



Ewaso Lions Quarterly Report January – March 2021

Main Feature: The Ewaso Lions

This quarter, the team has been busy with lion monitoring, conflict mitigation and have been fortunate to have some impressive lion sightings across the landscape. In early March, the team together with the Kenya Wildlife Service vet, Dr Njoroge, managed to collar a very elusive male. By knowing his movements in this challenging landscape, we will be more able to help keep livestock safe, enhancing coexistence. He was fondly named Lolgeeti, after the large growth on his nose.

Jeneria and Lpuresi were fortunate to see Nanai while on patrol and towards the end of January, they found her hunting; [watch the video here](#). The team were lucky to see [2 males briefly](#) before they crossed the Ewaso Nyiro River in to Buffalo Springs National Reserve and were enthralled to [watch Nanai and her cubs miss hunts](#), play in the river and hang out on the river bank. Nanai continues to be an amazing mother. She also had a [challenging encounter with an elephant](#) as she and her cubs struggled to settle down for shade. After disappearing for months, Nkarsis is back and she is now with Nanai; the team had a great sighting of her - [watch this video](#).

Towards the end of the quarter, the team received reports from Lengaina that 3 lions were in the area he monitors. Toby, Francis and Jeremiah headed out there at sunset and were lucky to see 3 lionesses (and 4 hyaenas!). The 3 females are identified as Mararoi, Narasha and Masanduku - Naramat's oldest cubs - away from the care of their mother. Typically here cubs disperse from their mothers (even females) between 1.5 to 2 years of age- and the 3 females are now almost 2. Stay tuned as we follow the new journey of the 3 sisters.

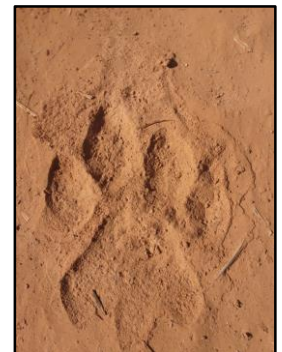
This work would not be possible without the continued partnership we have with the Kenya Wildlife Service, Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves managements, and all conservancies. We thank you all for your tremendous support as we continue promoting our work of coexistence and monitoring of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



Collaring Lolgeeti



One of Naramat's large cubs



Tracking the lions



Nanai and her cubs (Photo by Michael Laubscher)

Key Highlights from this Quarter

- Read our [2020 Annual Report](#). Despite the challenges and crises of 2020, there is much to celebrate. One of our main highlights has been that a whopping 11 cubs were born last year, and all of them continue to thrive in the Samburu-Isiolo ecosystem! We saved hundreds of lost livestock and supported our community through joyful celebrations and in their toughest moments.
- **Wildlife sightings:** At the turn of the New Year, our team was fortunate to see [3 wild dogs near our camp](#) and the next day a [striped hyaena walked](#) near our camp in the morning. [Watch this video of Lpuresi](#) giving an account about an area not far from his home where wildlife live peacefully.
- **Jeneria is lionised twice:** All in one quarter, Jeneria scooped two international awards. In January, he was honoured to join the **Explorers Club inaugural Explorers 50** class. He is now among the fifty people changing the globe that the world needs to know about! [Read about all 50 winners here](#). Separately, Jeneria has been listed amongst other top **100 Young African Conservation Leaders** in March. He was shortlisted amongst 565 nominations from 425 youth organisations and networks which underwent a rigorous judging and verification process by the organisers. The list highlights 100 leaders under the age of 35 who are actively involved in impactful conservation work at community, national, or international levels in Africa. [View the full list here](#).
- **Covid-safe safaris:** Our team organised several Covid-Safe bus trips to Buffalo Springs National Reserve (BSNR) and Samburu National Reserve (SNR) for community members. We took the following cohorts on exposure tours in to BSNR: from the Ngaremara conservation group, Atotingas women group, Ngaremara primary school, Attan primary school, Aukot adult literacy school, Nasuroi adult literacy school, Attan women, Manyatta zebra women and warriors. A total of 10 trips were organised for 186 participants (38 men, 114 women and 34 school children). The groups were happy to see lions and to learn more about the challenges that lions and other wildlife species are facing in a human dominated landscape. They also saw a great deal of wildlife species and learnt a lot about their ecology, behaviour and conservation status. Special sightings included a male lion along Isiolo River, two lioness hunting a warthog, leopard, a hyaena on a kill, hippopotamus, a herd of buffalos, crocodiles on a kill, elephants bathing, a wild cat, a bat-eared fox and many species of birds.

The trips to SNR drew 130 participants from Meibae and Westgate conservancies and included community members from Lekiji (ladies and warriors), Remote (ladies), Lempaute (ladies), Lorubae (teachers) and students from Sukuroi Primary School. The participants were thrilled to see many animals including elephant, giraffe, ostrich, oryx, warthog amongst others.

We are so grateful to the SNR and BSNR managements for their continued support and for enabling us to make a conservation impact in northern Kenya. We thank Meibae and Westgate Conservancies managements, and community members from around BSNR for supporting us and we look forward to future safaris.

- **Ewaso Lions online:** Various team members have run or participated in virtual panels and interviews which are all available online:
 - **Women Blaze Trails Festival:** Listen to Shivani's talk during the Festival, where she shares her journey in conservation, the lessons she has learnt and her firm belief that the success towards lion conservation is working in partnership with local communities. [Click here to watch the video.](#)
 - **Effective Collaborations:** As part of our Beyond Boundaries KE work, our second Changing Conservation Narratives Facebook Live event was on "Effective collaborations". [Watch Sarah, Resson and Shivani](#) share their thoughts on what is an effective collaboration. The video revolved around how we shift and normalise the culture of collaboration in conservation.
 - **Big Cat Week Feature:** Our Warrior Watch programme was featured on National Geographic Wild UK in February during the Big Cat Week. [Watch the teaser here.](#) The video shows the work our warriors take to protect lions and further shed light on our work.
 - **Lion conservation in northern Kenya podcast:** Listen to this great talk that Toby our Research Manager gave for the Travel local podcast on [lion conservation in northern Kenya](#). He shares his passion on the work he does and how it keeps him driven to continue promoting his work of coexistence.
- **Team week:** Towards the end of January, we had a busy week of team meetings and planning for the year from everyone from Isiolo, Laikipia, Nairobi, Ngare Mara, and Samburu. The team drew up departmental plans for the year and strategies to adopt in 2021.
- **Team trainings:** In February, Bio-Ken Africa trained 10 of our team members, along with the nurse from Ngutuk Ongiron in Westgate on snake awareness, identification and basic first aid. We do have snakes in camp and our team is now better prepared, and less skittish when they see a snake making its way through our camp and our homes.
- **Kura's Pride:** In mid-March, our team kicked off the start of a month of Kura's Pride activities. We started off with a Rabies Educator Course workshop with support from the Global Alliance for Rabies Control. The workshop drew participants from the veterinary department, medical and wildlife sectors from Samburu. Our team has also prepared posters and a video on rabies and distemper in the Samburu language.

Special Feature: Samburu County consultative meeting on collaborating on County Integrated Development Plans

Samburu County Deputy Governor HE Julius Leseeto led senior county government officials in a consultative meeting with the management of Ewaso Lions and Grevy's Zebra Trust. Ewaso Lions was represented by our Founder and Executive Director Dr. Shivani Bhalla, and our Director of Community Conservation, Jeneria Lekilelei. Grevy's Zebra Trust was represented by Rangelands Manager, Peter Lalampaa, Governance and Partnerships Manager, Julius Lekenit, and virtually by Belinda Low Mackey, Co-Founder and Executive Director. Sarah Chiles attended as Landscape Infrastructure Advisor for Ewaso Lions' and Grevy's Zebra Trust's joint Biodiversity and Infrastructure Programme. Both organisations have made enormous investment in conservation and other sectors in Samburu County. The Samburu County Government will bolster its collaboration and partnership with Ewaso Lions and Grevy's Zebra Trust across various development sectors.



*Participants at the meeting give presentations, listen to speakers and pose for a group photo.
(Photos by Samburu County Government)*

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).

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