

THE LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

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The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy - an appeal

The work of Lewa is expanding and never ending and we always need help, not just for us but for the communities and people we work with outside of Lewa.

If you have enjoyed your stay here and would like to support our work further, please consider making a donation to the Conservancy. Your lodge or camp manager will happily pass on anything you would like to give us, which can be in any currency. Overseas cheques are acceptable and should be made payable to the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Alternatively ,you can send a cheque to our American or UK offices.

In the United States (registered charity no. 87-0572187)

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy USA

P.O Box 368

Marshall, Virginia 20116 Tel/Fax: 540-364-0128

In the UK:

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy UK

Hugo De Ferranti 5 Anderson Street London SW3 3LU

UK

Please fill in your name and address here:
Name:
Address:
City:
Zip or postal code:
Country:
Email:
 Yes, I would like to receive the Lewa Newsletter

What would you like your donation to help: (Tick in the boxes to the left)

□ Wildlife Security Rations for the security guards: \$25 for four men for one week

Handheld radio \$450

Salary for one ranger for one month: \$150

Binoculars \$200 a pair

Annual salary for armed guard \$2100

☐ Species Conservation Rhino (30 Black and 32 White) Rhino tracker salary \$1200/year

Grevy's Zebra, translocation \$200 /zebra Tracking collars for predators \$300 each

☐ Education Bursary for secondary school: \$ 600 / year /student

Bursary for primary school: \$ 400 /year / student

Lunch for the nursery school (70 pupils) for one year: \$ 500

University fee; \$ 6076 /year/student

□ Communities Namunyak, new car \$35000. Uniform for one security guard \$90

Il Ngwesi, new fridge (325 L) \$1500

Women's groups and Micro-financing programme \$10000





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Being given the opportunity to write an introductory letter to this report is proof in itself of the success of the Conservancy's work.

The idea of protecting Lewa's wildlife and developing this as a resource in conjunction with our neighbours grew from a shared vision of two men - Peter Jenkins, a netired Game Warden with fifty years' experience in Government service, and Kinyanjui Lesenteria, a bushman with a similar number of years' living with wildlife.

As you read through this report it will become clear that the concept has grown far beyond the dreams of any of the founders. The wildlife numbers are increasing, the economies are strengthening and nationally, new conservancies are growing based on exactly the same principles.

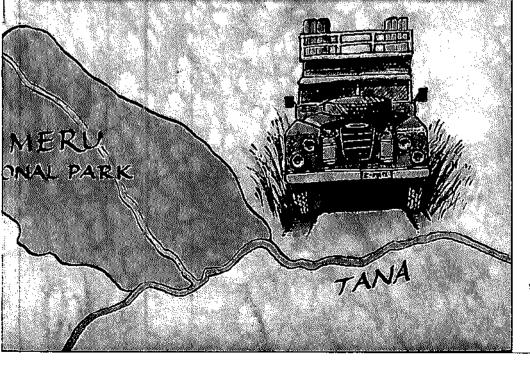
None of this would be possible without the total support of my family, the Kenyan Government and the individuals, who, over the years have watched the Conservancy's growth and generously contributed in many different ways.

The concept of wildlife as a form of land use is now irrevocably established both on Lewa and Il Ngwesi. The challenge now is to continue to strengthen the economies of scale. Lewa will remain as a haven for wildlife and will continue to support, in every way possible, the community projects it is working with.

It is my hope that the Conservancy can become a reservoir of wildlife from which to restock new areas and the catalyst to initiate similar developments within Kenya.







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THE LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

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Registered in the US as a charitable organisation, No. 87-0572187 (A company limited by guarantee and not having share capital)

The directors who have been appointed by the members and have held office during the year were:-

CHAIRMAN N. Sandys-Lumsdaine

DIRECTORS 1 Craig

W Craig

H de Ferranti H Astrun

A Merz

F Dyer

P Goss

W Roberts

SECRETARY

E M Kimani PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of the Conservancy is wildlife conservation and land management under a managing agency agreement with the owners of the land on which the Conservancy is located.

Produced by Haymarket Customer Publishing, Somerset House, Somerset Road, Teddington TWT1 8RU, UK, Tel: +44 (0) 208 8267 5000 C Haymarket Magazines 2001

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Farm past, LWC present

Wildlife used to roam free in Kenya, sharing land with farmed cattle and man. An increase in poaching and black marketeering caused its numbers to suffer which is when the LWC decided to take action

an Craig took over the running of his parents' cattle ranch, Lewa Downs, in 1977. The ranch covers some 40,000 acres of thorn-bush plains on the northern slopes of Mount Kenya. When the mountain's craggy heights aren't hidden by cloud, their snow-capped peaks dominate the view to the north. Wildlife used to roam freely on the ranch, but as poaching escalated in the Seventies their numbers were threatened especially those of the rhino.

In 1983 Anna Merz, an English woman living in Kenya, approached Ian with the proposal that she build and finance a rhino sanctuary on the western side of the ranch. The Craig family were enthusiastic. They had had no rhino at Lewa Downs for 10 years. None had ever been killed while on the ranch, but as soon as they left its safety, they were murdered by poachers. The Craigs gave Anna 5,000 acres and later, another 5,000. Her work was the catalyst for what would become the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

However, it was the sickening sight of an elephant massacre in 1988 that caused Ian to realise that wildlife

had no future unless local communities participated in its protection. Land erosion, poaching and over-grazing were destroying the land, but lan believed that with the right action and cooperation this could be reversed.

His ambition was to take down the fences between neighbouring ranches and open up the migratory routes between Mount Kenya and the Mathews

Mountains in the north. First though, he had to convince local communities to stop seeing animals as competition for food and instead see them as a source of income.

In 1995 the Craig family turned the entire farm into a conservancy – known as the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (or LWC) – with a mandate to protect and conserve the wildlife of Kenya. A fence to protect the animals runs around the whole perimeter except for a single monitored entrance allowing for seasonal movements to the northern frontier regions. (The government-owned protected forest of Ngare Ndare – 5,000 acres to the south-east of the ranch – is also included within the fence's perimeter.)

As the Conservancy has grown, the amount of wildlife it supports has increased. Today the 45,000 acre Conservancy has more than 25 per cent of the world's threatened Grevy's zebra population, 31

indigenous black rhino and 30 white rhino as well as many other animals native to this part of East Africa. Animal management and research is now a vitally important part of the work carried out, producing valuable scientific data which influences decisions.

For example, scientists from Princeton were invited to study the Grevy's zebra. Insights gained from studying its impact on the environment and vice versa will influence management and conservation strategies for the species throughout Kenya.

Community development projects are ongoing at LWC, and two additional areas have benefited from the Conservancy's experience and support. Il Ngwesi is a 16,500 acre group-ranch to the north-west which now has a lodge owned and run by the ll Ngwesi people who are Laikipiak Maasai. All profits are returned to the community who are now avid supporters of conservation. The lodge was runner-up in the British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Award in 1998, and is a great success story of East Africa.

Further north is Namunyak, a larger 75,000 acre

trust, which is owned by the Samburu community. LWC's involvement with wildlife conservation and community development projects has significantly contributed to the security of the area. There has been no commercial poaching there since 1998. Last year LWC translocated 15 giraffes to Namunyak, relieving an overpopulation problem at Lewa and simultaneously helping to build up Namunyak's stock of wildlife. LWC is proud to be a

source of wildlife, contributing to the restocking of the whole of the northern region.

Although its boundaries technically stop at the gates, LWC works closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service to control poaching and stock thieving throughout the country's northern regions. This is a long-term policy which aims to protect the whole area, developing wildlife conservation hand-in-hand with the prosperity and security of local communities. Eighteen of LWC's armed rangers are Police Reserves, authorised to carry out protection work outside LWC boundaries.

Every year, visiting enthusiasts, scientists and conservation experts leave LWC inspired to continue similar work in the rest of East Africa. With the support of private donors and international financial bodies, LWC is working towards its vision of a time when the remote bush areas of northern Kenya will once again be teeming with wildlife.









Top left: Alec 'Dirty' Douglas, lan's grandfather, who moved to Kenya when it was a British colony. It is his farm that is now Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

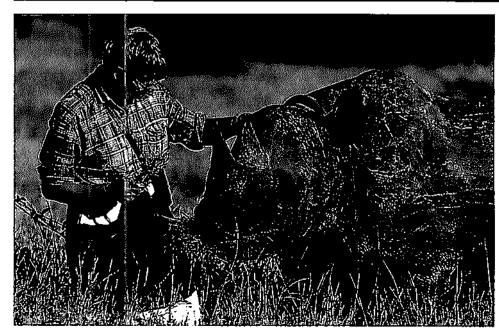
Top right: In the protected area of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, many species flourish including the ostrich

Left: Grey's zebra are thriving at LWC and there are so many that some have been moved to neighbouring wildlife conservancies

Below left:Anna Merz's work with rhinos was the catalyst for the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Below right top: Seven boby elephants who fell into wells were rescued by LWC and community staff in 2000

Below right bottom: Before Lewa Downs became a wildlife conservancy, it was a cattle farm where wildlife roamed freely







Dangerous

Widespread poaching in the 1960s and 70s and man's encroachment onto their land put a number of East African species into the endangered bracket. LWC has several projects to help get some of them off the critical list

BLACK RHINO

EARLY IN 2000, LWC had a small but very welcome guest. Every day at noon, escorted by his three keepers and barely discernible above the long yellow grasses, Ómni, a baby rhinoceros could be found ambling down to a muddy stream for his bath. When he was barely four weeks old he was rescued from his partially blind mother who had been neglecting her son's safety.

Two men have the privilege of looking after Omni and his

sidekick - Digby, the warthog rescued when his mother was taken by a predator. Digby has become his playmate as well as his hot water bottle. At night, anybody peeping into Omni's night pen would see baby warthog asleep on the back of baby rhino, both covered by a large blanket.

More than one keeper is vital to allow for rotation, preventing the young

rhino from becoming too attached to one man and pining if he leaves. The sight of them playing with the baby rhino in the river is comical but serious business is afoot. The men are rolling him over



Baby rhino, Ontni, was a great fovourite with keepers and with Digby, his warthog friend

and covering him in mud to provide protection against biting flies and ticks in his first lesson of survival. Ultimately, he and Digby will be returned to the wild.

LWC's pioneering work as one of the first intensive rhino protection sanctuaries has contributed to the success of many rhino introductions throughout northern Kenya. Most significant is the importance of giving thinos enough space to exist within their own territories and of introducing them simultaneously so that residents do not cause problems for new arrivals.

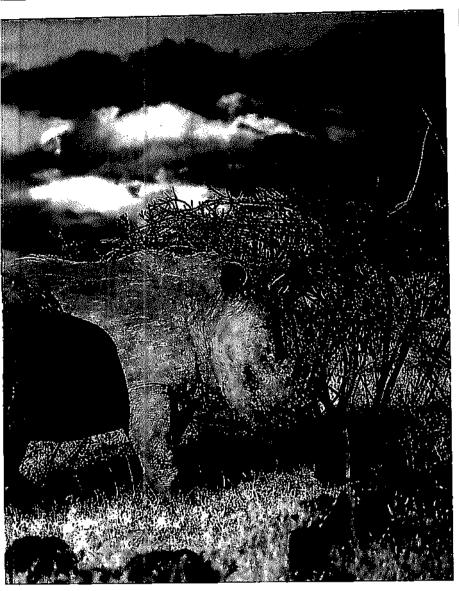
In 1995, with the removal of the fence, the sanctuary expanded to incorporate the whole conservancy as well as the Ngare Ndare forest, a move which has eased social pressures. Undisturbed by any



BREEDING PERFORMANCE/CALVING PREDICTION: 1980-2003

Each line denotes a different female. To the left is her name. Green marks denote the year she was born. Blue marks indicate when calves have been born and the red ones when the next birth is anticipated. More than one red mark in a year indicates that the month of birth is not certain. Note that birthing intervals are shrinking.

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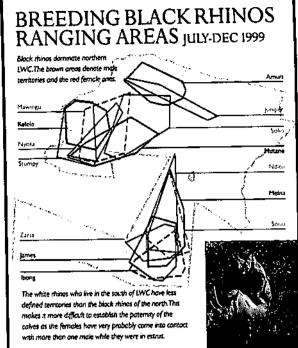


new introductions over the last five years the rhinos are now breeding more regularly. The year 2000 heralded a breakthrough with the birth of four black rhino as well as three white rhino.

However, it is the breeding intervals between conception (see below) which are most relevant. The gestation period for a rhino is 18 months. After years of sluggish performance and three year intercalving intervals, the females are now conceiving eight to 12 months after calving with calving intervals of just over two years which is comparable with other top-producing rhino sanctuaries in Africa.

Security is a vital aspect of rhino care. Eighty-seven out of the 205 men employed at LWC are detailed to protect the rhino, each of which has a name and a specific territory which is walked daily

The rhino sanctuary was where the LWC's wildlife protection programmes began. By setting up secure areas for the endagered rhinos, it has helped their breeding patterns become more regular and frequent. A care unit with dedicated staff has rescued a number of baby rhinos who had been orphaned or neglected



by security guards who radio in details of which rhino they have seen there. White rhinos have large territories which overlap, black rhinos tend to be more protective over their smaller areas. All rhino activity, specifically location and mating, is recorded by the Research Officer and marked onto a database.

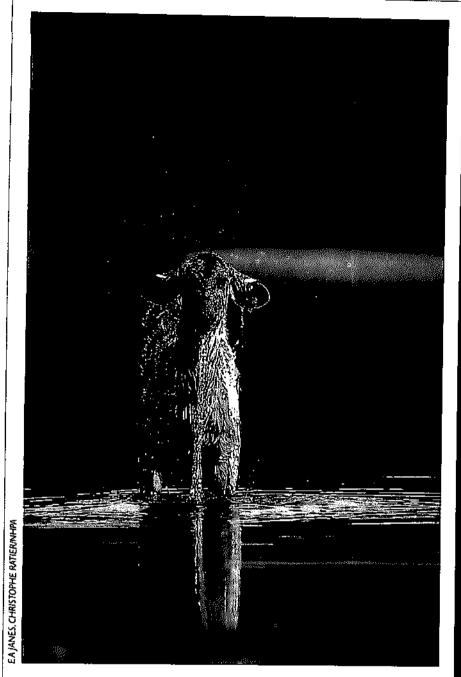
Using customised software, a picture is built up of each rhinos range, frequency of movement, distance travelled, when travelled and its preferred diet.

As far as possible this information is used to determine paternity of each calf, but the picture is complicated by the promiscuity of the white rhino cow who might have enjoyed the company of as many as three bulls while in estrus. For black rhino the data is more reliable as the male has a more specific territory which seldom overlaps so the position of the cow can be recorded and matched to a bull's territory.

Older and larger males are the main threat to an orphaned rhino. A newly born male calf begins marking its territory immediately, relying on its mother to protect it from any challenging male. In 1998, a two year old orphan, Larangoi was killed during the night by an older male who challenged him. His keepers only narrowly escaped injury in their efforts to protect him.

IWC are hoping to solve the dilemma of how to protect Omni from the same fate by sending him to one of the group-ranches north of IWC, Il Ngwesi, where it is easier to monitor Omni's movements and keep up the supply of baby milk which he will continue to drink for the next five years. Omni's keepers will remain until he is familiar with his new Samburu guardians. And Digby will go too.

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SITATUNGA

The sitatunga is a shy aquatic antelope which likes to hide in swampy areas, occasionally permitting a lucky person a glimpse of its fluffy brown chest backlit against a soft evening sun. But in too many of its favourite haunts the sitatunga is a creature of the past. While there are believed to be around 170,000 in the world, there are less than 50 in Kenya. Many of the areas where it is abundant such as the Congo and the Central African Republic are inaccessible to most visitors. Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana have more accessible populations.

Its secretive habits enable it to persist in settled areas as long as its habitat remains intact. But meat and trophy hunting, as well as competition from man for the same areas, has drastically reduced its numbers. In Kenya, it is indigenous to both the Lake Victoria swamps where it is now very rare and the Saiwa Swamp National Park.

Its long-term survival is dependent upon the existence of wellprotected areas of natural habitat. Dr Richard Leakey, the then Director of KWS, approached Ian Craig in 1989 with the sugges-



The shy splay-hoofed antelope was in danger of disappearing from Kenya's swampy areas due to poachers and the activities of man. The herd living in the protection of LWC is thriving

THE SCIENCE BIT

As wildlife numbers at LWC grow, it is important to monitor their progress, the impact they have on the environment and the LWC's capacity to support these growing numbers. In 1998 a Scientific Advisory Committee was set up with members of the Conservancy, representatives of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and collaborating scientists.

Rhinos are monitored daily although typically white thino are seen every 1.5 days. and black rhino every 1.9-2.0 days with an alarm being raised and searches conducted if an animal cannot be accounted for after a period of ten days. Both rhino and elephants have a huge impact on the environment because of their size and food intake. Ongoing research includes identifying the competition between elephant and rhino for the same food sources and the impact elephants have on a rhino habitation. KWS has supported the translocation of giraffes to other parks because of the damage they were causing the Acacia tortilis, the Yellow Fever Tree at LWC which now shows signs of healthy recovery. LWC continues to monitor the elephants because of concern over the higher risks of poaching outside its boundaries. A photographic idenitification file initiated in the early 1990s has been re-opened and updated to increase the understanding of the elephants' patterns of migration which are under constant survey.

Since 1993 Lewa has collaborated with the University of Pretoria and is now hoping to establish a similiar arrangement with a local academic institution. LWC is talking to Moi University at Eldoret, Kenya.

A lion identification library has been set up in spite of some difficulties because the lions at LWC are shy and difficult to photograph. There are probably 14-16 but although the introduced lions remain in stable groups and ranges, others come and go, changing groups and confusing the picture.

tion that he might like to house some of these rare creatures, brought to Lewa Downs from Kisumu. Ian readily accepted. The Eden Trust offered its support and soon there were six sitatunga settling into the swamps at Lewa Downs.

Ten years later the herd has at least doubled in size. It is hard to count the elusive antelope but every now and again a young calf has been sighted slipping into the water; they swim with only their noses cutting the surface. An aerial count has established that now at least 22 sitatunga slide through the yellow fever trees and tall reeds on the banks of the Lewa river.



GREVY'S ZEBRA

The dankey-eared Greny's zebra is possibly within 50 years of extinction. Work at LWC has seen its number increase eight-fold over the last 20 years and it is hoped they will soon be able to restock other areas of northern Kenya

Grevy's zebra is listed as an Appendix 1 species with CITES which means that no commercial trade of the species is allowed. There are less than 3,000 left in the world. A report by the Equid Specialist Group recently declared that "the decline in numbers of the Grevy's is so serious that extinction within 50 years is probable, if the trend continues at the current rate." LWC has the single largest population of Grevy's zebra in Kenya. It has risen from 80 in 1977 to 640 in 1999 and accounts for over 25 per cent of the world's total. The rest of Kenya's Grevy's live outside protected areas for all or part of the year making LWC's zebra particularly important. The medium-term objective is to be able to supply other conservation areas in northern Kenya with Grevy's zebra.

The Grevy's zebra is not to be confused with its more common cousin, the Burchell's or plains' zebra which has fatter stripes and is common across Africa. The taller, donkey-like Grevy's with large, fat, trumpet-shaped ears and smaller and closer together stripes is indigenous only to north-eastern Kenya, and small parts of Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia where its total range is 160,000 square kms.

In the late 60s and 70s, there were about 15,000 but competi-

Their skins could be found in the curio shops of Nairobi for as much as £600

tion from cattle for grazing and water saw numbers drastically depleted to less than 3,000. They were also hunted for the tenderness of their meat and for their skins which could be found in the curio shops of Nairobi being sold for as much as £600 (in 1978). War and famine all but took care of both the populations of Ethiopia and Somalia – where the last sighting was in 1973.

At LWC, however, the news is positive. In spite of recent droughts, Grevy's increase in breeding rates is high. To determine the long-term viability of Grevy's zebra and the most effective way of managing them to improve breeding rates, the LWC has instigated a collaborative research programme with two scientists from Princeton University, with funding from the St Louis Zoo and Marwell Preservation Trust.

The study is looking at the survival rate of young zebras, habitat and food selection, the extent, if at all, that Grevy's are competing against Burchell's for the same food and grazing areas, and whether the Grevy's zebra are using the larger plains' herds as a buffer against predators. (In the Laikipia area, their habitats overlap and the two species herd together.)

Using a digital camera donated by Zurich Zoo, members of the LWC research team have set up a database of Grevy's, loading photographs of their rump patterns (the zebra equivalent of finger prints) into a computer. Interpretation of these results indicates that Grevy's are thriving at LWC within a normal social organisation. The mortality rates from drought and disease are much the same as for Burchell's, but the Grevy has a longer minimum inter-birth interval at 429 days, which means 17 generations in 20 years instead of the 20 produced by the Burchell's.

The Princeton scientists are currently monitoring the progress of females with six-month-old foals. They are also recording how the Grevy's associates with giraffe and eland as well as analysing the grass composition in the mares' and foals' favourite grazing areas. With all of this research LWC is optimistic of an increasing population of donkey-like black and white equids at LWC.

The numbers of some species have increased so significantly that ecosystems were in danger of being upset. LWC has been restocking Kenya's northern regions by relocating the surplus

ON THE MOVE

GIRAFFE RELOCATION

The reticulated giraffes at Lewa have been so successful that the Conservancy is faced with the novel problem of over-population. Giraffes are fussy eaters and their 'browse' is a diet of acacia trees at a certain height – on Lewa there is enough browse to keep 120 giraffes happy. However, the population has grown to 240 and is denuding the trees.

Culling is not a preferred option and so Ian and his experienced African capture team have embraced the more precarious alternative of translocation. Moving one 18ft, bolshy giraffe is hard enough – it is risky both for the captors, who have to be light on their feet to avoid flying forward kicks, and for the giraffe – but the task of moving 120 giraffes is huge, expensive and ongoing as they continue to breed.

In June 1999, the first 15 were moved 80km north to the Namunyak ranch in the under-populated Samburu country, effectively solving two problems with one translocation. Namunyak is a group-ranch owned by members of the Samburu tribe who are trying to encourage tourists into the area with photographic safaris and a taste of true wilderness. Poaching is under

control but it would take a long time for giraffe numbers to rise naturally. Namunyak needed more animals, and LWC needed less, here was the solution.

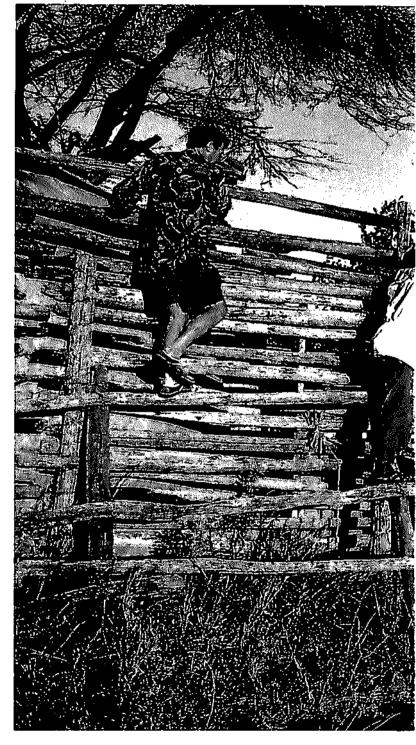
The translocation was funded by Tusk Trust, a UK-based African conservation charity. Its director, Charlie Mayhew, flew out with film makers James Lindsay and Patrick Marks and presenter Kathaleen Stephenson who were planning to make a pilot video for the National Geographic. Five giraffes at a time were moved in a rhino box which had been modified to allow their long necks to stick out of the top. First, though, they had to be caught and put into a boma (a small outdoor pen) to accustom them to captivity and the four-hour drive ahead to their new home.

A moving vehicle is a less stressful way of herding giraffe than helicopter or horse. First a giraffe is selected (ideally a sub-adult between the ages of four and seven) and Goodles were proposed to their

Giraffes were transported to their new home five at a time in rhino trucks specially modified to allow their necks to stick out the top

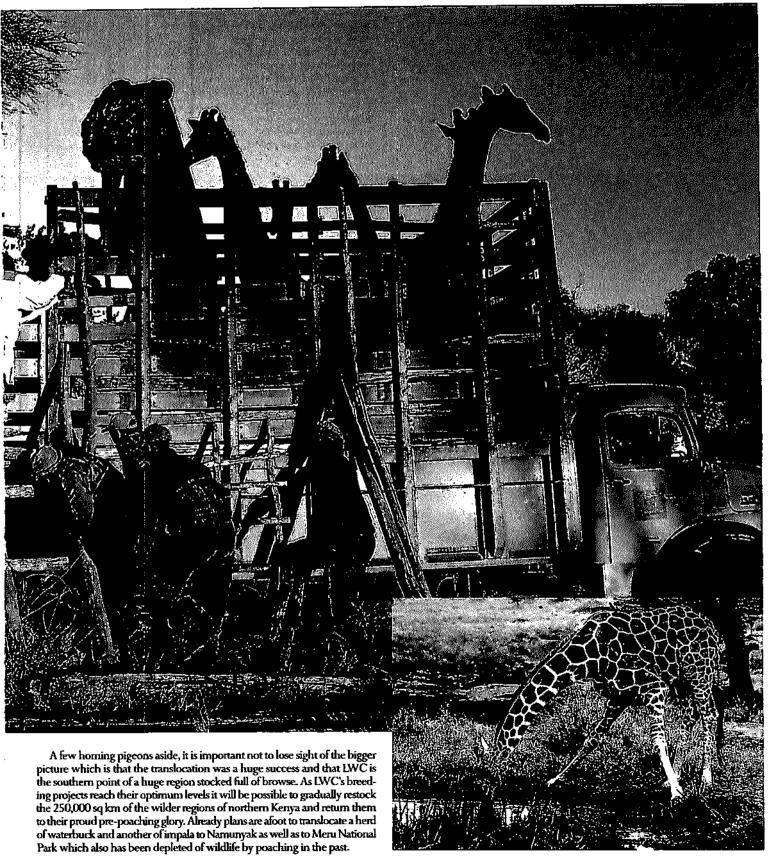
separated from the herd. It must be neither too tall, nor too small, not too old nor too young. The animal is then darted with a tranquilliser gun from a moving vehicle, a difficult and skilful operation. Before the animal has gone down, two men are on the ground binding its legs and blindfolding the animal. It is impossible to carry an animal of this size so once the ropes are in place, the tranquilliser is partially reversed and while the animal is in a drugged state it is led into the lorry, moved to the borna and then released down a tunnel into temporary captivity. As long as everything goes to plan, that is. Paddy, the cameraman, had to make a run for it once when a giraffe recovered a little too quickly. If the situation is judged to be becoming too stressful for the animal, as happened once, then it is released.

After a week in the borna, each giraffe was moved to Namunyak where it was coaxed out of a trailer using branches of its favourite food and white sheets to pull it. After a three-week stint in a shared borna, to encourage the giraffes to get used to each other and their new home, they were released to browse happily amongst the acacias deep in the bush surrounding the spectacular Mathews Range of mountains. The operation was 100 per cent successful with 20 giraffes moved and no casualties.



Initially, keeping them there proved more difficult. The giraffe were monitored by Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust staff on the ground and by the LWC's Super-cub plane in the air which was able to home in on the giraffe using radio collars placed on two of the animals. A couple of giraffes did succeed in making the long journey home but were relocated.

If giraffe continue to return from Namunyak then they may have to be sent to Meru National Park. It would be quite a feat for them to get through the heavily cultivated Nyambeni Hills.



ELEPHANT: Migrations, movements and relocations

Lewa Down's history and philosophy is closely linked to the elephants of the Samburu and Laikipia districts. There are around 3000 of these, a substantial part of the free-ranging elephant population outside national parks in Kenya.

Elephants' habits have changed drastically since the mid-Sixties when heavy poaching in the north forced them to alter their migration patterns. In the dry season, the few permanent water sources that they were used to frequenting were becoming battle zones between poachers and cattle-herders. So they began to migrate south to avoid these areas on a route which took them from the Samburu Namunyak area, via Lewa Downs to the Ngare Ndare on the edge of Mount Kenya. In 1984 Lewa hosted its first herd of 300 elephant.

Each elephant guzzles up to 300lbs of grass, trees and bushes a day.

The elephant is more than capable of responding to the overtures of man. LWC's philosophy is not to let them down

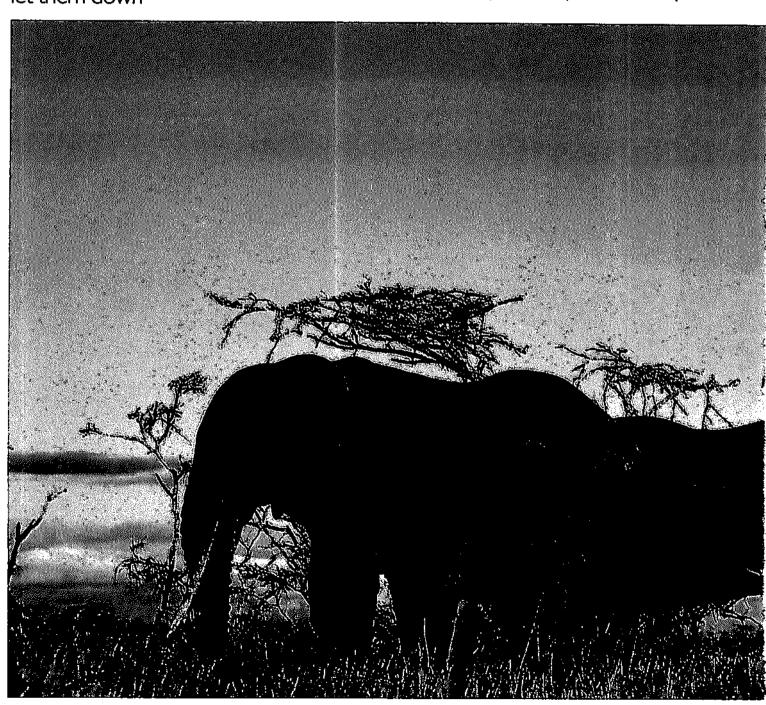
Inevitably a herd of 300 caused problems among the local agricultural community. There were too many bulls, fond of pulling down trees and reluctant to move north again during the wet season because of the escalating threat of poachers. The first Scientific Advisory Committee meeting, set up in response to this problem, resolved that troublesome bulls should be rounded up and relocated as quickly as possible. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) funded the relocation of the first eight to Kora National Reserve.

In 1999, the LWC capture team assisted the KWS with the task of moving an extremely aggressive young cow elephant trapped in a small patch of farmland back to Meru Park. She was living in a patch of very thorny bush and charged at the slightest provocation. By the time the tranquilliser team succeeded in getting a dart into her backside they all looked as if they had been pulled backwards through a thorn bush, which, in fact, they had, several times!

The problem of what to do with the elephants and how to protect them helped to define the LWC's philosophy of re-populating the wilder regions of northern Kenya. LWC could no longer be considered as a single entity. If its work was to have any long-term impact on the wildlife of northern Kenya it needed to embrace a much larger and bolder scheme, pulling together the support of neighbouring communities against poaching and opening up the whole of the migratory comidor between Mount Kenya and the Samburu area.

The LWC has been working with the Namunyak and Il Ngwesi communities in the north to develop areas as sources of tourism, as a result poaching has been reduced.

Because tourism brings extra money into the area, the locals now appreciate the value of elephants, and co-operate with the work to protect them.



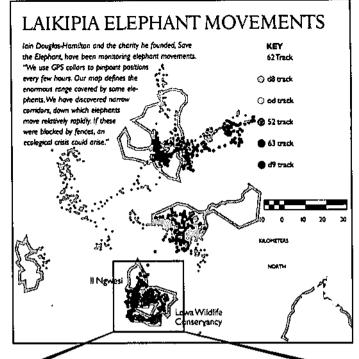
Last year the US Fish and Wildlife Service made a grant to LWC under the African Elephant Conservation Act with the purpose of conserving elephants, concentrating on security – radio communication and surveillance – and restoring elephant fencing destroyed by the El Niño rains.

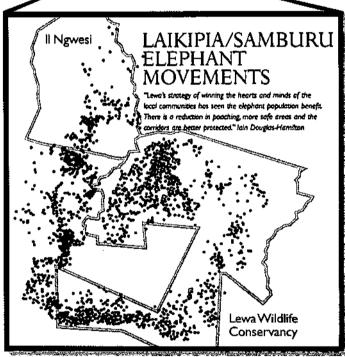
Between August and September 1999, local Namunyak people reported no less than seven occasions when baby elephants had fallen into wells built by the pastoralist farmers. This wasn't because baby elephants had suddenly developed a vertigo problem, but because Namunyak locals were now concerned for the welfare of the elephants. Previously, well owners speared and killed elephants found in wells, now they recognise their commercial value. Where possible the babies were rescued and reunited with their families, failing that, they were flown to the David Sheldrick Memorial Foundation Orphanage in Nairobi run by Daphne Sheldrick.

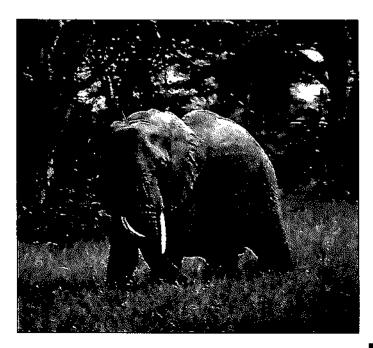
Elephants are now choosing to stay in Samburu during the dry season. Research by Iain Douglas-Hamilton shows that this is a direct result of the increased security in the area as their new routes correspond closely with the protected areas of LWC, Namunyak and Il Ngwesi. Where they strayed from these protected areas, or had to pass from one to another, they did so as quickly as possible. It is proof, if needed, that the work of the Conservancy is reaping rewards.

Poaching does continue and the need for vigilance remains constant. At the risk of being accused of anthropomorphism, however, it seems that the elephant is more than capable of responding to the overtures of man and seeking his protection when it is given. LWC's aim is not to let them down.









A wildlife project catering for the needs of the wild animals can only succeed with the cooperation of the local people. Solutions are not always straight-forward

THRIVING TOGETHER







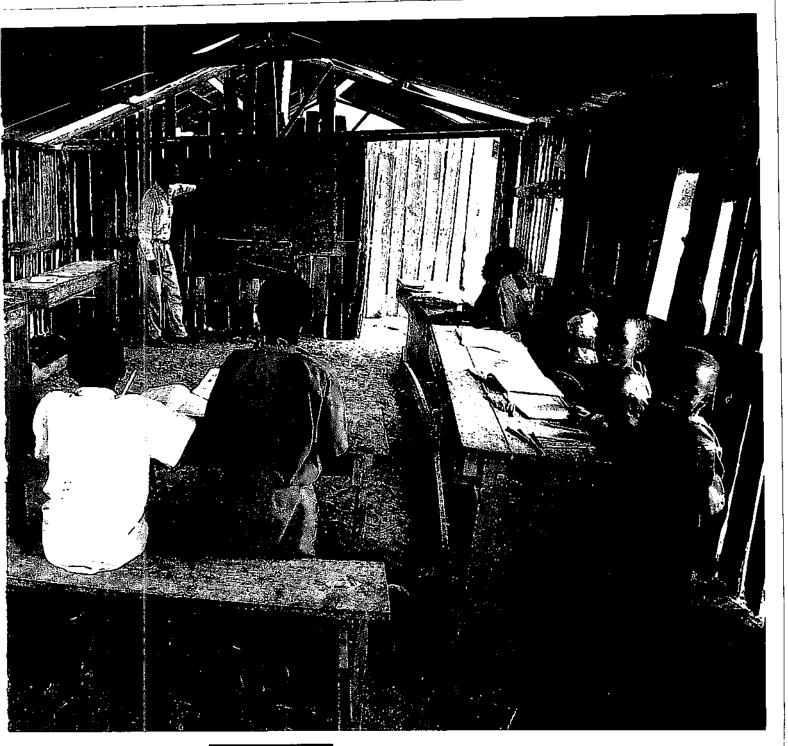
LWC's work has not only edicated the farming community on the benefits of working with the wildlife, but it has also helped to develop good farming practice



Once the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy had embraced the concept of opening up the whole of the elephant migration route to the north, it set about the task of persuading its neighbours to join the venture. This involved working with everyone from small-scale farmers who had no interest in seeing wildlife anywhere near their land to cattle-herders living closely with wildlife. The objective is to promote goodwill and long term security through economic prosperity. LWC's community work is divided between a Good Neighbours policy and Community Conservation. The latter is expected to have an almost instant impact on wildlife conservation.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

LWC PROVIDES BURSARIES FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN AT THE FOUR schools attached to the Conservancy which are funded by the Gernini Trust and Cooper Motor Corporation. Each quarter, £400 is allocated from the recurrent budget towards school development. The quality of teachers' housing has been improved which is essential to encourage good teachers. LWC hopes to buy a school bus for school visits to the conservancy.



With funding from Jan Reed Smith (American Association of Zoo Keepers) and her team, IWC has built a meeting house for the Lewa woman's group. Work concentrates on developing and honing individual skills to produce artefacts to sell in the IWC shop.

In 1997, The Ngare Sergoi Water Users Association was set up by IWC and a local engineering company, Rural Focus, with the objective of protecting the watersupply, in the form of the Ngare Sergoi river, from over-consumption

and pollution. The association comprises all those who use the water, whether for irrigation, drinking and domestic use or livestock. It has been a huge success promoting peaceful collaboration between all the users and the guarantee that the river runs right through to its final destination with everyone getting a fair share.

With each new project, the policy remains the same: to assist the community through education, health, water supply and revenue generation so that Lewa is seen as an engine of economic growth in the area.



Providing education for the children (above) is fundamental to the success of community projects, such as the centre for the woman's group (left)

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

SOME COMMUNITIES DO HAVE LIFESTYLES DIRECTLY COMPANIBLE with wildlife, primarily the pastoral people of the north whose land forms part of the greater North Kenyan ecosystem which stretches to the Ethiopian border and beyond, LWC's policy is to encourage these local communities to take responsibility for their own wildlife conservation, to promote tourism and photographic safaris to supply an incremental

income and to provide their own security.

There are currently five active Community Conservation programmes and more in the pipeline. The first one started in 1995 at Il Ngwesi, a 16,500 acre group-ranch owned by a sub-clan of the Maasai tribe to the north-west of IWC, followed by Ngare Ndare, Lekurruki and Kalama group ranches. Namunyak, further north in the Samburu area, came next. Last year, LWC, in collaboration with a neighbouring ranch Borana. persuaded Lekurruki group-ranch to follow these examples.

Through the co-operation of these communities, LWC has been able to increase the activity of its rangers to the north of the Conservancy. Working closely with men from these ranches, as well as the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), LWC has been able to locate and anticipate poaching attempts, apprehend the poachers and confiscate their guns.

In 2000, LWC took the first step towards co-operative management with these communities with the establishment of a joint committee with Il Ngwesi. The committee co-ordinates all policies of common interest: security, tourism, movement of wildlife, schools, roads, communication and liaison with the Government and the KWS. The committee sits quarterly under the chairmanship of a member elected by the committee.

lan Craig, LWC's Executive Director, has been appointed by both Il Ngwesi and Namunyak as unpaid Managing Director for their commercial developments. Both projects have significant government support: the Speaker of the National Assembly is chairman of Il Ngwesi and the Chief Whip chairman of Namunyak.

LWC's community programme took a major step forward with the appointment of a highly experienced Community Development Officer, who is a specialist in the Samburu region and head of overall training in the Community Wildlife Service in Nairobi. His responsibilities include managing and developing existing community programmes and expanding community areas participating in wildlife management to the north.

Slowly the LWC is building awareness and support and filling in the jigsaw pieces of the elephants' migration route north to the huge wild areas of the 250,000-square-mile expanse of the Northern Frontier. "It is a relief to hear of community work which is concentrating on security not bee-keeping," said

a visiting conservationist.

IL NGWESI

WHEN IAN CRAIG FIRST APPROACHED THE ELDERS OF IL NGWESI with the suggestion that they turn their ranch into a wildlife sanctuary, build a lodge and open it up to tourism, they were suspicious of lan's motives. They feared that their land would be confiscated and turned into a national park, and, they questioned, why a white man would be helping them. What was in it for him? It was Kinanjui, Ian's old hunting partner and teacher, then his chief warden, who changed their minds. When Kinanjui, who is ll Ngwesi Maasai, vouched for Ian they believed him.

Today, a small eight bedroomed lodge in the bush-covered Mukogodo Hills stands alone as the first community-based tourism initiative in Kenya owned, managed and run by the 448 member families of the group ranch. In 1998 it won the British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Awards in recognition of sustainable tourist development and since then it has won two more awards, one from a local magazine, Travel News which designated it the best self-catering lodge in Kenya; the other was the prestigious David

Sheldrick Conservation Award.

Guests land on a dusty red airstrip and are greeted by a line of young Moran dressed in their red shukas, anxious to shake hands. Traditionally, part of their ritual passage into manhood would have been the killing of a lion. Today their priorities have changed as animals have proved to be worth more to them alive than dead.

Accommodation is in a cedar wood banda growing out of the hill. It has no doors. Windows without glass look out across a huge thorny plain to the hazy purple silhouette of the Mathews mountains flickering in the distance. Clouds of white butterflies hover in the heat and fool's gold glistens on the tranquil ground. The self-catering lodge - guests bring the supplies, Kampala and

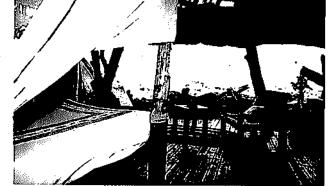
Kerichon cook - has solar heated water, a swimming pool and exquisitely carved furniture. Even Prince William has enjoyed their far ourite joke, "a loo with

a view".

Initially it was donorfunded but now Il Ngwesi is increasingly self-sufficient with a continuing high occupancy rate of 70 per cent. Its revenue is used for education, hospitals and security. The group ranch employs seven Community Game Guards, four of them are Kenya Police Reserve,



who patrol the ranch daily paying particular attention to the northern border to prevent illegal grazing and poaching. In 1999



Il Newesi, run by members of the Maasai tribe, offers visitors superb views over wildlife rich countryside and beautiful occommodation which blends with the natural environment

they recovered two AK47 rifles and rescued a week-old baby elephant who had got stuck in a water hole and left behind by his herd.

One gratifying off-shoot for the local population is that their own security has improved and with it their enthusiasm.

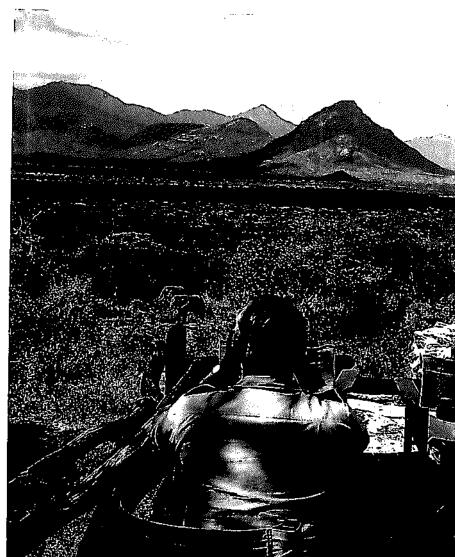
Everyone has benefited from the extra

security in the area. Instant communication by radio has ensured that cattle are no longer stolen, and bomas no longer mided.

Il Ngwesi has become a model for a new kind of eco-tourism, attracting visitors from all over East Africa eager to emulate its success. On a recent visit of Maasai elders to the ranch, it was the Il Ngwesi elders who were able to offer valuable advice to the Maasai, not the other way round. Most significantly, there is no longer a human-wildlife conflict at Il Ngwesi. Every man. woman and child knows it is in their interests to protect the wildlife that the tourists pay to come and see. "Sheep and cattle can die. Money doesn't die in a bank," says the Assistant Manager, the youthful James Ol Kinyaga.

NAMUNYAK

WITH THE EXAMPLE OF IL NGWESI BEHIND HIM, Ian Craig persuaded the 75,000 acre group-ranch Namunyak down the same conservation route. The Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust employs 12 rangers from local families on constant patrol, each equipped with a hand-held radio, a charger and a solar panel and





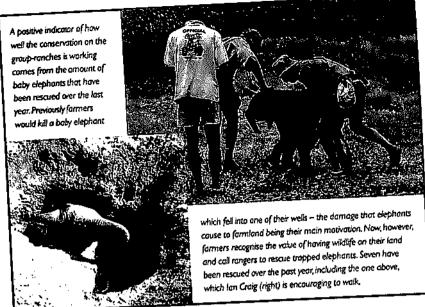
backed up by aerial support from LWC as well as the KWS. Two more rangers are financed by Iain Douglas-Hamilton's charity, Save the Elephant.

The KWS as well as the Kenya Police have put a major effort into the Samburu area. Supported by the Namunyak rangers, tight security has made it possible to return Samburu Game Reserve, Buffalo Springs and Shaba to the tourist circuit, providing a new source of income. The prediction made in 1985 that, if the rate of poaching continued, by 1988 there would be no clephants left, has been reversed. Under the leadership of former KWS Field Officer Michael Lenamaido there have been no reports of commercial poaching within the Namunyak area of the Mathews Range in Samburu – the last serious poaching incident took place in 1996 when 22 elephants were killed.

Efficient communication contributes to the well-being of the entire population. In February 1999, when alarming reports of a cholera outbreak in a remote area were received over the radio, the KWS were able to respond rapidly and effectively to treat and contain the fatal disease. Between August and September, Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust's rangers rescued no less than seven baby elephants from man-made wells.

Tourism arrived in 1997 when Piers Bastard's company, Acacia Trails, battled with El Niño to build Sarara, a small, luxurious tented camp, and has flourished in spite of a setback when the mess caught fire following an explosion in a paraffin fridge. Bookings had to be diverted to Il Ngwesi and a valuable source of income for the community was lost. Out of the ashes however rose an opportunity for change.

When the camp was reopened for the Christmas season, it did so with the exciting announcement that it had new shareholders. Before the fire, discussions were already underway examining the possibility of an equity-sharing arrangement between Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust (NWCT) and Acacia Trails. Following the fire, NWCT raised enough money, supported by Tusk Trust, a UK based African conservation charity, to reconstruct and upgrade the camp to qualify them as 50 per cent shareholders in



the project. Namunyak arranges the staffing and management of the camp while Acacia Trails retains the responsibility for supplying international clients. Proceeds will be divided between them. A management team was trained to supply the same level of care as the il Ngwesi team. Sarara Camp currently guarantees full-time employment for 15 personnel.

Sarara generates at least 15,000 dollars per annum for the group-ranch from its wildlife. The income which Piers and the other tour operators make on a per diem, per head basis – from visiting the campsite and conducting walking safaris – is distributed amongst the community for education bursaries, to support small business ventures or build wells and hospitals. For the time being the Conservancy is still donor-dependent but following the obvious success of Namunyak, its donor base has been diversified.

LEKURRUKI

As they witness the success of IL Ngwesi and Namunyak, other group-ranches are becoming more receptive to the concept of wildlife management. LWS targeted Lekurruki, a 15,000 acre group-ranch north-east of Il Ngwesi with a population of 500 families. Funding of \$100,000 has been supplied by Michael Dyer at Borana, a neighbouring ranch.

The company registered itself as the Lekurruki Community Conservation Lodge and has built a lodge this year using Il Ngwesi as a model. The first objective is to educate the group-ranch members on the sustainable use of wildlife resources, showing them how animals can be a source of income. The long-term objective is to open up the migration corridor and to ensure greater safety for the wildlife who use it on their way to the north.

LWC'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE

Traditionally Lewa Wildlife Conservancy has worked very closely with the KWS. The mutual objective, to promote improved security in the area, has had promising results and contributed to a gratifying level of trust which led to some LWC men being given the compliment of Kenya Police Reserve Status by the

Government which means that they have full authority to apprehend and arrest poachers in the Ngare Ndare Forest as well as at tWC.



The relative full in poaching has given LWC the opportunity to concentrate on training and long-term planning. Fifteen of its armed personnel were sent to the KWS field Training School at Manyarii for a two week training course in preparation for their new role. They were taught basic field-craft, drill, weapons' training and radio procedures. The feedback was very positive with the KWS instructors noting the impressive performance, morale and general enthusiasm amongst the men. Funds permitting, refresher courses will be carried out annually.



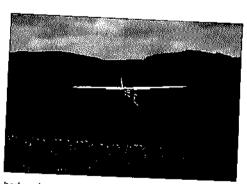
MAN, MANAGEMENT & MANACHNES

LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY could not operate successfully without a huge back-up support of planes, machinery, radios, mechanics and dogs. As well as the two-seater Super Cub, used for surveillance and security, there are two other fixed-wing aircraft, and a host of trucks. Plus, of course, a yard full of maintenance and repair workshops which are constantly busy countering the ravages of hard terrain and constant use. The maintenance of fencing posts and electrical elephant fences is ongoing.

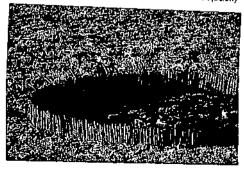
In March 1998, the British army donated two trained tracker dogs to LWC which, working alongside a well trained tracker team, act as a strong deterrent to potential poachers. Bonnie, a German Shepherd and Murphy, a yellow labrador had previously seen operational service in Northern Ireland and adapted quickly to the very different climate and working conditions of northern Kenya.

It took a little longer for their new handlers to adjust to the concept that a dog's nose could be better than a human's vision but once they had gained confidence, training advanced. Within months the dogs proved be worth their weight in thino hom as their noses led to the arrest and conviction of several poachers. They have received huge recognition from the Government and local police.





It takes a huge amount of man-power and machinery to patrol the Conservancy and keep the poschers away from the wildlife (above) and the wildlife away from the domestic livestock (below)



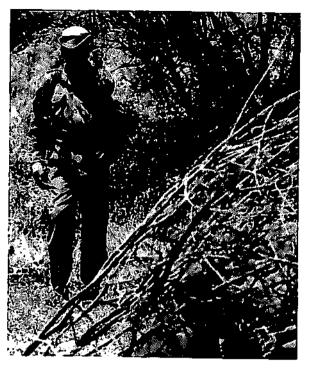
STAFF

LWC has a full-time staff of 250, from rangers to mechanics. The Conservancy's policy has always been to build up a team of loyal men and women who believe in what it is doing and who want to make a long term commitment to the Conservancy.

Many of the staff have been there since the very beginning and although inevitably some move on, many will remain at LWC throughout their working lives.

A special mention must go to two men who have played an integral part in the growth of Lewa, Fuzz Dyer and Kinanjui Lesenteria.





KINANJUI LESENTERIA was Head of Security at LWC at its inception in 1995 but he has worked for the Craigs since 1966. His first job was to protect domestic and wild animals from poachers. Later, when lan Craig left school, Kinanjui was given the responsibility of teaching him about hunting and wildlife. In the ten years that the two men spent out in the bush together an enduring friendship developed. A born hunter, Kinanjui had an unparalleled knowledge, respect and understanding of wildlife. So, when hunting was banned in 1977, there was nobody better equipped to protect and care for the rhino and other endangered species at Lewa Downs. In 1997 Kinanjui, an Ndorobo Maasai, persuaded the Ndorobo Maasai communities of II Ngwesi and Namunyak of lan's integrity and to accept his help in building a lodge as a tourist attraction. When Kinanjui retires this year, his presence will be much missed.

FUZZ DYER grew up with lan and in 1983 began working for the LWC. He pioneered the fence design that has kept the wildlife safe and the poachers out and also designed and implemented the surveillance techniques that have been key to protecting the rhino population. Since 1997 the sheer volume of rhino has required a larger team to continue Fuzz's pioneering work. He, his wife, Bimby and their two sons have recently moved back to his family ranch Borana which borders LWC. He plans to implement the same aims and principles of LWC here, with the ultimate objective being to remove the fence between the two properties allowing for free movement of wildlife. If the plan works, it will create the largest conservation area made up of private and community owned land in Kenya.



FUNDRAISING









Fundraising is a vital aspect of running a successful conservancy. Every year Ian and his wife Jane take off for a marathon trip to Europe and America conducting an exhausting number of lectures and presentations in a bid to raise interest and funds.

Further to these promotional trips, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is supported by several charities including lain Douglas Hamilton's Save the Elephant and the UK based charity Tusk Trust dedicated to conserving endangered wildlife in Africa. In September 2000 they helped to organise the first ever marathon to be run through a conservancy at LWC. While Ian selected a safe route and provided rangers to make sure that runners didn't encounter any unexpected competitors, the former long distance runner Bruce Tulloh ran the operation alongside Tusk. The event attracted more than 200 runners from all around the world, many of them eager to match their legs against Kenya's foremost runners. It proved so popular that it has now been instated as an annual event, which pleases both the LWC and marathon runners who've had enough of tarmac.

LWC also receives invaluable support from its satellite offices in the US and UK.



Many workl-class runners come to Lewa Downs for a marathan run through the bush. Rangers are on hand to make sure no wild entries join in the race and ruin the human runners' chances



ANIMAL CENSUS 1977 & 1990-1999-2001

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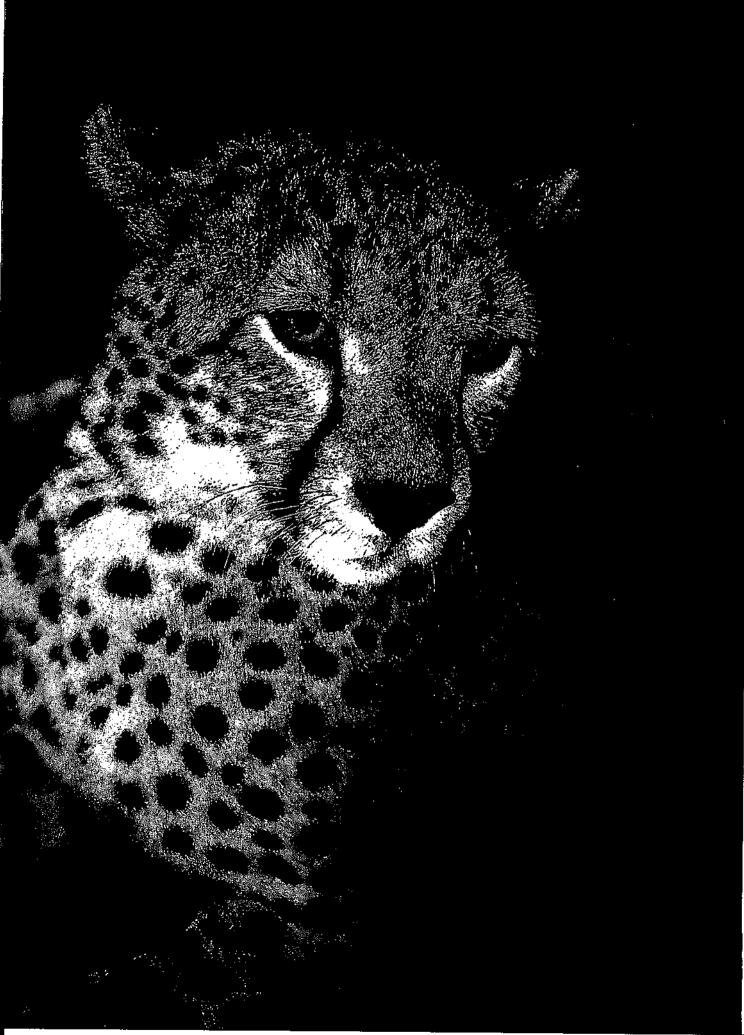






The whole of the Lewa Downs area has benefited from the setting up of the Conservancy.





LETTER FROM THE INSIDE

The Chairman of II Ngwesi, Ole Kaparo, is also a Government official. He firmly believes the future of wildlife in Kenya lies in the hands of the local communities

The report on Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is fascinating. It reads like a thriller – I will call it a thriller of real life and it's also true.

I became associated with Lewa (the people running it, its terrain and its wildlife) almost by accident. About five years ago, a delegation of Clan Elders was dispatched to my rural home at Kimanjo about 60 miles from Lewa. Their message was to ask whether I would like to be a Director of a yet-to-be-registered company to develop a wildlife conservation resort at Sukurti - the present location of the Il Ngwesi Bandas. I was further informed that I was to team up with one "Ian" and "Michael". I later came to learn that the said "Ian" and "Michael" are Messrs Ian Craig and Michael Dyer. Both are men of exceptional qualities. I have always enjoyed working with them and experimenting with all manner of ideas. The result is the present Il Ngwesi and its sister, Lekurruki. As a result of the excellent rapport that developed with Ian and Michael and many others at Lewa, I have gained a lot of insight as to the whole philosophy behind Lewa Wildlife Conservancy - beautifully and accurately set out in this report.

I share with Lewa the concept that the future of wildlife conservation belongs to the people more than to the Government. Most of Kenya's wildlife is found outside parks. For this reason, communities and individuals who live with wildlife need to be sensitised and encouraged to protect and utilise the wildlife in their locale in the best way possible. Lewa has not only shown the way but has also provided the torch to its neighbours and others further afield. I proudly commend this report to your reading delight and humbly request your support in wildlife conservation outside parks.

K.F.X. OLE KAPARO, EGH, SS, MP SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND CHAIRMAN IL NGWESI COMMUNITY LODGE