



Ewaso Lions Quarterly Report

July - September 2017

Key Highlights

- One of Samburu's main lionesses that lives within the community landscape, **Naramat, has given birth to 4 cubs** in Westgate Community Conservancy. See story on page 2.
- **Nanai's 1.5 year old male cub has now left his mother.** Having spent months hunting and moving through the Samburu landscape with Nanai, the young male is now mainly solitary and his mother has started mating with new males. Young, dispersing males often have a difficult time when they are alone and we will be watching closely to see when he will leave Samburu and where he will move to.
- In July, **Shivani received her PhD from The University of Oxford.** The results of Shivani's thesis will contribute directly to the conservation of lions in Samburu and beyond. Most notably, her work looked at key habitat and requirements for lions within the community landscape and produced a number of habitat suitability maps which can be replicated in other areas.
- Lion Kids Camp & Youth Coordinator, **Peter, attended a training workshop for conservation educators** run by San Diego Zoo at Lewa Conservancy. The training workshop was organized for members of the Northern Kenya Conservation Education Working Group; a group established to promote best practice and minimize duplication of effort amongst groups delivering conservation education activities in the region. The training covered topics such as interpretive skills, curriculum and project development and evaluation.
- **Our new "Bush Bus" finally arrived in Samburu!** The bus will be used for our Lion Kids Camps and other conservation education activities and driven by our newly appointed Bus Driver, Moses Cheruiyot. See story on page 2.
- Our **Mama Simba** group had an exciting month in September. The ladies travelled to Samburu National Reserve on the **inaugural safari for our new Bush Bus** where they saw lots of wildlife (including three lions) and they embarked on a **team-building adventure climbing Sapache, the Samburu sacred mountain.** Mama Simba was also **officially registered as a self-help group** in Kenya. This new status will enable the ladies to set-up a group savings account and better manage the money earned through their beadwork initiative.
- **12 Warriors led by Jeneria visited the Maasai Mara** in September on an exposure tour. For some of the warriors, this was their first time to leave Samburu and drive across Kenya. In the Mara, the team saw over 30 lions in 2 days and even witnessed the wildebeest migration. This was an eye opening experience and at the end of the trip, Lebasha stated *"I wish I could bring my lioness Nadala here for 1 week to eat all the wildebeest so she can get full and then take her back to Samburu"*. The abundance of food for lions resulting from the healthy grasslands was an important take home message for the warriors.
- In August, **Toby (Research Manager) and Thomas (Eastern Regional Lion Coordinator) attended a training course on "Managing and Leading Conservation Projects"** run by Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Mauritius. The course, which involved lectures, group discussions, case studies and practicals, covered themes relevant to successful project management and leadership. Both Toby and Thomas have already begun to implement lessons learnt during their own work. This was also Thomas' first time to leave Kenya – he was very excited to travel by aeroplane and said he couldn't believe how Loeku and Korti, lions from his home area, had taken him so far!
- We have received **preliminary results from our Warrior Watch impact evaluation study.** This study, conducted in collaboration with The University of Oxford, provides strong evidence that Ewaso Lions – and Warrior Watch specifically – is driving changes in attitudes towards, and tolerance of, lions. The results also provide strong justification for expansion of Warrior Watch into neighbouring Conservancies. We hope to publish results of this study in 2018.
- In August, **Shivani was invited by National Geographic to participate as a guest host on the "Safarilive" show aired on Nat Geo Wild.** This was a great opportunity to speak about lion conservation issues and Shivani witnessed lion hunting behaviour in the Mara that she had never seen before.

- In September, **sponsored students Painoti and Solomon started college and university, respectively.** Painoti is training at the Chesta College to become a qualified teacher, whilst Solomon is studying a degree in Environmental Management at Kenyatta University.
- In September, **Ewaso Lions supported and participated in the Camel Caravan in Samburu** which is a campaign spreading awareness about the threats to the Ewaso Nyiro River. During the Caravan, peace was also promoted in the region.

Naramat gives birth to 4 cubs



In July, we were able to confirm that Naramat had given birth of four new cubs. The cubs were born in April. This is the 3rd time that she has had cubs (in different areas), and also the 3rd time in the past 10 years that a lioness has given birth and successfully raised her cubs in this community area. This has not been easy – it has taken years of community engagement, meetings, wildlife safaris with community members, daily patrolling by our team of warriors and scouts, quick response to conflict incidents and round the clock lion monitoring. We are grateful for

the support and partnership of Westgate Conservancy.

Naramat's older cubs, Naterenkwe and Lkeyok, moved away from their mother after Naramat had her latest cubs. Naramat took her 4 cubs to Nasuulu Conservancy, where she stayed for a long time after feeling threatened by Lguret and Loeku who moved to the area. She also moved to Meibae, in to areas where lions had not been seen for 15 years. Jeneria and the field team spent weeks in this region working with the communities and Meibae Conservancy management to calm tensions and to encourage better livestock husbandry.

Ewaso Lions receives a "Bush Bus"



We were so excited to receive our "bush bus" in July. The custom-made bus will be used to transport children, staff and equipment during our Lion Kids Camps (LKC). Moreover, it is critical in our plans to increase the numerical and geographical scale of this programme. When not being used for LKCs, the bus will be used for other conservation education activities, including showing community members Samburu's amazing wildlife.

Ewaso Lions

P.O. Box 14996, Nairobi 00800, Kenya

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

www.ewasolions.org