



OL JOGI

WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY



CONSERVATION
& COMMUNITY REPORT
2017-2018

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 2017-2018 Ol Jogi Conservation & Community Report.

2017 was a year of challenging events for Kenya as a whole given presidential elections, late rains and conflict in the north of Laikipia. These events often discourage visitors to Kenya, which is the ultimate strain for wildlife, as it relies on tourism to support its existence. However, despite the turmoil around us, Ol Jogi stood strong, a testimony to the hard work from our team on the ground and its determination to protect the wildlife within our borders. We have learnt many lessons this year and have further strengthened our borders and staff, as well as our cooperation with neighbouring communities and conservancies. We are proud of our successes across the board at Ol Jogi, but our greatest achievement in 2017 was our ability to band together as a team and resist the negative impact from those issues around us that were out of our control.

We are eager to share with you our most valued news items from the year. There have been some losses but also some triumphs and we have had our best tourism year ever despite Kenya's politics and have been honoured to share in the success stories of our surrounding community members.

Surfacing from 2017's challenges unscathed would not have been possible without the generous support from you: those who visit us, those who donate and the contribution from staff on the ground. We will continue to put 100% of your support into protecting the wildlife at Ol Jogi and hope to see many of you again this year.

Bring on 2018!

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:	60 black rhinos and 28 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, Three species of primates and 310 avian species.
Pyramid Wildlife Census 17/01/2018:	1,522 down from 2,219 the previous year
Main Conservancy Wildlife Census 20/01/2018:	3,958 up from 3,834 the previous year.
Livestock:	2,416 Ol Jogi head of cattle + 1,769 community head of cattle = 4,185.

DEAR DONORS

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

While Ol Jogi strives towards an economically sustainable financial model, donor funding is a critical interim stop-gap. Diversification of our income stream is the most viable plan to spread risk; the tourism and livestock sectors are volatile, influenced by factors beyond our control and we therefore require alternatives.

2017 has been a challenging year in Kenya. We have endured not one but two General Elections; tempers of the people have been fraught and this has impacted the tourism sector. We include an article in this Ol Jogi Conservation Report about the "land invasions" that plagued Laikipia. Travel warnings were imposed as a result and the country was significantly affected. Despite this, we were grateful that many guests continued with their holiday plans to Ol Jogi, rather trusting that we were not directly impacted by the challenges prevailing in other locations. On top of all of the political tensions, Kenya endured a drought that both contributed to the volatility of the political situation and also directly affected our livestock enterprise.

Whilst the challenges of conserving endangered species continues, primarily the threat to rhinos, the international poaching cartels do not sympathise with the challenges we face at grassroot level; in fact they jump at the opportunity to exploit any signs of weakness. Whilst we did not lose a rhino to poaching at Ol Jogi in 2017, early indications suggest that significantly more than 1,000 were mercilessly poached across the continent during the year.

Ol Jogi is a non-profit conservancy and we operate at a significant financial deficit. On the one hand we are working to create a self-sustaining economic model against inflation whilst on the other hand we must remain competitive in order to responsibly protect our rhino population. Notwithstanding, we ensure positive growth in line with the legislative strategies to which we are obliged.

We have been humbled by the generosity of donors in 2017 who have joined us in our conservation commitment. Through your contribution, you have strengthened our ability to protect the wildlife and this unique habitat in Laikipia.

The seriousness of the elephant and rhino poaching crisis is becoming more apparent to the global community and it appears that it is not prepared to accept defeat. Ol Jogi might be a geographic location on which elephants and rhinos reside but they are a global asset for all of our children to enjoy long into the future.

Ol Jogi would like to thank our donors for their unwavering support. We have made significant progress on many fronts and our incremental population growth of 12 rhinos is testament to that. To all our donors, thank you. We would not have been able to achieve all that we have without you.

The picture on the front cover is of the little bee-eater known as *Merops Pusillus* of the *Meropidae* bee-eater family. This vividly coloured little bird exists throughout Sub-saharan Africa. It is the smallest African bee-eater (15 -17 cm) and eats insects such as bees, wasps and hornets. Before eating them, it removes their sting by repeatedly hitting them on a hard surface. These little birds roost communally. Both female and male birds look alike and take care of their eggs together.

WILDLIFE FOCUS

The lion population is suggested to have undergone a reduction of approximately 43% over the past 21 years, which equates to approximately three lion generations.



THE LION specifically *Panthera leo leo*, the African sub-species of lion not to be confused with those that hail from Asia; the undisputed “King of the Jungle” and possibly the most iconic of all Africa’s wildlife.

Despite this regal status, lions are listed as “vulnerable” by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (the IUCN). The justification for this is as follows:

The lion population is suggested to have undergone a reduction of approximately 43% over the past 21 years, which equates to approximately three lion generations. The inferred 43% decline is based on a time trend analysis of census data for 47 relatively well monitored lion sub populations. The total number of lion combined in those 47 sub-populations came to 7,500 individuals. This is a substantial percentage of the estimated total species population left in the wild; at 23,000. Thus the observed trends have been applied to the species as a whole with a certain level of confidence.

Despite the lion species being declared vulnerable worldwide, not all countries are seeing the same patterns of decline. There have been recognised declines as high as 60% in some countries and, of even greater concern, is that lions have recently been extirpated from at least 12 known African countries

and potentially 16. However, on a brighter note, there has been an estimated increase of 12% in other countries including Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The primary causes for the decline are as follows:

- 1) Indiscriminate killing in defence of human and livestock lives.
- 2) Habitat loss due to development and drought.
- 3) Prey Base Depletion (whilst this is sometimes linked to habitat loss, it is different as the correlation does not encompass poaching and the bushmeat trade).
- 4) A market demand for lion bone and other body parts for traditional medicine (particularly in Asia).
- 5) Whilst trophy hunting can contribute positively to lion conservation, in instances where poor management practices are observed and regulations are not upheld, it also contributes to population decline.

LION STATUS

It should be noted that several sub-populations have also been recorded as stable.

In recognition of the varying status' attributed to the different sub-populations according to their population growth or decline, the IUCN classifies different sub-populations accordingly. When combined however, the overall standing for African lions as a sub-species is listed as previously stated: **Vulnerable**.

Outside sub-Saharan Africa, the lion formerly ranged from Northern Africa through Southwest Asia (where it disappeared from most countries within the last 150 years), west into Europe, where it apparently became extinct almost 2,000 years ago, and east into India. Today, the only remainder of this once widespread northern population is a single isolated sub-population in the 1,400 km² Gir Forest National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in India.

Today, lions are found in most countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The last assessment of existing Lion range is provided by Riggio et al. (2013); they identified 67 Lion areas comprising 3.4 million km², which is 17% of historical range or about 25% of savannah Africa. Taking a cautionary approach the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group found 86 Lion Conservation Units (LCUs) covering 4.6 million km² equivalent to 22% of historical range. However, others have since undertaken assessments and found that some of the LCU's no longer contained lions, particularly in west and central Africa.

In summary, it is estimated that the existing lion range areas, where the IUCN are reasonably confident that lions persist, comprises of 1,654,375 km² in total, which is only 8% of historical range.

SO, HOW MANY LIONS EXIST?

The total population of lions might be as little as 23,000 and the population is certainly in decline. However, the available information is fairly vague for accurate lion numbers, the censuses are collected using different techniques including:

- i. Total count
- ii. Individual identifications
- iii. Total or sample inventory using calling stations
- iv. Radio telemetry
- v. Photo databases
- vi. Spoor counts
- vii. Density estimates based on direct observations corrected for patrol effort

WHERE DO WE STAND IN KENYA AND OL JOGI?

The most accurate figures that we have for lions in Kenya suggests approximately 2,000 individuals remaining. The population is thought to be in decline and is certainly affected by all of the aforementioned causes for population decline.

Ol Jogi is a haven for lions; we have a great abundance of available prey, total protection and despite this, our best efforts are sometimes in vain. Why?

Ol Jogi's fence is purposely porous to all species of wildlife with the exception of rhinos. Lions are one species whose territorial home range often exceeds the boundaries of Ol Jogi. Once they leave the safety of Ol Jogi, they are often met with disdain and are subjected to merciless killing. They cross farms and villages, feeding themselves as they would normally but in turn (unknowingly) killing precious livestock and infuriating pastoralists.

LION FOCUS

CONTINUED

The irony is that once a pride has lost some of its members it often loses the ability to hunt wild prey effectively and the problem is exacerbated.

But the good news is that in 2017 we have seen an increase in lions at Ol Jogi, probably a result of the instability and threats to which they were exposed to through the “land invasions” around us. Countless lions were killed in this conflict and we suspect that the survivors took refuge in those sanctuaries that were not directly impacted, Ol Jogi being one of them. This often leaves these ‘visiting’ individuals in a precarious position as they infringe on territory already occupied by existing prides.

Despite the coming and going of lions, Ol Jogi is occupied sporadically by three prides; one that occupies the north, one in the east and another in the west of the property. Based on sightings alone, we estimate that the Ol Jogi adult lion population is in the range of 20 to 35 individuals with a multitude of cubs of varying ages.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE?

Whilst we have a total protection policy for the lions whilst they are in Ol Jogi, clearly the problem lies outside the conservancy’s boundary. We also need to secure funding to pay compensation for damages incurred by lions so that those impacted will refrain from lethal retaliation in such cases. We also need to secure funding to build secure cattle-enclosures for communities so lions cannot cause the cattle to break-out and thus subject them to predation (this is an age old trick learned by lions and passed on generation to generation). It’s all very well preaching sentiment but if the conflict impacts one’s livelihood, it is unlikely that this will endure. Education is fundamentally



**Lions
enjoying
the last rays
and soaking
up the heat
from the
rock
at Ol Jogi**

important but it must coincide with other methods to mitigate the immediate and negative economic impact lions can cause. It is important to remember that not all Kenyans benefit directly from tourism. However, lions are a key attraction to draw in tourists and tourism is a vital sector for the overall Kenyan economy.

We must keep brainstorming sustainable ideas that might help preserve our lions. Lion research needs to continue so we can learn how behaviour changes might be induced by the circumstances in which lions find themselves; as they evolve to the changing and shrinking world around them. There are some interesting new developments happening in finding solutions to human-animal conflict. We are seeing a combination of science and technology. One we are keeping a close eye on is the use of VHF and satellite tracking devices to watch lion pride movements, in knowing their locations the system can send an “advanced warning” of a pride’s proximity to nearby communities and pastoralists. We look forward to seeing the results of projects like this as they are put to the test in 2018.

Ol Jogi remains committed to help find solutions as lions must live on, along with all other species that make our environment in Africa so unique.

DOG UNIT

CANINE SECURITY

Ol Jogi hosts, manage, train and utilise two parallel working dog units as a core element within our anti-poaching force. We currently have three Bloodhound 'tracker' dogs and two Belgian Malinois 'attack' dogs. In 2017, Ol Jogi accepted to train four Bloodhound puppies, three of which had been procured to enhance the security at adjacent properties within Laikipia. Ol Jogi retained the fourth puppy after training was complete and she is now regularly deployed in official cases.



By training the puppies and handlers from other conservancies, Ol Jogi is contributing to the improvement of general and conservation security within the region. Ultimately, it is our mutual obligation to reduce crime in Laikipia and we are all the beneficiaries, people and wildlife alike.

In 2017, through a generous donation by one of our visiting guests, we embarked on a total renovation of our kennel facility. The dogs took up temporary residence at our veterinary clinic and we are excited about their imminent return to the kennels, as we approach project completion. Our working dogs are

called upon regularly by the community and various government law enforcement offices. Their success over the years has generated a good reputation and they are a welcome asset to all who have used their services. The Malinois have had less exposure but they are crucial to our security team as they can make the difference between life and death for our armed forces if engaged by an armed adversary.

In 2018, we are benefiting from a regional canine coordinator, a position that has been sponsored by the Anna Merz Rhino Trust as well as the USFWS (US Fish & Wildlife Service). We look forward to learning new techniques to improve our husbandry and training through the experience of others. Our new kennel facility could not have come at a better time. We thank our generous donors for helping us to better care for our canine heroes.



Dog unit returns to camp after daily training

RHINO NEWS

Ol Jogi continues to be at the forefront of rhino conservation in Kenya. Our conservation manager, Jamie Gaymer, remains as the Chair of the Association of Private Land Rhino Sanctuaries which is the interface between the private and public sectors and by virtue of this capacity, is also a participating member of the National Rhino Steering and Executive Committees. Not only is Ol Jogi practicing grassroot rhino conservation but we are also participating in policy development and therefore contributing to shaping the future for this iconic species. At a regional level, Jamie also attends the East African Community Rhino Management Committee (EACRMC) and the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG). Suddenly, Africa seems that much smaller and we can all learn as well as contribute to a wider group of interested stakeholders.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

The National Conservation and Management Strategy for the Black Rhino (2012 – 2016) defined that rhino sanctuaries should strive to achieve a 5% incremental growth with less than 1% man induced and disease related mortalities.

In 2017, we recorded an astonishing 13 rhino births at Ol Jogi: seven black rhinos and six white rhinos. Unfortunately, one of the black rhino calves succumbed to predation, leaving an incremental growth of 12 rhinos. Our black rhino population grew from 53 to 59 individuals; an 11.3% increase whilst our white rhino population grew from 22 to 28 individuals; an astonishing 27.3% increase. Our cumulative growth has therefore been 16% which is of significant value to us, but also the national meta-population. This has, without doubt, been a record year for Ol Jogi rhinos since inception in 1980.



Baby rhino born on Ol Jogi in 2017

INDEPENDENT NATIONAL RHINO MONITORING AUDIT

In 2016, it was the recommendation of the National Rhino Steering Committee (RSC) to commission an independent audit of the monitoring capacity in every single rhino conservancy in Kenya. The idea was to ensure that we are maintaining minimum standards across the board irrespective of the sector. The exercise commenced in December 2016 and was concluded in February 2017.

Ol Jogi's rhino population scored "perfect" on a data reliability rating. This insinuates that the auditors have absolute confidence in the information that we submit concerning our rhinos. Despite this, there were several recommendations that we are committed to resolve in our monitoring department. The results were invaluable at a national level and it is our cumulative obligation to resolve less than perfect monitoring confidence in all rhino sanctuaries in Kenya. This will ensue in the next strategic term that is scheduled to be launched later in 2018.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXT NATIONAL RHINO STRATEGY

In February 2017, a workshop with stakeholders was held to commence the development of a new rhino strategy building on the 2012-2016 strategy. The process had been previously delayed pending the findings of the aforementioned rhino audit and with cognizance to the 2015 mid-term strategy review document.

A preliminary draft was developed and in May 2017, a technical group was assembled to scrutinise the draft and make final amendments to the document. Once this had been consolidated, the strategy document was once again offered for peer review (including the AfRSG) and the final recommendations incorporated. This was then offered to the board of directors of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) for approval before the document could be sent to print.

Of great significance and a clear demonstration of the positive relationship between the KWS and the private sector, was a joint operation to physically audit rhino numbers in some of the areas that had been previously identified to have less than perfect monitoring confidence. These results will form the baseline number from which projections can be made in the next strategy term.



MODIFICATIONS TO THE OL JOGI RHINO BOMAS



With Meimei (one of our orphaned rhino calves) growing bigger by the day, we realised that our 'boma' facility would increasingly lack the capacity to house our current habituated rhino population. Moreover, we would be left wanting if we suddenly had to host an additional rhino.

In 2016, we applied for a grant to increase our boma by two enclosures. This would increase our capacity from the current three to five rhinos in total. We also recognised the requirement for additional staff housing, water, lighting and everything else that makes a rhino boma functional.

With the assistance of Save the Rhino International (SRI), we were successful with our grant application and in 2017, works commenced on the expansion. By the end of 2017, our boma modifications were complete.

OL JOGI BOMA RHINOS

UPDATE ON BOMA RHINO'S

Many of you are now familiar with our habituated rhinos: Alfie, Bobby and Meimei. They each have unique characters and they are fantastic ambassadors for their species. Not only do they offer a unique opportunity to learn about rhino behaviour and scientific research but they are critical individuals considering that their species is under specific threat of extinction.



ALFIE - THE GENTLE GIANT

Considering that Alfie has inoperable bilateral mature cataract (refer to our Newsletter from 2013 for a detailed report on the operation), he can never be returned to the wild. Not only would he be significantly threatened by predators and mature bull rhinos, but we have never confirmed the underlying cause to his condition. Nevertheless, Alfie continues to grow and at the age of nine he is already quite a large rhino. He remains in good health and his temperament is as gentle as ever. Alfie has also enjoyed the "great outdoors" as we have started taking both Alfie and Bobby into the greater reserve for their daily browsing excursions.



BOBBY - THE BRAVE

Bobby is now four years old. In the wild, depending on average calving intervals, most rhino calves are made independent when their mothers have a new calf. This generally takes place when the respective calf is two to three and a half years of age. We had always wanted Bobby to be a little older than this before his release into the wild in order to minimise the risks that he would be exposed to once independent. For several months, both Alfie and Bobby have ventured out into the bush under armed supervision (for their own protection). Bobby,

however is now starting to show a reluctance to return "home" in the evenings. Perhaps the time has come to encourage this want for independence. In reality, it will likely take years before he is fully independent, but we can take steps towards this goal.

MEIMEI - THE LITTLE ONE

Meimei on the other hand, is nearly two years old and has truly captured the hearts of all who have met her. Her transformation from when we first rescued her on the 18th March 2016 has been outstanding. Meimei still loves her mud-baths and goes on long browsing excursions with her handlers. Despite her rapid growth, she is still a toddler who loves guzzling up to 18 litres of formula milk every day.



ADOPTIONS

RHINO ADOPTIONS

In 2015, we started our Ol Jogi 'Rhino Adoption' initiative. This allows guests to adopt one of our unnamed rhino calves for a sum that in turn, is reinvested into the protection of that rhino calf. Ol Jogi then sends through an update and photos of their calf's progress. Thus far, we have had seven rhinos adopted. They include the following:

- 1) Mike Wynn, Black Rhino, Male, born 23/05/2014,
- 2) Maha, White Rhino, Female, born 08/09/2015,
- 3) Zawadi, White Rhino, Male, born 12/03/2015,
- 4) Sherehe, White Rhino, Female, born 12/04/2015,
- 5) Meimei, Black Rhino, Female, born 14/03/2016,
- 6) Max, White Rhino, Male, born 02/10/2017,
- 7) Lucy, White Rhino, Female, born 26/10/2017.

We are excited to announce that Mike Wynn, Maha, Zawadi and Sherehe have all become independent in 2017. This is a milestone for us and in each instance, their respective mothers have had new calves. All of our adopted rhinos are in fantastic condition and in time, they will undoubtedly contribute towards the recovery of their respective species.

We will not mention names without prior consent but needless to say if you are reading this article, you know who you are. We are incredibly grateful for the donations that allow us to improve our security, not only for the adopted rhinos but also our entire wildlife population and the habitat in which they reside.

LEGALISATION OF DOMESTIC TRADE IN RHINO HORN IN SOUTH AFRICA

In contrast to Kenya, in South Africa wildlife can be privately owned, including rhinos. There exists a legal hunting industry and for some years rhinos have also been traded at live auctions between private and public reserves within South Africa.

In 2016, at the CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) CoP (Conference of the Parties), a case was presented for the legalisation of international trade in rhino horn. (Refer to our 2016 Newsletter that discusses this issue in more depth). This was emphatically overruled with a majority vote against the move. In 2017, in a globally contentious move, the South African government passed an Act that allowed for the legalisation of domestic trade in rhino horn.

The argument for this legalisation of trade comes largely from the South African Private Rhino Sector. Its justification is that despite the ZAR (South African Rand) 1.6bn (which is equivalent to US\$ 137million and 14bn Kenya Shillings) that is expended nationally and ZAR 400m (US\$ 34million or 3.5bn Kenya Shillings) that is expended in the South African private sector on rhino conservation, they continue to lose over 1,000 rhinos a year to poaching. It contends that the money spent is not only unsustainable but that there is a need to generate revenue in order to allow for the necessary expenditure to reduce the poaching. In addition, it argues that monetary incentives will likely increase habitat for the conservation of rhinos as more landowners are given a financial incentive to invest in rhinos, noting that there will likely be a return on investment.

On the opposing front, there exist arguments that legalising trade will facilitate a loop hole into which illegal rhino horn can filter. They state that corruption and lack of policing are likely avenues that will be exploited and that the move could enhance illegal killing of rhinos rather than diminish it. Furthermore, the legalisation of trade in rhino horn might create a surge in demand thus exposing the species to increased pressure.

Kenya, as a country, remains against the legalisation of trade in rhino horn. Despite this, there exist compelling arguments both for and against the move. What are your thoughts? If you happen to be at Ol Jogi, we would love to further discuss this with you.

LAND INVASIONS

LAIKIPIA 2017

PASTORALIST PURSUIT

2017 was a challenging year for many people residing in Laikipia. The “land invasions” perpetrated by pastoralists forcefully entering private land in Laikipia have dominated the media headlines both locally and internationally. General elections and the government’s apparent instability as political rivals wrestled for positions of empowerment, only exacerbated the situation. Perhaps however, they were simply a result of the ensuing drought, a lack of pasture and desperation by pastoralist communities? Neither forgives the countless people who have been killed in the violence that shrouded the invasions. The loss of life and property is immeasurable notwithstanding the many millions of dollars lost in revenue.

SO WHAT HAPPENED?

Kenya is split into 43 counties (based on the 1992 Districts of Kenya) and county governments were formed after the scheduled 2013 general election. The counties names are set out in the first schedule of the Constitution of Kenya. With reference to the Laikipia Land Invasions, as they have been referred, we are primarily focusing on Laikipia, Baringo, Samburu and Isiolo counties. The issues, many of which are derived from the accumulation of historic circumstances, revolve around land and pasture as well as corruption and politics.

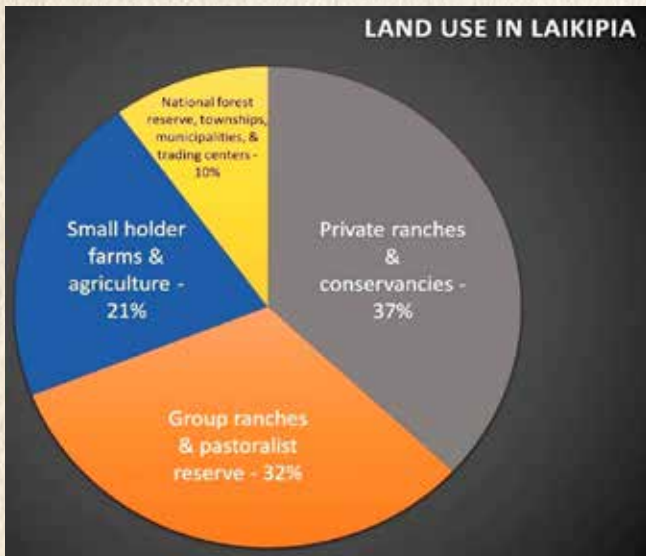
It was as early as 2016 that pastoralists, primarily of Samburu and Pokot ethnicity, started to bring droves of cattle into Laikipia from neighbouring counties. The cattle were herded by a well-armed militia and any resistance was met by violent retribution that included damage to personal property and tragic death in severe cases. It is unclear exactly what motivated the incursions and extenuating violence. Was it simply born from desperation, grass reserves having been depleted in the land from whence they came and the subsequent deaths of their livestock? Or was it a deeper darker cause perhaps laden with the promise

of much needed land and resources once the evictions had materialised? Or was it a political move to drive out tribes whose political alignment was not conducive to those who masterminded the plan?

In the subsequent months the invasions worsened. The government denounced several regions as unsafe; the police and latterly the Kenya Defence Force (KDF) were deployed. Property was destroyed or looted, people were murdered and the conflict raged on in certain parts of those aforementioned counties. The media focused on the invasions of large, private ranches and conservancies but the small holders and subsistence farmers were impacted far more. Acquaintances and friends of Ol Jogi were shot and wounded and others lost their lives. We at Ol Jogi will also not forget the countless silent victims whose socio-economic stature apparently did not warrant coverage in the press. Such was the seriousness of the conflict that several police officers and other law-enforcement personnel were those who succumbed to the violence.

In fact, the land distribution in Laikipia, contrary to popular belief, can best be described in the illustration on the following page. The reason that we have included this image is to discredit those who claimed that Laikipia is “mostly” made up of private ranches and conservancies. They comprise only 37% of the land area in question and contribute by far the highest economic return in the county, provide the highest level of employment and preserve the greatest percentage of the county’s biodiversity.

There is a general acknowledgement that it is counterproductive to allow that these preserves be overrun by unsustainable herds of livestock. First of all, the ownership of a land title is upheld in Kenya’s Constitution. This means that those who are in possession of a land title are entitled to the provision of security to uphold their rightful ownership.



Secondly, as in so many conflicts, there is always collateral damage. The wildlife in Laikipia suffered greatly at the hands of the invading militia. Wildlife of all descriptions were ruthlessly butchered and, in many cases, just for contempt which makes it all the more distressing. Travel and tourism contributes a significant percentage of Kenya's GDP and without wildlife this would be irrevocably compromised.

The elections have now run their course and Kenya has a new government. The invasions seem to be subsiding as the government goes about restoring the sanctity of law and order. As those who were affected start the rebuilding process, we pause to remember those who paid the ultimate price.

In as far as Ol Jogi goes, we were not invaded. We suspect that this was due to a multitude of reasons, none mutually exclusive:

- i. For four decades Ol Jogi has built and nurtured a strong bond with our neighbouring communities. Millions of dollars have been invested in community development projects and we benefit from the resultant good-will of our neighbours; none more so than in the past year.
- ii. Ol Jogi has a well evolved and tested security infrastructure for the protection of our endangered species; namely the rhino population as well as

others. We therefore had an advanced capacity to protect our boundaries within the confines of the law.

iii. The Kenya Wildlife Service made an emphatic and non-negotiable statement that they would not tolerate the illegal invasion of a rhino conservancy. Failure to comply would result in a direct offensive by the aforementioned service.

iv. Rumours suggest that those who were inciting the invasions actually advised against the attempt to forcefully enter a rhino conservancy, recognising the potential implications of doing so; it might be that they recognised the potential outcry from the international conservation community as well as the punitive measures that might be taken as a result.

v. It might have been due to our geographic location and or a combination of all of the above.

We have certainly been affected by the negative press in Laikipia and Kenya as a whole. There were travel advisories against visitation to Laikipia by foreign nationals and of course this impacted us indirectly.

MOVING FORWARDS

We are committed to finding sustainable and mutually beneficial solutions for us and our surrounding communities for the future. We intend to partner with like-minded institutions, stakeholders and government in recognition that working together will yield the highest rewards for all concerned going forward. Ultimately, it is our mutual prerogative to improve livelihoods for all concerned whilst protecting the biodiversity that we have been mandated to preserve for Kenyans and as a global heritage for the world's future generations. We are confident that we will be able to find lasting solutions in partnership with all stakeholders as we work towards a more peaceful 2018.

WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTRE

The Ol Jogi Wildlife Rescue Centre (WRC) has continued to draw visitors from across Kenya in 2017. Our conservation impact continues to grow through this program as more Kenyans are exposed to our wildlife as well as the pertinent threats that face our biodiversity. The interest that is sparked, particularly with the younger generation who visit through school groups, is paramount to Kenya's future. That said, it has been a year of mixed emotions in which we have lost long standing residents and have taken on new rescued animals.



Misha the leopard, who was born an incredible 22 years ago in captivity, finally succumbed to old age. She had previously started deteriorating; the symptoms synonymous with old age but seemed to retain her mobility

until the very end. Of interest is that the typical lifespan for leopards is between 12 and 17 years; often much shorter in the wild where they are exposed to competition and a multitude of other challenges. The oldest recorded Leopard died at the age of 24 years, also in captivity. Misha undoubtedly touched many thousands of people who visited her at Ol Jogi. She gave us the unique opportunity to educate people about leopards: their extraordinary beauty, economic impact in as far as tourism and being a part of the Big 5. She helped us encourage our visitors to support efforts to conserve these cats, and educate them about human/ leopard conflict and the threat that these cats are exposed to through poaching.

It was not long after we lost Misha that we received a call requesting if we had the capacity to accommodate a cheetah. Athena was born on Mugie Conservancy on the 6th October 2008 and only a day after being born her mother was killed by a buffalo. Unfortunately, Athena also sustained a fracture during the incident, an ailment that rendered her unable to survive in the wild once reaching maturity. Mugie Conservancy

rescued Athena and nurtured her to adulthood but a change in circumstances required that it seeks a new home for Athena. It was only through the passing of Misha that we had an enclosure free to accommodate Athena; and so the passing of one created an opportunity for another. We immobilised Athena at Mugie Conservancy and drove her to Ol Jogi where she has now settled and made a new home.

Most certainly the most tragic loss that we faced in 2017 was the heart-breaking death of Jackie; our 35 year old cow (female) elephant and mother to six year old Maisha. Jackie was brought to Ol Jogi from Zimbabwe at the age of six years old in 1988 together with Bupa. They had been orphaned at that time during culling operations to reduce elephant numbers in areas that they were considered unsustainably stocked. In 2015, we noted that Jackie's body condition had deteriorated. We contacted local veterinarians who took blood, urine and stool samples but nothing was conclusive in terms of her condition.



**Jackie
(right) Bupa
(middle) and
little Maisha
meeting one
of our school
visitors**

Subsequent dialogue with veterinarians from other African countries led us to import the diagnostic testing kit for Tuberculosis (TB). Again, the results were negative. Nevertheless, through nurturing husbandry, Jackie slowly made a recovery despite never really getting back to her old self.

It wasn't until 2017 that we noted another significant deterioration. Once again, we ran all of the respective diagnostic laboratory testing but tragically, Jackie succumbed to her ailment on April 28th. She was a

long-time member of the WRC, so we will miss her dearly. We went on to investigate what exactly was wrong with Jackie. A thorough post mortem was conducted and the conclusion is illustrated in the text below:

Diagnosis

The histopathology in the various organs is suggestive of an immunosuppressive state, likely due to a viral infection or other terminal disease, along with parasitosis of the gastrointestinal tract and lungs.

Given these findings there are a couple of viral possibilities but none fit the clinical picture entirely well. These are elephant encephalomyocarditis virus or elephant endotheliotrophic herpes virus (EEHV). However as virus isolation is not possible in this country no further testing is possible.

Further dialogue with our veterinarian essentially eliminated anything else that we could have done. They stated that despite the option of anti-virals, we would have had to administer impossibly large quantities and they would have only prolonged the inevitable.

Going forward we must persevere and improve our facility and service. The WRC serves several purposes of upmost importance: it gives wildlife orphans a second chance at life. We also have the capacity to offer veterinary treatments for sick or injured wildlife through our state of the art veterinary clinic. Our release program has in fact allowed many of our inhabitants the opportunity to once again live a wild and natural life, which is always our hope. Finally, through our conservation education program, we have the ability to impact attitudes towards wildlife and the environment. Ultimately, it might be this element that is the “make or break” for the preservation of our biodiversity in Kenya’s future.

2017 also saw the disastrous wipe-out of the majority of the wild dogs in Laikipia. The determination of Canine Distemper as the cause was quite slow in coming and it is unclear whether preventative steps could have been taken once the disease had spread throughout the many packs that prevailed in Laikipia. Nevertheless, despite reports that a few individuals demonstrated the tolerance to survive the disease, the majority of the wild dogs in Laikipia died and the impact to their populations has been severe. The

private and government sector endeavoured to initiate a prophylactic vaccination program for more than 10,000 domestic dogs in Laikipia in a desperate bid to prevent further losses. Indeed, it is speculated that the disease was brought in by unvaccinated domestic dogs that accompany the vast cattle herds which invaded Laikipia in 2017. Ol Jogi contributed to this vaccination effort financially as a part of our wider support program.

For many years Ol Jogi has attempted to obtain the necessary approvals to release our resident pack of seven wild dogs in the WRC. A multitude of circumstances have hindered this request on several occasions and only now, might the opportunity to release our wild dogs in Laikipia have significant conservation benefit. Our dogs could potentially contribute towards the rebuilding of the endangered species and form the core of what will hopefully recover into thriving populations. We intend to explore this opportunity further through dialogue with the Kenya Wildlife Service Species Reintroduction Committee.



One of the few remaining wild dogs in Laikipia

Going forward, Ol Jogi hopes to secure the funding to construct an inspiring educational facility at the WRC. This will allow us to improve our educational impact and the opportunity to better explain some biology, ecology and behaviour of wildlife in addition to the visual stimulus achieved through watching the wildlife inhabitants. We strongly feel that this combined approach will be the most effective way to inspire the next generation to conserve nature. We hope that we find the needed support in the imminent future.

DIGITAL RADIOS

COMMUNICATION

In 2016, Ol Jogi received an incredible grant from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) together with Save the Rhino International (SRI) to transition our obsolete and unsecured analogue radio infrastructure to a new state of the art digital platform. Other contributing donors to this project included Yorkshire Wildlife Park and a private donor through SRI.

In the latter part of that year, Ol Jogi engaged with a UK digital radio provider, Kinetic 6 (K6). We had previously identified our radio requirements in order to fulfil the obligations of this transition. This included digital portable radios for all personnel actively on foot including all of our rhino monitoring personnel, base sets for fixed locations, vehicle mounted radios, a screen for deployment planning in our Central Operations Room (CoR), new repeaters, licensing and importation.

K6 developed a Fleet Map of the radios according to users and also programmed all of the respective hardware. In early 2017, after fulfilling the necessary import requirements, the radios arrived at Ol Jogi. K6, through their Kenya based partners, started the installation process in July of 2017 and by August 2017 Ol Jogi had effectively made the transition. User training was conducted for all personnel who would be utilising the new system and once content with their training, they were each issued a radio.

Whilst we had some teething problems that are inevitable with any new system, we are now on track and working towards a highly streamlined communication system with many additional benefits to integrate in 2018. Not only are the radios encrypted which eliminates the risk of being compromised by poaching cartels, but they also enhance the safety of our employees. With emergency functions, we can now respond to personnel in crisis as well as significantly

improve the efficiency of our vehicle fleet.

The digital screen in our Operations Room will be used for planning deployments, briefing for operations as well as the all-important exercise of debriefing. In the



future, we hope to include monitoring functions for wildlife that can be captured using the software and perhaps join adjacent rhino conservancies within the region through our radio network. This will improve coordination of joint operations as well as cooperation between stakeholders that can enhance our regional impact to reduce crime in the area.

THE FUTURE

The poaching cartels that target rhinos are evolving in order to thrive in their illegal trade. The estimated 1,500 rhinos that were poached across Africa in 2016 is testament to this despite the hundreds of millions of dollars invested in the fight against poaching. Strategic investments are required in order to counter the threat and the best use of funds should be constantly evaluated so that we maximise our impact given the resources available to us. We strongly feel that the new digital radio infrastructure at Ol Jogi is not only a paramount investment for the protection of wildlife but it will also improve our efficiency.

We are sincerely thankful to the donors who made this investment a reality.

COMMUNITY CATTLE SURVIVE DROUGHT WHILE ON OL JOGI

Early in 2017, Ol Jogi opened its gates again to some community owned cattle. It increased our number of community cattle on the conservancy to around 2,000 heads. The majority of our community cattle on Ol Jogi came in September 2016 from Ilpolei, Munichoi, Musul, Morpusi and Lekiji areas.

The cattle are categorised into two groups, breeding stock and fattening stock.

Most of the breeding stock arrived in September 2016, due to poor rainfall during the short rains of 2016. The lack of rain meant very little water was available for drinking and very little grass left to eat in the surrounding group ranches. Our neighbouring herdsmen were in need of some help. This dry spell continued into 2017 and led to huge challenges in most parts of the county. Ol Jogi was not spared.

Interventions by the state department of livestock through the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with various stakeholders, played a big role in ensuring the breeding stock survived the drought. They provided the stock with 500 bags x 50 kg of drought pellets when losses were imminent. To ensure proper feeding of the pellets, Ol Jogi fabricated several feeding troughs to disperse around the conservancy. These troughs helped us to structure the feeding of the community cattle and efficiently distribute the pellets.

Ol Jogi Conservancy also provided the community members with four of our improved Boran bulls. This helped our neighbours to upgrade their herds throughout the year.

The fattening stock have been grazing on Ol Jogi for a long time. They are bought purely for fattening up and once ready, selling them at market. Despite the drought, Ol Jogi managed to sell a total of 339 heads to various markets for slaughter and earned

18.2 million shillings which was passed on to the respective owners from the community. This program enabled members of the community to get better prices for their cattle by working through Ol Jogi. This was a huge relief for the community members who were struggling with the prolonged drought.

Now as we enter 2018, Ol Jogi still holds 1,530 heads of community cattle. Let us hope for a less challenging year for us and our community herdsmen in the year ahead. Let it rain!



One of Ol Jogi's Boran bulls for breeding

MEDIC IN THE MAKING

MOSES KAISA

HOPES AND DREAMS

A radio call came through to say a boy from the community had come to thank Ol Jogi. When we got to the gate, we found a bright eyed, slightly nervous boy sitting behind his big brother on a motorbike. They had managed to borrow the bike from a friend so they could make the journey to Ol Jogi to deliver a message. The boy on the back jumped off and approached us. His hand already stretched out, eager to introduce himself and explain his visit before he lost his nerve.

Moses Kaisa was raised in a community called Kimugandura just down the road from Ol Jogi. His father who is now retired, used to work at Ol Jogi as a cattle herder. During this time, Moses was just graduating from a nearby primary school called Ol Giri Giri and although his grades were high, and his thirst to study was apparent, his parents did not have the funds to support his dream to continue school and one day become a doctor. His father approached Ol Jogi in hopes that they could help sponsor his hardworking son.

Ol Jogi supports a number of children through secondary school on a scholarship programme. An incredible programme that not only changes each individual's future but also helps to shape the local communities in a positive way. Moses, with his high grades and work ethic, qualified for a scholarship and Ol Jogi agreed to fund his next four years at high school. Moses graduated in November 2017 with A- from Alliance High School in Kikuyu. He has applied with success to medical school, which is the next step in realising his dream to become a doctor.

He will start university in September 2018.

We asked what he was going to do with his time between now and September:

"I want to learn how to use a computer and also how to drive. These are just my dreams at the moment, I know it sounds impossible as I live so far from the city and with no money at home I am not sure how I will do it, but I am determined."



**Moses, the hopeful medic (right)
with his brother (left).**

Moses explained that he's always wanted to be a doctor and when he graduates, he hopes to open a clinic for his community as they have very little access to immediate and affordable care. His cousin has just graduated from medical school and is doing his internship in Kajiado. He has inspired Moses by telling him that having the power to really help people when they are sick is the most rewarding work there is. *"I know I did the hard work to get noticed and sponsored, but I also know this opportunity does not happen to all worthy students".*

This is why he came today, to say that he is forever grateful to Ol Jogi for taking a chance on him and to inform us that his future looks bright. His family are proud and supportive of his studies as he will be able to help his parents and six siblings when he becomes a doctor. So, after another firm handshake we parted ways at the gate and Moses and his brother made the journey back home, happy to have completed their mission. All of us were inspired by Moses' story and we will make sure to follow and share his progress.

Ol Jogi continues its endeavour to support scholars in the community. If you would like to help support our scholarship program - please get in touch and we would be most grateful to have you on board!

HEALTH EDUCATION

PROVIDING FAMILIES WITH OPTIONS

JOINING HANDS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

This year Ol Jogi joined hands with our neighbours 'CHAT' (Communities Health Africa Trust) to help provide our Ol Jogi residents with the current information and education surrounding contraception, STD's and general hygiene. Ol Jogi is one of the only conservancies that allows staff members to bring their families to live with them on the conservancy. As a result we have three small villages on Ol Jogi or about 1,000 residents in total. We also provide a government funded primary school inside the conservancy and a dispensary with a full time nurse for health care.

Over-population, pollution and STDs have become a worldwide issue and we, at Ol Jogi, are committed to make sure our residents have all the information they need to make sustainable choices. Overpopulation is an issues we all have to wake up to and take responsibility for, large families are getting harder to feed and educate in Kenya. Where possible, we are supporting educational programmes so as to empower men and women to take control of their livelihoods. We invited a team from CHAT to come and visit our residents and educate them on their choices today. We are already seeing the positive effect that these educational visits have had within the villages. We were so impressed at the response to the CHAT team that we enrolled four staff representatives from Ol Jogi to a training workshop

in Nanyuki run by CHAT. These four representatives are now certified 'Community Health Volunteers'. They are always available to help our Ol Jogi residents with health issues and to continue spreading information about contraception methods and hygiene.

Families choosing to use contraception has gone from 40% to 70% in just four months of family planning education at Ol Jogi.

Ol Jogi respects that family planning is a personal choice, however people should be made aware of all their choices today that is what we aim to provide with the help of the fantastic team from CHAT.



Three of our Ol Jogi 'Community Health Volunteers' trained by CHAT in Nanyuki

Family Planning could bring more benefits to more people at less cost than any other single technology now available to the human race." James Grant, Executive Director, UNICEF

OUR DONORS



SRI has contributed directly to several projects and capital investments at Ol Jogi in 2017 and have also have facilitated several other grants on our behalf. Their CEO was participatory in the development of the next Kenya National Rhino Strategy and SRI is also a significant supporter of the Kenya Association of Private Land Rhino Sanctuaries (APLRS), an organisation which undertakes reactive interventions to save the life of a rhino who would otherwise likely die e.g. treatment of wounded or sick rhinos, adoption of rhino orphans. SRI is one of the most responsible non-governmental charities that we have had the pleasure of working with. We cannot commend them enough.



The Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) not only facilitated our USAID grant proposal, for the improvement to rhino security in Laikipia rhino sanctuaries, but they also directly contributed towards Information Gathering Training. Information gathering, or 'Intel' for short, is likely one of the most important investments that we can make in the protection of rhinos. It allows us to thwart poaching attempts in advance of the "enemy" attempting to poach. It is pro-active security.



Zoo Berlin & Tierpark Berlin contributed significantly to the Ranger Training at Ol Jogi in 2017. Training is of paramount importance to both ensure the best protection of the wildlife and also to ensure the safety of our security men and women working on the ground.



Yorkshire Wildlife Park (YWP) provided a grant which was kindly facilitated through SRI and enabled a significant contribution towards the modifications to our rhino enclosures and also supported the final implementation of our digital radio platform. Once we had implemented the transition to the new platform (according to our original grant application to the USFWS) we recognized a few teething problems that were resolved with this grant from YWP. The system is now functioning seamlessly and is a considerable asset towards Ol Jogi's rhino protection program.



Ol Jogi benefited indirectly from two grants that Chester Zoo kindly donated through SRI. They comprised a sum towards the APLRS administrator (a position whose mandate is to facilitate the implementation of the National Rhino Strategy). Chester Zoo also donated to the company that we employ to run our Security Intelligence Network. This donation helps to offsets costs to Ol Jogi for this service, as it does for a multitude of other rhino conservancies in Kenya.



Space for Giants (SFG) contributed towards our Ranger Training in 2017. Whilst SFG's primary mandate in for the protection of elephants, regional security is paramount to that cause. Ol Jogi provides a security umbrella in Laikipia North District, far beyond our own boundaries & whilst we host up to 500 elephants within our perimeter, it is the regional security provision that SFG recognises.

SPECIAL THANKS



USAID donated equally to Ol Jogi, Ol Pejeta and Borana Conservancies for the “Enhancement of Security in Laikipia’s Rhino Sanctuaries”. Ol Jogi put the sum towards Ranger and Information Gathering Training. The Laikipia Wildlife Forum assisted with the development of this grant proposal and we are sincerely grateful for their contribution.

ALES WEINER

Ales Weiner kindly donated funding towards the completion of our digital radio infrastructure. The donation was made through SRI and we are sincerely grateful. The funds from Ales allowed us to develop core elements of our Central Operations Room with the digital software now being able to provide data that is accessible to management.



The United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) contributed to ranger training of our armed units, and also provided the majority requirement for the procurement of a new Landcruiser for the armed unit. Previously a vehicle was shared with the Rhino Monitoring Teams, but this purchase has enabled the armed units to be logistically independent.

ANNA MERZ FOUNDATION

The Anna Merz Foundation provided a significant contribution to our rhino enclosure modifications. We have, as a result of contributions, been able to increase our capacity from 3 to 5 enclosures. We have also increased ranger housing, water collection and storage capacity, and improved lighting and plumbing to all enclosures.



Tallinn Zoo & Foundation Lutreola also contributed towards the modifications to our rhino boma’s. We have, as a result of contributions, been able to increase our capacity from 3 to 5 enclosures. We have also increased ranger housing, water collection and storage capacity, and improved lighting and plumbing to all enclosures.



Our Conservation Manager, Jamie Gaymer has written about his Ultra Marathons in both Peru & recently in Namibia. Irrespective of his participation, For Rangers has donated training and equipment to Ol Jogi for our security men and women. For Rangers works to identify shortfalls within an organisation’s capacity, in as far as capability and equipment and invests in rectifying those areas. The funds are 100% allocated to the cause and must benefit the men and women who dedicate their lives to the protection of endangered species.

THE NAMIBIAN ULTRA

BY JAMIE GAYMER, CONSERVATION MANAGER



RUNNING FOR RANGERS

In June of 2016, no sooner than I had completed the Peruvian Jungle Ultra in aid of "For Rangers" (refer to the article in our 2016 Newsletter) and clearly in a state of unsound mind, I signed up to run a 260km ultra-marathon in the Namib Desert. We had raised a substantial amount of money that was later invested into ranger welfare across Africa and I could hold my head up high. Unfortunately however, the euphoric sensation induced by exercise endorphins clearly had other plans for me and before I knew it, I had pledged my commitment to run another 'crazy' Ultra.

Despite Hamstring and Achilles injuries I managed to run 1,000kms between July and November 2017 as my training for the race. Clothing, food, equipment and a plethora of other mandatory items were procured and somehow I felt confident and ready to embark on another adventure.

The morning after arriving in Namibia, we boarded a bus for the first camp and start-line for the ultra at the base of the Spitzkoppe. The Namib Desert is a 55 million-year-old landscape, one of the most hostile places on earth and continually scorched by the unforgiving sun. With the exception of the Spitzkoppe, a series of rocky hills that protruded from the desert below, the landscape appeared flat

and lifeless, interspersed only with the odd shrub and small thorny acacia. After a race briefing and introduction to the amazing Exile Medics, we climbed into our sleeping bags and tried to get some sleep. Our mattresses comprised foam rolls no more than one centimetre thick and the nights were restless to say the least (note to self, if I ever do another ultra, take an inflatable mattress).

DAY 1: SPITZKOPPE SADDLE, 51KMS



As 08:30 approached, we nervously counted down the last 10 seconds and we were finally off. Checkpoints came and went but by midday the temperatures were in excess of 40 degrees Celsius. Some runners had clearly gone out too hard and already needed medical attention. With the exception of a few blisters (that would later haunt me), I felt pretty good throughout the first day and by 15:00 I arrived at our second camp in a dry river bed. I was about 10th overall.

DAY 2: BRANDBERG, 51KMS

Day 2 was another long one. My feet continued to deteriorate throughout the day and as a result of a gait change influenced by blisters, my ITBs started to play-up resulting in severe pain in my knees. Nevertheless, we made pretty good time and by 15:00 we arrived in Camp 2. On this evening I spent a considerable time having my blisters attended to by the medics – a job that I do not envy!

FOR RANGERS

DAY 3: WHITE LADY MARATHON 46KMS

Day 3 started with a hideous 15km run along a dry river bed. The sand was thick and there was not a breath of wind. It wasn't until we left the river bed however, that I was suddenly forced to stop due to my agonising knees. 2,000mg's of painkillers and 15 minutes later, the pain had subsided enough for me to continue.

We had now completed 145kms in three days and despite that our team were all still in the race, injuries were plentiful and fairly serious in many cases.

DAY 4: DAMARA DASH, 23KMS

The Damara dash was only 23kms but we did not start the race until 11:00. Runners enjoyed the morning in camp and a small herd of six elephants caused much excitement. Midday temperatures often exceeded 45 degrees but we had now broken the back of the race.

DAY 5: THE GRIND, 93KMS

The last day started at 04:00. Dressing, packing and forcing down a quick breakfast was all done by the light of a head-torch. By now, I had a severe infection in one foot and I could barely put on my shoes. I had taken my first painkillers at 04:00 and thereafter I took 1,000mgs alternating between Paracetamol, Ibuprofen and Codeine every hour until the end.

Throughout the day, I was part of a core group of the For Rangers Team. Some were left behind, others we caught up with but by Checkpoint 5 we made a conscious decision to stick together with those who were there at that time. At Checkpoint 7, we were informed that we had significantly further to go than we thought. By this stage in the race fatigue is at its worst, and I cannot begin to describe what the poor Medics had to endure. Shortly afterwards, the large volumes of pain-killers that I had taken started to take their toll and I was soon hallucinating in the

moonscape in which we found ourselves.

It was about 18 hours after starting that we limped into camp. We had done it! The elation is indescribable. One cannot possibly imagine why people do these races. The horror stories of blistered feet, toe-nails falling off, leg injuries and general discomfort. So perhaps I offer you this: one can only feel the aforementioned elation after having experienced the physical and mental breakdown that is inevitable with extreme Ultra Marathons - the feeling of accomplishment and camaraderie with friends, old and new.

Perhaps also, we might give thought to the rangers who selflessly protect our endangered species. They too experience extreme discomfort, life-threatening situations and they do it so that our children will also be able to enjoy the beautiful elephants and rhinos that we have been so lucky to have witnessed. There have been more wildlife rangers killed in the line of duty in the last ten years than British and American troops in any conflict zone in the world.

THE CAUSE

Rather than just tell the story, the "For Rangers" teams hope that by taking part in some of the hardest, 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 that the rangers are exposed to in trying to protect our wildlife - and in doing so, raise funds that go directly to rangers' welfare.



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

OL JOGI

WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY REPORT 2017-2018



Ol Jogi Limited

P.O. Box 259 – 10400, Nanyuki, Kenya

Tel: 062 2038000

Mobile: 0722 512 823 | Fax: 062 2031653

www.oljogi.org | info@oljogi.org

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