ANNUAL REPORT 2020
A YEAR OF COVID-19
Occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, the year 2020 will go down as one of the “most difficult ever” in the annals of Ol Pejeta Conservancy history. Never before had we faced such enormous challenges. Aside from the dramatic social consequences elicited by the pandemic, the economic impact has been drastic. International tourism literally stopped almost overnight in March, resulting in a steep decline in international visitor numbers and revenues for the year. Local tourism also suffered an initial downturn, and there was a general reduction in overall economic activity across the livestock and agriculture sectors of the Kenyan economy. As a result, the organisation was forced to find ways of dramatically reducing costs, at the same time as maintaining the essential operations needed to keep the Conservancy running, to continue to protect our wildlife, to cushion our staff as best we could and to continue providing services and support to our neighbouring communities wherever possible. That we were able to do this whilst maintaining the inherent strength of our balance sheet is testament to the incredible quality, dedication and passion of the staff who work on Ol Pejeta, all of whom accepted significant pay-cuts throughout the year. As an organisation we are also enormously grateful to all of our supporters who, despite their own challenges and privations, stepped up to help us dramatically increase the philanthropic support that we have increasingly had to rely upon during the year.

As we look forward to 2021, the outlook remains somewhat grim. In our forecasts we do not see a full return of international tourism until at least 2023, notwithstanding the fact that local tourism volumes have strengthened significantly over the past few months. As I write, the short rains have failed across much of northern Kenya and some parts of Laikipia and this will doubtless lead to increasing pressure upon the Laikipia landscape from pastoralist people and their cattle seeking grazing and security.

All of that said, we do continue to make slow progress in some areas as we await better times ahead. We are now implementing major developments across Mutara Conservancy in collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service, where we plan to expand our black rhino population. During 2021, we will also persist in improving the quality of our tourism product and so we have commenced the rehabilitation of Ol Pejeta House with the generous support of a philanthropic donor, and hope to be able to commission two new camps within Ol Pejeta by the end of June 2022. Recognising that agriculture and livestock production will carry on as key pillars in the integrated land use system of the Conservancy, we also continue our work to sustainably improve livestock productivity.

So, overall life is tough! But we will survive and position ourselves to thrive in the much anticipated post-COVID-19 era. We have now completed three years without a single rhino being poached on the Conservancy, a really quite extraordinary achievement given the poaching pressure that perseveres against these animals.

Once again, thank you for all of your support during 2020 – it is so much appreciated by us all, and please don’t forget us for 2021!
IN 2020, COVID-19 COST OL PEJETA 4.4 MILLION DOLLARS
Ol Pejeta Conservancy works to conserve wildlife, provide a sanctuary for great apes and to generate income through wildlife tourism and complimentary enterprises for reinvestment in conservation and community development.
CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Thirteen rhino calves born
(11 black and two southern white)

Nine healthy ostrich chicks hatched

Fifteen hammocks and three shade structures installed for the chimpanzees

Two lions were collared

NORTHERN WHITE RHINOS:

24 more eggs were harvested

2 viable southern white rhino embryos were developed in Europe

1 southern white rhino bull introduced for oestrus detection

141 BLACK RHINOS

Ol Pejeta’s black rhino population now numbers 141 - a fantastic achievement that every single member of the Conservancy is proud of. Being our signature species, these are the animals that set the benchmark for our success.

We continue to make Mutara rhino-ready and have secured funding from the US Government to support this project, and we are looking forward to eventually transferring rhinos there in the next couple of years.

ZERO POACHING

For the third year in a row, Ol Pejeta is able to report zero poaching. Just a few years ago, we might have found it hard to believe we would be reporting that piece of information. But thanks to dedication and commitment of our phenomenal rangers, increased training and improved equipment plus enhanced intelligence gathering, Ol Pejeta’s wildlife have got much, much safer.

It is also thanks to you, the people who support us through visiting, donating and offering words of encouragement, that we can make this claim. Thank you for your part in Ol Pejeta’s success.
COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

100
desktops and laptops donated to schools

1,000
textbooks gifted to students for home-learning

345
artificial insemination services provided to the community

83
teachers trained on ARES

31
scholarships awarded

18
virtual classes were conducted

4
additional schools incorporated into our ICT project

800 farmers trained in agriculture practices

96 households received food hampers to help with the effects of COVID-19

49 solar lights donated

498 casuals contracted from our neighbouring communities

5,500
patients received treatment at the Ol Pejeta clinic

1,950
patients treated through our health outreach programme

261
women placed on our family planning programme

78 babies cared for in our antenatal clinic

261 children immunised

240 households provided with Lion Lights, which enhance wildlife/livestock harmony

548 casuals contracted from our neighbouring communities
**TOURISM HIGHLIGHTS**

- **8,697** Kenyan visitors came through our gates
- **659** people enjoyed camping on Ol Pejeta
- **235** students participated in Conservation in Action
- **38** planes landed at Kamok airstrip

**TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **19%** increase uptake of cloud solutions and remote meeting tools
- **21** elephant-proof enclosures with masts, solar photovoltaic technology, networking devices and thermal and dome cameras
- **15** km of fibre optic network laid for rhino protection
- **5** organisations united for the Kifaru Rising Project: the World Wildlife Fund, FLIR Systems, Cisco, the Kenya Wildlife Service and Ol Pejeta
- **18** communities reached through bulk and two-way SMS and USSD platform
AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS

US$ 1M

profit, due to extreme cost cutting and increased cattle sales to raise emergency funds for conservation as a result of COVID-19

29%

Increase in cattle sales

The Sirima Embryo Lab, our export-standard facility, reopened

HUMAN CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

31 portable water purification units were bought

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPGRADE

IMPROVED COVID-19 SECURITY

SEVEN hand washing stations placed around the Conservancy

BOOSTED TEAM MORALE

Ol Pejeta Football Club registered and approved to participate in the Laikipia Sub-County Football League
OL PEJETA'S
CONSERVATION STORIES 2020
INNOVATIVE, TANGIBLE CONSERVATION FOR WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE

© Pablo Levinas
Laboratory, eight were fertilised with thawed sperm from deceased northern white rhino bull Suni, using a procedure called intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI). Two fertilised oocytes developed into a viable embryo with the help of Geri®, an innovative benchtop incubator with integrated continuous embryo monitoring capabilities designed to provide an individualised and undisturbed incubation environment. The embryos are now stored in liquid nitrogen, along with the three embryos created from the first ground-breaking ovum collection in August 2019.

Unfortunately, no oocytes were retrieved from Najin. The team of rhino reproduction specialists from Leibniz-IZW, led by Professor Thomas Hildebrandt, concluded that this may be due to Najin’s age and health issues, thereby possibly affecting the quality of her egg cells. The reproduction specialists concluded that the unintended span of nearly nine months between procedures affected the results this year. The successful procedures in December have proven that regular oocyte collections every three to four months is key to their success. Therefore, the team hopes to continue with this cycle.

THE NEXT PHASE

IN December 2020, the team started the next phase of this ambitious project. Preparations are underway to transfer the embryos into southern white rhino females, who will bear northern white rhino offspring. For this purpose, a southern white rhino bull named Owuan was transferred from Lewa Wildlife Conservancy to Ol Pejeta Conservancy in November 2020. Owuan has fathered several offspring and thus considered a proven breeder, which is one of the reasons he was a suitable candidate to be taken out of the breeding group at Lewa and transferred to Ol Pejeta.

At Ol Pejeta, Owuan was sterilised with a minimally invasive non-surgical procedure using state-of-the-art equipment. An ethical risk assessment was applied to this procedure. The sterilisation procedure went smoothly and without any complications.

As a sterilised bull, Owuan will reliably indicate through his behaviour the reproductive cycle of potential surrogate mothers without the risk of impregnating them. This indication is a crucial prerequisite for transferring the valuable northern white rhino embryos into surrogate mothers at the correct timing of their reproductive cycle.

Despite lost time and funding due to COVID-19, we are hopeful that 2021 will see further positive developments in the recovery of the northern white rhino.
UPDATE FROM SWEETWATERS CHIMPANZEE SANCTUARY

PROTECTING OUR CHIMPANZEEs FROM COVID-19

WITH the emergence of COVID-19, it was vital for Ol Pejeta to act quickly on behalf of the chimpanzees. They, and other great apes, are feared to be at risk of the new coronavirus because they share between 97 and 99 per cent of their DNA with humans. Infectious diseases can wipe out a population of highly social chimpanzees.

Following scientific guidance, Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary closed to the public in April 2020. Chimpanzee behavioural research and voluntary activities were also suspended. Other measures were adopted to minimise COVID-19 transmission to chimpanzees and staff. Staff were provided with face masks, gloves and hand washing stations. All repair works to chimpanzee houses and immediate surrounding areas were suspended but works further afield continued, though with caution. All non-emergency medical procedures were also stopped but where emergency procedures were required, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was provided. Veterinarians and caregivers doubled down on their vigilance, carrying out regular health observations. Chimpanzee food was washed or cooked thoroughly and feeding was carried out by an elect caregiver. Food preparation areas, as well as housing and feeding equipment, were cleaned and disinfected. Staff returning from leave quarantined at the staff camp for 14 days instead of immediately resuming work. Staff then remained at the Sanctuary for a month or more at a time, until another member of staff took over.

Despite concerns of COVID-19 transmission from humans to chimpanzees, we managed to keep our 36 chimpanzees safe from the pandemic this year. After consultations with scientists, management and the chimpanzee steering committee, our Head Veterinarian, Dr. Stephen Ngulu, made the decision to re-open Sweetwaters to visitors on 10th October 2020. All safety precautions remain in place and we look forward to welcoming visitors to our Sanctuary next year.

FAREWELL EDWARD

ON 29th March 2020, the Sanctuary reported the death of one of its chimpanzees, Edward. Edward was one of five malnourished and dehydrated chimpanzees who were confiscated at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi in January 2005. He was believed to have originated from Cameroon.

Edward, and another chimpanzee named Cheetah, had gone missing from the southeast enclosure on 23rd March 2020. Over the following few days, attempts were made to locate both chimpanzees. On 25th March, staff recognised Cheetah on the adjacent western side enclosure. It was not clear how she managed to cross Ewaso Ng’iro River as there were no fallen trees connecting the two sides and the river was too high for a chimpanzee to cross. The team succeeded in bringing Cheetah back into the northwest enclosure and although Edward was spotted in a tree from a distance on the eastern side, he quickly descended and was not seen again that day. On 29th March, we deployed an earth mover for strategic bush clearing to open access routes. Sadly, Sanctuary staff and an armed officer discovered the body of Edward in the river. We were privileged to be able to care for Edward and will greatly miss him.

SWEETWATERS aims to ensure resident chimpanzees lead a dignified and healthy life by regularly enriching their environment. In 2020, as a result of our partnership with the Arcus Foundation, Sweetwaters was able to complete three shade structures and install an artificial termite mound in the northeast enclosure. Six dead trees from the Conservancy were also brought into the Sanctuary for chimpanzees to climb as well as seven large logs to be used as lounging sites by the chimpanzees. Our partnership with the Arcus Foundation also enabled us to successfully construct a hay barn, install fence-energisers and solar panels on the eastern fence line, as well as repair metal framework and bullet-proof windows in one of our chimpanzee houses.
UPDATE ON ECOLOGICAL MONITORING ACTIVITIES

AT Ol Pejeta, our Ecological Monitoring Unit (EMU) aims for innovative, tangible and sustainable conservation for wildlife and for people. We work to conserve natural resources and the existing environment as well as to repair damage and reverse negative trends wherever possible. We are pleased to report on the following 2020 activities:

- Third consecutive year of no rhino poaching.
- An additional 13 rhinos were born – 11 black rhinos and two southern white rhinos. As of December 2020, there were 141 black rhinos, 37 southern white rhinos and two northern white rhinos.
- 53 rhinos were sighted on a daily basis by our 23 rhino patrol teams.
- 82 lions in the Conservancy (22 adult females, 17 adult males, 10 young adults and 33 cubs).
- Recorded six to eight lion prides, two on the eastern part of Ewaso Ng’iro River and four to six on the western side.
- GPS collars have enabled researchers to discover that one pride in the north split and settled between the adjacent Eland Downs and Segera. This dispersal is important as it helps reduce predation pressure as well as to repopulate other areas.
- Six Grevy’s zebra births were recorded, closing the year with a population of 23 Grevy’s zebras (five foals, three juveniles, three sub-adult males, three sub-adult females, one adult male and eight adult females).
- In February 2020, a swarm of desert locusts arrived in the Conservancy. Close monitoring reported insignificant impact on vegetation and no nymphs or evidence of breeding.
- Monthly counts determined an average of 92 Jackson’s hartebeest.
- The population of Ol Pejeta’s oryx dropped to 12 after one adult female succumbed to chronic systemic infection in May 2020. The current distribution is eight in the Mount Kenya Wildlife Estate and four in the main conservation area. The oryx population remains biased in favour of males and fights are occasionally reported, threatening further loss. To address sex bias in the population, we plan to introduce at least six to eight females in 2021.
- In September 2020, two female ostriches hatched nine chicks but unfortunately, four were preyed upon by striped hyenas that managed to enter the enclosure. The hyenas were captured and then released into the wider conservation area, while the weak points along the fence were identified and fixed.
- From July 2021, in collaboration with the Serendipity Wildlife Foundation, there are plans to revive the cheetah monitoring programme.
- In December 2020, an aerial survey counted 11,031 animals. Counts on the eastern side were about 75 per cent higher than in 2019 while the west had a 13 per cent drop. The decline observed in the west could be due to migration to Mutara.
- The aerial survey counted 2,086 plains zebras over Ol Pejeta, which is a 31 per cent drop compared to 2019. This may be dispersal due to range expansion to Mutara conservation area which is now secured with an electrified perimeter fence.
- 134 wildlife deaths were reported. About 90 per cent of these deaths were due to predation, mainly by lions (93 per cent).

RANGER ACTIVITIES

WE are proud to report that despite the challenges faced by the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no incidents of rhino poaching on Ol Pejeta in 2020. This is the Conservancy’s third consecutive year without rhino poaching activity, a truly tremendous achievement. It is testament to the hard work, dedication and commitment of our rangers who work tirelessly to protect them.

Rangers also responded to 34 incidents in the community, ranging from petty theft to livestock rustling. The team helped recover 19 sheep and 13 cows stolen in rustling crime. Our rangers mitigated one potential poaching fence intrusion incident and assisted in 18 arrests within Ol Pejeta’s community.

Spoor (footprint) data indicated 16,341 wildlife passages across our two fence gap corridors.

There were good levels of rainfall in 2020. This provided us with some much needed relief given the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was the second highest rainfall since 2003, with an overall average of 983mm.
TRANSLOCATIONS

- For her safety, a blind black rhino calf, Thea, was immobilised and translocated from the greater Conservancy area into the northern white rhino enclosure.
- Two southern white rhino males living in the endangered species enclosure were captured and released into the greater Conservancy.
- A southern white rhino bull was translocated from Lewa to Ol Pejeta.
- Two lions were captured in the Sirima farming area and released in the eastern section.

K-9 UNIT TREATMENTS

- Treatment was given to bloodhound Stacy for tick-bite fever.
- A female bloodhound had surgery to remove a limb growth and has since recovered.
- A male bloodhound had an anaphylactic reaction to a bite of unknown origin and has since recovered.
- All dogs were vaccinated for rabies as well as distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis and Parvovirus (DHLP).

VETERINARY INTERVENTIONS

IN 2020, Ol Pejeta’s veterinary team attended to several callouts to assist with:

WILDLIFE INJURIES AND PROCEDURES

- Our southern white rhino bull, Atan, was treated for an injury to his foot.
- A hyena, elephant calf and sub-adult buffalo were immobilised for the removal of snare wire.
- An elephant was immobilised to remove retained placenta.
- A leopard was rescued at Laikipia air base. The leopard had his waist and neck trapped in wires along the airbase fence.
- An autopsy was carried out on a southern white rhino calf. Damage to the calf’s gastrointestinal tract led to severe gastroenteritis, colic, diarrhea and its eventual death.

K-9 UNIT: FAREWELL DIEGO

IT is with great sadness that we report the deaths of our beloved K-9 Unit dog, Diego.

Diego, a Belgian Malinois, had been the star of our K-9 Unit for over five years. Following a diagnosis of advanced bone cancer, Diego was euthanised in October 2020. He was instrumental to security operations in the region. During his years of service, he assisted in firearm and ammunition recovered from cattle rustlers at Wamba in Samburu. He also took part in a poacher recovery operation at Lake Nakuru National Park and of course, assisted in many ambushes at Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

This dog captured the hearts of all our rangers and will be truly missed.
Ol Pejeta currently supports 86 students from disadvantaged backgrounds with scholarships through our partnership with PA-MOJA, and other donors. In 2020, 31 new scholarships were awarded.

As with many countries across the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on education in Kenya. From March 2020, many schools across Kenya closed. For a number of Ol Pejeta’s scholarship students, virtual learning was not an option as there was no reliable supply of electricity at home nor access to a laptop.

With the support of Afretech Aid Society, we sent 20 laptops to our final year students and installed a diverse off-line studio using elements found in Africa Ruggedized Education Solution (ARES) to provide students with the notes, lab experiment simulations and past revision papers they needed, along with learning and computer programming games. To ensure that these would be used efficiently, our education officers – following Government safety guidelines – met with students and parents to help them set up their ‘personalised teachers’.

A two-day induction course to ARES was also delivered to 83 teachers. A four-day online training course was also conducted with 26 teachers from Atisikan Pa Ulendo (APU) school in Malawi in September. The training concentrated on Google classroom to help the school continue teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic. In October 2020, 22 trainers from Laikipia North Technical Training College were also trained on Google classroom. This training helped online lesson delivery to 300 students.

We recognise that education is fundamental to empowerment. One of the many adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the shutting down of schools which has prevented learning for many children. This is why generous donations to support children’s education during this time is appreciated more than ever.

We would like to say a huge thank you to The Nobelity Project, founded by long term supporters and friends, Turk and Christy Pipkin, in collaboration with the Kenyan Education Fund, for their generous donation of 1,000 revision books for year four students in 16 schools in our surrounding communities. This illustrates how beneficial conservation can be to local communities as funds raised may contribute to remarkable projects such as this.
**MITIGATING HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT WITH LION LIGHTS**

To help livestock owners minimise human-wildlife conflict, China House, a social enterprise, donated 600 solar-powered lion lights for homesteads. So far, 250 lights have been installed in cattle holding areas in the Tangi Nyeusi community. Lion lights work by blinking brightly at night which discourages lions to approach livestock since they generally avoid interaction with people.

**ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITIES THROUGH OUR CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMMES**

Our comprehensive and inspiring conservation education programmes encourage local communities to be active conservationists, empowering them to make necessary changes to sustain livelihoods, conserve wildlife and protect the natural environment. In 2020, there were seven visits to the Conservancy by 318 community members: 221 adults (123 men and 98 women) as well as 97 school children (73 boys and 24 girls). In March 2020, five community meetings were facilitated in Weruini, Tangi Nyeusi, Debatas, Kiamariga, Mutara and Ex Rock. These meetings were attended by 131 community members (73 men and 58 women). Following these meetings, a community youth group was established in Ex Rock to practice beekeeping. We aim to engage with a further 300 community members, particularly women and the youth, in beekeeping activities.

**SACCO**

The Ol Pejeta Community department donated one core i7 desktop to Ol Pejeta Sacco.

**CONSERVATION EDUCATION - VIRTUAL CLASSES**

18 virtual classes on wildlife conservation, reaching an estimated 4,000 students, were conducted.
OL PEJETA provided targeted medical outreach efforts in 18 surrounding communities, focusing on preventive and curative services, family planning and cancer screening, among other issues. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our clinics, formed in partnership with JW Seagon, were put on hold this year.

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In response, Ol Pejeta were kindly donated 48 solar-powered head torches by Namene Solar, whose mission is to design and provide affordable solar lights to rural communities. These pocket-sized torches were distributed to 24 Weruini community members, 10 northern white rhino rangers and 15 patrol rangers.

SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT WITH SOLAR-POWERED HEAD TORCHES

WITH no access to electricity, many of Ol Pejeta’s neighbouring rural communities use kerosene lamps and battery-powered torches to light their homes at night. As well as being financially and environmentally unsustainable, kerosene lamps can have a detrimental effect on health, particularly for children’s eyesight, which has been shown to suffer when kerosene lamps are used to aid evening study.

HEALTHCARE

INCREASING FARM PRODUCTIVITY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

INCREASED FARM PRODUCTIVITY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

More than 1,200 tree seedlings were produced for sale from seedbeds in Weruni and Debatas communities. In 2021, we hope to generate many more tree seedlings to support the Conservancy’s Ewaso Nj’iro River Rehabilitation Programme.

REFORESTATION

As a conservancy, our responsibility is to protect and maintain a healthy environment. This extends beyond our own boundaries, to the farms and people we live alongside.

One enterprise which helps us to achieve this is The Guardian Project, an innovative conservation agriculture initiative to help rural communities gain better yields from their crops. This year, over 800 community members were trained in how to improve soil fertility, recycling crop residue and animal waste to make an organic fertiliser.

During 2020, eight greenhouses were also operating in schools, growing vegetables such as tomatoes, carrots, spinach and kale. Furthermore, seven conservation agriculture demonstration plots were also established in schools.

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DARWIN INITIATIVE GRANT

In September 2017, Ol Pejeta was awarded a four-year grant from the Darwin Initiative. This grant is aimed at creating a secure habitat for endangered species whilst offering opportunities for sustainable livelihoods among the local communities. This year, we had great success with our poultry farming and microfinance training projects.

POULTRY FARMING

The project donated 99 hens and 11 cocks to nine community groups in three villages (Tangi Nyeusi, Tangi Nyeupe and Lekisargei). The groups, consisting of women and youths, each received an average of 10 hens and one cock. Chicks were reared in a free range environment with minor diet supplementation. Income was generated through sale of eggs which would reach up to 2,400 eggs a month.

MICROFINANCE TRAINING

It was identified that women and youths were unable to access funding opportunities and credit facilities to assist them with starting up businesses. Over the last 12 months, 18 groups of women and youths, including 30 women from Tangi Nueysi, received three days of training from Laikipia County Women Enterprise. The women were awarded a certificate of participation, which is referenced when making credit applications for funds.

EMPOWERING SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

Last year, in partnership with Richard’s Rainwater and The Nobelty Project, Well Aware implemented a sustainable clean water system in Njoguini, by restoring a nearby incomplete and abandoned borehole. We are immensely grateful for their support. As a result of this new system, we have seen an incredible transformation at Njoguini Primary School. More than 250 students now have clean water to drink, thereby lowering rates of disease and improving classroom attendance. The new system also provides water supply for distribution and agriculture. Over 500 trees have been planted and a garden has been established to provide fruit and vegetables for school lunches. Their nutrition is improving, education rates are increasing, and they have many plans for future development. By 2025, Ol Pejeta and Well Aware plan to jointly fund and implement a minimum of 10 water projects within Ol Pejeta communities. We look forward to growing this partnership and witnessing the success of the communities that surround the Conservancy.

GROWING THE LIBRARY

We distributed 168 dictionaries and 350 story books to the library at Raya Primary School in Kianariga.
SAFARIS AND CLASSROOMS GO VIRTUAL

FROM March 2020, in response to COVID-19 driving a halt to tourism, and in an effort to continue our engagement with supporters, we live streamed virtual safaris on our Facebook and Instagram channels. Sofa Safaris gave participants an insight into daily activities at Ol Pejeta. One-hour activities with Sofa Safaris included game drives, a visit to see our two last remaining northern white rhinos, connecting with rangers as they track lions and joining our anti-poaching K-9 Unit dogs for their walking exercise. It was a great way to interact with our rangers, caregivers and guides, providing opportunities to ask questions and share comments on conservation and community issues.

We also organised the Virtual Classroom for teachers, school children of all age groups and their parents. Experienced scientists, rangers, safari guides, photographers and filmmakers gave informative, interactive and engaging live sessions on YouTube. In May 2020, Lucy Vigne, a researcher specialising in ivory and rhino horn trade, and Ol Pejeta’s Managing Director and conservationist Richard Vigne, discussed rhino horn poaching. In June 2020, we joined award-winning photojournalist, documentary filmmaker and friend, Ami Vitale, and rhino keepers Joseph Wachira and James Mwenda, to learn about our northern white rhinos. During the year, we also welcomed UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador, Nadya Hutagalung; USA actress Kristin Bauer, and Bollywood actress Nargis Fakhri.

OL PEJETA HOUSE WILL OPEN ITS DOORS IN 2022

FROM 2022, we look forward to welcoming guests to Ol Pejeta House. Ol Pejeta House closed its doors at the beginning of 2020 to transition into management by Ol Pejeta Conservancy. We will have completed a US$1.4 million donor-funded restoration plan by mid 2022. We aim to create an elegant house with modern utilities around which we shall tailor an immersive conservation experience, all while maintaining its rich history. In the main house, which has outstanding views of Mount Kenya, there shall be two superior and two standard guest rooms, all four with en-suite bathrooms, as well as Buffalo Cottage with two deluxe bedrooms.

SOFA SAFARI WILD DOG SIGHTING

Our Sofa Safaris became hugely popular when the world went into lockdown, with people tuning in from across the globe. On one special game drive, our guides found a family of wild dog (Lycaon pictus - painted wolf), a very exciting viewing since they are endangered and highly migratory.
IMPROVING THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

We are delighted to announce that we have partnered with the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme, which is supported by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP). In November 2020, the Programme awarded a one-year grant to Ol Pejeta to fund the introduction of digitised data collection and the construction of a new visitor management facility.

The new visitor management facility will greatly improve the visitor experience by providing a dedicated space for visitor information as well as enabling a faster entry to the Conservancy. Upgrading the data management to a digital platform will not only increase the accuracy of the information that we record, but also significantly reduce the time it takes us to respond to incidents. The wildlife at Ol Pejeta will therefore be more effectively monitored and better protected.

RECIPIENT OF A 2020 AFRICA RESPONSIBLE TOURISM AWARD

In April 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we were delighted to be recognised among the winners of the 2020 Inspirational Africa Responsible Tourism Awards. These Awards recognise businesses and organisations which can demonstrate the core Responsible Tourism values of transparency and respect, which can show their impact and which inspire others to achieve more in the responsible tourism space. Ol Pejeta has demonstrated that it is possible to use tourism and conservation to create a beneficial resource for people and wildlife.
OL PEJETA'S TECHNOLOGY STORIES 2020
ELIMINATING RHINO POACHING WITH THERMAL IMAGING TECHNOLOGY

This year, the Ol Pejeta Tech Lab advanced remote sensing and the monitoring of animal movements using Sigfox, a low-power solution to connect sensors and devices. This technology is more cost-effective and allows for longer battery life than older radio collars, which means the tracking devices we fit to animals are less intrusive. In 2019, Liquid Telecom donated four collars for initial testing on our livestock herds before we adapt them to support rhino tracking in. This will enable us to collect important data and enhance Conservancy security.

In 2020, we also began researching how to install smart meters in water tanks to optimise water use in the Conservancy and we installed fibre works across 21 camera sites.

SAT4WILDLIFE PROJECT: HARNESING SATELLITE-ENABLED TECHNOLOGIES

This new project will harness satellite-enabled technologies and build infrastructure to support collaboration between conservationists and technology experts to help halt the loss of Kenya's biodiversity, reduce degradation of habitats and support local livelihoods. This project is led by Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and WILDLABS in partnership with the Satellite Catapult, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), the Arribada Initiative and Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

The project will create an online platform and marketplace which will bring together technology providers and conservationists to create accessible, effective tools for conservation, such as the development of an open source, land-based animal tracking system to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. These technologies, along with ongoing capacity building and education in Kenya, will form the basis of a physical Centre of Excellence within Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

FINDING TECHNOLOGY-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CONSERVATION CHALLENGES

INNOVATION is a big part of our conservation model and our technology team is always looking for new ways to incorporate smart technology into our systems.

Last year, Ol Pejeta opened up a Conservation Tech Lab to research and develop new technology-based solutions to conservation challenges. It is also a space for collaboration, learning and knowledge-snaring. The establishment of a technology lab was enabled through a partnership with Fauna & Flora International (FFI), Liquid Telecom and Arm, supported with initial funds from The Royal Foundation.

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The project will create an online platform and marketplace which will bring together technology providers and conservationists to create accessible, effective tools for conservation, such as the development of an open source, land-based animal tracking system to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. These technologies, along with ongoing capacity building and education in Kenya, will form the basis of a physical Centre of Excellence within Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

FINDING TECHNOLOGY-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CONSERVATION CHALLENGES

INNOVATION is a big part of our conservation model and our technology team is always looking for new ways to incorporate smart technology into our systems.

Last year, Ol Pejeta opened up a Conservation Tech Lab to research and develop new technology-based solutions to conservation challenges. It is also a space for collaboration, learning and knowledge-snaring. The establishment of a technology lab was enabled through a partnership with Fauna & Flora International (FFI), Liquid Telecom and Arm, supported with initial funds from The Royal Foundation.

This year, the Ol Pejeta Tech Lab advanced remote sensing and the monitoring of animal movements using Sigfox, a low-power solution to connect sensors and devices. This technology is more cost-effective and allows for longer battery life than older radio collars, which means the tracking devices we fit to animals are less intrusive. In 2019, Liquid Telecom donated four collars for initial testing on our livestock herds before we adapt them to support rhino tracking in. This will enable us to collect important data and enhance Conservancy security.

In 2020, we also began researching how to install smart meters in water tanks to optimise water use in the Conservancy and we installed fibre works across 21 camera sites.

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OL PEJETA’S AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK STORIES 2020
RECORD CATTLE SALES AND DEPARTMENT PROFIT

In a year where the world was grappling with losses due to the pandemic, agriculture thrived. We managed to make a record net contribution to the Conservancy which is expected to be around KES 63 million against a budget of 54 million. This is triple what was made last year. This was achieved by effecting pay cuts on staff, therefore reducing core operational costs, a sacrifice which was painful but necessary. The success of our agricultural sector was crucial in a year when the revenue tap from tourism essentially dried up. Overall net contribution was 216 per cent greater than in 2019, largely due to large scale cost efficiencies and increased home cattle sales.

HAY HARVEST

In 2020, we harvested 1,400 tonnes of hay to use as drought reserves and for additional revenue.

SIRIMA EMBRYO LAB REOPENING

After eight years of closure due to international export restrictions, the Sirima Embryo Lab re-opened in November 2020. Boran and Ankole embryos will be exported to South Africa early next year on an ongoing basis. The Sirima Embryo Lab is the only privately-owned lab in Africa north of the Limpopo. Boran, a breed of Kenyan cattle, is the fastest growing breed in South Africa and has been attracting the highest bids. Through the Sirima Embryo Lab, Kenya can now sell top genes of both the Ankole and Boran and eventually look at other markets outside South Africa to expand the trade.

IMPROVING LAND ECOLOGY THROUGH HERD STRUCTURAL CHANGES

Under the watchful eyes of our herders, Ol Pejeta has 7,500 grazing cattle. Historically, cattle have been divided into 60 herds for easier tracking and management. However, in 2020, this was reduced to 30 herds. Not only has this shown to be more economical, but has led to fewer grazing areas, which has resulted in more intense biological waste from cattle and longer periods of recovery between areas. We believe that the ecology of the land has vastly improved. Next year, a survey on soil health will be carried out. This survey will quantify the carbon composition which will determine the effectiveness of the change in herd structure.
CATTLE MORTALITY

MORTALITY in 2020 was a blight on an otherwise successful year. This is a key area for focus in 2021. However, if we look at the results from June to December 2020, we can see that we ran at under four per cent mortality as opposed to January to June 2020 which was over six per cent. Mortality in 2020 was marginally better than 2019 by about 0.4 per cent which equates to around 80 less deaths. The main causes of death were due to predation and East Coast fever (ECF), a tick-borne disease.

CALVING SUCCESS

THIS year, calving was 0.3 per cent lower than last year. Although 33 additional calves were born in 2020, the breeding herd had increased by 50. However, both years produced respectable results. We finished 2020 with 1,760 births which is 46 more than we budgeted. This means we had an 82 per cent calving rate. This is a great result considering we are still moving cattle into seasonal breeding. The main causes of negative pregnancies were due to heifers (immature females) and first calvers failing as a result of their high nutritional requirements. In 2021, we aim to separate heifers and first calvers from the main herd to be able to focus on strategic food supplementation.
OL PEJETA'S HUMAN CAPITAL STORIES 2020
OUR COVID-19 STAFF HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ol Pejeta worked hard to ensure the safety of staff, as well as our guests. Objects and surfaces were frequently cleaned with disinfectant. We ensured ventilation systems were working and that we reduced the risk of transmission by opening more windows and doors. We also provided hand washing facilities at various workstations, practiced social distancing measures and encouraged visitors to book online, thereby removing the need for staff in our ticketing office. Our dispensary also did the following:

- Formation of a COVID-19 Control Committee, with weekly meetings for updates and emphasis on the guidelines, measures and protocol to be followed, as per country and county-wide recommendations.
- Observing and adhering to COVID-19 guidelines in all Ol Pejeta entry points and offices.
- Daily fumigation of the staff buses from town. This was done by the driver who also ensured every passenger wore their mask and sanitised regularly.

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

In an effort to provide staff with clean water, thus minimising cases of waterborne diseases, Ol Pejeta bought 31 portable water purification units from LifeStraw, a company that manufactures water filtration and purification devices. Ol Pejeta bought 23 family size units, each with a capacity to hold 10-litres of water, and eight community size units, each with the capacity to hold 50-litres of water.

A STATEMENT OF GRATITUDE TO ALL OUR EMPLOYEES

Every member of Ol Pejeta’s team has remained committed to our mission, despite the calamitous effects of COVID-19 on our personal and professional lives. As a group, we have vowed to fight the pandemic in our own small ways, and ensure that we all follow the available guidelines to limit the spread of the disease.

In the face of these unprecedented challenges, our employees remained very optimistic, and showed their commitment to the Conservancy by accepting the severe cost reduction methods we were obliged to impose in order to stay afloat. Everyone on Ol Pejeta was subjected to salary reductions from April 2020 onward, calling for much sacrifice. Nevertheless, the staff pulled together in one spirit and continued working, harder than ever, towards our common goals for conservation and community empowerment.

We also recognise the Government of Kenya for rolling out the Economic Stimulus Programme which has gone a long way in assisting us manage some of our staff costs. It has continued to cushion us from the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the catastrophic loss of tourism revenue.

Our profound appreciation goes to all our employees, who have demonstrated their dedication towards our mission with impressive effort, agility and resilience. We are extremely fortunate to have such a loyal group of individuals behind us.

OL PEJETA FOOTBALL CLUB FORMED

Football is a favourite activity for the staff at Ol Pejeta Conservancy. In 2020, we registered Ol Pejeta FC as an official team. It was subsequently approved to participate in the 2021 Laikipia Sub-County Football League tournament. The tournament will be held at various venues, including Ol Pejeta Conservancy. This tournament is supported by the Laikipia County Government through Football Kenya Federation (FKF). We wish Ol Pejeta FC the best of luck in all their games.
OL PEJETA'S ACCOUNTABILITY 2020
LETTER FROM JOSEPH KARIUKI, CFO

THE last 15 months have been marred with the COVID-19 pandemic, with the biggest financial impact being felt in the travel and hospitality sector. This created the worst volatility witnessed in recent history - not only for Ol Pejeta, but for many other organisations across the world.

The Conservancy suffered deep shocks, mostly (from a revenue generation perspective) with our flagship tourism and hospitality revenue streams, which declined by about 70%. This was further compounded by the recent drought witnessed in the northern part of the country, impacting agribusiness and our pastoralist neighbours. Inevitably, this called for deep and far reaching adjustments in operations, aimed at containing costs and creating resilience within key areas of the organisation - without compromising our values and goals around conservation and improving livelihoods.

Despite the financial and operational challenges, Ol Pejeta continued to deliver on the mission of wildlife conservation and community development thanks to significant contributions from donors, which doubled from the previous period. We were able to maintain high compliance and execution on all donor projects and related commitments.

Whilst there are strong prospects and hopes for the containment of COVID-19 and a gradual return to a semblance of normality around the world, there still remain uncertainties and risks which are difficult to quantify in the very near term. Ol Pejeta engages in regular risk evaluation and mitigation to ensure the organisation not only survives, but also thrives, in the midst of seemingly insurmountable challenges. Key amongst the Conservancy’s strategies - in the current year and beyond - include the finalisation and implementation of a ten year strategic plan, strengthening partnerships with all stakeholders and key donors/supporters and the continued quest to sustain a highly professional and motivated team.

We are sincerely grateful to all our staff, who bore the brunt of the financial effects of the pandemic by accepting major pay cuts, as well as the partners, donors and stakeholders without whose assistance and support Ol Pejeta’s future would have been in serious jeopardy.

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OUR FINANCIALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020 (KSH)</th>
<th>2019 (KSH)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trading Activities</td>
<td>395,996</td>
<td>710,757</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>281,804</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Programmes</td>
<td>561,853</td>
<td>690,846</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising and Communications</td>
<td>43,662</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration and Support</td>
<td>139,196</td>
<td>187,571</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td>744,711</td>
<td>908,391</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Net change in income over expenses: 2020 = (50,646), 2019 = (42,547)

In kind donations*: 2020 = 101,292, 2019 = 16,807

This financial extract is based on the audited financial statements by RSM Eastern Africa LLC, Certified Public Accountants, Nairobi.

The income and expenditure figures include Ol Pejeta Conservancy UK in year 2020.

*The audited financial statements do not include in-kind donations, therefore a fair value estimation has been made separately. This is significantly higher in 2020 as a result of a donation of security equipment by Cisco and Flir systems.

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REVENUE FROM SOURCE

- Trading Activities: 57.1%
- Donations: 40.6%
- Other Income: 2.3%

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

- Programmes: 75.4%
- Administration and Support: 18.7%
- Fundraising and Communications: 5.9%
OL PEJETA'S
FUNDRAISING AND
COMMUNICATIONS
2020
We made it through 2020 because of you, our fantastic donors, partners and supporters, who helped us to generate income of more than US$2.6m in the year. This was 93 per cent above the projected donor incomes at the start of the year. We managed to secure 77 per cent unrestricted income which supported the organization to keep our staff employed, protect the vulnerable – our wildlife, and those that depend on us.

It was a difficult year for everyone. A reminder that mankind needs to be more cognisant of its footprint on nature. Protecting the natural world is our responsibility and duty.

A MESSAGE FROM HETAL GANATRA, GLOBAL HEAD OF FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS

EARLY into the year, the pandemic engulfed our lives in ways never imagined. It put huge pressures on our health systems, economies and lives, whilst the prolonged and wider impact was slowly being realised for conservation and community projects. Tourism was crippled and other commercial business streams have been significantly affected. As a result, our efforts to protect and conserve the natural world and community projects were at threat. However, it wasn’t an option to allow decades of conservation to be undone. We had to find a way, for the myriad species on Ol Pejeta, those that depend on us and the long term future of the planet we live in.

The plans we had and the reality of what was needed shifted quickly. The Fundraising and Communications department was relatively new in early 2020, and a small team. In 2020, we had plans to build the team and enhance structures, processes and systems to enable us to grow our income in various funding streams including making investments to expand resource mobilisation and increase our profile in the UK. We put a stop to many of the planned activities and deployed other strategies to work within the remits we had but deliver greater results to support the organisation. We kept our direct spend low, down 44 per cent against the plan. Our role was more crucial than ever before for the organisation.

We considered our next steps and adapted with agility. We focused our energy and efforts to secure unrestricted funds that could be used towards supporting our core operations. I am extremely proud of how the teams came together during these difficult times, with great solidarity, to do whatever it took to raise funds and ensure engagement with our supporters using innovative approaches.

During these challenging times, more people than ever have shown how much they care about the work we do and for the individuals who dedicate their lives to the conservation and community efforts. Your support did not falter and continued throughout the year. We’re incredibly grateful for the financial and non-financial support you gave to keep our work going.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

OL PEJETA previously hosted a physical annual fundraiser with Helping Rhinos in London. However, 2020 forced us to do things differently: we went virtual and global. On Saturday 21st November 2020, we went live with a global audience to share our work from Ol Pejeta. This included an interview with Professor Thomas Hildebrandt on the ground-breaking programme to recover the northern white rhinos. The evening finished with an online auction that raised £125,000, double the funds raised at the previous year’s event. We were truly blown away and humbled by your incredible support and generosity.

VIRTUAL YOGA

AS the COVID-19 pandemic reduced options for fundraising, many supporters creatively thought of new ways to support us. Our fantastic supporters, Kat MacLeod from the UK and Laura Messer from the USA, hosted virtual yoga fundraisers in support of Ol Pejeta. Both are experienced yoga teachers with a love for Africa and conservation. By the end of the year, they raised more than £2,000 for Ol Pejeta.

CAREGIVER JAMES MWENDA FEATURED IN BBC EXTINCTION: THE FACTS

OUR own Caregiver and Brand Ambassador, James Mwenda, was featured in Extinction: The Facts. The BBC documentary, presented by Sir David Attenborough and broadcast in September 2020, is a stark reality of the damage caused by mankind on the natural world. We may have failed so far but there may still be time if we take immediate action. Nature is resilient and can bounce back given the chance. James compassionately shared his story, staring extinction in the eye as he watches over the last two remaining northern white rhinos. In his interview, James said that “many people think of extinction being this imaginary tale told by conservationists. But I have lived it, I know what it is.”
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ART OF SURVIVAL WINNERS

THIS year, we asked young minds from all corners of the world to create artwork or written form pieces that would contemplate extinction or the roles of humans in living more sustainably on our planet. The competition, named Art of Survival, ran between 2nd April and 31st July 2020, and was supported by the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation. We were very impressed by the quality of submissions which made it difficult for us to choose our winners. First, second and third prize winners were rewarded with a holiday to Ol Pejeta with their family. Congratulations to our fantastic winners and thank you to all of our young budding conservationists who took part.

SHARING OUR STORY THROUGH PODCASTS

LISTENING to podcasts became increasingly popular during the COVID-19 pandemic. In July 2020, British actress Rhona Mitra featured James Mwenda in the first of her new podcast series, The Last Ark. In August 2020, Threshold Podcasts were in conversation with our dedicated supporter, photojournalist and documentary filmmaker, Ami Vitale, in which she talks about some of her most iconic images, including her award-winning image of northern white rhino Sudan with Joseph Wachira. In 2021, we launched The Ol Pejeta Pod, a monthly podcast documenting stories from the front line, hosted by James Mwenda and producer Dyan Habil.

DURING 2020, Ol Pejeta was able to operationalise the new UK organisation. Ol Pejeta Conservancy UK (Ol Pejeta UK) is a registered charity No. 1185926, governed by a constitution setting out its objects and powers and a Board of Trustees which has legal, financial and oversight responsibility. It held its first Board meeting on 14th February 2020 and subsequent meetings took place during the course of the year.

Whilst Ol Pejeta Conservancy UK was registered in late 2019, it could not operationalise until a bank account was established. This took a significant part of 2020 as the application stalled with temporary closure of key departments within the bank as a result of COVID-19. Finally, in late August, this process was completed and the UK charity was able to move forth with key activities.

Fundraising mechanisms were enabled on key portals such as Facebook, Instagram, Amazon Smile and Benevity through the Give As You Earn scheme. Internally, we moved forward with the development and embedding of policies, systems and processes, setting the groundwork to develop our fundraising capacity in 2021 and beyond.

This new UK entity offers exciting possibilities for Ol Pejeta as it allows UK donors to give using the Gift Aid scheme. This scheme enables Ol Pejeta to claim an extra 25p for every £1 given, at no extra cost to the donor. We also welcome European and USA donors to donate via the UK. Ol Pejeta UK will become a key hub generating vital support for our on-the-ground conservation and community development activities in Kenya.

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WAYS TO GIVE

As the pandemic continues into 2021 and tourism remains uncertain, we have become increasingly dependent on securing grants as well as donations from you, our generous supporters. Detailed below are the many ways in which you can support Ol Pejeta Conservancy:

1. Make a one-off or monthly donation
2. Adopt an animal, such as a northern white rhino or chimpanzee
3. Name a baby rhino
4. Sponsor a child’s education
5. Payroll Giving: Enroll your employer into the Give As You Earn scheme
6. Donate to your favourite charity on Amazon Smile
7. Leave a gift in your will
8. Give in honour of a loved one
9. Donate a charitable gift of stocks, bonds or mutual funds
10. Visit Ol Pejeta Conservancy
11. Visit our online shop
12. Join us at one of our events
13. Sign up to our monthly e-newsletter
14. Follow us on social media

To learn more or to donate, please email info@olpejetaconservancy.org or visit our website www.olpejetaconservancy.org/donate.

LOOKING AHEAD INTO 2021

Amid the pandemic, our strategic ambitions are to:

- Raise more than $2.7 million in income to support conservation and community efforts.
- Remain engaged with you, and encourage more donors and supporters to join us on our journey. Secret Safari: Into the Wild, a six-part Channel 4 documentary series, filmed exclusively on Ol Pejeta, was shown on UK screens in early 2021 and will air in the USA later in the year.
- Keep you updated on all things Ol Pejeta and the ground-breaking innovative programme to recover the northern white rhino.
- Launch at least two new major strategic partnerships that deliver significant impact for our mission alongside working with existing partners and donors.
- Commit to improving our environmental performance and reducing our contribution to environmental degradation by baseline our carbon footprint. This pilot will lead to creating collaborations at scale across the region that could form the basis of building carbon credits and new income generation to help continue to sustain our work.
Many thanks to Pablo Levinas who contributed numerous photos in this report. Levinas is a director and photographer with a passion for documenting social and environmental issues around the world. His work has been broadcasted on a variety of outlets, including Discovery Channel, National Geographic, Channel 4, MSNBC, RT and MTV.

Levinas' projects include “Slave Hunter” a docu-series with Aaron Cohen exposing human trafficking in New York, “Expedition Blue Planet;” a docu-series with Alexandra Cousteau about the interconnectivity of water issues around the world, an ongoing project documenting the illegal killing of millions of sharks for the shark fin trade, as well as a project that coaches wounded vets on how to reconnect with nature and thus help them deal with their PTSD through diving in the ocean. He has also lived and documented indigenous tribes around the world in an effort to help support their rights to their land and way of life.

In the last six years, Levinas began focusing on the efforts against rhino poaching by shooting short films for rhino conservation organizations. He also filmed “Follow the Guns” an undercover documentary in South Africa which tracked the guns being used by poachers to kill rhinos. Most recently Levinas has spent several months creating content to bring awareness to the notable efforts of the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya.