



Main Highlight: Domestic Animal Mobile Veterinary Unit on the road

Through the quarter, Kura's Pride and the Community Animal Health Initiative (CAHI) have been very busy. The team engaged the community through animal welfare film shows included one at Sasaab village where they had an attendance of at least 100 people. Dr Jessicah Kurere and Solomon Lenasalia have continued with treating domestic animals that have been attacked by wildlife. They have also performed emergency surgeries, on the side of the mobile veterinary unit vehicle. The duo has treated sick dogs and vaccinated others. We are pleased that our scholarship students have gotten involved as well. Veronica Lolokoru, a Jeremy Lucas Education Fund student is learning the ropes fast on her internship having completed high school, and is teaching children the connections between wild and domestic animals, disease and animal welfare. As domestic animals move in waves through the drought, our team will keep up the work. We are grateful for the support of the Samburu County Department of Veterinary Services in this initiative.



Dr Jess treats a puppy with myiasis; Veronica, our JLEF student teaches children about wildlife and disease spread; Over 100 community members gather for a Kura's Pride movie night, Dr Jess and Solomon assess a dog after a castration; Pilipili smiles after recovering from a scorpion sting which the Mobile Veterinary Unit treated him for.

Lion News

The lion monitoring team continued to keep an eye on the lions in various locations throughout the landscape during the quarter. An unknown female from Kalama was spotted in Samburu National Reserve in July, with a sub adult and two little cubs. The team will continue to monitor them and document their movements. The team were thrilled to locate Napirai and her three newly named sub-adult cubs after a long absence. In Il Ngwesi in June, Jeneria, Jisana and the team identified a small pride of 6 lions that are resident in the area including 3 adult male lions – first seen in Westgate over a year ago (originated from Loisaba). Letupukwa, Munteli, Lpuresi, Francis, Lkasian and the entire monitoring team are keeping close watch over Mararoi, Narasha and their cubs who continue to move between the Westgate Core Conservation Area and Remot. Lolgeeti who is collared keeps close to this small family. Several conflict incidents have been resolved in this region and many more have been prevented by the presence of our Mobile Camp in Remot where Marco, Lemeen and the team have worked to stay ahead of the conflict and rescue lost livestock alongside the Conservancy team. We are relieved to see that lion conflict has reduced this past quarter. Meanwhile, in and between the Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves, Nanai and her 3 cubs, as well as Mbeneyio, Ntesekwa, Sanapari, Nkarsis and their young continue to keep residence in the park. We thank the reserve and conservancy managements for their hard work in safeguarding the space for these lions even as the drought intensifies.



The Ewaso Lions (All photos by Letupukwa)

Key Highlights from this Quarter

- **WW Evaluation paper:** We are pleased to announce that a journal article evaluating our Warrior Watch Programme has just been published. The paper demonstrates that local people were significantly more

likely to report positive changes in their attitudes and tolerance towards lions since the inception of Warrior Watch, and to attribute these changes to the programme. Read the Open Access [paper here](#).

- **WCN donor visit:** Ewaso Lions was pleased to host the Wildlife Conservation Network, our partner in the US, in our camp in May. As the world opens up after the worst of the pandemic, we were pleased to show them the strides the project has made, including lions living safely on community lands, women emboldened to speak for lions and wildlife, and a vibrant mobile veterinary unit working to prevent disease and promote domestic animal welfare. We thank Westgate Conservancy, Sasaab Lodge and the Samburu National Reserve for hosting our dear friends.
- **Hosting KWS/WRTI:** In May, we were pleased to host a meeting with the Wildlife Research Training Institute, the Kenya Wildlife Service and all our partners as they gave us a fresh mandate to continue our work in the region through Prior Informed Consent and Mutually Agreed Terms. The meeting gave our team an opportunity to present extensively about the work that the organisation does, and each team member was excited to shed light on various facets that Ewaso Lions is working on. We thank WRTI, KWS and all our partners for taking the time to come to the meeting at Archers Post to support Ewaso Lions.
- **KWS Carnivore Meeting:** In May, we attended the KWS Carnivore meeting in Nanyuki, hosted by KWS and WRTI. This was a crucial gathering of all carnivore conservationists working in Samburu, Isiolo and Laikipia. We were delighted to present our work to our fellow conservationists and partners and look forward to supporting the implementation of outcomes that were presented.
- **Second Cultural Workshop:** As a follow-up to the workshop bringing together women from Ewaso Lions and the Grevy's Zebra Trust, a vibrant workshop was held in May which expanded the group to men and women of all available Samburu age sets to discuss culture, cultural attrition and what aspects of the culture the group felt were most valuable. As a dynamic event, the workshop featured Samburu songs, ancient fireside stories and retelling of traditional roles played by all groups. This kicks off a series which hopes to bolster the rich pastoral way of life that has supported wildlife for generations.
- **Drought response:** The much-anticipated April to June rains sadly failed – the third consecutive failed rainy season in the arid north of Kenya. The Ewaso Lions team continues to partner with reserves, conservancies and conservation partners to provide relief including digging in the river, food relief, assisting with migration and rescuing weak livestock. While the short-term response is underway, the team will work with partners to normalise drought response work, as climate change shows that this must now be incorporated into our new way of life.
- **Lion Kids Camps host children from far and wide:** Continuing on from the last quarter, the Lion Kids Camp team hosted over 50 children from Ngare Mara and Remot who were lucky to see lions in the Samburu National Reserve, and be energised by the important role they as children have to play as today's conservationists.
- **Ewaso Lions on TED:** In her talk entitled Why Africa needs Community-led Conservation, Resson highlights the need for Africans to lead conservation efforts at home, further echoing our approach to conservation, and amplifying the work of many similar organisations across the continent. The Ewaso Lions team featured heavily in the talk, taking Samburu stories to the world stage.

- **Ewaso Lions team at conferences far and wide:**
 - **APAC:** Ewaso Lions was pleased to have Dr. Jessicah Kurere, Thomas Ekiru and Sarah Chiles represent the team at the long awaited African Protected Areas Congress in Rwanda in July. The contingent represented Ewaso Lions on the One Health Approach, Harmonising Green and Grey Infrastructure in a session hosted by Sarah Chiles, and Community Conservation, joining African leaders, citizens, and interest groups in the first ever continent-wide gathering of Africans to discuss the role of protected areas in conserving and safeguarding Africa's iconic wildlife.
 - **National Geographic Festival:** Resson Kantai Duff represented Ewaso Lions at this year's National Geographic Festival where she received the WayFinder Award, and presented on Ewaso Lions approach to conservation, and met other Explorers as they discussed the future of global conservation. Watch her [presentation here](#).
 - **Global Biofest:** Dr. Jessicah Kurere represented Ewaso Lions and Vet in Wild in the Global Biodiversity Festival where she spoke eloquently and emphatically about the One Health Approach and the nexus between domestic animal welfare and wildlife conservation. She told heartfelt stories which inspired the virtual audience greatly. Watch her [presentation here](#).
- **LAMP training complete:** Ewaso Lions and the Grevy's Zebra Trust ended the Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) with a bang in May. It was the culmination of several sessions where participants from both teams dug deeper into their leadership styles, conflict resolution and team management. We thank Allan Ward for his invaluable work in giving the team crucial tools to lead and manage better for the benefit of conservation.
- **Wellness breaks through North Rift:** In late April, members of the team were lucky to have a getaway with some of our long-time supporters and friends. Together, the team ventured to the North Rift, passing through Baringo, Iten and the Kerio Valley, even bumping into the world-famous marathon legend Eliud Kipchoge on his home turf. These breaks have become important to rejuvenate tired spirits and provide new perspectives.

Jeremy Lucas Education Fund – New Graduates and a New Student!

We are delighted to announce that three Jeremy Lucas Education Fund (JLEF) students graduated this past quarter! Through JLEF, we have supported Solomon, Painoti and Saniki through secondary school and tertiary education. We are so proud of how much they have accomplished over the years.

Solomon Lenasalia graduated from Kenyatta University in Nairobi with a Bachelors in Environmental Studies (Resource Conservation) on the 22nd of July. Solomon is hoping to pursue a degree in Veterinary Medicine in 2023 and is excited that until then he will continue to help all the domestic animals in Westgate Conservancy through being the Kura's Pride Officer.

Painoti Letabare graduated from Chester's Teachers Training College in Western Kenya with a Certificate in Primary Teacher Education. Painoti now supports Evanson in the Lion Kids Camps, teaches the Mama Simba ladies and supports with all education work. Saniki Lelenkeju completed her studies and graduated from the Coast Institute of Technology in Voi with a Certificate in Tour Guiding and Administration. We are thrilled to see that Saniki is now employed at the Mara Ngenche Camp in Maasai Mara as their Guest Relations Officer.



(From left to right: Solomon, Painoti and Saniki)

In April, we selected a new student to be sponsored through JLEF. Nkatimoo Lekalkuli from Remot in Westgate Conservancy will be sponsored for four years of secondary education and is currently in Form 1 in Archers Post.

Special Highlight: LAPSSET Team visit with EL and GZT

In July, Ewaso Lions and the Grevy's Zebra Trust were privileged to receive a senior team from the Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor Authority (LAPSSET). As part of our Bio-Infrastructure Programme, both teams welcomed the LAPSSET team into Kalama and Westgate Conservancies. Here, they visited critical sites on the A2 Highway, witnessed restoration efforts occurring in the Conservancy, and saw first-hand the interconnected nature of conservation and infrastructure development. Our joint Landscape Infrastructure Advisor, Sarah Chiles then led the group in working through a joint MOU which will allow a more seamless working relationship as we collaboratively work towards a goal of harmonizing green and grey infrastructure. We thank the Westgate and Kalama managements and partners for hosting us and enabling this visit.



Sarah briefs the LAPSSET team at the KETRACO powerlines traversing the region; The group drives into the invasive *Prosopis juliflora* (Mathenge) infested area and understand the linkages between invasive species spread and construction.

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).