

# BORANA CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER NO V



James Lewin



With the Mt. Kenya ecosystem to the south, national reserves and 39 community conservancies supported by the Northern Rangelands Trust to the north and west, the Lewa-Borana Landscape lies at the very centre of a region hosting 46% of Kenya's black rhino population, 90% of the global population of the endangered Grevy's zebra, over 7,000 elephants and a plethora of other wildlife species.

#### BORANA FACTS

- 32,000 acres - 13,000 hectares
- ALTITUDE: 6,300ft - 1,900m
- LOCATION: Laikipia
- TIME ZONE: GMT +3
- CLIMATE: moderate high altitude equatorial climate, with sunny days and chilly evenings.
- Average rainfall 500mm per annum spread over two seasons.
- 26 km North of the equator

## ARIJJU, BORANA LODGE & RANCH, LARAGAI, LENGISHU AND SIRAI ARE THE INVESTOR PARTNERS WHO UNDERWRITE THE BULK OF THE CORE CONSERVATION COSTS OF THE BORANA CONSERVANCY.

This unique sustainable funding model is built on a secure annual COC minimum fixed underwriting commitment that demonstrated strong resilience during 2020, a very testing time globally, which necessitated closure of all our tourism revenue streams. We were, despite the challenges able to keep all of our staff safe, secure and employed. Our social development programmes which include health care, education and microenterprise continued without interruption and are detailed later in this newsletter. Importantly our wildlife continued to prosper with all species within the connected landscape increasing or stable. Our black rhino population grew at 9.4% and across the Lewa Borana Landscape lion are doing so well that we have elected to put contraception implants into 4 females.

We collaborated at a landscape level with conservation partners Ol Jogi, Lewa, Il'Ngwesi, Ngare Ndare Forest Trust and Ol Pejeta to secure continued support for protection of Rhino and we are most grateful to Kenya Wildlife Service and GVT of Kenya for subsidies to rangers' salaries - brokered by the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association. Our long term and highly valued support from Save the Rhino International and ForRangers along with many friends has been extraordinary throughout this period of uncertainty.

For the year 2020 the Association of Private Land Rhino Sanctuaries and Kenya Wildlife Service declared zero rhino poaching in Kenya and we must recognise, appreciate and pay tribute to all the wildlife rangers in the field for this incredible result.

National Museums of Kenya carried out all of the field work for our on-going UNESCO natural heritage site application.

Arijju and Lengishu joined the Long Run now recognised as one of the most influential global sustainable development initiatives, whose membership are protecting over 23.5 million acres of land and marine based natural wilderness hosting over thirty thousand species.

During 2020 we worked closely with Conservation Capital to understand in detail how conservation fees should be set, accounted for and reported on. It is our belief that new and innovative reporting mechanisms and narrative should be adopted that will enable complete transparency on how revenue from tourism flows into securing the critical underlying Natural Capital that we all depend upon. Borana Conservancy fees are set at a relatively high level, \$175 for 2021 and \$190 for 2022 with Borana Lodge in 2022, committing 24% of the published rate to meeting core conservation costs. We are developing a transparent reporting

template which will be accessible on our Conservancy Website and will be subjected to rigorous audit from a combination of credible globally recognised environmental best in class leaders like Preferred by Nature and The Long Run. Our hope is that our visitors and guests to the

Conservancy along with our travel and conservation partners will see enhanced sustainable contributions to securing wilderness as something to embrace and celebrate creating resilience and reversing climate change.

During 2021 we will continue to develop and launch a number of new projects which include the African Rangelands Management and Leadership School. This school will hopefully be housed on Mukuria Community land and provide one year courses in Leadership, Rangeland management and rehabilitation, livestock husbandry, disease control, business administration, resource management, conflict resolution and will in all likelihood partner with The African Leadership University, The Savory Institute, Mpala Research Center and of course Ministry of Education along with ourselves.

We are also supporting the development of a new landscape level management company Africa Nature Investors; providing professional management support to ecologically and socially distressed land units. We are also hopeful that our already successful Livestock to Market Programme will evolve into a new and creative entity that will allow for pastoralist neighbours to have equity in a professionally managed commercial livestock enterprise - this is a work in progress.

We are in the process of developing an in house 4c's center (Community, Conservation, Culture and Commerce) and hope to have a large adapted for game viewing Truck to bring in students as citizen scientists from neighboring schools.

The Laikipia Conservancies Association a chapter of the national Wildlife conservancies association under the chairmanship of Kip Ole Polos supported by a very dynamic executive is strengthening relationships and dialogue with all the actors ensuring connectivity for wildlife and people across the landscape thereby securing Laikipia's rich biodiversity for future generations.



**MICHAEL DYER - MANAGING DIRECTOR BORANA CONSERVANCY**



James Lewin

## TWO CONSERVANCIES, ONE LANDSCAPE

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and Borana Conservancy are wildlife sanctuaries based at the foothills of Mt Kenya. Conservation efforts on Lewa began in the early 1980s to protect the last of northern Kenya's black rhinos from extinction. In 2013, a founding population of 21 black rhinos was introduced to Borana Conservancy. Once they were settled and had established territories, the fence between Borana and Lewa Wildlife Conservancy was dropped forming one landscape; allowing the wildlife free rein over 92,000 acres of unspoilt African wilderness. Together with Lewa, this ecosystem hosts a thriving community of over 217 rhino (both black and white), making this one of East Africa's largest continuous rhino habitats. Although Lewa and Borana remain independent entities, we approach conservation efforts jointly and work in collaboration to implement livelihood programmes.

Borana is dedicated to the sustainable conservation of land and wildlife. Our holistic approach commits tourism, ranching, and other enterprises to building local livelihoods and enhancing ecosystem integrity.

### THE SUCCESS OF BORANA WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT SUPPORT FROM:

Anna Merz Rhino Trust, Bentley Foundation, Borana Conservancy Trust, CHK Trust, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Elephant Foundation, Findlay Trust, ForRangers, Holtzman Wildlife Foundation, Human Practice Foundation, Kenya Markets Trust, Kenya Wildlife Service, Laikipia Forum, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Lion Landscapes, Mount Kenya Trust, Ngare Ndare Forest Trust, Northern Rangelands Trust, Save The Rhino International, Sporting Rifle, Tusk Trust, US Fish & Wildlife Services, Wildlife Conservation Network, WildAid, Wild Ark and all our rhino sponsors.



Tom Martiensen

# CONSERVATION



## LBL RHINO AND ACROSS THE CONTINENT:

For the first time in 21 years Kenya experienced zero poaching during 2020! Law enforcement and collaboration remain the strongest pillars for this success. The need to maintain and enhance law enforcement capacity remains essential whilst we focus on developing capacity for range expansion and biological management.

Black rhinos in Kenya are managed as one meta-population under the umbrella of the Black Rhino Action Plan (BRAP) 2017-2021. The overarching objective of the BRAP for the current term is “to achieve a meta population of 830 black rhinos by the end of 2021; a net growth of at least 5% per annum maintained in at least six established populations; positive net growth achieved in all recovering populations”. For the first time since the establishment of black rhino conservation strategies, Kenya has surpassed the target number outlined in the current action plan.

The LBL rhino population remains healthy and robust, although the annual population growth slowed down in 2020, as expected given the record-setting births in 2019. The biological growth rate of black rhino slowed down to 9.4% in the 2018-20 average 3-year moving window period compared to 9.5% in the 2017-19 period. At the end of 2020, Kenya had 853 and 750 black and white rhinos respectively (KWS unpublished), of which 13% (114 individuals) and 14% (103 individuals) respectively were found on LBL.

## EAR NOTCHING:

In collaboration with KWS and Lewa Conservancy, 4 black rhinos and 1 white rhino were successfully ear notched in March 2020. Once a rhino has reached the age of 3, unique patterns of notches are made in their ears creating their own personal ID for the national black rhino data base known as KIFARU. Our rhino monitoring team of 29 alongside their colleagues on Lewa are out in the field recording daily sightings of all rhinos. The ear notches correlate to a specific ID helping the rhino monitors identify individuals from afar. Guests to Borana can join the monitors tracking rhinos in the morning. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the behind the scenes work that goes on in the Conservancy and to meet the team that keep our rhinos safe.





**CALLISTO** - an 18 year old female black rhinoceros gave birth to her FOURTH calf in December! Callisto arrived on 28th August 2013 from Lewa and has now had the most calves on Borana since her arrival. We currently have 8 unnamed black rhino ranging from two months old to 10 years old. If you would like to get involved in our rhino naming programme please contact [conservancy@borana.co.ke](mailto:conservancy@borana.co.ke)

### **LIONS:**

The planet's lion population has been reduced by over 90% over the past century, only an estimated 20,000 remain in Africa today. Laikipia Ewaso is home to an estimated 250-300 individuals. For the first few months of 2020, a pride of 26 were often seen across the Conservancy, proving to be a phenomenal hunting unit. This is one of the largest prides in Laikipia and provided spectacular viewing for guests. The pride has since split into three separate prides, although one remains large consisting of 17 individuals. Fortunately, females remain in all three prides and we have 8 males and 7 females reaching adulthood. Across the Borana Lewa Landscape including Ngare Ndare Forest we host 60 lion in eight prides.



### **LION LANDSCAPES + COLLARING:**

Borana Conservancy's partnership with Lion Landscapes aims to reduce human-wildlife conflict and promote coexistence between predators and the Conservancy's neighbours. Lion Landscapes have developed three programmes to promote peace between humans and lions: Lion Rangers; Coexistence Training and Collaring for Coexistence.

Borana's team of dedicated lion rangers are specialised in responding to wildlife conflict incidents, preventing further losses of wildlife and minimising risk to human and livestock health.

In December, in collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Service, the collar on an older female called Brady Mac was removed and in place of this, a collar was put on a younger female within the same pride, called Fera. This specialised GPS collar provides management and livestock owners with real time lion movement data via a mobile app, developed by Save The Elephants. The data generated by the collared lions provides the basis for ongoing research into reducing human-lion conflict as well as to where the Borana livestock graze.



### LION RANGER CHALLENGE:

Borana Conservancy Lion Rangers took part in the Wildlife Ranger Challenge, where wildlife rangers from across Africa competed in tests of wildlife knowledge and physical strength and fitness. The challenge helped draw attention to the plight of many wildlife areas post the COVID-19 tourism crash in order to raise money for ranger salaries.

The Borana Conservancy lion rangers participated as part of the Laikipia Ranches and Conservancies Lion Rangers Team and completed a 21 km run across Laikipia, carrying backpacks of 23kg among other tasks. Rianto, second in command of the Borana Conservancy anti-poaching team, was the record holder for the first 2-minute push-up challenge, he managed 52 full push-ups in 2-minutes!



### RANGERS & SMART:

Borana Conservancy is proud to report zero poaching incidents over seven years. This is in huge part due to the dedication and commitment of the team of over 140 rangers who work tirelessly year round to protect the conservancy's wildlife and habitat.

In July 2020, 28 members of the wildlife monitoring team were trained by Space for Giants on SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool). SMART is a law enforcement monitoring tool which allows us to be more strategic about the deployment of resources and to understand the spatial distribution of wildlife assets and threats. Each patrol team records on a daily basis their rhino and wildlife sightings, patrol distances, any instances of human wildlife conflict, carcasses and fence voltages or breakages. The monthly reports generated by the SMART software have been an invaluable tool to inform and guide management decisions and show rhino and other wildlife distributions.



Tom Martienssen



Shaun Mousley







### **ABORTED LION HUNT:**

A few black rhinos have made their territories in the hills opposite Borana Lodge. In August, while guests were enjoying their lunch, a pride of 13 lions were seen attempting to hunt a female black rhino named Mejh and her year old calf in the Hyena valley below the Lodge. Mejh is one of our most successful mothers having had 3 calves since arriving on Borana in 2013. Fortunately, Peter a lodge guide rushed down in a vehicle and managed to separate them and push the lions away but not before James Lewin, part of the Borana Lodge hospitality team, took this photo!

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM BORANA LODGE GUIDES:**

- Two cheetah spotted hunting an impala by guests when a hyena ran across ruining the hunt.
- Lawrence and his guests watched a leopard near Giles' Hill stalking an impala, it got within 2 meters but failed to make the kill.
- Guests saw a Honey Badger on their evening game drive.
- A serval cat was spotted during the day by Arijju. He was so big we thought he was a leopard at first glance and he was so dark, he could have been melanistic.
- All guests saw the BIG FIVE! Lawrence and Ben found a leopard lying on a rock near Samangua Dam and watched it and followed it for 40 mins. On the same drive they also saw one of the male lions, the big pride and the rest of the big five.
- Guests watched two cheetahs on airstrip hill hunting baby warthogs until they were chased away by adult warthogs.
- Guests saw a martial eagle grab a guinea fowl in front of them!
- Over 100 elephants seen in a long procession in front of Arijju!
- All Lodge staff saw around 20 lions with a giraffe kill just below the Lodge.
- Guests with Ben saw mating lions, two cheetah, rhino, buffalo and elephant all on their morning drive.
- All guests saw a cheetah and her cubs, a lion hunt, 6 black rhino and 3 separate herds of elephant in one afternoon drive!
- Guests saw 6 cheetahs in one morning! Two males, and the mother with her three young.



Tom Martienssen





*secure habitat for  
wildlife*

*53 different mammal species and 334 different bird species*

*is 30,000 acres*  
within 92,000 acres of  
protected rhino habitat  
in partnership with *Lewa Wildlife Conservancy*



**1136 TRAVELLERS VISITED BORANA**



**IN 2020**

to experience pristine wilderness  
and enjoy the abundant wildlife

**TOURISM AND CONSERVATION ON  
BORANA MEANT THAT**

504 people employed from the local area

17,197 medical treatments

13 teachers and 49 children sponsored

recurrent training for over 125 rangers

protecting 28 endangered species

13,851 km travelled by BMC vehicle

640,000 ltrs water distributed



COMMERCE



COMMUNITY



CONSERVATION



CULTURE

**100%** CONSERVATION  
poured back into AND  
COMMUNITIES

sustaining the conservancy and ensuring the  
environment, wildlife and local people  
benefit from conservation

**ALL FOR CONSERVATION**

# COMMUNITY

## BORANA EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Unfortunately, for school children around the world 2020 was a difficult year. In Kenya, schools were closed in March 2020 and the majority remained closed until January 2021. However, the BSP continued to pay the salaries of the 13 teachers it supports and some students under the BSP both at university and secondary school enrolled in online classes for which the BSP paid the fees.

Teachers x 13 - KES1,918,229/-

Students x 49 - KES1,084,479/-

### ETHI PRIMARY SCHOOL / HUMAN PRACTICE FOUNDATION:

Through Human Practice Foundation (HPF) 10 acres have been fenced around Ethi Primary School with a new entrance gate, allowing for a permaculture project to begin. HPF also purchased 817 books for Ethi Primary school and a Borana Lodge guest has bought 20 desks for the school.

### TEAM TALK:

Team Talk an organisation that uses sport (TAG Rugby) to empower young people have fundraised over £6000 towards the Sanga primary school meal programme. They visited Lokusero and Sanga Primary Schools in February 2020 holding workshops to encourage positive integration and relationships between boys and girls through sport.

### BAOTREE TECHNOLOGY:

During November 2020, a pilot scheme was run in Sanga community with an organisation called BaoTree. BaoTree provide communities with a mechanism to actively earn community development goals, through carrying out conservation-based activities, thus engaging in the protection of their environment and their livelihoods. This approach keeps the responsibility for natural resource management firmly within the communities, whilst supporting and catalysing the development of conservation based activities.

A total of 28 community members took part with 190 tasks reported and 77 completed and verified by Borana and their Baoriders. The Sanga community, Borana and their Baorider worked together to ensure that their goal of garnering the required Bao Points to complete the task was achieved. For this, BaoTree donated \$1,500 to the Sanga community. This funding will be used to construct a 10,000 litre concrete water tank and trough from which livestock and wildlife may drink.



Brian Odida



## THE BORANA MOBILE CLINIC

Since 2005, in partnership with Ministry Of Health (MOH) the Borana Mobile Clinic (BMC) has been providing basic health care, health lectures, HIV Aids awareness, antenatal advice, child immunisation programmes and family planning to Borana's neighbouring communities. The majority of Borana's neighbourhoods do not have adequate access to basic health care, people from areas such as Tassia and Sanga would usually have to travel extremely long distances to access any form of simple medical care. The clinic team consists of two nurses, an assistant and a driver. Together they visit 10 communities on a two-week rotation treating on average over 550 patients per month and travelling over 1500kms. The nurses also provide sanitation advice, support and counselling to students at local schools, as well as health education to members of the community focusing on hygiene and nutrition.

The Borana Mobile (BMC) clinic has maintained momentum during 2020, continuing to visit ten stations in both Laikipia and Meru Counties on a two-week rotation. In conjunction with the Ministry of Health, the BMC has been involved the establishment and sensitisation of Covid-19 protocols and have been creating awareness within the Conservancy, the communities and at the stations that they visit.

### Healthcare Programme

### Total treatments in 2020

Curatives	6,610
Family Planning	908
Immunisation	479
Antenatal	140
Health Lectures - Schools and Community	243
De-worming school children	2,045
Malnutrition screening children	655
HIV Counselling	6,360



The Borana Mobile Clinic is operated by Pauline Kawap, Davis Munene and Julia Lobolia - three very dedicated professionals who really want to effect change.

Pauline has been talking to women for over 20 years about the advantages of planning parenthood, she learnt from the Communities Health Africa Trust. They set up a mobile clinic in the early 2000s to service the northern areas of Laikipia. The Trust now reaches far into the Northern Frontier District using camels to access those far-flung corners where women need to be taught their sexual and reproductive rights. SRHR – all individuals have the right to make decisions governing their bodies and to access services that support that right. (ICPD 1994).

The messaging of several organisations including the BMC continues to empower women – preventing unintended pregnancies. Thereby allowing the completion of education and opening up many opportunities for independence and greater earnings so that households can afford better nutrition as well as investing in education, technologies and income generating activities. Smaller families in rural areas are also much better for their environment as they need fewer natural resources for building, cooking and farming.

Complications from childbirth and pregnancies are also the leading source of death in adolescent girls (WHO) so the use of contraception mostly condoms in adolescents can save lives and improve girls' and women's health.

## GET INVOLVED

- \$10 - school desk for a primary school student
- \$25 - one classroom desk
- \$50 - school uniform for one pupil
- \$80 - one month fuel for the Mobile Clinic vehicle
- \$130 - full ranger uniform including boots
- \$400 - secondary school fees for one term
- \$650 - nurse's salary for one month
- \$800 - secondary school teacher's salary for one month
- \$2,200 - primary school teacher's salary for one year
- \$10,000 - sponsor and name a black rhino

For more information: [conservancy@borana.co.ke](mailto:conservancy@borana.co.ke)

## DAYS FOR GIRLS CAMPAIGN:

Borana Conservancy have teamed up with Days for Girls Chumvi Chapter (DfG), raising funds for menstrual health education and the distribution of washable and re-usable sanitary towels. Days for Girls make washable sanitary pads and conduct menstrual health education across the world. Young girls in Kenya miss an average of 5 days of school per month due to menstrual shame. This is the equivalent of missing 50 days per school year. One DfG Supreme Kit costs \$10 and will last up to 3 years, each DfG Kit has been hand-made to high quality standards by local women. The campaign has raised \$4487 to date which has provided a DfG Supreme Kit to 475 girls under the Borana Education Support Programme. BCL aims to continue to raise funds for this project to enable girls to continue with their education and women to work.

Ngare Ndare Secondary School = 159  
Ngare Ndare Primary School = 45  
Sanga School = 35  
Lokusero Secondary School = 75  
Arijiju School = 56  
Ethi Secondary School = 17  
Ethi Primary School = 32  
Olkinyei Primary School = 56



## IL NGWESI UPDATE:

Borana Conservancy continues to be an active member of the Association of Private and Community Land Rhino Sanctuaries (APRLS), working towards the Kenya Black Rhino Action Plan. Indeed, the high percentage of births in 2019 and 2020 across the LBL highlights the importance of continually expanding the available habitat for this Critically Endangered species. On Borana, the highest threat to rhinos is the lack of secure, suitable habitat. One of the objectives under Kenya's national strategy is to "promote the establishment of community rhino conservation through partnerships".

Borana and Lewa have long been partners with the neighboring Il Ngwesi Group Ranch (16,500 hectares), which is owned and managed by Il Laikipiak Maasai – 'people of wildlife'. In 2019, the Il Ngwesi community members agreed to set aside 6,940 hectares to become a fenced sanctuary for the re-introduction of 20 Black Rhino, expanding habitat and encouraging larger population growth for black rhino. In June 2020, 150 Il Ngwesi community members were employed to build access tracks. Over the 2 week period, 36.3km of tracks were built. Since then, 5 roads have been opened within Il Ngwesi and numerous board and community meetings have been held to create awareness within the community on the introduction of rhinos and necessary fencing.

The project has received significant support from Save the Rhino and also direct grants from Lewa and Borana and NRT totalling \$180,000.



Brian Odida

### **LIVESTOCK TO MARKET:**

Our livestock to market programme continues to work in partnership with the very dynamic Oramat Lenaboisho Cooperative Society. The programme brings in livestock from surrounding neighborhoods, the animals are given an entry weight and value and a unique chip identity. Borana Ranch then manages and takes on all costs up to the point of sale. The sale value less 20% of the uplift in value goes back to the beneficial owners account. The 20% of the value uplift remains with the ranch to partly defray costs. 2019 and 2020 were above average rainfall years and the livestock prospered on excellent grazing. \$97,853 worth of cattle were sold during 2020 into a stable market with increasing demand. From inception \$593,766 worth of livestock have passed through the programme. This relationship between Ranch and Pastoralist communities is potentially progressing towards a more formal structure of co-ownership and a new livestock enterprise with opportunities to regenerate degraded pastures, mitigate human wildlife conflict and reduce uncertainty during times of low rainfall and at the same time increase value.



### **ARIJUJU PERMACULTURE PROJECT:**

Building permaculture gardens at BESP supported schools is a brilliant way to introduce the concept of sustainable farming to students and in turn to the community at large. Llewellyn Dyer and his team have built a permaculture garden at Arijuju school, enabling students access to a healthy diet with vegetables and fruit to augment the meals supplied by the government, while learning about sustainable farming practices. The completed garden is 2 acres with 5 water retention contours running through it and a 570m chicken wire fence running around it. All of the vegetable beds have been laid out on contour to maximize water infiltration and 335 fruit trees planted. The students at the school have gone from eating no fresh vegetables in their lunches to having fresh vegetables 3 times a week. This will increase throughout the year until there is fresh produce every day. Permaculture is also a crucially important method of farming for people living in environments without easy access to water. Both, students and teachers are taught how to conserve rainwater; plant fruit trees; the importance of soil health and mulching.



## RANGELAND MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP SCHOOL:

The rangelands of Kenya support many communities who are reliant on pastoralism, subsistence agriculture and remote water access to survive; underpinning societal sustainability to drive local economies. Expanding human populations, and the associated resources they require, are placing significant pressures on these rangelands, exacerbating years of over-utilisation and poor management. "Stocking rates on many communally owned group Ranches and Conservancies are 50 times higher than the sustainable ecological carrying capacity" Dr Dino Martins Mpala Research Centre. Rangelands management programmes have increasingly become necessary conservation and development tools, particularly where resources are communally shared. Successful rangeland management programmes need a solid foundation of best-practice knowledge. However, there are no dedicated rangelands management learning facilities in Kenya. Consequently, we have developed a proposal to develop the African Rangelands Management and Leadership School for which we have received a 50% funding commitment.

The African Rangelands Management and Leadership School will provide learners from Kenyan pastoralist communities with the opportunity to learn techniques and methods utilised in rangeland management and regenerative agriculture, in order to improve their own livestock and environment.

The School aims to be a Centre of Excellence for rangelands management, providing varying learning opportunities. Graduates will return to their communities to implement the newly acquired knowledge aimed at improving local rangelands and commercialising livestock sectors to restore and maintain healthy rangelands, increase financial resilience and improve food and water security. The School will act as a platform for rangelands rehabilitation both in the immediate locality and further afield through support to students post-learning including mentorship and implementation programmes.

## WATER DISTRIBUTION:

Borana Conservancy has continued to provide safe, potable water for domestic purposes to our neighbours during 2020. 640,000 liters of clean water was supplied to the neighbouring communities. The water bowser takes water to strategic locations and gatehouses every week, this helps families who live close by but do not have access yet to clean water. At Sanga we have addressed this with a pipeline and a solar powered borehole. We have plans to progressively secure drinking water solutions in partnership with local government for all neighbourhoods.

## COMMERCE

Although the Borana guest visits to Ngare Ndare Forest were less frequent in 2020, their visits were still able to generate \$1466. The Ngare Ndare Forest Trust supports 6 Community based organisations (CBOs) around the Forest, these are; Ngare Ndare, Ethi, Kisima, Manyangalo, Mbuju, and Soboiga. Funds generated through visits to the Ngare Ndare Forest support the CBOs through the provision of bursaries for students in the 6 communities. Every year one student from each CBO is supported through secondary school education.

Beaded items sold in the Lodge shop generated \$1700 in 2020.

### CORPORATE & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FACTS 2020

VALUE OF PURCHASES WITHIN LAIKIPIA - \$2,368,032

VALUE OF PURCHASES IN KENYA,  
OUTSIDE OF LAIKIPIA - \$498,871

VALUE OF PURCHASES OUTSIDE KENYA - \$112,208



Brian Odida



Brian Odida





James Lewin

# SUSTAINABILITY

## THE LONG RUN

The Long Run is one of the world's most influential sustainable development initiatives, a collective of nature based businesses who follow the highest standards of sustainability, encompassing Conservation, Community, Culture and Commerce – the 4Cs. Their collective vision is that of a world in which business, nature and people work harmoniously for a sustainable future.

Borana Ranch has been a member of the The Long Run since 2015 and we believe that collectively we can show the world that business, particularly tourism, can be a force for good and inspire others to take up best practices to make the world a better place. The members of The Long Run continuously demonstrate that profit can and should go hand in hand with productive ecosystems and prosperous communities.

The Long Run team have held over 200 hours of weekly hangouts for members to come together, learn, share and brainstorm since March 2020. Collectively TLR members now protect 23.5million acres and over 400 endangered species. During 2020 both Arijju House and Lengishu House became Long Run members.

## THE GER® STANDARD

The Global Ecosphere Retreat standard is recognised by the Global Sustainability Tourism Council as a leading sustainability standard and is considered to be 'one of the world's best standards for privately protected areas'. (Dr. Jeff A. Langholz)

Borana Lodge and Conservancy gained GER status in 2020 after a rigorous audit. This audit covered all aspects of the 4Cs in equal weight. The standard is not only about businesses mitigating their negative environmental impacts but about positively impacting the well-being of people and the planet.

The GER® standard is ultimately for those nature-based tourism businesses that are exceptionally motivated to be a force for greater good and are, or aspire to be, the best of the best in sustainable tourism.

The GER® recognition is earned rather than granted following a highly rigorous assessment by accomplished experts and professionals.

Owning, directly managing or influencing a significant landscape or seascape is an essential criterion that makes GER® exclusive on the one hand and focussed on the planet and people on the other hand.

GER® members must be commercially profitable or commit to attaining commercial viability; demonstrating that conserving nature is an economic imperative beyond the ethical arguments of posterity.

Delphine King, Executive Director of The Long Run, comments, "For me, Borana is the quintessential example of what The Long Run stands for. Particularly in its approach to making conservation a long-term viable option through business resilience, strong community connections, and providing a habitat for the region's most endangered species."



Amber Scott

### **GLASS:**

With five tourism properties on the Conservancy we are constantly looking at ways to recycle our waste. To combat the waste of glass we have set up a glass crushing and recycling system at the Recycling Centre at Borana HQ. The glass crusher continues to make 'eco-concrete' used as balast in the new accommodation blocks.

Moses Kasaine is also re-purposing glass bottles into glasses and vases.

### **LEATHER WORKSHOP:**

Mwangi a polio victim is a dab hand on the sewing machine and makes the car seat covers for the lodge, seat savers for saddles and is always repairing the horse blankets.

### **DASHBOARD:**

We are working with the Long Run on a new dashboard to measure Borana Lodge's carbon footprint. The dashboard allows us to calculate each guests carbon footprint accurately whilst informing Borana Lodge management on energy consumption.



### **WATER RETICULATION:**

In 2020, the Holtzman Foundation generously donated funds to Borana Conservancy to increase water availability across the Conservancy into some key under-utilised rhino habitat, allowing for more even dispersal of rhino populations. Borana Conservancy is working towards carbon neutrality and as a result we are looking at ways to cut our usage of fossil fuels and replace them with renewables, with this generous support from the Holtzman Foundation an existing borehole at Borana Conservancy HQ has been converted from diesel to solar power. Additionally, 5.5km of pipeline and 3 water points have been built in areas of suitable rhino habitat that previously had no available water. The solar borehole provides water to the three water points for wildlife.



# HOW TOURISM SUPPORTS CONSERVATION

The engine fuelling the Conservancy is tourism. Sharing this piece of wilderness we protect with our guests, is essential to our sustainability.

Every precious dollar earned through tourism on Borana Conservancy is reinvested back into protecting wildlife, its habitat and the people who live in the area. Tourism contributed \$155,710 towards the budget for sustaining our community and conservation projects during 2020.

## THE BORANA CONSERVANCY SAFARI EXPERIENCE

Borana offers some of the most thrilling, authentic and unique ways to encounter Kenya's wildlife and wilderness thanks to our conservation efforts. The conservancy strives to retain this land as pristine wilderness that guests are able to enjoy first hand, be it walking through the bush, riding on ranch horses or mountain bikes, driving in the open-top safari vehicles, or lounging at infinity pools and enjoying the view. Since the Conservancy is privately managed, making every aspect of the safari experience personal, peaceful and uninterrupted - giving guests the rare opportunity to be totally immersed in nature.

## CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Many guests would like to get more involved with the conservation on the Conservancy so we have put together some activities to ensure this can happen.

These include: a morning run with the armed rangers, evening deployments and morning collections for the night rangers, track and sight rhinos with their scouts and report on their locations, monitor rhino and lion with Wilson or Kiloko with the telemetry set, identify lions by using the whisker spot cards.



Arijju House  
[www.arijju.com](http://www.arijju.com)



Borana Lodge  
[www.borana.com](http://www.borana.com)



Laragai House  
[www.laragaihouse.com](http://www.laragaihouse.com)

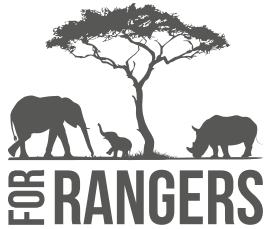


Sirai House  
[www.siraihouse.com](http://www.siraihouse.com)



Lengishu House  
[www.lengishu.com](http://www.lengishu.com)





Founded by Sam Taylor and Pete Newland; For Rangers has stayed true to its mission to support rangers by taking on some of the toughest adventures the world has to offer. The founders, now supported by many friends, are dedicated to supporting the welfare and improving the lives of wildlife rangers in critical landscapes across eleven African countries.

The belief is that by investing in rangers' welfare, the rangers will feel both valued and invested in their work. With better equipment to do their job, and secure in the knowledge their families will be looked after, rangers continue to deliver extraordinary results often under harsh, dangerous conditions in remote areas far from their loved ones and medical help.

Most of us are aware of the plight of African wildlife and the pressure on habitat. However, not all of us realise the human toll of protecting that wildlife. More than 1,500 rangers have been killed in the line of duty during the last 15 years, many more have been left injured and unable to work, leaving orphans and destitute ranger families as collateral damage in the battle to save our wilderness.

Since its inception five years ago, For Rangers has contributed more than US\$1,470,000 of funds via Save the Rhino International (with additional early grants also distributed via Space for Giants and Tusk Trust) and US\$560,000 worth of equipment to ranger welfare.

In 2020, For Rangers provided monthly rations for more than 800 rangers across Kenyan conservancies in an effort to keep the morale and energy high within the 'anti-poaching units' and 'monitoring teams' during these tough times. This included 121 Borana rangers, 26 Ngare Ndare rangers, 12 Il Mamusi rangers and 21 Il Ngwesi rangers.



SRI is a UK-based charity who have worked closely with Borana for many years developing grant applications and managing the resulting grants and reporting. SRI have been instrumental in securing and reporting on funding but importantly have also played a pivotal supportive role over many years across Africa in guiding policy and strategy on Rhino Conservation. With over 20 years of experience, the SRI team work with expert partners and use tested technologies and relevant scientific research to ensure their investments in rhino conservation have the greatest impact. 100% funds donated through SRI are restricted to the beneficiary field programme concerned.

### THANK YOU:

Covid-19 presented some unique challenges and due to the uncertainties we cut the budget early, through reductions in staff salaries, fuel consumption, ranger training, road maintenance, flying hours and vehicle usage we also put all capital projects on hold. Importantly, throughout this period we were able to maintain all of our social development programmes at pre pandemic levels.

Save the Rhino, the Rhino Recovery Fund, For Rangers, WildAid and the Bently Foundation have provided Borana with the financial and in kind support needed in order to cover core critical operational costs which in a normal year would have been covered with funds generated through tourism and commerce.

This support has been so tremendous and coupled with additional subsidies from the government of Kenya for ranger salaries, we have been able to get all of the Conservancy staff back up to full-pay levels. We are now repaying the salary reductions progressively as our commercial activities gather pace. We are indebted to our staff for the sacrifices made during this period. Ranger training and normal maintenance schedules for roads and infrastructure are also underway again.



James Lewin



James Lewin



# CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS WORKING TOWARDS A CONTIGUOUS ECOSYSTEM

**BORANA CONSERVANCY** firmly believes in collaboration, and has forged long-lasting and beneficial relationships with various other conservation agencies and initiatives within Laikipia and across the Kenyan landscape. Here are a few of our key conservation partnerships:



The **KWS** is the government agency tasked to protect and manage the fauna, flora and eco-systems of Kenya. The KWS 'Kenya Black Rhino Action Plan 2017-2020' underlines a long term target 'to have a meta-population of at least 2,000 black rhinos of the eastern African subspecies (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) in Kenya, and in suitable habitats as a global heritage'. The overall goal for the next five years is 'to achieve a meta-population of 830 black rhinos by the end of 2021; a net growth of at least 5% per annum maintained in at least six established populations; positive net growth achieved in all recovering populations'.



The **LWC** works as a catalyst for the conservation of wildlife and its habitat. This is achieved 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. LWC borders Borana to the east and was one of the first rhino conservancies in Kenya. Borana and Lewa have become one large contiguous ecosystem, giving rhino additional secure habitat.



**KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCIES ASSOCIATION** - Since the emergence of the first conservancies in the 1970s, conservancies have grown in number and their impact has broadened beyond wildlife conservation and tourism. Whilst wildlife conservation is a key objective, conservancies have the unique power to transform communities while safeguarding our iconic wildlife by uniting communities, promoting peace and security and improving livelihoods. As the national umbrella body uniting the dynamic and diverse voices of wildlife conservancies in the county, KWCA exist to harness this power.

## APRLS

**THE ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE AND COMMUNITY LAND RHINO SANCTUARIES** is an umbrella association whose membership includes all private and community lands in Kenya that host rhinos. It was established on the 17th January 1990 as a mechanism for rhino sanctuary managers to share ideas about the management of their rhinos. Subsequently, the APLRS has evolved to be an integral part of the Kenya Black Rhino Action Plan and the association works closely with the national rhino office to accomplish mutual objectives.



**THE NGARE NDARE FOREST TRUST** is run entirely by the Ngare Ndare community in partnership with the Kenya Forest Service, their aim being to protect the forest and its vital water-catchment for future generations. The Ngare Ndare Forest Trust emphasises the community ownership of the forest, thus fostering a sense of responsibility for this vital resource and ecosystem. Borana supports this community as well as the Trust's conservation efforts by sending guests on forest visits.



**IL NGWESI** is a not-for-profit community owned and managed Group Ranch, which owns land on behalf of the Maasai community in Laikipia. The community practices wildlife conservation and eco-tourism. Revenue from these enterprises is used to support the community in the form of education bursaries, health care facilities, improving access roads in the area and supporting small scale enterprises. Il Ngwesi is the only community conservancy in Kenya with an up market tourist facility (Il Ngwesi Lodge) that is genuinely owned and managed by the local community.

Embracing the Principles of the 4Cs - Community - Conservation - Culture - Commerce

# ALL FOR CONSERVATION

