



Ewaso Lions Quarterly Report October - December 2017

Key Highlights

- **We celebrated our 10th Anniversary!** In honour of this great milestone, we shared stories and highlights from across the years on social media - read more at <http://ewasolions.org/ewaso-lions-celebrates-10-years-of-conservation/>. On 29th November, we brought the team together for a day of celebrations, including presentations detailing our progress & achievements. See page 2.
- The **rains finally arrived in Samburu** in October. They began in a few isolated locations, but by November had spread across the region bringing much needed relief to both wildlife and people. We received over 300 mm in our own camp. For photos and videos, including a great sighting of the new males, read more here: <http://ewasolions.org/its-raining-in-samburu/>
- Since the rains, **most of the lions have been outside in the Conservancies** (Westgate, Kalama, Nasuulu, Leparua), although Nanai is in Samburu with the 4 males and is expecting cubs soon!
- In October, **Shivani and Jeneria visited the US on their annual tour**. Following a lovely visit with their friends and supporters in Newport, Rhode Island, they had the privilege of speaking at **Goldman Sachs in New York, National Geographic** and **WWF** in Washington DC. They also attended the **Wildlife Conservation Expo** in San Francisco - for those that missed the talk, it can be watched at <http://ewasolions.org/shivani-jeneria-speak-at-wildlife-conservation-expo/>
- In November, **Shivani participated in the annual Kenya Wildlife Service Carnivore Conference** in Nairobi. Shivani presented on our community projects and gave an update on our plans for the next year. We are very grateful for the collaboration and support we receive from KWS.
- In October, our Research Manager, **Toby attended the ESRI Eastern Africa User Conference** held in Dar es Salaam. The conference, which brought together stakeholders from conservation organisations across Eastern Africa, included a seminar on the application of WebGIS to support conservation, as well as training and technical demonstrations in the new ArcGIS Pro software.
- We **hired a new Conservation Programmes Assistant**, Evanson Kariuki. Evanson joined the team in November and will support our Conservation Manager, Heather, with managing and coordinating our conservation programmes. Welcome to the team, Evanson!
- Our **Mama Simba ladies made a record number of beaded lions** this quarter – over 200 beaded lions! These lions, together with others made earlier this year, were sent to the Wildlife Conservation Network donors. The ladies have decided to save some of their beadwork earnings and are in the process of setting up a group bank account.
- Our Lion Kids Camp and Youth Coordinator, **Peter, participated in a monitoring and evaluation workshop lead by San Diego Zoo Global and hosted by Lewa Wildlife Conservancy** between 8th and 11th November. The goal of the workshop was to “increase the capacity within the NKCEWG (Northern Kenya Conservation Education Working Group) to conduct internal evaluations of environmental and conservation education programmes”.
- In November, **our field team participated in a First Aid training course** led by Tony Allport. The team was trained on basic First Aid and are now equipped with dealing with injuries in the field.
- In December, we held a **Lion Kids Camp with children from Remot Primary School** in Westgate. The camp was kindly hosted by Westgate Community Conservancy and sponsored by Alta Vista Elementary School in Los Angeles, under the National Geographic Sister Schools Programme, and Prince Bernhard Nature Fund. It was the first camp run by Peter, and the first time we have taken children on a game drive in our new “Bush Bus”. For more on the camp, see page 2.
- **Shivani and Munteli attended the launch of the Aerial Wildlife Census** in Northern Kenya at Sarova Shaba in November. It was a great honour to meet Professor Judy Wakhungu and Mr Julius Kimani, who congratulated Munteli for being the first woman driver in the region!
- On 16th December, **Peter and Shalini held the first annual Jeremy Lucas Education Fund Awards Day**. The day was a great success and brought together all the Scholarship students and their parents/guardians to celebrate the student’s achievements this academic year. Eunice, from Kipsing, won the Best Student of the Year award as she has consistently achieved high marks and is top of her class!

Lion Kids Camp with Remot Primary School



Between the 2nd and 6th December, we held a Lion Kids Camp with children from Remot Primary School. A total of 29 children, including 3 children sponsored under our Jeremy Lucas Education Fund, spent the week learning about the value and importance of lions and other wildlife, the threats to their survival and techniques communities can adopt to promote coexistence. For most, this was their first time away from home – although they arrived quiet and shy, it wasn't long before they were laughing, singing and thoroughly embracing the whole experience! As always, the game drive in Samburu National Reserve was a major highlight for the

children and, although the lions were unfortunately hiding that day, they did see hundred of elephants and other herbivore species. Five days of wildlife education and conservation-themed games and activities came to an end with a closing ceremony where the groups performed songs and wildlife dramas in front of an audience of community members and key stakeholders, including Kenya Wildlife Service, Samburu National Reserve, Samburu County and Westgate Conservancy.

With special thanks to: *Westgate Conservancy Headquarters, Samburu National Reserve, Kenya Wildlife Service, Remot Primary School, Alta Vista Elementary, National Geographic Sister Schools Programme, Prince Bernhard Nature Fund, Don & Carol Gagne, World Women Work, and Friends of Newport, Rhode Island.*



Ewaso Lions celebrates 10 years of conservation!

Ewaso Lions is 10 years old! Our team celebrated our anniversary with lots of fun team-building games, followed by presentations by our amazing team of managers - Jeneria (Field), Heather (Conservation), Toby (Research) - who presented results back to the team of all our work and activities over the years. A few highlights from the presentations include:

- Warrior Watch has expanded over the past 7 years, starting with 5 warriors in 1 conservancy and increasing to 20 warriors across 5 conservancies.
- Through intensive lion monitoring efforts by our field team of warriors (Jeneria, Letoiye Yesalai, Lentiyo), we are able to confirm that our lion population is stable.
- Evaluation work led by Heather confirmed that Warrior Watch has resulted in improved community attitudes towards carnivores.
- Mama Simba expanded in 2016 and we now have 19 women led by Munteli and Mparasaroi.
- Through thorough evaluations of our Lion Kids Camps, we know that the Camps have resulted in improved attitudes and knowledge about wildlife.
- We are currently sponsoring 12 students to attend school and university through the Jeremy Lucas Education Fund, who are all managed by Peter.
- In the past 1 year, our team of rangers and warriors have covered over 1000 patrols across our conservation landscape.



Ewaso Lions

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