



# OL JOGI

## WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

CONSERVATION &  
COMMUNITY REPORT  
2022 - 2023



# EDITORIAL

*«Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.»*

*– Aldo Leopold*

The original meaning of the words “Ol Jogi” has become lost in time, possibly the name for a type of thorn in an old, now disused Samburu dialect. The meaning of those words today, however, has no ambiguity.

We are the land, the conservancy and the community.

We continue in striving to fulfil our mission, of being a leading model for private conservation, with relentless efforts to pioneer new methods and techniques enabling us to protect wildlife and assist local communities. Our populations of endangered wildlife rely upon all of us here sharing common values.

We are committed to providing a safe home for all the wildlife who call Ol Jogi home, from the dangers imposed by our species. We are committed to operating in transparency, holding ourselves to standards of excellence. We are committed to our staff and their families, providing living spaces, recreational areas, education for their children and now a new nursery. We are committed to the wellbeing of the communities outside our fences, providing grazing ground during the drought, and engaging with them face to face to truly understand their needs.

We are committed to our guests and donors, whose belief and trust in Ol Jogi keeps the pursuit of our mission alive. Without you, Ol Jogi would be none of this, and thanks to you, this dream can stay alive.

**Asante sana, tunawakaribisha katika mwaka huu wa 2023!**

## OL JOGI FACT FILE

<b>Location:</b>	225km north of Nairobi (4 hours), just north of Nanyuki in Laikipia.
<b>Size:</b>	Ol Jogi Ltd. 58,000 acres of which the main Conservancy comprises 46,000 acres and Pyramid Game Reserve 12,000 acres.
<b>Altitude:</b>	1,580-2,234 metres above sea level.
<b>Established:</b>	The Conservancy was established over 60 years ago and Pyramid Game Reserve was made a Rhino Sanctuary in 1980.
<b>Employees:</b>	280 on average throughout the year.
<b>Nursery and Ol Jogi Primary School:</b>	230 Children
<b>Number of rhinos:</b>	77 black rhinos and 40 white rhinos.
<b>Other wildlife:</b>	We host as many as 400 elephants, depending on season. We also host 22 species of ungulates, 6 species of large carnivores and diverse small and meso carnivores, three species of primates and 310 avian species.
<b>Pyramid Wildlife Census 2022 - 2023:</b>	1,631 same as the previous year
<b>Main Conservancy Wildlife Census 2022 - 2023:</b>	4,136 up from 4,505 the previous year
<b>Livestock:</b>	1,676 Ol Jogi herd of cattle

*The front and back cover pictures of this edition are courtesy of our guide Johnnie Cross and feature three cheetahs born and living in Ol Jogi since 2021.*



# DEAR DONORS

With the international implications of the Covid-19 pandemic reducing, travel restrictions lifting and life returning to the new norm, 2022 was set to be a year of recovery. New challenges have emerged however, and here at Ol Jogi, we are constantly trying to adapt to the rapidly evolving environment. We have experienced a second consecutive dry year at Ol Jogi as climate change or environmental conditions have amplified the unpredictability of traditional weather patterns. We have fed numerous species, including rhinos, hippos and buffalo, to mitigate against mortalities; but despite our efforts, numerous animals succumbed to the drought. We are fortunate that we didn't lose any rhinos to starvation, but the drought may have contributed to fighting mortalities, which could have been a circumstance of the dry conditions. The war in Ukraine had a significant economic impact on us, as it has on the global economy, and we are always seeking ways to harness greater efficiencies without compromising the integrity of our conservation efforts.

Despite the external influences however, we have received extraordinary support for our conservation programme. This support has undoubtedly allowed us to continue striving forward in our work, keep our rhino safe for another year, enhance our community partnership program and maintain our integrity as a viable conservancy. We would like to thank a few of our supporters, whilst others will remain nameless.



Save The Rhino International continues to offer fantastic support to a multitude of rhino conservation initiatives across the world. Not only does it direct conservation philanthropy towards viable rhino initiatives, but it advocates for proactive conservation. It offers administrative support, without which many of us would struggle to undertake the primary functions of our respective jobs, and it also contributes from its own core funds. To top things off, SRI is a pleasure to work with and without whose support, we don't know how we'd manage. Thank you from the entire Ol Jogi family (rhinos included!)

In 2022, the Association of Private and Community Land Rhino Sanctuaries (APLRS) has been working to resolve long-outstanding compliance issues that current office bearers inherited from previous generations. WildAid had previously donated to a significant Covid-19 rhino appeal on behalf of all Kenya's private and community rhino conservancies. Not only was Ol Jogi a beneficiary of this support, but we are also a Member of the APLRS. We are in the final phases of resolving the APLRS's administrative issues and are grateful for the continued support. In addition, WildAid contributed critical funds towards the establishment of a Long Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN) at Ol Jogi. This technology is going to revolutionize our security and monitoring efficiency.





Together with Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and Borana Conservancy, both of whom are rhino conservancies in the immediate proximity of Ol Jogi, we have recently completed a two-year collaborative grant from International Narcotics & Law Enforcement. The grant is being administered on our behalf by SRI. This grant has supported ranger training, uniforms acquisition, First Aid equipment, aerial reconnaissance and conservation support, technological advancements, and information gathering, amongst other initiatives. Not only does the grant encourage collaborative, landscape-level conservation, but it also recognizes the intricate links between international organized crime networks. The grant has allowed us to elevate our conservation protection to new levels. Amazingly, INL has extended this grant for another two years and expanded it to include another rhino conservancy in this landscape; Ol Pejeta Conservancy.



The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has again engaged in another collaborative grant arrangement with Ol Jogi Conservancy, Borana Conservancy and Lewa Wildlife Conservancy via SRI. In 2022, Ol Jogi has managed to undertake major activities with the incredible support of the USWFS towards our rhino program. This tremendous support is aiding us to maintain a competitive edge against the poaching cartels whilst the threat persists.

In 2020 Wildlife Conservation Network also supported the CCOC appeal. In addition to supporting other rhino range expansion initiatives in Kenya, the CCOC appeal helped to ensure that the conservation integrity of recipient conservancies was not compromised. Our fear was that years of good work could be undone if conservancies were unable to maintain minimum best practice due to the economic downturn.





# DONORS (CONTINUED...)

We have recently used Rotterdam Zoo's support to invest in our canine units. Currently we have four Bloodhound tracker dogs, and the canine unit is a critical asset to our conservation infrastructure. The dogs have proven to be both proactive and reactive to insecurity mitigation. They require continuous training, vehicle support, food and husbandry requirements, veterinary support, and a dedicated team of handlers, not to mention equipment and functional and comfortable kennels.



We would like to thank the Holtzman Wildlife Foundation for its support in procuring an ultrasound machine. In 2022, Ol Jogi managed to collect data for a research proposal concerning the ocular parameters of our rhinos as a potential congenital defect is causing blindness in some young black rhinos in Kenya. We managed to ultrasound the eyes of more than 20 rhinos during a routine ear-notching intervention. This research will provide the basis for determining whether artificial manipulation of the population will be necessary for the absence of genetic diversity and could be a biological factor that influences the survivability of this species.



The Betty Lawes Foundation kindly supported our canine unit. The Ol Jogi canine unit currently comprises of four bloodhound tracker dogs, their handlers, vehicles for training and incident response, husbandry and veterinary requirements. They have proven successful over the years and have contributed to mitigating regional crime, including the neighbouring communities surrounding Ol Jogi. We are incredibly grateful for the support.



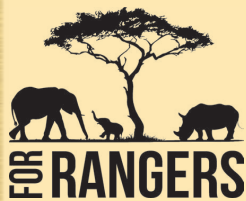
Hannover Zoo has been an incredible supporter of Ol Jogi over the years. In 2022, Hannover Zoo's funds were used towards developing our LoRaWAN network, which is now fully functional. As Ol Jogi manages to source more LoRa sensors, the system will become ever more prevalent as a mechanism to monitor wildlife, fences, vehicles and rangers, thus contributing to our overall security platform.

Once we developed our CCTV camera system, Wildlife Protection Solutions partnered with us to attribute modern AI detection systems to motion events such that we can detect incidents of concern. Rhino and human detections are sent automatically to our EarthRanger™ (conservation monitoring software), and we are immediately notified. Ol Jogi has continued to collaborate with WPS on a species-richness survey that we are undertaking with camera traps, and it continues to engage with us to help amplify the impacts of the platform for securing and monitoring our wildlife.





# DONORS (CONTINUED...)



In partnership with Save the Rhino International, ForRangers is a dedicated group of individuals raising money for the welfare of rangers who risk their lives daily to protect Africa's endangered species. Not only has ForRangers taken out a life insurance policy for more than 2,000 rangers across Africa (including those at Ol Jogi), but it has also supported the procurement of rations, equipment, uniforms and the training of the Ol Jogi rangers. In 2022, ForRangers kindly donated funds for Ol Jogi to hold 10 rhino-naming ceremonies, build a new rangers' canteen and renovate a water bowser to distribute water to our ranger stations.

EarthRanger™ (ER) is a software solution that aids protected area managers, ecologists, and wildlife biologists in making more informed operational decisions for wildlife conservation. We have adopted ER at Ol Jogi as our primary monitoring software, revolutionizing our conservation operations. We continue to work closely with the ER team and in 2022, we also attended an ER conference to discuss the future of our collaboration and the opportunities it affords.



National Geographic committed the funds for a research application named "Assessment of Ophthalmic Parameters and Understanding the Genetic Basis of Congenital Cataracts in Free-ranging Black Rhinoceros in Kenya". The Covid-19 pandemic initially caused significant delays in this project until we were able to undertake the rhino intervention in June 2022. We have collected all the necessary data and are now finalizing the research authorization with the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI). We hope to start having the data analyzed imminently and are very excited about the findings of this research. It can potentially inform rhino management decisions to mitigate this blindness in Kenya's rhinos.

In addition to those mentioned above, Ol Jogi has received incredible support from numerous generous individuals. In fact, Ol Jogi managed to translocate 14 Southern White Rhinos from one side of the conservancy to another to mitigate fighting mortalities. We also anaesthetized 31 rhinos for ear-notching and incorporated tracking devices and ocular research, all through specific individuals' help. We have procured tracking collars, telemetry receivers, binoculars and received considerable support for the Ol Jogi school. Thank you to all those who have supported our vision.

Through their support, people and organizations who share our vision, are helping us collectively to make this world a better place for future generations. We are extremely grateful for all the support we receive, without which we could not strategically adapt to the multitude of emerging threats to biodiversity. We strive to develop an economically sustainable private sector model for conservation whilst aligning ourselves with partners and ensuring social and political relevance in the future.

**Asante sana to you all!**



# CONSERVATION HABITAT AND BIOMONITORING

Since the beginning of 2022 the conservation team has been monitoring the benthic macro-invertebrates in both rivers on Ol Jogi.

What is a benthic macro-invertebrate? In simple terms, these are “water insects”. They are a group of small organisms that are visible to the naked eye, do not have a backbone and live, submerged, in streams for at least part of their lives. They include aquatic insects, crabs, crayfish, mussels, worms and leeches, snails, sponges, and flatworms. These macro-invertebrates constitute an important source of food for numerous mammals, fish, amphibian, bird and bat species. They are also important decomposers and ecosystem engineers. Determining the presence or absence of these creatures is an effective and rapid way to assess the health status of sections of rivers.

Indeed, there is a large variety of these creatures. Each requires a very specific set of conditions to survive in the environment. Some, more tolerant, species such as mosquito's, midges and flies can survive in water that has high temperatures and low oxygen. More sensitive species, such as mayflies, caddisflies and damselflies require more specific temperatures, vegetation, flow rates and pH to exist. A high species richness with varying sensitivities is an indicator of good in-stream habitat health.

From a fresh water ecological standpoint; this year has been a challenge because of the ongoing drought. The water table is no longer sufficient to keep the river

flowing during dry times and the impacts of abstraction upstream are evident in both rivers. Through these assessments, we could see that the lack of flow had a negative effect on the in-stream habitat health. There was a clear drop in species richness and sharp declines in the population numbers. Many important but sensitive species disappeared. Only the most tolerant species were able to survive and proliferate in residual pools of water. If the flow in the river continues to stop, the system will no longer be able to support current ecosystem functions and may also give rise to vector-borne diseases carried by species such as mosquitoes and flies. Thankfully, the rivers did not stop flowing for long and we have since, seen a slow recovery in species richness.

These tiny creatures in the rivers have served as valuable indicators of change happening in the environment that would normally be less obvious to us. Complete river restoration will need to take place at a landscape scale. In the meantime, here at Ol Jogi, we are doing what we can to save water, educate those around us and we are coming up with alternative solutions to harvesting water from the environment, such as rain-water and atmospheric collection. From a river health perspective, we are working towards cleaning up litter from upstream that flows downstream by using litter traps. We are also investigating ways to rehabilitate rivers, which will help create a more robust and resilient ecosystem on the conservancy.







# WILDLIFE FOCUS

## CHEETAH

Ol Jogi is home to a healthy predator population that hunts various herbivore species found on the conservancy, and this is key to a functioning and bio-diverse ecosystem. The more prominent carnivore residents of the conservancy include the world-famous *Acinonyx jubatus*, more commonly known as the African Cheetah.

The Cheetah is currently listed as 'vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List. Historically, between 20,000 – 40,000 cheetahs were found throughout 95% of the African continent. This number has been drastically reduced to less than 7100 individuals over the last 50 years due to the ever-growing human population and resultant habitat fragmentation, climate change, and threats from illegal wildlife trafficking to the Middle East. Currently, the metapopulation is confined to just a few segmented populations in Northern, Eastern and Southern parts of Africa.

In the wild, Cheetahs have an average lifespan of around 12 years. They are the lightest and smallest of the big cats making them extremely vulnerable to these

and other large carnivore species. Even though they have such incredible speed, they often don't flee when surprised by other big cats but usually try to stand up for themselves and get easily overpowered. They expend so much energy during hunts that they need time to recover before feeding and get as much ingested as possible before the scavengers descend.

Although they are dainty and have many vulnerabilities, they are an incredible species. Let us take a look at what makes this creature an evolutionary wonder.

So how do cheetahs manage to reach such incredible speeds? First, their daintiness is a positive factor in their speed. They have a light skeleton with elongated legs and body frame. This is supported by an elastic spine which allows for hyper flexibility. A cheetah's stride can reach 6 metres when running at full speed, which enables them to reach a maximum speed of 114kph. They do not often achieve this maximum but often hunt at speeds of between 80 to 100kph. When it comes to agility at such high speeds, cheetahs have ridges under their paw pads, giving extra grip when



making sharp turns. Their tails act like a rudder, with 3/4 of it flattened into a paddle shape to help them streamline while turning during their sprints. With such incredible speed and agility, the Cheetah is the most successful of the big cats at a 58% success rate when it comes to killing their prey. This was more than double the success rate of lions (25%) and Leopards (38%) in the same study area. This higher rate of success helps them survive in an environment that is so competitive.

Female Cheetahs have home ranges which means they move great distances; up to 800 square kilometres have been recorded! Female cheetahs are the only group out of the big cats who will copulate with multiple males in the area to ensure genetic diversity. Once mating is complete, the gestation is around 90 days, with litters being an average of 3-4 cubs. Males will defend breeding territories of up to 80 square kilometres, depending on the habitat and prey availability. Communication between various sexes and individuals occurs through scent marking on specific trees. These are known as scent-marking posts. These posts are marked by all individuals passing through the area, and this passes on lots of information. This information includes whether there are females in estrus in the vicinity and which other individuals are in the area.



Cheetahs are an evolutionary gem and need protection now more than ever. The Ol Jogi conservation team identifies and monitors all cheetahs in the conservancy. This is done to understand the population dynamics in the area, monitor and detect potential declines and inform the conservation and management of these amazing animals. The conservancy provides a safe space for cheetahs, though they can enter and exit the conservancy at their own will. We hope to contribute towards a better understanding of the population in Laikipia.







# RHINO NEWS

## INTRODUCTION

2022 has been an action-packed year for the rhinos at Ol Jogi. There have been exciting developments, births to celebrate, and deaths to commiserate, but we are thankful that we have managed to endure another year without losing any rhinos to poaching.

The illegal trade in rhino horn still rages in other rhino states, but Kenya has managed to mitigate against the threat for a few consecutive years. Whilst there has been some rhino poaching in Kenya in 2022, and we are very aware of the imminent threat, thus far, we have managed to evade another attack bringing us to the 8th year since the last poaching incident. We would like to thank all who have made this possible, including the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Kenya Police, Intelligence agencies and those who have visited Ol Jogi Home and thus supported our conservation efforts. The most enormous thanks, however, must go to the rangers who have demonstrated unwavering commitment and loyalty to the cause in often challenging conditions.

## EAR-NOTCHING INTERVENTION

The strategic management of rhinos in Kenya is governed by 5-year action plans. Kenya has recently developed the 7th edition “Recovery and Action Plan for the Black Rhino in Kenya (2022 – 2026)” and the

first-ever “White Rhino Conservation and Management Action Plan in Kenya (2021 – 2025)”. Ol Jogi participates in developing these strategic documents through our conservation managers’ role as the Chair of the Association of Private and Community Land Rhino Sanctuaries (APLRS) in Kenya and as a member of the National Rhino Steering Committee.

One action under the biological management objective is that Kenya strives to “confirm” all individual rhinos – that all individual rhinos in each population are physically sighted with a date-stamped photo taken within the last 12 months. To do this, we must be able to uniquely identify individual rhinos and in Kenya, we have adopted an ear-notching pattern that equates to a number. This number generally corresponds with the ID number of the rhinos, and we are mandated to ensure that at least 60% of each population is uniquely identifiable – i.e., that they are ear-notched.

At Ol Jogi, we pride ourselves on having very intensive monitoring of our rhinos. This allows us to confirm their well-being daily, call for veterinary interventions quickly should they become sick or injured, learn about the population dynamics and behaviour at an individual level and, importantly, check for any attempts to poach the rhinos. Whilst our rangers are incredible at what they do, identifying similar-looking



individuals can become confusing. We had fallen significantly below the 60% ear-notched threshold and had flagged the issue for some years with the National Rhino Office.

In June 2022, with the incredible support from a guest at Ol Jogi, we welcomed the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) veterinary and capture units as well as the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI). We managed to anaesthetize 31 rhinos (20 black and 11 white rhinos) in 5 days for ear-notching. We took the opportunity to incorporate 22 VHF horn transmitters (tracking equipment) into specific individuals' horns and undertook pertinent research. The intervention was a great success; all rhinos anaesthetized are fit and healthy as we continue to monitor them post-intervention.

## WHITE RHINO TRANSLOCATION

In 1989, Ol Jogi introduced 6 Southern White Rhinos from another conservancy in Kenya. These were the progeny of rhinos imported to Kenya from South Africa in the 1960s and 1970s. The population has grown significantly and recently the population dynamics have changed as many young bulls have matured within a small section of Ol Jogi known as "Pyramid".

Like the ear-notching, Ol Jogi management had flagged this issue to the National Rhino Office as we

had experienced 4 rhino mortalities due to fighting, and we also successfully treated several others that had sustained injuries. We were fortunate that Ol Jogi had an additional 46,000 acres in which we already have a healthy black rhino population and one bull white rhino. Our request was to translocate certain rhinos from Pyramid to the greater conservancy to alleviate the social pressures causing the fights.

After undertaking due diligence (habitat assessments, security assessments etc.), we were again fortunate to have support from another incredibly generous guest. We identified 14 candidates for translocation to the greater conservancy without compromising the productivity potential of the source population, i.e, those rhinos in Pyramid.

With the support of the KWS, WRTI and other partners, we successfully translocated the 14 rhinos from Pyramid to the greater conservancy in October 2022. The rhinos have settled well, albeit exploring the far reaches of their new territory. We are very excited to have initiated another white rhino population in Kenya and achieved another milestone in Ol Jogi's 42-year conservation history.

## RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY

Ol Jogi strives to learn more about the species we conserve; it is an endless pursuit. In the past, we have







partnered with several individuals and institutions to undertake pertinent researches that either directly help the species or allow us to manage them better.

In 2012 we experienced a young black rhino that developed a bilateral cataract. Ol Jogi invited a renowned veterinary ophthalmologist from South Africa and together with the KWS, we attempted to perform cataract surgery. Unfortunately, his condition was inoperable. Since then, Kenya has encountered several other cases and whilst in discussion with several geneticists, we wondered whether the issue might be congenital.

During the ear-notching intervention, we undertook data collection for a research proposal named “Assessment of ophthalmic parameters and genetic analysis to determine the basis of Congenital Cataracts in Free-Ranging Black Rhinoceros in Kenya”. We believe that this is the first research of its kind in a wild black rhino population living in situ. During the intervention, we took ultrasound images of all the black rhinos that we were able, as well as tear-drop production, tonometry (to determine intra-ocular pressure), bacterial swabs and collected DNA. As we pursue the

final research authorization, we hope to send the DNA to the UK for whole genome sequencing to determine the underlying cause of the blindness. We would like to thank National Geographic for their support in this respect and the Holtzman Wildlife Foundation for the ultrasound, without which the data collection would not have been possible. We are excited to learn more about the causes to make informed management decisions in the future.

In 2022, with the approval of the KWS and the WRTI, we introduced the first LoRAWAN compatible rhino foot-collars. This is being undertaken as a pilot project for Kenya to ensure that they do not cause any harm to the rhinos. The collars have an interesting artificial intelligence component in addition to sending location data. They learn the normal behaviour of that individual and then flag and alert for any anomalies including calving, fighting, injuries or attempted poaching incidents. As we strive to become more efficient and robust in our efforts to conserve rhinos, we are very excited about this technology and we hope that after demonstrating success, we can introduce more in the future.



# SAPA ASSESSMENT

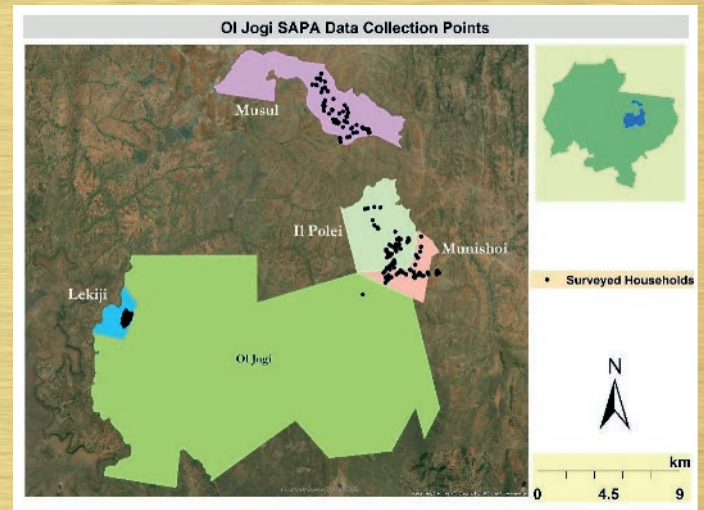
This year we did a social assessment of Ol Jogi's Wildlife Conservancy using the social assessment of protected areas (SAPA) methodology. Multiple governmental, community and conservancy stakeholders were engaged, which assured the realization of task ownership and transparency at each level of the assessment.

The assessment included community and stakeholder workshops, and was facilitated by the staff of Ol Pejeta Conservancy, with the support of funding from USAID under the umbrella of the Laikipia Conservancies Association.

The initiative is intended to assist in creating an understanding of community engagement areas and existing relations. From the outcome, the conservancy will have an opportunity to build community leadership structures that will enhance the streamlined information flow between Ol Jogi and communities, and incorporate the findings into our management plans as well as the development of strategies.

The conservancy plays an integral role in conservation and community in the Laikipia region, working towards a sustainable co-existence of wildlife and people. However, there is a growing demand for access to the land in search of pasture and firewood. The expectations of these communities have been heightened due to a shortage of productive land for livestock, prolonged drought, erratic rainfall patterns, and an ever-growing population.

The people living to the North-East of Ol Jogi are mainly pastoralists, while those living to the Northwest are cosmopolitan and are mainly dependent on casual jobs



and small-scale businesses. Community members are not permitted to use any resources within Ol Jogi's perimeter without permission. During periods of severe drought, however, in collaboration with Chairpersons of bordering ranches, we have allowed limited livestock grazing. The program, in addition to feeding, offers veterinary services and water access to community livestock. We also deploy armed rangers and tracker dogs into the community areas in cases of stock theft and to follow up on unlawful acts.

Visits by guests and other supports provided to the Twala Cultural Centre is highly valued by community members. Various other interventions have supported water provision, access to education, employment opportunities, dry season grazing, health, security interventions, and deployment of Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation. The SAPA process has allowed us to broaden communication channels between surrounding communities and Ol Jogi. Through the newly developed community partnership programme, Ol Jogi seeks to continue collaborating with community stakeholders to uplift the livelihoods of those around us.





# WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTER

2022 was a very busy year for the Wildlife Rescue Center. The center is home to many permanent wildlife residents, rescued orphans and injured wildlife. Caring for orphaned and injured wildlife is not for the faint of heart. Whether its a few hours, days, weeks, months or years, the reality of the role is quite harsh as you tirelessly work to save these animals, often to lose them to infection, disease, or post release predation. One of the challenges of running a wildlife rescue center is not being able to save every orphan that comes into our care as they are in critical condition upon arrival. There are many factors that may cause the abandonment of these babies. Stress caused by severe drought, parental death, inexperienced mothers, or potentially, the offspring has a physical or mental deficiency. For most of the infants brought to our rescue center, we do not know if they ever received the critical colostrum from their mother prior to abandonment. Colostrum is what helps establish immunity within the young and without colostrum, the orphan is at high risk for systemic bacterial infections. If we are able to beat the odds and rear these orphans for release, they then have to contend with predators like leopards, lions, wild dogs, and hyenas in order to survive.

## NASEREAN AND KIMANJO

Naserean is a cape buffalo that was found on Ol Jogi, given colostrum from the livestock team, and brought to the Wildlife Rescue Center when she was only a few days old. Naserean formed a tight bond with another rescue animal, Kimanjo, a plains zebra. The two of them would often roam the rescue center, trying to sneak special treats from care takers.



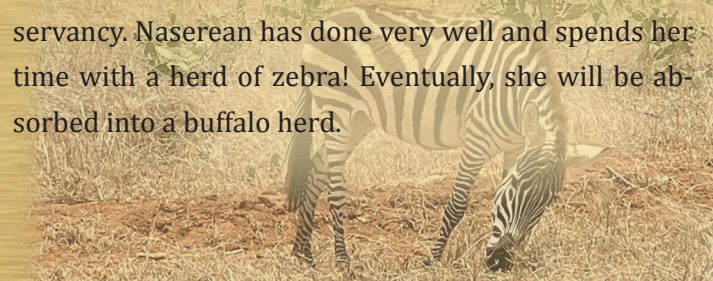
The two friends would often race to the elephant night enclosure to graze for the entire day, only leaving when the elephants returned from their bush walk. Kimanjo was a very smart zebra and quickly learned several ways to open the latched gate from kicking the pin to unlatch it or using her prehensile lip to slide the lever up so the gate would swing open. Kimanjo and Naserean would spend all day foraging together and at night they would bed down in a predator safe place with

Lucky, the donkey, and Frieda, the released kudu that returned at night to sleep with other rescue animals.



Luka and Kimanjo

Unfortunately, Kimanjo became very ill. The team at the WRC tried very hard to save the little zebra, but unfortunately, she was too sick. She was a favorite among staff and visitors for her feisty attitude and funny antics. Naserean had become big enough and the decision was made to remove her to the predator proof pre-release enclosure to start her reintroduction in the conservancy. Naserean has done very well and spends her time with a herd of zebra! Eventually, she will be absorbed into a buffalo herd.







## OLIVE

In October, we received a newborn reticulated giraffe named Olive. He was found abandoned under an olive tree by another local conservancy and brought to Ol Jogi Wildlife Rescue Center where staff fought valiantly to save his life. Olive had a big personality and loved to explore the area around the veterinary clinic. Even though he was only a few days old, he was mouthing acacia, learning what plants to eat and how to delicately nibble around the impressive thorns that protect acacia trees.

While we were unable to save Olive, his memory remains. Over the next few years, through collaborations with local and international partners, we will redesign our wildlife rescue and education center to better serve the needs of animals that come into our care, promote wildlife coexistence, and educate our fellow Kenyans and international visitors to the critical role these species play in the ecosystem we all depend on.

The lack of water and resources caused by the drought and desertification of the land is resulting in the abandonment of many new borns all across Kenya.

Ol Jogi is home to many endangered and critically endangered animals and with the decline of so many critical species, every individual counts towards preventing biodiversity loss. Reticulated giraffes are listed as endangered by the IUCN red list as poaching, habitat loss and fragmentation has drastically reduced their numbers to under 15,000, of which over 600 call Ol Jogi home.

The WRC has successfully raised orphans over the last two decades for release. Some of the animals we rescue are not endangered, however, their rescue and care helps us improve our skill in caring for orphans and develop collaborations with local communities. We use every experience to learn and create a program that is constantly evolving to decrease mortality and improve release techniques.

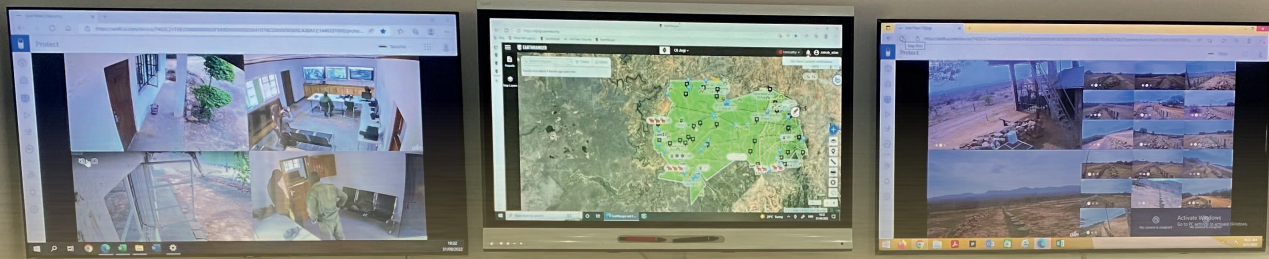
## REMEMBERING ATHENA

For over 14 years, the WRC cared for a female cheetah named Athena. Athena came to us after she had been struck by a vehicle and needed intensive care. As one of our oldest residents, she helped connect and educate thousands of Kenyan visitors per year. She lived a long life, and at the age of fourteen was well past her life expectancy. Athena initially was raised by a caretaker who found her immediately after her accident. This past year, the woman who raised her returned to spend time with the aging Athena, and their relationship was wonderful to watch. Athena would make chirps in greeting and purr during their time together.

Rest in Peace!







# EARTH TECHNOLOGY

In 2019, Ol Jogi undertook strides alongside the modernisation of conservation by adopting EarthRanger as our primary security and monitoring software platform. This is a software solution which aids protected areas in gathering the most amount of efficient data in real-time, saving time and resources. Surveillance of areas such as Ol Jogi, encompassing 58,000 acres by people alone is a challenge.

With cameras placed at each of the rhino-proof wildlife corridors on the property's perimeter, we can monitor what happens at each location 24 hours a day. These highly sensitive motion-detection, infra-red cameras can filter out any human detections, channelled through an artificial intelligence (AI) platform managed by Wildlife Protection Solutions (WPS). This is a non-profit organisation aimed at using technology for the conservation of endangered species and ecosystems as well as helping fight wildlife crime in real time. WPS also sends email alerts to our conservation management team when specifically selected species, such as rhinos are detected.

To ensure that we get the most out of the technical assistance, our field rangers are each equipped with smartphones and use EarthRanger Track to map any ground or aerial patrols. We also use EarthRanger to manage our fight against IAPs, such as *Opuntia Stricta*.

CyberTracker is used for logging any incidences of insecurity, human-wildlife-conflict (HWC), and non-wildlife information including ecological, social and logistical data. With this technology, through the African Carnivore Wildbook, carnivore patterns are identified through images down to individuals from each species

using a recognition software which analyses their coat pattern. We are proud to say our camera traps, the source of these images, have even discovered new species not known to live here until recently, such as Suni and captured rarely seen animals like Zorilla, Caracal and Aardwolf.

For our camera trap surveys, we use TrapTagger, which rapidly uses artificial intelligence in three key stages. Firstly it counts the number of animals in the image, then it detects the species of the animal and lastly, it analyses the similarities in coat patterns to decipher between individuals. Other uses of EarthRanger are for our livestock disease surveillance and mapping livestock rotations.

Recently, our first Long Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN) foot collars were placed on two of our Rhinos with the endorsement of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) as a pilot projector for using this technology in Kenya. Alfie and Athie are our trial animals for an innovative monitoring program which uses artificial intelligence to learn the behaviour of the individual it is attached to and flags any anomalies from the norm. In this way, not only will we receive alerts for unusual behaviour like calving or fighting, but importantly the technology will alert us if there is a poaching attempt. We will be able to expand its use in future, to cover cattle grazing, fence breakages, vehicle and ranger patrols and rainfall data logs.

None of this would be possible without our donors' generosity and the collaborations formed with our partners in conservation. Our sincere gratitude to all of them.



# THE OL JOGI BUFFALOS

As of August this year, we are proud to announce the comeback of the Ol Jogi Buffalos! Until 2020, the Ol Jogi football team was alive and kicking, with a reputation that preceded itself. Known as a strong team, it was a sad moment for the staff and the regional leagues when the team dissolved due to a lack of players, just as corona virus tightened its grip over the country and the world.

With the lifting of covid restrictions, the leagues are up and running again, and the Buffalos are ready to make another statement. With a team pool of thirty-two strong players, our coach, John Lepa, has the group training whenever the busy work schedule allows.

Without delay since its re-founding, the Ol Jogi team has signed into the FKF Laikipia County League, kicking off in the 2022-2023 season. Competing regionally with twenty-two other local teams from neighbouring communities, they aim to stand up to the pressure and develop new ties between Ol Jogi and the rest of Laikipia, as ambassadors for our values.

In the spirit of this, the first friendly games to have taken place have been against our close neighbour, the Ol Pejeta Conservancy Football Team. The first match in Ol Pejeta was a challenging game, with Ol Pejeta leading 3 – 0 by the end of the first half. Some words from our coach, John, during halftime saw the Buffalos score twice in the second half to finish 3 – 2.

For the second game, we were honoured to host the Ol Pejeta Team at our home ground in Marula village. They could not have arrived at a better moment. Just as

they were being greeted, our fire alarm split the air into shards, as smoke could be seen billowing from one of the houses behind the medical dispensary. From what we have gathered, an electrical fault had caused a corner of one of our grass roofs to catch alight, and within minutes, the blaze had risen to consume the entire roof. The inhabitants evacuated immediately, taking their belongings with them, just in time for the Ol Pejeta team and our fire response unit to assist the villagers in controlling and eventually extinguishing the fire, before returning to play the match they had come for.

Before the game, both teams gathered together to be addressed by Joe Barlow-Moule, the Buffalos chairman, and John Lepa, the coach. The Ol Pejeta team were thanked for their support. The incident highlighted that beyond football rivalry, we are, as conservancies, on the same side, with shared values and missions in conserving all that nature has left.

After this address, a prayer was said before the referee's whistle blew to begin the match. Ol Pejeta, who had recently moved up to the next division, demonstrated why. Finishing the game with a score of 2 – 0 to Ol Pejeta, we had the opportunity to pick up on areas for improvement and revise our training approach.

Armed with a new portfolio of drills and training exercises focusing on key areas of improvement for the team, the Buffalos are eager to see the fruits of their labour ripen in the upcoming league games. We at Ol Jogi wish them all the best as they compete for themselves, the team, and the conservancy.





# THE OL JOGI SCHOOL

As we welcome another school year, the Ol Jogi Primary school students are already buckling down and ready to impress. They are inspired by the achievements of last year's Grade 8 students, who performed so well on the end-of-year KCPE exams by achieving second ranking for the school in the whole of Laikipia North.

A calm has settled after a long holiday and the buzz of the prize-giving ceremony of last April, attended by local head teachers and members of the regional board of education. Ceremonies come and go, but our Head Teacher, Mrs Halima Hussein keeps a steady hand on the tiller, ensuring that faculty and classes stay on the course to success. Having just sat their mid-term exams, results are promising for another stellar exam performance by the end of this school year.

With this success also comes sadness. Recently reassigned by the government to other schools in the country, we have been obliged to bid farewell to two of our top-class teachers. Mr Texan Lerpanai, an excellent mathematics teacher whose personable and encouraging demeanour led to a profound rise in student mathematic performance, and Mr Kiondo Mutuura, the well-loved and caring science teacher who opened students' eyes to the inner workings of the world so clearly. We hope they will bring the same enthusiasm to their next postings, so more students across the country will benefit from their inspired methodologies.

Thus began our quest for new teachers to fill the large shoes of these two heavy hitters. Halima Hussein has been pooling resources and reaching out to contacts in other schools, built over the last thirty years of her teaching career to find suitable replacements. Prioritising the care of our students is paramount to us, and we are looking for the best to brighten their futures and encourage a personal drive towards excellence within them. As of now, we have welcomed two new teachers, Petro Kongoman and Ambrose Lonuko. Young and energetic, we are excited to see how they will perform and what they can bring to the Ol Jogi Primary School Table.

Since the school re-opened, we were humbled to welcome a family of special guests this August. Greeting them with our school choir and several poems the students wrote, we showed gratitude to these friends of ours, who had donated generously in 2020. Through their contribution, the roof structure has since been made viable and sound. The air is clean, the structure is sound, and the bat colonies have all been relocated. Our guests were moved to tears as the school music team performed in thanks for them. For students in school from sun up to sun down, our friends can be assured that their benevolence has changed lives for the better.







Since their visit, hard work has begun on another donor-funded project anticipated to bring enormous change to both the children and employees of Ol Jogi. Until now, children under four years old, too young to join the Pre-Primary (PP) 1 class, have been looked after by parents and guardians until they come of age. To ease the work-life balance and give these young ones the best start, a project to construct a new nursery and daycare has transitioned from aspiration into reality.

Taking on children from as early as six months old until they are ready to join PP 1, the nursery will be separated into three sections: one for babies, one for toddlers, and one for those almost ready to join Pre-Primary. Kitted out with baby changing rooms, a small food preparation area, tiny lavatories for toilet training and plenty of outdoor play and sensorial-discovery space in line with our Montessori methodology, we are immensely proud of what is destined to become a universally appreciated addition to the school premises.

Bright white, dazzling under the sun, new uniforms have been donated to the school by one of Ol Jogi's long term friends from Hong Kong. New white polo shirts, smart blue button-ups, trousers, skirts and school backpacks have replaced the often well-worn, tarnished and torn uniforms of the last year. Approximately 190 new uniforms adorn our proud students, who sang songs and posed with straight backs and wide grins for photos as they lined up after the uni-

forms were distributed by their class teachers. With spare sets safely stored away for future newcomers, the school's image has been greatly uplifted by this thoughtful benefaction.

More than twenty boxes of books, ranging from novels to encyclopaedias and even board games, were donated to the refurbishment project of the library. The shelves within are full to bursting, and the next step for us will be putting in carpets, comfortable seating, additional lighting and curtains to complete this metamorphosis from a dark and dusty "room for storing books" into a safe haven for studying and relaxation. The students have already begun using this space during their free time to lose themselves in some of the new books or try their hand at a chess game. Headed by Mr Charles Karuri, the library is set to stay on the right track and continue to grow and improve.

As stories unfold while pages turn, the cinema projector flickers. The school cinema is up and running. The students gather in the new cinema space every Saturday to enjoy movies projected onto the wall. With a growing library of films, Mr Peter Kuwam, the school IT coordinator and new cinema coordinator, selects a movie for student and teacher entertainment. This was inaugurated by the screening of the modern classic "Life of Pi", a story loved by the thoroughly engrossed pupils and faculty. Next will be "The Lion King" and BBC's "Planet Earth II" episodes.



# SCHOOL (CONTINUED. . .)

This September, our Head Teacher and music coordinator, Mrs Halima Hussein, first took the regional Nakuru Music Festival and then the National Kisumu Music Festival by storm. In previous years, the Ol Jogi Primary School Music Team had performed well in these events, and this year was no exception. Achieving first place in one of the two performances in Nakuru, qualifying our team of girls to proceed to Kisumu for the prestigious national level of the competition. Achieving third place in two performances there, they returned to the school after the three-day trip to a hero's welcome. Our plan to grow the music scene within the school with new instruments will prove a boon to the musical talents nurtured in our students, such that their same success may recur in years to come, as new generations of children pass through the school.

As our eldest children graduated and went off to high school, the Grade 7 students now bear the mantle of Grade 8. With that comes many responsibilities over the younger students, academic pressures, and some sweeter, more pleasant aspects. Last year, a new initiative was undertaken, with the hopes of it becoming an annual occurrence. So far, it is becoming just that... the much talked about Mt Kenya Trip. Taking place in late October this year, the Grade 8's will be up at the crack

of dawn to embark on a trip up the mountain to Old Moses Hut, from where they will be taken by an experienced mountain guide on a walk through this mountain environment, entirely alien for children who have grown up in the savannah. Snacks, tea and "Mountain Bingo" will be additions to keep this trip smooth, educational and, most importantly, fun. Funded by student parents and Ol Jogi, this trip is the culmination of a team effort to provide these students with this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Pupils at Ol Jogi Primary School are not the only students. The teachers at the school have recently begun training for themselves, focussing on 1st Aid and IT skills. Organised and run by Joe Barlow-Moule, the school Project Coordinator, everyday groups of teachers gather in the IT room once classroom activities have finished, learning vital life-saving skills and enhancing their digital aptitudes. Assessed after each cycle of training is completed, this new knowledge and learning go hand-in-hand with our approach to bringing the school and its staff to new heights.

Another school year rife with achievements can be tallied up with pride to the board of years past.





# APAC

## AFRICAN PROTECTED AREAS CONGRESS



The African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) was held by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) in July 2022. The Ol Jogi Conservation team engaged in discussions during APAC that revolved around the crucial role of protected areas (PAs) in preserving the continent's

iconic wildlife, delivering vital ecosystem services, advancing sustainable development, and conserving cultural heritage and traditions. By the end of the APAC, the Kigali Call-to-Action was set into motion. It aims to inform the successful implementation and achievement of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and has aided the final drafting of the Convention on Biodiversity Post-2020 Framework during the World Biodiversity Summit that was held in September 2022. There were many thought-provoking side events, training sessions, workshops and interactive networking events held. As a representative of the African Rhino Specialist Group, our Conservation Manager, Jamie Gaymer, co-presented a clinic on the lessons emerging from rhino conservation. This session provided thought provoking and insightful discussions on integrating humans and nature as well as innovative ways to leverage support for Africa's well-being within and beyond protected areas. The Ol Jogi team has walked away from the APAC with a more informed approach as well as a variety of tools for conservation management and mechanisms to leverage sustainable conservation activities.



# A TASTE OF OL JOGI



In 2022, we welcomed Kurt Pietersen and his family, onto Ol Jogi as our Executive Chef. He has experience working in several prestigious restaurants in South Africa, the Seychelles, the Maldives and more now in Kenya.

Chef Kurt's philosophy on food and cooking style is comforting, natural and creative. He believes that healthy eating has always been about enjoying everything in a balanced way. It's really about the passion for putting the ingredients together and using whatever is local. Good food can lift us physically and emotionally. What he tries to do in the kitchen is create an experience and a memory for people, a memory that lasts for a long time.

When he's not working, Kurt is browsing through culinary books, cooking at home, taking artistic food shots, thinking about his next tattoo, gardening in the backyard, and spending time enjoying the bush life with his wife, Vanda, his sons, Stefan and Sam, and their cat, Turtle.

## Ingredients

- 1/2 medium onion, diced
- 1 tablespoon avocado oil
- 2 cups riced cauliflower (rice cauliflower with a box grater)
- 3/4 cup almond flour (not almond meal)
- 1/2 cup grated Romano or Pecorino cheese
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh parsley
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh chives
- 1/4 cup finely sliced green onions
- 2 eggs, whisked, add one more whisked egg if the mixture is too dry
- Avocado Oil for pan frying
- Sour cream
- Garnishes
- Sliced Avocado
- Sliced green onions
- Shredded Irish Cheddar cheese



Almond & cauliflower fritters





### Method

- In a skillet, add the tablespoon of avocado oil and heat over medium heat. Add the onions and sauté until nicely wilted or golden.
- In a large mixing bowl, mix together the sautéed onions, riced cauliflower, almond flour, grated cheese, baking powder, salt, pepper, parsley, chives and green onions. Then mix in the whisked eggs.
- Heat the skillet over medium to low heat and add enough avocado oil to coat the bottom of the skillet. When the oil is hot drop 1/4 cup sized portions of batter to the hot oil and smash the tops slightly to make a round disc. Brown on both sides. Use a very thin fish spatula to flip the fritters which works well. If you decide to make appetizer portions, use either a mini muffin scoop or a tablespoon size portion for the batter.
- Once both sides of the fritters are golden brown, transfer to a paper towel lined plate and sprinkle with a little salt. You may need to refresh the avocado oil several times while frying the fritters.
- Be sure to continue adjusting the heat. Ideally, use a commercial grade stovetop so as to fry on low to keep the fritters from browning too quickly. But for most stove tops, medium to medium low should be fine.
- Serve the fritters with shredded cheese, sour cream, avocado slices and additional sliced green onions. Homemade salsa is also delicious with these fritters.







### **Ol Jogi**

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