all. But to WALK is akin to swimming inside said fishbowl. To drive by an elephant is certainly a wonderful experience. But to stand amongst them, gazing up at these enormous animals, is quite another. To feel the ground shake, to listen to the rumble of stomachs and the crackling of the acacia trees as these magnificent creatures strip them of their leaves, to hear them communicate is a lesson in the awesome majesty of Africa.

Walking provides for experiences that vehicle borne clients never get to see. I once stumbled into 17 wild dogs at a range of five metres before the grass exploded with their scurrying black forms. Hyenas have broken cover within touching distance. I have padded softly around a half dozen slumbering cheetahs and once had the

privilege to observe lions in transit. This is the hidden side of Lewa which I find so alluring.

Vehicle safaris permit you to observe all that is magnificent of Lewa. Walking safaris permit you to live it." - Shawn Engbrecht

Please note that walking on Lewa is subject to our Code of Conduct and can only be done when accompanied by an armed guide.



Shawn Engbrecht, accompanied by a highly-qualified armed guide, walks the trails of Lewa and discovers many special companions, such as the elephants in the background, or these two cheetahs. Shawn is a repeat guest on Lewa. We thank him for his incredible support



Donor Profile

MONICA VILLIGER: A FAMILY COMMITMENT TO LEWA

Monica's first visit to Lewa was in 1989. Her sister, Evi Bernhard, who lived on Lewa, had started a women's project, and her commitment to the Conservancy was incredible. When Evi died in 1999, during a heart transplant operation, Monica knew she had to carry on her sister's legacy. Supporting Lewa's community projects became her family's mission.

With the money raised at her sister's Memorial service, Monica and her family finished the construction of the 'Boma' next to Lewa's Headquarters. When she went back to Switzerland, one of Monica's friends, a journalist, offered to write an article to raise additional support. Lewa Switzerland was born. In 2001, Monica sponsored her first orphan at one of the Lewa-supported schools. By the end of 2008, 13 children will have been sponsored by Friends of Lewa Switzerland.

Monica and her husband, Walter, return every year. They continue to enroll new supporters for Lewa Switzerland, by giving lectures and spreading the word about the Conservancy. They have raised money for the clinic, for the schools and for the children. Their passion for Lewa is contagious and unparalleled.

"When my sister first visited Lewa," said Monica "she sent me a postcard saying she had found paradise on earth. I feel the same way about this place - its people, its wildlife, its landscape. It makes me so happy to see the positive changes since 1989. I, and all the members of Lewa Switzerland, will continue to support Lewa with all our hearts."



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Our Mission

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.

Conservation Tourism

ONLY THE BEST GUIDES ON LEWA

The Conservation Tourism department is proud to announce that senior guide, Daniel Kasoo, has completed his Silver level exam in professional guiding. There are only 129 Silver level guides in Kenya, and it requires a very high degree of knowledge, both theoretical and practical. We want to congratulate Daniel on this monumental achievement!

The Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association (KPSGA) conducted testing in Nairobi on September 17th, 2008. Daniel was one of only three from a group of 34 to successfully pass the exam. There is a three year wait for the opportunity to sit for the Gold test. Currently, there is only one Gold level guide in Kenya.

Daniel has worked on the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy for nine years. He is one of our most experienced guides, and is an expert in animal behaviour. He leads a team of 10 safari guides - all Bronze level and working towards their Silver. Four of them are taking the difficult exam in November. Our team of guides offers a wide range of expertise to enrich the experience of every tourist no matter what their interest, be it birds, mammals or the fascinating medicinal plants used in traditional African medicine. The motivation of the Lewa guides is to give all of our guests not only a warm welcome but a better understanding of all that Lewa has to offer, ensuring the Conservancy continues to be considered one of the foremost safari destinations in Kenya.

