

Ewaso Lions Quarterly Update July - September 2015

Wildlife Monitoring & Research – Lion Update



Lengwe, a 2-year-old male lion from the Koitogor pride, suffers fractured femur

Our lion monitoring activities have continued over the last three months; the field team out patrolling on foot and by vehicle each day. Here are some of the latest lion stories from the field:

Lengwe
On the 14th September, Lion Watch Guides in Samburu National Reserve reported that Lengwe, a 2-year-old male from the Koitogor pride, had injured his hind leg. Jeneria and the Field Team went to assess Lengwe's condition and found he was unable to put any weight on the injured leg. The cause of his injury was unknown. The regional KWS vet, Dr. Mutinda, was called immediately and a decision made to conduct an X-ray to determine the extent of the injury. Dr. Imran from North Kenya Veterinary Services travelled up from Nanyuki with a portable X-ray machine. This was the first time that we have ever done an X-ray of a lion in the wild and it confirmed that Lengwe had a fractured femur. The vets explained that a fractured leg is, unfortunately, very hard to treat in wild lions but there is a chance it will heal naturally. As Lengwe had not drunk any water for several days, whilst he was immobilized, he was also given him lots of fluids intravenously. The Ewaso Lions team is monitoring Lengwe daily and will continue to do everything we can to ensure he has the best possible chance of survival in the wild. We would like to thank the veterinary teams, Samburu National Reserve and Rangers and our Lion Watch Guides for all their support with this case.

Loiwotwa

Loiwotwa, the 3-year-old son of Nashipai, has spent many months constantly moving between community areas in search of safe habitat. He has been regularly sighted within the Core Conservation Area of Westgate Conservancy, as well as across the river in Mpus Kutuk Conservancy. However, on the 18th of September we were surprised to see Loiwotwa had returned to Samburu National Reserve, indicating that he has so far been unable to establish a territory of his own elsewhere. His arrival caused chaos within the pride and Nanai, in particular, did not tolerate his arrival and fought him off on several occasions. He is now keeping a low profile.



Loiwotwa makes a return to Samburu National Reserve

Two cubs died in Buffalo Springs

It saddens us to announce that, in July, two one and a half-year old cubs from the Ngare Mara Pride died in Buffalo Springs National Reserve. The Ewaso Lions team, together with KWS and Buffalo Springs National Reserve authorities, were present at the scene during the day and the bodies of the cubs were taken to Nairobi to confirm the cause of death. Jeneria was later able to locate the rest of the pride and confirm that the other three cubs and their mothers were well. The cubs, however, spent two days hiding in a warthog hole and were very nervous when they finally emerged. The Field Team continued to monitor the pride closely for six days and were relieved to see them were looking healthy and well fed.

Lion Kids Camp Reunion



122 Kenyan children attend Lion Kids Camp Reunion in Westgate Conservancy

In August, we held a very special edition of our Lion Kids Camp – a Reunion Camp. We brought together 122 Kenyan children who had all previously participated one of our Lion Kids Camps, held between 2013 and 2015. The children joined us from 11 schools, spread across three counties (Samburu, Isiolo and Nyeri).

Everyone was so excited to reunite for four days of conservation education, games, career advice, and much more. The camp not only served to reinforce important conservation messages but also allowed the kids, who come from diverse cultural backgrounds and a wide range of ages, to interact and share their stories.

We thank Westgate Conservancy for hosting the camp and hope this is just the first of many Reunions!

World Lion Day

August 10th was World Lion Day and to mark the occasion the whole Ewaso Lions team, including members of Warrior Watch and Mama Simba, united to run for their favourite lions. It was a fantastic day and especially nice to hear which individual lions everyone was running for and why. Our friends and family across the world also joined us to run for lions. Our inspirational friend Brian Khepri from Arizona even ran for 34 hours straight to raise funds and awareness for lions.

We ended the day with a sighting of the Loiwotwa. Having heard him through the night and run over his tracks during the race, we finally spotted him in the evening resting by the river in the Core Area. It was a great day and we especially thank Sierra 1, Stephen, for all his help.



On World Lion Day, the Ewaso Lions team ran for their favourite lions

Knowledge Exchange: Jeneria visits Nakuru with KWS

In early July, Kenya Wildlife Service requested Jeneria assist them in the delivery of an education and awareness programme in Soysambu Wildlife Conservancy. Two lionesses, and their cubs, had recently moved from Lake Nakuru National Park into the Conservancy, which previously did not have a resident lion population. The lionesses were reportedly entering bomas at night and predated on livestock. Attempts to reduce conflict had failed and Jeneria was asked to talk to the community about methods and techniques to prevent human-carnivore conflict and coexist peacefully with lions and other large carnivores.

Aperture Africa Productions



The cast of the show with Shivani

At the end of September, Aperture Africa Productions partnered with Ewaso Lions in their play “Out of Order” and generously donated the proceeds raised through to Ewaso Lions. The play, which was held over three nights between the 25th and 27th of September, was a huge success and we are very grateful to Aperture Africa Productions for supporting us and giving us the opportunity to raise public awareness about lions and their conservation in Kenya.

About Ewaso Lions

Ewaso Lions is an independent non-profit wildlife conservation organisation in northern Kenya. Our mission is to conserve Kenya's lions and other large carnivores by promoting coexistence between people and wildlife. Since 2007, Ewaso Lions has used sound science, education, and capacity building to foster support for and guide the long-term conservation of lions. For more information on our community and research programmes, please visit www.ewasolions.org

Contact Us

Shivani Bhalla

Founder & Executive Director

Tel: 0721 696 443

shivani@ewasolions.org

Jeneria Lekilelei

Field Operations & Community Manager

Tel: 0713 186 054

jeneria@ewasolions.org

Ewaso Lions

P.O. Box 14996, Nairobi 00800, Kenya

www.ewasolions.org

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