



LOISABA  
CONSERVANCY

# 2019 IMPACT REPORT



# WHO WE ARE

## OUR MISSION

To protect and enhance critical wildlife diversity, abundance and habitat in the Loisaba landscape while concurrently supporting sustainable livestock production and improving the lives of neighbouring communities. Both tourism and livestock bring revenue to the land, in an aim to being self-sustainable and offer over 300 jobs to local communities.

## CORE VALUES

- Respect traditional pastoral values and livelihoods.
- Belief that strong local democracy in community lands is paramount to success.
- Recognition that wildlife and livestock can, and must, co-exist.
- Belief that conservation can pay and bring benefit to local communities.
- Support of an inclusive workplace that promotes diversity.
- Commitment to achieving credible, measurable results.

# WHAT WE DO

## OUR KEY STRATEGIES

- Protect Loisaba as critical habitat for wildlife.
- Expand the scale of community conservancies in the landscape.
- Create a sustainable business model for Laikipia.
- Ensure regional grazing stability that starts at Loisaba.
- Enhance regional peace and security.
- Be a model for catalysing collaborative partnerships and science.

# the big Picture



## Kenya

A land of spectacular landscapes in the heart of Africa, Kenya is internationally famous for its wildlife, including the “big five” animals of Africa—the lion, leopard, buffalo, rhinoceros, and elephant.



## Species need space, and connectivity is key.

Loisaba is a vital piece of land. But it's also part of a larger story that extends well beyond its borders. This area is home to a well-used wildlife and livestock movement corridor—a crucial piece of a 6 million-hectare (15 million-acre) mosaic of community, government, and private lands across Kenya. Caring for this vast landscape is critical for protecting and sustaining some of Africa's best-loved wildlife.

## Laikipia

Laikipia is one of 47 counties in Kenya. With a temperate climate, the high Laikipia Plateau is home to a wealth of wildlife, including endangered species such as the African wild dog.





## A LETTER FROM THE CEO

The last year has been a positive and uplifting period for Loisaba. We continued to enjoy peace and political stability in Laikipia county and the wider region which, together with good rains since June, have meant the Conservancy has prospered. With 2019 being the penultimate year of our current five-year strategic plan, I am proud to report that we have achieved 90% of our goals and, despite the current climate and extinction crisis, we enter the new decade in a strong position.

We have invested heavily in our tourism infrastructure together with Elewana, rebranding and committing resources to put in place stable and cohesive management.. Loisaba Lodo Springs, which opened at the start of the high season, was very well received with excellent guest feedback. The recently upgraded Star Beds have also been an incredibly enticing experiential product that routinely receives outstanding reviews.

Through fantastic support from Space for Giants and Lion Landscapes, our conservation department has grown rapidly. Horris joined our team in May and Susan in August. SMART (Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool) software, rolled out at Loisaba in 2017, has expanded beyond our borders, and we now have five properties feeding into the monthly landscape report, creating detailed and dynamic baselines for wildlife trends and highlighting social conditions in our surrounding communities.

Assisted by a grant from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), we continue to engage vigorously in mechanical removal of invasive Opuntia, with almost 100 acres of

the heavily infested areas cleared since the end of September. The installation of a biodigester means our National Police Reserve (NPR) units cook on gas produced from harvested Opuntia.

Our 'Bring Rhino Home' ambition is progressing well, with the potential to reintroduce rhinos back to Loisaba in the next 18 months. Meanwhile, the San Diego Zoo Global (SDZG) and Lion Landscapes research projects continue to grow and engage meaningfully with the conservancy and our neighbouring communities. Recently, the largest giraffe 'collaring' operation in history saw five giraffes being fitted with GPS tracking units at Loisaba. The majority of Loisaba's guests enjoy good sightings of both leopards and lions, with over 25 leopards and 30 lions currently identified on the conservancy.

We continue to run our education days, health outreach programme, and grazing programmes, and we support our neighbouring community conservancies by working closely with the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT). We recently carried out the first round of a SAPA (Social Assessment around Protected Areas) survey and look forward to analysing the results, which will give us a good baseline to develop our community engagement strategies going forward.

Our livestock department has been running smoothly, with birth and death rates well on target. By providing dry season grazing and access to commercial fattening schemes, Loisaba has made good headway in ensuring regional stability. This, coupled with a well-resourced and dynamic security department and good engagement with our county government and local police department, has contributed to enhancing regional peace and security.

Under the leadership of Daniel Yankere, our security department continues to deliver on its mission, zero poaching incidences occurred in 2018 and 2019, and no major cases of insecurity were reported. With the inclusion of Kamogi and Lorok, we currently provide security management and support for over 63,000 acres.

Whether you've been to stay at one of Elewana's lodges here at Loisaba, supported us with a generous donation, or simply followed our work on social media, you are a valued part of Loisaba's network. Thank you for your continued and generous support.

Tom Silvester



WILDLIFE SECURITY

We are very pleased to report that for the second year running, we have had zero incidents of poaching on Loisaba Conservancy. Our security team is comprised of 69 highly trained, dedicated rangers, who conduct patrols daily, spanning out as far as the neighbouring Lorok and Kamogi properties. Good security is a key element of a successful conservancy, so we were delighted to achieve National Police Reserve (NPR) status, and invested in further training for our rangers. This has not only improved their skills and strategic understanding, but boosted morale and work satisfaction.

K-9 UNIT

Our K-9 Unit is undoubtedly one of our best assets. In 2019, it increased to four dogs with five handlers, all of whom share strong bonds and work together seamlessly – which was proved when they all passed an assessment at the Kenya Police Dog Unit Headquarters with flying colours. The two newest members of the team, Nanyokie and Memusi, have made superb progress in their training and have taken part in numerous operations to recover stolen cattle from neighbouring communities. The presence of the dogs at the Conservancy is a very effective deterrent to poachers, making a substantial difference to our overall security.

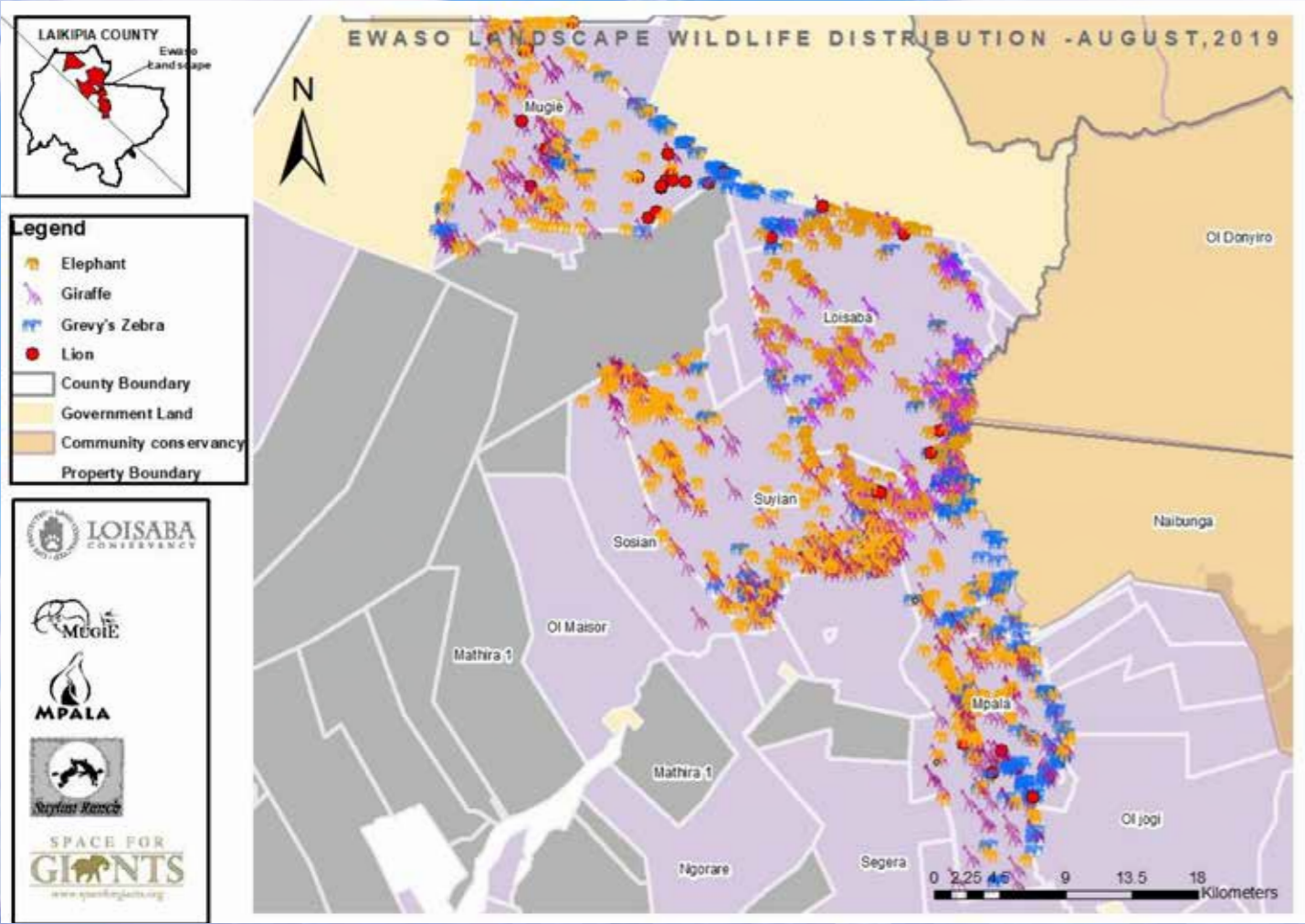
WILDLIFE MONITORING: SMART

Technology is fast becoming an essential tool in the fight against poaching. In close partnership with the Zoological Society of London and Space for Giants, Loisaba continues to use Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) software to monitor wildlife numbers throughout the Conservancy. Data is collected using an app called CyberTracker and analysed using SMART to show wildlife encounters and human activities.

Conservancies must be of benefit to their neighbours if they are to work. Mitigating human-wildlife conflict is a crucial part of this. Using SMART software will help us get a better understanding of where human-wildlife conflict incidents are most concentrated, thereby allowing us to make better informed decisions on prevention strategies. Loisaba’s Conservation Officer conducted training at three of our neighbouring properties and now produces landscape reports covering a total of 862 km².



# IMPACT: CONSERVATION SECURITY



## AVIATION

Keeping an eye on nearly 65,000 acres, complete with hidden valleys and thick bushland, is a major security challenge, particularly if undertaken only by car or on foot. In 2017, Loisaba's security received a huge capacity boost with the purchase of a surveillance aircraft, Piper Super Cub facilitated by a donation through The Nature Conservancy (TNC). An aerial patrol routine was developed in order to assist with Loisaba security operations. These patrols, both at Loisaba and across the neighbouring areas, have contributed considerably to security operations.

In June, an aerial survey across Loisaba and Mugie was conducted using the Super Cub to detect trends in wildlife population data, which showed a happy abundance of wildlife including over 400 elephants, 110 buffalo and 75 endangered reticulated giraffes at Loisaba.



ONE  
SURVEILLANCE  
PLANE

4

CONSERVANCIES  
UNDER  
AERIAL  
PATROL



AFRICAN  
LEOPARDS

Leopards are notoriously hard to find, though their tracks are regularly seen, and their harsh sawing is heard through the night. The Leopard Conservation Program (“Uhifadhi a Chui”) entered its third year in 2019, with 24 individual leopards identified. Despite being masters of elusion, it has been estimated that between 30 and 40 leopards currently live within or on the boundary of Loisaba. While our visitors are thrilled to witness these magnificent cats, they pose a serious threat to livestock belonging to communities on our borders.

The programme utilises the following:

- Camera traps for leopard identification and abundance estimates.
- Hair snare development for genetic assessments.
- Citizen science initiative.
- Household interviews to determine baseline attitudes toward leopard.
- Community reporting network to track large carnivore conflicts.
- Boma monitoring study to investigate attack rates on livestock.
- Frequency and distribution of melanism in leopards in northern Kenya.





FINDINGS SO FAR HAVE SHOWN:

- Attitudes towards leopards are negative among the communities, with almost half stating they would like to see the local leopard population decrease.
- Of reported carnivore conflict events in communities, 39% involve leopards.
- A total of 100 leopard observations were recorded. 24 identified individuals living on Loisaba.
- Confirmation of black leopards living in Laikipia County, with observations on five different dates and five different camera locations. In February 2019, SDZG released a paper confirming the presence of melanistic leopards in Laikipia.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Collaring for Coexistence initiative by Lion Landscapes deployed on Loisaba.
- Six members of the Loisaba rapid response team received training from Lion Landscapes to mitigate human/carnivore conflict.
- Third lion collared at Loisaba.
- There are currently an estimated 36 lions on Loisaba
- Loisaba participated in the national lion census, a comprehensive nation-wide lion survey by the Kenya government and other NGOs.

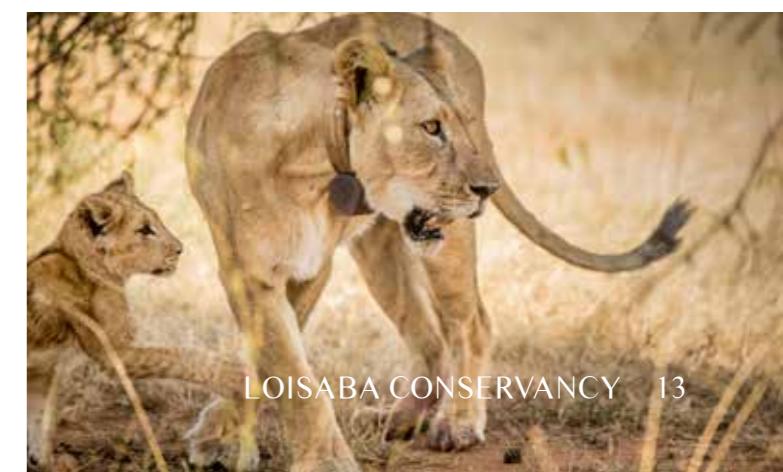
| 36 LIONS |  |  3 LIONS COLLARED |

## AFRICAN LION

Finding ways for livestock and wildlife to coexist harmoniously is a crucial factor for conservation, particularly in areas where so many of our neighbours are from pastoralist communities. Understanding how lions move and think, by collaring them, helps us figure out how to prevent them preying on cattle. We work closely with Lion Landscapes, an organisation operating across the wider Laikipia landscape and beyond.

In May 2019, a third lion was collared but sadly she sustained a serious injury in November from a suspected zebra kick. Following consultation from a Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) veterinarian, the difficult decision was made to euthanise her. In December 2019, another lioness was collared to continue the important work of Lion Landscapes.

Technology has made phenomenal progress on this front. Collared lions can be tracked in real time using a smartphone app, so we know if they are getting close to more densely populated areas, and can warn people accordingly, or try and head the lions off. The chip in the collar also sets off proximity alarms when the collared animal passes near sensors attached to settlements or bomas. Thus guards are alerted when collared lions are around. Lions learn very quickly to revert back to natural prey if all attacks on livestock are consistently thwarted.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- On average, 275 elephants are sighted daily by security patrol teams.
- 52 male elephants have been identified at Loisaba.
- Over 1,000 individual elephants have been sighted in 24 hours on numerous occasions.
- Loisaba hosts an elephant corridor that is utilised by over 800 individually identified elephants as a migration route.



52  
IDENTIFIED  
BULLS



275  
ELEPHANTS  
SIGHTED DAILY  
ON PATROL



WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR



USED BY  
800  
INDIVIDUALLY  
IDENTIFIED  
ELEPHANTS

## AFRICAN ELEPHANT

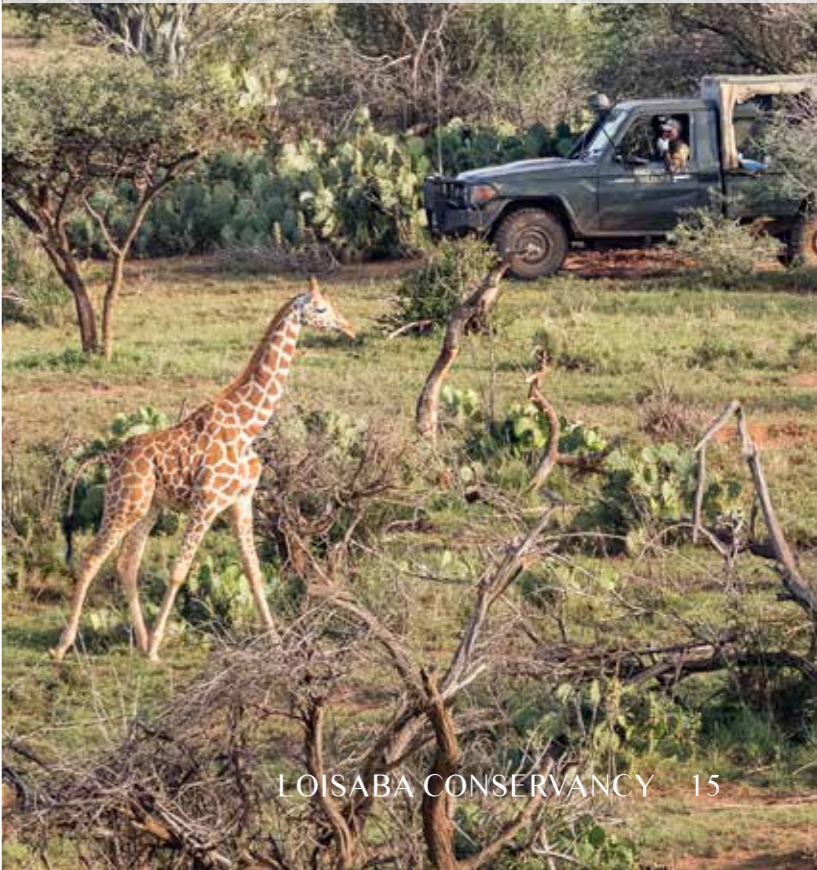
Watching elephants amble across the savannah is one of the greatest pleasures for our visitors – and, indeed, ourselves! The long-term elephant monitoring project, in partnership with Space for Giants, continues. Identification of animals through ear notches and tusk features, as well as utilising data from collared animals helps scientists to better understand migration patterns.



## RETICULATED GIRAFFE

These extraordinary animals are under greater threat than ever. Almost always appearing calm and unhurried, it is easy to forget that they, too, are now on the critically endangered list. With suitable habitat for these giraffes rapidly shrinking, approximately 15,000 individuals remain in the wild today. Much of their range has been reduced to the arid northern parts of Kenya, with only fragment populations still living in Ethiopia.

The SDZG 'Twiga Walinzi' (giraffe guards) team have fitted some 28 solar powered GPS satellite tracking units to individual giraffes in northern Kenya, five of which are located on Loisaba. Aerial surveys have identified 160 individual reticulated giraffes on Loisaba so far. It is vital that we maintain safe havens for these unique and peaceful beings.



2050:  
2,000 BLACK  
RHINOS IN  
KENYA



(2019: 794 black rhinos in Kenya)

EASTERN  
BLACK RHINO

We are keen to become part of the rhino renaissance in Laikipia, and are doing everything we can to prepare for that eventuality. The Kenya government has established a target of hosting an Eastern black rhino population of 2,000 individuals by 2050.

This is an ambitious goal, but numerous locales in the Laikipia landscape such as Ol Jogi Wildlife Conservancy, Ol Pejeta Conservancy and Lewa Wildlife Conservancy have demonstrated successful breeding programmes and suitable habitat for these amazing creatures.

Loisaba has requested permission from KWS to become a rhino sanctuary with the aim of helping to achieve their 2050 vision.

The presence of rhinos on Loisaba would contribute meaningfully to the biological management of the black rhino (*D.b. michaeli*) as Kenya attempts to achieve a minimum population of 830 black rhinos by the end of 2021.

INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL

Prickly pear (or Opuntia, a type of flat-stemmed cacti) was first introduced to the Conservancy in the 1970s as an ornamental, living wall. Since then it has spread at a devastating rate, invading the land and preventing the growth of indigenous, edible (for cattle and wildlife) species of grass. However, with the help of a generous donation through The Nature Conservancy, Loisaba was able to purchase a JCB backhoe to help with the mechanical removal of the plant. This has enabled us to remove the cactus five times faster than the previous manual method.

An incredibly resilient plant, even small pieces of Opuntia can root and re-grow, so it is necessary to bury it deep underground in pits also dug out with the backhoe. The same grant has enabled the installation of a BioDigester, which turns any organic waste (including Opuntia) into both a rich fertiliser and a gas, which is then used to cook food in the security ranger canteen. This helps to dispose of the removed cactus and save firewood for a much more eco-friendly way of cooking.



1,740  
ACRES  
CLEARED  
OF OPUNTIA



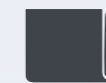
# IMPACT: COMMUNITY EDUCATION

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 47 bursaries at primary, secondary and tertiary level.
- Solar power systems installed at teachers' houses.
- Two classrooms constructed at Naibor school.
- Desks purchased for numerous schools.
- Eight education days totalling 150 students at the Loisaba Conservation Centre.
- 80 predator-proof boma' deployed.
- Three community conservancies supported.



47 BURSARIES  
FOR STUDENTS

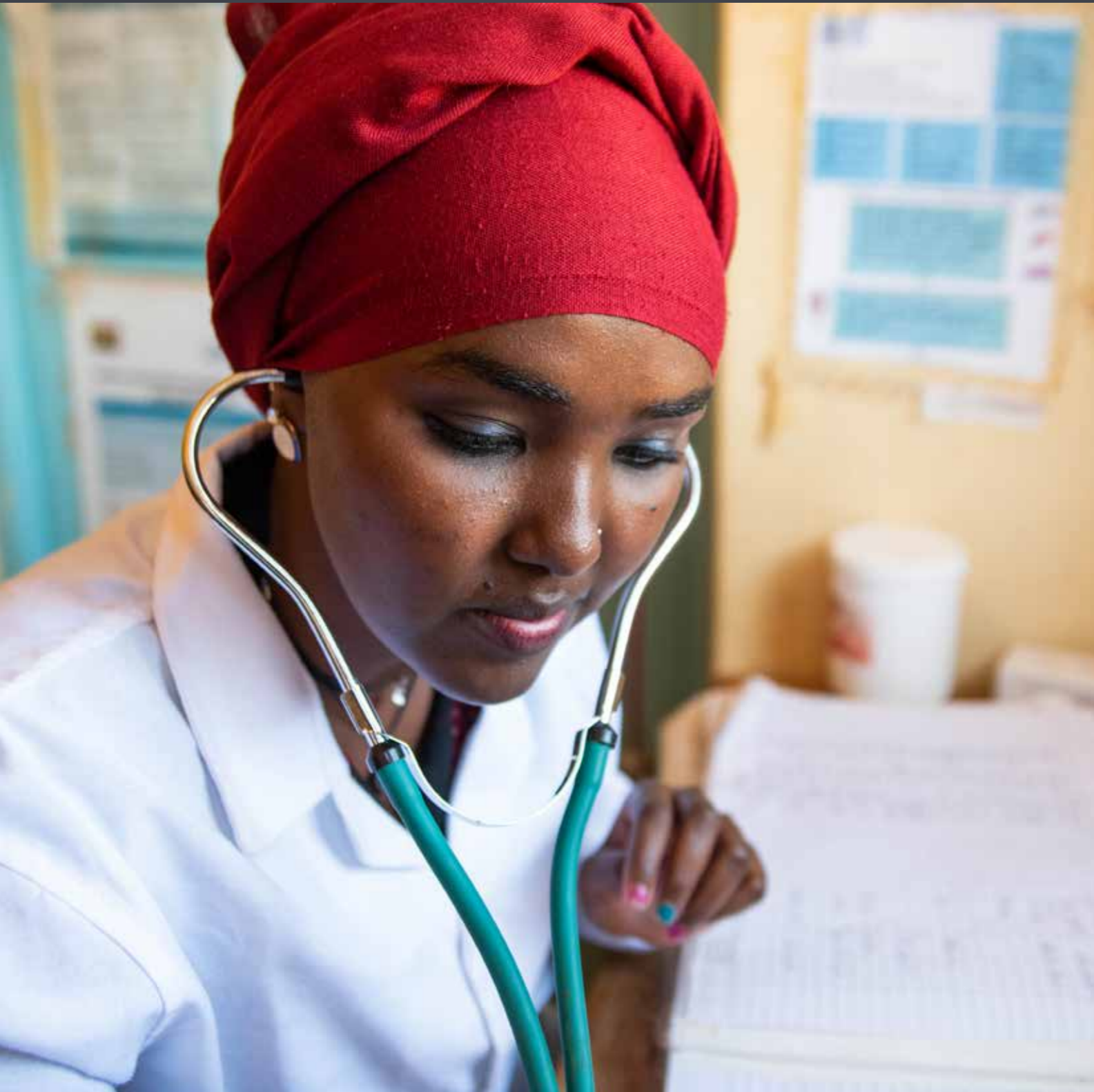


## LOISABA CONSERVATION CENTRE

The Loisaba Conservation Centre was constructed in 2017 through a generous grant from Sue Anschutz- Rodgers and commitments by SDZG. Opened in 2018, the Centre is a platform on which we showcase our community-based conservation model, and effectively demonstrate how it benefits wildlife, people and ecosystems.

In 2019, the Conservation Centre hosted eight groups of between 18-20 students and three teachers each. The students took part in exercises to highlight the benefits of conservation, food webs and speciation as well as basic ecology and conservation activities that could benefit their livelihoods. Educating the next generation of conservationists, particularly those with whom we share this countryside, is one of the most important things we do on Loisaba.





HIGHLIGHTS

- Every week the Loisaba Community Liaison Officer and Clinical Health Officer restock medications provided by government and consult patients at the Ewaso Dispensary.
- Loisaba funds training and stipends for the 15 Community Health Workers at the dispensary.
- Loisaba facilitated an anti-female genital mutilation workshop from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019. An alternate rite of passage ceremony was conducted. In total 127 girls have benefitted from this in 2018 and 2019.
- More than 1,500 patients treated at Ewaso Dispensary and Outreach Clinics.



HEALTH PROGRAMME

Many of the people living along our borders are from marginalised communities, with very little access to healthcare. Using revenue brought in from tourism, cattle and donations, we are glad to be able to assist them in every way we can. Through mobile clinics, awareness campaigns, workshops and funding salaries for health workers, we hope we can bring them the medical attention they need in order to live healthy lives in a frequently unforgiving environment.



1,500  
PATIENTS TREATED

# IMPACT: COMMUNITY CATTLE

## CATTLE

Loisaba Conservancy is at the forefront of livestock and conservation land management, and we believe that wildlife and livestock can, and must, co-exist. The careful management of grazing and the construction of dams at Loisaba has meant that there is a good, consistent supply of food and water for wildlife. This has created a haven for endangered species such as the African wild dog and Grevy's zebra, as well as large numbers of elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard and cheetah.

Neighbouring communities and their livestock also benefit from Loisaba's rich grasslands, and from our security department. We provide grazing management, security and veterinary care to community cattle, and facilitate the sale of cattle directly to the butcher. After the management fee is deducted, the profit goes directly to the owner. Even if cattle are not grazing at Loisaba and are reported stolen from communities, the security department can help to track them down with the help of the K-9 unit.



# 80

PREDATOR  
PROOF BOMAS  
DEPLOYED

# IMPACT: COMMUNITY CONSERVANCIES

## OUR WORK WITH COMMUNITY CONSERVANCIES

A community conservancy is a community-based organisation created to support the management of community-owned land for the benefit of livelihoods. They are legally registered entities, governed by a representative Board of Directors and run by a locally-staffed management team. This is a crucial tool for ensuring that land does not suffer from 'the tragedy of the commons' – that it can be taken care of on a holistic level that keeps soils and pastures healthy.

Conservancies work to improve governance and representation for their members by building on traditional cultural structures, empowering women and youths in particular to become agents of change. Good governance enables livelihoods and development projects to be owned, driven and maintained by local people, as well as providing a solid point of contact for donors and investors.

Conservancies give communities a framework and the right incentives to protect the diverse wildlife they share the landscape with, manage rangelands and fisheries more sustainably, and improve regional peace and security. They also provide a vehicle for business development, helping to diversify and boost economies in some of Kenya's most marginalised areas. Loisaba, in partnership with the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), provides support to nearby emerging community conservancies.

## SAPA

Social Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas (SAPA) was launched in 2013 to respond to concerns that some protected areas are imposing an overall negative impact on local stakeholder groups. There was a need to better understand, strengthen and promote the positive contribution of protected areas to local livelihoods. The goal of SAPA is to help increase and more equitably share the positive social impacts and reduce the negative social impacts of conservation.

The SAPA assessment uses a combination of:

1. Community meetings to identify the more significant social impacts.
2. Short household surveys to explore in more depth these social impacts and related governance issues.
3. Stakeholder workshops to discuss and interpret the survey results, explore other key issues and generate ideas for action to enhance community engagement and development goals.

SAPA was carried out in six sampling blocks surrounding Loisaba. The results showed that access to grazing, school infrastructure development, health care and security provided by Loisaba had positive effects on its surrounding communities. Human wildlife conflict was noted as a negative impact on living close to conservancy, proving the importance of human wildlife conflict mitigation in the surrounding communities.

The survey also showed that, while community members appreciate the current health support, there is a need for further outreach clinics on a regular basis. Loisaba is currently in the process of raising funds for the Community Health Programme for 2020.

Loisaba was delighted to see that 72% of people surveyed reported that living close to the conservancy has increased their wellbeing, with only 3% stating that it has had a negative effect.

# IMPACT: COEXISTENCE

## BAOTREE

A new coexistence model, known as Baotree, developed by Dimitri Syrris, was trialled at Loisaba in 2019. The premise of Baotree is to provide communities with a mechanism to actively earn community development goals, through carrying out conservation-based activities. This approach keeps the responsibility for natural resource management firmly within the communities, whilst supporting and catalysing the development of conservation-based activities. The model is based on:

- Conservation tasks that communities undertake, known as ‘gigs’, that earn the communities currency.
- Gigs consist of conservation tasks such as reporting a lion sighting.
- These tasks were pre-determined by Loisaba and Lion Landscapes staff.
- The conservation currency, known as ‘Bao-Points’, can then be exchanged for community benefit.

The pilot was a great success, with Koija community earning a total of 2,732 Bao-Points after completing 125 gigs. Information from community meetings and a recent survey showed that within these communities, the men would like to see their livestock better protected and the women would like a better understanding of healthcare.

In response to this, Baotree allowed the installation of 15 predator-proof bomas, along with a five-day healthcare training workshop that covered prevention of disease, basic first aid, nutrition and health and the dangers of drug abuse. This has been incredibly useful in terms of learning what the community actually want and need, and what will make proper change to the people who need it most. It also means that they earn this change, bringing accountability and responsibility for their own wellbeing, which can often be overlooked when offering support to underprivileged societies.



## COMMUNITY CO-EXISTENCE TRAINING AND LION RANGERS

Loisaba also supports various human wildlife conflict mitigation measures. In partnership with SDZG, 80 predator-proof bomas have been deployed in neighbouring communities to decrease the risk of livestock predation. Coexistence workshops have also been carried out in partnership with Lion Landscapes and the Peregrine Fund, in order to teach best methods for keeping livestock safe. Communities often use poison in attempt to get rid of lions: a ruinous response which has catastrophic consequences for chains within the ecosystem. The coexistence workshops also teach people about the short and long-term effects of poisoning, both for themselves and the environment.

The six members of the rapid response team that have been trained as lion rangers provide support to communities in the event of human/carnivore conflict. In partnership with SDZG, there is a conflict reporting network in place - which also provides income to community members – to help monitor incidences that can be effectively responded to. This helps communities reduce the risk of losing their livestock, as well as protecting carnivores from retaliation killings.



75%  
ENGAGEMENT  
RATE



20  
COMMUNITY  
VOLUNTEERS



109%  
TARGET  
BAO-POINTS  
EARNED

# IMPACT: CONSERVATION TOURISM

## GOLD AND SILVER ECO-RATING FOR LOISABA TENTED CAMP AND LOISABA STAR BEDS

To truly be successful in the long run, businesses must be sustainable – both financially and environmentally. Ecotourism Kenya promotes responsible tourism practices within the tourism industry and encourages the adoption of best practices in the use of tourism resources, working with local communities and managing wastes and emissions. Together with our partner, Elewana Collection, we strive to ensure our carbon footprint is kept at a minimum.

Loisaba Conservancy is privileged to be, in our mind, one of the most beautiful corners of the world. We are honoured to be safeguarding this exceptional place, and delighted to welcome all our visitors to share in the experiences we can offer. The opening of Elewana Collection's Loisaba Lodo Springs in June this year brings the total number of tourism destinations at Loisaba Conservancy to four: Elewana Collection's Loisaba Lodo Springs, Loisaba Tented Camp, Loisaba StarBeds and the Acacia Campsite.

Designed by renowned architects Chris Payne and Jan Allen, Lodo Springs offers an ultra-private experience, with eight spacious, individual rooms boasting impressive views that stretch across a magical landscape, all the way to Mt Kenya's jagged blue peaks. Karim Wissanji, CEO of Elewana Collection, speaks passionately of Lodo Springs, describing it as "a different kind of bespoke safari experience".

Matthew Brown, Africa Director for TNC says: "The vibrant grasslands of northern Kenya are home to elephant, zebra, giraffe, lions and local livestock herders. The Nature Conservancy, Elewana and Loisaba Conservancy have partnered to create Elewana Lodo Springs, the newest and most exciting tourism experience that will generate local jobs and help contribute to critical wildlife and habitat protection. Personally, I find it really exciting that every visitor will be contributing to global species conservation and local livelihoods."



USD 480,000

GENERATED FROM TOURISM  
FOR CONSERVATION

# IMPACT: CONSERVATION TOURISM

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Opening of a new lodge, Elena Collection's Loisaba Lodo Springs.
- Renovation of Elewana Collection's Loisaba StarBeds.
- Loisaba Tented Camp and Loisaba StarBeds receive Gold and Silver Eco Ratings.



## THANK YOU

We would like to thank all our partners for contributing to another successful year at Loisaba Conservancy.

- The Nature Conservancy - [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)
- Space for Giants - [www.spaceforgiants.org](http://www.spaceforgiants.org)
- San Diego Zoo Global - [www.sandiegozooglobal.org](http://www.sandiegozooglobal.org)
- Lion Landscapes - [www.lionlandscapes.org](http://www.lionlandscapes.org)
- NRT - Northern Rangelands Trust - [www.nrt-kenya.org](http://www.nrt-kenya.org)
- Elewana Collection - [www.elewanacollection.com](http://www.elewanacollection.com)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Donate: [www.loisaba.com/donate](http://www.loisaba.com/donate)
- Visit: email [enquiries@loisaba.com](mailto:enquiries@loisaba.com) with your planned dates and preferred accommodation
- Fundraise for Loisaba
- Leave a legacy for Loisaba

## CONTACT US

P.O. Box 1348-10400

Nanyuki, Kenya

+254 (0) 70 520 2375

+254 (0) 71 600 0572

[enquiries@loisaba.com](mailto:enquiries@loisaba.com)

## PHOTO CREDITS

Jamie Lucas: Cover page.

Ami Vitale: Pages 6, 7, 13, 14, 16, 18, 23 & 27.

Alastair Boyd: Inside cover & page 1.

Lizzie Daly: Page 6.

Down to Earth Films: Pages 8-9 & 15.

Maira Bholla: Page 10

SDZG: Pages 11 & 15

Taro Croze: Page 12

Hannah Campbell: Page 17

Roshni Lodhia: Pages 20 & 21.

Phil Carter: Page 22.

Silverless: Pages 24-25, 28-29, 31, 32 & 33.

Neil Thomas: Page 30.

Mario Moreno: Pages 30 & 31.



LOISABA  
CONSERVANCY

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LAND CONNECTED. LIFE PROTECTED.