

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

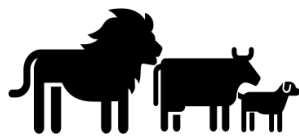
OUR 2022-2024 STRATEGY

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 THIS 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.

MAMA SIMBA VISION



The programme which started in 2013 – which means “Mothers of Lions” in Kiswahili – empowers Samburu women through education, conservation training, environmental stewardship, and providing alternative livelihood income. The programme was the brainchild of two Samburu women – Mparasaroi Lemantaan and Munteli Lalparasaroi. Ewaso Lions engaged the Mama Simba women in; **conservation**, **education** and **beadwork** activities for a number of years. In September 2022, Mama Simba ladies gathered to take stock of how their work was evolving, and decide how to re-weight various programmes and activities. They have articulated their mission as preserving culture, empowering women, and improving livelihoods through conservation. They now hold firmly to the historically held belief that wildlife belongs to women. The Mama Simba programme fits within all four pillars of our new strategy.

“Bringing back wildlife to women”

IMPACT (2021-2022)

Over the past 2 years, the region has faced a serious drought affecting communities and their livestock. The Mama Simba ladies were also affected yet have managed to accomplish a lot over the past 2 years:

- **Restoring the soil:** In 2021, the Mama Simba ladies joined partners to reseed the rangelands of Westgate Conservancy. In 2022, they took this work further by digging large semicircular bunds, in their *Lokere*, to trap moisture from rain and spur the growth of grass. While the rainy season has brought less rain than hoped for, the bunds have still managed to secure and conserve much more water than undisturbed bare ground. This work is part of joint community and partner efforts occurring across Westgate Conservancy.
- **Lion Monitoring and Conflict Management:** Munteli has continued with this when needed and often goes to Samburu National Reserve (SNR) and Westgate’s Conservation Area to locate the lions. The ladies have also informed herders of lion locations so herders are better able to avoid those areas and also have reported all conflict they have heard of (lions attacking livestock).
- **Exposure Tours:** The Mama Simbas have arranged exposure trips to SNR and Reteti.
- **U.S. Trip:** Munteli has visited the US in August 2022 and gave a number of talks across various locations.
- **Digging waterholes:** When they Ewaso Nyiro River dried up, the Mama Simba ladies arranged and supported digging waterholes efforts both in SNR and Westgate Conservancy. These waterholes help both livestock and wildlife.
- **Supporting Kura’s Pride:** The Mama Simba ladies have been instrumental in supporting Kura’s Pride by reporting cases of sick or injured dogs, bringing dogs for surgical procedures, and reporting livestock attacked by wildlife – enabling the veterinarian to treat the animals. They have also been part of meetings on animal welfare and have supported all the education and awareness activities of the programme. They have also helped with communication amongst their community about the importance of improving animal welfare.
- **Supporting Lion Kids Camp:** The Mama Simba ladies have supported each of the 9 Lion Kids Camps we have held in 2022. They have attended Closing Ceremonies and also spoken to the children about conservation.
- **Adult literacy school:** Whilst this slowed down a lot over the past 2 years, the women have on occasion met for their education classes.
- **Beadwork:** This also slowed down a lot over the past few years and there has been only a handful of beadwork accomplished.
- **Cultural workshops:** In 2022, the ladies were part of 2 key workshops on Samburu culture and what needs to be done to restore lost cultural practices.

THEMES GOING FORWARD

Under the mission of “bringing back wildlife to women”, the Mama Simba ladies have the following planned themes going forward:

1. Culture and Conservation
2. Community Education and Awareness
3. Environmental Literacy
4. Lion Habitat Recovery
5. Drought Support
6. Lion Monitoring
7. Beadwork

ACTIVITIES (2023-2024)

Culture and Conservation

1. Supporting Kura’s Pride and Lion Kids Camps through reporting on injured/sick animals and talking about animal welfare and conservation at various times through both programmes.
2. Holding meetings with young ladies and children on culture

Community Education and Awareness

1. Playing the Conservation Game in villages
2. Meetings about conservation and coexisting with wildlife, and discussing tolerance and appreciation of lions.
3. Exposure trips to wildlife areas

Environmental Literacy

1. Attending school at Sasaab and Lempaute and learning about key conservation topics (see separate curriculum for this). Format of learning will be through the AET system.

Lion Habitat Recovery

1. Managing the Sasaab *Lokere*: digging bunds, planting seeds, watering.
2. Managing the pilot tree project in the Core Area: planning seedballs, watering.
3. Supporting Westgate with *Mathenge* control and uprooting of small trees

Drought Support

1. Digging waterholes when the Ewaso Nyiro River dries up. In both Core Area and SNR.

Lion Monitoring and Conflict Management

1. Visiting SNR, the Core Area and Loijuk to look for presence of lions or recording sightings of lions
2. Reporting conflict when any Mama Simba learns about it
3. Inform herders of any lion locations to prevent conflict from taking place

Beadwork

1. There may be times when beaded lions or beaded collars may be required.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES (OVER 5 YEARS)

1. Increased tolerance by community towards lions and other carnivores
2. Reduced conflict between lions and livestock due to increased lion location reporting by Mamas and healthier dogs being more alert during herding and at night
3. Improved dog welfare and condition due to meetings 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 grass cover in *Lokere*
7. Increased awareness of the importance of lions and conservation
8. Increased amount of water availability for livestock and wildlife during the drought
9. Increased awareness of the importance of Samburu culture amongst women and children
10. Mama Simba ladies will be more aware about broad conservation topics
11. Increased growth of indigenous trees and reduced presence of invasive ones