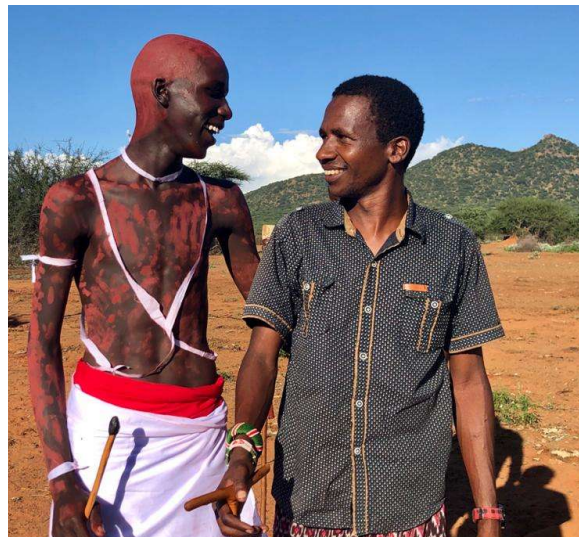


Main Feature: The Next Generation

The team celebrates new warriors: In April and May, Samburu was awash with ceremonies initiating young men into warriorhood. The long awaited final rite of passage commenced after all the young boys had healed from the circumcision ceremonies held earlier in the year. Among the newly shaved and ochre-donning boys were two of Ewaso Lions proteges: Junior and Lkasian. While he will not be joining our Warrior Watch programme just yet, Junior, now a young warrior has been an integral part of the team for over 6 years, tracing Jeneria's footsteps his whole life including on the day he became a warrior as pictured below. Lkasian, now a 15-year old traditional Samburu warrior, expressed a keen interest in lions and in conservation during the Lion Kids Camps. His leadership qualities were apparent from the start and this has helped steer the direction of many as they all try to prove their manhood. We were fortunate to witness Lkasian transition from a boy to warrior and he also documented his own journey. [Please watch his video here:](#)



Junior in 2015 as a young boy transitions to becoming a warrior in 2020

Key Highlights from this Quarter

- **Domestic animal vaccinations:** An estimated 2,000 human deaths due to rabies occur annually in Kenya. Rural populations, especially children below 15 years, are at greatest risk of rabies exposure, with 98% of human rabies transmitted by dog bites. Elimination of rabies is achievable through mass dog vaccination and awareness campaigns. Between April and June, we have partnered with a number of organisations with the support of Conservancies to continue with domestic animal vaccinations under the leadership of the Samburu County Veterinary Services Department. Vaccinations took place in Archers Post, Lorubae, Wamba, Sarara areas, Milgis region, Meibae and Ol Malo. Approximately 1300 dogs and cats were vaccinated against rabies and distemper. Full information on all vaccinations to date (Oct 2019-June 2020) will be provided in an upcoming report. We thank Westgate, Kalama, Meibae and Namunyak Conservancies for their support.
- **Naramat returns:** We last saw Naramat, our famous Westgate lioness followed closely by her 3 cubs in October 2019. Although we have monitored her whereabouts as she has traversed the Community Conservancies, we had not had an

official sighting for some time. We are thrilled to report that in early June we saw Naramat and as she walked out of the thick bushes in Westgate's Conservation Area. We held our breath to see how many cubs followed her... 1...2...3!!!! It is extraordinary for her to have raised all three of them to this level of maturity in community landscapes. Naramat continues to show us that coexistence is possible - surviving in a challenging environment and raising her 4th litter of cubs all by herself. We loved watching her cubs play, climb trees (and get stuck in them!) and be curious about everything.



Naramat's tree-climbing cubs

- **Jeneria becomes a National Geographic Explorer:** We are delighted to announce that Jeneria Lekilelei is now officially a National Geographic Explorer, recognized for his efforts in founding the Warrior Watch programme, honing his and his team's skills in monitoring lions.
- **Six healthy critically endangered wild dogs:** Our warriors have been reporting wild dog sightings in the past few weeks during their patrols. After a long search by car, we finally saw 6 healthy wild dogs! The last time we saw wild dogs close up was in October 2019 when they were dying as a result of canine distemper. We sadly lost 5 wild dogs that we know of as a result of this serious disease. Since then, thanks to our partnership with the Samburu County Veterinary Services Department and some amazing partners and supporters, we have successfully vaccinated close to 3,000 domestic dogs to stop the spread of disease to wild dogs and other wild carnivores, and help eliminate rabies within rural communities.
- **Team in action:** While community meetings continue to be on hold, the team has been busy with wildlife monitoring and conflict mitigation, relentlessly continuing fieldwork across our area of operation. Jeneria met with stakeholders in Kipsing to discuss the critical wildlife corridor the community has helped to safeguard over the years, and how to keep it open. He also visited Sera to learn more about the numerous lion sightings in the area. We thank the Conservancy teams at Sera and Kipsing for their support and continuous reporting of lions. The team has traversed Buffalo Springs National Reserve doing lion monitoring as well. Crucially, the team continues to respond to conflict, and to help stop conflict from occurring.
- **Nanai rebounds:** In June, a lion was reported injured by our friends at Save the Elephants. Our team together with resident KWS Vet Dr. Njoroge treated her in Buffalo Springs National Reserve. We identified her as Nanai, one of our favourite

lions, named “My Own” by Jeneria. Since her injury, she has moved quite a distance, and is doing well.

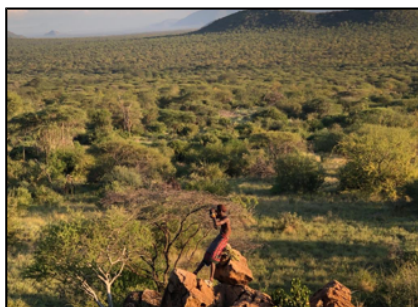
- **Zoom connects:** While the Coronavirus pandemic has broken many of our usual interactions, it has caused us to find innovative ways to connect teams across different landscapes. Our team has been fortunate to share experiences with the South Rift Association of Land Owners (SORALO) team in Kenya, and the Niassa Lion Project in Mozambique. Both meetings helped the teams feel less alone in their carnivore conservation, and more motivated to keep going.
- **Wildlife Conservation Expo:** A key event for us each year in California is the Wildlife Conservation Expo, a bonanza held twice a year where we showcase our work to wildlife lovers. This year, Wildlife Conservation Network hosted a digital event. Shivani, Jeneria and Resson participated in an interactive session filled with live conversations both on-screen and in chat where people from around the world asked pertinent questions about coexistence, our work and the opportunities in conservation. [Catch the session here.](#)
- **Jeneria on the airwaves:** This quarter, in between attending to conflict and helping at ceremonies, Jeneria found time to do an important [interview on BBC Outlook](#) where he talked about the turn around his life made coming into lion conservation. He also [spoke at the Global Biodiversity Festival](#) amongst other eminent conservationists. For all his efforts, Jeneria was also [featured in the Times of London](#).
- **World Environment Day:** For this June’s celebration, Ewaso Lions decided to focus partnerships and their power in solving the big and small conservation issues of our time. In the spirit of the famous Margaret Mead saying that states, “*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has,*” The Grevy’s Zebra Trust’s Founder Belinda Low Mackey met with Resson for [an Insta live conversation](#) about partnerships and compassionate leadership in conservation.
- **Infrastructure interacts:** Sarah has been pivotal in steering three interactive online sessions where she’s led the team in reviewing the five-year county-integrated development plans for both Samburu and Isiolo Counties to help develop an impact model and facilitate inputs and prioritisation of activities to follow. The team has developed a hotspot map revealing the high Wildlife-Vehicle Collision zones that will be instrumental in advising the Kenya National Highways Authority on retrofitting the highway to include WVC mitigation. The team is now planning on presenting this data to the A2 highway corridor manager and develop collaborative solutions.
- **The Tippy Tappy wave & distribution of masks:** Following the advent of the Coronavirus, the team has been working in their various communities to ensure people are washing hands and bolstering sanitation. After some set up a Tippy Tappy station in their homes, the decision was made for each team member to set up hand washing stations around their communities to keep people safe from the virus. The movement has been successful and inspiring to watch the whole team acting as beacons in their community. Over 100 tippy taps have been installed by our team together with the distribution of 2000 masks in Westgate Conservancy and Archers Post town. Watch [this video](#) to see more on this.
- **Shivani diving deep:** In a thought provoking talk on the Podcast [Breaking Green Ceilings](#), Shivani shared on the beginnings of the Ewaso Lions project, and the role her family played in supporting her start the project. She elaborates how she was

able to dive into the depths of lion conservation in the landscape, her interactions with the Samburu people and the values they hold to heart towards their livestock and carnivores. Shivani's punchline was to urge more Kenyan Indians to get involved in supporting conservation. Listen to how Shivani hopes to bring on Kenyan Indians to conservation, [click here](#).

- **Fact-finding field visit to Naretunoi Conservancy:** Resson together with 30 members of the Conservation Alliance of Kenya (CAK) visited the Naretunoi Conservancy, a rich wildlife dispersal area adjacent to the National National Park. The team sought to find out how the community coexists with wildlife living south of Nairobi National Park with the emerging proposal to erect a fence around the Conservancy. The visit provided a deeper insight on how their investments are sustaining the Conservancy, and contribute their responses towards the future development of the park's management plan. Resson represents Ewaso Lions on the board of the Conservation Alliance of Kenya as the secretary.
- **Conservation Careers Conversation:** In a riveting discussion with participants keen on joining and advancing their careers in conservation, Resson gave a talk on Conservation Career Opportunities in Kenya, and shared insights on how to prepare towards your preferred career and also delved on her own personal journey in conservation. [View the lively discussion here](#).

Special Feature: Wildlife Sightings

Between April and June, in addition to our team patrolling on foot, we have had 3 field teams in vehicles covering the Reserves and Community Conservancies. May and June were lush months in the Samburu-Isiolo ecosystem. We witnessed first hand the thriving vibrancy of wildlife across the landscape. The team was able to spot large herds of wildlife, as well as rare carnivores, many of which were in the community conservancy in conservation areas set aside by the residents for wildlife, a clear indication that these small refuges work. We are grateful to all the conservancies and national reserves we work in for their support.



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