



Ewaso Lions Quarterly Report

April - June 2016

Key Highlights

- We are excited to announce that Jeneria discovered **three new cubs** in our study area in June. He has been closely monitoring them to ensure people and livestock do not disturb them. The cubs are approximately 2 months old and belong to the Ngare Mara pride. See page 2.
- We have had a permanent presence in Loijuk Swamp since March due to the increased human-wildlife conflict in that area. Four warriors have been stationed at the **temporary camp** for the past four months to engage daily with community members.
- In April, we held our **7th Lion Kids Camp**. In line with our focus for 2016, the camp targeted young livestock herders. This group spend most of their time in wildlife areas looking after their family's livestock, yet have limited, if any, exposure to conservation education and training. 26 children from both Samburu and Turkana communities participated in the 5-day camp which featured lessons, conservation games, film screenings, a drama, and a wildlife safari. For 19 of the 26 herders, this was the first time in their lives they had seen lions. [Read more and watch video.](#)
- **Junior**, our 13-year-old Lion Kid, and his mentor **Samson**, our Resident Wildlife Artist, both won awards in **The Mask Prize** – a competition supporting creativity and innovation for youth in Kenya, and sponsored by the Rivers Foundation (UK) and Nobility Project (USA). Their work will be displayed at the Saatchi Gallery in London in October. [See photos | Read more about Junior.](#)
- In April, Shivani and Heather led a 2-day training workshop entitled, **“Transforming Conflict to Coexistence: Tools and Techniques”**. The workshop was an extension of Shivani’s training at the Pathways Conference in Nanyuki in January and covered topics related to conflict, coexistence and impact evaluation. Ewaso Lions staff and some Pathways Conference participants attended the training.
- **Naramat’s cubs are growing and remain healthy** in Westgate Conservancy. Letoiye, who leads our Lion Monitoring team, has continued to monitor them very closely. [See photos.](#)
- **Letupukwa**, our cook for five years, is now our **new Research Officer**. Having kept us well fed at all times of the day and night and kept up with our demanding field schedules, he is very excited to start his new role which will see him out in the field collecting data for our research and conservation programmes. Meanwhile our Camp Assistant **Lerimara** has been **promoted to Cook**.
- In May, our Research Manager, Toby, and Regional Lion Coordinator, Thomas, participated in **SMART CyberTracker training** at Mpala Research Centre. CyberTracker is a smartphone field data collection application, whilst SMART is a desktop application for managing data collected using CyberTracker. The training was organized by the African Wildlife Foundation. Toby is now training our Lion Scouts and Warriors to use Cybertracker in place of paper forms to increase the efficiency of our data collection.
- In June, Toby participated in a **citizen science symposium in Nairobi**. The symposium provided a forum for people to present case studies outlining successes and challenges of citizen science projects and to stimulate new ideas. Toby presented a 5 minute speed talk titled “Using citizen science to scale up lion conservation: Ewaso Lions’ Lion Watch Programme”.
- Our newly appointed **Mama Simba Coordinators**, Munteli and Mparasaroi, have been busy **training the new cohort of Mama Simba ladies** who joined the programme in February. Under Munteli and Mparasaroi’s supervision, the nine new ladies have already made 30 beaded lions. See page 2.
- In May, Shivani, Paul, Jeneria and Yesalai completed a two-week trip in the US. The team presented at the **Wildlife Conservation Expo** at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, attended **meetings with the National Geographic** team in Washington D.C, gave a talk to hundreds of children at **Alta Vista Elementary School** in southern California, as well as spending valuable time with individual donors. This was Yesalai’s first time to the US. [Read more and see photos.](#)
- Our Education Officer, Kalastar, participated in a 3-day **conservation education workshop in Lewa** organised by San Diego Zoo. The workshop focused on strategic planning for conservation education efforts in Northern Kenya and was attended by various stakeholders engaged in conservation education within the Samburu-Laikipia landscape.
- We released our **2015 Annual Report**. It contains highlights from 2015 in terms of conservation impact, operational growth, and important results. [Download our Annual Report.](#)

- In June, we underwent an **intensive strategic planning** session. Led by two conservation practitioners from the U.K. who are longtime friends of Ewaso Lions, our team reviewed and analyzed every aspect of our programme and operation. The process is ongoing and by the end of the year we hope to have finalized our strategic plan for 2017-2019.

New cubs in our study area



We are extremely excited to announce the birth of three lion cubs in our study area. Jeneria discovered them in June and has been monitoring them closely to ensure they are not disturbed by livestock or people.

"Because of the excitement," he said, "I almost threw my camera. I was shaking all over and it took me so long to take the first photo."

The birth of each cub within our area is cause for celebration. The lion population in Samburu is a key link between lions to the south and those further north. We will be keeping a close eye on these little cubs and can't wait to see what lies ahead.

Newly appointed Mama Simba Coordinators



Following the recent expansion of our Mama Simba programme into three new locations, we are excited to announce that Munteli and Mparasaroi have taken on a role as Mama Simba Coordinators. The ladies, from Sasaab village, are now responsible for providing leadership and training to the 17 other Mamas involved in the programme.

Since March, they have been working hard to teach the nine new ladies how to make their beaded lion figurines, as well as improve the overall design and quality of the final product. We have been very impressed with their results and, already, the new ladies have made 30 lions under the supervision of Munteli and Mparasaroi.

With support from Painoti Letabare, one of Ewaso Lions' sponsored students, both the ladies have also been making incredible progress with their conversational skills. Munteli can now describe what Ewaso Lions does in English and, when the teacher was away, she recently led a Saturday School class for the new group of Mamas. [Watch a video of Munteli in action in the classroom.](#)

Munteli and Mparasaroi also played a key role in the strategic planning workshops we held in June; providing a voice for Samburu women in lion conservation. Their contribution to the development of the Mama Simba programme is invaluable and we are very proud of what they have achieved. We have big plans for them, and for the future of Mama Simba under their leadership!

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