

Main Feature: Jeneria and Warrior Watch feted

This quarter, we are proud to announce that Jeneria Lekilelei, our Director of Community Conservation has been nominated for the Tusk Award for Conservation! Alongside Ugandan Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka and Senegalese Tomas Diagne, Jeneria's efforts in founding and running the Warrior Watch programme spotlight the hope he and his team have provided for the lions of northern Kenya.

On the local front, Jeneria and the Warrior Watch programme were featured on Kenya's most watched channel, Citizen TV which aired the programme *Wildlife Warriors*, showcasing the challenges of lion conservation in human dominated landscapes. We thank Wildlife Direct for this programme. Follow the link here for the full episode: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Itjzi0eNLpM&t=96s>


Key Highlights

- **Naramat in Il Ngwesi:** After a long hide in thick bush, atop Olmaroroi Escapement, Naramat was finally spotted. While we knew she was in the conservancy, it has been difficult to put eyes on her. Finally, herders were able to detect and report that Naramat and three young cubs were safe in Kampi ya Ndovu area. Naramat has been in the area for over a year now, hunting successfully with plenty of prey to choose from, and a permanent water supply. Many thanks to Il Ngwesi for helping our efforts in keeping the lions safe.
- **Annual report:** We are delighted to present to you [our 2018 Annual Report!](#) 2018 was a year of firsts, and the wettest year in recent history with broad implications for the lions of northern Kenya. In our report, we are proud to introduce to you our Conservation Game, as well as a special segment on the partnerships we have forged in the past year to deploy northern Kenya's first resident wildlife vet, and addressing challenges related to emergent mega infrastructure.
- **Tragic fight to save a cub:** April was a difficult month for Ewaso Lions as we kept watch over Nanai's one-year old cub injured by a male lion in Samburu National Reserve. We are grateful that our resident vet was there to make professional assessments, dart her and treat her injury. But after several agonizing days and nights with the team keeping watch, a decision had to be made. Read what happened [in our blog.](#) We are very grateful to Samburu Reserve management, rangers and KWS for their support during this mission.
- **Lion reports:** We are very grateful to Buffalo Springs rangers and management for their continuous reports regarding the male lions in Buffalo Springs (that had moved from Lewa). We have been able to keep a close eye on these lions with their support.
- **Wild dogs return!** Early one June morning, we were delighted and surprised when wild dogs raced right through our camp. Since late 2017 when distemper wiped out most populations in the north, there has

rarely been good news for these endangered animals. We now know the populations are making a recovery, and were happy to hear them calling to each other in the Core Conservation Area in Westgate.

- **Conservationists gather at Disney:** In May, Resson represented Ewaso Lions at a seminal forum in Orlando to discuss the future of lions in Africa. The meeting hosted by the Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund and Disney was instrumental in getting conservationists from across the continent to think about how best to present and amplify the issues facing lions on a global platform.
- **Global March for Wildlife in Nairobi:** The Ewaso Lions team joined thousands of Kenyans in the annual event, the Global March for Wildlife in April this year. About 3000 marchers were present, chanting and snaking through the city to the Kenya Wildlife Service headquarters where speeches were heard, including from the Cabinet Secretary Najib Balala. Ewaso Lions was one of the proud sponsors of this year's event.
- **Tracing wildlife corridors ahead of road development:** In our ongoing partnership with the Grevy's Zebra Trust, we jointly worked with Save the Elephants and Action for Cheetahs, and other partners to demarcate critical crossing points on the Lerata-Wamba-onwards (C79) road which we then shared with the Kenya Highway Authority (KenHA) with whom we are working, in the hopes that this will be an exemplar wildlife friendly road.
- **World Environment Day marked:** On the 5th of June, the World stopped to mark a day of critical importance. In Samburu, Evanson got the Lpus Leluai and Ngutuk Ongiron Primary Schools involved in World Environment Day by conducting clean up exercises around their villages and schools.
- **After30 podcast:** Shivani was able to explain in a fresh new way what Ewaso Lions does, and what her motivations were to set up the project in a podcast called After30. Give it a [listen here](#).
- **Westgate Marathon:** Ewaso Lions joined partners Grevy's Zebra Trust, Sasaab Lodge, and the conservancy for a half-marathon. Young and old participants braved the hot weather and open terrain in the fun-day event in celebration of the conservancy's wildlife. Despite an injury, our star marathon runner and research assistant Letupukwa emerged in seventh place!
- **Working Dogs for Conservation:** Ewaso Lions had a rare and insightful visit from a team from Working Dogs for Conservation who enlightened us about disease spread between domestic dogs and carnivores, and how better dog training and care would have a greater impact on animal husbandry, thereby reducing conflict overall. All this is in the lead-up to a new programme that Ewaso Lions is beginning –stay tuned!
- **Lion Kids Camps:** We have been able to host two groups so far at our Lion Kids Camps, with many more planned for the rest of the year. This quarter, children from Ngutuk Ongiron and Lpus Leluai Primary Schools were housed at the camp. Along with the usual Lion Kids Camp games, videos and exercises they enjoy, they also went on a memorable safari to the Samburu National Reserve.

Gone too soon...

We can't end the quarter without saluting a dear friend and colleague John Ngige, whom we lost after a brief but very bravely borne battle with cancer. John was Ewaso Lions' go-to driver, but was much more than that to the team. While he spent copious hours faithfully ferrying people and cargo from Nairobi to Samburu and back, he spent an inordinate amount of time more with us all, as a friend who was there for all the highs and lows of Ewaso Lions for the past 7 years. This quarter, the team celebrates John. Till we meet again.



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