



LEWA
WILDLIFE
CONSERVANCY

A UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed in 2013

Annual Report

—◆◆— 2023



VISION

Lewa envisions a future where people across Kenya value, protect and benefit from wildlife.

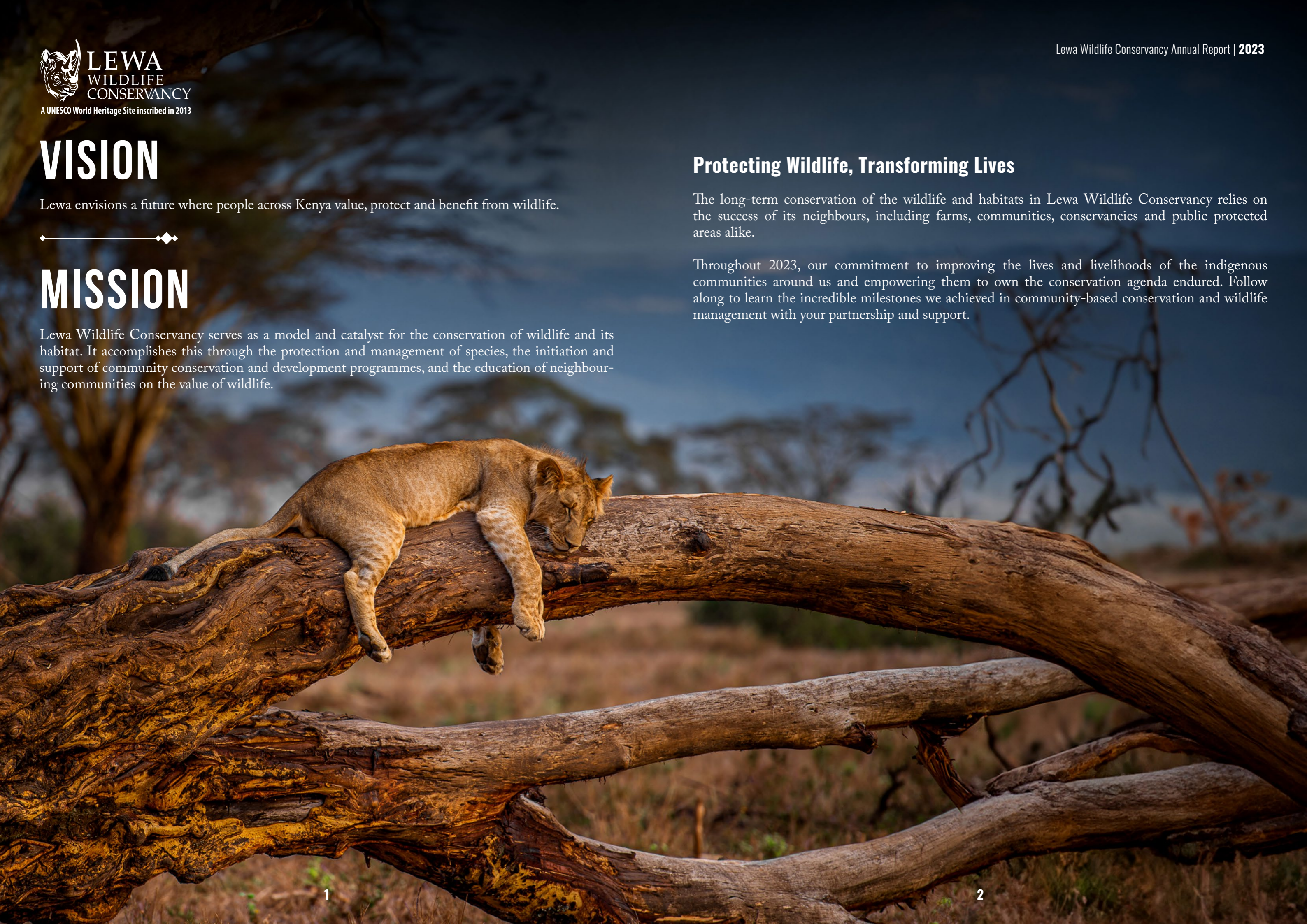
MISSION

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy serves as a model and catalyst for the conservation of wildlife and its habitat. It accomplishes this through the protection and management of species, the initiation and support of community conservation and development programmes, and the education of neighbouring communities on the value of wildlife.

Protecting Wildlife, Transforming Lives

The long-term conservation of the wildlife and habitats in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy relies on the success of its neighbours, including farms, communities, conservancies and public protected areas alike.

Throughout 2023, our commitment to improving the lives and livelihoods of the indigenous communities around us and empowering them to own the conservation agenda endured. Follow along to learn the incredible milestones we achieved in community-based conservation and wildlife management with your partnership and support.



CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy has demonstrated remarkable success in fostering a resilient and diverse ecosystem that supports stable and growing wildlife populations. The Conservancy's unwavering dedication to habitat protection, sustainable practices and community engagement has played a pivotal role in achieving these milestones.

Lewa employs a combination of research, advanced technology and community involvement to safeguard and oversee the conservation of numerous endangered species. This holistic approach has notably boosted wildlife populations, particularly our flagship species, the rhino, as well as other endangered species, such as the Grevy's zebra and pancake tortoise. The Conservancy serves as a safe haven for a variety of wildlife, including elephants, lions, birds and reticulated giraffes and made the following strides in 2023:



Surveys and monitoring efforts revealed an increase in avifauna, a high diversity of waterbirds and raptors, an observable rise in raptor nesting activities and successful raptor breeding



The number of herpetofauna in the landscape surged, with **192** pancake tortoises and **46** terrapins being sighted



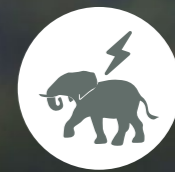
4,550 trees were planted at the Meru Bongo and Rhino Sanctuary by the community, Community Forest Associations, Lewa and other stakeholders, in preparation for the arrival of mountain bongos



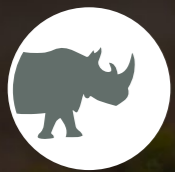
5 acres of land with invasive species was cleared



9,176 acres of exclusion zones were established at Kona Safi, Kangauru, Mlima Loishimi and Sirikoi, to improve vegetation diversity



Human-wildlife conflict cases decreased by **11%**



260 rhinos were present in Lewa, **132** of them **black rhinos** and **128, white rhinos**



Lewa's Grevy's zebra population increased by **19%**. Currently, **359** can be found in Lewa, up from 310 in 2022



42 rhinos, underwent ear notching and **7** rhinos were equipped with long range transmitters, enabling real-time tracking of their movements



EDUCATION

The Lewa Education Programme (LEP) provides crucial support to over 9,000 students every year and is one of the most effective ways in which Lewa fosters development, at both the individual and communal level, in neighbouring communities. By increasing the opportunities available to students, Lewa is ensuring young people become socially responsible and productive members of society.

LEP is advancing education in the landscape by building the capacity of teachers, school leaders, and parents, developing infrastructure, providing students with scholarships and conservation education trips, and operating a digital literacy programme. LEP seeks to address needs expressed by teachers, schools and community members. The Programme produced the following outcomes in 2023:



Over 1,000 learners in Lewa-supported schools benefitted from the Feeding Programme



More than 300 students received full scholarships through Lewa's Bursary Programme



At least **4,243** learners and **657** teachers visited the conservancy's Conservation Education Centre in 2023



53% of the students who completed secondary school in 2023 are poised to pursue bachelor's degree courses in university



47 students successfully transitioned from secondary to tertiary education



LEP recorded a **30% increase** in secondary school registration, with **65 students** enrolling in the programme, exceeding the target of 50



The Programme expanded its coverage to four additional schools, bringing the total number of schools supported to **27**



44 Lewa staff mentored **977** students across the **27** LEP-supported schools



51 high school graduates received guidance on university and college course selection



202 Board of Management members and **27** headteachers in Lewa-supported schools were trained on good governance and school management

DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMME

EDUCATION

Lewa's Digital Literacy Programme is an integral component of the Lewa Education Programme. In 2016, the Kenyan government distributed over a million digital tablets to more than 19,000 public primary schools across the country as part of its mandate to ensure every Kenyan child receives quality education that equips them with 21st century skills.

To supplement the national programme and ensure students in remote northern Kenya schools have access to quality education, Lewa, through its Digital Literacy Programme provided free, age-appropriate digital content that was accessible offline, as well as library infrastructure and management technology.

Through the Digital Literacy Programme, in 2023:



552 tutorials were created using Camtasia, facilitating comprehensive learning



182 teachers and **4,916 learners** in **25** Lewa-supported schools actively engaged with digital curriculum resources



207 learners successfully coded **12** projects using Scratch



6,261 experiments were conducted on PhET, reflecting **287** hours dedicated to this interactive computer simulation platform



4,500 learners and **150 teachers** demonstrated improved knowledge and skills in digital literacy



358 tablets were distributed across **14** schools



490 topics from Grade 4 through secondary school were digitized

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

EDUCATION

Lewa seeks to increase access to education by addressing the most urgent needs of neighbouring schools and building their capacity to manage education resources. Every year, the Conservancy invests in infrastructure development, improving the learning conditions of students across the 27 Lewa-supported schools in the Lewa-Borana landscape and its environs. Lewa implemented the following infrastructure projects in 2023:



Constructed a **24-door sanitation block** at Lokusero Secondary and Ntalaban Primary School



Constructed a **kitchen with energy-saving stoves** at Junior Pupils Preparatory School



Renovated **classrooms** at Enaikishomi Primary School



Constructed **classrooms** in Ngare Ndare Secondary and Victoria High School



Fenced Shambani Primary and Victoria High School



Constructed a **dining hall** and donated furniture to Lokusero Secondary School and Rugusu Primary School



Issued **Early Childhood Development Education equipment** to Enaikishomi and Subuiga Primary School

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The communities around Lewa perceive conservation as a multifaceted resource that fosters sustenance, economic prospects, healthcare and more.

Lewa envisions a future where people across Kenya value, protect and benefit from wildlife. Therefore, the Conservancy works hand in hand with indigenous communities and deems them indispensable partners in its conservation initiatives.

Operating at the nexus of wildlife conservation and sustainable development, Lewa actively supports its neighbouring communities and addresses their most pressing needs, providing access to clean water, education, better healthcare and vocational skills training. Lewa's community development programmes positively impact the lives of 205,000 people, underscoring our commitment to fostering holistic community well-being.

Women's Micro-enterprise

Since its inception in 2003, the Women's Micro-enterprise Programme (WME) has supported over 2,000 women from Lewa's neighbouring communities in starting small businesses and promoting livelihood diversification. The established enterprises include retail shops, flour mills, hair salons, and tailoring and livestock-keeping businesses. With the support of the Women's Microfinance Initiative, WME provides women with microloans, training and a business networking platform.

The Programme achieved the following milestones in 2023:



2,050 women actively participated in the activities of the WME, a **14%** increase from the previous year



741 women underwent entrepreneurship and business management training



723 women benefitted from mentorship and counselling sessions provided during workshops and exposure visits



WME achieved an **80%** loan repayment rate



32 women groups received governance and management training, promoting transparency and accountability in their operations

HEALTHCARE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

With the recent acquisition of a modern ambulance, Lewa has significantly enhanced its healthcare programmes, and provides indigenous communities with access to crucial health services. The introduction of the ambulance has led to a decrease in fatalities and improved community members' access to healthcare services. During emergencies, community members now contact Lewa's radio room, demonstrating increased awareness of and trust in Lewa's ability to respond effectively to health-related issues.

In fulfilment of Lewa's commitment to improving community well-being, in 2023:



Lewa's ambulance evacuated **220** patients, addressing community health, maternal, accident-related and emergency needs



14,400 community members and **8,643** learners were engaged through Lewa's healthcare outreach programmes, improving community health education and awareness



2,754 patients received maternal and reproductive health services through Lewa Clinic's maternity wing



53,766 patients received medical attention at the four clinics supported by Lewa



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Lewa's Sustainable Agriculture Programme has established 11 demonstration plots in 6 community farms and 5 schools. These plots showcase modern farming techniques and alongside the training of 2,125 farmers, contribute to knowledge dissemination and skill development, potentially leading to improved household income.

Throughout 2023, Lewa collaborated with key partners, including AICCRA CIAT, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, East African Seed Company, Syngenta, Bayer East Africa, Corteva, Agri-Farm, CKL Africa Limited, Agitech, and SoilCares to amplify its impact on farmers and community livelihoods through sustainable agriculture. By establishing partnerships, reinforcing stakeholder engagements, capacity building and providing farm inputs and market linkages, Lewa expanded opportunities for farmers and strengthened agriculture value chains.

To further support farmers, in 2023:



2,125 farmers were trained on modern farming techniques



1,214 farmers enrolled for agricultural training, showcasing Lewa's effectiveness in engaging local farmers to drive agricultural initiatives



11 demonstration plots (6 in the community, 5 in schools) were established



302 farmers were connected to markets



402 soil tests were conducted on farms to increase their productivity



182 farmers went on Lewa-supported exposure tours, gaining knowledge and skills in innovative farming methods



14 new partnerships were established, which provided farmers with farm inputs, training, knowledge-sharing opportunities and connections to markets, amplifying Lewa's impact



WATER MANAGEMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The majority of the people living in the settlements surrounding Lewa depend on rivers and streams for water, which negatively impacts the fragile ecosystem. Proper resource management is paramount to ensuring the existence of a sufficient water supply that sustainably meets wildlife and communities' needs.

Lewa works with the national government through the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, water resource users associations and indigenous communities to identify solutions to water shortages and provide access to clean, safe water for domestic and livestock use.

To improve water supply in neighbouring communities, Lewa undertook the following initiatives in 2023:



Phase 1 of the construction of the **200,000 cubic metre Subuiga Dam** was completed, and with the onset of the rainy season, the Dam is full, significantly bolstering water availability in the region



1 new water project was established in Kithima kia Mugumo, bringing the total number of water projects implemented to **18**



3,478 water project members underwent training on sustainable water use, building their capacity in water resource management



35 water tanks were distributed to schools and farmers, encouraging guttering and facilitating rainwater harvesting

SECURITY

Maintaining world-class security operations remains a top priority for Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, a mission that is achievable through our strong partnership with the neighbouring communities, who play a vital role in our broader conservation efforts, ensuring the safety and well-being of the wildlife in our care.

To improve security in the Conservancy and its environs, in 2023:



89 rangers underwent training, enhancing their ability to capture data and monitor wildlife using EarthRanger applications



65 rangers underwent long-range radio technology training, and **9 rangers** were trained on enhanced radio communication and maintenance



6 rangers underwent refresher training in occupational first aid



12 rangers underwent tactical training, enhancing their security and wildlife management skills



35 rangers received snake awareness training, increasing their capacity to handle snake encounters



ANTI-POACHING OPERATIONS

The Lewa-Borana landscape provides a secure habitat for many of the world's most vulnerable species, with Lewa serving as the central hub for security and wildlife monitoring across the region and the 45 community-owned member conservancies of the Northern Rangelands Trust.

Using real-time data from EarthRanger, a high-tech monitoring system, and working closely with the neighbouring communities, Lewa's world-class wildlife ranger and security teams not only conserve and protect the Conservancy's flora and fauna, but also enhance security for people in the region.

Lewa achieved the following wildlife protection milestones in 2023:



0 rhino poaching at Lewa



0 illegally killed elephants at Lewa



31 National Police Reservists underwent routine enhanced operations skills training and modern equipment provision



5 National Police Reservist drivers underwent skill-based training



6 National Police Reservist medic patrols underwent annual refresher training

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Lewa is globally recognised as a catalyst and model for endangered species management and community-centred conservation.

A pioneer of the conservancy movement in Kenya and beyond, Lewa regularly runs various special projects throughout the world, which improve species and rangeland health, and advance the frontiers of wildlife conservation.

In 2023, the Lewa-Borana landscape reached its capacity for rhinos. As one of the Conservancy's special projects, Lewa, in collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service, began plans to translocate rhinos in 2024 to various sanctuaries in other parts of the country, making a step forward in saving this endangered species.

Lewa is also an implementing partner of the Meru Bongo Rhino Conservation Trust, supporting the Trust in its plans to restore the mountain bongo to self-sustaining levels in the wild and improve the lives of communities and wildlife near Mount Kenya's forests, by airlifting 25 mountain bongos from the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation in Florida, in the United States of America (USA), to a sanctuary on the northern slopes of the Mount Kenya Forest Reserve. In phase 2 of the project, Lewa will provide support in reintroducing the black rhino to the same forest reserve.

Additionally, Lewa implemented the following special projects in 2023:



12 black rhinos were translocated to Loisaba Conservancy



4 white rhinos were translocated to Sera Community Conservancy



Established and officially opened the Mountain Bongo and Rhino Sanctuary

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

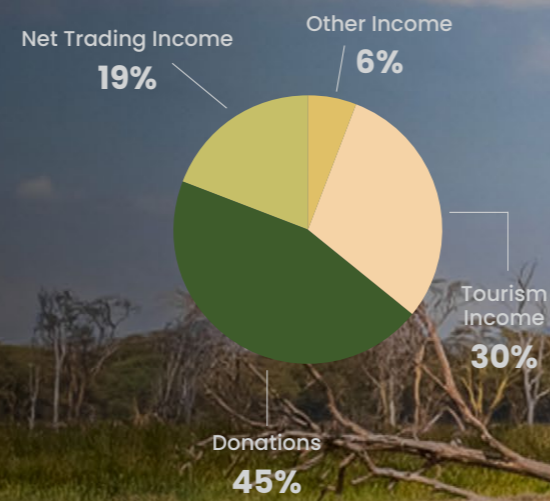
Global Revenue (USD)	2022	2023
Donations	3,728,028	3,042,533
Net Trading Income	860,667	1,304,571
Tourism Income	1,918,366	2,045,547
Other Income	147,649	405,490
Total Revenue	6,654,708	6,798,141

Global Expenditure (USD)	2022	2023
Programme Expenditure	4,161,018	4,329,678
Administration	1,571,899	1,518,289
Fundraising	173,783	188,477
Total Expenditure	5,906,699	6,036,444

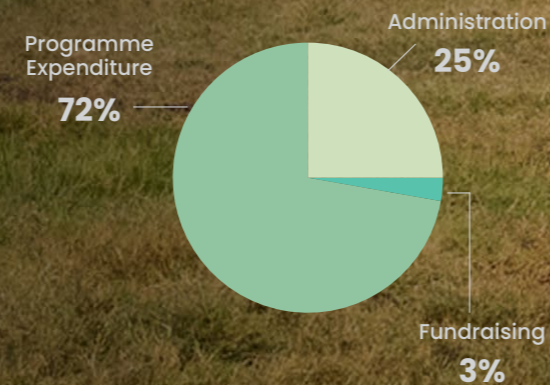
	2022	2023
Net Increase in Assets	748,009	761,698

These global consolidated financial figures are unaudited but are based on the audited or otherwise externally scrutinised financial statements of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy organisations in Kenya, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Canada.

Global 2023 Revenue



Global 2023 Expenditure



CONCLUSION

We envision a future where people across Kenya value, protect and benefit from wildlife. This future depends on communities being able to derive their day-to-day livelihoods in ways that are compatible with thriving wildlife habitats.

We will continue working to maximise the positive impacts of conservation within Lewa and neighbouring communities as we strive to advance community conservation best practices in Kenya and beyond.

Asante Sana!

The impact and milestones we achieved in 2023 would not have been possible without our global network of partners, donors, and supporters. Our deepest appreciation goes to each and every one of you.

In the last year, with you by our side, we made quantum leaps in conservation and community development. We are proud of the work we accomplished together and excited about the road ahead!

GET INVOLVED

No Lewa project is successful in isolation. Lewa's 360 approach is an interwoven fabric of programmes, people and partnerships working together, that has enabled Lewa to achieve significant long-term results over nearly three decades.

Any unrestricted donation to Lewa is a gift to Lewa 360 and an investment in Lewa's overarching mission and model. Join us as a Lewa 360 donor, and your gift will be utilised by Lewa where your support is most urgently needed.

There are many impactful projects that you can support and various ways to give. Check them all out here: www.lewa.org/donate

Say Hello

We would love to hear from you!

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We are Social!

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