



LOISABA
CONSERVANCY

AN ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

OUR MISSION

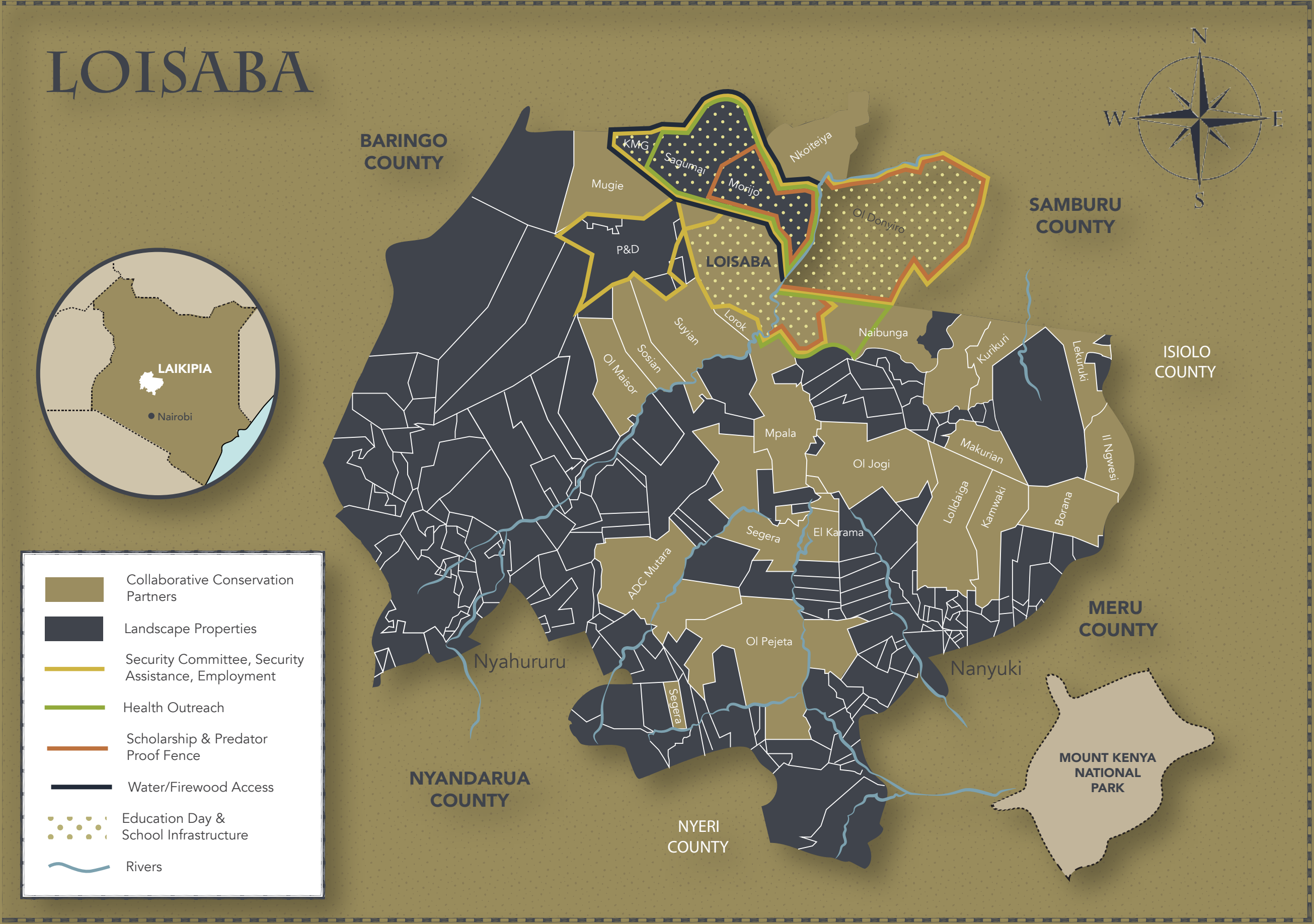
To protect and enhance critical wildlife diversity, abundance and habitat in the Loisaba landscape while concurrently supporting sustainable livestock production and improving the lives of neighbouring communities. Both tourism and livestock bring revenue to the land, in an aim to be self-sustainable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

OUR KEY STRATEGIES

- Protect critical wildlife habitat within Loisaba.
- 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.



COLLABORATION: LAIKIPIA CONSERVANCIES ASSOCIATION



A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Supporters,

Despite the challenges faced during 2020, we remained committed to conserving and protecting the critical habitat that Loisaba provides, as well as the wildlife that live here. We would like to express our gratitude to all who have supported us through a difficult year.

I would also like to thank the Loisaba Team for personally donating to conservation by voluntarily taking pay cuts in order for us to remain within budget, and to ensure everyone remained employed.

While the world went into lock down, conservation continued - and this report shows our success.



Thank you for your support.

Tom Silvester

(map on previous page)

LAIKIPIA CONSERVANCIES ASSOCIATION

The Laikipia Conservancies Association is a member-led organisation established in 2019 with the goal of bringing together conservancies in Laikipia to address common challenges and amplify our individual impacts. As one of the most important wildlife areas in Kenya, the future of Laikipia as a conservation landscape depends on conservancies. These institutions form a diverse mosaic, with different land tenure, governance, and management models, yet are aligned through recognition that a collaborative vision and management approach is critical to the future of conservancies as the core of a broader conservation landscape that supports people and wildlife.



0

POACHING
INCIDENTS



25

LEOPARDS
IDENTIFIED



9

SECURITY
TRAINING
COURSES



5

ELEPHANTS
RESCUED



1

LION
COLLARED



54,175

KM COVERED BY LOISABA SECURITY
FOOT AND VEHICLE PATROLS



WILDLIFE SECURITY

Loisaba expanded the security department to 79 members (41 NPR and 38 rangers), with patrols now covering 60,000 acres of land. We are proud to report that no poaching or major security incidents occurred during 2020.

A TRIBUTE TO WARRIOR AND MACHINE

This year we unfortunately lost two members of our K9 unit, Warrior - to a snake bite - and Machine - to cancer.

The bloodhound brothers arrived at Loisaba in 2012 at just 9 months old after being trained at Ol Jogi Conservancy. Warrior and Machine were a great asset to Loisaba, and played an important role in anti-poaching, as well as helping to track several thieves and recover stolen items (including livestock) in our communities.

They were responsible for finding three men who had killed an endangered reticulated giraffe in July 2017, who were then jailed for three years, as well as tracking the men responsible for shooting an elephant in Oldonyiro.

A big thank you to Machine and Warrior for their excellent work and service to the conservancy and community.

You will be greatly missed.



ELEPHANT RESCUED

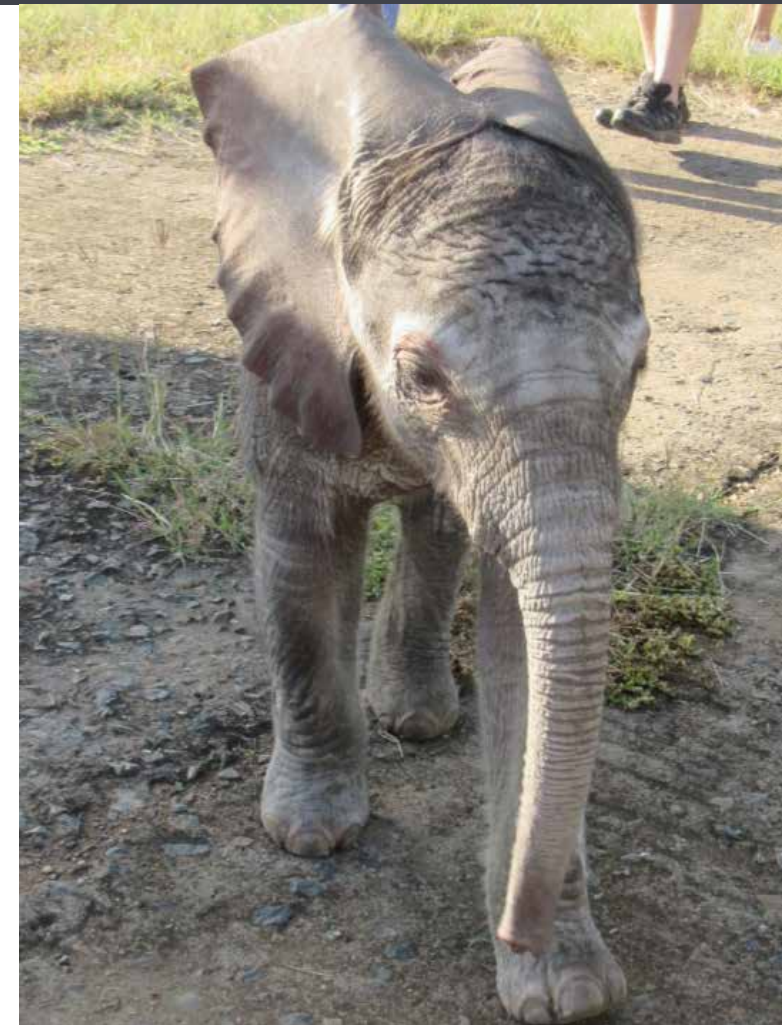
At Loisaba, the security team sight on average 300 elephants per day. The rangers work around the clock to ensure their safety. This year three elephant calves were rescued by the Loisaba Security Team and sent to Reteti Elephant Sanctuary in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Tropic Air.



LONGURO

On Saturday 18th April, our security team was called to the rescue of a baby elephant that had fallen into a well on a neighbouring property and attacked by hyenas, resulting in the loss of most of his trunk. Our Loisaba rangers managed to free him from the well and transported him back to Loisaba, where he was flown to Reteti by Tropic Air.

He is receiving the critical care that he needs and hopefully one day be released back into the wild. He is doing remarkably well at Reteti, and has been named 'Longuro' – meaning 'someone who has lost a limb' in Samburu.



LOTEKU

Just after sunset on the 30th May, one of the Loisaba rangers reported that a young elephant had been unable to keep up with its herd as they crossed the Ewaso Narok River that evening. The young calf had been swept downstream towards a waterfall, and was struggling to stay afloat. A team led by Loisaba's security manager Daniel Yankere were deployed to the river, where two rangers bravely jumped into the cold, raging water to pull him out.

Luckily he had no physical injuries, but he was weak and his herd was nowhere to be found. After consultation with KWS and Reteti, the decision was made to bring the calf to Loisaba Headquarters for the night where he was carefully monitored until morning when a Tropic Air plane arrived to transport him safely to Reteti. He is settling in well and has been named Loteku – meaning 'the rescued one'.

SIKAMPI

The day after Loteku was rescued from the river, another elephant calf was spotted alone. Estimated to be just one year old, he was monitored by the Loisaba rangers for three days. It was reported that he had joined a group of elephants, but was then found alone again the following day. His condition appeared to be deteriorating – he was becoming malnourished and seemed to be blind in his left eye.

On the 3rd June, a vet from KWS assisted the Loisaba rangers in darting and transporting the calf to the Loisaba airstrip, where he was airlifted to Reteti Elephant Orphanage to join Loketu. He has already made new friends in the orphan herd and has been going out browsing with them.





AFRICAN ELEPHANT

On Saturday 16th May, our Rapid Response Team was deployed at the request of NRT Conservation Director Ian Craig to help save a bull elephant who had become stuck in sinking mud on the neighbouring Nannapa Community Conservancy. With the help of Loisaba's SAME 130 tractor, the elephant was successfully rescued.

On the 25th of June, our ranger team spotted a large bull elephant with an obvious limp. After surveying the elephant for some time, it became apparent that the bull's injury was causing obvious discomfort and the KWS veterinary unit was called. Once the elephant was darted, the team found that the injury was caused by a bullet. This could have been the result of either human-wildlife conflict or a failed poaching attempt. Luckily the elephant's movements to Loisaba enabled the team to ensure his wound was treated successfully.



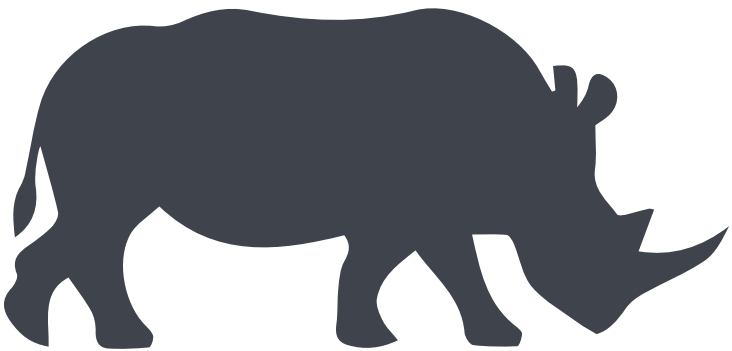
AVIATION

Loisaba’s Piper Super Cub (5Y-TTX) continues to be a great asset both to Loisaba and our surrounding communities. In 2020 it flew for 305 hours and covered almost 40,000km, contributing significantly to security and wildlife operations.



EASTERN BLACK RHINO

Following habitat assessments and security audits, Loisaba received provisional approval to become a rhino sanctuary in October from the Kenya Wildlife Service. Once the infrastructure is in place, a detailed evaluation will be undertaken before final approval is granted. During the first half of 2021, we will be focusing on raising the necessary funding for the first five years.



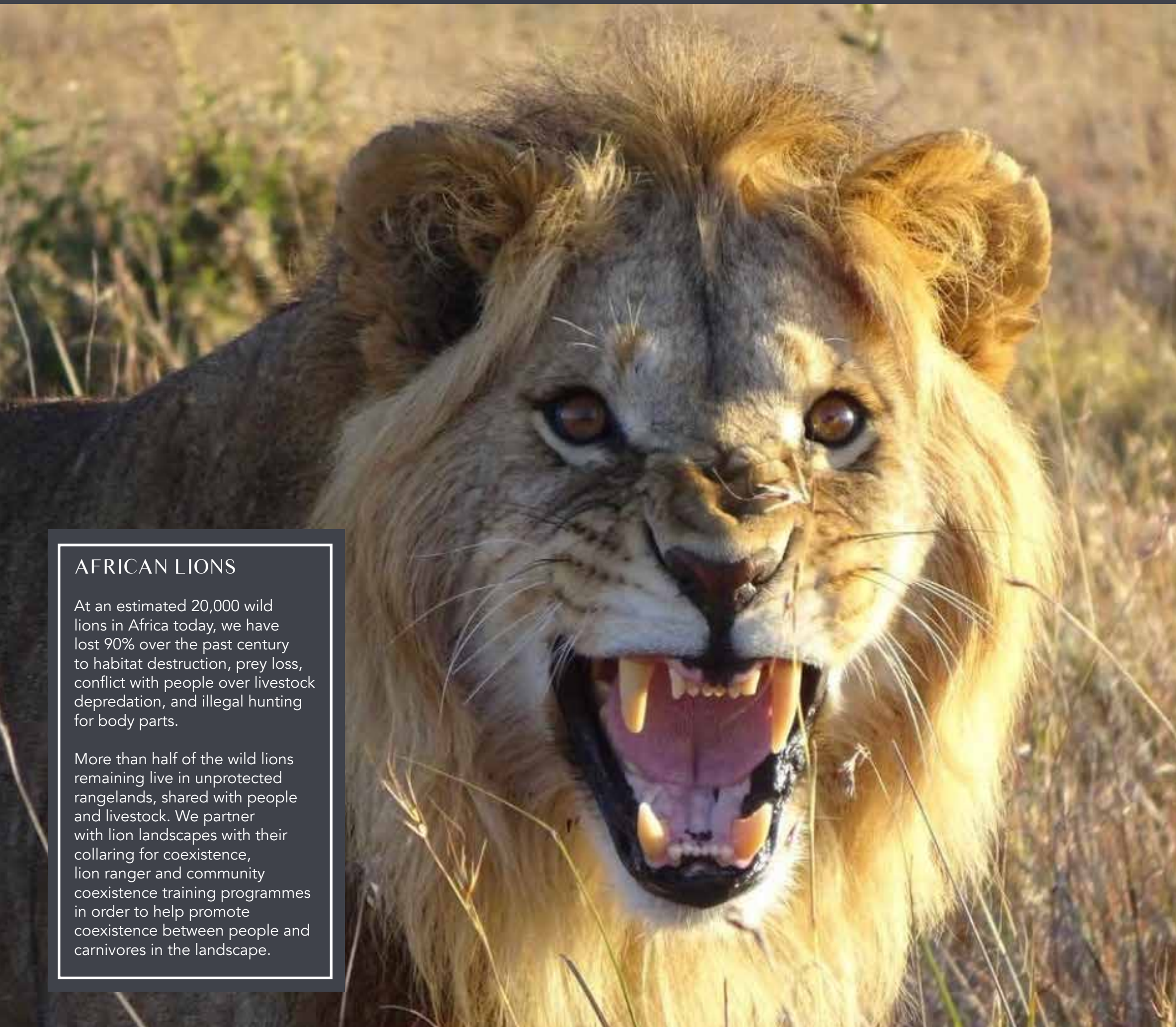
INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL

Our efforts to control the spread of ‘prickly pear’ at Loisaba and in the surrounding communities continue, with almost 50,000 plants cleared during 2020 thanks to a generous donation through The Nature Conservancy. Although we are making excellent progress, the exponential growth of the cactus means that controlling it remains a huge challenge, and further funding is necessary in order to stop the spread.



WILDLIFE MONITORING - SMART

During 2020, SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) was rolled out across a further nine properties (total 14), with reports now covering over 470,000 acres. This standardised data collection across the landscape is an important tool in conservation management decisions.



AFRICAN LIONS

At an estimated 20,000 wild lions in Africa today, we have lost 90% over the past century to habitat destruction, prey loss, conflict with people over livestock depredation, and illegal hunting for body parts.

More than half of the wild lions remaining live in unprotected rangelands, shared with people and livestock. We partner with lion landscapes with their collaring for coexistence, lion ranger and community coexistence training programmes in order to help promote coexistence between people and carnivores in the landscape.

COLLARING FOR COEXISTENCE

Lion Landscapes' "Collaring for Coexistence" initiative is using technology to help lions live alongside people and livestock. Specialised lion GPS collars are deployed and managed in order to provide livestock owners with real time lion movement data via a mobile app, developed by Save The Elephants. This helps people keep their livestock away from lions in an area, and therefore reduces attacks on livestock and retaliation killing.

In January 2020, Lion Landscapes collared one of five young adult males here at Loisaba in order to monitor their progress. When young males leave their maternal pride, they are not yet strong or experienced enough to take on older males to win a pride of their own. While avoiding the territories of more experienced males, they are often pushed into areas with less prey and more people and livestock, meaning they are then at greater risk of being killed either to prevent livestock loss or in retaliation. The collared lion, known as Felix, is so far doing well and can often be seen with his brothers.





LION RANGERS

Six members of Loisaba's security team have been trained as 'Lion Rangers'. They have been trained and equipped in order to be able to respond effectively to incidents of human-carnivore conflict following agreed best practices for lion conservation, in order to decrease the number of lions and other carnivores that are killed in retaliation.

The Lion Rangers not only actively promote coexistence between people and wildlife, they also collect and record valuable data that help us to understand more about human-carnivore coexistence and carnivore population dynamics.

In 2020, the Loisaba lion rangers responded to four human wildlife conflict incidents in the communities, and reported zero retaliation killings of lions.

WILDLIFE RANGER CHALLENGE

The Wildlife Ranger Challenge was an initiative by TUSK Trust, where Ranger Teams across Africa came together to complete a series of challenges to raise funds for their vital conservation work. It consisted of a series of mini-challenges (how many sit-ups, push-ups and burpees could they do in two minutes and a ranger quiz), followed by joining over 50 teams in running a half-marathon (21km) carrying a 22kg backpack. We are proud to announce that this race was won by the Loisaba Lion Rangers in a fantastic time of 2 hours 21 minutes!



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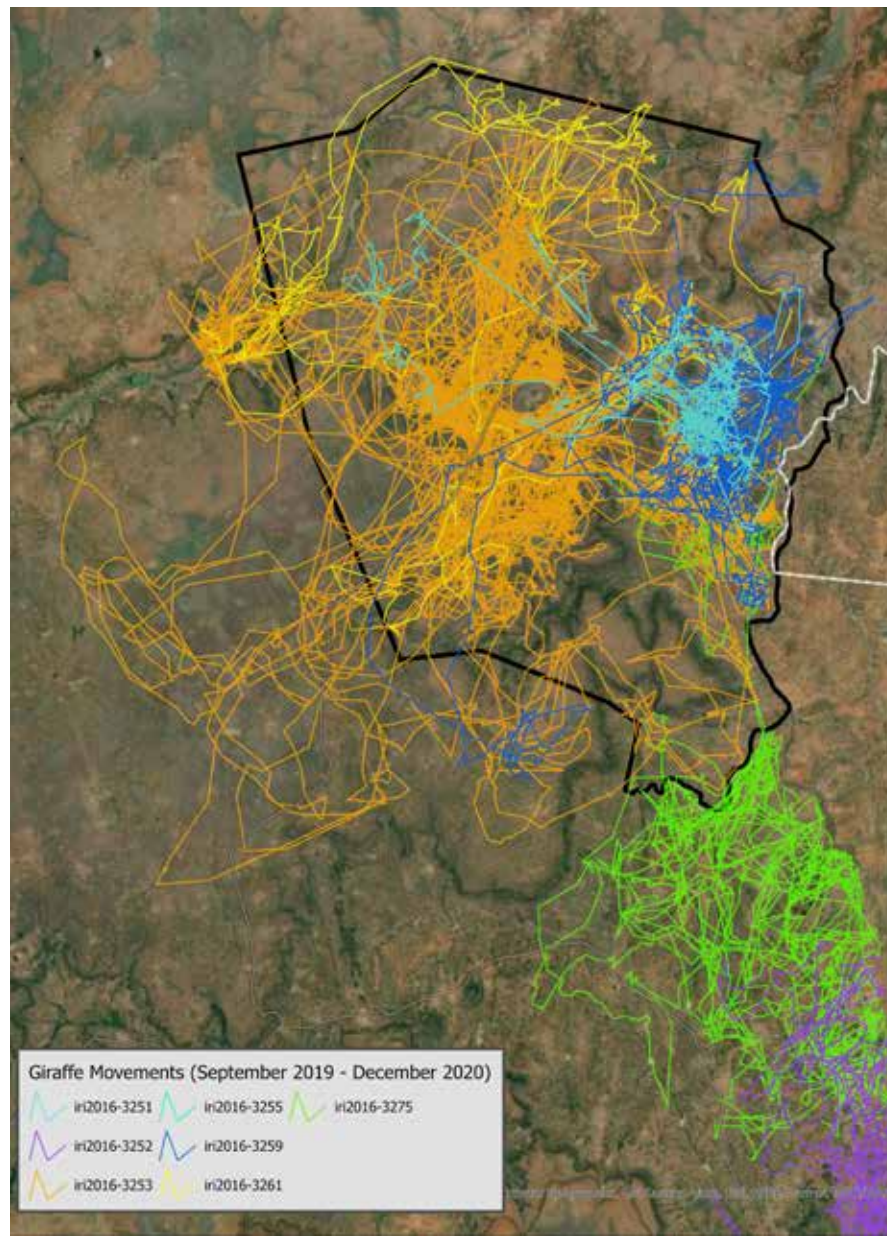
"I am Boniface, head Lion Ranger in Laikipia. On behalf of the Lion Rangers at Loisaba Conservancy, I want to take this opportunity to thank all our colleagues, our employers and the whole Tusk team that sat down and came up with the incredible idea of a Wildlife Ranger Challenge. This showed the teamwork of all the Rangers across the world, and that we are together as one." – Boniface Lowoi, Loisaba Conservancy

RETICULATED GIRAFFE

In 2019, Loisaba was involved in the single largest GPS satellite tagging of giraffes in history. 28 solar powered GPS satellite tracking units ('ossi-units') were fitted to endangered reticulated giraffes in northern Kenya – five of which are at Loisaba Conservancy – in order to better understand their spatial movements and habitat use in the wild.

As of February 2020, five units are still sending data. Spatial patterns of the collared giraffe indicate that these individuals seem to have varying movement in different habitat types, apparently moving less in the more mesic Laikipia plateau, and moving greater distances in the more arid Samburu and Marsabit counties.

This data has not shown any movement of the giraffe across the Ewaso River, indicating that it is a barrier. Data from the giraffe collared in Leparua Community Conservancy and Samburu National Reserve show the giraffe coming within close proximity of the river on a frequent basis, but thus far the data has not shown any of the giraffe moving from one side of the river to the other during any season. The majority of giraffes are utilizing multiple reserves and conservancies, reinforcing the need to keep connectivity between conservancies in northern Kenya.

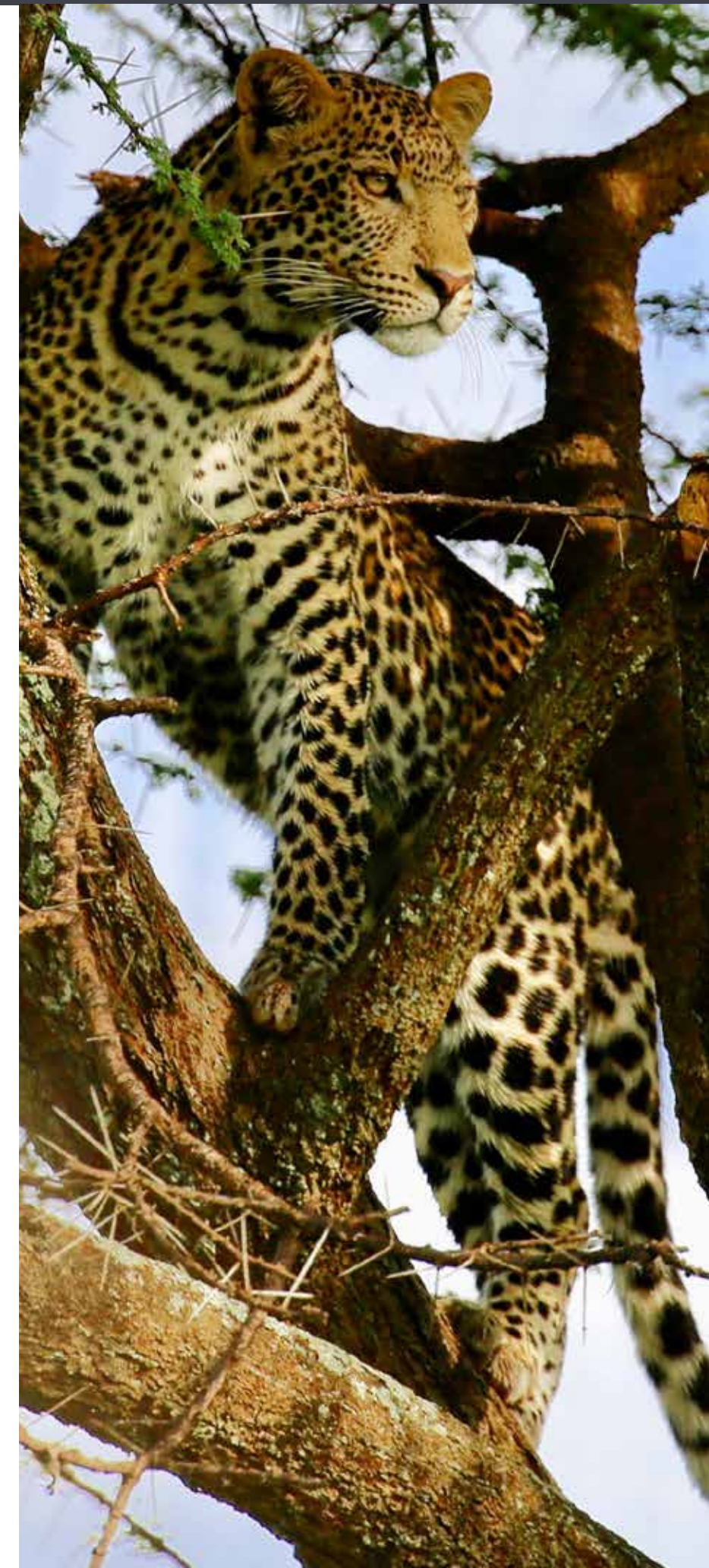


AFRICAN LEOPARDS

The IUCN lists leopards as vulnerable, and reports that leopard ranges in Africa are estimated to have declined by more than 30% in the last 20 years, with livestock/people conflict reported as one of the primary conservation concerns for the African leopard subspecies. As with other wildlife species in Kenya, leopard populations are threatened by reduced and degraded habitat, human wildlife conflict and human use of wildlife parts and products. In addition to these threats, one of the major detrimental factors to leopard conservation is the lack of knowledge and research, which is a barrier to develop meaningful adaptive management plans.

The Leopard Conservation Programme started in 2017, with the goal of conserving leopards through research to inform on-the-ground management. There are now 25 leopards identified at Loisaba (six adult males, 13 adult females and six cubs / sub-adults).

As part of the programme and in an effort to reduce human-carnivore conflicts in the community, 43 more predator-proof bomas were installed in the communities in 2020. Initial reports from the recipients indicate that they are helping to reduce large carnivore attacks on their livestock.



18 2,030

OUTREACH
CLINICS
HELD

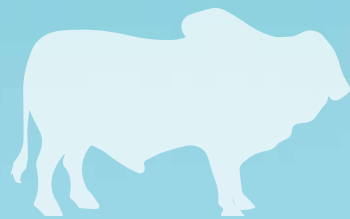


PATIENTS TREATED AT EWASO
DISPENSARY & OUTREACH CLINICS



45

SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED



3,000

COMMUNITY CATTLE
SUPPORTED WITH DRY
SEASON GRAZING

271

COMMUNITY LIVESTOCK
RECOVERED BY LOISABA
SECURITY



2,840

HOUSEHOLDS PROVIDED WITH FOOD
RATIONS (COVID-19 RELIEF)





COVID-19 RELIEF

For rural households in Kenya, the immediate impact of the COVID-19 crisis was not a direct health impact, but an economic one. The virus predominantly affects urban centres, where people are closer together and the risk of spread is higher. If the virus does spread to rural areas, weaker health systems would mean trouble for community members.

However, whether COVID-19 spreads to Loisaba's surrounding communities or not, the food systems were disrupted and economic challenges increased, particularly impacting vulnerable rural households.

"Due to COVID-19, the livestock markets that people depend on have been closed. The community now have no place to sell their livestock so that they can buy food for their families."

The price of food has also gone up due to decreased supply, and people who were employed in tourism have been sent on unpaid leave – so the families who have been depending on those individuals have been affected too."

Paul Naiputari, Loisaba's Community Liaison and Development Officer.

Despite Loisaba's 2020 operating budget being significantly reduced, we continued to support our local communities with support from San Diego Zoo Global, The Nature Conservancy and other generous donors.

HEALTH OUTREACH CLINICS

We continued to run our health outreach clinics, with our clinical health officer Kaltuma offering consultations and treatment to people who would otherwise be unable to access healthcare, as well as offering support to Ewaso Dispensary. During 2020, 18 outreach clinics were held and a total of 2,030 patients seen.



COVID-19 AWARENESS

In addition to treating patients, our team spread awareness of the symptoms and the best ways to stop the spread of COVID-19, including the importance of social distancing and hand washing. Five hand washing stations and 500 masks were also donated to communities.



STUDENT SUPPORT

While our Education Days at the Loisaba Conservation Centre were put on hold during the pandemic, we continued to support our local students. WhatsApp groups were formed with teachers and parents, with teachers sending notes and assignments.



DONATIONS

Due to the virus, many people lost their jobs and struggled to feed their families. In 2020, we were able to donate food supplies to 2,840 households in our neighbouring communities, in partnership with LCCF, Red Cross, County Government, Lori DeNooyer and Stefano and Liz Cheli.

We also donated \$2,500 to the Laikipia County "Komesha Corona" (Put an End to Corona) Emergency Fund, with a further \$5,250 donated through the county's "sponsor a village" initiative, with food going directly to our local communities. This government-led initiative helped to deliver food packages to the families in Laikipia who were struggling with loss of employment and high food prices.

CATTLE

Loisaba offers 'dry season relief grazing' to community cattle, in order to help support community members in times of drought where there is little grass for their livestock. During 2020, over 3,000 head of cattle from Loisaba's surrounding communities benefited from this scheme.



TOURISM

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in an effort to contain its spread, Loisaba Lodo Springs, Loisaba Tented Camp and Loisaba Star Beds were operationally suspended on the 1st April 2020, with earlier bookings cancelled due to the stop of all international passenger flights into Kenya.

Loisaba Lodo Springs reopened in December, with Loisaba Star Beds open for February and March 2021. We hope to see all properties back open at Loisaba in May 2021.

THANK YOU

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

- The Nature Conservancy
- Space for Giants
- San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
- Lion Landscapes
- NRT - Northern Rangelands Trust
- Elewana Collection

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Donate: www.loisaba.com/donate
- Visit: email enquiries@loisaba.com with your planned dates and preferred accommodation
- Fundraising for Loisaba
- Leaving a legacy for Loisaba

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LAND CONNECTED. LIFE PROTECTED.