

About Ewaso Lions

Ewaso Lions is dedicated to conserving lions and other large carnivores by promoting continued coexistence between people and wildlife. We are an independent 100% African wildlife conservation organisation based in northern Kenya which engages and builds the capacity of key demographic groups (warriors, women, elders and children) by developing approaches to reduce human-carnivore conflict. We conduct applied research and work with our communities to address ecological problems. We carry out educational initiatives to reinforce traditionally held beliefs and the evolving culture of wildlife conservation across the landscape.

Ensuring a future for Kenya’s lions & other large carnivores through community-led conservation

OUR 2023-2025 STRATEGY

We have four main pillars that will form the framework for achieving sustainable coexistence between lions and communities.



Landscape and Lions

To stabilise and grow northern Kenya’s population of lions through understanding their behaviour and movements, securing their refuges and corridors, and mitigating human-carnivore conflict.



Landscape Lifestyles

To merge wildlife conservation with the culture of pastoralism, and build community and carnivore resilience to emerging threats such as disease by improving indigenous domestic animal health, and restoring habitats.



Landscape Leadership

To nurture an inclusive, diverse community of leaders who work to find/enact/implement solutions which meet the needs of people, livestock and wildlife, a community at the forefront of decision making.



Landscape Horizons

To plan proactively for the future of the changing landscape, convening collaborators to envision and contribute to the future health of the ecosystem in regards to coming grey infrastructure, climate resilience, crises and space for wildlife.

WHY IS THE NEW EWASO LIONS VISION IMPORTANT?

Like the rest of the world, we must recalibrate. At the beginning of our 2018-2020 Strategic Plan, there was no sign in sight of locusts, Covid, mega-infrastructure, or a shift in perspectives on how our landscape would or should look. We must change our work to incorporate crises, including climate-induced disasters, and also must take a long view of our future landscape alongside partners – the people who have the most to gain or lose from the decisions we make. As we do, we must be explicit about what we want to take with us. The culture of pastoralism is 2500 years old and holds valuable lessons for conservation and coexistence. And community-led approaches to restoring degraded lands, and ensuring space for wildlife among other critical issues will keep lions roaming landscapes where people live for many years to come.

LION KIDS CAMP VISION



Our vision is to educate and inspire a new generation of wildlife conservationists through a combination of wildlife education, safaris and conservation-themed games and activities. Lion Kids Camps fit within the Landscape Leadership pillar.

Most Kenyan children despite living in close proximity to world famous National Parks and Reserves have never had the chance to observe wildlife at close range. Instead, they are exposed to negative interactions between wildlife, livestock and people, which shape their perceptions of wildlife.

Recognising children as the new custodians of Kenya's wildlife, and underscoring that attitudes formed at an early age tend to last a lifetime, Ewaso Lions launched Lion Kids Camp (LKC) in 2013. The programme empowers a new generation of wildlife ambassadors by engaging young people in environmental education ultimately fostering long-term conservation values. We target young livestock herders whose daily activities impact wildlife and yet they have limited exposure to conservation. Similarly, we target school going children hence inspiring the next generation of conservationists, park wardens, safari guides, and wildlife biologists.

IMPACT

The LKC experience

Each five-day camp follows a carefully designed curriculum that teaches children about the value and importance of lions, large carnivores and other wildlife species, the threats to their survival and techniques communities can adopt to promote peaceful coexistence. Since inception we have run 27 camps bringing a total of **786 children from 7 conservancies and four counties (as of March 2023)**. Of these 13 have been students' camps while 14 were camps for herding children.

How LKCs help

As attitudes formed at an early age tend to last a lifetime, engaging young people in environmental education is critical to fostering long-term conservation values and cultivating a new generation of wildlife ambassadors. We focus on two key demographics:

- **Livestock herders:** In pastoralist communities, young children are often charged with tending livestock whilst out grazing. Each day their actions impact wildlife. Yet, they have limited, if any, exposure to conservation. By engaging herders through our LKCs, we hope to have an immediate, positive impact on wildlife. The early indications are compelling; 99% of herders agreeing or strongly agreeing that their knowledge of conservation had increased as a result of a Camp they had attended and 76% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing that their attitudes towards wildlife had not changed as a result of the Camp.
- **Students:** By engaging students in our LKCs, we hope to inspire the next generation of conservationists, park wardens, safari guides, and wildlife biologists. Following a Reunion Camp held in August 2015, and attended by 122 children, 66% of attendees hoped to pursue a wildlife-related career, with a further 5% stating their desire to support conservation whilst in pursuit of an alternate career.

Children who attend our camps are encouraged to act as 'message multipliers' within their communities, spreading the conservation message to their families, friends and neighbors back home.

GOALS

Goals

The Lion Kids Camp programme goals include:

1. To provide Kenyan children, many of whom live adjacent to protected areas but have not seen wildlife close up, with a positive and enjoyable wildlife experience.
2. To develop and sustain a sense of responsibility to protect wildlife and other natural resources in LKC attendees.
3. To create and sustain an interest in learning about wildlife and conservation in LKC attendees.
4. To increase knowledge about wildlife, and conservation of wildlife species and their habitats, amongst LKC attendees.
5. To foster and sustain positive attitudes towards wildlife and conservation of wildlife, amongst LKC attendees, with an emphasis on lions and other large carnivores.
6. To promote coexistence between people and large carnivores by empowering LKC attendees to help conserve large carnivores, their prey and habitats.
7. LKC attendees positively influence their immediate community (i.e. family, friends, neighbours) by acting as 'message multipliers'.
8. To enhance LKC attendees' knowledge of the work of Ewaso Lions does.

9. To contribute to a reduction in the incidents of livestock depredation by large carnivores in target ecosystem(s).
10. To contribute to a reduction in the incidents of lion killing in target ecosystem(s).
11. To contribute to an increase in safe lion habitat in target ecosystem(s).
12. To contribute towards a stable/increasing lion population in target ecosystem(s).

THE PROGRAMME

Programme/Curriculum

Each five-day camp follows a carefully designed curriculum that teaches children about the value and importance of lions, large carnivores and other wildlife species, the threats to their survival and techniques communities can adopt to promote peaceful coexistence.

Each camp is tailored to the geographical and socio-demographic characteristics of the target audience, to ensure relevance. Whilst some activities/lessons are universally relevant or require minimal modification, others are only suited to particular target audiences (see lesson plans for details).

Examples of the types of activity included in LKCs are:

- Icebreakers
- Evaluation surveys/quizzes
- Wildlife education presentations
 - Mammal ID and Track activity
 - Bird ID
 - About Lions and Ewaso Lions
 - Wildlife Conservation
 - Conflict to coexistence
- Wildlife safaris
- Bird walks
- Creative arts (drama, song, poetry)
- Movie nights
- Conservation-themed games and activities

EXPECTED OUTCOMES (OVER 5 YEARS)

1. Increased tolerance by community towards lions and other carnivores
2. Reduced conflict between lions and livestock due to better livestock husbandry as well as increased lion location reporting by herders and healthier dogs being more alert during herding and at night.
3. Improved dog welfare and condition due to sessions held on animal welfare and responsible animal ownership
4. Improved co-existence between people and wildlife
5. Increased and healthier numbers of wild carnivores
6. Increased awareness of the importance of lions and conservation
7. Increased awareness of the importance of Samburu culture amongst women and children
8. Children will be more aware about broad conservation topics