

Feature: 10-Year Celebration

- In August Ewaso Lions **celebrated our 10th anniversary**. With an estimated 400 people from near and far, the team took time to discuss the key milestones of the decade. From a team of three, Ewaso Lions is now a pride of almost 60 strong, each one with more passion than the next to build a strong future for lions and other large carnivores in community areas. We heard speeches from County officials, conservation partners, and many of our staff and beneficiaries. The event also marked the official launch of our 2018-2020 Strategic Plan.

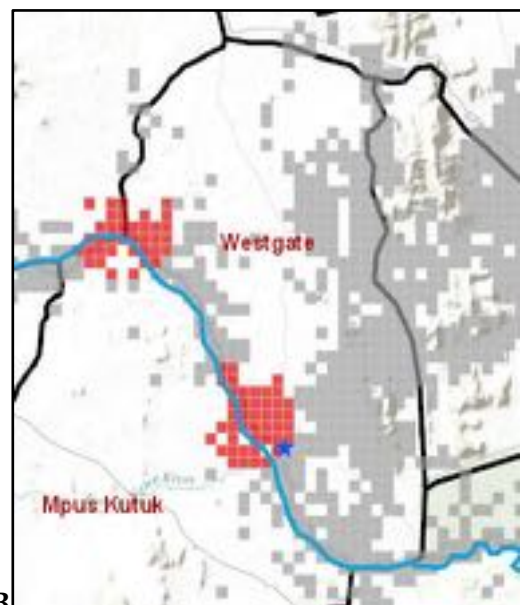
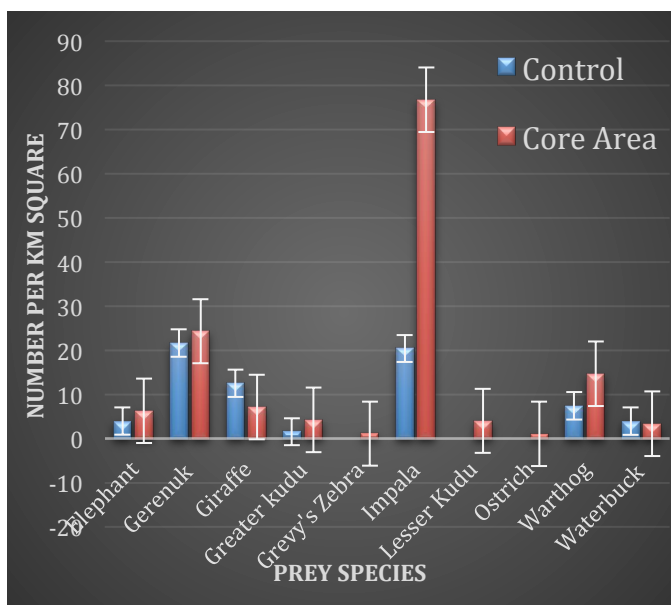


Key Highlights

- Jeneria went to South Africa to receive the Africa's Ranger Award** from the Paradise Foundation. *Read more on our special highlights page at the back...*
- We are sad to report that we recently **lost one of Nadala's sub-adults**. After months of tirelessly working to ensure her safety, she was shot in the leg. The young female limped to the Ewaso Nyiro river but could not cross successfully and was washed down river.
- Both lionesses, Nanai and Namunyak, continue to raise their cubs successfully in Samburu National Reserve by hunting almost daily. Although Nanai lost one of her cubs in August, her remaining two are thriving.
- As part of the **Kenya Wildlife Service's National Lion and Hyaena Strategy**, Ewaso Lions worked with the review facilitators to host the Samburu leg of the public participation in the Strategic Review process. The main contributions from the meeting included; overview of conservation strategies and priority setting, participatory mapping of lion and spotted hyaena distribution, and the status, threats and opportunities evaluation for lion and hyaena conservation.
- Mama Simba ladies visited the Maasai Mara** this September. *Read more on our special highlights page at the back...*
- Shivani gave Ewaso Lions' first ever TEDx talk** where she delved into what Kenyans understand about conservation. Providing a moving account of her life in conservation, and expanding on the work of Ewaso Lions, Shivani gave the audience a chance to reflect on their appreciation of, and role in conservation of Kenya's wildlife.
- This quarter saw us **bid a fond farewell to our long time Conservation Manager, Heather Gurd**. Heather joined us in 2010 for an internship that would see her grow and develop into an incredible manager and asset to the team. With a yearning to be based permanently in the UK, Heather leaves behind a position to be filled by a Kenyan professional.
- August 10th marked **World Lion Day**. Ewaso Lions held a community celebration in the scenic village of Remot, where almost 200 people gathered to play conservation games and be appraised

on the status of the lions roaming in their community lands. Led by Jeneria, Evanson and Francis, the community built further ownership over the lions that live alongside them.

- **Ewaso Lions was happy to host National Geographic Explorers** – Dedan from the Wild Dog Project in Laikipia, and Hans and Vanessa from Tanzania – in September. Numerous valuable discussions were had on starting conservation projects, conservation education programmes, monitoring and research, together with visits in to the field. Our Research Officer Letupukwa visited Mpala soon after the Explorers visit and learned about their research in Laikipia.
- **Our team went to visit Il Ngwesi** to understand the conservancy better following what appears to be Naramat’s permanent move to the region. Permanent water sources, thick bush and plenty of prey has led Naramat to move here with her sub-adults. We will soon be undertaking community awareness meetings in the conservancy regarding Naramat’s presence.
- **Sarah Chiles, our joint Landscape Infrastructure Advisor with the Grevy’s Zebra Trust (GZT)**, presented updated information on upcoming national development plans in northern Kenya recently at the Ewaso Forum meeting and also staff of both GZT and Ewaso Lions.
- In August, **Shivani joined fellow Pride Lion Conservation Alliance Members** at their annual meeting. The meeting included discussing an exciting upcoming leadership training for African women. Stay tuned for more information.
- Our two Jeremy Lucas Education Fund students, **Joy and Saniki, have started diploma courses in Community Development and Tourism** respectively. They now join Solomon and Painoti in being supported by JLEF for tertiary education.
- We have been systematically **monitoring wildlife in the Core Conservation Area within Westgate Conservancy** and the preliminary results confirms just how important this area is for the conservation of lions and other wildlife. This area was set aside by Westgate’s community for wildlife. Overall, there is higher density of wild prey within the core conservation area compared to the rest of the conservancy. Lion collar data also showed the intensive use of this area.



A. Density of various prey species in Core Conservation Area of Westgate Community Conservancy compared to the rest of the conservancy between 2016 and 2018. **B.** Lion habitat use within the conservancy. Red squares shows area of intense use. The bottom red squares cluster is the Core Conservation Area.

- This quarter the team has engaged in **very useful training and capacity building opportunities**:
 - The **team undertook a leadership training** led by Shivani and Resson. Learning about everything from how to respond to change and resistance, to understanding their personality preferences better by taking the Myers Briggs Type Indicator test, the team had a great chance to bond and achieve more self-awareness.
 - Our **two cooks, Lerimara and Lempagaani were recently trained by Culinary Backpacker chef Raj Sirha**. They eagerly learnt new cooking techniques, as well as kitchen management.
 - Our Research Manager **Toby attended a Spatial Analysis Technical Workshop** Biodiversity Conservation and Monitoring at Mpala Research Centre.
 - Shivani and Resson did the second week of the **African Conservation Leadership Network** training, this time focused on organizational leadership.

Special Highlights of the Quarter



Billionaire entrepreneur and philanthropist Jack Ma honoured Jeneria for his valiant work promoting coexistence between people and wildlife. Out of the 50 rangers feted with the first ever Ranger Awards, Jeneria was selected as one of the top 10 to attend the special awards ceremony. Picture: Henk Kruger/ANA



On a tour to the Maasai Mara aimed at broadening their experiences, learning and thinking, the Mama Simba ladies had a chance to see the great wildebeest migration at its height, and also visited various conservation and livelihood projects to get a sense of what else they could be engaged in.

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