



Ewaso Lions Quarterly Report October – December 2020

Main Feature: Lion Sightings

This quarter we have had some spectacular lion sightings. Our team saw Nanai and her cubs with a baboon in her mouth; [watch the video here](#). Seeing her continued resilient spirit in this challenging landscape gives us a lot of hope. In November, Jeneria and Junior had a wonderful sighting of Napirai and her cubs whilst on an oryx kill. This solitary lioness has been particularly cryptic, so the team was overjoyed when she finally showed her new cubs. This year, we have had 11 cubs born within the landscape. Yesalai, Jisana and Stephen were fortunate to see Kwenia doing well. He mostly ranges between Buffalo Springs and Samburu National Reserves, and Kalama Conservancy, and has recently started venturing in to southern parts of Namunyak Conservancy. We are grateful for the continued partnership we have with the Kenya Wildlife Service, Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves managements, and all conservancies, for their tremendous support as we continue promoting our work of coexistence and monitoring of all the lions.



Nanai and her 3 cubs



Napirai brings out her new cubs

Key Highlights from this Quarter

- **Special Sightings:** The team was fortunate to catch [a quick glimpse of 7 very healthy wild dogs](#) while on patrol and some great action of a [Beisa oryx charge a cheetah](#) who was trying to hunt. The team also encountered an armadillo briefly and spotted a [striped hyaena](#). Watch this clip to see some of our [favourite wildlife moments in November](#) after the rains and this [short clip of leopard and cubs, and Nanai and cubs](#) – all in one morning!
- **WCN Virtual Expo:** Our team joined Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) partners and supporters on the 10th of October in an effort to raise global support for wildlife conservation. We spoke from “our stage” in our camp and were delighted to have more of our team present for

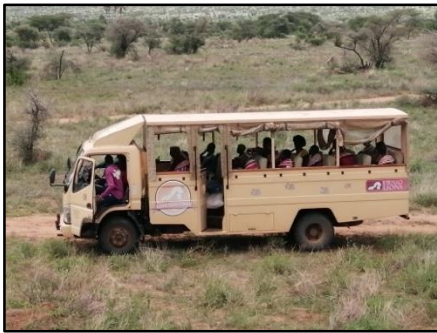
the first time during this annual event. The expo had interactive sessions and live Q & A sessions with the team. In case you missed our virtual presentation, [please watch the full video here](#).

- **Changing conservation narratives:** As November dawned, Resson, Sarah and Shivani held a bold discussion on changing conservation narratives for a sustainable planet. The conversation highlighted issues such as the term conservationist, the gender imbalance in the conservation field, decolonising conservation, and the future we hope for. [Click on this link to learn more!](#)
- **Infrastructure visioning with GZT:** Sarah, our joint Landscape Infrastructure Advisor with the Grevys' Zebra Trust (GZT), worked with both teams on a visioning process for a more connected landscape. Engaging the teams in creative games and other activities brought out the future we all want as infrastructure projects start to make their way through northern Kenya. Watch our "[landscape is connected](#)" video for both team highlights.
- **Coexistence through partnerships and collaborations:** We would especially like to highlight the communities and partners we work with who continuously report lion sightings to us, even in new areas where lions have re-appeared. Communities continue to coexist with wildlife – as they have for generations – and we are extremely grateful for these close partnerships. Together with our strong connections with KWS and the conservancies, and our close collaborative partnerships, we remain determined and have hope for a successful 2021.
- **Team Trainings:** One of our team members Lebashia who after spending months training to be a mechanic in Nanyuki, passed his driving test and finished his mechanical experience, is now back in camp helping to fix our vehicles. We are delighted that he can now fully utilise his skills and talents. In October, our team were trained on Kura's Pride programme and our management team held a 3-day leadership training both in camp and virtually with our Nairobi team. The training was fun, engaging and helped the team learn to create synergies using their strengths. Bio-Ken Africa trained 10 of our team members in camp on snake awareness, identification and basic first aid in November.
- **Lkasian and Solomon in Maasai Mara:** Two budding conservationists, Lkasian who recently became a warrior and joined the Warrior Watch programme, and Solomon one of our sponsored students, visited the Mara during the wildebeest migration season. This was a unique opportunity to learn about the differences between the Mara and Samburu and see new wildlife. They were extremely fortunate to witness a 4-hour wildebeest and zebra crossing!
- **Building a road to recovery for subtle racism in conservation.** Read a commentary written by Resson and many other amazing women that features firsthand experiences, personal observations, and eyewitness accounts related to race and privilege in the conservation space by more than 20 African women in Africa. To dive into each of these stories and open conversations, [click here](#).

- **Lion conservation in times of corona:** The team has put together our experiences and observations during Covid-19 in light of the questions we have been asked by concerned friends and partners over the past few months. These questions have given us an opportunity to reflect on and think about the year. [Read more](#) here on our experiences and observations.
- **October Big Birding Day:** Our team helped put Kenya in 6th position during the eBird Big Day on October 17th. A total of 89 species were counted by our team in Samburu and helped contribute to the country's total tally of 810 species spotted during the event. By the end of the event, our team had joined the global birding community for the biggest day of birding this year.

Special Feature: Covid Safe Wildlife Safaris

In October and December, the Ewaso Lions team organised several Covid-safe bus safaris to Samburu National Reserve for community members from Westgate and Kalama Conservancies. In total, 386 community members from 14 villages/settled areas took part in the bus trips to the National Reserve that had 16 participants per trip. The participants were thrilled to see many animals with young ones including warthog, giraffe, oryx, ostrich, elephant amongst others. They were also quite keen to learn more about birds, and how the Ewaso Nyiro river flows and its drainage. Special highlights included amazing sightings of Nanai and her cubs and new leopard cubs as well! We are so grateful to the Samburu National Reserve management for their continued support and enabling us to make a conservation impact in northern Kenya. Special thanks to both Westgate and Kalama Conservancy managements for helping arrange all community members and we look forward to future safaris.



Participants during our Covid safe safaris to Samburu National Reserve

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).

Please watch our [THANK YOU VIDEO here](#).

Wishing everyone a very Happy 2021!!!

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