



The Making of Lion Kids Camp

A journey of transformation and impact

Introduction

Lion Kids Camp began in 2013 in the simplest and most humble way. It was built on a belief that if children could spend time in nature, learn directly from conservationists, and connect deeply with wildlife, something lasting would take root.

Over the years, the Camp grew. We held more sessions, welcomed more young people, and watched confidence and curiosity flourish. Yet the physical Camp itself remained basic. Tents weathered under the harsh Samburu sun. Structures deteriorated. There was no reliable power, and water was limited. Eventually, the Camp quite literally began to fall apart. And with it, our ability to expand and deepen the programme was constrained.

Rather than see that as an end, we chose to see it as a turning point.

In partnership with the County Government of Samburu and Samburu National Reserve, we began the process of building a permanent base within Samburu National Reserve — a home for Lion Kids Camp that would match the ambition of the vision behind it. Construction began in August 2025 and was completed in March 2026. What was once temporary and fragile is now rooted and enduring.

This transformation was only possible because of the generosity of our donors, whose belief in the programme made this dream tangible.

Today, Lion Kids Camp stands ready to welcome more children than ever before — to deepen its impact, to strengthen its reach, and to continue nurturing a new generation of Kenyan conservation leaders.

Ewaso Lions - Lion Kids Camp Team

A Canvas of Potential

This open land was the starting point of a dream, filled with potential and holding the seeds of possibility. It marked the beginning of a transformation that will empower generations of children through learning.





Before the Upgrade

The original Lion Kids Camp facilities prior to renovation. These images capture the state of learning spaces before structural improvements began, revealing the need for comprehensive renewal and modernisation.

Before the upgrade initiative began, our team worked in modest conditions, making the best of the space and resources available while continuing their learning with determination. The Camp operated with basic tents that could no longer fully protect or support the children. The kitchen remained exposed to the elements, and limited food storage made daily operations increasingly difficult for the team. The mess area, often brought down by strong winds, and rusted canvas posts told the story of a Camp pushed beyond its limits.

Despite constant repairs and every effort to maintain it, there came a point when it was no longer possible to continue. It became clear that a safer, stronger, and more permanent space was not just needed — it was essential for the future of the Lion Kids Camp.











CHAPTER 2

Planning the Camp

Through months of thoughtful planning, collaboration, and shared vision, the new Lion Kids Camp began to take shape — a true reflection of the people and partnerships behind it. Countless conversations and careful coordination led to a meaningful milestone: a groundbreaking ceremony held in July 2025 with the management of Samburu National Reserve, marking the beginning of this exciting transformation.







CHAPTER 3

The Making of the Camp

Moments of planning, collaboration, and guidance that brought the vision of the new Lion Kids Camp to life — showing the people and partnerships behind the transformation. Every beam placed and wall raised brought the community one step closer to a reimagined learning space designed for long-term impact.





















New Mess & Learning Area







New Bathrooms





CONTAINERS KENYA
07 11 255 550









New Kitchen















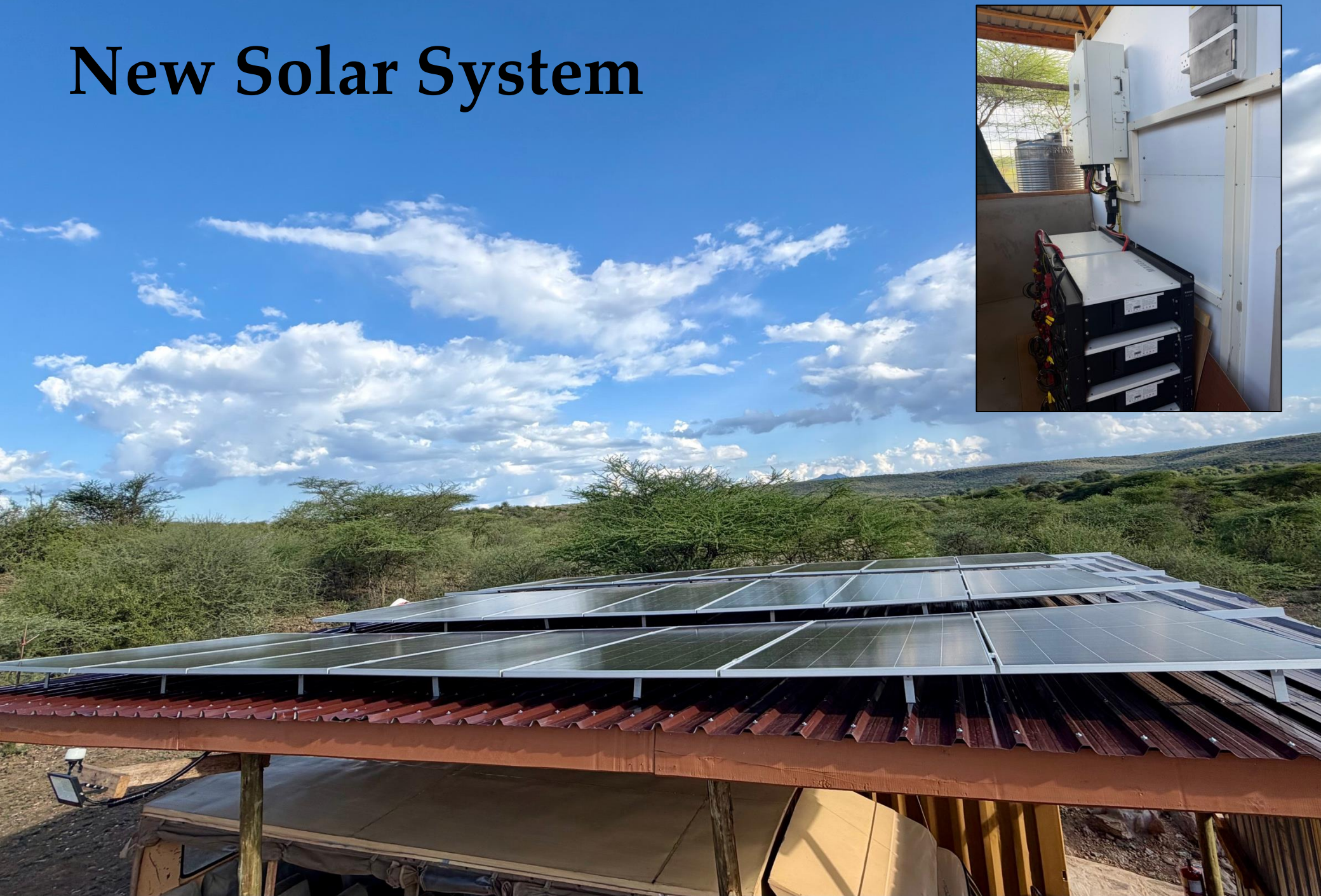
New Tents







New Solar System





New Office



A total of **187 community members** were involved in the construction. Approximately **KES 2.9 million (\$22,000)** was spent on local community labour, highlighting the valuable contribution of the community to the project.



CHAPTER 4

The Lion Kids Camp

The new environment is brighter, stronger, and thoughtfully designed to support both learning and wellbeing. These completed spaces stand as a powerful reflection of what partnership and shared commitment can achieve — creating a place where children can learn, grow, and thrive. Before the Camp officially opened and welcomed the children, a traditional Samburu blessing was held, bringing together more than 100 community members. It was a deeply meaningful moment, grounding the Camp in culture, community, and shared hope for the future.







After the Transformation

From humble beginnings under Acacia trees to a fully realised Camp built over 200 days, Lion Kids Camp has grown beyond what we imagined.

We now reach 375 children each year through more than 15 Camps annually — creating space, opportunity, and inspiration for a new generation of conservation leaders.

The transformation is complete. Now the real work begins.

And the Lion Kids are back...













Thank You For Making this Possible

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www.ewasolions.org/lion-kids-camp

Photos by Ewaso Lions, Simatwa Ngachi & Jaymin Patel



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