

Ewaso Lions Quarterly Update

January - March 2016

Wildlife Monitoring & Research - Lion Update

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

Koitogor pride

The Koitogor pride, the main pride of Samburu, have been scattered. **Nabulu** and **Nanai**, both of whom are lactating, have remained within the Reserve. **Nadala** and **Napirai** have been sighted regularly within Kalama Conservancy. **Naramat** and her cubs are still in Westgate and have mainly been in the Conservation Area. Encroachment from Mpus Kutuk Conservancy has led to increased human-lion conflict as Naramat and her cubs have frequently preyed on lost livestock. Her cubs, first sighted when they were already 9 months old, are already learning how to hunt. Learning these skills at a young age should help ensure their survival in community areas. **Naisherua**, **Namunyak** and **Loeku**, sub-adults from the Koitogor Pride, have been roaming around Westgate and Nasuulu Conservancies in recent weeks. These young lions have also been preying on livestock - mainly lost donkeys - within the two Conservancies. They have not been sighted with their brother **Lengwe**, who was recovering from a fractured leg, since February.



Naisherua and her siblings have been roaming between Westgate and Nasuulu Conservancies

Loijuk conflict

In response to the increase in livestock activity in the Loijuk area, our Scouts and Warriors set up a temporary camp here in March. The team has been working tirelessly to monitor lion movements in the area, whilst also dealing with many cases of lost livestock. On the 28th of March, the whole team was deeply saddened to hear that a young male lion had been shot in Lowa Werikoi and succumbed to his injuries. We are grateful to Kenya Wildlife Service, Westgate Community Conservancy, Samburu National Reserve and Namunyak Conservancy for their ongoing support during what has been a challenging time for our team.

Mama Simba Expansion



Our Mama Simba programme now includes 19 ladies from four locations.

In February, our Mama Simba programme almost doubled in size! Nine ladies joined the programme from three new locations within Westgate: Ngutuk Ongiron, Lempaute and Remot. Together with the ten original Mama Simba ladies, they took part in three days of conservation training where they learnt all about lions, other carnivores and their conservation. The ladies also participated in a fun conservation game we have developed to help people understand about threats to wildlife and also went on a game drive in the Reserve where they saw Naisherua and her siblings. In March, the new ladies started attending School in Lempaute. After just two weeks, they were already making great progress, with some having mastered the alphabet and numbers. Two of the ladies from Sasaab, Munteli and Mparasaroi, have taken on the role of Mama Simba Coordinators and have started to train the new ladies to make beaded lions. We are very excited by the growth of the Mama Simba programme.

Lion Kids Camp with Herding Children



Our first Lion Kids Camp to target Lchokutis (herders) took place in February.

In February, we held our first ever Lion Kids Camp with young livestock herders. All five previous camps had targeted local primary school students with a view to inspiring the next generation of wildlife conservationists. However, we recognized that engaging young herders in our Lion Kids Camps could actually have a more immediate, direct impact on wildlife. Herders spend a significant amount of time in wildlife areas and play an important role in protecting their families' livestock and maintaining cultural traditions. Yet, they have limited exposure to conservation education and training. This Camp brought together 28 herders from locations across Westgate Community

Conservancy for five days of conservation-themed presentations, activities and games. On their game drive in the Reserve, 24 of the 28 children saw lions for the first time in their lives! The group was even lucky enough to see some of Westgate's own residents - Naramat and her cubs - in the Conservation Area. The Camp was a great success and, best of all, even before we'd dropped the children back to their villages we were able to see a change in their behaviour. The team is now looking forward to engaging with more herders at our next Lion Kids Camp, taking place between 8th and 12th April.

We would like to thank Westgate Community Conservancy, Samburu National Reserve, Micato Safaris, Grevy's Zebra Trust and Daniel Letoie for their support during this Lion Kids Camp.

Samson to attend International Youth Forum for People and Wildlife

We are very pleased to announce that our own resident artist and scholar, Samson, has been picked to be part of the Youth Forum for People and Wildlife. In September, Samson will travel to South Africa to join 33 other inspiring young people from around the world to engage in an empowering event to debate issues, explore solutions and build the skills the world needs if we are to save wildlife and build ecologically-sustainable communities. The group will convene just days before the 17th meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Samson and his fellow delegates were selected from nearly 1,000 applicants, who exemplify a commitment in keeping with this year's World Wildlife Day theme: "The Future of Wildlife is in Our Hands." We are so proud of Samson and know that as a conservation artist, he will contribute a truly unique and important perspective to the Forum.



Our Resident Artist Samson is to attend the Youth Forum for People and Wildlife

Ewaso Lions works with Grevy's Zebra Trust and The Samburu Trust



Ewaso Lions joined Grevy's Zebra Trust for holistic management workshop.

In March, the Ewaso Lions team joined the Grevy's Zebra Trust for a training workshop on holistic management led by Belinda. The training was hugely beneficial and after all participants were tasked with holding meetings in their own villages to spread awareness about holistic management. We thank the Grevy's Zebra Trust for hosting this informative workshop.

Also in March, Jeneria and Kalastar held a two-day training workshop for scouts from The Samburu Trust. In addition to providing information about Ewaso Lions' work and issues relevant to lion conservation, the group conducted a participatory mapping

exercise in which they identified key areas for lion movement and hotspots for human-carnivore conflict in areas connecting Laikipia and Samburu. The mapping exercise highlighted current barriers to lion movement including development. The Samburu Trust scouts are now holding meetings within their respective areas to sensitise the local community about issues discussed and lessons learned during the training and we look forward to collaborating with them in future. We thank The Samburu Trust and the Grevy's Zebra Trust for their participation in this workshop.

Ewaso Lions participates in clean up of Reserves



Ewaso Lions joined dozens of stakeholders in clean up of the Reserves

On March 8th and 9th, Ewaso Lions joined dozens of other stakeholders to participate in a mass clean up of Buffalo Springs and Samburu National Reserves. The event was organized through the Samburu Isiolo Tourism Forum under the leadership of Chairman, Kevin from Samburu Intrepids, and Secretary, Shivani from Ewaso Lions. The turnout on both days was strong with representation from most tour lodges and conservation groups. Over 25 bags were filled with trash from the reserves and we were very happy to be part of this exercise.

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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