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Celebrating
10 Yrs
of Development
for Local Communities



Community Development Newsletter



*A Catalyst for
Conservation*



LEWA'S 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.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER *



Over the past 25 years, the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy ("Lewa") has become the leading model for conservation on private and community land in East Africa – massively successful from an endangered species perspective and in conservation terms.

Yet, more than anything, Lewa's success is reflected by the degree to which Lewa's conservation efforts generate direct benefits for local communities – through healthcare, through education, through water development, and through enterprise. Lewa supports 13 schools, runs 3 clinics, has developed 10 major community water supply schemes, and sustains adult education, women's microcredit,

and agricultural extension programmes. In doing so, Lewa is not simply sharing the benefits of tourism, employment, security, and donor funding, but quite literally leveraging a conservation agenda to meet the compelling priorities of communities surrounding the Conservancy, and thereby contributing directly towards a development agenda – meeting real needs, enhancing livelihood options, and addressing environmental priorities.

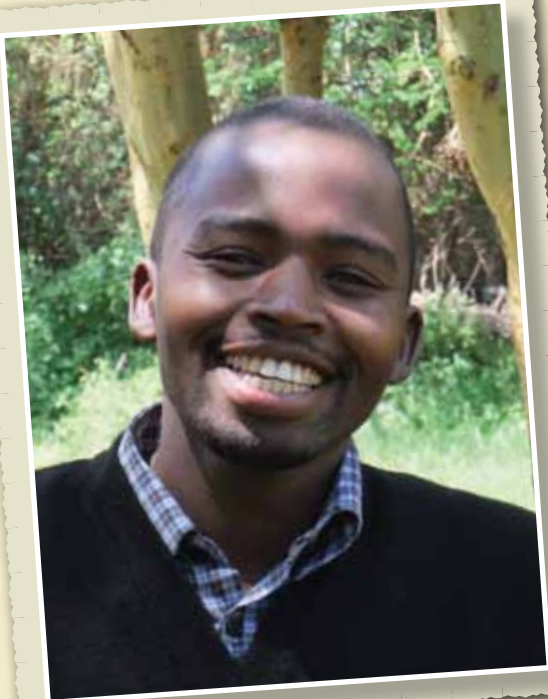
Quite simply, Lewa is determined to see conservation make a difference to the lives of ordinary Kenyans in otherwise challenging economic and environmental circumstances. Kenya needs more Lewas – a model that sees private, public, and philanthropic sectors working in partnership for the benefit of both wildlife and people, a model that, through both community development and education programmes, and their immensely dedicated staff, positively impacts the lives of so many.

Mike Watson

Chief Executive Officer
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

** Please note that this article was written by Dr. Jonathan Moss, Lewa's former CEO, prior to his departure.*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



Lewa's Community Development Programme is driven by the conservation of our wildlife and a mission to influence our neighbouring communities to support wildlife conservation. It has been an exciting journey over the last ten years and I have been very fortunate to be a part of the Community Development Programme team which has had an overwhelmingly positive impact on neighbouring communities, leading to the development of a symbiotic relationship between them and wildlife thereby strengthening their support of Lewa's conservation work. Moreover, the programme has created a platform for our partners and supporters to actively participate in influencing the future of wildlife and environmental conservation and in turn reducing abject poverty that is jeopardizing the future of generations to come.

It has always been our dream to give people hope, enable them to achieve their greatest development potential, make water and better healthcare services accessible, see children smile all the way to the schools to get an education, poorly managed lands become productive and women being able to start up businesses. Over the last decade, our dream has come true. Communities earlier characterized by conflict of resources, hostile environment and abject poverty now have food security, enjoy enhanced social cohesion and fully understand the role wildlife conservation plays in their lives.

Even as we are celebrating these achievements it is very clear to us that more needs to be done. We are hugely indebted to all our supporters and donors whose kindness and generosity have helped make this dream a reality.

So, as we celebrate ten years in active community development through wildlife conservation, I very much hope we can rely upon your continuous valuable support for the next ten years.

John Kinoti

Community Development Manager
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY WATER DEVELOPMENT



Kenya is limited by an annual renewable fresh water supply of only 647 cubic meters per capita and is classified as a water scarce country. The water “crisis” is due to the recurrent drought, poor management of the water supply, under-investment, unfair allocation of water, rampant deforestation, pollution of water supplies by untreated sewage and a huge population explosion. This applies to northern Kenya, where the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and its surrounding communities are located. Despite Lewa’s efforts to ensure that there is proper ecosystem management not only on the Conservancy, but also in the neighbouring communities; we are still facing water shortages. Yet the population is growing within our local communities so there is a need to establish proper infrastructure to manage water resources effectively. Dealing with these issues has taken centre stage in our water development programme activities.

The last ten years have witnessed direct

support to nine water projects, namely: Mutunyi irrigation scheme, Mkuu Springs project, Rugusu Springs project, Leparua water project, T.M borehole project, Subuiga water project, Ngare Ndare water project, Manyangalo water project and Kadesh water project. These water projects run from springs’ conservation, gravity-fed domestic and irrigation systems and underground water accessed by drilling boreholes. We still remain focused to ensure that every drop of water is conserved and used in the appropriate way. To enable us achieve that, we are working closely with the Water Resources Management Authority and are directly involved in running a River Water User Association called Ngare Sirgoi that has made it possible to have equitable water sharing plans.

AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

The main economic activity for the communities surrounding Lewa is farming. A key component of our Community Development Programme is training communities on proper farming techniques and various ways of diversifying crop production. By doing so, the communities now have a wider variety of farm produce that is sufficient for their daily food requirements and for



the sale of surplus produce in various markets to earn income.

Over the past ten years a lot of training and capacity building on farming techniques, land management and crop production has taken place and most of the farmers have been able to reap more from their farms. Both the rain fed and irrigation farms have managed to increase their food production through diversification of crop production and from the benefits of water projects already implemented within the communities. For irrigation farming communities like Mutunyi, Manyangalo and Ngare Ndare, farmers have been engaged in fruit growing and horticultural production in addition to food crop farming. To ensure that there is a positive impact on the environment many farmers have also been engaged in agro-forestry through the community forestry programme.

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENT

Lewa's three clinics – Lewa, Leparua and Ngare Ndare – are the only medical centres within a 25 kilometres radius. These

clinics shoulder up to 90% of the needs of staff and over 20,000 people from our neighbouring communities. The clinics offer diagnosis and treatment in reproductive, preventative, and general health; including education for HIV/AIDS, family planning and hygiene. During the last ten years, thanks to Lewa's commitment to improving healthcare, communities have enjoyed decentralized health services and child mortality has been lowered. Moreover, we have been supporting district general hospitals i.e. Isiolo, Meru, Nanyuki and Timau with medical equipment bought with funds raised by the Safaricom Marathon over the years.

SOCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

In most rural areas, the bad state of access roads has been problematic for rural people making their endeavours to fight poverty and improve food production an extremely difficult task. To ensure that the communities neighbouring the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy are able to access basic services we have participated in the rehabilitation of access roads. We have graded and constructed culverts for over 30 kilometres of roads over the last ten years. Moreover, most of the self-help groups within the communities have been trained to initiate income generating activities which in turn alleviate poverty. Most of our communities are involved in a grazing programme where community livestock is allowed to graze on Lewa especially during the drought. To our northern boundary, communities who are primarily livestock keepers were enrolled in a holistic management programme that has seen over 2,000 head of livestock graze on the Conservancy, thereby reducing loss of livestock during the dry season.





WOMEN'S MICRO-CREDIT PROGRAMME

Women constitute nearly 60 percent of the world's 2 billion people living in poverty. Despite all the community development programmes around the world, the feminization of poverty seems to be a growing phenomenon especially in the developing world. Over the last two decades, the number of rural women living in absolute poverty has risen by 50 percent (compared to 30 percent for men).

Women's economic empowerment is an essential element in any strategy for poverty alleviation. It is this belief that led to the creation of the Lewa Women's Micro-Credit Programme in 2003. More specifically, our Women's Micro-Credit Programme was started as a result of a close evaluation of the level of poverty of rural women in the communities surrounding Lewa. Over the years, more than 800 women have been able to start up their own businesses supported by soft loans of over ksh 8 million extended to them. Their enterprises range from crotchet to farming. Lots of training and capacity building has been done on enterprise development and this is reinforced with exposure tours for the beneficiaries.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMME MANAGER



The Lewa Education Programme's (LEP) main objective is to sensitize the Conservancy's neighbouring communities on the benefits of wildlife conservation. These communities are quickly recognising that it is the rhino, Grevy's zebra, elephant, lion, cheetah and other wildlife that have fed their children in school, provided them with bursaries to get quality education from primary school through to University, built classrooms, kitchens and libraries, provided desks, writing and reading resources, teachers and volunteers. In turn, the local community is taking ownership of conservation initiatives and supporting the Conservancy's aims in every way that they possibly can.

LEP works with the following schools on the rind of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy; Munanda, Mutunyi, Subuiga, Karimba, Kanyunga, Ntugi Primary and Secondary, Leparua, and Lewa Downs Primary schools. LEP also manages Ntalabany, Enaikishomi, and Sang'a, which fall under the Il Ngwesi group Ranch. In the future, we are hoping to partner with more schools to help provide resources that they are lacking.

To all our donors, LEP appreciates the unparalleled support you have given us over the years to make the education programme a huge success. In the same vein, we are very grateful for the continued support that comes to us through conservation, mainly from the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Due to the peace and tranquillity at Lewa, more people have come out to see the great wildlife in their natural habitat and at the same time have been inspired to give to the children.

It has been a great honour spearheading the development and growth of the education programme and seeing the positive impact that it has had on the local communities. Through education initiatives, lives have been transformed and the standards of living in the community have been improved. It is worth celebrating this success and we believe LEP will carry on reaching out to more and more people in local communities preaching conservation and education.

Faith Riunga

Education Programme Manager
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

BURSARIES



LEP provides opportunities for children to proceed to secondary school on completion of their primary school education. In the eight Lewa-supported schools, with a total enrolment of approximately 380 children in class eight, only 20% of these children will proceed to high school each year. LEP supports half of those children while the rest are supported by their parents. Over the last ten years, we have sponsored over 500 children through the Bursaries Programme. The success rate of students from the sponsored schools from the beginning of education to employment is an impressive 80%.

Successful alumni of the LEP Bursary programme inspire and help mentor the younger students. **Stephen Kasoo** finished his university education and obtained his bachelor's

and master's degrees. He then became the Conservation Tourism Manager of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. **Josef Muthamia**, one of the pioneer students, was the best class eight student at Ntugi primary School and was sponsored by LEP throughout for high school and university. He obtained bachelor's and master's degrees and is currently working as the Coordinator of the Soy and Climbing Beans Project at Kenyatta University. **Robert Munoru** was supported through high school and is now working with Kenya Airways. **Ochen Maiyani** is the Manager of Ngwesi Group Lodge. **Ruth Naitore** has started a stationery shop and is earning a steady income to support her family. **Mercy Ataya** graduated with a bachelor's degree in education and is teaching languages at a high school in the community.

All of these students have come back throughout the years and haven't given back to their communities. Our current students have great role models to look up to and we hope to continue to provide more opportunities through bursaries so that there can be more scholars and leaders for better decision making in the country. We also have many extremely vulnerable children in the community who have received sponsorships over the years and continue to make us proud by coping well in school.

SCHOOLS

The Lewa Education Programme facilitates development in the schools and supplements what the government already provides. The government focuses on operational

seven kitchens with kitchen stores, and 76 classrooms have been built equipped with at least 20 desks per class.

- 2. Curriculum Development:** LEP tries to improve the teacher-student ratio in the schools by employing more teachers. 45 teachers have been employed and are working in the Lewa-Supported Schools. This has motivated parents to employ more teachers too. LEP organizes seminars and workshops for teachers so that learning can be more child-centred. Additionally, some teachers have been sent to additional degree courses so that they can come back with even better teaching skills and knowledge. LEP also provides teaching and learning aides to facilitate learning in the schools and school supplies are provided to supplement the government deficit

- 3. Feeding Programme:** Parents have entrusted us with their children because we feed them ten o'clock porridge and a hot lunch every school day. This has led to high enrolment and retention rates in the schools. In support of this feeding programme, our schools have initiated farming activities so that they can supplement the ingredients we provide for school meals. This will lead to sustainability of the feeding programme through continuous production of sufficient food. We also encourage the children to duplicate various farming technologies in their homes as well as regularly eating vegetables and fruits for better nutrition.



and instructional resources and LEP assists in:

- 1. Infrastructure:** Children have been learning in old dilapidated classes and LEP comes in to build permanent structures. Classes, latrines, kitchens, libraries have been built depending on the schools development plan and priorities. Over the last ten years, five libraries stocked with books,
- 4. School Uniforms:** LEP tries to make sure that all children are happy and comfortable so that learning can take place. Over the years we have been able to provide uniforms to our children in the schools and we hope to continue to do so in collaboration with their parents.

programme. After all, it is Lewa's conservation efforts within the Conservancy that fund all of the programmes that benefit local schools.

LEP, in conjunction with the Lewa Research Department, visits Lewa-supported schools once every week to educate the students on wildlife conservation. This has enlightened the community on the diversity of wildlife on Lewa, their adaptations, facts about all of them and most importantly, the importance of conservation especially to the community. Lewa provides education game drives that attract schools from all over Kenya to visit Lewa and learn more about the variety of species and the benefits of wildlife conservation. The school



VOLUNTEERS

LEP has a volunteer programme that has provided opportunities for students and education interns to come teach in our schools. This has built strong relationships between the host schools and volunteers and given much needed continuous support to the children. Experts in the education field have come out and spent time with our teachers and have helped improved curriculum implementation in the schools. Living a basic, normal life with our neighbouring communities is an enriching experience for our volunteers, and helps them appreciate the resources they have back home.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Conservation education is a vital component of the education



visit is free of charge and has proven to be extremely popular with primary and secondary schools as well as colleges and universities.

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMME

The Adult Literacy Programme was created to provide an opportunity for adults in the neighbouring communities to learn how to read and write. Over a period of time it became clear that there was an additional need for education on relevant day-to-day life skills, as well as activities and knowledge that could help generate income. Today, skills such as crop farming, poultry farming, civic education and basics of business are offered. These adult students have been able to start and successfully operate a baking shop, sew uniforms for local schools, rear poultry and sell chicken and eggs, among other projects. As with the children's education programmes, conservation education has been key in raising awareness that it is from wildlife conservation that all the above benefits are accruing to these schools and the surrounding community.





About the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Craig/Douglas family first came to Lewa Downs in 1922, and managed it as a cattle ranch for over 50 years, also engaging in wildlife tourism and placing importance on the role of the wildlife living here. So, in the 1980s when the plight of the black rhino became desperate in Africa, the ranch was converted into the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary, and with the enthusiastic support and funding of co-founder and rhino conservationist, Anna Merz, the sanctuary operated for more than 10 years.

WHO WE ARE TODAY

In 1995 the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy was established as a not-for-profit organisation. Spanning 62,000 acres, Lewa is now home to over 10% of Kenya's black rhino population, over 14% of Kenya's white rhino population and the world's largest single population of Grevy's zebra. As well as endangered species, Lewa is home to over 350 species of birds, and 70 mammal species - including the Big Five.

WHAT WE DO

- Monitor and protect endangered species and habitat
- Ensure conservation directly benefits neighbouring communities through our dedicated education and community development programmes (e.g.: healthcare, enterprise, water development)
- Finance conservation by combining tourism and carefully focussed donor support
- Support the Kenyan Government with wildlife translocation, veterinary intervention and armed anti-poaching teams across northern Kenya

LEWA AS A CATALYST BEYOND ITS BOUNDARIES

Lewa's mission is to act as a catalyst for conservation and its successful model combines the protection of wildlife, community development, and sustainable tourism. Acting as a corridor of security and development, we help to stimulate community-owned conservation throughout northern Kenya, and beyond. And, that is why the Conservancy has been instrumental in supporting the creation of the

Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), headquartered on Lewa. NRT is an innovative partnership which works to facilitate community-led conservation initiatives in Northern Kenya, promoting the collective management of ecosystems to improve human livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and rangeland management. This dynamic partnership has increased the amount of land under integrated conservation management from the original 26,000 acres to around 2million allowing wildlife to begin to migrate throughout their historical natural ranges once more.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Lewa's mission of stimulating the conservation of endangered wildlife, and supporting community development linked to wildlife-conservation, has been made possible by generous supporters from all over the world. For more information and to pledge your support, visit us at www.lewa.org or send an email to info@lewa.org.

