



EWASO
LIONS



PARTNERS REPORT

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2023



Pride of 10 remain together



New cubs in Samburu National Reserve

LION NEWS

FROM SOLITARY LIONS TO PRIDES

Since 2022, we have noticed that the lions are coming together much more than usual. For over a decade we have observed the solitary nature of the lions of northern Kenya. However, prides are now being formed!

Nanai's legacy continues through a pride of 10 that frequently move between Samburu and Buffalo Springs. Her 3 cubs are part of the pride of 10. The Kalama pride have also come together and are currently 8 in number including 2 brand new cubs, and 2 males from Il Ngwesi.

We suspect that the lions came together in 2022 due to the drought and the easier access to prey. Additionally, many of the lions were subadults and were seeking support from each other. It was also a time when the parks were under immense pressure and the lions were forced in to smaller, more confined areas. In 2023, the lions have continued to remain together and we are thrilled to see 2 prides roam the Reserves.

Here are some of the lion team's key moments:

- Mararoi, one of Naramat's cubs, sadly died this quarter. We are awaiting sampling results to establish cause of death.
- Narasha gave birth to 3 cubs in Meibae - Naramat's grand cubs!
- We have retrieved Sarara and Loingopa's collars due to their collars failing after 2 years.
- Monitored Loingopa's movements (through his collar) and used this information to prevent conflict.
- We have had 49 sightings of lions during this quarter.
- 152 patrols were covered by our regional lion teams on foot, with 117 vehicle patrols and 196 motorbike patrols conducted.
- 8237 km was covered during patrols and searching for lions.
- Supported KWS in Ngare Narok with community meetings following a human-lion incident.
- Held a meeting with 50 rangers and community members from Meibae about lion movement.
- Conflict reduced this quarter with 11 lion conflict cases recorded.



Cat vaccinated during Kalama vaccinations



Treatment of a dog bitten by a snake

KURA'S PRIDE

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MOBILE VETERINARY UNIT

The Community Animal Health Initiative (CAHI) is a partnership programme between Ewaso Lions, VetInWild, Animal Care Centre and the Samburu County Department of Veterinary Services.

CAHI bring veterinary services closer to the communities. Additionally, CAHI has the aim to reduce the burden of canine diseases of zoonotic importance that can also have a negative impact on endangered wildlife populations.

CAHI attended to 945 domestic animals during this last quarter.

Kura's Pride highlights for the past quarter include:

- A total of 732 dogs and cats were vaccinated in Kalama Conservancy.
- 2 dogs received emergency population control services.
- 203 animals received clinical treatments. This included treatment of 37 dogs that had suspected canine distemper.
- A total of 8 animals were treated as emergency cases.
- We reached 216 people through the various engagement campaigns (Lion Kids Camps, Warrior Camps, Schools).

MAMA SIMBA

BRINGING BACK WILDLIFE TO WOMEN

From removal of invasive species, digging of waterholes for wildlife and holding meetings on culture, our Mama Simba ladies have had a very busy quarter.

Here are some of our Mama Simba highlights for this past quarter:

- With partners, Mama Simba dug 3 waterholes for wildlife in the Core Area after the river dried up.
- Mama Simba removed 119 invasive trees that are encroaching on indigenous habitat.
- Visited Koija and met women working in conservation from other projects - hosted by the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.
- Held 1 cultural meeting with 130 women from Kiltamany.
- 21 participants attended 3 eco-literacy school sessions.
- Maintained the grass enclosure at Sasaab and prepared it for the upcoming rains.



Mama Simba ladies remove invasive species



Mama Simba join other women in conservation in Koija



Meetings with women on culture



Digging waterholes for wildlife

LION KIDS CAMPS

INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION OF
CONSERVATIONISTS - CHILDREN AND WARRIORS

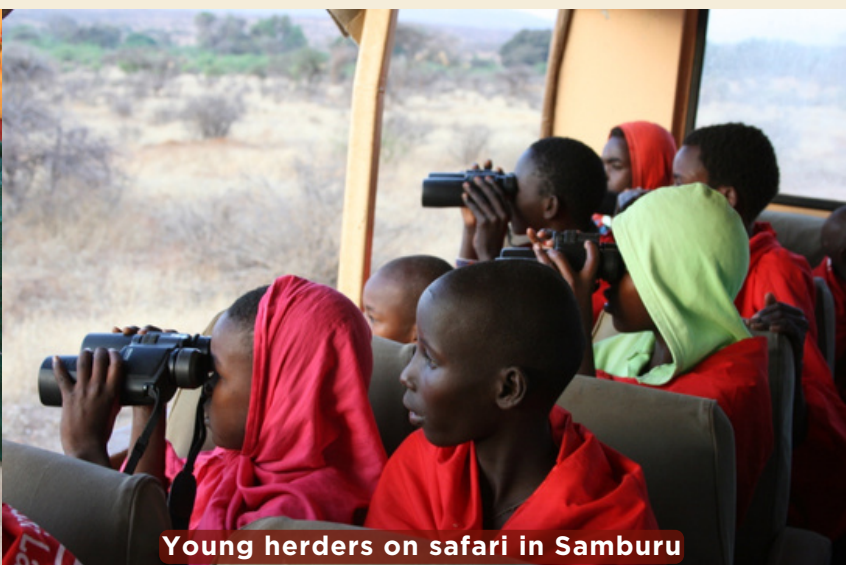
Our Lion Kids Camps Programme has been active through the quarter. **A total of 3 Camps were held with 74 livestock herders from 3 Conservancies** (Naapu, Nasuulu, Westgate/Kalama). **Our Lion Kids Camp base also hosted 2 Warrior Camps.**

Our highlights include:

- Our Lion Kids Camp supported our Kura's Pride programme and set up a camp in Kalama Conservancy during the vaccination campaign.
- We hosted 29 scouts from Marwell at our Camp for 4 days and supported them with their activities.
- Our education team visited Braeburn School in Nanyuki and spoke to 200 students about lion conservation.
- We held 4 exposure tours to Samburu National Reserve with 104 students from Lempaute, Sionta, Lpus Leluai and Nkiseu. 102 students went on safari for the first time ever and were extremely fortunate to see lions on every trip. This quarter's wildlife sightings have surpassed previous sightings!
- We hosted Samburu County and Samburu National Reserve officials when they visited Ewaso Lions and learned about our work.
- In addition to holding Lion Kids Camps, we held 2 Warrior Camps for 3 days. 45 Warriors came from Meibae and Kalama Conservancies to interact and engage with our Warrior Watch warriors and learn more about lion conservation. 152 community members joined in the closing celebrations.
- We held a community tour for 25 elders from Nkiseu in Meibae using our Lion Kids Camp bus.



Warriors create a lion jigsaw during the Camp



Young herders on safari in Samburu

OTHER NEWS

We were delighted to **co-host the ACLIE conference in Limuru** in September. **150 participants attended** (in person and online), from 20 countries. 4 sessions were presented by Ewaso Lions and the Grevy's Zebra Trust. Two day trips were held to Nairobi National Park and Kijabe Forest to understand the impacts of infrastructure on biodiversity. One of the main outputs will included a synthesis paper which will be sent to key institutions across Africa.

World Lion Day celebrations in August were held in 5 Conservancies (Meibae, Nakuprat, Leparua, Naapu, Nanapisho). **Over 500 community members attended** our celebrations and even played the Conservation Game!

We are excited that **Solomon has started his first year at Veterinary School in Egerton, and Jonathan has started his Bachelors** degree at JKUAT.

We held **12 community meetings** this quarter across the areas we work in. **543 community members** attended these meetings on lion awareness and mitigating conflict.

We were delighted to **host the KWS teams from Isiolo and Wamba, the KWS Veterinary team, and Samburu National Reserve** at our camp.

We were thrilled to **sponsor and participate in the 1st Wildlife Research Training Institute Conference** in Naivasha. Toby and Jeneria gave 3 presentations.

In partnership with KWS, we are **supporting construction of new rangers housing** at the Wamba KWS station. We expect this to be completed before the end of 2023.

We have **partnered with the Centre of Ecological Restoration-Kenya** - who are based in Limuru - to help with regenerating the toothbrush tree and controlling the spread of the invasive "mathenge" species.

NTV Wild aired an episode on the Lions of Samburu and our community-led conservation efforts. The episode was watched by over a million people and can be seen here: <https://ntvkenya.co.ke/arts-lifestyle/the-lions-of-samburu-on-ntv-wild-talk-with-smriti-vidyarthi/>

Special Appreciation:

Thank you so much to all our partners who enable us to make a conservation impact in Kenya including; Kenya Wildlife Service; WRTI; Samburu and Isiolo County Governments; Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba National Reserves Management; all the Community Conservancies we work in.

