

Main Feature: Students Symposium - Conservation and Me

We held our 2nd annual students symposium virtually for 5 days in August. The symposium themed “Conservation and me”, drew over 430 participants from different academic backgrounds in lively interactive sessions. Our speakers shared their expertise, thoughts and career paths with the students. In a departure from other webinars, our approach encouraged and relished having students sharing their opinions, thoughts and questions on the future of conservation. Our very own inspiring ladies Munteli Lalparasoroi and Shivani Bhalla were joined by Julius Lekenit from Grevy's Zebra Trust (GZT) to discuss how community conservation is changing on the ground on the first day. We had three amazing speakers that included Martin Odino (Peregrine Fund), Dr. Irene Amoke (Kenya Wildlife Trust) and Dr. Dorothy Nyingi (National Museums of Kenya) talk about the no-so-soft skills the students need to navigate the working world.

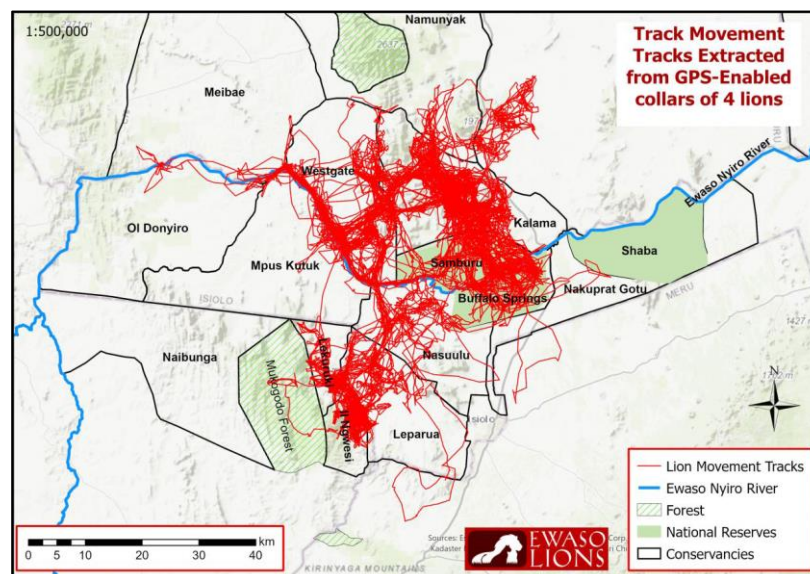
Judy Kepher Gona from Sustainable Travel and Tourism Agenda Kenya and Resson Kantai Duff lead a bold and riveting conversation on decolonising conservation on the third day. On the fourth day, we were graced by celebrity singer and entrepreneur Muthoni Drummer Queen as she talked about mainstreaming an industry such as conservation and the need for Kenyans to lead the conservation conversation. As we drew the symposium to a close, Sarah Chiles (our joint Landscape Infrastructure Advisor with GZT and Tobias Otieno our Research Manager engaged the participants in a practical multi-sectoral approach towards infrastructure development, streaming live from Nairobi National Park and along a road on how to collect, present and use data to make informed decisions for both green and grey infrastructure. Our crowning moment was receiving this comment from a student: *“This symposium has been the greatest academic event that has happened to me during this pandemic”* filling us with so much joy at the achievement.



Picture 1: Event Poster featuring the speakers; **Picture2:** Virtual meeting with students; **Picture 3:** Munteli making a presentation during the symposium

Key Highlights from this Quarter

- **Launch of Beyond Boundaries KE (World Lion Day):** On World Lion Day, we launched Beyond Boundaries KE, a Kenyan Instagram page that shares stories of our wildlife, land, languages and culture. A blend of captivating intrigues that will take you on a journey that reveals why wildlife thrive in northern Kenya, living alongside with people of all walks of life for generations. Beyond Boundaries KE shares what coexistence means to us outside of national parks and reserves in northern Kenya and beyond. Please follow the Instagram page [@beyondboundarieske](#). Please also watch our [World Lion Day message](#) that shares our reflective message of hope on the work we are doing.
- **Naramat encounters Hyenas:** The team has been busy monitoring Naramat and her three cubs as they traverse the landscape within the conservation area. We appreciate the continued support of the Westgate community and the management for securing the core area which continues to be a safe refuge for carnivores. Yesalai and Lpuresi recently encountered a special sighting of Naramat in a battle with a few spotted hyenas where she kept a spirited fight and chased them off. [Watch the video here](#)
- **Wildlife sightings:** The team has been quite fortunate to spot a [leopard climb two trees](#) in a few minutes as she appeared to be chasing a striped hyena and on another occasion [sight another leopard](#) headed down to Ewaso Nyiro river. Toby and Thomas were also fortunate to spot 3 cheetahs during their carnivore monitoring patrols in Buffalo Springs. Kwenia and Loigopa are doing well and Kwenia was recently spotted with a female in Buffalo Springs. Mid September, Jeneria sent the team this message *“After a long day of meetings, I just found my lovely Nanai with 3 new cubs. All in good health”*. We are elated with this news. Nanai has had a challenging few months and we watch her return to Samburu with much joy.
- **Lions return to Namunyak:** In the rugged mountains of Namunyak conservancy, after a long hiatus, a new population of lions has emerged. It is estimated that there are about 8 lions near Sarara and about 4-5 further north near Kalepo. Jeneria and his team joined forces with KWS vet, Dr Mutinda, Sarara Camp and Namunyak Conservancy team, and under a full moon, they managed to collar one shy female, which was aptly named Sarara. She hid in thick bush for hours but our expert team was able to lure her out to give Dr Mutinda a much needed opportunity to dart her. We can't wait to see what her movements reveal about this recovering lion population.



Map showing the tracks from the four collared lions showing habitat use and home ranges.

- **Kura's Pride Report:** We are proud to report that our domestic dog animal welfare programme, Kura's Pride, in collaboration with Samburu County Department of Veterinary Services, Daktari Wildlife Foundation, Action for Cheetahs and the Animal Care Clinic among many other partners pulled together to vaccinate a total of 2,642 domestic animals against deadly rabies and canine distemper diseases over 10,000km² between October 2019 and June 2020. It was a real feat but something the team enjoyed immensely in this trying environment over the past few months. This project is a living picture of the power of collaboration, and we thank you all for the roles you played to make these vaccinations happen over the north of Kenya. Here is a [short video](#) you may like to see about the programme.
- **Join us at the WCN Expo:** Every year, a few members of our team go to the US to present to donors and partners the work of Ewaso Lions in an effort to raise global support for conservation on the continent. This year with everything going virtual, we are pleased to invite you all, on **Saturday, October 10th at 7:15 PM** Kenya Time, to our presentation for the Wildlife Conservation Network Expo in the Green Room (the schedule shows 9:15 AM PDT). We filmed it right here in camp which was a lot of fun! **Please [register here to join](#)**. We will have a live Q&A from Samburu and Nairobi and would love to see friendly Kenyan faces energise us and hear about our conservation efforts.
- **Mama Simba school to resume soon:** True to their tenacity, our Mama Simba ladies decided that they wanted to continue with their classes as COVID-19 began to ease in the country, stating categorically that they were tired of not learning for so many months. Adhering to strict social distancing protocols, they came together to widen the enclosure of the Mama Simba School so as to begin literacy lessons once more. They continue to make adjustments to their classroom, and will soon begin lessons with JLEF Scholarship student Painoti Letabare returning as their teacher before she resumes teacher training college in the North Rift.



Mama simba ladies expanding their class

- **Honing better economic arguments for nature:** In July, Resson attended an Environmental Economic course by the Conservation Strategy Fund. The course, taught by experts who understand real-world conservation challenges, provided skills in demonstrating how economics can advance environmental goals in practical, strategic ways. This approach is crucial at a time when global-scale environmental changes are being driven by diverse economic factors, and when conservation leaders are striving to preserve critical ecosystems.
- **Team setting up camp at Remot:** Three years later, our team is back and have set up a temporary field camp in Remot to help with conflict where Naramat and her 3 cubs are currently residing. The temporary camp is located on the boundary of Westgate and Meibae conservancy in remot location within Westgate. When the team set up camp in Meibae three years ago, the community cheered the team as it helped solve conflict and they were convinced it was the right decision to set up the temporary camp again with full community support. Through community collaboration, the team is busy keeping livestock away from lions. Naramat's nurturing skills have continued to demonstrate the resilience of the northern Kenya solitary survival tactics.

- **Losing lions:** This quarter we say goodbye to two lions. One was the first lion we have recorded as lost to conflict in over 20 months. Ldarei was named for his light coloured coat at the Naming Ceremony held in Samburu last October. Sadly, he was shot after killing a camel. We are grateful to our resident KWS vet, Dr Njoroge, for arriving at the scene very soon after it happened to make the assessment and ease his suffering. While we mourn him, we still celebrate that retaliatory killing has been reducing over the years although becoming increasingly difficult. We also give a final salute to an old rugged matriarch - Korti, a resident lion of Buffalo Springs who passed on through natural causes in August after a full life of 16 years. Kwaherini to our dear lions. We are indebted for the remarkable support that the Kenya Wildlife Service team, Buffalo Springs National Reserve and sukuna have accorded us through their continued collaborative messages shared with us.
- **Shivani speaks at ESGX 18:** Listen to Shivani talk at ESGX18 Newday Impact Investing forum on the survival instincts of lions in northern Kenya (from minute 1:07 hours), lessons learnt while working in the landscape and how coexistence has promoted connectivity and continuity in community conservation. She further elaborates the challenges and friction facing the imbalance in conservation and possible solutions for the landscape. [Watch the full video here.](#)
- **Making Lion Conservation about People Podcast:** Listen to Resson discuss inclusion, innovation and putting people first in conservation. She talks about how Ewaso Lions works with warriors, women, and children who, traditionally, have had very little say in conservation decision-making in the past. [Click here to listen to the podcast!](#)

Special Appreciation: Thank you so much to all our partners who enable us to make a conservation impact in Kenya including; Kenya Wildlife Service; Samburu, and Isiolo County Governments; Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba National Reserves Managements; Community Conservancies (Westgate, Kalama, Nasuulu, Nakuprat-Gotu, Ol Donyiro, Meibae, Leparua, Il Ngwesi, Lekurukki, and Namunyak).

Special Feature: Students receive care packages and Eunice goes back to school

Following the closure of schools in Kenya due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all our students have received Covid care packages to help them with their studies during this period. The care packages include; solar light, sanitizer, masks, revision books, pens, exercise books and internet bundles for virtual learning. Eunice Njakunoi, one of our Jeremy Lucas Education Fund (JLEF) students from Meibae Conservancy has now joined Kabarak University to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Telecommunication. Before Covid-19, Eunice was teaching Mama Simba and helping at the Lion Kids Camp as a teaching assistant. We will update you on her progress and hope for the very best in her studies.



Picture 1 and 2: Students receive care packages; Picture 3: Eunice attending online classes

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