



CHILD PROTECTION & DONOR RELATIONS POLICY

Lewa Education Programme

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy protects endangered wildlife within a balanced ecosystem supporting local communities to engage in conservation and its benefits. Lewa is committed to leveraging the protection of wildlife via enabling sustainable development throughout neighboring communities. The goal of community development is approached through numerous avenues, most notably education, healthcare, empowerment for women, sustainable agriculture training, and access to safe and sustainable water sources.

Poverty, drought, and unsustainable population growth have the potential to define this arid region that is populated by more than nine different tribes and has a history of instability. Instability thrives on poverty and, by helping to build sustainable systems for education and socio economic growth, Lewa has created a model of development and poverty alleviation that is now being replicated across northern Kenya.

One of Lewa's most significant achievements in reducing poverty throughout our neighbouring communities has been through education. In less than a decade, the Lewa Education Programme (LEP) has expanded its outreach to more than 39 schools and over 11,000 deserving students in the surrounding communities.

The programme continues to expand every year, and as the scope grows it is no longer possible for Lewa to manage and supervise the one-to-one relationships between students and their supporters. With this in mind, Lewa has created **policy guidelines** to effectively manage the LEP, while ensuring the protection of **children, donors and Lewa as an organization**. This within the framework set out in the [Kenya National Council for Children's Services: Plan of Action for Children 2022](#). This policy comes into force on March 1st, 2018 and will be reviewed again in March 2019.

In terms of this policy, any individual who is 17 years of age or below is considered to be a child.

Guidelines:

- Lewa promotes and protects the best interests of children at all times;

- Lewa support children of all faiths, cultures and ethnicities without bias or preference;
- Lewa’s programmes provide a positive and safe environment where children can develop to their full potential;
- Children are rights bearers and partners in community development, and Lewa values their views and input to develop the programmes that impact them;
- Lewa has a zero tolerance policy of child abuse;
- The strengthening of child-protection systems in communities leads to sustainable community development and improved stability in the region;
- Lewa condemns all forms of child abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation and will ensure no harm comes to any child as a result of their involvement in any of Lewa’s programmes.

Expectations

- **Lewa**
 - Lewa Education Program is responsible for running an education and conservation education programme for communities surrounding Lewa and in parts of Northern Kenya.
 - Lewa is at liberty to decline any donor support if support is not fully aligned with the Conservancy’s strategic objectives and / or it is felt that children’s rights are at risk of being compromised.
- **Donors**
 - Lewa Education Programme donors will support children under Lewa Education Programme and abide by this policy.
- **Students and guardians**
 - Student and guardians are expected to conform with the LEP policy for eligibility for the support programme.

Rights and Requirements

DONORS

1. Children must be accompanied by a member of LEP staff in any meetings with their supporters.
2. All children must be treated with respect and dignity.

3. Children may not visit donor's accommodation or be invited to attend meetings outside of the LEP's scheduled activities.
4. Donors are requested to be respectful and observant of local and regional norms of community culture.
5. Donors must stop any interaction with a child if he/she appears uncomfortable or says no.
6. Under no circumstances will donors give children alcohol, nicotine products or drugs.
7. Donors must always ask before taking or sharing photos of a child.
8. Under no circumstances will donors engage in inappropriate behavior, physical contact and/or have sex with a child and/or ask/demand sexual favors.
9. All adults are responsible for their behaviour with a child, even if a child appears to be acting seductively.
10. Donors will not expose children to sexual materials, or abuse them through non-contact sexual activity or innuendo.
11. All gifts must be approved and given in the presence of LEP staff.
12. Donors should be in view of another adult when with a child. i.e. Do not spend time alone with a child. This is for both the protection of the child and the protection of the donor from false accusations.
13. Do not psychologically and/or verbally abuse any child.
14. All visits with children must be held between 8.00am and 5.00pm. Sleepovers at donors' accommodation are not allowed.

LEWA STAFF

1. Lewa staff will go to any length to protect children from any form of abuse or mistreatment.
2. Lewa staff will treat all children with respect and dignity.
3. Lewa staff will not ask children for any sexual favours or expose them to sexual materials of any kind.
4. Lewa staff will not physically abuse any child.
5. Lewa staff will not verbally or psychologically abuse a child.
6. Lewa staff are always responsible for their behaviour with a child even if a child appears to be acting seductively
7. Lewa staff will respect donors' privacy and will not divulge any personal or contact information unless given direct consent by donor.
8. Lewa staff will respect the privacy of children and their families and will not divulge any personal or contact information unless given direct consent from the child and / or guardian.

SPONSORED STUDENTS & GUARDIANS

1. Sponsored students and their guardians will communicate with donors through the

LEP office.

2. Sponsored students and their guardians will not solicit gifts, money or favors from Lewa donors.
3. Sponsored students and their guardians will treat all donors and staff with respect and dignity.
4. Sponsored students and their guardians should be comfortable to say “no”, “stop” or to remove themselves from uncomfortable situations and report immediately to a member of the Lewa staff.
5. Sponsored students can only travel with their donor if they have clear permission from their parent or guardian.
6. Children who are below 18 years of age will not be allowed to travel overseas to visit their donor.