

Main Feature: Ewaso Lions at Pathways Human Dimensions Conference



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Pathways 2020: In February we participated in the **Pathways Human Dimensions Conference** held at the Brackenhurst eco venue in Limuru, themed; *Open the Door to Diverse Voices*. Ewaso Lions was proud to support this event by contributing and participating as a conference sponsor, as sessions leaders and presenters, and by volunteering as organisers to support the event co-hosts, Colorado State University and [Pride Lion Conservation Alliance](#) (*Shivani is a founding member of Pride*). Diversity and inclusion are often lacking in conservation and we made every attempt to ensure that this conference was different by bringing in new diverse voices, having more discussion and conversations, ensuring the values were embedded throughout the conference and much more. Jeneria presented on our community programmes whilst Resson chaired a courageous and essential topic in conservation where a diverse panel spoke about “Power, Race, Privilege and Identity in Conservation.” Sarah, our joint Landscape Infrastructure Advisor with the [Grevy’s Zebra Trust](#) arranged a unique session called “the Lions Den” The platform had representatives from a multiplicity of sectors pitch their ideas to a panel of experts and an engaged audience. We were honored to have H.E. Margaret Kenyatta, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya attend the conference and her inspirational words gave us much hope and encouragement, especially for women in conservation.

Key Highlights from this Quarter

- **Mounting a response to COVID-19:** Ewaso Lions is taking the new Corona Virus Pandemic very seriously, and we realise the grave threat it poses to our communities in northern Kenya. As such, we are partnering with the Grevy's Zebra Trust to work with [Communities Health Africa Trust](#) (CHAT) to help sensitise and equip communities with supplies including; thermometers, masks, soaps, water containers and more. We hope these will help improve hygiene standards up and get communities prepared for the global pandemic.
- **Our [2019 Annual Report](#) is out!** Despite it being a challenging year with drought, floods, and towards the end of the year locusts, it was a year when the team rallied in innovations and achieved many milestones. This included for the first time not recording a single retaliatory killing of lions thanks to the efforts of the team and especially the acceptance of lion presence by communities.
- **Kwenia collared:** In early February, the team together with [Kenya Wildlife Service](#) vet Dr. Njoroge successfully collared a new lion, Kwenia. He has never worn a collar before and has already been giving us insights into male lion movements around Kalama Conservancy. He will hopefully reveal new and critical dispersal routes for male lions.
- **Ldarlei and Nanai mate:** Nanai has been sighted in the Samburu National Reserve on several occasions this quarter; this time mating with the newly named male Ldarlei. We hope to see cubs from her in the coming months.
- In February, we held our **first Lion Kids Camp of the year**, bringing in herding children from across the river from Conservancies in Isiolo County. Many of the children had never gone on a wildlife safari and all showed great interest in learning conservation themed games especially "Who killed my goat" which taught them about track identification and signatures of various carnivores. They also learnt about better herding practices that help reduce conflict with carnivores.
- **Ewaso Lions and Grevy's Zebra convene high level bio-infrastructure dialogue:** From 12 to 14 February 2020, Ewaso Lions and Grevy's Zebra Trust joined together with the African Conservation Centre, Centre for Large Landscape Conservation, Endangered Wildlife Trust and Power Africa to host nearly 70 participants from 5 countries and diverse backgrounds for a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya to advance ecologically-friendly linear infrastructure practices on the African continent. The purpose of the workshop was to increase the understanding of the ecological impacts of linear infrastructure, advance the design and implementation of ecosystem-friendly solutions for linear infrastructure in Africa and catalyse coordination and collaboration between government agencies and their partners.
- **Locust invasions:** The Horn of Africa is suffering the worst desert locust invasion in 70 years, devastating pastoralists and farming communities in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Uganda. On the 8th of January 2020, the first swarm of locusts to enter Samburu County landed at our camp. The locusts have come and gone over the last quarter, and we like other stakeholders in the region, have mounted efforts to disperse them from the area.
- **Featured on KTN:** On the programme *Everyday Women*, Shivani speaks with passion and authority on why Kenyans need to come together to conserve wildlife. Alongside Elizabeth Tolu of the African Leadership University and Thandiwe Mweetwa of the Zambia Carnivore Project, these powerful women discuss the challenges of their work as well as the opportunities that exist in the field of environmental work. Watch the [full episode here](#).

- **Community meetings at Kiltamany and Sasaab:** Both preemptively and in response to lion conflict in the region, Jeneria and the team spent time in community meetings in Kiltamany and in Sasaab villages in Westgate Conservancy. Both villages have had tremendous tolerance for lion presence, and we continue to commend their efforts to keep lions and livestock safe.
- **Jeneria featured on CNN:** In February, Jeneria was featured as a #Changemaker on CNN's award winning show *African Voices*. It was a great episode and continues to help highlight our work of coexistence. For the full episode follow this link <https://cnn.it/3b3o3XI>
- **New learners join literacy schools:** Ngare Mara and Il Ngwesi classes continue; having revamped our literacy schools in partnership with the Africa Educational Trust. Our Regional Coordinators from Ngare Mara and Il Ngwesi took an interest in helping their community to read and learn. Being confident and equipped to share their knowledge, they took the training back to their conservancies. 56 new learners joined our literacy schools and attend classes in Il Ngwesi and Ngare Mara. Several lessons have been held this quarter and we hope to reignite this passion once things return to normalcy.

Special Feature: Kura's Pride Vaccinations

Vaccinations: In 2019, Ewaso Lions launched a new programme to address the challenges communities and domestic dogs face in the Samburu and Isiolo landscape. The programme known as [Kura's Pride](#) (named after Ewaso Lions' famous first dog Kura), will hopefully lead to healthier dogs and could lead to less human-carnivore conflict, reduced disease transmission to wild carnivores and an overall healthier balance between people, livestock, wildlife and the environment.

As part of the new programme Ewaso Lions partnered with Samburu County, Action for Cheetahs, Daktari Wildlife Foundation, Animal Care Clinic, TNR Trust and the Kenya Veterinary Association to combat rabies and canine distemper. In March, Samburu based veterinarians vaccinated 444 domestic dogs and cats in villages in Westgate Conservancy (following a successful vaccination and sterilization in Meibae in January). This was the third campaign since October 2019. In total, our partnership has protected families against rabies with 1,680 vaccinations.



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