



Main Feature: Drought Relief Response

The April long rains season saw the country receive below-average rainfall that further aggravated the pasture and browsing conditions for livestock and wildlife, leading to a drought crisis which the President has declared a national disaster. Conflict over limited access to resources is increasing as pastoralists are moving in search of water and pasture. In an effort to scale up drought action interventions we are working together with our partners - Grevy's Zebra Trust, Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves, Save the Elephants and Westgate Community Conservancy, to ensure that our landscape continues to be a refuge for wildlife, people and livestock. This saw the launch of a rapid response drought programme (working closely with the [Grevy's Zebra Trust](#)), to support the parks (through fuel provision and rangers rations), the community (through water provision), livestock and wildlife through this tough season and we remain hopeful that we will make it through this together. Our team surveyed water levels and lion movements to know where we needed to put in the most effort. [Watch our team and partners digging waterholes](#) in the dry Ewaso Nyiro River in early July. While we continue to express relief that the river has been flowing again since mid July, the situation remains dire all around, and our efforts and partnerships remain critical.



Team members fetching water from the lugga



Digging shallow pools in the Ewaso Nyiro River

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 and especially along the Ewaso Nyiro River, as wildlife come down to search for remaining water. The lions stayed along the river bank and the team watched some unsuccessful warthogs hunt a few times in the river. [Watch this video](#) to see what happened when some new lions appeared. Our team has been keeping a close eye on Nanai and Nkarsis and the bond they have formed; raising their families in Samburu National Reserve. Sadly Nkarsis lost one of her cubs - we suspect this was a result of a male lion attacking the cubs. One of them was slightly injured but recovered well.

In late September, Jeneria and Shivani saw Nanai was severely injured and unable to move much. The vet was called who treated her and we are relieved to see that weeks later, she is [finally putting some weight on her injured leg](#).

Mid July, Yesalai spotted tracks of 3 males and alerted the rest of the team to find them. After searching and waiting patiently for them, they emerged from the thick *Salvadora* bushes in Westgate Conservancy's Conservation Area. We instantly knew that they were unknown to us. One was a very unusual looking male with very short legs and small, distinct ears. Our friends from Lion Landscapes recognised the lions from the photos we shared with them and confirmed that these 4 year old males came from Loisaba Conservancy and had disappeared over a year ago. Seeing them gave us much hope for connectivity in the landscape as the distance from Loisaba to Westgate is about 80 kms.

Characteristic of a young male lion, Lolgeeti has been traversing the landscape and our team has been trying to keep up with his movements which are mainly along the river. Watch this video of [Lpuresi and Yesalai heading out to look him](#). Our team has set up a temporary mobile camp to help address conflict during these difficult drought conditions especially in the region where Lolgeeti mainly moves to. We have been able to keep lost livestock away from lions and track the lions daily. Watch Lpuresi narrate how he found [tracks of 2 lionesses](#) who came to drink from a small waterhole in Pukur Lugga and [Marko and Letupukwa move lost camels](#) back across the river away from lions.

This work would not be possible without the continued partnership we have with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves managements, and all the Conservancies. We recognise that the drought has caused immense challenges for everyone. The Reserves' rangers and managements, KWS and Conservancies have been exceptional in helping us keep track of the lions, including an injured lioness, attending to conflict and overall helping to keep the wildlife safe amidst growing pressures and challenges. We thank you all for your tremendous support as we continue promoting our work of coexistence and monitoring of all the lions together.



New male lion from Loisaba



Nanai looks out at the dry river in early July – the river is now flowing

Key Highlights from this Quarter

- **Other wildlife sightings:** Mid-September, our team had a [great sighting of wild dogs](#) in Samburu. Resson, Shivani, Evelyn and Phoebe were fortunate to see a [cheetah in Samburu National Reserve](#) mid-July - it is not often that we see cheetahs. Our team was rewarded with a much-needed laugh by a [baboon swinging on a tree](#) after a tough week of dealing with conflict.
- **New approaches to coexistence and land management:** Our team represented by Jeneria, Francis, Toby, Reria, and Lpuresi visited Lion Guardians and the South Rift Alliance of Land Owners (SORALO) in Southern Kenya in July to share cross learnings on how both are dealing with carnivore conflict and tolerance towards coexistence. This successful visit led to a subsequent trip where Ewaso Lions along with the Grevy's Zebra Trust led a community contingent to the vast Amboseli-Magadi region, taking 20 people to vision a different future for land management. The team learnt volumes about core area conservation, zoning and community led grazing plans, opening their eyes to a future where land could be restored and rest, and where livestock, wildlife and people can thrive, even during tough seasons. Much more will result from this trip as plans unfold. We thank Lion Guardians, Eselenkei Group Ranch, and SORALO for their generous hospitality and time.
- **ACLIE 2021:** The African Conference on Linear Infrastructure and Ecology (ACLIE) was held on the 12th-13th, and 16th-17th of August and drew over 100 participants from across the continent and experts from around the world. Ewaso Lions, the Grevy's Zebra Trust and the Endangered Wildlife Trust were co-sponsors of the event. As the conference drew to a close, participants were positive that we can all play a part to ensure that our continent remains connected for us, our livestock and our wildlife as we develop roads, railways, powerlines and pipelines. Visit the [ACLIE website](#) for more information.
- **World Lion Day - 10th August:** On this auspicious day, our [Wild Elements](#) Advocate, [Elizabeth Gillies](#) shared a special appeal to global citizens to understand how our choices as humans impact wildlife. The famous American actress and producer urged everyone to take steps to protect vulnerable species in our own communities as we strive towards a future where we all have a better understanding of how our existence impacts wildlife. We are delighted with our partnership with Wild Elements where Resson continuously shares our lion conservation efforts with our Advocates and other Innovators. [Read more here.](#)
- **Samburu Lions TV episode:** Our team was featured on Wildlife Direct's Wildlife Warriors episode, [Samburu Lions](#), that portrays our Warrior Watch programme and our team's continued efforts to promote coexistence, on August 21st on KBC Television. The episode was a finalist for the Special Jury Recognition in the Global Voices category for the 2021 Jackson Wild Special Jury Award and was featured in the [The East African Newspaper](#).
- **Living with Lions - Wild Elements film:** Our partner, Wild Elements Foundation are finalists for the 2021 Jackson Wild Film Festival in two categories; Conservation - Short Form: Living with Lions and Our Human Planet - Short Form: Living with Lions. The short film showcases the heartbeat of our work as told by our team members and the strides the team has made shaped by culture to promote community wildlife conservation within our landscape. Living with Lions features our efforts to change and

accelerate the conservation narrative and have a more inclusive conservation model. [Read more about our partnership with Wild Elements.](#)

- **Ewaso Lions online:** Various team members participated in virtual panels and interviews which are all available online:
 - **Uneven social effects of mega-infrastructures in Kenya:** Sarah our Landscape Infrastructure Advisor for Ewaso Lions' and Grevy's Zebra Trust's joint Biodiversity and Infrastructure Programme was a panelist on the Development Corridors Partnership (DCP) webinar series. She talked about how development corridors can ensure sustainable outcomes for all citizens while conserving the unique biodiversity we have in northern Kenya, especially through the incorporation of effective social and environmental safeguards. [Click here to watch the video.](#)
 - **Dangerous Women:** Watch this fascinating conversation Resson had with Pat Mitchell, first woman president and CEO of American public broadcaster PBS, on the infinite outcomes coexistence has to offer, and the importance of lion conservation being driven by the community. [Watch the conversation here.](#)
- **Team week:** Early July, we had a busy week of team meetings and mid-year evaluation for the year from everyone from Isiolo, Laikipia, Nairobi, and Samburu. The team evaluated their departmental plans for the year and strategies to adopt for the second half of the year.
- **Kura's Pride:** In July, our team with partners continued with Kura's Pride vaccinations in Kalama Conservancy. We shared posters on rabies and distemper in Samburu language and Solomon showed our [Ramat Eldein \(taking care of your dogs\) film](#) in villages before the dog vaccinations started. 516 dogs and cats were vaccinated in 3 days. [Watch Solomon and Toby summarise our dog vaccination efforts](#) in Kalama Conservancy. We are proud of the strides our team has made together with our partners, as over 3800 animals have been vaccinated this year – a 47% increase compared to 2020.



Vet vaccinating a dog
© Alfred Ngachi



Children with Karamat Ldia (caring for dogs) cards
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Our team with partners in Kalama

Special Feature: Jeremy Lucas Education Fund Students

As a result of Covid-19, the academic programme in Kenya has been severely disrupted and this quarter saw our students go for two recess sessions in July and September. We have continued to support the students to attend

coaching classes to help them cover the syllabus ahead of their final year examinations. Here is an update from Evanson, our Conservation Manager:

- Nicholas supported Solomon and the team with Kura's Pride prior to joining the Wildlife Research Training Institute in Naivasha to pursue a diploma course in Wildlife Management.
- Veronica will be joining Kenyatta University in October to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Resource Management following her internship at Namaiyan Primary School in Wamba.
- Angeline will be joining Kenyatta University in October to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation and Sports Management.
- Saniki started her internship at Entumoto Camp in Siana, Maasai Mara in August.
- Eunice is now a second year student at Kabarak University after a short break.
- France is currently looking for an internship placement.
- Samuel is a third year student at Leparua Secondary School.
- Hassan (*Maseno National School*), Junior (*Maralal High School*), Jacob (*Maralal High School*), Jonathan (*St. Peter Paul Baawa Boys High School*) and James (*Good Shepard Minor Seminary*) are doing well in high school.
- We selected a new student, John Loingerwa from Westgate to join Sacred Heart of Jesus Minor Seminary in Isiolo and we are excited to see how he performs in his studies.



Frances receives his drawing board



Samuel Ali joins his new school



Veronica at Namaiyan Primary School

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, Nasulu, Nakuprat-Gotu, Ol Donyiro, Meibae, Leparua, Il Ngwesi, Lekurukki, and Namunyak).

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