



**Main Feature: Lion Kids Camps Resume**

After two years of fighting the pandemic, we are glad to report that we finally resumed our 5-day immersive Lion Kids Camps (LKC). In March and April, our Conservation Programmes team held 4 camps back-to-back, bringing 100 children from Il Ngwesi, Lekurruki, Westgate and Leparua Community Conservancies. The children learnt volumes about how to herd livestock better and track the various carnivores in the landscape. They also heard words of advice and lessons from Mama Simba ladies, Lion Governors, the Kura's Pride team, our scholarship students and many more. As always, the highlight was their safari into Samburu National Reserve in our LKC bus, giving many participants a glimpse of wildlife up close and from a safe distance for the first time. During each of the 4 Lion Kids Camps held, the children were lucky to sight lions, a testament to the hard work of the reserve management and the collaboration with partners.

Lepore Looshu, a young herder from Nanapisho commented "*We want more camps like this in our home area so that many of our friends can be able to learn more about wildlife like we have done!*" We thank the Samburu National Reserve, all our conservancy partners, and the team led by Evanson Kariuki and Painoti Letabare for coming together for these important events.



*A selection of highlights from the Lion Kids Camps © Ewaso Lions*

## Lion News

The tail end of last quarter ended with the earnest search to collar several lions across the landscape. Covering almost 10,000km in just 10 days, the team worked hard to find suitable lions to collar, searching in thick bush to no avail. Finally, we were able to collar Loing'opa in Samburu National Reserve, a male lion whose daily tracking positions have already been vital in keeping him safe. We are so grateful to the Kenya Wildlife Service teams, Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba Reserve managements and rangers, Namunyak and Kalama Conservancies, and Sarara Camp, for their immense support during the collaring attempts. We hope to continue with these efforts in 2022.

Good news abounds as Nanai, who had been badly wounded last year, recovered successfully and gave birth to four cubs. The small family live in the thick saltbush in Samburu National Reserve for the most part, and have been sighted by our team, and many friends and supporters multiple times.

In February, we teamed up with the Northern Rangelands Trust and Kenya Wildlife Service to survey the Lorian Swamp, the famed site where the Ewaso Nyiro River terminates. There had been reports of many lions there and our team went to investigate. We are pleased to report that a pride has been identified. The lions of Lorian include two large males, two females and three cubs (minimum). The challenges of the landscape are great and include invasive species, lack of water and prey, but we are excited to work with the leadership of the area to help continued coexistence.



*Male lion captured using a night vision camera at the Lorian Swamp, Loing'opa collared, Nanai and cubs © Kris Norvig*

### Key Highlights from this Quarter

- **Our 2021 Annual Report is out:** We reflect on the highs and lows of 2021, including our collaborations through the devastating drought, our new warriors who have brought fresh energy and ideas to the team, a new mobile domestic animal veterinary unit and how the carnivores rallied through the tough times, giving us all hope. We look forward to hearing your comments as you read our [exciting Annual Report](#).
- **Lalenok meetings:** In January, Jeneria, the Warrior Watch team and partners including the Westgate Conservancy and the Grevy's Zebra Trust held meetings in several villages across Westgate to discuss the need for land planning. Dubbed Lalenok, after the Samburu term meaning searching or reconnaissance [for pasture], this was a vital step towards amplifying existing efforts to increase pasture for livestock and

wild prey for lions, in keeping with the culture. The reception for the meetings was exceptional, and momentum was built to ensure this work will be community led and owned.

- **First Cultural workshop:** In keeping with our ethos of supporting the culture of pastoralism, Ewaso Lions joined forces with the Grevy's Zebra Trust to hold our first Cultural Workshop. The event, which ended on International Women's Day, was the first in a series of workshops which we hope will help both document and revive inspiration about the depths of Samburu culture and its inextricable links to pastoralism and conservation.
- **World Wildlife Day:** The world celebrated World Wildlife Day on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our team attended and supported Kenya Wildlife Service events both in Isiolo and Nairobi. Under the theme "*Recover Key Species*" Jeneria and Thomas spoke at the Isiolo event about the need for ownership of wildlife and ensuring coexistence with livestock.
- **Ewaso Lions online:**
  - **Women Blaze Trails:** Dr Jessica Kurere and Munteli Lalparasoroi ably represented Ewaso Lions (and Vet in Wild) in giving two inspiring talks at this year's Women Blaze Trails festival. Speaking on the Community Animal Health Initiative also called [Ramat Eldein O Suom Pooki](#) and Kura's Pride, and [Culture, Women and Conservation](#), they gave insightful talks that are a must listen.
  - **Wildlife Conservation Network's Closer Look:** In March, Shivani and Resson give [WCN's first ever Closer Look](#), a deep dive for the public into the work of local conservation. The talk attracted over 100 participants from all around the world including Kenya, Pakistan, Algeria and the U.S. The focus of the talk was on the lions of the Ewaso Nyiro landscape; a special insider's look into our team's extraordinary findings during our monitoring work.
  - **New Ewaso Lions video:** In March, Waterbear launched the Wild Innovators Series filmed by Wild Elements Studios. Among the films to watch is a new 10-minute film on Ewaso Lions, featuring the Ewaso Lions team and narrated by Resson who stresses the need for local people to be recognised as the leaders of conservation efforts. Sign into Waterbear to watch the series.
  - **New Toolkit Available:** As a Whitley Award winner, Shivani Bhalla joined several other awardees and Conservation Optimism to pen the toolkit [Pearls of Wisdom for Budding Conservationists](#). Especially in times of deep despair, the honest and inspiring advice contained in this book can make a real difference in how we approach environmental challenges.
- **Drought response:** As the drought continued to bite, Ewaso Lions teamed up with partners to dig for water at various locations in the dry Ewaso Nyiro river bed. We were pleased to see our efforts rewarded each time, as thirsty donkeys, impalas and other wildlife flocked to the site either immediately after digging or during our hard labour. We appreciate the togetherness we have felt with partners in all these efforts.
- **Wellness breaks:** Drought and many other crisis can and have worn our team out in the past few months. We hold to the principle that we must care for our teams mental and physical health as much as we can so they can continue to help others, and promote continued coexistence. The quarter saw our team hold its second *Samburu Masterchef* competition on a February afternoon, bringing uncontrollable laughter and stiff competition out as teams battled it out for the top spot. Part of the team also undertook an epic trip to the Kenyan Coast. Many had never seen the ocean, been on a train or plane, and each moment was exhilarating and healing.



- **Canine Distemper outbreak quelled:** In January, our new domestic animal veterinary unit worked extremely hard as a distemper outbreak hit several conservancies, killing domestic dogs in several villages. Vaccination efforts had reached many households, shielding hundreds of dogs from the disease. Sadly dozens more were infected. Our team worked hard, treating and rehydrating sick animals until the worst of the outbreak had died down.

### Special Highlight: MOU with Samburu County Government



*Officials from Samburu County Government together with Ewaso Lions and Vet in Wild Directors © Ewaso Lions*

We are pleased to announce that the Samburu County Government, Vet in Wild and Ewaso Lions have signed our first MOU covering the Community Animal Health Initiative. Our Kura's Pride programme has grown in leaps and bounds, and now, under this new partnership will be able to formally partner on various activities and hold joint campaigns. It is a big milestone for all involved, and we thank the Samburu County and the County Department of Veterinary Services for their leadership and support.

**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).

**Ewaso Lions**  
P.O. Box 14996, Nairobi 00800, Kenya  
Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)  
[www.ewasolions.org](http://www.ewasolions.org) | [info@ewasolions.org](mailto:info@ewasolions.org)