



BORANA CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER NO VI

Kiloko Ransom



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

- 30,000 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 built on secure annual COC (core operating costs) and minimum fixed underwriting, demonstrated strong resilience during 2020 and through the first half of 2021. 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. We also received the equivalent of USD \$157,745 through The Kenya Wildlife Service from the government of Kenya in support to rangers' salaries.

Our social development programmes which include health care, education and microenterprises continued without interruption and are detailed later in this newsletter. Importantly our wildlife continued to prosper with all species (with the exception of giraffe) across the connected landscape increasing or stable.

Rhinos:

A generational milestone was achieved in 2021 with the birth of Allie's first calf in May, representing the beginning of the third generation of black rhinos on Borana. Following the introduction of rhinos to Borana in 2013, Allie was the first calf born in 2014. Allie's mother, Callisto, has had the highest number of calves, and had her fourth in December 2021. Allie is our front cover rhino for this newsletter.

UNESCO Natural Heritage:

National Museums of Kenya progressed well towards finalising the field work for submission of the Borana dossier for the extension of the UNESCO Mount Kenya Natural Heritage Site. We believe that there is a need to continue building capacity across this landscape by investing in both international and local conservation expertise, with a view to getting critical global accreditations and wilderness protection across the wider landscape.

SMART and migration to Earth Ranger:

During 2021 we continued to use SMART as the platform for our spatial data and we are now well advanced in the process of migration to Earth Ranger. This platform is much more comprehensive and has been designed to fit our management needs. The software will be supported by a new LoRaWAN system for the transmission of data. There are over 2,000 sensors available that can collect data on weather, river flows, water usage and storage, wildlife populations, geofencing invasive species and fence voltages etc. All of this information will feed back into our shared JOCC with Lewa, with a mini JOCC, embedded at our HQ.

Water / Soil / Environment:

We have signed an MoU with Natural State to work on opportunities related to carbon and we are developing a reforestation project across the Conservancy, which will see 521 hectares planted with more than 1 million indigenous seedlings.

Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA):

Borana is a member of the LCA, which is our local chapter of the national Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA). The association is recognised as our collective mouthpiece for communication with national and local government regarding the conservation sector's relevance and challenges. It is through this collaboration that we continue to explore rhino rangeland habitat expansion along with connectivity for all species across the Mount Kenya and Laikipia Ewaso ecosystem. This connected landscape can and should become a climate refugia provided we all work closely together with commonality of purpose.

Fundraising and events:

Both the 10 to 4 and the Lewa Marathon were cancelled in 2020, significantly impacting the funding that we normally receive for our education and health outreach programmes. Sadly, both events were again cancelled in 2021. The For Rangers Ultra-marathon was also cancelled in 2020 and again for 2021. Fortunately, all these events have or will run in 2022 - the 10 to 4 and the Lewa Marathon have been completed, and we will run two back-to-back For Rangers Ultras in September 2022.

Looking to the future

2021 was a year of below average rainfall and the March April rains for 2022 have failed, this second successive year of low rainfall is placing stress on people and wildlife habitats. It has become the new normal for rivers to run dry and important natural capital to be over-used by domestic livestock. We must now do what we can as a matter of urgency to manage our impact more positively.

In 2022 we will develop an Environment 4C's centre and purchase a bus, to bring school kids and adults into Borana for environmental education days. This programme, named 'Mazingira Yetu' will give kids - during school terms and also adult groups a neutral space to learn about environmental challenges and explore ways to regenerate and restore landscapes. The centre will also focus on preserving and informing on important cultural aspects within our diverse community.

MICHAEL DYER - MANAGING DIRECTOR BORANA CONSERVANCY



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 90,000 acres of unspoilt African wilderness. Together with Lewa, this ecosystem hosts a thriving community of over 247 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 Conservancies Association, 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, Untamed Planet, US Fish & Wildlife Services, Wildlife Conservation Network, WildAid, Wild Ark and all our rhino sponsors.



James Lewin

CONSERVATION

THREE GENERATIONS OF BLACK RHINO ON BORANA:

A huge milestone was achieved with the birth of Allie's first calf on 10th May 2021. Following the introduction of rhinos to Borana in 2013, Allie was the first calf born on 18th February 2014. Allie's mother, Callisto, has had the highest number of babies and her fourth was born in December last year. Allie's calf represents the beginning of the third generation of black rhinos on Borana, a great achievement and something to be celebrated!

The rhino population across the Lewa-Borana landscape (LBL) increased from 217 (114 black and 103 white) at the end of 2020 to 247 (131 black and 116 white) at the end of 2021 with 35 births (17 black and 18 white) recorded compared to 14 (7 black and 7 white) in 2020. The extremely high number of births represents a biological growth rate of 10.5 % in the black rhino population and 11.5% in the white rhino population. These average rates surpass 5% per annum recommended for a well-established rhino sanctuary in the country (KWS, 2017) and there are now 33 breeding black rhino females across LBL.



Wilson Sambaine



Lawrence Ngugi

Due to poor rains in 2021, body condition assessments continue to be conducted by the rhino monitors to check on the health of each animal, fortunately all remain in good condition and currently there is no need for supplementary feeding. Only six fights were recorded between rhino in 2021, significantly fewer than in previous years.

Unfortunately two of the white rhino calves born in 2021 died. Sidai's calf was only a few weeks old and just disappeared, further investigation revealed that the calf was most probably trampled by fighting bulls and the carcass eaten by hyenas. The second, Namunyak's calf was six months old. He was seen by the rhino monitors to have a serious limp. An operation to collect the little rhino was carried out and Dr. Ndambiri - a KWS vet was called to assess the situation. The calf's left hind leg was badly swollen and he was unable to stand. The decision was made to transfer him to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Orphanage in Nairobi for further treatment and care, the damage was very extensive and very sadly the calf died at the Orphanage.

There has been a lot of movement of white rhinos during 2021, perhaps due to the dry conditions, an additional 5 white rhinos have been living on Borana since July, but Mandela has moved back to Lewa. We believe that the Ngare Ndare river between Lewa and Borana is a significant obstacle to white rhino movement and we are exploring options to create additional crossing points.

BIRDS:

The National Waterfowl Census survey led by the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) recorded a total population of 2,426 water birds of 41 species in the landscape and the conservancy was ranked 5th birding hotspot in the country during the bi-annual Cornell University-led global E-bird bird count this year.

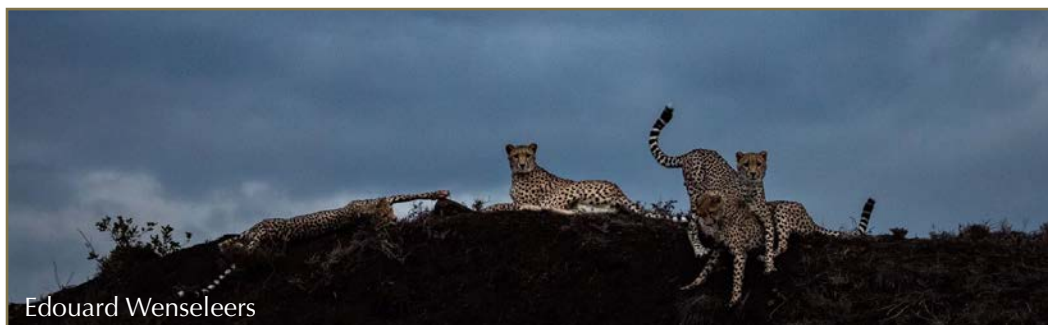
The bird species below were recorded on the IUCN Red List Status on Borana: Total No. of Species = 484 (Critically Endangered = 3; Endangered = 6; Vulnerable = 3; Near Threatened = 7; Least Concern = 465).

CARNIVORES:

Lions remain split across the conservancy, a pride of 9 have been seen in the Gaitumu forest, Carissa and her cubs are often sighted in the Arjiju lugga with the two males from Ole Naishu. The Borana males have not been seen since the arrival of these two lions from Ole Naishu but six young males have left their mothers, often seen to the west of Sirai and the eastern pride of 14 lions with cubs have crossed over to Lewa.

Fera's pride were reported to have killed 3 camels, 7 cows and 4 goats during May in Kuri Kuri community, sadly the pride have not been seen since. Fera's collar last sent a signal on 16th May 2021, 3km east from Dol Dol Centre north-west of Borana Conservancy. An old skinny adult male was treated by KWS vets having had a run in with a porcupine with assistance from Lion Landscapes.

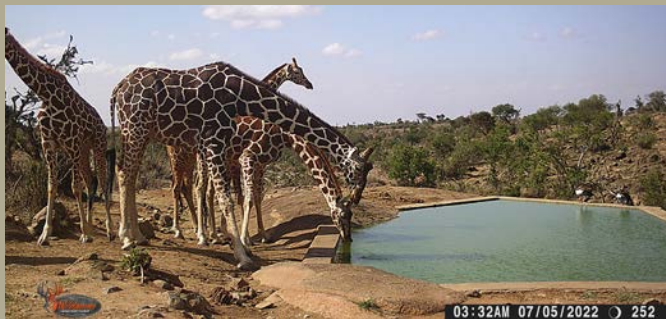
A female cheetah has successfully raised 3 cubs to adulthood, they have now left her side, two male cheetah are also often seen on the conservancy along with another female from Ol Jogi. We have engaged with San Diego Zoo Global leopard research team who are expanding their projects within the Laikipia landscape and we are hopeful they will begin research on Borana leopards in 2022.



HOLTZMAN WATER RETICULATION:

Borana Conservancy would like to thank the Holtzman Wildlife Foundation for its incredible generosity and support with helping water reticulation across the Conservancy.

This project which began in March 2020 has built four new water points in strategic locations across the conservancy, laying 9km of new pipeline and equipping two boreholes (one of which had to be re-drilled) with solar. We are currently experiencing extreme dry conditions, with 95% of the surface-water dams dry and springs drying up. Almost all of the water being utilised on Borana by humans, livestock and wildlife is from boreholes being pumped through this water-reticulation network. The new waterpoints have opened up new habitat, allowing black rhino to increase their territories and thrive. An incredible array of wildlife have also been using the new waterpoints across the Conservancy, quite often simultaneously. This funding could not have come at a better time, and we remain extremely grateful to the Holtzman Wildlife Foundation for this fantastic support.



LBL GAME COUNT:

The annual Lewa-Borana game count took place on 12th March 2021. It was exciting to see cheetah numbers up significantly while buffalo and hartebeest populations remain constant. The count recorded the highest lion numbers to date and high numbers of ostrich on Borana in comparison to previous years. Unfortunately, giraffe numbers were the lowest they have been for a decade, clearly showing that lions are preferentially targeting young giraffe.

BIODIVERSITY STUDY:

As part of our World Heritage Site application the National Museums of Kenya conducted a biodiversity study across the Borana landscape. Below are some of the key findings:

- An amazingly high plant diversity was recorded consisting of 576 plant species in 331 genera and 92 families, excluding various bryophytes and lichens. This is among the highest recorded plant diversity in the Laikipia county.
- There are over 362 bird species of 60 families that are known to occur on Borana Conservancy. The conservancy also hosts 11 globally threatened species.
- NMK recorded 23 additional bird species for the Borana Conservancy checklist. Thirteen of the new additional species are known to occur in the neighboring Lewa Conservancy.
- The presence of 4 species of bustards was also noteworthy considering it is a group of birds also on the decline and may indicate the good health of the grasslands in Borana Conservancy.
- The survey recorded 475 invertebrate species representing sixteen diverse taxa. Of the 475 species, 57 were from the aquatic habitats and 418 from the terrestrial habitats.
- 9 new records of reptiles were recorded.
- 124 species of mammals representing 37 families in 14 orders. Out of 16 orders of mammals in Africa, 14 are represented in Borana. Of significance is that, out of the 1323 global mammal species that are threatened, 14 are represented in Borana, providing home to 31% (14/44) of Kenya's threatened mammal species.

RANGERS:

Our rangers received multiple training courses from 51 Degrees throughout 2021 ranging from first aid medical courses to rhino training and tactical refresher courses. We remain extremely thankful to our rangers and wildlife monitors who are out in the field every day.

We have also engaged a fitness team Muscle Motion who are providing cross-fit training sessions to the rangers twice a week at the ForRangers bush gym, this is extremely popular with the rangers and also other members of staff.



LORAWAN (LONG RANGE, WIDE AREA NETWORKS):

Borana have entered into an agreement with 51Degrees to establish a LoRa network on the conservancy. LoRa Networks help provide vital oversight and insight into wildlife movements, rangers, vehicles, water sources, fences and much more allowing management and security to strategically observe and track multiple animals and assets. With the aid of robust and stable LORAWAN coverage, sensors will be administered across multiple departments with varying use cases playing a vital role in increasing management efficiencies and effectiveness across the landscape. For example, sensors carried by rangers and rhino monitors as well as vehicle tracking sensors will provide management with accurate knowledge of where these assets and rangers are at all times. This is not only vital in the forward planning of exercises but also reassuring for all that in the event of an emergency of any nature, a well-planned and timely response can be executed. The data collected from these sensors will also help observe trends with wildlife and ecosystems allowing management to make informed decisions.



James Lewin



ALL FOR CONSERVATION

Secure habitat for wildlife, birds, reptiles, insects and plants

2464 TRAVELLERS VISITED BORANA IN 2021

connecting with
wilderness and
enjoying abundant
wildlife

**TOURISM
GENERATED
USD446,143
32% OF THE
BUDGET
IN 2021**

30,000 acres within
the 90,000 acre LBL
of protected rhino habitat
in partnership with
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Incorporating
the 4Cs
Commerce
Community
Conservation
Culture

100% is reinvested into
CONSERVATION AND THE COMMUNITIES.
Sustaining the conservancy and
ensuring the environment,
wildlife and local people benefit
from conservation

HEALTH
21,270
TREATMENTS

EDUCATION
55 CHILDREN
13 TEACHERS

TRAINING
130 RANGERS

PROTECTION
28 ENDANGERED
SPECIES

**WATER
DISTRIBUTION**
TO 7
NEIGHBOURHOODS

COMMUNITY

BORANA EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The Borana Education Support Program (BESP) continues to work closely with our local communities, inspiring the lives and futures of children. BESP's focus remains on those communities in our immediate surroundings, with investments focusing on facilities, teaching tools and the schools' conservation efforts. Currently, we have 55 students under the bursary programme whilst supporting the salaries of 13 teachers.

2021	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Teachers	13	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	13	
Salaries	142,937	187,159	179,722	179,722	179,722	179,722	179,722	179,722	179,722	179,722	179,722	211,996	2,159,090
Students	49	49	49	49	49	44	46	54	55	55	55	55	
Bursaries	601,206	64,260		27500	510,820		609,378	272,054	131,200	470,193	15,400		2,702,011

TEAM TALK:

Team Talk have been working with the communities around Borana for six years now, delivering their projects through community invitation only. The aim of the Team Talk project is to use sports such as TAG rugby to break down gender and social barriers, to encourage the boys and girls to play together, developing teamwork and a mutual respect for each other. It is hoped that girls will be encouraged to continue with their education and that the boys gain a greater level of respect for girls. This year Team Talk visited Sanga Primary School; during their workshops a mixture of classroom and team building sessions are held along with TAG rugby. On the last day a tournament was held with parents and families invited to watch. The final event being an inter-school competition held at Gundua Primary School near Kisima. Sanga were the successful team in 2021. Additionally for the past three years Team Talk have been supporting the food programme at Sanga Primary School, to the North of the conservancy.



THE BORANA MOBILE CLINIC

During 2021, the Borana mobile clinic (BMC) continued operations as normal and the clinic Land Rover travelled a total distance of 17,349 km throughout the year. The Borana's mobile clinic team consists of three nurses, Pauline, Davis and Julia, and their driver Esimit. Together they visit 10 communities on a 2-week rotation, travelling on average 1,445km and treating more than 650 patients per month. The nurses also provide support and counselling to students at local schools, as well as health education to members of the community, focusing on hygiene and nutrition.

A real challenge during 2021 was sensitization around the COVID-19 vaccine in our surrounding communities and conducting health lectures in schools given their closure. Fortunately, these health lectures were able to resume in May 2021 along with immunisations. However, due to the poor rains, many of the pastoralist communities have moved elsewhere meaning many of their children have missed out on their immunisations.

The BMC assistant Julia Lobolia completed her driving school course and exams and will become a second driver for the mobile clinic. The mobile clinic has once again received wonderful support from CHK Trust for its ongoing operations for which we remain extremely grateful.

TO CELEBRATE END FGM DAY

On 25th November 2021 – the Il N'gwesi people celebrated the coming of age of their teenage girls in their own way. Led by Josephine Ndirias of The Mukogodo Girls Empowerment Programme – a force of nature in her own right – we witnessed an alternative rite of passage. The First Lady of Laikipia H E Maria Mbeneka Nderitu was in attendance, spending time with the girls and giving them encouragement in the next steps of their lives, persuading them that education is a very important strategy to implement change. This event celebrated the International day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls' was held at Sanga Primary School. It was organised by the MGEP and the Il Ngwesi community land committee, in partnership with Anti FGM board Kenya. A total of 200 girls from the Il Ngwesi community graduated through the alternative rite of passage, no longer having to suffer the pain and indignities of being cut, but instead a celebration of reaching womanhood with music and dancing, speeches and the handing out of orange Tshirts promoting the elimination of violence against women and girls.



Healthcare Programme	Treatments in 2021
Curatives	7,847
Family Planning	1,316
Immunisation	800
Antenatal	197
Health Lectures - Schools & Community	1,469
De-worming school children	3,042
Malnutrition screening children	1,617
HIV Counselling	4,618

DAYS FOR GIRLS:

We have received brilliant support for the Days for Girls programme which began in December 2020. The mobile clinic team have been working with the Days for Girls Chumvi Chapter (DfG) throughout the year distributing DfG Kits (re-useable sanitary pads) and raising funds for menstrual health education. To date 875 Days for Girls Kits have been distributed amongst 14 different schools. 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 so we are hopeful these kits will assist these girls with their school careers and learning. The programme is hugely appreciated by the students and their parents and we look forward to continuing this programme into 2022 and beyond.



DfG's Leston Kimiri giving a talk on the menstrual cycle before the girls receive the kits. They were also given a demonstration on how to use and clean them.



JANE TITOO KIYAA

In August 2021, Jane Titoo Kiyaa an eleven-year-old pupil at Ngare Ndare Primary School fell over severely bruising her spinal cord whilst playing with friends. She was left paralyzed from the waist down unable to stand or sit up. Jane was immediately rushed on the BMC vehicle to The Consolata Hospital in Nyeri for an MRI scan after which, she was referred to Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi. Here she underwent a difficult but successful surgery followed by two weeks of rigorous physiotherapy sessions at the Cottage Hospital in Nanyuki. Jane was then allowed to return home with her parents and carry on with the physio sessions. We are very grateful to Sirai House for covering all of Jane's medical expenses and we are delighted and relieved to report that Jane has made a full recovery and is now back at school.



GET INVOLVED

\$10 - A MENSTRUAL KIT

\$25 - A DESK

\$50 - SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR A PUPIL

\$80 - FUEL FOR THE MOBILE CLINIC FOR ONE MONTH

\$190 - 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

MAZINGIRA YETU

This project proposes an expansion of the existing Borana Education Support Programme to address the unsustainable utilisation of natural resources in the Ewaso Nyiro ecosystem. Mazingira Yetu which means 'our environment' in kiswahili will engage with Borana's neighbours to broaden, deepen and inspire their understanding of conservation and its importance for the health of all those, human, faunal and floral, that inhabit the landscape. The mission of the project is to engage communities living around Borana Conservancy to foster support for conservation initiatives and to embrace regenerative practices.

The BESP was launched in 2009, with the twin aims of lifting people living around the Conservancy out of poverty by providing better access to higher-quality education, and of raising awareness of conservation issues to nurture a love of wildlife and natural habitats. Despite its significant successes, the BESP scholarship programme can support only a relatively small proportion of children and young adults. Currently, we have 55 students under the bursary programme whilst supporting the salaries of 13 teachers. Further outreach is needed to offer conservation education to a greater number of students and adults. The first few phases of this project are underway, a conservation education officer and assistant have been employed and a school bus called 'The Mazingira Express' purchased and modified ready to carry visitors. We have begun the repurposing of an old shearing shed into an Environmental Education centre at Borana HQ, once complete we will launch a regular programme of Wildlife Conservation Days starting in July 2022. The Mazingira Express will collect groups of schoolchildren and their teachers, or adults from women's groups and other collectives, from the villages and forests surrounding Borana and bring them into the Conservancy for a carefully structured day. The day will include game drives, time at the Environment Centre, meetings with people who work at Borana ie rangers and hospitality staff. The participants will also see Borana's wildlife and habitat conservation efforts in action, e.g. water storage, solar power, plant and tree nurseries. We hope these days will help participants build knowledge about conservation issues, most particularly with regard to land degeneration, and to inspire participants to spread key conservation messages to secondary audiences and to enable the wider community to take positive action in order to conserve the landscape surrounding the LBL.



Kevin McCawley

WATER:

As part of the Baotree project, a 6,500 liter water tank and a 2,500 liter watering trough for livestock was built at Ntatariani village in upper Sanga to the north of the conservancy. The trough lies in an important wildlife corridor and means that the local community, who are predominantly pastoralists, are able to water their livestock closer to their homes, rather than travelling into deep luggas and digging wells.

Borana also bought a 6,000 liter plastic water tank for Lokusero B community (Kwa Nyerere), north of the conservancy, and built the base and fence around it this enable our water bowser to deliver water to this community and the project is managed bay the Lokuseru B women's group. The village has had a very serious water shortage particularly for domestic use. An MOU with this community was signed stating the responsibilities of each party for better water management, project ownership and sustainability.



SUPPORT FOR IL MAMUSI CFA AND ITS RANGERS:

In August 2021, Il Mamusi Mukogodo Forest Association received funding from The Elephant Foundation through Borana Conservancy. The funding provided a new set of uniforms for each of the 12 rangers which has significantly motivated them and boosted their morale. Additionally, the funding helped provide Wifi installation at the CFA headquarters and a boost for the Safaricom signal there, which now means the community forest association rangers are connected to Earth Ranger technology reporting any incidence of illegal activities such as logging or charcoal burning as well as incidences of human wildlife conflict.

CORPORATE & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FACTS 2021

VALUE OF PURCHASES WITHIN LAIKIPIA

- \$3,335,309= 77%

VALUE OF PURCHASES IN KENYA,

OUTSIDE OF LAIKIPIA - \$610,231 = 13%

VALUE OF PURCHASES OUTSIDE KENYA

- \$464,062 = 10%



COMMERCE

LIVESTOCK TO MARKET:

2021 was a quiet year for the Livestock to Market Programme due to the combination of low rainfall and a number of foot and mouth outbreaks around the Conservancy. We are hopeful that numbers and sales will increase during 2022. In total, 75 steers were sold worth 2,715,045/- in 2021, 93% of this amount (2,547,631/-) went to the community members, and 7% was retained for grazing and dipping costs and the local insurance compensation scheme. We are now collaborating with True Range and Africa Nature Investors (ANI) to develop a new concept we are calling Share Stock. This new entity will hopefully take on the for-profit management of the Borana and Lolldaiga cattle herds and allow for partnerships with participating community owned conservancies who subscribe to regenerative land management and planned grazing. This creative new model is for now embryonic, but we hope to report further in future newsletters.



GUIDE HIGHLIGHT 2021: Lawrence Ngugi

Watching the last kill of a female cheetah with her 3 adult cubs. Having studied with interest this very successful mother cheetah who had raised her three cubs to maturity, it was fitting for us to also witness her final kill with them. They were 18 months old and had proved that they could fend for themselves, so she shared this meal with them after the successful hunt. The following day she separated herself from them by completely disappearing. It was time for them to start an independent life. They were big and strong and she had taught them well. However the cubs stayed close to the windmill for a couple of days calling for her and looking for her before they decided to move on. Their mother was ready to mate again and raise another litter of cubs.



MANDELA'S MANYATTA

Mandela opened his manyatta in Lokuseru B for commercial business in September 2021. A truly authentic representation of a way of life from years gone by and a worthy attraction. Mandela himself is a talented guide and his knowledge of botany in the Mukogodo Forest is impressive.



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 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.

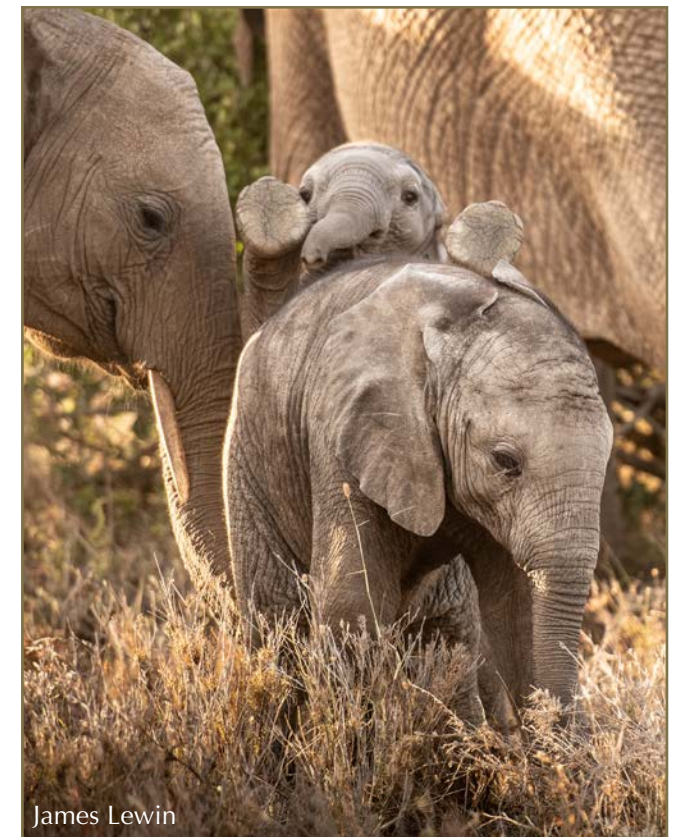
The GER® standard is ultimately for those nature-based tourism businesses that are exceptionally motivated to be a force for greater good and are, or aspire to be, the best of the best in sustainable tourism.

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."



James Lewin



Brian Odida

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 financial resilience.

For six months of 2021, Kenya was still suffering from Covid lock-down restrictions and the UK red list. This meant that conservation income from tourism only contributed \$446,143 - 32% of the budget. Our nine partners in the conservancy added conservation underwriting of \$323,143 - 23% of our core costs and we raised a further \$415,037 - 30% of unrestricted donations deployed to support rhino focused costs like ranger equipment and training, along with maintaining our health and education programmes including investments in school facilities. A further \$218,089 - 16% was received as restricted funding for infrastructural development including accommodation upgrades, water reticulation, aviation costs, training and intel support.

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 Kiloiko with the telemetry set, identify lions by using the whisker spot cards.

Arijju House
www.arjiju.com



Borana Lodge
www.borana.com



Laragai House
www.laragaihouse.com



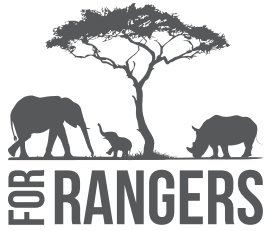
Sirai House
www.siraihouse.com



Lengishu House
www.lengishu.com



Lauren Arnell



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 Africa.

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 in 2015, For Rangers has contributed more than US\$2,000,000 worth of kit, equipment and training, supporting over 2,500 rangers across sub-Saharan Africa. They are currently supporting rangers in 14 African countries and provided life insurance policies to 1,200 rangers including the Borana rangers. We remain extremely grateful for all of their support.



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.



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.



NGARE NDARE FOREST TRUST

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



James Lewin