



THE LEWA STANDARD

JANUARY 2023

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
GUIDING PRINCIPLES.....	3
AIMS/OBJECTIVES OF THE STANDARD	4
GOVERNANCE AND THE LEWA STANDARD	4
MANAGEMENT OF THE LEWA STANDARD	4
CODE OF CONDUCT	4
GENERAL CONDUCT.....	5
VEHICLES	6
SAFETY.....	9
CAMPING	10
PEOPLE AND CUSTOMS – VISITORS TO IL NGWESI/TASSIA	10
TRAVERSING	11
AVIATION.....	11
BIODIVERSITY/WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT	12
TOURISM.....	13
SECURITY.....	14
RESEARCH AND MONITORING.....	14
INFRASTRUCTURE.....	14
WATER.....	15
WASTE MANAGEMENT	16
ENERGY AND EMISSIONS.....	16
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT/LIVESTOCK GRAZING.....	17
COMMUNITY SUPPORT	17
ORPHAN/HABITUATED WILDLIFE AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS.....	17



INTRODUCTION

The Lewa Standard is Lewa Wildlife Conservancy'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.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Lewa Standard's main objectives are:

- The Conservation of biodiversity while maintaining the ecosystem's integrity and function and the minimisation of environmental impact;
- The maintenance of aesthetic value;
- Increasing the financial contribution to conservation without compromising the core objectives of the Conservancy;
- Integration of value for local communities through various programs such as education, healthcare and development with a strong linkage to conservation.

If there is any conflict between the multiple core principles that Lewa runs on, the Standard aims to guide the weight that each principle is given in differing circumstances. This will be done while 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 ARC (Audit and Risk Committee) as necessary.

AIMS/OBJECTIVES OF THE STANDARD

The Lewa Standard intends to ensure that Lewa sets and maintains the highest possible conservation standard in Kenya with the aim to sustain Lewa's status as a model for conservation, provide a high-quality tourism experience and attract 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**.

GOVERNANCE AND THE LEWA STANDARD

Lewa's Board of Directors will establish a policy within the Conservancy that ensures that all persons interacting with the Conservancy understand and actively contribute to sustaining the Lewa Standard within the Conservancy.

The Lewa Standard is a board-approved document. The Lewa ARC will act as the arm of governance for the Lewa Standard, and also as the body providing dispute arbitration as required. All residents, stakeholders and employees of the Conservancy will uphold the Lewa Standard.

MANAGEMENT OF THE LEWA STANDARD

Any concerns about adherence to the Lewa Standard should be reported to the Lewa Head of Operations and copied to the CEO.

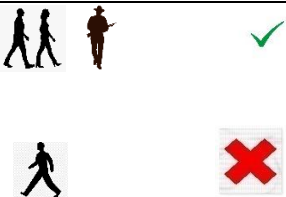
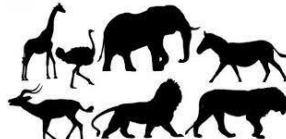




Any contravention of the Standard will be dealt with in the first instance by the Lewa Standard Management Committee. The Committee will have the option to refer violations of greater severity to ARC as necessary.

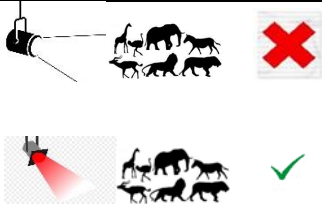


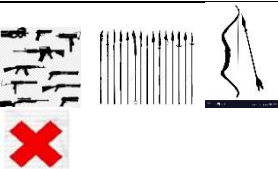



CODE OF CONDUCT

The Lewa Code of Conduct sets out the rules and regulations under which all those within the Conservancy will conduct their day-to-day activities.

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy reserves the right of access and may ask anyone perceived to be causing disturbance or damage to the environment to leave the Conservancy.













GENERAL CONDUCT






NO.	ILLUSTRATION	RULE
1.		<p>Unsupervised or unauthorized walking in LWC is prohibited unless guests or residents are guided by an authorized, armed guide with appropriate knowledge of walking with 'dangerous game'.</p> <p>Guests who choose to conduct unauthorized walking in the conservancy without an armed guide will be personally liable for any accidents or risks encountered.</p>
2.		Wildlife always has the right of way.
3.		<p>No lighting of fires is allowed, except those controlled by lodge staff and/or management. If a fire is started at a sundowner or BB site, it must be contained within a cubicle with no remains left behind.</p>
4.		Discarding litter or cigarette butts is strictly prohibited. All litter must be trashed in a designated bin.
5.		<p>Making unnecessary noise is discouraged when viewing wildlife. Keep your distance and ensure the vehicle's engine is switched off.</p>
6.		All necessary precautions should be taken when visiting the 'animal blinds'. An authorized guide

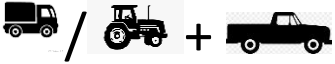



		must accompany visitors during the ‘animal blind’ visits.
7.		Spotlights can be disturbing to wildlife; use them sensitively and responsibly. Exposing wild animals to the light of the spotlights is not allowed. Red filters are compulsory, and white lights are strictly prohibited.
8.		Damaging or removing any flora, fauna, stones or bones from the conservancy is highly forbidden.
9.		Use of mobile phones during game drives or when driving is discouraged.
10.		No firearms, spears, or bows and arrows of any kind are to be allowed in the Conservancy without the specific knowledge of the Wildlife / Security Manager.
11.		Collection of firewood is highly prohibited.
12.		Any human wildlife-related cases of contraventions concerning this code should be reported to any senior LWC staff or the LWC radio room.
13.		To secure exclusive services, contact the Lewa Ops Room to book a game drive, a sundowner location, the lion tracker, walking routes, and visits to hand-reared or orphaned animals, e.g., baby rhinos.

VEHICLES




NO.	ILLUSTRATION	RULE
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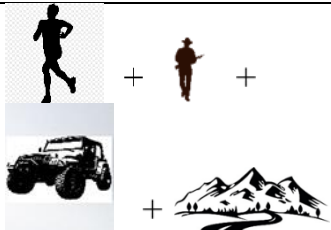
1.		Driving is restricted to a maximum speed limit of 40kph.
2.		Game drives within LWC are to be conducted by/with authorized individuals only.
3.		Vehicles carrying LWC paying guests on game drives have the right of way, and management or resident vehicles must be considered in this regard.
4.		Game viewing vehicles should pull off to the side of the road/track whilst game viewing.
5.	 	Overcrowding of vehicles while viewing wildlife distresses the animals and is therefore prohibited. A strict maximum of three vehicles viewing an animal at a time is permitted. A maximum of 10 minutes is allowed for a vehicle to view wild animals. This should be exercised with much consideration for others. All vehicles waiting at a site must be at least 200 metres away.
6.	 	Driving 'off-road in core areas (see map) is not permitted. In other areas it is discouraged, except under exceptional circumstances. Driving 'off-road' during the rainy season is strictly prohibited in all areas.
7.	 	Vehicles should maintain a minimum distance of 20 metres from the game unless the game has approached the vehicle.
8.	 GREEN BROWN 	4x4 vehicles with a shade of green or brown are permitted in the LWC.

		Mini-buses are restricted but only allowed during the LWC Safaricom Marathon, which is subject to authority from LWC Executive Management.
9.		When necessary, 'non-conforming/operations/supply' vehicles may use designated routes in LWC, primarily the access route to Leparua and the government road. Authorization from the CEO or Head of Operations must be sought before any other access by non-conforming vehicles (see map).
10.		It is strictly prohibited to feed wildlife from vehicles, in the wild, or at your lodge, home, or office. This leads to unnecessary dependence and possibly results in eventual harm to the animal. It encourages the animals to become familiar with human beings in the Conservancy and may eventually lead to injuries being sustained by humans as a result of the animals getting too close to them. LWC management is allowed to operate wildlife feeding programs from time to time, generally under drought conditions.
11.		Vehicles within the Conservancy will be operated with a minimum visual and audible profile within the parameters of achieving the purpose for which they are being used.
12.		Limits to the number of vehicles operated by stakeholders/tour operators/employees (private vehicles only) within the Conservancy are shown below:

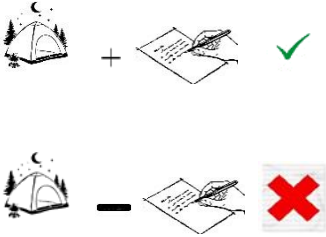
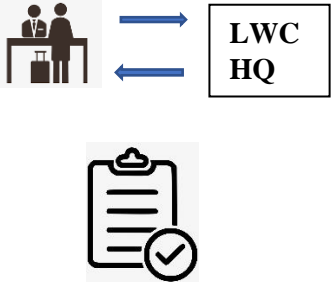



	   	<p>Lodge / Tour operators' tourist vehicles – 1 vehicle / 4 tourist beds</p> <p>Tour operators' operations / admin. vehicles – 1 lorry/tractor and 1 pick-up type</p> <p>Residential abodes personal transport – 2 vehicles/abode</p> <p>Residential abodes operations / admin. vehicles – 1 lorry or pick-up type</p> <p>No motorcycles will be used by tour operators or residents.</p> <p>These figures represent the limits to the number of vehicles allowed on the Lewa road network at any one time, per resident, operator and/or lodge.</p>
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SAFETY

NO.	ILLUSTRATION	RULE
1.	 	<p>Walking away from your lodge, camp, house, or vehicle while in the Conservancy is only permitted in the company of a guide armed with a rifle of at least .762 or .308 calibre and with the authority of the Head of Conservation and Wildlife or the Head of General Security. The guide must be competent in handling 'dangerous game'.</p>
2.		<p>Armed guides must have a valid firearms license for the appropriate weapon.</p>




3.		Running as a form of exercise in the Conservancy is only permitted when accompanied by a vehicle and an authorized armed guide or ranger on designated routes.
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CAMPING




NO.	ILLUSTRATION	RULE
1.		Camping in LWC is prohibited unless for special and authorised events (like the Lewa Safari Marathon) and walking safaris by designated operators. The CEO's authority should be sought before such camping.
2.		Camp managers are to check in with LWC HQ on arrival and departure to have the campsite inspected by the Lewa Standard Officer or a person nominated by him. A clearance certificate will be issued and filed in the Ops Room.
3.		LWC will provide a ranger at campsites when in use by an operator.
4.		Campers must get rid of all non-biodegradable waste.
5.		Collection of firewood is not permitted since it can be provided by LWC upon request.

PEOPLE AND CUSTOMS – VISITORS TO IL NGWESI/TASSIA


NO.	ILLUSTRATION	RULE
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1.		Visitors should use the designated route shown on the map even in traffic.
2.		Taking photographs of people without their consent is not allowed.
3.		Giving sweets and money to children is not recommended as it encourages begging and is demeaning.

TRAVERSING

NO.	ILLUSTRATION	RULE
1.		Pedestrian traffic, not including guided tourists or visitors, will be kept to a minimum within the Conservancy. Any pedestrian traffic must follow the designated routes only (see map).
2.		No pedestrian movement within the Conservancy will be allowed at night between 1800 and 0700 hrs.
3.		Motorcycles are not permitted in the Conservancy (including Boda Boda taxis). LWC work-related motorcycles are used in the Fence, Workshop, Community and Conservation Departments, among other places.

AVIATION

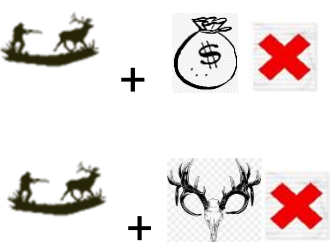

NO.	ILLUSTRATION	RULE
1.		Operations of aircraft within the vicinity of tourist camps or lodges are prohibited, unless under exceptional circumstances such as firefighting or during security-related incidents.

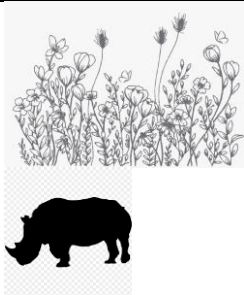

2.		No aircraft will operate below 500 ft AGL overhead the Conservancy except during approach for landing or takeoff, for management purposes, or under exceptional circumstances such as firefighting or during security-related incidents.
3.		Helicopters will take the shortest and quickest route into and out of the pick-up points within LWC, attaining 500 ft AGL as soon as possible.

We appreciate feedback and comments. If you see or notice anything during your stay that you feel may be worth our attention, including any contravention of this code, please inform the LWC Office.



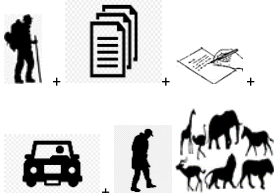
BIODIVERSITY/WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

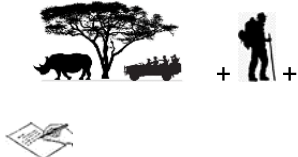

The Conservancy is managed to conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem integrity and function; and minimise the environmental impact in accordance with the relevant Kenyan legislation including but not limited to the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (No. 47 of 2013) and the Environmental Management & Co – ordination Act (No. 8 of 1999).

NO.	ILLUSTRATION	RULE
1.		Consumptive utilization of wildlife will not be practised within Lewa. In a situation where wildlife numbers need to be reduced, translocation will be the preferred option.
2.		Problem Animal Control (PAC) / wildlife intervention will only be conducted under authorization from the Head of Conservation and



		Wildlife, per the National PAC and Lewa's PAC policy
3.		Only indigenous species (fauna and flora) will be introduced to the Conservancy, considering their natural distribution, genetic compatibility, and habitat requirements, except for white rhinoceros.
4.		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.

TOURISM

NO.	ILLUSTRATION	RULE
1.		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.
2.		Tourism densities within the Conservancy will not exceed 1 commercial bed / 380 acres.
3.		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.

4.		All those game driving or walking within Lewa will be expected to walk/drive with a duly qualified, duly registered authorized person. The signing of a waiver/disclaimer regarding Lewa's liability will be a prerequisite to walking or driving within Lewa.
5.		A list of authorized people will be produced by Lewa Standard Management Committee.

SECURITY






NO.	ILLUSTRATION	RULE
1.		Security within the Conservancy will be managed to provide maximum levels of security to people, wildlife, habitat, and moveable and immovable assets, with minimum visual and/or audible profile where practical, contingent on the security threat as assessed by the Lewa Executive Management Team.
2.		All resident/operator interactions with Lewa security personnel will recognise the structure of Lewa security systems and the chain of command.

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.

INFRASTRUCTURE

NO.	ILLUSTRATION	RULE
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1.		Infrastructure development will be kept to an absolute minimum.
2.		Infrastructure developments/refurbishments, including but not restricted to buildings, external power systems, roads, airfields, water storage provision and waste facilities, will be conducted to be fit for purpose with minimum visual and/or audible profile.
3.		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.
4.		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.
5.		The number of residential abodes (non-employees) within Lewa will not exceed 1 abode per 3500 acres.

WATER

The management of water as a resource will be subject to sustainable utilization and per 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 utilizing water within the limitations as stipulated in permits. In the event of water shortages, restrictions will be implemented on a priority user basis.

Lewa's 'water use & management' document will be produced by the Head of Operations in consultation with the Lewa Standard Management Committee.


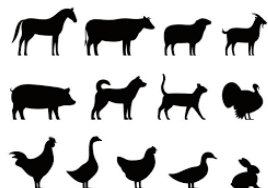


WASTE MANAGEMENT

The management of all waste within the Conservancy will entail responsible disposal and recycling wherever possible.

ENERGY AND EMISSIONS

NO.	ILLUSTRATION	RULE
1.		All methods of energy provision within the Conservancy will be fit for purpose with a minimum visual and audible profile.
2.		Sustainable renewable energy systems such as but not restricted to solar and wind power are preferred and will be adopted wherever practical.
3.		The principle of utilizing national grid power wherever practical will be followed, given that it is primarily generated from renewable sources (hydro & geothermal).
4.		Existing diesel-generated power systems will be phased out wherever practical and where impractical inverter systems with storage capacity will be introduced.
5.		Application for permission to deploy any external, visible energy source systems within the Conservancy is required under the Lewa Standard, via the 'planning permission' process in Appendix 3.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT/LIVESTOCK GRAZING


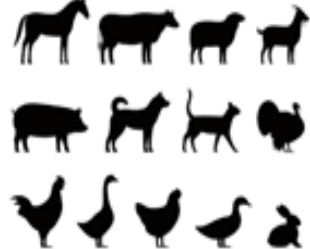

NO.	ILLUSTRATION	RULE
1.		Adaptive range management will utilise various techniques including but not restricted to livestock grazing, burning and grass cutting will be continued.
2.		Livestock management within the Conservancy will be conducted per the 'Livestock Grazing Management plan' annually and the Lewa / Community Livestock grazing agreement, annually.
3.		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 authorization. Firewood collection is not permitted in the Conservancy.
4.		Lease agreements will define restricted forms of land use.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

ORPHAN/HABITUATED WILDLIFE AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS

NO.	ILLUSTRATION	RULE
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1.		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.
2.		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 agreement.
3.		For Lewa 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. Cats must be neutered or spayed.