



Main Feature: Celebrating a lioness

On Wednesday, 7th April, we lost [our community lioness, Naramat](#). The Caring One. To us, her very existence was proof that coexistence between people and lions is possible. Naramat gave birth four times all on human occupied spaces, blazing a trail for lions successfully breeding in community lands. We can take comfort knowing that Naramat lived and died wild. She has left a legacy of lions including Naterenkwe and her cubs, as well as Mararoi and Narasha. We are so grateful to the Conservancies for all their support in keeping her safe for so many years.



Naramat stares into the distance from her perch in the Conservation Area in Westgate Conservancy

More Lion News

This quarter, the team has been busy with lion monitoring and conflict mitigation, and have been fortunate to have some impressive lion sightings across the landscape. In May, our team had a surprise sighting of Lolgeti with Mararoi and Narasha patrolling the landscape. [Watch Jeneria share more](#) on our team's sighting of the trio in the Conservation Area. Our team have had repeated sightings of Lolgeti, who was collared in March. Each day, he gives us further insights on his movements in this challenging landscape.

Other key moments: After searching tirelessly for Masanduku, Naramat's third cub, she was sadly found dead by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and our team following the killing of a camel. In more positive news, in June, 3 new males appeared, having travelled from Loisaba in Laikipia (following confirmation from Lion Landscapes). They promptly displaced Lolgeti and took brief residence in Westgate, before heading back south again. Munteli spent a morning following [Nanai and her three cubs](#) in Samburu National Reserve. The Reserve was spectacular after heavy rains, full of wildlife enjoying the plentiful green vegetation and waterholes. [Watch a short video taken](#) one morning by our team featuring lions (Nanai and Nkarsis), elephants, Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, Oryx, vulture, guinea fowl - to name a few.

This work would not be possible without the continued partnership we have with KWS, Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves managements, and all conservancies. We thank you all for your tremendous support as we continue promoting our work of coexistence and monitoring of all the lions in the region.



The Koitogor Pride seek shade (left), a new male lion from Loisaba (middle), and Nkarsis's cub emerges (right)

Key Highlights from this Quarter

- **Ramat Eldein:** We are excited to share with you Ramat Eldein – a short film we have worked on, in partnership with the Samburu County Government and close partners on the value of dogs, how to improve dog welfare and the importance of dog vaccinations. It is a rare film made by the community, for the community. [View the full film here!](#)
- **Lions made it to the New Big Five:** Over the last year, wildlife lovers around the world voted for their favourite animals to photograph and see in photos, replacing the original Big 5. We are thrilled that lions made it to the New Big 5 as the plight of this iconic species needs to be highlighted. [Watch Shivani share more on what the New Big Five means for lion conservation.](#) The New Big 5 are lions, elephants, polar bears, gorillas and tigers.
- **Westgate Conservancy Conservation Area plan:** In June, our team joined all the Westgate partners in drawing up a management document for Westgate's Conservation Area. The plan was drafted by all the Conservancy's stakeholders, with special support from Apollo Kariuki, who served to convene the meeting. The document will be a vital tool to guide on the management of the Conservation Area by all partners. In particular, we are glad that the vital lion refuges that we monitor daily are fully recognised and supported by our partners.
- **Reseeding with Grevy's Zebra Trust:** In April, the Mama Simba ladies joined the [Grevy's Zebra Trust](#) (GZT) team to reseed the rangelands of Westgate Conservancy. Lack of prey is a serious problem the Mamas identified as a key reason the lion population reduced in their area. In order to remedy the situation, the Mamas have been training under GZT to restore areas around their villages, which is helping to amplify the efforts GZT and Westgate Conservancy's work on creating healthy rangelands.
- **New Warriors:** In June our team carried out training sessions for the new warriors who have joined our team. Meet our new warriors who have just joined the Ewaso Lions team who include Lekalkuli, Lekakwar, Lemarle, Lekoomet, Lekamario, Lekilemo, Lolchuragi and Lkasian.



Left - Jeneria meets with new warriors from 4 villages, Right – Group photo of new warriors

- **Kalama meeting:** Ewaso Lions was pleased to meet with the Kalama Board and Grazing Committee in June. At the meeting, we covered a wide range of issues including lion movements, our community programmes including our new warriors joining from the Conservancy; plans for dog vaccinations under Kura's Pride in the area and the challenges and opportunities for infrastructure development in line with our Bio-Infrastructure Programme done jointly with GZT. We are grateful for the warm reception and look forward to stronger collaboration in future with Kalama Conservancy.
- **Ewaso Lions online:** Various team members have run or participated in virtual panels and interviews all available online:
 - **Jeneria Msafiri magazine feature:** We are excited to see Jeneria featured in the April-May issue of Kenya Airways Msafiri Magazine. [Read about what lions mean to Jeneria](#) and the threats lion face in our changing landscape (page 58 and 59).
 - **Explorers Club 50 protectors' panel:** Listen to Jeneria speak at the Explorers Club 50 protectors' panel in April where he shared his work and discussed the challenges we face in lion conservation. [Click here to watch the video from Minute 23.](#)
 - **Shivani's BBC Wildlife Magazine feature:** [Read the lion section](#) of the June issue of BBC wildlife magazine that features the New Big 5 project, where Shivani discussed the threats facing lions and the significance of lions being part of the New Big 5.
 - **Shivani speaks at RGS Hong Kong:** Shivani also gave an energetic and [highly inspirational talk](#) at the Royal Geographical Society of Hong Kong.
 - **WCN Virtual Spring Expo 2021 - Conservation in Local Hands:** Local leaders from across the globe come together at the Expo to discuss the challenges and opportunities of working in conservation. [Watch Resson moderate the panel](#) comprising of Dr. Abdullahi Ali, Hirola Conservation Programme, Almagul Osmonova, Snow Leopard Conservancy and Dr. Moreangels Mbizah, Wildlife Conservation Action.
 - **WFN NextGen - The Launch:** [Watch Resson at a panel discussion](#) at the launch of Whitley Fund for Nature's new fundraising programme for young people passionate about supporting grassroots conservation, where they discussed the power of youth initiatives in conservation.
 - **Global Biodiversity Festival:** We were excited to see Jeneria speak at this 72-hour, live global festival where he discussed the decline of the lion population across Kenya and [delved deep into our engagement of coexistence, bringing on board new warriors](#) to join our Warrior Watch

programme and shared success stories of how lions have started making a comeback in our community landscape.

- **Junior wins 2nd runners up at Green Kids Awards:** Junior, one of our JLEF students, was awarded second runners up for the photo category at the Green Kids Awards held on World Environment Day at the Kenya National Theatre in Nairobi. We are so proud of his achievements over the years and wish him the very best in his studies. [Watch as Junior prepares his presentation](#) for the award ceremony.
- **Resson becomes a Wild Innovator for Wild Elements:** We are thrilled to announce that Resson is a Wild Innovator for Wild Elements. We are delighted to work alongside the [Wild Elements Foundation](#), a new foundation working to shift power and vital resources to women, indigenous communities, and people of colour on the frontlines of conservation. [Read more about our engagement with them.](#)
- **Global Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Transport:** We are delighted to shine a spotlight on a new publication: [the Global Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Transport and other Linear Infrastructure](#) which has recently been published by representatives from the regional conferences on linear infrastructure and ecology (ACLIE, ANET, ICOET, IENE), together with IUCN and WWF. The Endangered Wildlife Trust, Ewaso Lions and Grevy's Zebra Trust are the organising members of ACLIE 2021 and contributors to the Global Strategy. The Global Strategy is the first of its kind and serves as an international road map for governments and organisations which aims to ensure that roads, railways, powerlines and pipelines built today are safe for both humans and wildlife, and are ecologically sustainable. For more on this, please join us for the **Africa Conference for Linear Infrastructure & Ecology (ACLIE)** from 12-13, and 16-17 August [by registering here.](#)
- **Covid-safe safaris:** Our team organised several Covid-Safe bus trips to Samburu National Reserve for community members from Meibae and Westgate Conservancies in May. The trips drew **145 participants** from Naisunyai (community), Sasaab (herding children), Lpus (community), Sirango Nanyukie (school children), Lempaute (community and herding children), and Ngutuk (school children). The participants learnt the importance of wildlife corridors, grass and prey species for carnivores, good herding practices, avoiding conflict with carnivores and threats facing lion conservation in Samburu. We are grateful to the Samburu National Reserve management for their continued support and for enabling us to make a conservation impact in northern Kenya. Special thanks to both Meibae and Westgate Conservancy managements for helping arrange all community members and we look forward to future safaris.
- **Digging for water:** As the dry season starts in earnest, the Ewaso Nyiro river has slowly dried up. Starting in June, our team joined partners from across Westgate in digging water holes in the river to ensure that both wildlife and livestock are able to be sustained through the toughest months of the year.
- **Keeping animals wild vs 'safe' should be prioritized:** Despite growing media and public pressure to 'sanitize' the wild, the priority for conservation should always be keeping populations and areas wild above keeping individual animals safe. [Read this commentary by the six leading lion conservationists](#) that form the Pride Lion Conservation Alliance, including Shivani Bhalla.

Special Feature: 796 Dog and Cat Vaccinations

Our team with vets carried out four days of dog and cat vaccinations in Westgate Conservancy in early May. Our goal for the animal vaccinations is to help stop the spread of disease and improve animal welfare. We worked with 3 registered vets and vaccinated animals using a door to door Covid safe approach. We have seen an increase in the number of vaccinations by 32% this year as compared to last year, revealing that more communities members are willing to have their animals vaccinated after realising the importance of doing so. We used the Mission Rabies data collection app that has helped transform the efficiency and speed of data analysis. Special thanks to our collaborating partners in this initiative – the Samburu County Department of Veterinary Services, Vet in Wild, Animal Care Centre and Action for Cheetahs. We also are grateful to our Mama Simba ladies for making the dog collars, Zoonotic Disease Unit Kenya and Global Animal Health Tanzania for the rabies and distemper vaccine donations, community members who brought their animals to be vaccinated and the Westgate Conservancy management. We look forward to further vaccinations in Kalama in July!



Community members with their cats and dogs during the vaccination exercise.

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, Naapo, Nanapisho, Meibae, Leparua, Il Ngwesi, Lekurukki, and Namunyak).

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