

Main Feature: Special Recognitions**Jeneria with Prince William**

“If we lose lions within our homeland, we are losing part of our life”, says Jeneria, Director of Community Conservation. On the 21st of November, Jeneria’s story was brought to the big screen at the Empire Cinema Leicester Square London as, together with other amazing African conservationists, he was celebrated during the **Tusk Awards for Conservation**. From spending time at Kensington Palace, meeting and chatting with Prince William, to Honorable Balala, amongst many other special people - this was a truly unforgettable experience and week in London. We are so proud of Jeneria and our whole team is celebrating his remarkable lion conservation efforts. Please watch Jeneria’s clip here: <https://youtu.be/mISFAUIXxIM>

We are proud to announce that our very own Munteli, Mama Simba Coordinator, is a recipient of the **Women’s World Summit Foundation Prize for Women’s Creativity in Rural Life**. In the award, Munteli’s application was touted as “one of the most original applications” written in their 26 years of operation and for her work with the Mama Simba project, Munteli was introduced to the world as not only the “goddess of lions” but also “an amazing trailblazer who aptly illustrates the saying that ‘our only limits are our belief in the existence of limits.’” Congratulations Munteli!

**Special Feature: Rapid Response to Canine Distemper Outbreak**

In October, our field team located a very sick critically endangered wild dog in Samburu. Vets from the Kenya Wildlife Service followed up quickly and it was confirmed that the wild dog had canine distemper. Over the course of a week, we sadly confirmed 5 dead wild dogs.

Upon recommendation from the Samburu County Vet department and the Kenya Wildlife Service, we rallied together with partners to vaccinate domestic dogs across 6 villages. We were able to purchase rabies and distemper vaccines, mobilise vets from Nairobi and Archers Post, and inform all community members about the vaccination programme. Vets arrived and in 2 days, we were able to vaccinate 320 dogs, cats and donkeys. Since then, 14 wild dogs were sighted - giving us hope that the rest of the pack were not infected and may pull through. This is a key pack in the region and after losing most of the wild dogs in 2017 to distemper, we are keen to ensure less disease transmission to wild carnivores (lions can die from canine distemper too) and a healthier population overall of wildlife in northern Kenya. We are currently making plans for a larger vaccination programme in January where we aim to vaccinate 3000 dogs in Meibae and Westgate Conservancies.



Please read our blog post for more information: <https://ewasolions.org/rapid-response-to-canine-distemper-outbreak/>.

Key Highlights from this Quarter

- **National Carnivore Survey:** For months now, the Ewaso Lions Team has teamed up with the Kenya Wildlife Service and consultants to participate in Kenya's first ever National Carnivore Survey - searching for Samburu and Isiolo's most elusive lions over 3000 square kilometres. No African country has done this before. Four of our teams comprising warriors, scouts and women covered challenging terrain for 3 months, where we had over 55 lion sightings. More news on this will be communicated in 2020.
- **Lion Naming Ceremony:** In November, Ewaso Lions gathered local residents, rangers and tour guides for a special moment: naming the lions of northern Kenya. 5 lions had since come of age or were new to the area, and our way of ensuring ownership over these lions is to involve everyone in giving them names that mean something to people, and that tell everyone about their personalities. The newly named lions are Loibat, Nkarsis, Lolotu, Ldarlei and Laramati.
- **Mama Simbas in the US:** Our Mama Simba ladies, Munteli and Mparasaroi, left Kenya for the first time and travelled to the US in October. These pioneers decided they wanted to tell their own stories and help with fundraising efforts that they've heard about year after year. From coast to coast and through three states and 6 cities, the ladies learnt more than they could have ever imagined. They had never been in large aircrafts; and they had not ever experienced changing time zones. They saw oceans, marine life and technology like electric cars for the first time. Their confidence grew as they gave almost a dozen presentations in various venues, wowing audiences with their knowledge, unique worldview and groundbreaking achievements for lion conservation.
- **Wildlife Conservation Expo, San Francisco:** This year in October, Jeneria Lekilelei, Resson Kantai Duff...AND our two Mama Simba Pioneers, attended and presented at the Wildlife Conservation Expo in San Francisco. It was an unprecedented moment for us - with our full team of four on stage, which made for a powerful talk. Watch this special talk here: <https://youtu.be/kTs4dco1jyQ>
- **Grass seed planting in Westgate's Conservation Area:** Our Mama Simba ladies assisted Westgate Conservancy and the Grevy's Zebra Trust with re-seeding of grass species in the Conservation Area of Westgate. Some areas within this wildlife safe refuge lacked any form of vegetation cover and our team was excited to help with the regeneration process. There has been a lot of rain since the re-seeding and we are delighted to see new grass and vegetation cover in the Conservation Area. We congratulate our partners on this important initiative.
- **KWS Carnivore Conference:** We were delighted to participate in the annual Carnivore Conference at the Kenya Wildlife Service in November. Our team gave 3 presentations- on community conservation, lion awareness in Kenya and infrastructure development. Thank you to KWS for giving us the opportunity to share our work and results over the years.
- **African Lion Working Group meeting:** We attended our second African Lion Working Group meeting - this time at the Mpala Centre in Laikipia. Over 60 lion conservationists and officials gathered from all across Africa, to discuss the current status of lions and the way forward for their conservation. Key topics such as genetics and the emerging lion bone trade were also discussed.
- **Pushing forward with bio-infrastructure:** Ewaso Lions' and Grevy's Zebra Trust's joint Infrastructure and Biodiversity Programme has had a number of highlights in 2019. One key highlight over the past quarter includes the A2 Wildlife Watch project which was launched with partners in the landscape. The project aims to monitor the impacts of an existing highway from Isiolo to Marsabit, with the ultimate goal being to provide the data to inform retrofitting of this highway to secure the safety of road users, wildlife and domestic animals.
- **Ewaso Lions Team Day:** Every single one of us is Ewaso Lions. This is what we feel as a team, and this is what we came together to celebrate in early December. Warriors, women, students, camp staff and Nairobi staff. All of us gathered to celebrate the highs and lows of the year, eat some nyama choma and have fun! Our team is getting ready for a busy 2020 and we look forward to continued work with many of our partners and collaborators.

- **Jeremy Lucas Education Fund Awards Day:** We are now pushing past the 3rd year of this fund. This year, we took in 5 students from a number of conservancies we work in. We held our awards day in early December and celebrated having 16 students in the programme at various levels. Eunice from Meibae Conservancy successfully completed secondary school, whilst Solomon is getting ready to enter his last year in university.
- **Heavy Rains:** Since October this year we have received weeks of rain. The Ewaso Nyiro River flooded causing extensive damage along the river, however our camp remained intact due to the long distance from the river and our location on top of a hill. Meanwhile, the reserves and conservancies have more grass and vegetation cover than we have seen in a long time and animals are thriving with the water and grass. The lions are struggling to hunt during this wet season and we continue to keep a close eye on them.
- **5th Lion Kids Camp this year:** 21 scholarship students sponsored by the Safari Collection were lucky attendees of our Lion Kids Camp in November. For 5 days these secondary school students joined three of our own scholars, learning about the importance of the northern Kenyan landscape they hail from through film, games, talks and of course, our famous wildlife safari. They were inspired, and they in turn inspired us to believe the future is truly bright for the lions of the north.
- **Oro 'Ei':** New music video Oro 'Ei' by Samburu musician, Lemarti Lemar is out. Oro 'Ei' is a brand new conservation song written in partnership with Ewaso Lions, Save the Elephants and the Grevy's Zebra Trust. The song and video, produced by Maich Blaq for Lemarti's Kumontana Productions, is a call to Samburu communities to protect both their domestic animals and their unique wildlife including lions, elephants and Grevy's zebras. Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/NqNr25Rnu8E>
- **Pathways Human Dimensions Conference Registration:** Pride Lion Conservation Alliance and Colorado State University are co-hosting the Pathways Conference to be held in Limuru, Kenya, between the 17th and 20th of February. There are remaining spots available for registration. Please register here for this special edition and exciting conference: <https://conferencereg.colostate.edu/Registration/Welcome.aspx?e=1392545CD535B2C0E14B2799C3AD580E>

Photo of the Year: Lions surprise a troop of baboons in Samburu

In early October, the Koitogor Pride in Samburu surprised a troop of baboons along the Ewaso Nyiro River. The baboons scampered up nearby trees however a few were trapped up a small dead tree near the river. A huge battle ensued as the baboons tried to escape however the lions killed 3 baboons. We have known lions kill and feed on baboons, however this was the first time our team had captured this on camera! To watch the video, click on this link: <https://youtu.be/zvYW7ALT9KY>



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Wishing everyone a very Happy 2020!