

Feature: Re-collaring iconic females

With a Kenya Wildlife Service vet, Dr Njoroge, now permanently stationed in Samburu-Isiolo, we were able to re-collar Naramat in Il Ngwesi and Nadala in Kalama Conservancies respectively. In efforts to reduce conflict and gain insights into how they navigate the ecosystem outside the reserves, keeping functional collars on them was critical. Nadala was collared on 23rd January. Following that, it took our team 6 days to locate Naramat as she was hidden in thick bush. She was finally collared on 29th January. Since the collaring, both females – Naramat and Nadala – have given birth. Our team has been able to regularly monitor the young cubs by tracking their mother and making sure they are in safe habitat. We thank the Kenya Wildlife Service for their support, and the management of Kalama and Il Ngwesi Conservancies for their continued hard work in enabling a safe environment for these iconic lionesses to breed successfully, and Saruni Lodge for always reporting their lion sightings to us.



Key Highlights

- New Jeremy Lucas Education Fund Scholars join secondary school:** 2019 saw Ewaso Lions take on **five new students into our programme – a record** number for this budding fund. Junior, familiar to most as we have mentored him for many years, joined Maralal High School along with Jacob. Jonathan has successfully joined St. Paul and Peter joined Baawa boys in Maralal. Our first students from a new conservancy, Samuel from Il Ngwesi has been settled in at Kirige boys in Meru. Hassan, our first Borana student took the longest journey of all, heading to the prestigious national school, Maseno, in Kisumu. All students are doing well, and we continue to thank their sponsors for providing this rare opportunity.
- African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology:** In partnership with the Grevy's Zebra Trust, our joint Landscape Infrastructure Advisor Sarah Chiles and Ewaso Lions' Research Manager Toby Otieno travelled to attend the **ACLIE conference in March held in Kruger National Park, South Africa**. Above and beyond building our own capacity, we used this opportunity to advance the expertise of Kenya's infrastructure decision makers. Thanks to support from the Wildlife Conservation Network, we sponsored senior officials from the Kenya Highways Authority (KenHA) Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC), LAPSET Corridor Development Authority and the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (KETRACO) to attend the conference, which focused on potential solutions for the proposed linear infrastructure developments across the African continent in the era of development corridors. The delegates expressed their appreciation for the efforts to bring them into the discussion, and conveyed hopes that the knowledge gained would translate into novel ways Kenya could construct its future while taking wildlife needs into account.
- Partners Meeting in Conservancies:** Together with the Grevy's Zebra Trust, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and Northern Rangelands Trust, we all came together to discuss data collection and conservation activities within Il Ngwesi, Leparua and Lekurukki Conservancies. Working together on this will allow for more to be achieved and avoid duplication of efforts. With lions permanently residing in these Conservancies, Ewaso Lions has a small resident team working with Conservancy managements to ensure the lions safety.

- **Support and Training for Conservancy Rangers and Community Members:** This quarter, our field team have worked with and trained (on lion conservation) rangers and community members from Biliqo and Kalama Conservancies which included visits to the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary. We greatly appreciate their support in keeping lions safe within their respective regions.
- **Ecosystem and Infrastructure tour participants reconvene:** Following our Infrastructure exposure tour last November where we brought 30 participants from all across Samburu and Isiolo Counties to Nairobi to see the effects of mega infrastructure in anticipation of the LAPSSET project commencement, Ewaso Lions and Grevy's Zebra Trust reconvened participants for a follow-up meeting. All the attended reported that they had fed back what they learned on the trip to conservancy management and communities.
- **Ewaso Lions presents talks in Nairobi:** This quarter, Shivani has given two key talks to different demographics in Nairobi, informally kicking off our awareness work in Kenya. Her talk on empowering local communities to conserve lions, hosted by the **Kenya Museum Society at the Muthaiga Country Club** spurred a lengthy question and answer session and lots of interest in our work, while at her former alma mater, **Hillcrest Secondary School**, she spent time inspiring students to consider becoming conservationists.
- **The Conversation:** In March, Shivani was featured on the BBC World Services' show, the Conversation, where she and her Grizzly bear counterpart shared their work, their triumphs in conservation and their challenges in male dominated spaces. You can listen to the full podcast here <https://bbc.in/2C71C7C> or watch the 1-minute clip here <https://tinyurl.com/y22s5k8g>.
- **Partnerships in Children's Wildlife Safaris:** Save the Elephant's Mobile Education programme continues to make use of the Ewaso Lions' bus to take students on rare encounters up close with wildlife. Evanson, our Conservation Programmes Officer and the Ewaso Lions' team took the opportunity to ensure the children get a holistic and exciting trip, and on the two trips they have taken together this quarter, the children have seen and learned a lot about the region's wildlife.
- **Organizational Leadership Training:** In anticipation of the last round of the Maliasili African Conservation Leadership Network training in Arusha held in late January, Shivani and Resson took the opportunity to train 20 of the Ewaso Lions team on the various components that would help us function as a better team. This included everything from listening and giving better feedback, to organizational culture and communications at a wider scale.

More News



Lions and lionesses on the hunt: Two of the new maned males that came from Lewa Wildlife Conservancy two years ago are now in the area after a brief hiatus. They have been mating and taking over territory, roaming around Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves.

With the dry season at its height, it has been a good time for the lions as they have been able to hunt large herbivores successfully, as seen in this picture where Nanai nabbed a waterbuck near the river (© Don Gagne).

We thank Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves managements and the Lion Watch Guides for all their questions and sending in their sightings of the various lions in and around the reserves.

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