



**People, Lions and their Landscape:  
Our Vision and Funding Needs  
2021**

## **Letter from Directors**

*Across the world, 2020 has been a year of new challenges. Our team has faced floods, canine distemper disease, a locust invasion and Covid-19, rising to meet each challenge head on. Despite the crises, the lions and their landscape remain our team's priority. We have continued with our work in northern Kenya, remaining on the ground to protect lions, prevent conflict and secure their landscapes, supported by our Nairobi team that turn the wheels of our operations.*

*Whilst we have tightened our belts and continue to be extremely financially prudent, none of our teams have had their salaries cut or days reduced, not because we have an abundance, but because this is precisely the time to prove that lion conservation is about people. We are operating full steam ahead with much hope for the future.*

*As a small grassroots organisation, we have seen less nimble organisations struggle to meet their large overheads. We have also watched the vistas empty of international tourists and staff. The community have looked around and seen that at this crucial moment, we are not going anywhere. We are here to stay and the fact that we are locally led and driven from the ground, means that no matter what crisis is thrown our way, we are able to adapt and be creative in our approach and move forward.*

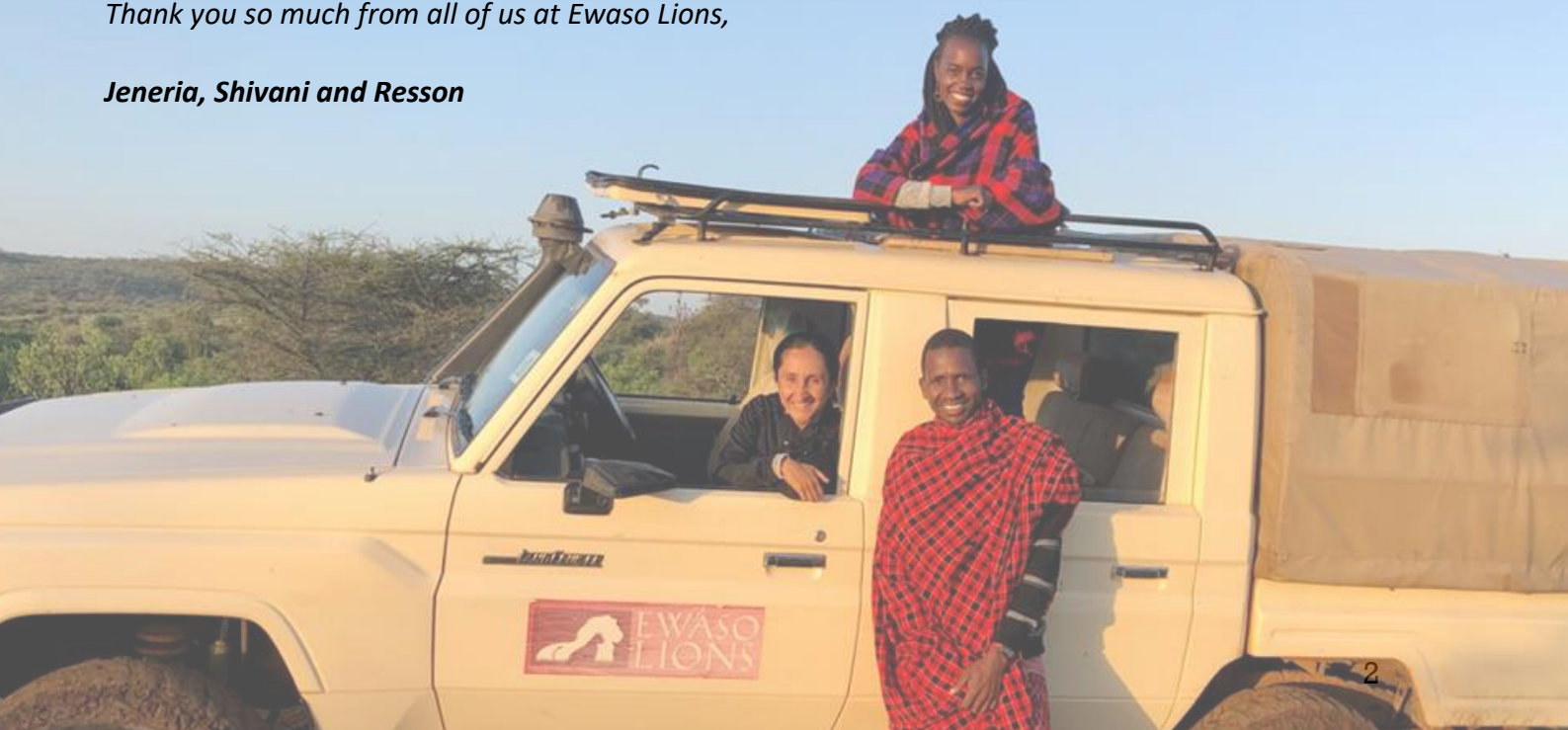
*As we plan for 2021, we are celebrating our past wins, and the innovation that will help us push through new threats. We have empowered warriors, women and children. We have also taken on big infrastructure, domestic dog welfare and started redefining conservation itself. There is something unique for everyone who would like to support us to get passionate about. Our 2021 budget is \$900,000, with a laser focus on our vision for lions in Kenya.*

*Our Mama Simba and Lion Kids Camps programmes are funded and we are so grateful to our supporters for this. However, there are 6 key programmes that require essential funding – we have enclosed 6 proposals in this document for your perusal which include our core operational costs that are key to the entire functioning of Ewaso Lions - this must go on but we need your help.*

*Any amount donated towards this critical work will be appreciated as it all adds up to help us achieve our goal of promoting coexistence between people and lions.*

*Thank you so much from all of us at Ewaso Lions,*

**Jeneria, Shivani and Resson**



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### **About Ewaso Lions**

Ewaso Lions is dedicated to conserving lions and other large carnivores by promoting coexistence between people and wildlife. We are an independent 100% African wildlife conservation organisation based in northern Kenya which engages and builds the capacity of key demographic groups (warriors, women, and children) by developing approaches to reduce human-carnivore conflict. We conduct applied research and work with our communities to address ecological problems. We carry out educational initiatives to reinforce traditionally held beliefs and the evolving culture of wildlife conservation across the landscape.

### **Ensuring a future for Kenya's lions & other large carnivores through community-based conservation**

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For any further information, please don't hesitate to contact us:

[shivani@ewasolions.org](mailto:shivani@ewasolions.org)

[resson@ewasolions.org](mailto:resson@ewasolions.org)

## COEXISTING WITH LIONS

### Introduction

The African lion population has declined by 43% in the last 20 years and lions now occupy only 8% of their historical range in Africa. The estimated numbers of lions across Africa are approximately 20,000. In Kenya, the national population now numbers less than 2,500 individuals. The reduction in lion numbers is primarily due to habitat loss and conflict with humans, typically when lions kill people's livestock. Carnivores like lions play a vital role in stabilising prey dynamics, and provide regulatory services by carcass disposal, reducing deadly bacteria/viruses in the landscape.

Lions and other large carnivores are wide-ranging species, and designated protected areas are often not large enough to ensure their long-term survival. It is crucial, therefore, that conservation of these species, as well as their prey, is addressed throughout the landscape, which not only incorporates protected areas, but also the surrounding areas where local people live. Beyond this, the sense of ownership over wildlife and their story and place within our landscape as Africans must be reclaimed.

### Coexistence

Ewaso Lions was founded with a focus on lions and other large carnivores within human occupied landscapes. With human-lion conflict as the main threat, we embarked on community conservation programmes to engage and build the capacity of all key demographic groups in the area, involving; warriors, elders, women, and children. The community conservation work is underpinned by research, including; monitoring carnivore and prey populations, radio tracking lions, and studying the occurrence and impact of human-carnivore conflict. Understanding key factors that influence human tolerance of large carnivores, as well as what large carnivores need in order to share the landscape with people, help us manage for coexistence, identify areas critical to maintaining connectivity, and focus conservation activities in areas most likely to remain viable for large carnivores in the long term.

Ewaso Lions is the first project to conduct a formal study on the lion population in the Samburu-Isiolo ecosystem. We strive to identify all lion prides and individuals in the Samburu – Isiolo ecosystem. Identification of lions, behavioural data, and lion associations help us distinguish the number and structure of prides in the area. The prides here have a very loose structure and often break up in to smaller groups of a few females and their cubs. We also monitor a number of solitary females and their offspring which appears to becoming more typical of lion populations in northern Kenya. Under our [Strategic Plan](#) *Know your Lions* theme, we actively monitor individual lions within our conservation landscape and identify each individual by its unique whisker spot pattern, and produce identity profiles for each lion. Lions in a pride are rarely together at one time and this highlights the importance of recognising individuals. In 2019, we embarked on supporting the Kenya Wildlife Service on a regional Large Carnivore in parts of Samburu and Isiolo Counties. Currently, within our Samburu-Isiolo conservation landscape (and parts of Laikipia), we are currently monitoring approximately 40 lions (including cubs). We share information with community, managers and national leaders alike to enhance Kenya's knowledge of its lions.

To identify key habitat and critical lion corridors, and to manage conflict by alerting communities to lion presence when they venture close to villages or areas with livestock, we deploy GPS fitted collars on lions. Unlike many collaring exercises which are strictly for research purposes, lion collars in northern Kenya save lives. We put collars on lions that live near villages and in conflict areas, and our warriors stop conflict before it starts.

At the heart of this conflict, is the need for lions to have sufficient prey and safe refuges within community lands. We are able to explore the availability of suitable habitat for lions by applying modelling techniques. We have completed this in Westgate Community Conservancy and will continue in other Community Conservancies in the future. Within Westgate, we found that 21% of highly suitable habitat exists for lions during the day, and 29% during the night. The Conservation Area emerged as highly suitable during the day and, especially at night, a contiguous region of highly suitable habitat is available between the Conservation Area and Samburu National Reserve.

### Why is this important?

Lion populations within Kenya are exposed to a rapidly changing human-occupied landscape. Too often, the idea behind lion protection has been framed as a tourism enhancement exercise – we want it remembered that lions play a critical role in the ecosystem. Critically, our collaring and mapping research has also helped us start to understand that the core refuges we identify (and are protected) reduce conflict. Lions can move safely from one to another without a spike in conflict – a win for lions and for the communities that have lived alongside them for generations. In partnership with communities, we are able to help secure a future for lions in northern Kenya through our existing community programmes, daily monitoring of lions, collaring of key dispersing individuals, and identification of suitable habitat for lions.

Our maps of suitable lion habitat outside protected areas in the Samburu-Isiolo ecosystem demonstrate how modelling can be applied to an area to understand lion habitat requirements. This approach can be applied to other Community Conservancies neighbouring the protected areas, to advise on potential habitats that may be set aside as safe refuges for lions, therefore, allowing for the provision of contiguous high suitability habitat and enabling lions’ safe dispersal from the protected areas. The implications for lion numbers, tolerance and coexistence in a country where lions are a national symbol are enormous.

### Looking ahead

In the long-term, we aim to:

- Collar 2 lions in 2021
- Identify and secure suitable habitat and key corridors for lions through the use of modelling techniques
- Identify key corridors for lions through this changing landscape and work with stakeholders to secure them
- Conduct a lion survey in Namunyak Conservancy where a newly recovered population resides
- Continue with all our lion monitoring and conflict response work

### Budget 2021

What we need:	Why we need it:	How much it costs (USD):
Lion Collars	GPS collars are needed to help keep track of the lions within community areas. The collars are fitted with a Drop-off mechanism to ensure that minimal darting of the lions is needed.	15,000
Equipment	Binoculars, smart phones for data collection and tracking equipment are all needed for our Field Team in monitoring and tracking the lions.	2,000
Lion Survey	The cost of this lion survey includes fuel and food for a set period of time whilst our team undertakes the survey in Namunyak Conservancy.	2,000
<b>Total Needed</b>	<b>Coexisting with Lions 2021</b>	<b>19,000</b>



Nanai and Loibat in Buffalo Springs National Reserve



Naramat's cubs in Westgate



Collaring Sarara in Sept 2020

## THE ENGINE OF EWASO LIONS

### Background

Conservation is difficult and rewarding in equal measure. The exhilaration of seeing people take ownership and pride in the lions in their landscape is often countered with news of the next emergency, conflict or crisis, which the team must shift gears to respond to. These highs and lows all come with behind the scenes costs. The people who respond to conflict in our team must be paid and fed, cars must be fuelled, insurance must be covered. The work of conservation must go on.

Studies have shown that contributing to an organisation's core costs – an organisation's engine – strengthens its ability to take on new challenges and innovative tasks. In the last year alone, Ewaso Lions team has dealt with drought, a disease outbreak which affected African wild dogs, floods, a locust invasion and finally, COVID-19 – responding to each with courage and efficiency. But even on our calmest of days, our work is still very high stakes. We cannot go out to meet a person grieving the loss of their cow with a mind weighed down by personal financial constraints, wrestling with which sick child one can afford to take to hospital. People who are stretched too thin make mistakes. Serial mistakes break trust, and have grave implications for our landscape, and our lions. Lastly, at our core, we are a hopeful organisation. We dimension the full gravity of every situation, while still believing there to be a solution and working towards it. Hope can only be built in a healthy mental state. Our team needs moments of joy to break from what is too often a tense and stressful life.

To do our work effectively, to respond to crises, to be creative under pressure, and to prepare for the future, our team needs to be buttressed by core operational funding to handle the nuts and bolts while they do the hard work of conservation. We need to keep our engine running.

We would be grateful to receive support for our operational costs as this year – as ever – it will be crucial to the success of the project and overall goal of securing a future for lions.

### Looking ahead

Looking long-term, we aim to:

- Continue to have our camp and vehicles insured and our health insurances for the team covered.
- Work on camp repairs in 2021 including a new bathroom/loo and tent repairs
- Continue to fuel our vehicles
- Ensure our team is well fed!
- Continue to pay salaries for our operations team



*Ewaso Lions Team at work © Jacques van der Westhuizen*

## Budget 2021

What we need:	Why we need it:	How much it costs (USD):
Insurances	Camp, Health and Vehicle Insurances are essential for safeguarding the property of Ewaso Lions against any unforeseen events. In our landscape, these events happen all too frequently, and these insurances have protected us immensely.	32,500
Camp Maintenance	Our camp requires constant maintenance including general repairs, tent repairs, and at times equipment replacement.	30,000
Fuel	We have 7 vehicles and 2 motorbikes that our field team uses. Our field team are out daily monitoring lions and responding to conflict. We need to fuel all vehicles and the cost here includes response during emergency conflict.	20,000
Food	Our team is regularly in the field, travelling on foot and by car to monitor wildlife for long hours, or resolve conflict. They also facilitate and attend community meetings and need sustenance to do all this arduous work effectively.	28,600
Salaries	Salaries for our operations team for 12 months. Camp cook – Lembagani, Camp Manager - Moses, Camp Maintenance - Lerimara and Operations Officer – Evelyn.	17,500
<b>Total Needed</b>	<b>Engine of Ewaso Lions – Operational Costs 2021</b>	<b>128,600</b>

## SCALING UP KURA'S PRIDE

### Introduction

Zoonotic diseases pose critical risk to human populations in both rural and urban environments. Infectious disease poses a critical extinction risk to several endangered wild carnivores. Kenya's government adopted the "National Rabies Elimination Strategy 2014-2030" to eliminate rabies within its borders by 2030. Rabies is a viral illness affecting the central nervous system and is one of the world's most threatening zoonotic diseases. An estimated 2,000 human deaths due to rabies occur annually in Kenya. Elimination of rabies is achievable through mass dog vaccination and awareness campaigns. Annual regional vaccination of 70% of the domestic dog population can essentially wipe out the rabies risk to humans and wildlife in five years. While decreasing risk of human rabies, the vaccination of domestic dogs also reduces the risks to wildlife and other domestic stock. Research indicates that the presence of rabies and distemper in domestic dog populations poses a serious threat to wild carnivores such as the critically endangered wild dogs. Distemper outbreaks have led to rapid declines in wild dog numbers between 2017-2019. Other wild carnivores are also impacted by rabies as well as by canine and feline distemper.



*A rabid dog attacks a lion in Ngorongoro*  
© Ingela Jansson – Kope Lion Project



*Wild dog with canine distemper in Oct 2019*

### What if we did nothing?

The African lion population has declined by 43% in the last 20 years and lions now occupy only 8% of their historical range in Africa. The estimated numbers of lions across Africa are approximately 20,000. In Kenya, the national population now numbers less than 2,500 individuals. This reduction in lion numbers is primarily due to habitat loss, conflict with humans and a new emerging threat of diseases.

In 2017, canine distemper wiped out 95% of the wild dog population in northern Kenya – prior to which, over 200 individuals existed representing a globally important population. This critically endangered species can recover by addressing domestic dog disease and improve human health as well.

Ewaso Lions mission has always been to ensure a future for lions and large carnivores and without a sound and proactive strategy to deal with wildlife diseases, carnivore numbers can decline rapidly with a disease outbreak. If we take a proactive approach to addressing domestic dog welfare, and make sure it is done in a sustainable way, we can continue our work with communities within the landscape, ultimately keeping lions and other large carnivores numbers stable or increasing for years to come.

### **Kura's Pride: Improving dog welfare by encouraging responsible dog ownership to help communities, dogs and wildlife**

Ewaso Lions has developed a programme to address domestic dog welfare: Kura's Pride (named after our famous camp dog Kura). **We aim** to work towards a healthier human/dog/wildlife landscape through vaccinations, sterilizations, education and promotion of responsible domestic dog ownership. Ewaso Lions launched Kura's Pride in 2019 and by collaborating with numerous partners, embarked on vaccinations, sterilizations and education efforts in Samburu County. Our programme encourages collaboration and partnership building to ensure that efforts are spread across county borders, ensuring connectivity and a harmonised approach sought between all partners. To achieve this, between 2019 and 2020, we partnered with a host of organisations to achieve our common goal and vision. Please watch this video which summarises the programme's efforts to date:

[https://youtu.be/hBbilOvB\\_kl](https://youtu.be/hBbilOvB_kl)

## Highlights and impact made between 2019/2020 (with collaborating partners)

The overall impact between 2019 and 2020 is as follows:

<b>A total of 2642 vaccinations administered</b>	<b>2267 dogs vaccinated</b>	<b>370 cats vaccinated</b>
<b>5 donkeys vaccinated</b>	<b>Over 1210 households visited</b>	<b>48 locations/settlements visited</b>
<b>23 days of vaccinations across the landscape between Oct 2019 &amp; June 2020</b>	<b>27 sterilizations in Meibae Conservancy in Jan 2020</b>	<b>49 participants gather at a workshop on dog management in 2019</b>



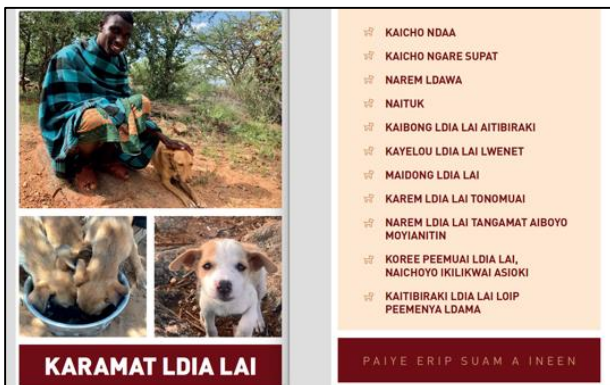
Dr Mutunga vaccinates young dog in Learata



Dog arrives on motorbike in Westgate



March 2020 participants in Westgate



Cards given out to owners on dog care



Kura's Pride Logo

## Looking ahead

Looking long-term, we aim to scale up Kura's Pride by:

- Launching a mobile domestic animal veterinary unit - outfitted with vaccination and sterilization supplies and equipment - in partnership with the Samburu County Government and partners.
- Vaccinating (both rabies and distemper) up to 5000 dogs annually in partnership with the Samburu County Government and partners.
- Conducting educational initiatives with communities on responsible domestic animal ownership.
- Providing access to a service for communities to help improve the welfare of their domestic animals.
- Collaborating with partners to ensure connectivity of vaccination and sterilization efforts across the landscape and in particular - across county borders.

## Our core partners



## Sustainability

We aim to make this programme sustainable by partnering with the Samburu County Government and aligning with their county development goals/plans, and ensuring that the community are invested in the scaling up and service provision from the beginning.

## Budget 2021

What we need:	Why we need it:	How much it costs (USD):
Vaccines	Samburu County will provide 5,000 rabies vaccines. The cost indicated here is for 5,000 distemper vaccines only.	15,350
Mobile unit ( <i>already funded!</i> )	Modified vehicle for veterinary work. Includes running costs (fuel and maintenance for 12 months) and all required modifications.	35,000
Equipment & supplies	All veterinary supplies (needles, syringes, drugs, surgical equipment) for 1 year. Also includes surgical tent, tables and generator.	8,500
Educational video	This educational video will be produced in the local language and will contain information on responsible dog ownership.	1,500
All educational material	Includes posters, Karamat Ldia cards, flyers.	2,000
Vaccination certificates	5000 vaccination cards for animal owners (although we expect many to retain their previous cards, we will be venturing in to new areas).	660
Kura's Pride Officer (KPO)	The KPO will work closely with the vet and community on welfare issues, monitoring & evaluation. The budget is for 12 months.	4,200
Officer's Motorbike	The KPO will need to access villages and move around with ease daily to communicate with community members and Kura's Champions. Includes running cost (fuel and maintenance for 12 months).	1,900
Kura's Champions	8 community members from various villages who will be working closely with the KPO on all welfare issues. Budget is for 12 months.	5,800
<b>Total Needed</b>	<b>Kura's Pride 2021 (Excludes cost of veterinarians)</b>	<b>74,910</b>

## INTRODUCING BEYOND BOUNDARIES KE

Despite being world famous for conservation and for lions specifically, most Kenyans never even think of our wildlife as worthy of a place on the national agenda. If conservation is thought of at all, these thoughts are often shaped by negative interactions – news of ‘marauding’ elephants and ‘rogue’ lions in the media; the exclusion of Kenyans of colour from conservation and decision making; conservation used as a ruse to defraud the Kenyan public (CONservation is the common term); the fetishisation or commodification of local people living alongside wildlife.

While Ewaso Lions main focus has been promoting coexistence between people and large carnivores at a regional level, we have reached a turning point. Our mission with this new programme – Beyond Boundaries KE – is to catalyse the crafting of a new decolonized conservation space. We want to target different sectors of society with the message that we can define conservation for ourselves, that conservation must change and expand, and Kenyans can be the heroes of this story.

Under the Beyond Boundaries KE banner:

- We hold **University symposia** with Kenyan students (both virtual and at local universities) to give students a chance to meet and interact with conservation practitioners, artists, business people, infrastructure developers and others. Our aim is to give students a safe space to question and ruminate, become inspired by the stories of our guests, and get more passionate and strategic about a new inclusive and diverse form of conservation.
- We are challenging the misconception that wildlife only live within the bounds of national parks and reserves through our new **@beyondboundarieske Instagram page**; we use photographs of wildlife that live outside parks and relay stories about the lives of those living alongside wildlife.
- We also amplify discussions (through writing, panels, webinars etc) about how to decolonize conservation, speaking courageously but empathetically about **Power, Privilege and Race** in Conservation. The genesis of this was the [Pathways Kenya conference held in February 2020](#).



Snapshots of our BBKE events and pages in 2019 and 2020

### Why is this important now?

The conservation sphere in Africa has its foundation in the fortress model of conservation by exclusion. While it has evolved in Kenya, much of the ideology behind it has remained. Conservation here is still elitist, centred on non-African “heroes,” and ran in NGO styles that offer limited leadership opportunities to people from within the countries. In 2019, Ewaso Lions made the decision that we, a local organisation with its focus on local people, would no longer cede ground to a faulty narrative which has resulted in bad behaviour, alienating Kenyans from their heritage, thereby exacerbating declines in biodiversity and culture. We teamed up with other like-minded conservation organisations and began to chart a path towards redefining conservation, decolonising it and reclaiming space together.

**University Symposia:** We realise and acknowledge that at this time of COVID-19, there have been many webinars and live events discussing conservation. However, our approach to this is unique in that it provides students a window into the real world of conservation, giving the youth a chance to be heard rather than just spoken to. Ultimately, we hope this builds up a higher calibre of the upcoming professional, less willing to be unwitting ‘baddies’ in the lens of history, and more awake to compassionate leadership that is needed in the conservation space.

Our **Instagram page** highlights stories of animals and the people living alongside wildlife outside protected areas. Most of Kenya’s wildlife lives outside protected areas yet Kenyans don’t realise this ourselves. Our approach on Instagram is to intertwine the stories of wildlife with our own. For most people living alongside wildlife, it is not “majestic” or “magical” but just a part of everyday life, and we are attempting to depict the “everyday-ness” in a Kenyan way.

**Race, power, privilege conversations:** While this discussion is being had in many spheres, the conservation world in Kenya is barely scratching the surface. A discussion that began less than 5 years ago has had brave beginnings, but is no longer reaching its antagonists. Our approach is to have open conversations, offering a road to recovery. We aim to avoid shaming people, but to get people of all colours in the room wrestling courageously with both personal responsibility and systemic reform.

### Highlights and impact made between 2019/2020 (with collaborating partners)



Illustrations by © SlidesCarnival. Collaborating partners included: Kenya Wildlife Trust, Grevy’s Zebra Trust, Uvumbuzi Africa, Maliasili, Niassa Carnivore Project, IMPACT and many others

## Looking ahead

In the long term, we aim to:

- Hold university symposiums biannually – both virtual and physical COVID permitting, continuing to provide space for students to speak, learn and craft a new narrative for conservation in Kenya.
- Invite Kenyan urbanites and influencers to come on fact finding missions to Ewaso Lions to fully grasp what conservation looks like on the ground.
- Publish more stories on decolonising conservation in local and international media, involving illustrators and other communicators to amplify the stories.
- Invite outside contributors to help tell stories on BBKE on Instagram through photos and videos.
- Explore possibilities of doing a Kenyan film on conservation.
- Hold further panel discussions on race, power and privilege including convening conservationists in Nairobi to discuss this.
- Receive coaching on diversity and inclusion to have richer, more impactful discourses.

## Budget 2021

What we need:	Why we need it:	How much it costs (USD):
Kenyans on a Learning Safari	When people have a faulty view of how conservation should work, they reflect that back. Our 2 safaris in 2021 for at least a dozen urban influential Kenyans aims to give people a new view to mirror.	12,000
University Symposium	We hope to hold at least 2 symposia in 2021, as several partners have shown interest, and many Kenyan students hailed the 2020 event as the most influential discussion they have had all year.	5,000
Service providers	We will need illustrators, storytellers, photographers, and potentially film makers to amplify our work in 2021.	10,000
Convening Conservationists	We will convene conservationists in Nairobi to have key discussions on race, power and privilege.	2,500
Coaching	Receive tailored coaching on diversity and inclusion.	3,000
<b>Total Needed</b>	<b>Beyond Boundaries KE 2021</b>	<b>32,500</b>

## BIODIVERSITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

### Will Development Eclipse Conservation in Northern Kenya?

Large-scale infrastructure projects are currently being developed in northern Kenya at a rapid pace and at a larger scale than previously experienced. Vision 2030 promotes a Kenya that is economically supported and connected by an expansive network of infrastructure including a major port, a crude oil pipeline, inter-regional highways, an inter-regional Standard Gauge Railway, international airports, resort cities, and dams including the Isiolo Dam (also known as Crocodile Jaws) in northern Kenya. Two of these mega projects intersect with one of the most biodiversity-rich landscapes in Kenya - the Ewaso Nyiro Basin, which is at the very heart of the landscape Ewaso Lions have been working to safeguard for the past 10 years.

Without effective planning for harmonizing this infrastructure, these projects will lead to profound ecological changes in the Ewaso Nyiro Basin and beyond, with long-term social, health, and economic impacts for people, and dire consequences for lions and other wildlife.



*The vast northern Kenya landscape can easily be fragmented by unplanned highways, pipelines and other mega projects.*

### What if we did nothing?

Lions now occupy only 8% of their historical range in Africa with less than 20,000 remaining across the continent and less than 2,500 in Kenya. Without a sound and proactive strategy to deal with the development that is coming, lions and other wildlife would lose more range, and would be cut off from their dispersal routes, rolling back years of work in this landscape. The communities that live alongside wildlife will suffer the dire effects of dried up river basins and permanently blocked migratory routes, heavily impacting their pastoral economies and potentially wiping out the culture of the people who have been custodians of the landscape for centuries. If we take a proactive approach to development, and make sure it is done in a sustainable way, we can continue our work with communities to ensure corridor connectivity in the landscape, ultimately keeping the lion population stable or increasing for years to come.

### Striking a Balance: Saving wildlife habitat while still supporting development

Ewaso Lions (EL) in partnership with the Grevy's Zebra Trust have developed a **Biodiversity and Infrastructure Programme** to promote harmonisation of this infrastructure. **We aim to support a scenario of no net loss for biodiversity in the Ewaso Nyiro Basin**, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our approach is both solutions-oriented and dual-scale in that it tends to both national-level capacity building and influencing, while testing practical solutions at the landscape level. We do this by offering dedicated capacity, building partnerships, providing sector-wide training, increasing information sharing, research, and directly engaging with the infrastructure development processes.

To achieve this, we hired a Landscape Infrastructure Advisor, Sarah Chiles, and have partnered with the South African based organisation Endangered Wildlife Trust which provides expertise in mainstreaming environmentally-friendly design solutions into Kenyan infrastructure agencies. Sarah was initially part-time however, due to the increasing scope and depth required for this work and its unprecedented success to date, she joined us full-time in 2019.

### Highlights and progress made in 2019/2020

Sarah has made tremendous progress in 2019 / 2020. Some of the key highlights this year include:

- Due to inputs provided on the design of the proposed Lokichar-Lamu Crude Oil Pipeline development, a section of the **pipeline was rerouted around a critically important dry season area for Grevy's zebra lactating females.**
- **Design advice** was also provided together with landscape partners for the proposed Isiolo-Lokichar Highway, **addressing critical crossing points for wildlife** and how to secure them.
- In addition, we **provided inputs on two regional development plans, and one proposed road.**
- The **A2 Wildlife Watch project was launched** with partners in the landscape. The project monitors the impacts of the A2 highway from Isiolo to Marsabit to provide data to inform retrofitting of this highway to secure the safety of road users, wildlife and domestic animals.
- We presented on the Infrastructure and Biodiversity Programme at **two international conferences** – the African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology in South Africa, and the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation in the US.
- We **continued to build relationships with Kenyan infrastructure agencies and provided skills strengthening opportunities** for key technical representatives and Kenya Wildlife Service.
- The programme further focused on a number of **information dissemination activities** at a landscape level, providing information and training on infrastructure and biodiversity to various teams.
- Several **conservation stakeholders were also advised on how to engage with infrastructure project processes** in the landscape and beyond.

### Looking ahead

Looking long-term, we have over 50 activities, of various time-frames, planned for 2020/2021. Some of the key ones include:

- Launch the Ewaso Infrastructure Information Network with all stakeholders in the landscape.
- Conduct training for development agencies together with partners
- Hold Green and Grey Infrastructure Dialogue with Director Generals of development agencies in partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service
- Hold multi-stakeholder meetings with development agencies on translating highway wildlife data into mitigation outputs.
- Support funding agencies to hold roundtable discussions with infrastructure agencies on mitigation financing needs.

### Budget

What we need:	Why we need it:	How much it costs (USD):
<b>Landscape Infrastructure Advisor</b>	Our Landscape Infrastructure Advisor will formulate and execute our plans to engage, train and partner with targeted groups who will execute environmentally conscious development.	36,000
<b>2020/2021 Activities</b>	We have over 50 activities planned in 2020/2021 including meetings, trainings, travel, submitting recommendations, data analysis and presentations, and much more. A detailed workplan is available.	18,000
<b>Total Needed</b>	<b>Biodiversity and Infrastructure Programme 2020/2021</b>	<b>54,000</b>

## ONWARD WITH THE JEREMY LUCAS EDUCATION FUND

Ewaso Lions recognises the critical link between education and conservation. While we firmly hold to the belief that tomorrow's wildlife leaders must be equipped with a solid education today, we are coming to redefine what a solid education means. We have noticed that formal education in cultural landscapes has had a rather deleterious effect. Instead of empowering children to make informed choices, it has divorced them from their culture and their landscape, instilled a capitalistic mind-set which has led too many scholarship children in the landscape down a grave path of seeking profit over all else, unravelling the gains that were expected for the culture and biodiversity of the landscape.

Set up in 2017, the Jeremy Lucas Education Fund (JLEF) enables young teenagers in Samburu and Isiolo counties in Northern Kenya to have secondary and tertiary education. Each year many of the children who complete primary education cannot afford secondary school fees and all the associated costs such as school books and stationery, uniforms and transport to and from school. Donations raised through this fund will now give these young people a chance to further their education. It will go a long way to improving their lives and their futures. We couple this formal education with a strong internship and mentorship link with Ewaso Lions, ensuring that as they learn, they do not forget their culture, and do not devalue where they came from.

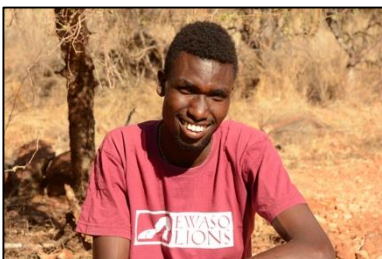
The Jeremy Lucas Education Fund is currently sponsoring fifteen promising students to attend highly ranked secondary schools, colleges and universities in Kenya. Under the Fund's sponsorship, their tuition and other expenses are covered for the duration of all their academic years. Our model also ensures that there is regular monitoring of each student ensuring that they continuously achieve in their school work and are supported with any challenges that may arise and receive practical training to help them understand and participate in the conservation of their landscape, no matter what career path they choose.

Ewaso Lions works closely with the local communities to ensure that wildlife conservation is part of their everyday lives. Educating young people – the custodians of this wildlife – is a crucial part of our work. Enabling the youth of today to be empowered, inspired and nurtured means they in turn can make informed, educated choices that will benefit them, their families and the wildlife that they live beside.

### *Educating youth, empowering communities, encouraging conservation.*

#### **Student Journeys**

Here are a few special stories of some of our student's journeys over the years.



**Solomon Lenasalia** from Isiolo county completed his secondary education under our programme and is now a third year student at Kenyatta University studying Environmental Management with a focus on Resource Conservation. He continues to have an excellent GPA and is currently at the Ewaso Lions Camp working on Kura's Pride and other research activities.



**Saniki Lelenkeju** from Sasaab village in Samburu has completed her secondary education under JLEF and is now a second year student at the Coast Institute of Technology studying Tour Guiding and Administration. Saniki currently is an intern at a tourist camp in Samburu, learning practical skills including guiding and driving. She is the second female guide in Samburu!



**Hassan Dulacha** is a Form 2 student at one of Kenya’s most prestigious schools – Maseno National School. Hassan has had a tragic life for a 15-year old, yet continues to strive and thrive. As our first Borana student, Hassan is a great beacon of hope in the Isiolo ecosystem – his mere presence enables dialogue with a different ethnic group. He doesn’t have big dreams yet, but we know with time, he will.

#### Why is this important?

Education is crucial to give children opportunities they may not have had in the past. If you educate one person in the family, you change the life of others in that community or village. Children’s minds need to be engaged and challenged, their horizons need to be broadened. They get all this through education. The Kenyan education system does not support students after primary school. Yet this is the time when they are most curious and hungry for knowledge. This is the time they are beginning to understand themselves and their place in the world. Formal education coupled with intensive mentorship shows them that they have a place and they have an important role to play in the world – true education gives them that opportunity. Through this programme, we can also bring forward a new generation of conservationists or conservation minded individuals.

#### Looking ahead

Looking long-term, we aim to:

- Continue supporting 11 students in secondary school
- Continue supporting 4 students in tertiary education (colleges and university)
- Provide mentorship opportunities to build student’s careers and cultural awareness, sustaining their original way of life
- Continue with our internship programme to expose students to Ewaso Lions programmes including Lion Kids Camp, Mama Simba and Kura’s Pride
- Continue to provide support to our scholars through the COVID-19 period, which so far has included care packages that have given them access to school materials and internet, and solar lights that allow them to study at night after days of herding livestock.

#### Budget 2021

What we need:	Why we need it:	How much it costs (USD):
School fees	Ewaso Lions covers school fees including tuition fees, plus boarding equipment comprising beds, crockery, personal care items, uniform and pocket money to ensure the student’s needs are covered while in school.	7,812
Internship Stipends	While our students intern with us, we pay them a small stipend to cover personal items and phone credit so they can communicate with their families and learn to manage money even as they contribute to our work.	668
Transport	Many of our students travel across the country to get to school and back home. We ensure they are able to make the trip with ease, so that they arrive safely and don’t put extra burden on struggling families.	1,520
<b>Total Needed</b>	<b>Jeremy Lucas Education Fund 2021</b>	<b>10,000</b>

## SMALL STEPS THAT MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

**\$100** to pay for food during a community meeting

**\$150** to pay for a warrior's salary in our Warrior Watch programme

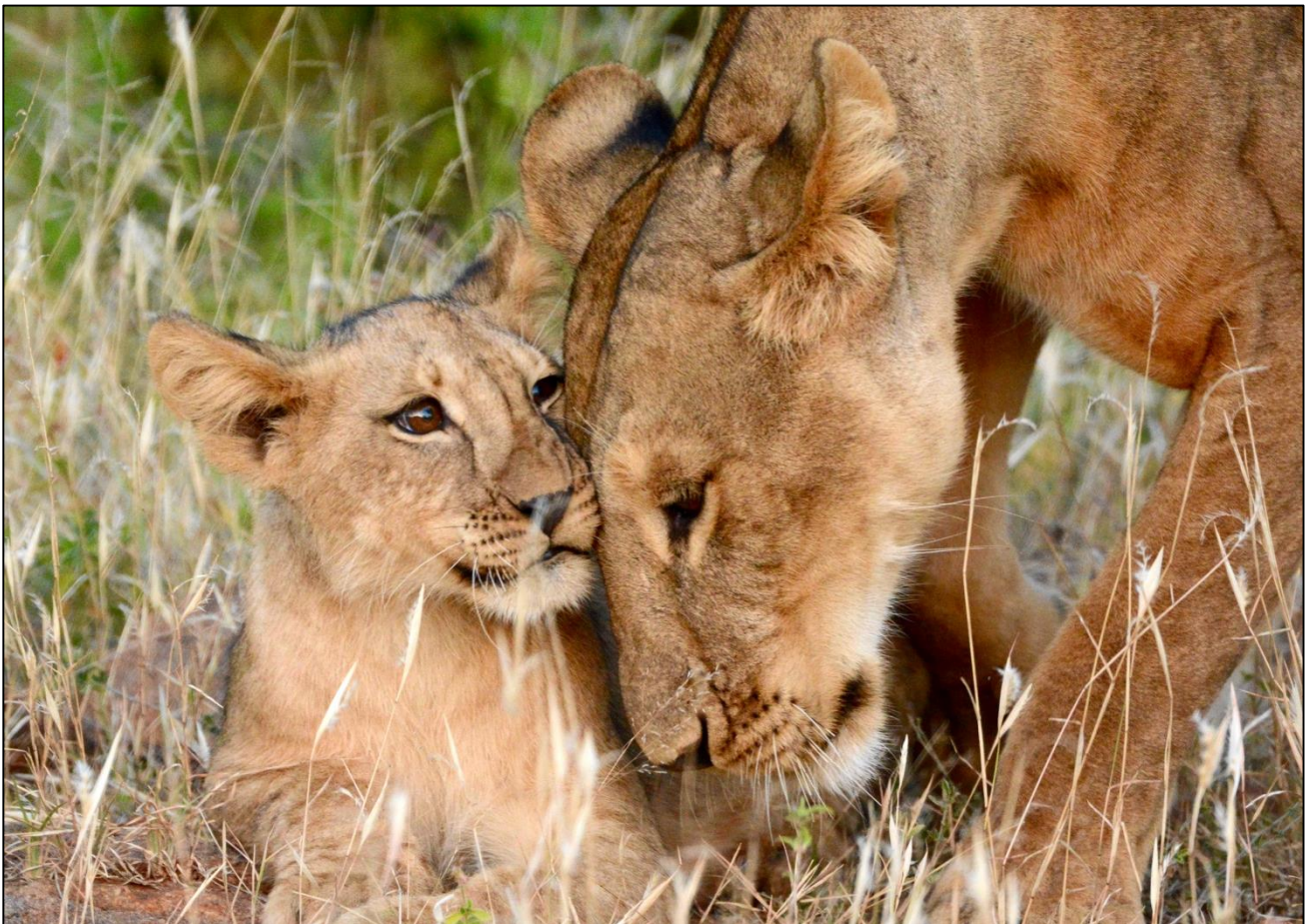
**\$250** to fund a bus trip for 25 children to see wildlife up close

**\$300** to purchase a pair of binoculars for our field team

**\$400** to purchase a new laptop for our university students

**\$750** to service one of our vehicles after every 5000 km driven

**\$1350** to purchase 4 new all-terrain tubeless tyres for one vehicle



*Namunyak and her cub in Samburu*

## HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

To make a donation to Ewaso Lions, please visit: <http://ewasolions.org/donate>  
All donations are tax deductible in the U.S. through the Wildlife Conservation Network  
(a U.S. 501c3 organisation) and Ewaso Lions is partners with WCN.

To write a cheque, please make cheque payable to:  
Wildlife Conservation Network (Marked for *Ewaso Lions*)  
209 Mississippi Street, San Francisco, CA 94107  
Tax Exempt ID # 30-0108469 Tel: + 1415 202 6380

**\*Donations can also be made through your Donor Advised Fund.**



Thank you so much from all of us at Ewaso Lions for your support. Please do have a look at our [2019 Annual Report](#). Our work is only made possible thanks to you.

**ASHE OLENG!**