

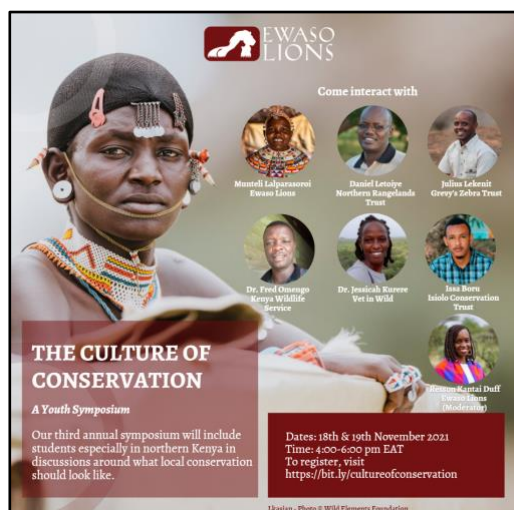


Ewaso Lions Quarterly Report October – December 2021

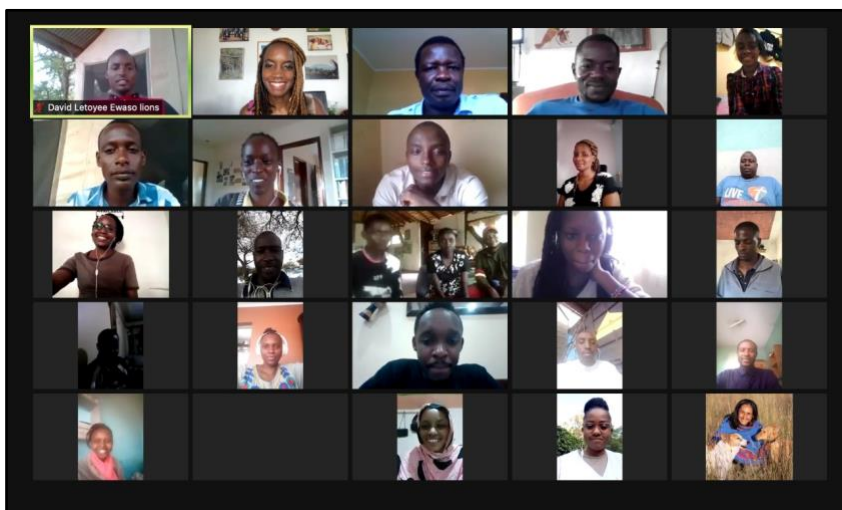
Main Feature: Culture of Conservation Symposium

We held our 3rd annual youth symposium on November 18th and 19th virtually via zoom. The symposium themed, “The Culture of Conservation,” drew over 40 participants from different academic backgrounds primarily across northern Kenya. The two-day event had speakers share their experiences, journeys, thoughts and expertise with the youth and engaged them in thought-provoking discussions on the future of the region.

On the [first day](#), our very own Munteli Lalparasoroi was joined by Julius Lekenit from the Grevy's Zebra Trust and Daniel Letoiye from the Northern Rangelands Trust as they discussed how culture has led to conservation in northern Kenya. The [second day](#) had amazing speakers discuss the skills needed and lessons learnt to navigate conservation today. Speakers included Dr. Jessicah Kurere from Vet in Wild, Dr. Fred Omengo from the Kenya Wildlife Service and Wildlife Research and Training Institute, and Issa Boru from the Isiolo Conservation Trust. The event was moderated by Resson Kantai Duff.



Event Poster featuring the speakers



Virtual meeting with students

The Ewaso Lions

We have had some amazing lion sightings this quarter. Early October, as our team was out looking for Nanai who was injured, they met [Nanai's oldest cubs - Sanapari, Mbeneiyo and Ntesekwa](#). Mid-October, Marko and Munteli found Naramat's adult offspring, Narasha and Mararoi with their three new cubs. Seeing Naramat's offspring have their own cubs gives us renewed hope for Naramat's legacy and the spirit of coexistence within our landscape.

In November, Thomas found a new small pride of lions in Shaba National Reserve. Our team sprung into action to identify and name these lions. Thomas and Samuel led in naming the three female lions as; Kurie meaning “fearful”, Alilim meaning “calm” and Achwaa meaning “spring” and one male lion as Lopathit meaning “not so useful”.



Kurie



Alilim



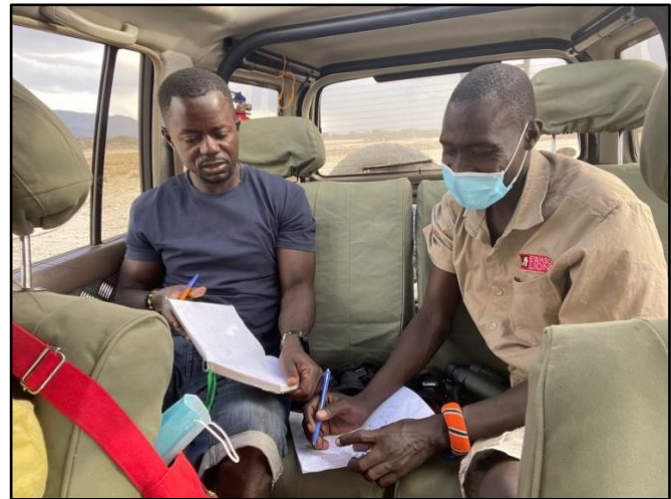
Lopathit



Achwaa



The Shaba pride



Toby and Thomas discuss features of the lions identified

Key Highlights from this Quarter

- **Our team at Remot:** Our team have set up a temporary camp in Remot to help with conflict where Lolgeeti, Mararoi and Narasha are currently residing especially during these difficult drought conditions. It has been a tough season for our team who are working hard in this area to keep livestock away from lions. We are very grateful for the support received from the Kenya Wildlife Service and Westgate Conservancy.
- **Carnivore sightings:** Shivani was fortunate to see 8 wild dog pups emerge from their den with their white-tipped tails bobbing as they ran along the top of the rocks. [Watch the pups chase after a young sub-adult](#) up and down the rock. Early November, Toby and Shivani were also lucky to spot a cheetah with four cubs in Samburu National Reserve. While everything else is bleak during the drought, these carnivores (together with Naramat's grandcubs) are the hope of recovery for all of us, and for all that has been lost. The fact that they are thriving even now gives us confidence that everything else will too, and balance will return.
- **WCN Expo:** Our team got together to share their most vulnerable experiences of conservation at the [Wildlife Conservation Network Expo](#) on October 2nd. We also held Booth Talks - intimate sessions where we shared deeper insights into some of our programmes including; [Cats and Dogs: A focus on Kura's Pride](#) with Shivani, Toby shared an insightful session on lion conservation research on [The Data of Lions and People: A deep dive into Ewaso Lions research](#) and Resson shared a bold conversation on [Braving Conservation: An emphatic look at race, power and privilege in conservation](#).

- **Warrior classes resume:** Our adult literacy school for warriors began towards the end of October. Painoti their teacher has been keeping a keen eye on the warriors' studies and progress. The team has held several classes this quarter and we hope they will keep going and maintain their enthusiasm despite the many challenges facing our landscape.
- **Restoring our landscape:** Our Mama Simba ladies have been working closely with the Grevy's Zebra Trust, who are leading the efforts to restore our degraded landscape. With more grass, there will be more prey for the lions, helping to reduce conflict in the long term. [Munteli, Painoti and the Mamas recently went back to the 'Lokere' – a grass enclosure – to reseed the area to prepare for the rains.](#) Their work has already borne fruit this year, and we can't wait to see these efforts grow and flourish.
- **Wild Elements Innovator:** We were so excited to [listen to Elizabeth Gillies sentiments about our work of coexistence](#) through her continued interaction with Resson as a [Wild Elements Innovator](#). We appreciate the continued collaboration we have had with the Wild Elements Foundation for bringing us together.
- **Team building in Shaba:** Our team engaged in a team building session in Shaba National Reserve that provided time for the team to interact with each other in a non-work related environment, unwind and build better communication. We were delighted to do this hand in hand with the Grevy's Zebra Trust.
- **Samburu Lions:** The rerun of Wildlife Direct's Wildlife Warriors episode, Samburu Lions was aired on KBC Television on November 27th. The episode features our Warrior Watch programme and highlights our work of coexistence with wildlife in community landscapes.
- **Westgate's core partners meeting:** Our team took part in the Westgate Community Conservancy core partners meeting on November 18th to brainstorm on better ways to create unity and ownership of wildlife conservation and natural resource management within the conservancy. Participants agreed to become better ambassadors of wildlife conservation issues and have more meetings to strengthen our partnerships.
- **Drought Update:** We are thrilled to have received scattered rains across the landscape. Although it all gets logged into the parched land, we remain hopeful that we will receive a significant amount to sustain our communities and wildlife. Our team has been working closely with our partners Grevy's Zebra Trust, Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves, Save the Elephants and Westgate Community Conservancy and community members, to ensure that our landscape continues to be a refuge for wildlife, people and livestock. Please read more on our [drought relief response](#) in concert with other partners.
- **Resson speaks at TED Women:** Resson shared a thought-provoking talk at the TED Women conference in Palm Springs, California on December 2nd. She elaborated on the pressing need to engage local communities in conservation as they continue to coexist with wildlife, as they have for generations. [Read notes from the What Now for Planet Earth session](#) where she shared a platform with other incredible women from across the globe. Her talk will be released in early 2022.
- **Gathering with rangers in Wamba:** We were delighted to co-host (with KWS) a gathering with KWS rangers from Wamba in addition to conservancy rangers and community scouts from the Namunyak

region in mid December. Led by Warden Daniel Kirui, it was an educational and entertaining day and we look forward to further events in the future.

- **Collaring Loigoipa.** Collaring lions helps keep them alive and reduce livestock conflict. On the 22nd of December, we successfully collared a male lion, Loigoipa, in Samburu National Reserve. We are very grateful for the support of the KWS Veterinary Unit in Samburu led by Dr Gathoni, all KWS teams in Nairobi and Samburu, the Samburu Reserve management (Moses and his team of rangers) and guides. Further attempts to collar in Shaba, Kalama and Namunyak were unsuccessful -we will keep you posted on our efforts here. Thank you to all Conservancy managements and Buffalo Springs/Shaba Reserve wardens/rangers for their support.

Special Feature: A New Domestic Animal Mobile Veterinary Unit

Through our Kura's Pride programme, we have partnered with Vet in Wild, Animal Care Centre, and the Foundation for International Aid to Animals to launch a new domestic animal mobile veterinary unit. The unit is headed up by a new vet, Dr. Jessicah Kurere hired by Vet in Wild, and our new Kura's Pride Officer, and former JLEF student Solomon Lenasalia. The mobile unit is fully equipped including a handy operating table where surgeries are performed. The unit has only been operational for less than 2 months and Jessicah and Solomon hit the ground running. In under 2 months they have managed:

- 49 neutering operations
- 1 necropsy
- 21 animals treated for wildlife injuries/emergency treatments
- 78 animals vaccinated
- 10 clinical treatments/cases attended to
- 4 treatment reviews

Click here to [read more about this new unit](#).



Solomon with vaccination cards



Dr. Jessicah operating on a dog



Treating a camel that was attacked

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).

Ewaso Lions
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