

THE LEWA STANDARD



February 2014

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INTRODUCTION

The Lewa Standard is LWC’s conservation ethos. It establishes a set of guiding principles for the management and stakeholders of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. The ethos and attendant guiding principles serve to ensure that the Conservancy is managed to the highest standards, in the context of the following core objectives:

1. The conservation of biodiversity, the maintenance of ecosystem integrity and function, and the minimisation of environmental impact.
2. The maintenance of aesthetic value.
3. The generation of a significant financial contribution to conservation, without compromising core conservation objectives.
4. The generation of demonstrable value for local communities, through education, healthcare, and development, in a manner that is linked to conservation.

In managing a complex protected area such as Lewa, there will be times when multiple core objectives are in tension with each other, and their relative priority needs to be established. The Standard aims to guide the weight each objective is given in differing circumstances, ensuring management interventions are both compliant and practical. When in doubt, relative priority will be established by the Lewa Standard Management Committee in the first instance, and referred to the Executive Committee (Excom) of the Board of Directors as necessary.

The Lewa Standard aims to ensure that, as a leading private sector conservation organisation, LWC sets and maintains the highest possible conservation standards in Kenya – with a view to sustaining Lewa’s status as a model for conservation, to providing a high quality tourism experience, and to attracting dedicated philanthropic support.

The Standard will assist Lewa’s management in their efforts to ensure that the Conservancy achieves its mission – to work as a catalyst for wildlife conservation, through the protection and management of species and their habitat, the support of community conservation initiatives, and the education of neighbouring communities in the value of wildlife.

NOTE: The Lewa Standard should be read in conjunction with the Lewa Code of Conduct

THE LEWA STANDARD

1. GOVERNANCE AND THE LEWA STANDARD

- The LWC’s Board of Directors will establish policy within the Conservancy that ensures that all persons employed by, working on, living in, or visiting the Conservancy understand and actively contribute to sustained implementation of the Lewa Standard within the Conservancy.
- The LWC’s Board of Directors will take all possible steps to inspire policy within the LWC’s external spheres of influence that stimulates understanding of, and contribution to, the sustained implementation of the principles embodied by the Lewa Standard.
- The Lewa Standard will be a Board approved document.
- The LWC’s Executive Committee (Excom) will act as the arm of governance for the Lewa Standard, and also as the body providing dispute arbitration as required.
- The Lewa Standard will be upheld by all residents, stakeholders, and employees of the Conservancy.

2. MANAGEMENT OF THE LEWA STANDARD

- The LWC’s Executive Management Team will consistently strive to develop and maintain the management systems required to support the sustained implementation of the Lewa Standard.
- The Lewa Standard Management Committee will be responsible for application of the Lewa Standard. This Committee will comprise the LWC Chief Executive Officer, LWC Chief Conservation Officer (Chair), LWC Chief Security Officer, LWC Logistics Manager (Lewa Standard Officer), 1 member representing Lewa’s tourism operators and 1 member representing residents
- The Lewa Standard Management Committee will report directly to Excom on all issues pertaining to the Lewa Standard. Meetings will be minuted and minutes will be made available to all stakeholders upon request to Excom through the CEO.
- Any concerns in relation to adherence to the Lewa Standard should be reported to the LWC Chief Conservation Officer (Chair of the Lewa Standard Committee) or the

LWC Logistics Manager (Lewa Standard Officer).

- Any contravention of the Standard will be dealt with in the first instance by the Lewa Standard Management Committee. The Committee will have the option to refer contraventions of greater severity to Excom as necessary.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT

- The LWC Code of Conduct sets out the rules and regulations under which all those within the Conservancy will conduct day to day activities. See Appendix 1.

4. BIODIVERSITY / WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

- The Conservancy will be managed with so as to conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem integrity and function, and minimise environmental impact, in accordance with all relevant Kenyan legislation (the Wildlife Act, the Environmental Management & Coordination Act).
- Consumptive utilisation of wildlife will not be practiced within LWC. In a situation where wildlife numbers need to be reduced, translocation will be the preferred option.
- Problem Animal Control (PAC) / wildlife intervention will only be conducted under authorisation from the Chief Conservation Officer, in accordance with the LWC PAC policy.
- Only indigenous species (fauna and flora) will be introduced to the Conservancy, taking into account their natural distribution, genetic compatibility, and habitat requirements, with the exception of white rhinoceros.
- The Conservancy will adhere to a policy of restricting the introduction and ensuring the removal of exotic plant species, except for non invasive vegetables, fruit trees, flowers or herbs planted in designated areas, where they will not impact wildlife behaviour. Extractive use of indigenous plant resources will not be permitted.

5. TOURISM

- Tourism within the Conservancy will be managed to generate a significant financial contribution to conservation, without compromising core conservation objectives, by

targeting the mid to high end segment of the tourist market.

- Tourism densities within the Conservancy will not exceed 1 commercial bed / 380 acres.
- Guiding standards will be maintained by implementation of the Lewa Guide Standard which will include a written exam, a driving course, and, where relevant, a “walking with dangerous game” course. This will be a prerequisite for any guide operating within the Conservancy – See Appendix 2.
- All those game driving or walking within LWC will be expected to walk / drive with a duly qualified, duly registered authorised person. The signing of a waiver / disclaimer in regard to LWC liability will be a prerequisite to walking or driving within LWC.
- A list of authorised people will be produced by Lewa Standard Management Committee.

6. SECURITY

- Security within the Conservancy will be managed to provide maximum levels of security to people, wildlife, habitat, and moveable and immoveable assets, with minimum visual and/or audible profile where practical, contingent on the security threat as assessed by the LWC Executive Management Team.
- All resident / operator interaction with LWC security personnel will recognise the structure of LWC security systems and the chain of command.

7. RESEARCH AND MONITORING

- Research and monitoring will be focused on providing information that is of direct management relevance, and that will guide any intervention required to achieve biodiversity conservation objectives.

8. INFRASTRUCTURE

- Infrastructure development will be kept to an absolute minimum.
- Infrastructure developments / refurbishments, including but not restricted to buildings, external power systems, roads, airfields, water storage provision and waste

facilities, will be conducted with the objective of being fit for purpose with minimum visual and/or audible profile.

- Any development / refurbishment of infrastructure will follow the 'planning permission' process set out in Appendix 3 and adhere to the 'building criteria' set out in Appendix 3.1.
- The Lewa Standard Management Committee will ensure that all infrastructure development complies with NEMA (EIA) requirements, and, where necessary, is subject to county council planning permission.
- The number of residential abodes (non employees) within LWC will not exceed 1 abode per 3500 acres.

9. VEHICLES

- Vehicles within the Conservancy will be operated with minimum visual and audible profile within the parameters of achieving the purpose for which they are being used.
- Limits to the number of vehicles operated by stakeholders / tour operators / employees (private vehicles only) within the Conservancy are shown below:
 - a. Lodge / Tour operators tourist vehicles – 1 vehicle / 4 tourist beds
 - b. Tour operators' logistics / admin. vehicles – 1 lorry / tractor and 1 pick-up type
 - c. Residential abodes personal transport – 2 vehicles / abode
 - d. Residential abodes logistics / admin. vehicles – 1 lorry or pick-up type
 - e. No motorcycles will be used by tour operators or residents.

These figures represent the limits to number of vehicles allowed **on the LWC road network** at any one time, per resident, operator and / or lodge.

- Movement of residents' and non tourist carrying tour operators work related vehicles (including supply vehicles) will be kept to a minimum and wherever possible restricted to access routes only (see Appendix 4).
- Numbers and movement of Conservancy (including NRT) work related vehicles will be kept to a minimum and wherever possible restricted to access routes only.

NOTE: Vehicle livery requirements under the Lewa Standard are detailed within the Code of Conduct.

10. AVIATION

- Aircraft operating within the Conservancy will do so with minimum visual and audible profile within the parameters of achieving the purpose for which they are being used.
- No fly zones / routes for non LWC management aircraft will be developed by the Lewa Standard Management Committee.

NOTE: Certain specific restrictions pertaining to aircraft operating within Conservancy 'airspace' are also detailed within the Code of Conduct.

11. WATER

- The management of water as a resource will be subject to sustainable utilisation and in accordance with existing licensing regulations of the Water Resource Management Authority, relevant Water Resource Users Association, and NEMA.
- Lawns and gardens, including vegetable gardens will be maintained utilising water within the limitations as stipulated in permits. In the event of water shortages, restrictions will be implemented on a priority user basis.
- An LWC 'water use & management' document will be produced by the Logistics Manager in consultation with the Lewa Standard Management Committee.

12. WASTE MANAGEMENT

- The management of all waste within the Conservancy will entail responsible disposal and recycling wherever possible.
- An LWC waste disposal / management document will be produced by the Logistics Manager in consultation with the Lewa Standard Management Committee.
- The 'planning permission' process allows for the Lewa Standard Management Committee's assessment of and recommendation on all methods of waste disposal within the Conservancy.

13. ENERGY & EMISSIONS

- All methods of energy provision within the Conservancy will be fit for purpose with minimum visual and audible profile.
- Sustainable renewable energy systems such as but not restricted to solar and wind power are preferred and will be adopted wherever practical.
- LWC and its stakeholders are committed to reducing Lewa’s carbon footprint. To this end an integrated programme of progressive conversion to renewable energy provision will be developed such that Lewa will achieve a 50% reduction in its current (2010) Carbon footprint by 2020.
- The principle of utilising national grid power wherever practical will be followed, given that it is largely generated from renewable sources (hydro & geothermal).
- Existing diesel generated power systems will be phased out wherever practical and where impractical inverter systems with storage capacity will be introduced.

NOTE: Application for permission to deploy any external, visible energy source systems within the Conservancy is a requirement under the Lewa Standard, via the ‘planning permission’ process set out in Appendix 3.

14. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT / LIVESTOCK GRAZING

- Adaptive range management will utilise various techniques including but not restricted to livestock grazing, burning and grass cutting will be continued.
- Livestock management within the Conservancy will be conducted in accordance with the ‘Livestock Grazing Management plan’ of January 2009 and the LWC / Community Livestock grazing agreement, May 2009.
- Extractive use of indigenous plant resources will only be allowed where it does not compromise biodiversity objectives or have any detrimental long term effect on ecological function; recognising that in certain circumstances the aesthetic value of a specific area may justify limited extraction. This will be subject to Lewa Standard Management Committee authorisation. Firewood collection is not permitted in the Conservancy.
- Lease agreements will define restricted forms of land use, such as, but not restricted to, commercial agriculture and commercial quarrying.

15. COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- All community development, education, and healthcare support provided by the Conservancy will adhere to the Lewa Standard.

16. ORPHAN / HABITUATED WILDLIFE & DOMESTIC ANIMALS

- Under the Wildlife Act of Kenya, all wildlife is owned by the state. The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy has no authority to raise wildlife which has been orphaned, and therefore the responsibility for hand rearing all orphaned wildlife within the Conservancy will be governed by KWS.
- Any domestic animals within residential properties should be controlled and constrained within the confines of the property. Limits on numbers and types of domestic animals allowed within residential properties will be defined under lease agreements.
- For LWC staff, only Senior Management will be allowed domestic animals (cats and / or dogs only). Dogs must be suitably trained and/or constrained at all times, and if perceived to hunt or harass wildlife in any way, then, following two written warnings, the dog concerned will be excluded from Lewa.

Appendix 1:	Code of Conduct
Appendix 2:	Lewa Guide Standards
Appendix 3:	Application for Planning Permission
Appendix 3.1:	Building Criteria
Appendix 4:	MAP – Access Routes
Appendix 5	MAP – Off Road Driving Restrictions