



Ewaso Lions Quarterly Report January - March 2017

Key Highlights

- In January, we organised a **team expedition up Mount Kenya**. The five-day trek was an unforgettable experience as we climbed to 4,985 metres. In doing this, we were able to draw attention to the dramatic decline of lions in Africa, and **raise \$20,000 for lion conservation**. [Watch the video here](#).
- In January, a **new unidentified male lion** showed up in Samburu National Reserve. For the past three years, Lguret has been the dominant male in our Samburu study area but, at age 11, he is already near the end of his prime. Usually, younger and stronger males will enter an area and challenge the dominant male, but that hasn't happened yet. Although the male has since disappeared, a new lion in the area brings with it the potential for new genes to enter the population and also possibly an impact on pride dynamics. [Read more here](#).
- This quarter has been an especially busy period of recruitment for Ewaso Lions. We welcome a **new Regional Coordinator, Ben Lejale from Kipsing, a new Lion Kids Camp Coordinator, Peter Lenasalia from Sereolipi and a new Operations Officer, Evelyn Odour from Nairobi**. We are excited to have Peter, Ben and Evelyn join our lion family.
- In February, **Shivani gave a talk to 1,000 high school students** from across East Africa at the Model United Nations Conference at the UN Headquarters in Nairobi. The talk focused on our work in Samburu and how we have engaged marginalised demographics, such as women, and empowered them.
- In January, we commissioned an **impact evaluation study on Warrior Watch**. The study will assess any changes in attitudes, behavioural intentions, knowledge and empowerment that have resulted due to Warrior Watch and inform future expansion. The study is being conducted in collaboration with The University of Oxford and will build on, our Conservation Manager, Heather's original evaluation of Warrior Watch conducted in 2012.
- In January, the Field Team was very busy working with **three film crews, including: WildAid, National Geographic and a private crew from L.A.** The filming brought a lot of publicity and exposure to Samburu. The National Geographic film featured Jeneria and his team of warriors as part of National Geographic's Big Cat Week. [Watch the film and read more here](#).
- We are incredibly proud of our **Mama Simba Coordinator, Munteli, who is currently learning to drive**. She is a true natural and we cannot wait for her to be driving round Samburu looking for lions and engaging more women in conservation. [Watch Munteli driving here](#).
- In February, Heather tested our **new Activote devices** with the Field Team. Activotes are student response devices that enable users to answer multiple-choice questions and results to be recorded and presented in real-time. The devices will be used during our Lion Kids Camps - **improving the efficiency with which we evaluate camps and helping us tailor our curriculum** according to different ability levels.
- With funding from ICEA LION Kenya and Sacramento Zoo, we were able to purchase more smartphones for our data collection. Over the past few months, Toby has been busy **training the warriors to use the CyberTracker app** to collect vital ecological data.
- In February, our **Mama Simba ladies held a clean-up event in Sasaab** to remove litter that poses a risk to the health of wildlife, livestock and the community. The ladies also used our **custom-made conservation game to teach other women and children from their community about conservation**.
- In March, **Toby attended a workshop at Mpala Research Centre** organised by Mpala and the Smithsonian Institute. The workshop sought input from stakeholders within the Laikipia-Samburu ecosystem to help bridge the gap between conservation science and applied management. Toby has joined a data group formed during the workshop with a view to discussing protocols for data sharing amongst stakeholders.
- In the run up to National Geographic's Big Cat Week, **Shivani and Jeneria did their first-ever Facebook Live feature**, talking about our work direct from our Camp in Samburu. [Watch here](#).
- In January, we received exciting news that Chalisa, a **young male from Buffalo Springs**, had been **sighted in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy** – this is the first time in 8 years we have received a report that a lion moved successfully between Samburu and Lewa. **See page 2**.
- We continue to work with conservation and tourism partners across northern Kenya. As a member of the **Northern Kenya Conservation Education Working Group** we discuss opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing with a view to minimising duplication of effort and informing best practice. As a member

of the **Samburu-Isiolo Tourism and Conservation Forum** we attend meetings to discuss security, encroachment and wildlife issues within the reserves. As a member of the **Ewaso Nyiro Basin Forum** we have participated in meetings about planned development projects and at a recent meeting in March, the results of the newly released discussion paper on the Isiolo Dam were presented.

- In February, as part of a wider dispersal study with conservation partners, **Loeku, a young male was successfully collared in Samburu**. To date, he has been moving frequently towards the boundary of Buffalo Springs and spends a lot of time along Isiolo River.
- Jeneria and the Field Team have held **workshops in several conservancies this year, including Kalama, Nakuprat-Gotu and Nasuulu**. The workshops focused on lion conservation and conflict. We are grateful to these conservancies for their ongoing support as we work to promote coexistence between people and lions across northern Kenya.
- In January, **three new students received scholarships through the Jeremy Lucas Education Fund** (see below). Angeline, Veronica and Nicholas received four year scholarships to attend secondary schools. They join 6 other students currently sponsored by Ewaso Lions. Meanwhile, **Solomon completed Form 4** and received his grades. Solomon is the third student to graduate through our scholarship programme and hopes to start university later this year.
- **Jeneria was accepted as one of three international participants in the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders Course**, which commenced in March in White Oak, Florida. This two-year programme will equip Jeneria with leadership, networking, fundraising skills, and much more.
- These are difficult times for wildlife, the communities and their livestock. The Ewaso Nyiro River dried up in early January, and since then has flowed very little. Wildlife and livestock congregate at small waterholes and challenges increase. We are concerned about the next few weeks and our team remains vigilant and quick to respond to any human-lion conflict. **Our team has set up a base in Loijuk, which is considered a wildlife conflict hotspot area. Together with partners, we have also been digging waterholes for wildlife in the Conservation Area.**
- Thanks to the Peregrine Fund, our team was **trained on wildlife poisoning** in late March. There is a direct connection between the decline in vultures and retaliation against carnivores through poisoning, which is a serious threat to wildlife. Our team was trained on how to respond and attend a poisoning scene incident.

Jeremy Lucas Education Fund



Set up in 2017, the Jeremy Lucas Education Fund enables young teenagers in Samburu to attend secondary school. Each year many of the children who complete primary education cannot afford secondary school fees and all the associated costs such as schoolbooks and stationary, uniforms and transport to and from school. Donations raised through this fund will now get these children to school. It will go a long way to change the lives of these young people. In January this year, we sponsored 3 students through the Fund. [For more information visit our website.](#)

Chalisa, a Buffalo Springs lion, turns up in Lewa

We are thrilled to report that a young male lion who we last saw in Buffalo Springs in November 2013, has been sighted in Lewa Conservancy. The Lewa lion team alerted us that a new male had appeared in Lewa and sent us photos. We looked through our lion database and through whisker spot identification, we confirmed that the male in Lewa was indeed Chalisa - the Buffalo Springs male. We are excited by this news and grateful to work with our partners in Lewa, Lion Landscapes, and the local communities, to ensure continued movement of lions through this landscape. Chalisa has since been collared and so far remains within Lewa.



Ewaso Lions

P.O. Box 14996, Nairobi 00800, Kenya

info@ewasolions.org | Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

www.ewasolions.org