

Main Feature: Naramat returns to Westgate

After an absence of over a year, Naramat returned to Westgate in August. She has been living in Il Ngwesi for most of 2019 and after travelling through the southern conservancies for 2 days, was sighted in Westgate's Conservation Area. Naramat has arrived with 3 5-month old female cubs and is mainly seen within the Conservation Area. Westgate management and all partners are working hard to ensure Naramat experiences no disturbance and livestock encroachment is controlled. Her return to Westgate has been cause for great celebration for the community and all partners.



Key Highlights from this Quarter

- **World Lion Day:** Our team celebrated World Lion Day on August 10th in Naisunyai village. Our team and the community celebrated lions by playing our unique [Conservation Game](#) and speaking about lion conservation in the region.
- **National Lion Survey:** Our team, led by Toby and Jeneria, was trained by KWS consultants on supporting the National Lion Survey which started in southern Kenya in 2018. Four Ewaso Lions teams are working with KWS and partners in Samburu and Isiolo on the survey, which started in early September and will continue until the end of November. On the first day of the survey, lions, cheetahs and leopards were seen! In September alone, our team has had 38 lion sightings.
- **AET training:** Ewaso Lions partnered with the Africa Educational Trust (AET). AET have extensive experience running education programmes for adult learners in Africa, including other Maa-speaking pastoralist communities. They adopt the REFLECT methodology, which recognizes that adult learners learn better if taught what they deem important and useful to their lives. In July, our team was trained by the AET team, creating a customized curriculum. This will not only enhance literacy, but also empower participants in other aspects of their lives.
- **More lions in Westgate:** After a period of over a year, several lions returned to Westgate in August. This included Napirai's cubs. The community was excited to have them, as culturally they signal rain will fall, and true to this, at the height of lion presence in the conservancy, the heavens opened at the end of August and it rained unseasonably for a week.
- **Conflict Training:** Ben and Thomas travelled to Arusha in September to attend the Center for Conservation Peacebuilding training (thanks to support from WCN). The objectives of the training was to improve the ability of teams to better understand conflict dynamics and establish more effective ways in addressing them.
- **Humane Dog Population Management Conference:** We attended this conference hosted by the Kenya Veterinary Association and the International Companion Animal Management Coalition (ICAM) to learn about best practices in setting up dog population management campaigns. Ewaso Lions with partners and the local County Government hope to embark on a campaign in January 2020 to support Kenya's National Rabies Elimination Strategy. Stay tuned for further updates.
- **Mama Simba hope to help bring grass back:** Ewaso Lions was happy to welcome Peter Lalampaa from the Grevy's Zebra Trust to speak to the Mamas about restoration of Westgate, after the ladies held a meeting where they expressed the need to bring prey back to Westgate so that lions could thrive. Peter gave a compelling presentation, encouraging the ladies to join ongoing efforts to restore Westgate for lions, people and livestock. We look forward to supporting our partners on their

amazing efforts.

- **Kenya Buzz Interview:** Jeneria, our Director for Community Conservation, was featured in an article on Kenya Buzz. Click here to read his [interview](#)
- **Pride Meeting and Pathways:** Shivani joined other Pride members in July in Brackenhurst, Limuru, to discuss next years Pathways Human Dimensions conference. Pride are co-hosts of this conference; theme is “Opening the Door to Diverse Voices”. Preparations are well under way for this conference which begins with a training specifically for women in conservation. More information on this conference and registration details can be found at this [link](#).
- **We have a new website!** Please visit our [new website](#) which has a fresh look with new updates.
- **Sarah in America:** Sarah Chiles, our Landscape Infrastructure Advisor together with the Grevy’s Zebra Trust (GZT), attended the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation conference in California. Sarah was joined by Walter Ochieng from the Kenya Wildlife Service who leads infrastructure efforts and advises internally on green and grey infrastructure integration. EL and GZT funded his participation in our continued efforts to build capacity in Kenya to ameliorate infrastructure and biodiversity consolidation. The conference was attended by 580 people from 19 different countries, and this was the first time that Kenya was represented at this conference. Sarah also gave a presentation on efforts to mitigate the impacts of several projects under the Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor.
- **National Geographic article:** Samburu and Isiolo’s surprisingly solitary lions have been featured in National Geographic. Read more [here](#).
- **County Workshop on Rabies & Distemper:** Together with our partners at the Daktari Wildlife Foundation, we organized a workshop in Nanyuki in July to discuss rabies and distemper management. We discussed how best we can learn from our Laikipia neighbours and what efforts we can make in both Samburu and Isiolo Counties. Wildlife and domestic animal veterinarians (both private and county), conservationists, health officers and individuals working on domestic dog welfare attended the meeting. Outcomes from the meeting have led to plans for a January 2020 domestic dog welfare campaign – stay tuned for further information.

Special Feature: University Symposium

In September, we held our first ever University Symposium on Wildlife Conservation with a focus on Carnivore Coexistence. We are very grateful to the Kenya Wildlife Trust and Uvumbuzi for their support towards this event. The event hosted at the University of Nairobi was attended by over 250 university students from more than 8 universities, some from as far as Eldoret, Mombasa and Machakos, and was an honest conversation about different aspects of conservation and sustainability. The event not only drew students taking courses in environmental sciences, but also architecture, construction management,



mathematics among a myriad of others, calling for an interdisciplinary approach to conservation. Having seen the need for more Kenyans to feel ownership over lions and conservation efforts, Ewaso Lions will continue in efforts to have national level conservation discussions.

Ewaso Lions

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