



LEWA
WILDLIFE
CONSERVANCY

A UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed in 2013



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ANNUAL REPORT 2015

ABOUT LEWA

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is an award-winning catalyst and model for conservation, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and features on the IUCN Green List of successful protected areas. Lewa is the heart of wildlife conservation, sustainable development and responsible tourism in northern Kenya and our successful working model has provided the framework on which many conservation organisations in the region are based.

Conservation

Lewa is a pioneering endangered species sanctuary established in 1983 to save the black rhino in Kenya from extinction. Today, we are home to 11% of Kenya's rhinos as well as the world's single largest resident population of the endangered Grevy's zebra. 70 other mammal species including elephant, lion, giraffe, leopard, cheetah and buffalo also live freely on the Conservancy.

Together with our partners, we are working to ensure a future for wildlife in our landscape.

Communities

An estimated 50,000 people directly benefit from Lewa's development programmes in education, health, water management, infrastructure upgrades, micro-enterprise initiatives, improved security and much more.

Since its establishment, the Conservancy has worked to nurture the relationship with its neighbouring communities, initiate development as well as promote the protection of wildlife and its habitat. Today, these communities act as the first line of defence against instigators of wildlife crimes.

Tourism

Every year, Lewa hosts an average of 5,000 visitors. Tourism is a key anchor to our conservation and community development efforts – not only are most of our donors former guests of Lewa, but earnings from tourism constitute up to 30% of our annual revenue.

Lewa is home to five luxury lodges, and our increasingly close relationship with Borana Conservancy to the west will offer visitors the opportunity of exploring a wider area and diverse terrain.



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Lewa's Board of Directors

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Ian Craig
The late Anna Merz
The late David 'Mzee' Craig
The late Delia 'Mama' Craig

Letter from Michael Joseph, our Chairman



will enable us to continue to play our role as a catalyst for conservation for many generations to come. You will hear much more about this in the coming year.

One of the more gratifying aspects of 2015 was the attention given to wildlife conservation by the Kenyan Government and its institutions. We have seen a new leadership team at Kenya Wildlife Service and the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources is playing a strong role in the country-wide efforts.

Additionally, the local governments are equally becoming more involved in supporting conservation as they realise and understand the role it plays in development. This is all good news that I hope will continue. We need more Kenyans to understand and appreciate our holistic approach to wildlife and we at Lewa will play our part in this during 2016.

Finally we had the most fantastic rains on Lewa at the end of 2015, which had a huge effect on the whole landscape. People who have been on Lewa for many years remarked on how this was the best they had seen it for a long time, if ever.

I would like to thank the Lewa Management Team, the Lewa staff, the fantastic rangers and security staff for all the hard work and effort that made 2015 a really satisfying year.

Also my grateful appreciation to my fellow board members for their contributions and loyal support and an equally heartfelt appreciation to all the overseas Lewa boards, their directors and donors.

As I look back at all my previous Chairman's letters, one word always seems to stand out. That word is 'challenging'! Every year seems to be challenging, and 2015 was no different.

However, I also acknowledge that significant strides were made last year, in which Lewa became more mature, made a more positive contribution to conservation in northern Kenya and played a very important role in community development alongside the Northern Rangelands Trust.

Fundraising and sustainability was one of our key concerns over the past year, and we spent some very productive time at the beginning of 2015 looking at ways and means to improve our fundraising. It is key for us to ensure our sustainability, which

Letter from Mike Watson, our CEO



Northern Kenya remains a dynamic and challenging arena in which to drive a community and development centric conservation agenda, yet as I hope you recognise in reading this 2015 Annual Report, opportunities and successes abound.

The community conservancy landscape, developed under the umbrella of Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), with integral support from Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, now covers an area of greater than 44,000 square kilometres, roughly the size of Denmark, a similar amount of land as that which is managed under National Parks and Reserves throughout Kenya.

This year saw the establishment of the first community managed rhino sanctuary in Kenya and East Africa, one of only a handful on the African continent. Five years or more in the design and making, Sera rhino sanctuary stood ready to receive its new residents in June. The joint Sera Community Conservancy, NRT, Lewa and KWS translocation operation moved a total of 10

black rhinos from Lewa and Lake Nakuru National Park into Sera, where the animals continue to thrive.

Some may ask why rhino are being moved, in this current climate of heightened risk? The fact is, our substantial investment of time, effort, thought and resources into dealing with wildlife security over recent years has certainly born fruit, with a significant reduction in the numbers of elephant being killed across the northern Kenya landscape and no rhino poached on Lewa for more than two years.

The Lewa Education Programme is now strategically positioned to provide a foundation upon which NRT's long planned programme for support to their Conservancies communities' education needs, can be launched. Our micro-credit programme continues to expand its reach with exciting new partnerships in the offing, giving countless more women a real opportunity for sustainable business development and thereby financial security; and the Conservancy's Health and Medical support offered services to over 40,000 people during the year, on average more than 100 every day!

These strategic and programmatic partnership successes reinforce the sense that Lewa and NRT really are but two sides of the same coin, giving rise to ongoing thought and discussions as to how we might be more coordinated and collaborative in our approach to international fundraising and other forms of revenue generation.

Our efforts remain critically underpinned by the continued, unwavering assistance from our many supporters and as we reflect on the year past, we here in northern Kenya would like to offer our gratitude to you all, for this support and your commitment to this extraordinary vision.



SAFETY FOR WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITIES

Anti-poaching efforts ensure that no rhino, elephant or other wildlife were killed by poachers on Lewa in 2015. Further north, collaboration with the Northern Rangelands Trust, communities, Kenya Wildlife Service and other partners contributed to a substantial reduction in the number of illegally killed elephants.



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THE COMMITMENT – To keep rhino, elephant and other threatened or endangered wildlife in our landscape safe. We are working to ensure that these species not only survive, but thrive. In 2015, Lewa did not lose any animals to poaching.

Since inception, Lewa has played a key role in ensuring that species under threat not only have a safe habitat to call home, but that the Conservancy is also able to support other entities engaging in conservation. We are also heavily committed to helping keep our neighbours safe – these communities share their land with wildlife, making them our biggest partners in conservation. Our unique position enables us to partner

and collaborate with different entities such as government, corporate companies and international organisations to fulfil our mission across northern Kenya.

THE CHALLENGE – “Obviously the demand for rhino horn and ivory has not waned. This means that rhinos and elephants remain under heavy threat.

Funding anti-poaching operations remains a huge task, and it is also a very risky job. Unlike rhinos, elephants move across a very wide landscape, and that is always a challenge.”

Edward Ndiritu, Lewa’s Head of Anti-Poaching.

Supporting the protection of elephants across northern Kenya

Along with partners, Lewa is actively engaged in ensuring a reduction in the number of elephants poached in the neighbouring areas of Mount Kenya and the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) community conservancies.

Enlisting partnerships with communities, carrying out joint patrols with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), NRT rangers, Mount Kenya Trust scouts as well as gathering of intelligence, is leading to a significant reduction in the number of elephants killed illegally. There has also been an increase in illegal weapons confiscated as well as ivory recovered.

PIKE levels

38%

The PIKE (Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants) has continued to decline in northern Kenya and Mount Kenya region. PIKE levels for 2015 were 38%; a decrease from 46% in 2014 and 81% at the height of poaching in 2012.

Arrested poachers

25

Suspected poachers arrested in collaboration with law enforcement authorities. Kenya’s wildlife law dictates harsh penalties for instigators of wildlife crimes.

Recovered ivory

21

Pieces of illegally acquired ivory recovered before being sold to the black market. Even though the price of ivory has dropped in the international black market, it still fetches a hefty sum per kilo locally.



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OUR STRATEGY

Anti-poaching is an extremely complex process. Protecting rhinos and elephants is now more than just erecting a fence around a habitat. For us to work efficiently, we have had to set up complex infrastructure, hire and regularly train anti-poaching teams and patrol units, acquire expensive technology, establish intelligence networks and more. All these activities are costly while the job by its nature remains extremely risky – and would be a financial strain to most without the necessary resources.

On Lewa, our holistic approach goes beyond that.

We recognise that without partnerships with the communities, government agencies, international bodies, law enforcement authorities and use of technology, minimal success would be achieved.

All these elements blend intricately to form our expansive wildlife protection programmes.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION



©Getty Images for Tusk Trust

Edward Ndiritu, Lewa’s Head of Anti-Poaching, beat other nominees to win the inaugural Tusk Wildlife Ranger award.

The award recognised the bravery and commitment of Edward, his team and their accomplishments. It was a very proud moment for us all!

SECURITY BEYOND OUR BORDERS

Working to ensure our neighbours live in safer communities



A young boy with his family's goats in Samburu. Our anti-poaching team works closely with law enforcement authorities to follow up on insecurity cases such as raiding of livestock.

Lewa's security team spend a large part of their time assisting local law enforcement to follow up on cases of insecurity in the neighbouring communities.

Raiding has historically plagued many of our pastoral neighbours who rely on livestock for their livelihood. It is not uncommon for cattle rustlers to bankrupt individuals in just a few hours. Together with the Kenya Police and other partners, we are working to ensure that this becomes an exercise in futility, and in 2015, we managed to record great success in recovering raided livestock.

Last year, 974 sheep and goats, 199 cows and 60 camels were recovered from raiders, saving the owners of the livestock from financial ruin and bankruptcy.

Why make this commitment?

Improved security for people creates a better environment for a community's economic development. It also translates to safer migratory areas for wildlife, and enhances collaborative efforts in conservation with communities and local authorities.

"A simple way to understand this would be that the guns used to raid livestock will be the same guns used by criminals to try and kill elephants and rhinos. An insecure environment helps poachers and other criminals flourish. It impedes development and disrupts people's way of life."

Edward Ndiritu, Head of Anti-Poaching.

Training for NRT north rift community conservancy rangers

Lewa remains a learning ground for community-centric conservation across northern Kenya and beyond. Last year, 92 young and hopeful individuals undertook their first training on the Conservancy to become wildlife and community protectors.

As a catalyst for conservation, it is our mandate to empower the community conservancies of northern Kenya, enabling them to develop expertise that will help manage their wildlife populations, as well as become engaged in peace building in traditionally hostile areas.

The rangers, coming from as far as Turkana, gained invaluable skills in wildlife conservation, field craft and patrol, discipline, communications, community engagement and first aid.



92 men and women from different communities of northern Kenya received ranger training on Lewa last year.

"I had never left my home village in Turkana before coming here. I have learnt so much, and I now look forward to helping promote peace at home."

Kapus Joram, NRT North Rift community conservancy ranger.



Black rhinos now have a new home

A FUTURE FOR RHINOS



Lewa continues to play a key role in rhino conservation in Kenya. Last year, the Conservancy was instrumental in establishing the latest rhino sanctuary in the country at NRT's Sera Community Conservancy.

Free ranging areas for wildlife are becoming increasingly rare. The future of Africa's iconic species now lies in communities acquiring a sense of ownership over the animals in their landscape, and consequently, a commitment to sharing their land and resources, and protecting the most threatened. Last year signalled the beginning of this journey for Kenya, with Northern Rangelands Trust's Sera Conservancy becoming the first community-led initiative to protect endangered black rhino.

Nine of Lewa's rhinos were moved to the new sanctuary in an historic translocation across northern Kenya. For Lewa, this was the truest example of how we play our role as a catalyst and model for conservation: our team was instrumental in formation of the sanctuary through infrastructure development, ranger capacity building, enhancement of managerial expertise, and of course, providing the rhinos who are now Sera's pioneer population.

Our conservation and research teams continue to work closely with the NRT and Sera teams.

John Pameri, our General Security Manager, says:

"We communicate with the team at Sera daily and are offering them any support that they require. We have helped train their rangers and carried out joint foot and aerial patrols. Our anti-poaching teams are equally working closely to ensure the safety of the rhinos on ground."

The people of Sera are elated to finally have rhino back on their land, decades after the last animal disappeared from this landscape.

"This is the best way forward for our pastoralist community. To have wildlife and livestock side by side, we are so happy. We look forward to welcoming tourists to our Sanctuary – this will provide valuable income for the Conservancy, and for individuals. It will also raise awareness of the black rhino." says the Sera Conservancy Chairlady, Pauline Longojine.

At Lewa, we shall continue to offer as much support as possible to strengthen the expertise and ability of communities and entities such as Sera, and in so doing, secure habitat for our country's most threatened species.

Special collaboration for
wildlife

ELEPHANT PROTECTION INITIATIVE

For the last two years, Stop Ivory has been working with African governments, expert private sector and NGO partners to build and implement the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI).

By Alexander Rhodes,
Co-founder, Stop Ivory



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The Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) is unique – it is a new way of doing conservation. It is African-led, Partnership-based and Results-oriented.

The EPI was launched by leaders from five African countries at the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in February 2014. They called on the world community to join them in a common venture to address both ends of the problem: decommercialise ivory; and secure a future for elephants and communities through a shared African Elephant Action Plan.

Today, they have been joined by Uganda, Malawi, The Gambia, Kenya, Liberia and most recently the Republic of Congo. 22 leading, international conservation NGOs have publicly pledged their support, as well as the World Bank and UNDP.

The 22 member countries of the African Elephant Coalition committed their support in November 2015 and in January this year the CITES Standing Committee welcomed the initiative. But this means nothing without results. The success of the EPI must be measured by two metrics: the growing global consensus that all ivory markets must close; and tangible government-led, partnership-implemented results delivered at a national level.

Strong political goodwill

Despite ongoing indescribable atrocities, and shocking population collapses, great strides are being made on both fronts.

This is a result of strong political leadership, strong partnerships and an increasing willingness of stakeholders to work together

towards common goals. It also reflects – from across Africa, the West and the East – and in particular China – a change in values for living elephants and all they stand for, over ivory, and all it has come to represent. The growing membership of the EPI, mirrored by the commitment of the two largest ivory markets: China and the US, to clamp down import and export and to close domestic ivory trade, sets the political environment for tough, concerted action to implement change.

Over the last 24 months, nine ivory stockpiles have been inventoried; nine have been put beyond economic use by burning or crushing; and five national elephant action plans have been developed and are being implemented in the field.

As we start 2016, the question is no longer: “How do we stop poaching when ivory policy is unclear?”; but “How do we secure an immediate and longer-term future for elephants and communities in a world without ivory trade.”

At the supply side, implementing the African Elephant Action Plan at a national level – to address protection, communities, livelihoods, law-enforcement, conflict and habitat – is central. In consumer markets, the watchwords are demand reduction, legal reform, enforcement and alternative employment.

2016 is a critical year for elephants. In September, the world community will meet at the CITES Conference in Johannesburg to determine policy and international law on ivory and elephants. With an eye on that policy window, and the strong commitment of both governments and partners to work together under a common framework, our outlook for the elephant is positive.

A LEGACY OF TRANSFORMATION

Since its formal establishment more than a decade ago, our Education Programme is one of the most visible ways in which we are working to improve livelihoods and transform the lives of individuals.



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THE COMMITMENT – To use education as a development tool in the neighbouring communities with the power to transform the lives of individuals, and in return, gain conservation leverage within these communities.

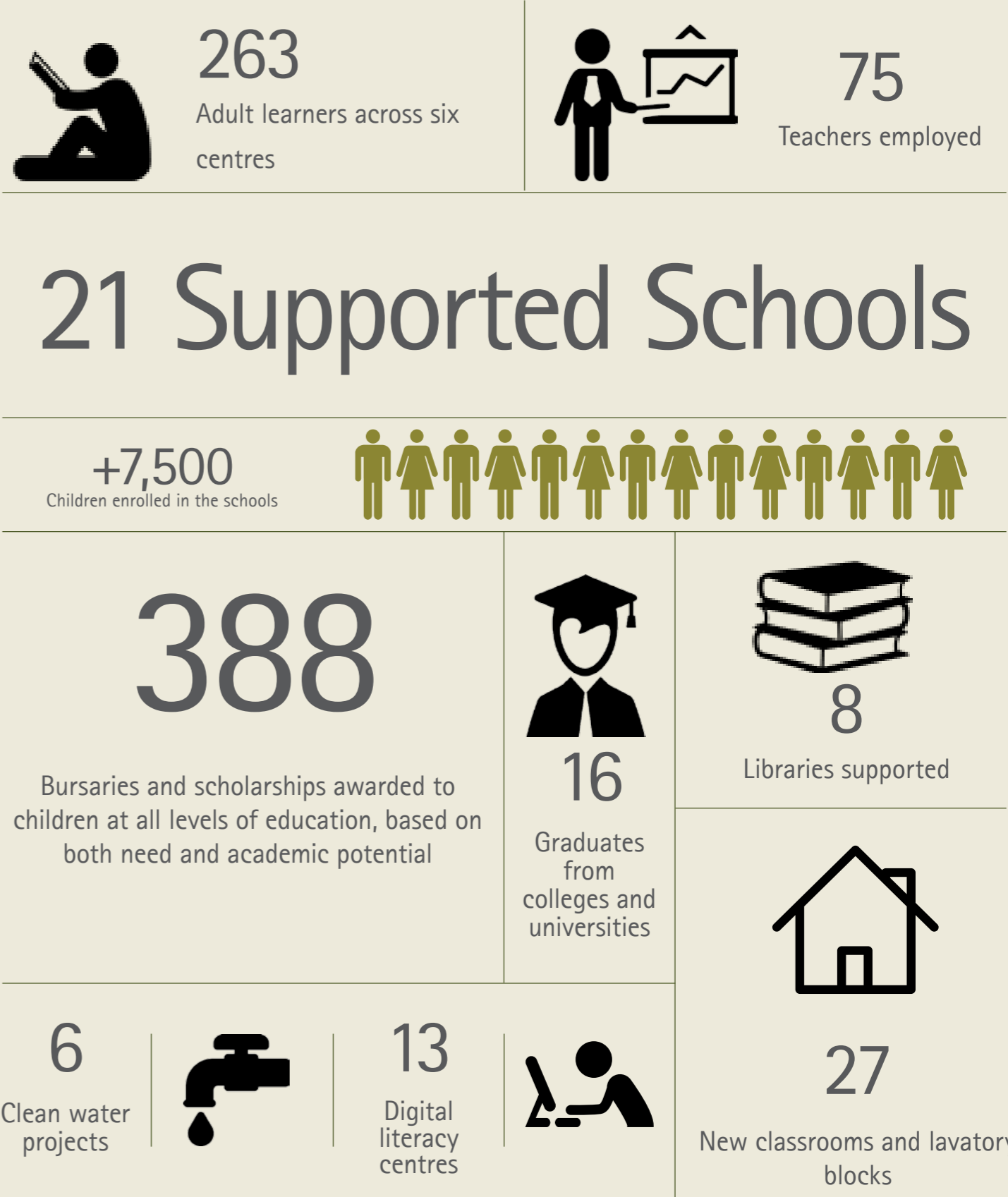
THE CHALLENGE – Most of the schools in the neighbouring areas do not have adequate funds to develop necessary learning infrastructure. These areas are also characterised by high levels of illiteracy and inadequate resources, hindering the educational progress of many talented children and individuals.

STRATEGY – Over the years, Lewa has continued to attempt to fill the educational gaps by providing viable, on-ground

solutions. We are committed to using our unique position, in collaboration with partners, donors and government, to support this basic need across the neighbouring communities, and in our strategic areas of interest. We are actively developing infrastructure in schools, sponsoring students through bursaries as well as running adult and digital literacy projects.

In the near future, Lewa will extend its successful education programme model to the larger northern Kenya landscape in a collaborative effort with the Northern Rangelands Trust. This will help steer better educational opportunities for northern Kenya’s pastoral communities.

Lewa Education Programme's impact in 2015



Face lift for Elsa primary and secondary schools

In 2015, 27 infrastructure upgrades were carried out across our sponsored schools, ranging from new lavatories to fences, dining halls and classrooms. In this report, we highlight two cases.

Elsa primary and secondary schools lie north of Lewa, and the students of the schools have, over the years, endured learning within dilapidated facilities. The schools are also situated in an area frequently utilised by elephants as a corridor and habitat as they move back and forth across the northern Kenya landscape.

This overlap of a community need and a conservation imperative necessitated our involvement in the schools, serving to bring the larger Elsa community on board as conservation partners.



Students of Elsa Secondary School learning in one of the new classrooms. We are working to demonstrate to the Elsa community the ability of conservation to initiate sustainable development.

The two schools now have four new classrooms, two lavatories, an elephant fence and a water reservoir tank. These upgrades have greatly improved learning conditions for children in both schools, and equally improved the teachers' morale.

It is our hope to continue this engagement with the schools and contribute to further development in the area, while gaining conservation leverage within the community.

New facility for children with special needs at Ntumburi Primary School

Lack of sufficient funding across the Lewa-sponsored schools has hindered the development of appropriate facilities for children with special needs.

Ntumburi Primary School is one of the few in the region that has a programme running to support these children and last year we established a new centre to enhance their learning.

"The new facility creates a suitable learning environment for the children to acquire education and life skills. This is a project we are especially proud of, and are eager to witness its impact."
Faith Riunga, Education Programme Manager.



Children with special needs at Ntumburi Primary School now have a new facility to promote their learning and school experiences. The facility provides a fun and beautiful environment for the children.



The children and their teacher test a new sewing machine donated by Cheli & Peacock Community Trust. The new learning facility has created a platform that enables teachers to pass on skills to the children.

A second chance at education

What began as a programme to promote literacy among Lewa's unskilled staff has expanded to become a fully fledged adult literacy project under the broader education programme.

Today, we have six centres across the neighbouring communities, with a total of 263 students. The learners range in age, tribe and culture, but all had one thing in common when they began the classes – they never had an opportunity to go to school and achieve formal education, and this had created barriers for them in the modern world.

Last year, 21 learners graduated from the programme. 75-year-old Tabitha was one of these learners. Her journey with literacy began 10 years ago.



75-year-old can finally read and write!

Tabitha joined the classes to be able to help her grandchild, whom she cares for, study and do his homework. Additionally, her inability to read signage would often get her lost while travelling.

Like the majority of the other learners, she also had trouble keeping track of her finances or even filling out bank forms. Last year was a proud moment to have Tabitha as one of the adult learners who 'graduated' from the programme, and as part of showcasing her new skills, read her favourite bible verse to the entire class!

There is an increased opportunity to help more individuals such as Tabitha acquire basic education. Faith Riunga explains:

"Our plan for the next five years is to expand the reach and include more learners, and additionally, offer them a wider variety of skills to develop their potential.

It is truly amazing how determined the adult learners are, and how acquiring this basic need is enhancing their lives."

Developing libraries, a key learning resource

The Lewa Education Programme has helped establish libraries in Munanda, Kanyunga, Subuiga, Ntugi Secondary School and most recently, Lewa Downs Primary School. We are working with our partners to integrate a reading culture in the schools from an early age, and access to a library is crucial to this development.

The new library at Lewa School is a lively space for children to acquire knowledge and explore literature. Developed in partnership with the Charles and Rita Field-Marsham Foundation, the library is changing the way children in the school learn.

"80% of Kenya's schools have no library: We are improving this alarming statistic."

The Charles and Rita Field-Marsham Foundation.



The Lewa School library has created a fun and exciting space for children to learn. In 2015, the library was nominated for the Maktaba Awards, a country-wide recognition of libraries with an impact.

The library is also evolving into a resource of value to the wider community, beyond the school. Parents and teachers are visiting the facility to learn alongside the children, a tremendous step in cultivating intellectual interest.

In recognition of its contribution to the school and community, the library was one of the nominees at 2015's Maktaba Awards. The Maktaba Awards are a country-wide recognition of libraries with an impact, and it was an honour to receive the nomination barely a year after the library's establishment.



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Children are key if a society is to embrace conservation of wildlife and preservation of the environment. We are working to build passion for wildlife among the young and, in return, for them to extend this passion to their schools and homes.

Lewa's conservation education programme strives to extend the conservation message to various audiences, especially school going children, with the aim of transforming them into wildlife ambassadors. In northern Kenya, most children often interact with commonly occurring wildlife, but are taught very little about these animals, the country's endangered species or how to preserve their environment.

Our aim is to further these children's understanding of the importance of preserving Kenya's unique wildlife, discuss key conservation subjects and consequently, inspire them to stimulate conversations at home and at school.

"In the near future, these children will determine the fate of wildlife in our ecosystem. We are working to instill passion for wildlife and wild places," says Ephantus Mugo, the programme's coordinator.

The programme recently established a new dormitory to attract students from areas much further from Lewa. The dormitory itself is a teaching facility for conservation: it has been furnished with energy-saving stoves and a solar water heating system that both give an experiential learning opportunity on sustainable use of resources. There is an organic garden beside the dormitory kitchen that uses a drip system to demonstrate good water usage for agriculture and kitchen waste is being turned into fertiliser for the crops in the garden. For most of the students, these activities characterise their daily lives, and we are teaching them environmental friendly alternatives that can easily be translated back at home and in school.

This availability of accommodation on the Conservancy for visiting groups has greatly helped extend learning time while making it possible to receive more children from a wider geographical reach. Last year, the number of visitors increased by 18% as compared to 2014.

99

Groups visited Lewa last year under the programme

3,563

The total number of learners in 2015, an 18% increase from 2014



© Natalie Solveland

Potential ambassadors



© Frank AF Petersens

Mary Kagwiria and her friends visited Lewa last year. For most, it was their first time on a wildlife conservancy and a chance to see wild animals in their natural habitat.

"I had never seen a lion up close before coming to Lewa. They are big! We got to touch the taxidermy of Mufasa, and Ephantus told us interesting stories about him. I also had no idea that there are so few lions left in Kenya, I always assumed we have thousands in the national parks.

My friends and I will be active in our wildlife club back at school. I also hope to come back to Lewa again soon for another visit. I'm sure many more from our school will also want to come."

Mary Kagwiria, a student from Chogoria High School.

Alongside organising trips for the students to visit Lewa, the team is also actively working to establish and re-energise wildlife clubs in the neighbouring and visiting schools.

Since June of 2013, the team has managed to initiate wildlife clubs in 10 schools.

The students in these clubs are now committed to environmental protection and conservation of wildlife, and have taken responsibility to extend knowledge to their fellow students, parents and community members.

Making new friends



© Ami Vitale

The visiting school children were from Ngare Ndare Academy, west of Lewa. Many of them interact with zebras, impala and other abundant wildlife, but had never seen a rhino.

National Geographic photographer Ami Vitale, during her visit to document our work last year, captured this special moment:

"Kenyan school children meet an orphaned black rhino being carefully and lovingly raised by Lewa Wildlife Conservancy rangers.

It was the first opportunity for many of these children to see a rhino and for some, it will ignite their love of wild animals and passion for conservation."

It is easy to assume that most people in the country know about endangered

species, and have at least seen them. This unfortunately is not the case, mainly in consideration of the fact that most threatened wildlife, notably the rhino, exist in heavily protected areas.

Providing a platform for these children to interact with rare wildlife helps to create a connection and demystifies the belief that responsibility of these species' survival lies only with conservationists.

LIONS

BENEFIT

FROM LARGER LANDSCAPE

Lion numbers have continued to decline across the continent. Loss of habitat and human-lion conflict are the key causes of this decline, making it a conservation imperative to secure their existing habitats and re-establish former ranges.

The Lewa-Borana landscape is home to 34 lions, and the research teams are actively monitoring the population to record movement and behaviour. Last year, four young male lions from Lewa established territory at Borana. Yas, Jacob, Digby and Borana initially would only move back and forth between the two conservancies, but have now settled permanently on Borana.

Four young lion males moved from Lewa to establish territories on Borana. Safe ecosystems for lions are key in ensuring the species thrives.

This indicates that the lions are dispersing into suitable conservation areas within our geographic reach, and as a result, keeping them safe from roaming into human settlements. In the greater Laikipia-Samburu ecosystem, we are working with our conservation partners to understand lion movements and dispersal at a broader level which will consequently inform management decisions.

Geoffrey Chege, our Chief Conservation Officer, says:

“We have scaled up our lion monitoring efforts, and studying the dispersal of young males and females trying to find new homes is key in ensuring their survival. It is very good news to see lions making use of the bigger landscape that Lewa and Borana now offer. Lions moving to safe habitats across Kenya will contribute to stabilising their population and perpetuate growth.”

Upon removal of the fence between Lewa and Borana, a 93,000-acre area was created for the benefit of endangered species and other wildlife. Monitoring indicates that lions are increasingly making use of this expanded habitat.



© Martin Buzora

Population performance of key species on Lewa

Species	2013	2014	2015
Black rhino	62	67	72
White rhino	61	63	65
Grevy's zebra	296	287	325
Elephant	166	151	150
Giraffe	158	163	182
Lion	27	22	26
Buffalo	547	695	707

Key species have continued to thrive on Lewa for the past three years. The population of the endangered Grevy's zebra that has been fluctuating in the past is now stabilising.

Lewa is a critical connecting landscape for elephants migrating from Mount Kenya to the northern rangelands, and improved security in these areas has made it safer for the pachyderms to move with minimal threat. Giraffes have continued to exit and re-enter Lewa through our northern gap to access browse in Leparua Conservancy, and the removal of the Lewa-Borana

fence has provided the mega-herbivores a larger area to access resources.

Black and white rhino numbers continue to increase steadily, enabling us to provide animals to form founder populations in new sanctuaries. Buffalo numbers have also seen a gradual increase, and the species continues to play a key role in shaping grasslands by rejuvenating regrowth of grass for the benefit of endangered grazers.



© Ami Vitale

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

More than anything, our success is reflected by the degree to which Lewa's conservation efforts generate direct and indirect benefits for local communities, our most important conservation partners.



© Ami Vitale

THE COMMITMENT – We recognise the great partnership we have with our neighbouring communities and its invaluable contribution to our endangered species and habitat management. In return, we are committed to nurturing this relationship and using our resources to pioneer and lead development in the region.

THE CHALLENGE – There are numerous development needs across the communities, and unfortunately, not sufficient resources to meet these needs. The communities are also challenged by other factors, some external, such as sporadic weather patterns, general insecurity and political wrangles.

STRATEGY – We plan to continue nurturing the relationship with our neighbours while initiating projects to improve their lives. Recently, to enhance the relationship between Lewa and the adjoining communities, three liaison officers were recruited to be our listeners and voices in these areas.

As we continue to scale up our programmes in the neighbouring communities, the need to enhance communication and channels for feedback within our areas of operation has become increasingly important. The liaison officers, recruited from these communities, have already begun to fulfil this purpose.

Beyond lending money

For micro-credit programmes to be successful, it is vital to build the financial and business management capacity of the participants. We are working towards extending these skills to the women in our programme, and to ensuring that the benefits they get from joining the scheme are more than just the seed funding capital to begin businesses.

Last year, the Community Development Team ran a series of workshops that offered training in these skills. Though the workshops focused mostly on financial literacy and entrepreneurship, the women also gained knowledge in governance as well as personal development.

\$88,600 Total amount distributed to 742 women as small-scale loans in 2015

The programme has existed for only slightly more than a decade, but has had significant impact in improving the financial situation of more than 800 women. Last year, we began mobilisation workshops to encourage more women to join the scheme. Micro-finance can be a critical element of an effective poverty reduction strategy, and as we have recorded, it can help participants build assets gradually, enhance income earning capacity, and enjoy an improved quality of life.



Isabela Nkrote has been able to set up a tailoring business with her loan. The profit from her business is helping supplement her family's income, and consequently, improve their livelihood.

In 2015, Lewa and the Women's Micro finance Initiative (WMI) launched a partnership to improve support to the women in the programme. WMI is a non-profit based in USA, with operations in several African countries.

The partnership, in only its first year of existence, culminated in WMI offering support worth \$46,000. As a result, we were able to increase the amount of money available for women to borrow.

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

Working together

Lewa continues to build partnerships with development entities, county governments and many more for the benefit of our neighbours. Last year, the Conservancy and the county government collaborated on various infrastructure upgrades, such as the grading of this badly damaged community road.



Honourable Joy Karambu, area Member of County Assembly for Meru County government, and John Kinoti, Lewa's Community Development Manager, inspect a badly damaged community road before grading. In the last three months, close to 25kms of roads have been graded within the communities.

Youth engagement

Another key partnership developed last year was with the Centre for Youth Linkages and Empowerment to assist in exploring the potential of young people in the neighbouring communities. Sports was one of the ways identified to engage with the youth, and a football tournament was organised, drawing participation from 12 groups across different communities. The event, held on Lewa, provided an excellent platform for the youth to interact and share ideas in a competitive but friendly environment.

"We will continue working with the Centre for Youth Linkages and Empowerment and other partners to create similar opportunities for young people." John Kinoti, Community Development Manager.



One of the 12 teams that visited Lewa to participate in a football tournament. Sport is an exciting and fun platform for young people to interact, while providing opportunity to discuss development, conservation, entrepreneurship and more.



Lewa's four clinics are the nearest health centres to over 50,000 of our neighbours. Through our healthcare programme, we aim to improve their quality of life by providing timely, accessible and affordable services.

Lewa's Healthcare Team continues to provide critical services to neighbouring communities through clinics and outreach projects.

The programme offers curative and preventive healthcare, and its efforts continue to have great impact.

School health projects

The team conducts outreaches to neighbouring schools every term. During the visits last year, the nurses dewormed all the children, carried out vision screening and diagnosis, examined and treated commonly occurring diseases, as well as trained teachers how to handle sick students.

Since the team began actively carrying out these outreaches, the schools have recorded significant reduction in the rate of intestinal parasites among the children, and a decline in school absenteeism from students seeking medical attention for preventable diseases. Jigger infestation is also rapidly on the decline.

More services now offered at the clinics

The Lewa clinics have significantly expanded services available to patients in response to the communities' most pressing health needs. The clinics at Lewa and Leparua

now have Mothers' Health Facilities that enable deliveries and efficient maternal care.

Last year, seven mothers were able to deliver children safely at these clinics. For the Leparua community, this is an especially vital service – the clinic is the only health centre in the region, and for most mothers, now offers a modern alternative to traditional midwives during childbirth.

Other new services offered at the Lewa clinic include outpatient dental services, cervical cancer screening and ophthalmologic eye care.

Mobile clinics

41 mobile visits were carried out last year, enabling the provision of basic healthcare to remote communities.

In two cases, Lewa's intervention turned out to be life-changing when the Conservancy secured advanced medical help for two children with chronic illnesses. Karen Kinanu, thanks to kind support from Karen Hospital Foundation, underwent a successful heart surgery to repair a condition known in layman's terms as a hole in the heart. Bridget Mwendwa, with help from Lewa Switzerland, will receive attention from orthopaedic surgeons this year.

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

"Before the establishment of the clinics and the Lewa Healthcare Programme, many sick or injured people in the neighbouring communities would have to walk for kilometres to access healthcare. We are proud to see how our programme has contributed to providing this basic need and in return, saving lives and promoting healthier communities."

Lucy Ndirangu, Chief Administrative Officer.

QUICK NUMBERS

7,500

Estimated number of students from 26 schools that benefited from outreach programmes last year. The children were dewormed, treated for jiggers and other common ailments.



644

Number of patients treated for various diseases and ailments during mobile clinic visits to remote communities.



18,025

Number of patients who visited the four Lewa clinics for services that included treatment for diseases, maternal health and more.

810

Children immunised against diseases like tuberculosis, polio, measles and tetanus. Health checks were also carried on the children throughout the year.



Improving livelihoods

ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE



Veterinary intervention

CARING FOR WILDLIFE

Key species	No.	Main reasons for intervention
Rhino	29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Translocation• Sprains and fractures• Wounds• Diseases
Elephant	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human-elephant conflict mitigation• Snares• Diseases• Fixing of tracking collars
Lion	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rescues• Fractures and sprains• Fixing of tracking collars

Lewa's resident Kenya Wildlife Service Vet, Dr. Matthew Mutinda, is a busy man. As one of the few vets operating in this region, he traverses northern Kenya attending to sick and injured wildlife, participates in translocations and rescues, and also helps in mitigating human-wildlife conflict.

The vet programme is a regional asset that cares for wildlife in need. Last year, northern Kenya witnessed a reduction in elephant and rhino poaching, and as a result, Dr. Mutinda and his team attended to fewer animals with bullet wounds and injuries. Majority of the cases that needed intervention included translocations and efforts to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.

In his line of work, Dr. Mutinda encounters many special moments while saving animal lives. Here are two of his highlights from last year, outlined by the vet himself.

Removing a wire from an elephant's leg

I received a call from Sosian, a ranch in Laikipia, west of Lewa, about a terribly injured elephant. We drove there immediately and found our 'patient'. Visual sighting confirmed that a wire had dug deeply into the elephant's right leg.

My immediate priorities were to relieve the elephant's suffering and of course, treat the leg. If left unattended, the wound would have eventually made the elephant immobile, and as a result, an easy target for poachers. I was determined to ensure that did not happen. The situation was made even more urgent upon us noticing that the elephant had a very young calf that still needed its mother's nourishing.

The wire had been eating into the elephant's flesh for quite a while. With great help from the Sosian team, we immobilised her, and once stabilised, proceeded to remove the wire and clean the septic wound. We also injected her with drugs for pain relief and antibiotics to fight infection. 30 minutes later, with the wire removed and the wound cleaned, she woke up and reunited with her calf. The team at Sosian monitored the elephant for a week and recorded gradual recovery. Needless to say, I was immensely thrilled!

X-ray helps to save lion in Samburu

Lengwe, a male lion from the Koitogor Pride in Samburu National Reserve, was spotted by lion conservation group, Ewaso Lions, with a broken leg. The vet team was called to attend to the injured lion, and we acted swiftly to the call – lions have faced drastic decline and as a result, are a high focus species for us veterinarians in Kenya.



Lengwe turned out to not only be injured but emaciated as a result of his compromised health. The broken leg was a fracture whose exact cause we couldn't identify, though most probably from a hunting expedition gone wrong.

The case was complex – the animal was obviously limping but it was impossible to identify the exact injury. However, quick thinking by Ewaso Lions and the team enabled us to get X-ray diagnostic equipment and use it on Lengwe to find out what we needed to know in order to treat him.



The X-ray was invaluable – we were able to see the fracture and assess the damage. It was at the head of the femoral bone, and we offered the lion treatment based on that. Afterwards, the Ewaso Lions team kept track of him, and noticed he was able to survive thanks to his pride, who helped him by bringing food.

Three months later, Lengwe was observed to have improved dramatically, and was even spotted hunting again with his pride!

Nurturing future wildlife vets

Lewa is currently running a vet internship programme to offer students from Kenya and across the world an opportunity to learn on-ground conservation work. These students witness the direct impact of a wildlife veterinarian on saving key species, an experience far beyond the classroom.

Brydie Hughes from Australia knew she wanted to help save animals, and took the chance to visit Dr. Mutinda before joining university. She is certain the experience cemented her desire to join the field. She says:

"I stayed at Marwell Cottage on Lewa Wildlife Conservancy for two weeks in October 2015. I was hoping to study veterinary science at this stage and was able to complete an internship with Dr. Mutinda. It was an amazing experience that definitely cemented my desire to pursue a career as a veterinarian and Dr. Mutinda's reference helped my application.



Brydie Hughes participates in a giraffe intervention during her internship with Dr. Mutinda. The Australian native visited Lewa last year and she states that the experience has cemented her desire to be a vet.

I am now studying Vet Science at home in Australia and loving it. Whilst on Lewa I observed and assisted in wildlife operations with giraffes, rhinos, elephants, serval cats and dogs. I had never experienced anything like this! I fell in love with the northern Kenyan landscape, and the people of Lewa are some of the most welcoming, fun-loving and generous people I have met and I hope we will continue to stay in contact. The Lewa staff are so organised and made the whole experience very smooth and enjoyable. I can't wait to visit Lewa again one day!"

We wish Brydie and the other students who visited us last year all the best as they train to become the next generation of conservationists.



Dr. Mutinda treating an elephant with a wire around its leg at Sosian Ranch, Laikipia. If left untreated, the elephant would have ended up immobile, making it an easy target for poachers. It was also a mother to a young calf which made the case even more desperate.

VISIT US

EXPERIENCE LEWA

A trip to Lewa is more than just a regular safari. The Conservancy offers an intimate journey through our proud history, hard work over the years, and present efforts in saving endangered species while developing neighbouring communities.

Lewa's landscape is characterised by stunning flora and fauna, and to the west, Borana offers equally unspoilt and diverse wilderness. Unique experiences such as tracking with our resident bloodhounds, visits to Lewa-sponsored projects and more, make the trip a once in a lifetime

experience. For every person who visits the Conservancy, Lewa earns conservation fees, vital funds that contribute to our running costs.

8,414

Total number of nights spent on Lewa
by tourists last year



© Jeff Waweru

The 2015 Safaricom marathon was a great success, attracting 1,400 participants from all over the world. The race has truly cemented itself as a unique sporting event with tremendous global appeal. Last year, the event raised \$640,000, funds that have supported numerous conservation and development projects on Lewa and beyond.

Lewa is home to five spectacular lodges, and together, the entire Conservancy can host up to 102 visitors.

Plan your holiday or special event with us and enjoy the beauty and wonder of what we are working hard to protect.



© Lewa House

The Lewa Finance Department, in line with its mandate, continued to observe that the set financial procedures and controls were adhered to and that timely and accurate reporting continued to inform and direct the management decision making process, while ensuring statutory compliance.

Below is a list of our income and expenditure for the year 2015. Lewa relies on donations, grants and tourism to run its operations, and we remain grateful for the support.

Income	USD \$
Donations to specific projects	2,137, 501.48
Support to core programmes	1, 653, 813.45
Conservation fees from tourism and other lodge activities	751, 603.41
Total income	4,542,918.34

Expenditure	USD \$
Wildlife Conservation	
Security	1, 232, 304. 60
Conservation administration	1, 065, 598.75
Logistics and infrastructure	34,068.62
Wildlife activities	451, 374. 56
Community Programmes	
Community development	139, 209. 86
Education	1, 253, 761. 36
Healthcare	170, 521
Sustainability	
Tourism	83, 604. 12
Marketing and fundraising	106, 459. 87
Total expenditure	4, 536, 902. 74



The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy occupies only 61,000 acres on northern Kenya's massive landscape but its role as the model and anchor of conservation in this ecologically, socially and economically vital region ensures that Lewa's influence and support extends far beyond its borders.

Working closely with the communities, local authorities, Borana Conservancy, the Northern Rangelands Trust and other strategic partners, Lewa continues to catalyse conservation in the region by providing technical, infrastructural and managerial support, recognising that regional success of conservation and community development holds the key to creating a sustainable and harmonised landscape for both human beings and wildlife to thrive. To achieve this, we need your help:

Donate Online

To make an online donation from anywhere in the world, simply visit our website and click on the Support Lewa tab. Select the country or region that applies to you to make the donation.

By Cheque

Our overseas teams make it easy for you to give. Please email any of the below representatives.

Visit Us

The most enjoyable way you can help Lewa is simply by visiting us! Lewa is world renown for its outstanding, low impact tourism practises. For every day a visitor stays on Lewa, we earn conservation fees, funds that contribute to our annual running costs. Make a booking to stay in one our five unique lodges today! Take a tour on our website for more information.

Attend our events

Lewa regularly hosts events across the globe to raise funds to support our numerous programmes. Please visit the website or contact our overseas representatives who will inform you of events coming up in their countries. You can also participate in the Safaricom Marathon held every year on Lewa to raise funds for community conservation.

Stay in touch

One of the easiest ways to support Lewa's efforts is by signing up to receive our news. Please email info@lewa.org to be added to our mailing list.



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The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy gratefully acknowledges and appreciates all the support it receives from around the world. The following individuals and groups contributed US\$500 or more to Lewa in the year 2015. We are grateful for every gift, including anonymous donors and those who gave less than US\$500, each of which is an investment towards Africa's future. We apologise for any errors or omissions in recognising our donors. Kindly inform us of any corrections.

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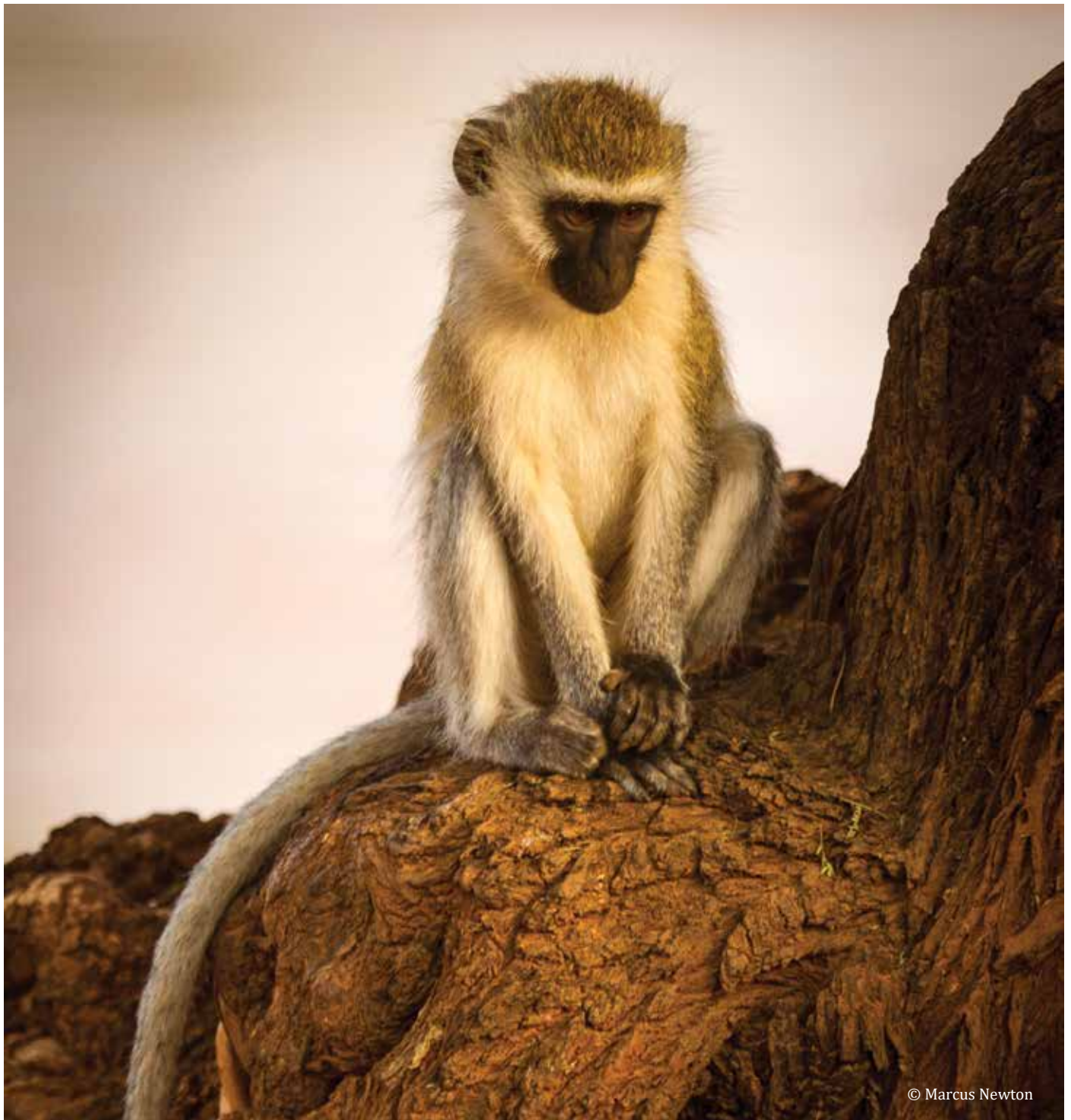
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The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy works as a model and catalyst for the conservation of wildlife and its habitat. It does this through the protection and management of species, the initiation and support of community conservation and development programmes, and the education of neighbouring areas in the value of wildlife.

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