

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is in an extremely lucky situation in that it has many, many friends and supporters both locally in Kenya and overseas as well as a very dedicated staff force. Whether it is support from the Kenya Wildlife Service or financial support from overseas sponsors, none of the success's that Lewa has achieved in the conservation field and with its neighbours would have been possible.

Lewa is truly a joint success, thanks to all of you.

Unbelievable Black Rhino Story – It's True, Believe Me

The extraordinary photograph below shows a sub-adult female black rhino, still alive, in a cable snare that was tightening with every struggle around the animal's hips/torso. It was taken on 17th April 2004 on a private rhino sanctuary in Laikipia District that had come under intensive poaching, specific to rhino, between 2002 and 2004. Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (LWC) became heavily involved in security from mid April 2004 until August 2006 in what was a successful bid to stamp out this poaching. This particular rhino was successfully cut free and released following joint efforts between the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Vet Unit and LWC security men.

Little did we know that nearly 3 years on we would touch this very same female black rhino again but under very different circumstances. On 17th February 2007 she was darted and translocated from Solio Game Reserve to Ol Pejeta Conservancy (OPC) in perfect health, but still bearing the very distinct scares on her hips of that near fatal cable snare. She was one of 28 black rhino that were translocated to OPC from Solio in what is East Africa's largest rhino translocation to date.



Black rhino being released from a cable snare

With so few wild black rhino left in this world it is not surprising that individual rhino are re caught and can be individually recognized. This lady is one lucky rhino and we are very lucky to be a part of her story.

Richard Moller - Director of Operations



Same black rhino showing snare scars - three years later