



OL JOGI

2016-2017 NEWS



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 2016-2017 Ol Jogi newsletter.

Ol Jogi has experienced an exciting and renewed sense of purpose in all our areas of focus, and this newsletter is a reflection of this energy; one that reflects what makes Ol Jogi special, and at the same time shares more vividly all that we do. You could say it's emblematic of our continued mission: that we are always getting better and always seeking ways to improve things every day, be it enhancing our tourism product, protecting our wildlife or working with our neighbours.

There is a certainly a lot worth celebrating and sharing with everyone. We have been shortlisted for two awards, made huge strides in promoting human-wildlife coexistence as well as supported our neighbours in various ways – improving sanitation, bursaries for children and more. Our wildlife numbers are on the increase, and Ol Jogi's Grevy's zebra population is now the largest in any one place in the world!

Despite all these successes, challenges abound, especially the threat to rhinos, and the cost associated with protecting these endangered species, and managing an ecosystem such as ours for them to live and thrive. We hope you get a sense from this newsletter that these challenges – just like Jamie's amazing take on an ultra marathon in Peru to raise funds for rangers – are necessary obstacles to achieving a larger vision. And for the past year, we are proud to see Ol Jogi continuously rising to new heights.

Onwards!

The Ol Jogi Team

OL JOGI FACT FILE

Location:	225km north of Nairobi (4 hours), just north of Nanyuki in Laikipia.
Size:	Ol Jogi Ltd. 58,000 acres of which the main Conservancy comprises 46,000 acres and Pyramid Game Reserve 12,000 acres.
Altitude:	1,580-2,234 metres above sea level.
Established:	The Conservancy was established over 60 years ago and Pyramid Game Reserve was made a Rhino Sanctuary in 1980.
Employees:	Approximately 300.
Number of rhinos:	53 black rhinos and 22 white rhinos.
Other wildlife:	We host as many as 400 elephants, depending on season. We also host 22 species of ungulates, 5 species of large carnivores and diverse small carnivores, 3 species of primates and 310 avian species.
Pyramid Game Count Statistics 08/12/2016:	2,219 up from 1,617 the previous year.
Main Conservancy Game Count Statistics 15/01/2016:	2,980 down from 4,275 the previous year.
Livestock:	2,416 Ol Jogi head of cattle + 1,769 community head of cattle = 4,185.

AWARDS

OL JOGI NOMINATED FOR THE “CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY” AWARD BY PURE AWARDS

The Pure Awards are widely recognised as one of the most prestigious luxury travel awards in the industry and we were thrilled to have been shortlisted in the Conservation and Sustainability category.

Ol Jogi was shortlisted for facilitating the first attempted cataract surgery on an eastern black rhino in Kenya. The rhino, Alfie, has bilateral mature cataracts. Even though the efforts to rectify his eyesight were not successful, the most valuable achievement from the process – generating the authorisation to attempt cataract surgery on a rhino in Kenya – paved the way and facilitated future attempts in terms of authorisations and developed a list of actionable items required prior to such an attempt.

The PURE Awards seek game-changers in the industry of experiential travel. The selection process is very competitive and is voted by a panel of some of the world’s most renowned travel journalists. This year, when it came to Conservation and Sustainability, the panel were looking for “projects or initiatives that put Planet Earth on centre stage, showing due responsibility to our natural resources and going above and beyond to protect our legacy – for the good of not only the tourism industry, but the rest of the world.”

It is, therefore, an immense achievement to have been shortlisted for our unwavering dedication to rhino conservation, and everyone at Ol Jogi would like to thank the PURE community for this acknowledgement.

AND... 1ST RUNNER UP AT THIS YEAR’S ECO WARRIOR AWARDS!

To cap a great year for Ol Jogi, we were recognised as the 1st Runner Up at the 2016 Eco Warrior Awards in the Private Conservancy of the Year category. The awards, held annually, identify and appreciate innovation and leadership in responsible tourism across Kenya.

This year’s winners were announced on the 14th October 2016 at a Gala dinner hosted at Radisson Blu, Nairobi.

“It’s a fantastic honour for us to have been chosen as 1st Runner Up, especially as first-time applicants. It shows that our diligence in enforcing ethical and sustainable practices on Ol Jogi is worthy of national recognition.”

Jamie Gaymer, Ol Jogi’s Wildlife and Conservation Manager.



MEET SIR

PRIDE OF THE OL JOGI WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTER



When he was first rescued by Ol Jogi, Sir could not fend for himself. A year later, he has blossomed into a 200kg gentle giant.

The Ol Jogi Conservancy is home to a veterinary clinic with a difference. Since it was established in 1994, it has offered a platform for a remarkable variety of unprecedented activities, including the first-ever attempted cataract surgery on endangered black rhino calves in the country, featuring expert teams from as far afield as South Africa.

Wherever possible, the team will always aim to release the patients who end up on the operation table back into the wild. Unfortunately, some can never be released, either due to permanent injury or human habituation. In this case, they are assured of a forever home at the Centre, where they will receive the best care possible. The Centre originally started in 1989 as an animal orphanage, and two of its first residents – elephants rescued from a culling project in Zimbabwe – are still there today. Another permanent resident is a handsome lion appropriately named 'Sir.'

Just over seven years ago, Sir was brought in to Ol Jogi after angry livestock herders had killed his entire pride. The attack was in retaliation for the lions preying on livestock. It happened in Rumuruti, not far from Ol Jogi. Miraculously, Sir had escaped, but at seven months old could not fend for himself.

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) launched a rescue mission to find the young lion and ensure his survival.

"When the KWS brought Sir in, he was in a very bad state. Understandably, he was not ready to trust any human and retreated to the darkest corner of his enclosure. However, on the third day he came out to feed and drink," says Kimani Kuria, Ol Jogi's Community Manager.

With the patience and care of the staff at Ol Jogi, Sir has blossomed into a 200kg gentle giant. His mane is almost entirely black, which is rare and extremely striking. As he was so young when he arrived, he has become too comfortable around humans to be released into the wild.

At the current rate of the species' decline, largely due to loss of habitat and conflict, many conservationists say that lions are likely to go extinct in the next 20 years unless strict conservation measures that include communities are implemented. Today, Sir is an ambassador for his species and a reminder of the detrimental effects of human-wildlife conflict.

BIRDS MATTER

THE “SECRETARIES” OF THE AFRICAN GRASSLANDS

Secretary birds are endemic to Africa and are found in most countries south of the Sahara desert. The bird's unusual name has an interesting origin – it is thought to come from the 1800s when European explorers first spotted the birds during expeditions in Africa. Male secretaries of that era wore grey tailcoats and dark knee-length trousers. They also used goose-quill pens that they carried behind their ears. This long-legged bird shares many of these same physical features: long, dark quills at the back of the head; long, grey wing and tail feathers that resemble a tailcoat; and black feathers that go midway down the legs like short trousers.



Secretary birds nesting on Ol Jogi.

Secretary birds have a wingspan of more than two metres and are up to 1.5 metres tall. They spend more time on the ground than any other raptor. The birds are also aggressive predators – they are famous for their ability to hunt down and kill snakes, striking with effectiveness and precision.

The rapid decline in the population of secretary birds across their range has become a source of concern. In some areas, the species has completely disappeared. Like most other wild species, the secretary bird's population is declining due to habitat encroachment for human settlement and development.

CONSERVATION STATUS

The IUCN has listed the secretary bird as a vulnerable species. There is a need to create awareness of the plight of this species and monitor its population trends. In areas where the secretary bird's numbers are on the decline, the local people, especially livestock farmers need to be sensitised on the role of the bird in the ecosystem, and the importance of co-existence with wildlife.

It is encouraging to see that Ol Jogi's secretary birds are thriving. They are spotted on a regular basis and even appear to be nesting.

OL JOGI'S BURSARIES

SHAPING KENYA'S FUTURE

Peter Lemekwi is an energetic 15-year-old who dreams of becoming a doctor. Growing up, like many children from his community, educational opportunities to achieve his potential were limited – his parents are small-scale livestock keepers and struggle to support him and his siblings.

Peter worked very hard in primary school and performed well in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (the national exams that determine a pupil's progression to secondary school). However, much like his older brother who had equally done well in the exams, chances of him attending secondary school were slim. But Peter was determined to find a way.

"Peter lives close to the Ol Jogi border and had heard about our work that supports children like him. He walked here for several kilometres and presented his request for a bursary. I was very impressed by his resolve and attitude," says our Community Development Manager, Kimani Kuria.

After doing a background check, Kimani approved the request and drove to Peter's home to deliver the cheque for his secondary school fees. The entire family were overwhelmed with emotion. "It is about giving hope and offering a chance.



***Peter Lemekwi
pictured here
alongside
his parents
receiving a
cheque from
Ol Jogi for
covering his
school fees.***

For students like Peter who face many barriers to higher education, these bursaries offer them a whole new world."

Peter started his first year of secondary school in March at Doldol Secondary School. His story is one of many – this year alone, we have sponsored 17 students through our bursary support programme.

Ol Jogi allocates bursaries based on a student's family income, good academic performance and their desire to succeed. Supporting the next generation through education not only helps us maintain good relations with our neighbours, it also nurtures a future where conservation has tangible benefits to those who live alongside wildlife.

"I promise not to disappoint Ol Jogi and my family. I will work very hard to realise my dream."

Peter Lemekwi, Ol Jogi's Bursary Recipient.

EDUCATION

CONSERVATION EDUCATION REACHES 98,000!



It has been 20 years since we began an Environmental Conservation Education Programme here on Ol Jogi, and close to 100,000 learners have taken part over the years. In just 2016, our programme reached approximately 9,400 students, teachers, and parents from across Kenya. The core objective of this programme is to offer environmental education and create critical awareness about our individual and collective responsibilities in creating a thriving and safe ecosystem for both our wildlife and ourselves.

Our highly interactive education programme cuts across science and close wildlife encounters. It has become very popular amongst students neighbouring Ol Jogi and beyond – often, schools have to book three months in advance to secure a chance to visit. More than 50% are repeat visits.

The world is rapidly changing and we need to equip our younger generation with the knowledge and critical thinking that will ensure the survival of wildlife and the environment. Children who are connected to the natural world can positively shape the future by becoming good stewards of the world that they will inherit.



COUNTING WILDLIFE...

In 2016, Ol Jogi participated in two countrywide wildlife censuses, the **Great Grevy's Rally** and the **The Kids Twiga Rally**. The Conservancy is a stronghold and important habitat for the two species that were in focus during these counts - the endangered Grevy's zebra and the reticulated giraffe (which, alongside the other giraffe species, was recently listed as vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature).

THE GREAT GREVY'S RALLY 2016

Held in January, 2016, the Great Grevy's Rally was a pioneering event that brought together citizens, scientists, conservationists, government and school children to count and ultimately help save the world's rarest zebra, the Grevy's.

The Grevy's zebra has suffered a devastating decline in population and range. It is estimated that there were about 15,000 individuals roaming the wilds of northern Kenya in the 1970s, but by early 2000s, this population had declined to a mere 2,500. A stunning equid, this rare zebra is easy to identify from its thin stripes, white belly and regal gait. Laikipia and northern Kenya are home to over 90% of the remaining population, with only a small number living in Southern Ethiopia. The rally was going to finally help conservationists accurately determine how many zebras Kenya has left, and this would in turn inform management decisions to steer conservation measures to benefit the species.

Using new technology and software named IBEIS,

Of the 40,000 images taken during the census, the IBEIS hotspotter analysis yielded 1,942 uniquely identified individuals. 1,387 unique individuals were seen on the first day of the rally and another 1,408 were seen on the second day. Using these statistics, three major findings emerged:

1. It is estimated that Kenya's total Grevy's zebra population ranges from a low of 2,257 individuals to a high of 2,443
2. The demographic state of the national population and most counties are healthy. When the percentage of infants and juveniles approaches 30% of the total, populations appear stable and tend to sustain themselves because there are sufficient recruits to replace adults that die
3. The fraction of females giving birth per year is high, or its inverse, the inter-birth interval is low. Both also indicate that the reproductive potential of a population is strong and steady.

The Grevy's zebra population on Ol Jogi is more than 400 unique individuals, now the largest population in any one conservancy or place.

close to 500 teams of citizen scientists covered over 25,000 square km on private land including Ol Jogi, government parks and northern Kenya's community conservancies, taking more than 40,000 images of Grevy's zebra with GPS enabled cameras. The public's participation increased local awareness on the existence and plight of the zebra, and offered insight into measures to conserve it.

The population on Ol Jogi is healthy with more than 400 unique Grevy's zebra, now the largest population in any one conservancy or place. In the larger landscape, Laikipia's Grevy's population is also healthy, with potential to increase every year and create thriving herds across the region.

AND WHY IT MATTERS

THE KIDS TWIGA RALLY 2016

The Twiga (*Swahili name for giraffe*) Rally was also calling on public participation to help count a wildlife species, but in this case, only school children and school wildlife clubs were involved. During the census held on the 7th of March, 70 children from eight primary schools were tasked to take photographs of giraffes across private ranches and community conservancies. Once again, the data would be analysed by the IBEIS software to identify individual animals and answer a fundamental question: "Are giraffe numbers and the social composition of giraffe groups on group ranches, where trees cover has been reduced by intensive grazing and tree cutting for making charcoal, different from those on conservancies where tree abundance and diversity is higher?"

About IBEIS

The Image Based Ecological Identification System (IBEIS) software has been developed by a team of faculty members, students and engineers at Princeton University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the University of Illinois-Chicago, and Wild Me. It uses the HotSpotter software for individual animal identification and the Wildbook ecological information management system.

The children, including some from the Ol Jogi primary school, were trained in the use of GPS-enabled cameras. They were then split into mixed groups before departing for their prearranged zones, in the company of undergraduate students from Princeton and Columbia Universities.

At the end of the day, the teams produced over 1,300 photographs of giraffes, as well as photos of many other species. On the 8th March a consecutive count was conducted in the same areas to generate data for the all-important sight, re-sight analysis.

How does sight, re-sight analysis work? Imagine that 100 individual giraffes are seen on the first day and 100 giraffe are seen on the second day. The population can be estimated from the proportion of repeated sightings. If only half of the giraffe seen on Day 1 are re-sighted on Day 2, then the total population is 200, twice the number seen on Day 1. This method is a much more accurate way of estimating population numbers of animals than total count methods.

The survey found 30 individuals on the first day, of which only 8% overlapped on the second day, giving us a total population of 376 on the conservancies. This compared with a population of 80 on the group ranches, estimated by the same method. Further analysis of the data will enable us to assess whether the sex ratios and age structure of the giraffes on the conservancies and group ranches differ, amongst many other interesting findings.

The Kids Twiga Rally, besides helping us collect crucial giraffe data, was more importantly an avenue of engaging future generations and offering them a chance to participate in conservation.

In conclusion, these censuses have been a success and continue to demonstrate Ol Jogi's key role in protecting endangered species in the Laikipia landscape, as well as the importance of working together to collect wildlife information and data collectively in partnership with other organisations.

A NEW CORRIDOR TO PROMOTE HUMAN-ELEPHANT COEXISTENCE

Ol Jogi Ranch celebrated World Wildlife Day on March 3rd, 2016 by opening its latest wildlife corridor that will see species, mostly elephants, crossing a government road safely without risk to people. Officially inaugurated by Laikipia County Commissioner, Apollo Okello, the corridor is a tool to mitigate human-wildlife conflict as well as allow wildlife easier access to the greater Laikipia ecosystem.



The newly opened wildlife corridor will see species, mostly elephants, crossing a government road without risk to people.

Plans to establish a corridor on this busy government road that connects Nanyuki town to the Doldol area started a few years ago. In partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the county government and with the communities' support, we began the construction of the corridor in August 2015. The innovative design consists of stone walls and posts – which prevent critically endangered rhino from moving where they should not – while the overhead electric spikes prevent elephants from moving where they should not. The “cattle grids” are what prevent all wildlife from entering the government road and channel them into the right direction.

WHY DO WILDLIFE CORRIDORS MATTER?

As human populations increase in Kenya's wildlife-rich Laikipia County, settlements and farmlands do too. Wherever wildlife and people share the same habitat, often competing for the same resources, conflict occurs to the detriment of both - this is especially true with human-elephant conflict which forms the majority of the cases experienced in Laikipia. Farmers stand to lose their livelihoods if elephants break into their crop fields, while retaliation attacks lead to loss

of both elephant and human lives. Innovative solutions are therefore required to promote coexistence.

“On this particular government road, before the establishment of the corridor, conflict cases with elephants were escalating. This conflict is a result of habitat loss and fragmentation, and securing rangelands for elephants, including their migration routes, is critical for their long-term survival. Corridors are a key part in providing safe passageways along these mostly ancient routes.” Jamie Gaymer, our Wildlife Manager, explains.

Ol Jogi has been experimenting with innovative wildlife corridors since 2005. To date, 18 corridors have been established, allowing wildlife to move back and forth freely between the various areas of the Conservancy as well as the neighbouring wildlife areas. Alongside mitigating conflict, the corridors are enhancing landscape-level conservation efforts.

Our team has been monitoring movement along the newly established corridor to evaluate its effectiveness and we are thrilled that it's proving to be a huge success with elephants and other wildlife frequently utilising it.

HEALTH

TREATING HAZARDOUS WASTE



The health centre at Il Polei, which borders Ol Jogi, is a lifeline for many local residents, including children.

The health centre at Il Polei, which borders Ol Jogi, is a lifeline for many local residents. Operating a rural clinic presents many challenges; medicine supplies are not always guaranteed, and equipment is basic. Despite this, the nurses here manage to deliver babies, treat infectious diseases and save lives on a daily basis. However, the closest hazardous waste disposal is over 50 kilometres away, leaving the nurses with no choice but to burn any waste they cannot transport.

Until recently syringes, needles, soiled dressings and diagnostic samples were burnt in an open pit and posed a huge health hazard to clinic workers, patients and the community. In response to this, Ol Jogi constructed a medical waste incinerator at Il Polei in November 2015, which now enables staff to dispose medical waste safely, and on site. The Medical Officer for Laikipia North, Dr Phyllis Maina, provided the technical drawings of the incinerator and the Innovative Technology Group at De Montfort University, in the UK, developed the design.

The incinerator has made a huge difference to the clinic and the area surrounding it. Not only has it eliminated the health hazard posed to the community, it has also reduced the damage to the

environment previously caused by the open pit.

Il Polei's Head Nurse, Judy Kirimba says, "The clinic is able to operate more efficiently now as we have a suitable way to dispose of waste. It has made our area safer and hygienic, and we are very happy that Ol Jogi was able to help us achieve this."



RHINO NEWS

2016 was a good year for our rhino population with the birth of one southern white rhino and four eastern black rhinos. This has increased our white rhino population to 22 animals and our black rhinos to 53, **a cumulative growth rate of 7.14%**, which is higher than the recommended national average of 6%. Our anti-poaching vigilance has paid off, and we have not experienced any rhino deaths in 2016.

This higher than average growth rate and no deaths (natural or as a result of poaching) has seen our rhino population flourish this year, a trend we hope continues in the years to come.



REPRESENTATION IN CONTINENTAL-LEVEL RHINO CONSERVATION

Jamie Gaymer, Ol Jogi's Wildlife Manager, attended the IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG) meeting in Kruger National Park, South Africa. The meeting provided a forum to deliberate rhino conservation measures across the continent by range states and other stakeholders.

Jamie also attended the East African Community Rhino Management Committee (EACRMC) meeting that was held in Entebbe, Uganda. As Chair of the Association of Private Land Rhino Sanctuaries, member of the Kenya Rhino Steering and Executive Committees as well as his attendance in the international meetings, Jamie continues to ensure that Ol Jogi is at the forefront of global rhino conservation.

HANDRAISING YOUNG MEIMEI

On the 18th of March 2016, we discovered that Manuela's calf, at only four-days-old, was blind. We moved the calf to our rhino holding facility for further diagnosis, which later revealed that she was suffering from a chronic bilateral eye infection. Thanks to the advice of several internationally recognised vets, we were able to provide treatment to the calf. Meimei has since recovered fully and will one day be a candidate for release back to the wild.

"It was definitely challenging for us – this was the first time we were hand raising a new born rhino. The fact that she was blind made it more complicated, but we are determined to see she survives," explains Peter Lukas, Ol Jogi's rhino handler.

Now named Meimei, we are thrilled that the calf is growing fast. She is eight months old and receives nourishment from a strict milk diet, which is complemented by natural browse. Her handlers take her out everyday for walks and mud baths, her favourite activity.



THREAT TO RHINOS



The threat to our rhinos remains high, with poaching cartels relentlessly seeking opportunities to commit wildlife crimes. Throughout the year, we have experienced false alarms, but luckily, our efficient anti-poaching intelligence has helped us manage the incidents effectively. Every day, we strive for 100% rhino sightings to ensure that each individual animal has been spotted and is recorded to be in good health.

So, whilst our rhinos have increased in number and we have not suffered any deaths, our year has certainly not been

without 'excitement' or worry. The pressure on rhino range areas continues to intensify, and here at Ol Jogi, we have worked hard to remain vigilant 24/7.

MORE RHINO NEWS

THE CURIOUS CASE OF UNUSUAL RHINO MOVEMENT

On the 30th of December 2015, we were astounded to realise that Baraza, a white rhino bull, had crossed through our “rhino proof” wildlife corridor from the rhino sanctuary into the greater reserve. After five years of having the corridors in place, this was the first time a rhino had attempted to cross over! Later on, we realised that Baraza’s unusual desire to move was caused by territorial pressure from a young and robust white rhino bull named Moscow.



Baraza was moved back into the rhino reserve easily, but a few days later, broke out again via the same route. Recognising the threat posed by the rhino being in unprotected territory, we enacted reinforcements to prevent further movement, but Baraza, under heavy pressure from Moscow, began to cross over again using a different corridor.

We have now fixed a VHF transmitter in Baraza’s horn to ensure we can track his movements at all times. He has continued to systematically break fences in the desire to establish his own territory and find mates (and avoid scuffles with Moscow) but due to the security concerns; we always have to forcefully move him back to a safe area. It is now in deliberation on what the next steps would be to help Baraza establish a new territory and find new, desirable mates.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN AFRICAN RHINO CONSERVATION PLAN FOR AFRICAN RHINO RANGE STATES IN 2016

All eleven current African rhino range states and one ex-range state attended at least one of three range states meetings held in September 2014 and July and November 2015. The meetings offered a platform to develop a continental, African Range States African Rhino Conservation Plan. The process of approval of this plan by the range states is currently underway.

This continental range states’ plan does not seek to duplicate the existing and more detailed national rhino plans; but rather seeks to complement them by providing an overarching higher level umbrella plan under which all the national plans can fit. The continental plan also seeks to identify and focus on areas where collectively and cooperatively there may be opportunities for range states to work together to enhance rhino conservation (such as promoting effective funding for conservation, increasing cooperative sharing and analysis of intelligence information, and boosting political will and support for rhino conservation across the continent).

Once approved, the range states will be accountable for oversight of the plan.

OPINION PIECE

THE CITES CoP17, 2016

CITES AND RHINO

This year's conference saw a big debate as to whether the rhino horn ban, which has been in place since 1977, should be lifted. Swaziland put forward a proposal to be allowed to sell nearly 730 pounds of rhino horn from existing stockpiles to licensed retailers in "the Far East" for \$9.9 million, along with another 44 pounds per year from rhino horn harvesting. In a 26 to 100 vote, with 17 abstentions, the committee rejected the proposal.

During the meeting, most rhino range countries supported the plan, saying that proceeds from the sales of horns could help Swaziland protect their rhinos. They supported the idea that a sustainable and non-detrimental trade in rhino horn is possible. Their arguments suggested that trade would contribute towards financing the economic burden of protecting rhinos as well as incentivizing others to participate in rhino conservation.

Meanwhile opponents argued that a legal trade would stimulate demand, complicate efforts for law enforcement, and allow legal horn to provide cover for illicit horn. Kenya supported upholding the ban.

Whilst there are many legitimate proposals for and against the trade, pro-traders are offering compelling arguments that what is currently in place IS NOT WORKING. That trade would lower the commodity price thus decreasing the incentive to trade in illegal rhino horn, while offering incentives for grassroot rhino conservation.

Ol Jogi's opinion is that given the numerous mitigating factors that cannot be measured, there is significant cause for alarm and thus, a most prudent approach should be adopted. Amongst those mitigating factors is corruption. Many African countries are hard hit by corruption. We have no doubt that corruption would find a way to fuel the illicit trade, all the while now having a legal system behind which to hide.

Secondly, there are different influences motivating consumer demand. There is Traditional Chinese Medicine, there is the status driven demand and there is purely economic demand. There are also ornamental or decorative demand influences. Whilst the financially motivated demand element might be influenced by commodity price that a legal system might diminish, a reduction in price might also increase affordability to those of lower socio-economic status. The question is, do we have enough rhino horn to satisfy demand and more importantly, can we sustainably supply the market given the current stockpiles and remaining global rhino populations? The pro-traders are arguing that we should risk change and react thereafter. Can we afford to do that given the numbers of rhino left?

Our primary concern is this: what if we are unable to meet the financial requirement of securing rhinos at a positive growth rate? Our primary objective is to avoid further extinction of any rhino subspecies and to increase populations to genetically viable and sustainable populations in the wild. The poachers given their relatively low socio-economic status and with due consideration to the economies in which they operate are fairly price inelastic. For example, there is reason to believe that the price of rhino horn has recently halved and yet the poachers are equally motivated. We need to increase risk whilst diminishing reward simultaneously and the unknown is where the lines cross.

In conclusion, we currently support the ban in trade. At the end of the day, our priority is with the rhinos. There are currently too many unknowns to risk change and our opinion is probably biased given that we operate under the wildlife policies that currently govern Kenya.

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

DE-SILTING II POLEI DAM

“De-silting the dam will help reduce the number of cases of human-wildlife conflict in this area by more than 90%.”

Senior Area Chief, Stephen Putunoi



***Il Polei dam
fills up after
de-silation,
thanks to
Ol Jogi.***

Over the years, the dam has filled with sediment. In 2015, the community requested support from Ol Jogi to de-silt the dam. Cases of elephants venturing to community land to find water were beginning to rise, and swift action was necessary to mitigate the escalating conflict. Recognising the importance of the water source for elephants, and as a critical puzzle piece in the community's future, Ol Jogi donated their D8 bulldozer for the job.

In a semi-arid landscape shared by cattle herders and elephants, the need for water is often a point of tension. As the unregulated land use, water extraction and climate variability affect permanent rivers around Ol Jogi's borders, water is becoming an ever more critical issue for wildlife and local livelihoods.

In 1998, Ol Jogi assisted the neighbouring group ranches of Il Polei and Munichoi (then only newly established) to dig a dam that straddled their borders. The dam proved to be a critical source of water for elephants migrating in and out of Ol Jogi. It also reduced the likelihood of the animals roaming into human settlements in search of the resource.

Local leaders set aside grass banks around the dam for community cattle during times of drought and created strict rules on its usage. They also prohibited the collection of firewood and sand from the areas around the dam. These efforts have allowed the land to recover and support a diverse range of wildlife, instrumental to the community's long-term vision to develop a tourist facility. Income from tourism would ensure the sustainable management of the land, and provide valuable income to local people.

A low-loader was hired to transport the bulldozer to the site, and the work commenced. The team raced against the imminent 'El Nino' rains, and plant operator Samuel Kantai worked tirelessly for seven days before the rains began. Much of the sediment was removed, a spillway was created and extensive repairs were carried out on the main embankment.

The storm on the eighth day caused the dam to fill overnight and undid most of the hard work from the previous week. Additional work was needed on the spillway - it was completed before the next rains arrived.

Elated community members came to the dam at the end of the project to meet the Ol Jogi team to express their gratitude.

“De-silting the dam will help reduce the number of cases of human-wildlife conflict in this area by more than 90%, the elephants now have their own, almost exclusive water source,” said the senior area chief Stephen Putunoi.

LIVESTOCK

FOR MORE PRODUCTIVE GRASSLANDS

For more than 20 years, Ol Jogi has provided neighbouring cattle herders with access to grazing grounds during times of drought. In recent years, the increase in human population, poor grazing management, and an unpredictable climate have made life tougher for Laikipia's pastoralists. In 2015, the long rains expected from April to June never came. When a herd of cattle is the only bank account you have, drought and disease can wipe out a family's entire livelihood.



For most of the last year, Ol Jogi opened its gates to 2,000 head of cattle belonging to its pastoralist neighbours.

For most of the last year, Ol Jogi opened its gates to 2,000 head of cattle belonging to its pastoralist neighbours. This ensured:

1. That families did not become bankrupt at the onset of the drought.
2. The pastoralist families kept their children in school – they did not have to trek their cattle across vast distances in search of pasture.
3. Ol Jogi was able to offer free veterinary care and regular dipping to control parasites in the livestock. This high-quality care and grazing led to 300 calves being born on the ranch in just 11 months (despite the dry conditions) increasing the wealth of the cattle owners.

However, providing emergency grazing is just a short-term solution to the larger problem of poor land management in the landscape. Long-term solutions, which include training and equipping the pastoralists with skills in the efficient land use

and animal husbandry, are key. Ol Jogi's Livestock Manager, Protus Ouma, offered training based on

these principles to the pastoralists. He also introduced the benefits of bunched grazing and night bunching – this is when cattle are collected tightly together in a specific area, for a set period of time. Their hooves break up the hardpan soil, and their dung fertilises the ground. When the cattle are moved on to a different location, the land left behind is able to recover. This technique is transforming degraded rangelands across northern Kenya.

The herders agreed to work together to coordinate this amongst themselves, with Ol Jogi lending 'mobile bomas' (portable fences) to the groups of pastoralists who had camped at the ranch during the dry season.

Ol Jogi also offered to keep 300 steers from the community stock to fatten and sell on behalf of their owners.

Protus explains: "The purpose of this is twofold – firstly, it helps to reduce the amount of cattle requiring graze in the neighbouring areas, and secondly, ensures owners get the best possible prices for their cattle."

Building resilience to a changing climate is vital if the surrounding pastoralists are to continue supporting their families. Ol Jogi aims to work with communities to build a future where grazing emergency assistance is no longer required.

TOURISM

A SUSTAINABLE MECHANISM TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION



In recent years the cost of rhino conservation has escalated acutely. This has been primarily driven by inflation in the black market prices for rhino horn in consumer countries and the inevitable surge in demand. Rhino conservancies have been forced to evolve their respective security structures in a bid to stem the losses from poaching. In Kenya, it has been calculated that the private sector rhino conservancies are spending on average between US\$35 to US\$50 per acre per annum on security alone. This is significantly more than that which is required if one doesn't host rhinos on their land.

The Ol Jogi directors have historically exclusively supported our rhino conservation-funding model. This is no longer feasible due to the inflation in costs and we also recognise that it is not a sustainable model. Rhino conservation must be shaped for perpetuity and on this basis, recognised the need for a diverse funding model that spreads risk and that is also self-generating.

Whilst tourism is an industry that Kenya is heavily reliant on, it can also be volatile, unpredictable and subject to change based on a multitude of different influences. Nevertheless, the directors of Ol Jogi opened their extraordinary house in 2013 to the public. The house itself is particularly luxurious, offering a fantastic contrast to the wild environment in which it is situated.

The Ol Jogi Home, now open to tourism, has a capacity of 22 people. Not only is the house incomparable in Kenya, but also, the level of service and attention to detail differentiates us from others in the tourism sector. Of greater significance however, might be the fact that we only sell the house exclusively to one group at a time. Not only do guests have the entire house to themselves but indeed, the entire 58,000-acre conservancy. This gives our visitors the opportunity to witness Africa through an exclusive, unique and truly individual experience in one of Kenya's most pristine wilderness areas. Furthermore, the exclusivity ensures that our tourism has a "low-impact" on the environment, an element crucial in our conservation vision.

The Ol Jogi Conservancy operates as a not-for-profit; all revenues generated from tourism are directly reinvested into our conservation work. It is certainly important to us that every dollar spent by our guests is reinvested into that which inspired them to come to Ol Jogi in the first place - the flora and fauna.

Whilst we hope to grow our tourism business, thus making it a greater contributor to our funding requirements, we will endeavour to retain our exclusivity. In this way tourism cannot exert unnecessary pressure on the environment, but continues to offer the much-needed financial anchor to conservation.

GENETIC STUDIES REVEAL STAGGERING INFORMATION ON THE GIRAFFE, BUT THE SAD NEWS IS THAT THE ANIMAL IS NOW CONSIDERED VULNERABLE



Giraffes occur in 21 African Countries. In 1998, the IUCN estimated the total number of giraffe in Africa to exceed 140,000 but according to assessments coordinated by the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF), this had dropped to fewer than 80,000 individuals by 2012. In some areas traditionally regarded as prime giraffe habitat, numbers had dropped by a startling 65%. It is recognised that less research has been conducted on giraffes than some of the other mega fauna (such as elephants, rhinos and lions) and efforts are currently under way to conduct a census on the continent's populations and determine their numbers accurately (Fennessy 2007). This will enable a more thorough determination of the conservation status of the species.

Up until now, only a single species of giraffe (with several sub species) was recognised. However, the most recent genetic studies have revealed that there are in fact four distinct species, namely:

1. Northern giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)
2. Southern giraffe (*Giraffa giraffa*)
3. Reticulated giraffe (*Giraffa reticulata*)
4. Masai giraffe (*Giraffa tippelskirchi*)

Both southern and northern giraffe have two and three distinct

subspecies respectively.

This discovery has meant that scientists and conservationists will now have to reshape their thinking when it comes to the giraffe. As it is, the rapid decline in population has caused alarm, and many are now convinced that the giraffe is suffering a 'silent' extinction as the population disappears.

Until now, the conservation of giraffes was considered of "Least Concern" by the IUCN. However, in their latest global Red List of Threatened Species, the animal is now said to be Vulnerable to Extinction.

Every year, here on Ol Jogi, we conduct a game census to determine population trends of our wildlife, including the giraffe, whose numbers currently stand between 350 - 600 individuals. Ol Jogi's fence remains porous for all wildlife (besides rhinos) to migrate freely, including the giraffe, hence the variation in population. As the species continues to decline across the continent, we are pleased to record that our giraffe population is healthy, and as Ol Jogi, will ensure that it is fully protected and has access to the resources it requires to thrive.

RECOGNISING DONORS

BY JAMIE GAYMER, WILDLIFE MANAGER

IN A WORLD OF SCARCE RESOURCES, DONOR FUNDING IS HELPING US MEET CRITICAL DEFICITS

Whilst Ol Jogi develops its business model in a bid to achieve economic sustainability, donations play a critical role to our conservation development. They ensure that we can advance certain elements of our infrastructure and build on our capacity such that we remain competitive from a conservation perspective.

One might ask; “how is conservation competitive?”

There are a few factors that exert overwhelming pressure on conservation. As human populations continue to grow, competition for natural resources is a primary threat to habitats and indeed, the wildlife itself. Areas set aside for wildlife must be seen to provide benefit for the people; over and above the retention of biodiversity for global health that is somewhat intangible to those with low income per capita.

Poaching is another factor that significantly threatens conservation in many parts of Africa. The fact that rhinos only exist in protected areas within Kenya means that the well-resourced poaching cartels only need to focus on small parcels of land, Ol Jogi being one of them. That we are forced to have such intensive security for the protection of our rhinos essentially plays a far more significant role. All other elements of our biodiversity are offered the same security albeit that they are of far less economic value to those with ulterior motives.

Nevertheless, as resources become scarcer, the economic burden of protecting this biodiversity becomes greater. Inflation has increased the cost of maintaining status quo and an upsurge in demand has forced the need to evolve and improve. Right now, it seems that the cost of protecting rhinos is exponential and perhaps therefore, unsustainable.

So... whilst we as a conservation community address the consumer demand element of rhino horn, at a grass root level we must seek economic models to

support the intensive financial burden in the interim. At Ol Jogi we have focused on elements that are supported by our circumstances being commercial tourism, commercial cattle ranching and personal outlay by our directors. One can argue that one does ones best with that which is available to you. What if that is not enough however? And what if the end result of not being enough is dead rhinos? Enter the donor community.

The protection of natural resources and particularly endangered species is arguably a global prerogative. We are protecting these elements for future generations such that they may enjoy them as we have done, but also to ensure a healthy world for them to live in.

At Ol Jogi we are fortunate to have had a tremendous amount of external support for the work that we do. We have had philanthropic support through donations by our guests who have stayed at the Ol Jogi Home and who will remain anonymous. We have had financial donations for our “adopt a rhino” programme and others who have left funds to fulfil certain projects. We have had support for our community programmes, using Ol Jogi as a conduit for ensuring that funds get to the end users in our adjacent community areas.

Donor funding has, and continues to fill the gap of financial deficit that is required to ensure effective security is applied to rhino sanctuaries. At Ol Jogi we are relatively new to the practice of applying for donor funds, having previously been economically self-reliant. However, the assistance that we have received thus far from donors has been invaluable – it has enabled us to improve various elements of our security capacity and we appreciate that the funds have accelerated the rate at which we have recorded progress.

SPECIAL THANKS

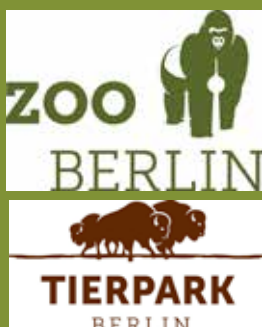
SOME OF OUR DONORS STAND OUT AS TREMENDOUS SUPPORTERS OF OL JOGI AND WE WISH TO SAY A SPECIAL THANKS TO THEM.



Save the Rhino International (SRI) has been a continued pillar of support to Ol Jogi and the Kenya Private Sector Rhino Conservancies in general. They have assisted with fundraising, contributed funding of their own, assisted with capacity building and much more. As the Chair of the Association of Private Land Rhino Sanctuaries (APLRS) in Kenya, I have thanked them on behalf of the association and therefore all of the member sanctuaries but in this, an Ol Jogi Newsletter, I would like to publically thank them on behalf of Ol Jogi.



The USFWS's Rhinoceros & Tiger Conservation Fund has a mandate to restore rhino and tiger populations to healthy numbers in the wild. They have contributed many millions of dollars over the years to various projects around the world. The USFWS have granted Ol Jogi US\$75,988.00 towards transitioning Ol Jogi's current Analogue Radio System to a Digital Radio Platform. Communications might be one of the most important aspects of Rhino security. The new radios are encrypted so that they cannot be compromised by those wishing to do harm.



In 2016, Zoo Berlin and Tierpark Berlin contributed a collective \$8,995.00 towards a Tactical Refresher Training Course for Ol Jogi's NPR's - our special team of armed rangers. It is this team who are expected to be at the front line of the poaching war. The work of the Ol Jogi NPR's is highly dangerous and they are often required to confront an adversary that has no intention of being arrested and that is equipped with a significant armoury. We feel that it is our prerogative to give these men the very best training that is available in order to "level the playing field" against the poachers.



"For Rangers" are a dedicated group of individuals who are raising money for the welfare of rangers who risk their lives daily to protect Africa's endangered species. The For Rangers team hope that by undertaking most challenging endurance events on the planet, they can draw attention not only to the plight of Africa's wildlife and the poaching crisis, but importantly, the hardships and dangers the rangers are exposed to - and in doing so, raise funds that go directly to rangers' welfare. For Rangers, of which I am a participatory member, granted Ol Jogi \$17,080 worth of uniforms and equipment in 2016.

CONQUERING THE AMAZON

In 2015, a group of five individuals - three from Kenya and two from New Zealand - undertook the infamous Marathon des Sables (MDS); a gruelling 250km self-supported ultra-marathon in the heat of the Sahara desert. They formed a group called "Running for Rangers" (RfR) with a simple plan to raise money to support wildlife rangers. The Ol Jogi team were flagged as potential beneficiaries, and it wasn't until late in 2015 that the RfR team delivered new security uniforms for the Ol Jogi rangers. Suddenly I was taken aback; this was tangible. It was real and it benefitted the men and women who are so often forgotten. To me, their extraordinary accomplishment of completing the MDS suddenly had a new meaning. And so when they asked me to join them on their next crazy undertaking, I seriously contemplated it.

LEAD UP TO THE RACE

I had not run seriously for at least 20 years despite being quite promising in my youth. What followed was a trip to a physiotherapist but more importantly, an obsessive training programme that saw me run more than 1,200 kilometres over the next few months. Endorphins were working overtime and I slowly but surely got fitter.

RACE REPORT

When we arrived in Peru, it was as breath taking as it was daunting, watching the clouds roll over the forest and our first glimpse at the unknown in which we would delve.

The first day was fairly easy, being mostly down hill. After 10 kilometres or so on the road on the second day, we took a sharp left and entered the "jungle" for the first time. It was wet, humid, muddy and slippery. The going was slow and tough and to make matters worse, we got lost about 10 kilometres before the end.

The next days were truly the most difficult that I have ever endured in my life. They comprised of back-to-back hills, rivers, slopes and valleys, all through dense jungle. I could not go more than ten metres without slipping, falling and sliding into the undergrowth where I was welcomed by a diverse spectrum of stinging and biting insects. It was truly awful. Much of the race has now become a blur in my memory; in fact, much of it was a blur at the end of each day. There are whole sections of the race that I cannot remember whatsoever. I'm not sure if this is stress-induced or simply because so much time is spent looking at one's feet.

On the last day of the race, at about 21:00 pm, we staggered into a small town where we were welcomed by cheering crowds, jubilant children and the race organisers. We had done it! I was ecstatic if not emotional.

Hindsight is a great thing and I think back on the Jungle ultra with a sense of pride and remember only the good parts. Some disagree, but if my participation somehow brings attention to the plight of the rhinos that consume so much of my life, then I will continue with these races.

Every cent raised goes directly to the welfare of the men on the frontline of the battle that will buy us the time to win the war to save our wildlife - for posterity.

To support For Rangers, please go to www.runningforrangers.com



***In 2015 The “For Rangers” Team
donated US\$114,276 to Rangers
welfare in Africa.
In 2016, the amount is likely to be
significantly more.
To donate please
visit www.forrangers.com.***

OL JOGI

NEWS 2016



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