



Ewaso Lions Quarterly Report July - September 2016

Key Highlights

- The **7th annual Running for Lions community race** took place in Westgate Conservancy in July. The race continued the tradition of bringing together members of the local community for a day celebrating lions and raising awareness of conservation. Ewaso Lions was proud to support this event for the 7th year running. [Watch video.](#)
- In July, conservation and tourism partners, the local community and school children all joined hands in a **mass clean up event in Westgate Community Conservancy**. The group collected and removed bags of litter in a bid to keep wildlife and livestock safe, and engage local people in environmental stewardship. Ewaso Lions organised the clean up for the Samburu-Isiolo Conservation and Tourism Forum. [Read more.](#)
- At the beginning of August, our Mama Simba Coordinators, **Munteli** and **Mparasaroi**, and Resident Wildlife Artist, **Samson**, participated in a workshop run by **Zingira Nyanza Community Crafts in Kisumu**, Western Kenya. The team learnt how to repurpose waste and sustainable materials into handicrafts – a win-win for the environment and livelihoods. See page 2.
- In August, we held our **third Lion Kids Camp of 2016**. This Camp, which took place on Loisaba Conservancy, marked only the second time an LKC has been held outside Samburu. The Camp, sponsored by Loisaba Conservancy, targeted livestock herders from surrounding communities. The 24 children spent five days with our team learning all about wildlife, conservation and ways to coexist with lions and other large carnivores. [Read more.](#)
- We continue to coordinate with various stakeholders about emerging threats from large-scale development projects. In August, our Lion Coordinator for Ngare Mara, **Thomas**, and our Research Officer, **Letupukwa** attended a one-day **training workshop on strategic environmental assessment** that was co-sponsored by Ewaso Lions. The training was organised by the African Wildlife Foundation in the light of the mega development projects proposed for Samburu and Northern Kenya.
- Our team **supported WildlifeDirect during a 3-day field trip** they hosted in Samburu to commemorate World Lion Day (10th August) and World Elephant Day (12th August). Ninety-one children from informal settlement areas in Nairobi and rural schools in Laikipia and Samburu participated in the event, dubbed #WatotoPorini. The WildlifeDirect team was so impressed by **Junior** they asked him to contribute illustrations for an activity book about lions to be distributed across Kenya.
- In July, we sadly lost one of Naramat's young cubs. The **cub was shot dead** after her mother killed a camel. Jeneria and the field team have been working closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service team to follow-up on the killing of the lion. Naramat and her remaining two cubs are healthy and well.
- In August, we **deployed advanced research collars** (together with partners at Lion Landscapes) on two key individual lions, **Nadala and Naramat**, to closely monitor their movements and activity patterns. Collar data will provide vital insight into how lions use the human occupied landscapes that surround the protected areas, and survive in community areas.
- In September, **Samson (our resident wildlife artist)** left Kenya for the first time in his life to participate in **IFAW's inaugural Youth Forum for People and Wildlife** in South Africa. See page 2.
- Our **Research Manager, Toby**, led a workshop for our **Lion Scouts** in September to share with them preliminary findings of the transect data they have collected over the past 4 years. Part of the workshop involved review of the transect data collection protocol and training on transitioning from paper to electronic data collection using smart phone data collection apps.
- As we continue to work on our three-year strategic plan, the team has been exploring new areas north of our current study area with a view to **identifying priority regions for expansion**. Securing these regions will be critical to maintaining connectivity and genetic resilience of northern Kenya's lions.
- Excitingly, our **Mama Simba programme was featured in BBC Earth and**, the East Africa Wildlife Society magazine, **Swara**. [Read the BBC Earth article](#) | [Read the Swara article](#).
- We partnered with **Aperture Africa Productions** who, once again, generously donated proceeds raised during their rendition of "The Jungle Book" to Ewaso Lions. The play, performed over 2 nights in August, was a great success and we are grateful for the continued support of the Aperture team.
- Our **Mama Simba ladies have established their own 'bush school'** in Sasaab village. Their regular class, held on Saturdays, is taught in the local pre-school. However, the ladies wanted to be able to continue their

lessons during the week, so they built their own 'bush school'. [See a photo.](#)

- On 28th September, Jeneria, our Field Operations Manager, gave a fantastic **talk for the East African Wildlife Society** at Karen Country Club in Nairobi. Many thanks to the EAWL team for hosting the event.
- **Toby attended a two week short course on “Estimating Animal Abundance and Occupancy”** at Front Royal Virginia, USA. The course, funded by WWF EFN’s programme and organised by Smithsonian Mason School of Conservation (SMSC), focused on analysis of distance, mark-recapture and presence-absence data using specialized software. In coming months, Toby will be using these methods to analyse data collected by Ewaso Lions Scouts and Warriors.
- Thanks to a very generous Safari Host/Guide and a wonderful group of pilots who visited Samburu in September, 14 of the Ewaso Lions team had the trip of a lifetime. The **group of Warriors, Mama Simba ladies and Lion Kids were flown to Lewa for the day to see Rhinos** and other wildlife up close for the first time in their lives. For many, it was their first trip outside of Samburu.

Mama Simba ladies learn new skills on visit to Kisumu, Western Kenya



Samburu women regularly buy staples such as sugar, tea and maize from local shops. These items always come packaged in plastic or thin nylon bags. The bags, along with other waste items, are often burned or discarded in the bush or around the manyattas, where livestock and wildlife may ingest them. Through our Mama Simba programme, Ewaso Lions has organised several clean up campaigns in the local villages to raise awareness about the importance of keeping the environment clean and healthy. At the same time, we know there is a local demand from the community for more recycling opportunities.

We are now exploring long-term solutions to this waste problem. Thus, we have reached out to organisations with expertise in waste management and setting up community-based recycling enterprises. One such organisation is Zingira Nyanza Community Crafts located in Kisumu, Western Kenya. In August, our Mama Simba Coordinators, Munteli and Mparasaroi, together with our Resident Wildlife Artist, Samson, attended a two-day product development workshop organized by the Zingira team in Kisumu. They learnt to make all sorts of wonderful creations from waste and sustainable materials, including these baskets (pictured) made from invasive water hyacinth. We are currently in the process of conducting a feasibility study, in partnership with Zingira, to see whether a similar recycling initiative can be established here in Samburu.

Samson attends IFAW Youth Forum for People and Wildlife in South Africa



Our Resident Artist, Samson, had a once in a lifetime opportunity to attend the inaugural IFAW Youth Forum for People and Wildlife, held in South Africa this month. It was also Samson’s first time to leave Kenya!

Samson, together with 33 other extraordinary young leaders in conservation and animal welfare, was selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 candidates. The forum, which took place directly ahead of the Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, provided a unique opportunity for young people to explore complex wildlife issues, share their diversity of experience and participate in professional development workshops. The delegates also become ambassadors and mentors to an extensive online community.

We are very proud of Samson, who was also chosen by his fellow Youth Forum delegates to present his poster during a live session streamed to the online community. You can watch his video online on the [IFAW Youth Forum Website](#). Well done Samson!

Ewaso Lions
P.O. Box 14996, Nairobi 00800, Kenya
info@ewasolions.org | Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)
www.ewasolions.org