



Ewaso Lions Quarterly Report

April - June 2017

Key Highlights

- We are excited to announce that **four new male lions have appeared in Samburu**. Thanks to our partners at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, who confirmed that these males originated from Lewa. For the full story, **see page two**.
- **Loeku**, a young male lion that we collared in Samburu National Reserve in February, **has been trying to disperse to new areas**. He first attempted to leave through Isiolo, but high densities of people and settlements prevented him from passing through this area. He spent a day on a farm near Isiolo, before returning to Buffalo Springs National Reserve (BSNR). A few days later he travelled all the way to Lewa, but spent only one night there, before heading back through Nasuulu Conservancy. He has since been back around BSNR.
- The **LAPSSET Strategic Environmental Assessment** team visited Westgate Conservancy to gather stakeholders' views on a proposed alternative route for the LAPSSET corridor that would pass through Learata – Wamba – Maralal. Following the meeting, we spearheaded data collection on key wildlife corridors by all stakeholders and compiled results into a report that was shared with the LAPSSET SEA team. It is hoped that the results will inform planning and implementation of the LAPSSET project with a view to minimize impacts on the region's wildlife.
- On the 22nd of June, **Shivani attended a workshop organized by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to formulate a strategic plan for implementing the new Wildlife Conservation and Management Act**. Various stakeholders attended the workshop, including representatives from national and county government, conservation NGOs and the private sector.
- Our sponsored student, **Solomon Lmantari, secured a place at Kenyatta University in Nairobi to study Environmental Management**. Solomon will start his course in September. In the meantime, he has been working with the Ewaso Lions team and teaching at our Mama Simba school in Lempaute. Congratulations Solomon!
- In April and May, respectively, our team participated in the **Nasuulu and Kalama Conservancy Annual General Meetings**. The meetings were key in discussing how Ewaso Lions can collaborate effectively with the conservancies.
- In April, **Shivani and, Conservation Manager, Heather visited the [Whitley Fund for Nature](#)** (funders of Ewaso Lions) office in London to provide an update on Warrior Watch and to **give a talk to students at Nottingham Preparatory School**, one of the funders for this year's Whitley Awards.
- Also in April, **Shivani gave a presentation at the [Born Free Foundation](#)** office in Horsham, UK, attended by Virginia McKenna. The Born Free Foundation are long-term supporters of Ewaso Lions.
- In May, the **Ewaso Lions team attended a fire-safety training course hosted by Nimrod**. The team was taught how to respond safely in the event of a fire, including which extinguisher should be applied to put out a fire based on the type of material alight. Representatives from Westgate Conservancy Headquarters and Grevy's Zebra Trust also attended the training held at Ewaso Lions' camp.
- In May, our Research Manager, **Toby, attended a four-day training workshop** organized by the Zoological Society of London. The training, held at the IUCN offices in Nairobi, covered new features of the recently released **SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) version 4.0**. An exciting new feature, which is still being tested, is the remote upload and download capability. SMART is fully compatible with CyberTracker, an app which allows the warriors to collect patrol data using smartphone devices. To date, 18 staff have been trained to use CyberTracker.
- In April, **Shivani and Heather attended the [Conservation Optimism Summit](#)** held at Dulwich College in London. The event brought together an interdisciplinary group of people from the fields of conservation, sustainable business, psychology and more, to celebrate wildlife conservation successes and encourage a new, positive way of thinking about conservation. Shivani gave a presentation about Ewaso Lions work to promote coexistence between people and lions and also participated in the closing panel.
- After training the Ewaso Lions team on wildlife poisoning in March, the **Peregrine Fund team** returned to Samburu to **provide training to staff from the Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba National Reserves** and neighbouring community conservancies of **Nasuulu, Nakuprat-Gotu and Kalama**. A total of 49 staff were trained in how to respond and attend to a poisoning scene incident. Ewaso Lions' Samwel assisted during the training and Ewaso Lions co-funded the training. In June, Toby also attended a poisoning

meeting held by Kenya Wildlife Service and Nature Kenya in Nairobi.

- We are incredibly proud of **Munteli, our Mama Simba Coordinator, and Letupukwa, our Research Officer**, who **both recently passed their driving tests**. Thanks to generous supporters we have been able to purchase a new Suzuki to be shared between Mama Simba and our research activities. For the full story, **see page two**.
- Our [Annual Report for 2016](#) is now available. Highlights include the birth of cubs, expanding Mama Simba, working with herders in our Lion Kids Camps, tracking lions in community areas, and more.
- During this challenging field period, we are sorry to announce that **3 lions have been killed**, including 2 that we believe were shot as a result of illegal grazing in the reserves.
- In light of the ongoing drought and its consequences, our **team came together recently to discuss a way forward and make some key decisions** to help people and wildlife during this critical time.

New male lions in Samburu



In April four new male lions showed up in Samburu. Our partners at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy confirmed that these males are Brand, Bick, Mwack and Sakilenye. Three of the lions were born in November 2013 to the same mother and the fourth born in February 2014. The males left Lewa in February and headed towards Ngare Ndare, before moving to Borana and the Mukogodo Forest. Since showing up in Samburu, they have spent a lot of time with the Koitogor Pride females. This is exciting news for Samburu, as new blood is a welcome boost to the region's lion population. However, as is common in pride takeovers, Nabulu lost one of her young cubs to infanticide the day after the males arrived.

This stunning photo of Brand is taken by Robbie Labanowski. [See more photos of these new males.](#)

Munteli & Letupukwa pass their driving tests

As we continue to grow and expand into new areas, the pressure on our increasing existing drivers and vehicles has also increased. Lack of transport has been a major constraint for our community and research activities. Our Mama Simba programme, for example, has relied upon our overstretched field team and their vehicles, to travel between areas - limiting how frequently they can work with ladies from other villages, and how many of the wider community they can engage in conservation. So, late last year Munteli came up with her own solution to this problem: she would learn to drive herself. We are now delighted to report that after spending a month in Nanyuki in April for driving lessons, Munteli passed her driving test. This is a huge achievement for Munteli, especially in light of the fact that it is incredibly rare for a Samburu lady from a village to learn to drive.



Facing similar transport challenges, our research team also felt an additional driver was needed to enable expansion of our research work across our study area. Thus, our Research Officer Letupukwa has spent June in Nanyuki learning to drive and he too had passed his driving test!

Thanks to generous supporters, we have now also been able to purchase a new Suzuki 4WD, which will be shared between our Mama Simba and research programmes. CMC motors in Nanyuki held a lovely surprise handover ceremony in June where Munteli and Letupukwa were presented with the new vehicle. We are all very proud of Munteli and Letupukwa and look forward to seeing their respective programmes continue to go from strength to strength.

Ewaso Lions

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