



OL JOGI

WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

CONSERVATION &
COMMUNITY REPORT
2024 - 2025

«Gūtirī gītatūirie kīngī - Hakuna asiyemtegemea mwingine»
 «There is nothing which does not cause another to exist»

With the rains came renewal, bringing life and abundance back to Ol Jogi. Having faced an extended period of drought, 2024 saw the landscape transformed – reminding us of the delicate and interconnected nature of our surroundings. From the smallest insect to the big five who roam the conservancy, this year our efforts have shown us how every element enables another to exist. With a newly trained team of beekeepers, we are happy to see the number of colonies at the conservancy double to over 45 hives, fulfilling the vital role of pollination and gifting us with honey for our guests. The generosity of nature also revealed itself in our permaculture garden, teeming with fresh produce despite challenging conditions. In hand with the lush flora and fauna, we were excited to see our rhino population grow by seven individuals. Bella, the rhino calf rescued last year, now boasts a healthy weight of 370kg at 22 months. With all this activity keeping us busy, our dedicated team continues to train working dogs to ensure the safety of the conservancy and its surrounding communities – with two new puppy recruits ready to join the tracking team. As always, we have kept our communities close to our hearts, sharing our expertise through workshops and scholarships, and designing a two-way communication system that safeguards participation in decision making – creating a sustainable and prosperous future. With this in mind, the Kiota kindergarten keeps growing, prioritising a holistic education for coming generations.

With 2024 being a period of prosperity, we remember all those who have generously supported Ol Jogi. As the proverb reminds us, we all enable one another to exist, and your contributions are integral to continuing the protection of this unique environment we are a part of.

Tuko pamoja na asante sana!

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:	323 on average throughout the year.
Nursery and Ol Jogi Primary School:	210 Children.
Number of rhinos:	77 black rhinos and 59 white rhinos.
Other wildlife:	We host as many as 419 elephants, depending on season. We also host 27 species of ungulates, 6 species of large carnivores and diverse small and meso carnivores, three species of primates and more than 400 avian species.
Pyramid Wildlife Census 2023 - 2024:	1,350 up from 3,499 the previous year.
Main Conservancy Wildlife Census 2023 - 2024:	1,792 up from 1,648 the previous year.
Livestock:	1,751 Ol Jogi herd of cattle.

The front and back cover pictures of this edition are courtesy of our friend Scott Sporleder and our social media manager Joe Wahome, respectively, and feature lions living in Ol Jogi.

DEAR DONORS

The resilience of Ol Jogi has once again been tested in 2024. The challenges of climate change, economic uncertainty, and increasing pressures on conservation have not waned. However, thanks to the unwavering support of our partners, donors, and friends, we have not only weathered these difficulties but continued to strengthen our conservation programs.

This year saw continued support towards our ranger welfare and operational capacity, advancements in our conservation technology, and further development of our community outreach programs. The support we have received has allowed us to maintain our dedication to protecting Ol Jogi's wildlife and habitats. We are deeply grateful for every contribution, whether financial, technical, or in-kind, that has made our work possible. While some of our donors prefer to remain anonymous, we extend our sincerest gratitude to all who have stood by us. Below are just some of the organizations and individuals who have been instrumental to supporting Ol Jogi in 2024:



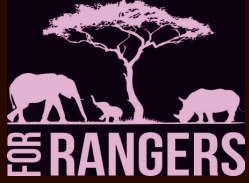
Save the Rhino International (SRI) continues to be a cornerstone of Ol Jogi's conservation funding and advocacy. Their support in 2024 has included direct funding for rhino conservation, as well as facilitating emergency financial assistance through the Association of Private and Community Land Rhino Sanctuaries. Through SRI, we received additional training for rangers, ensuring better preparation for real-world conservation challenges. We remain incredibly grateful for SRI's unwavering support and commitment to rhino protection.

Ol Jogi successfully completed the fourth year of the INL collaborative grant in partnership with Borana and Lewa Wildlife Conservancies. This support has been instrumental in maintaining ranger training, intelligence operations, and further developing our Long-Range Wide Area Network (LoRAWAN), seamlessly integrating it with EarthRanger. These efforts have enhanced security measures and allowed us to respond proactively to potential threats, reinforcing Kenya's position as a leader in rhino conservation.



The USFWS has once again been an invaluable partner in supporting Ol Jogi's conservation work. In 2024, with their assistance, we constructed two additional ranger stations, ensuring our teams are better equipped and housed in the field. Additionally, they helped provide a full year's supply of rations for our rangers, ensuring their well-being and operational readiness. Finally, they enabled the procurement of a second conservation vehicle to improve field patrol efficiency. We remain deeply grateful for their continuous investment in conservation.

Dedicated to improving the well-being of rangers across Africa, For Rangers has once again delivered crucial support. This year, they provided funding for additional life insurance coverage, ensuring peace of mind for our frontline defenders. They also donated uniforms, essential field gear, and supported specialist fitness training for our rapid response unit. Additionally, they funded a set of ten rhino naming ceremonies, strengthening ranger morale and engagement in conservation efforts. We extend our sincere thanks for their continued commitment.



Rotterdam Zoo remains a critical supporter of our conservation canine unit. Their funding in 2024 enabled Ol Jogi to enhance training programs, improve kennel facilities, and ensure veterinary care for our working dogs. This year, we successfully engaged an expert third-party trainer to further develop our canine unit's tracking and detection capabilities, enhancing their role in security and anti-poaching measures.

Thanks to Hannover Zoo's generous contributions, we expanded our LoRAWAN infrastructure even further in 2024. New sensors were installed to monitor fence integrity, rhino movements, and vehicle tracking in real time. These advancements have significantly improved our ability to make data-driven conservation decisions, reducing risks and optimising resource management.



WPS has continued to provide both hardware and software solutions for our security and monitoring needs. This year, their camera trap donations increased, bolstering our ability to monitor key wildlife corridors. Additionally, their AI-driven platform has improved our capability to identify potential threats swiftly, allowing for rapid response measures.



EarthRanger remains the backbone of our conservation data management and decision-making. In 2024, our collaboration strengthened through further integrations with other monitoring tools and security networks. Ol Jogi also participated in an EarthRanger-led initiative focused on refining data-sharing protocols between conservancies, enhancing regional conservation efforts. We are grateful for their continuous innovation and support.

The Anna Merz Foundation has Funded additional technological enhancements at Ol Jogi, including new LoRAWAN sensors expected in early 2025. Their past support remains critical to our conservation infrastructure, and we deeply appreciate their dedication to our mission.



With human-wildlife conflict on the rise, Lion Landscapes has remained a key ally in mitigating risks and promoting coexistence. Their support for our carnivore monitoring program has enabled us to track lions, cheetahs, and hyenas more effectively. Their work has been instrumental in ensuring a balance between wildlife conservation and the needs of local communities.

Henry Vilas Zoo generously raised funds to support our TUSK Wildlife Ranger Challenge team. Their contributions allowed us to continue professionally guided gym training sessions, improving ranger fitness and reducing injury risk. We also procured new boots to enhance ranger comfort in challenging field conditions and acquired metal trunks for our ranger canteen to protect food supplies from monkeys and baboons. Additionally, Henry Vilas Zoo funded running shoes for all 40 of our rangers, fulfilling a key request and significantly improving their training comfort and injury prevention. Lastly, their support has enabled us to refurbish the degrading floor of the ranger canteen, ensuring this essential space remains a source of pride and relaxation for our teams





By leveraging AI-driven image recognition, Wildeye's Traptagger system continues to play a major role in camera trap data processing. Their advancements in machine learning have allowed us to classify wildlife movement patterns more efficiently, aiding both research and security operations.

Through their Tech 4 Conservation (T4C) initiative, Wildbook has provided vital machine learning tools to support our large carnivore monitoring efforts. The ability to identify individual animals using pattern recognition has vastly improved our understanding of predator populations and their dynamics within Ol Jogi and beyond.



VIEW has strengthened its collaboration with Ol Jogi by supplying critical veterinary equipment and medicines. Their expertise in wildlife disease management has allowed us to enhance our veterinary services, ensuring rapid and effective responses to health concerns in our rhino, carnivore, and general wildlife populations.

In addition to the generous contributions from the organisations mentioned above, Ol Jogi has also received support for community projects, security initiatives, education programs, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation. We have been able to provide scholarships, improve access to clean drinking water, and facilitate conservation awareness among local communities.

None of our achievements in 2024 would have been possible without the kindness and dedication of our supporters. Your generosity fuels our ability to protect Kenya's wildlife and to work toward a future where conservation thrives alongside human progress. From all of us at Ol Jogi, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Thank you for being part of our journey and for believing in our mission.



BEE CONSERVATION

In response to the contemporary crisis of pollinator extinction, Ol Jogi has resolved to incorporate pollinators into their conservation and educational initiatives.

Pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, moths, birds, bats, and beetles, are vital for the reproduction of three-quarters of the world's flowering plants and 35% of global food crops. Today, these pollinators are vulnerable to chemical exposure and habitat loss caused by human activities. Ol Jogi is fortunate to host a rich diversity of these vital organisms, which led to the incorporation of a pollinator conservation initiative in 2020, with apiaries for honeybees established in three locations within the conservancy.

By 2024, following generous rainfall, the insect population experienced a remarkable surge. Honeybees, in particular, thrived – creating a pressing situation as colonies settled in homes, businesses, and shaded areas. For them to flourish without posing a threat to human inhabitants, Ol Jogi engaged a bee consultant to train a team of beekeepers within the conservancy. Since January 2024, three committed members of the permaculture garden have received training in the safe relocation of colonies, hive inspections, apiary management, and the careful harvesting of honey. This year

we have seen the number of colonies double, resulting in over 45 hives within the conservancy.

As well as supporting pollinator populations, this project will yield organic raw honey for our guests, and an array of natural products derived from the hives including cosmetics, remedies, and beeswax-based items. Thus far, we have successfully relocated more than 30 honeybee colonies and harvested 45 liters of raw honey sourced from rescued colonies and long-standing hives that could be safely tapped.

Once the Ol Jogi team has perfected these techniques, the project will focus on sharing the expertise with local communities and educational programs. This long-term initiative aims to enable communities to establish a sustainable income while simultaneously ensuring pollination for their crops. Agricultural practices play a significant role in pollinator's decline, and educating the younger generation is essential for safeguarding these species.

With the support of Earth Ranger, Ol Jogi is now collaborating with Honey Bee Watch, an international coalition dedicated to the protection of survivor colonies. Honey Bee Watch is built on a citizen-science initiative, enlisting participants who contribute data on honey-



bees. In turn, this information leads to a deeper understanding of the biological, behavioral, and environmental traits that enhance survivorship among free-living, untreated colonies.

Honey Bee Watch aims to gather data on each of the ten species of honeybee through a multi-year global study - starting in the UK with the common honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) and eventually expanding to other regions and all *Apis* species. In the Northern hemisphere 'honeybee colony collapse disorder' poses a significant threat for commercial beekeepers, many of whom resort to chemical treatments to combat pests such as the varroa mite. In Kenya, honeybee colonies coexist with varroa mites, yet they possess a remarkable genetic ability to eliminate these pests and control their populations. Studying resilient colonies, along with our indigenous *Apis mellifera* species, is crucial for establishing that chemical treatments within hives are not sustainable solutions. Instead, honey production could be achieved through more bee-centered practices. To date, Honey Bee Watch lacks data on *Apis mellifera* scutellata and *Apis mellifera* monticola, making Ol Jogi an invaluable asset in contributing to their efforts.

WORKING DOGS IN CONSERVATION

Since its inception in 1989, Ol Jogi Wildlife Conservancy has been a pioneer in integrating working dogs into conservation efforts. The introduction of bloodhounds marked a transformative approach to combating crime, with their primary role focused on tracking offenders. In 2011, at the peak of the rhino poaching crisis, Ol Jogi expanded its canine unit by introducing Belgian Malinois attack dogs. These highly trained canines played a critical role in securing the conservancy during one of Kenya's most challenging periods in wildlife protection. With the containment of the rhino poaching pandemic, they have since been retired – marking a shift back to a focus on bloodhounds for tracking and community support. This program has been a resounding success, significantly contributing to the reduction of crime in the region. Over the years, Ol Jogi has shared these expertise by donating trained dogs and providing training to numerous conservation organizations across Kenya.



STRENGTHENING THE CANINE PROGRAM

This year has been a landmark for Ol Jogi's canine unit, reflecting a commitment to continuous improvement and innovation. Key achievements include:

- **Canine Departmental Audit:** A third-party audit provided valuable insights, guiding enhancements for efficiency.
- **Training Initiatives:** The department undertook an external refresher training program and introduced four new handlers, ensuring a skilled and cohesive team.
- **Expansion and Collaboration:** Two new bloodhound puppies were procured, with training already underway. Additionally, two puppies are being trained for Loisaba Conservancy, Laikipia's newest rhino conservancy and a valued neighbor to Ol Jogi.
- **Advanced Equipment and Enrichment:** New equipment was acquired to enhance the dogs' training, comfort, and overall well-being.
- **Operational Excellence:** The canine unit has actively participated in crime mitigation and missing persons cases, strengthening ties with local communities. Training and official cases were also integrated into EarthRanger, enabling meticulous record-keeping and departmental analysis.
- **Technology Integration:** The introduction of LoRA tracking devices has significantly improved training analysis and operational efficiency.

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Working dogs remain an indispensable asset to Ol Jogi's conservation efforts. Beyond mitigating poaching, these exceptional animals serve local communities by:

1. Reducing crime
2. Aiding the resolution of criminal cases
3. Assisting in missing persons searches

As Ol Jogi looks to the future, plans are already in motion for further advancements in 2025, including a refresher training course to maintain high standards within the unit. As for the newly added puppies, training is progressing well, with expectations for their integration into the team. Additionally, the oldest dog in the department will be retired, ensuring she enjoys a well-deserved, high-quality life with daily walks and exceptional care.

Ol Jogi remains steadfast in its dedication to pioneering conservation initiatives and fostering strong community relationships, with working dogs playing an essential role in this mission. Their legacy of success continues to inspire efforts to safeguard both Kenya's wildlife and its communities.



CULTIVATING SUSTAINABILITY IN THE KENYAN BUSH

Ol Jogi is a haven for people seeking to experience Kenya’s raw beauty: a stunning eco-lodge surrounded by savanna, scattered acacia trees, and the distant rumblings of wildlife. Beyond the view and accommodation, however, a permaculture garden provides fresh, organic food for the lodge, whilst at the same time regenerating the land and supporting local wildlife. From the harsh climate to a lack of resources, the journey of this garden was not without its challenges. Yet, through innovative solutions, dedicated training, and a commitment to sustainability, the team has transformed the land into a thriving garden.

THE CHALLENGES OF BUILDING A PERMACULTURE GARDEN

A year ago, the decision was made to start a permaculture garden at Ol Jogi, this meant facing several challenges. The team had to work with a combination of sandy and nutrient-deficient soil, fluctuating rainfall, and intense heat. Water scarcity, in particular, was a major challenge, with long droughts and limited natural water sources. Furthermore, while the lodge’s team was passionate about sustainability, they lacked in-depth knowledge of permaculture principles, particularly necessary in such a challenging environment.

SOLUTIONS AND STRATEGIES

Despite these obstacles, Ol Jogi’s team was determined to make the permaculture garden a reality. The first solution implemented was rainwater harvesting, building an extensive catchment system to collect water from the lodge’s roofs and store it in large tanks. This system provided the garden with a steady water supply during dry spells, and additionally reduced stress on main water sources.

To tackle poor soil quality, the team turned to composting and mulching. By collecting organic waste from the lodge, they created rich compost that supported soil health and beneficial microorganisms. Mulching, in turn, helped to retain moisture and prevent erosion by covering the soil with layers of organic material like straw, leaves, and grass. Furthermore, the team incorporated swales and berms into the garden design: trench-like depressions that follow the contour of the land, capturing water and directing it into the soil rather than letting it run off. Berms, mounds of soil placed beside the swales, help to slow down water, reduce erosion, and improve water retention. Finally, companion planting ensured improved soil quality and pest control through the harvesting season – planting legumes like beans and peas alongside vegetables to fix nitrogen in the soil, enriching it naturally.

VARIETIES GROWN IN THE GARDEN

With the foundations done, the team turned their attention to crop selection. Given the climate and soil conditions, they focused on hardy, drought-resistant varieties, chosen for their resilience and nutritional value. In terms of vegetables, kale, spinach, and Swiss chard became staples in the garden. Root crops like sweet potatoes, cassava, and carrots were selected as they thrive in sandy soils. Herbs like basil, mint, rosemary, thyme, and marigold were planted for their culinary benefits as well as medicinal properties. These plants also helped attract pollinators and beneficial insects, promoting a healthy ecosystem.

LEARNING PERMACULTURE PRINCIPLES

While the physical aspects of building the garden were challenging, the team additionally completed intensive training to understand the principles of permaculture. With little experience in agriculture, they attended workshops with local permaculture experts, covering the basics of permaculture design, soil regeneration, water management, and ecological farming practices. Training also included hands-on work in the garden, with practitioners leading the team through setting up swales, creating compost piles, and designing the layout of the garden to ensure maximum efficiency. The training emphasized the importance of observation and adaptability—understanding how the land responds to different interventions and learning from successes and failures alike.



A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR OL JOGI

Today, the permaculture garden at Ol Jogi is flourishing, having become a symbol of sustainability and a testament to the commitment of working in harmony with the land. The team’s hard work and dedication have turned what was once a barren piece of land into a thriving, self-sustaining ecosystem. As they continue to expand their permaculture practices and methods, Ol Jogi’s garden stands as a model of how permaculture can be successfully implemented in the Kenyan bush, creating a sustainable food source and a deeper connection to the environment.



A MILESTONE FOR CONSERVATION

Ol Jogi has reached a significant milestone with the completion of its Conservation Management Plan. This comprehensive blueprint cements Ol Jogi's role as a leader in private conservation and paves the way for its formal registration with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and inclusion in the World Database of Protected Areas.

With the protection of wildlife and support for local communities at the forefront, the vision focuses on six high-level objectives:

1. Providing a refuge for local species listed as threatened, endangered, and critically endangered on the IUCN Red List.
2. Supporting diverse and intact biota to maintain functional and resilient ecosystems.
3. Contributing to regional socio-economic upliftment through education, community partnerships, and employment.
4. Establishing itself as a world-class, bespoke Kenyan wildlife and safari attraction.
5. Sustaining healthy cattle herds as an alternative revenue stream.
6. Offering a world-class wildlife rehabilitation, veterinary, and scientific research facility.

The Conservation Management Plan underscores Ol Jogi's commitment to empowering local communities. Through education programs, employment opportunities, and partnerships, Ol Jogi ensures conservation benefits extend beyond its boundaries. Its Wildlife Rescue and Education Centre, sustainable cattle ranching, and exclusive tourism model showcase a balanced approach to protecting wildlife and supporting livelihoods.

Ol Jogi's dedication to wildlife protection dates back to its establishment as Kenya's second private rhino conservancy in 1980. Its dramatic landscapes – rolling hills, valleys, and granite kopjes – support over 80 mammal species and 400 bird species, including many



endangered ones. Freshwater ecosystems and varied soils further sustain this rich biodiversity.

This finalised plan integrates adaptive management and rigorous monitoring, ensuring the conservancy remains resilient to emerging challenges. It marks the start of an exciting new chapter, continuing to preserve Kenya's natural heritage while empowering communities and inspiring a global audience – securing its future as a sanctuary where nature, people, and purpose thrive together.

THE CONTROL OF OPUNTIA STRICTA: A DECADE OF SUCCESS

Invasive plant species pose a significant threat to ecosystems across the globe by disrupting biodiversity, habitats, and local agricultural economies. From the ornamental plant trade and agricultural expansion to accidental dispersal through waterways: invasive species move around. Once established, they compete with native flora, often lacking natural predators or competitors to keep their populations in check. One such invasive plant, *Opuntia stricta* – commonly known as the prickly pear cactus – has long been a menace to ecosystems across Africa, including the semi-arid landscapes of Ol Jogi.

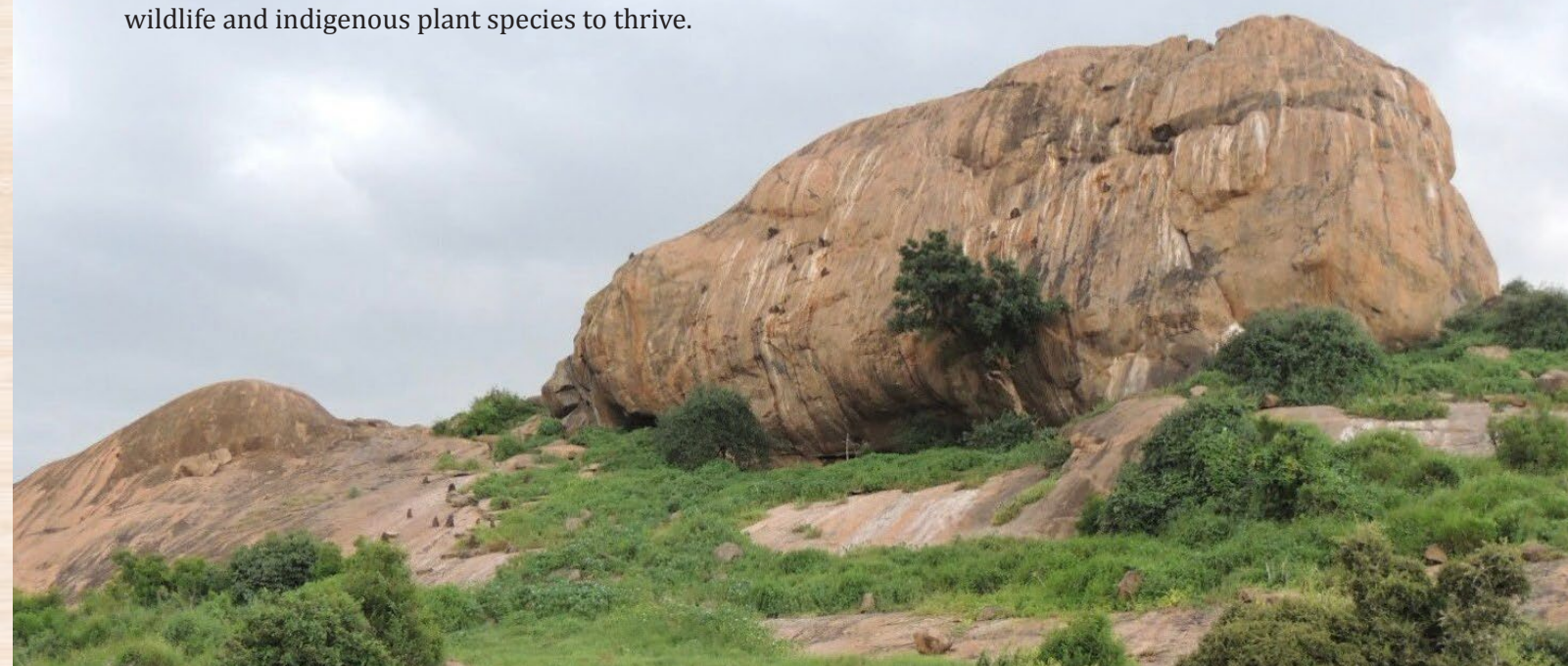
In the early 2010s, *Opuntia stricta* became a persistent problem at Ol Jogi. The plant's rapid spread, thick spines, and resilience to drought made it a formidable adversary – immediate action was required to control its expansion. Yet, traditional methods such as manual removal or chemical treatments proved inefficient, costly, and potentially harmful to non-target species.

Recognizing the need for a more sustainable solution, the conservancy opted for a biological control approach. In 2014, in partnership with the International Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience, we undertook an environmental impact assessment and received approval for the release of the biocontrol agent. Ol Jogi introduced *Dactylopius opuntiae* – commonly known as cochineal – a species of scale insect that feeds exclusively on cacti, particularly those in the *Opuntia* genus. This biocontrol agent had been successfully used in other regions of Africa to manage cactus invasions, with Ol Jogi being the first in Kenya to introduce this method.

Cochineal insects work by attaching themselves to the cactus pads, feeding on their sap, and eventually causing extensive damage to the plant. Over time the cacti weaken, leading to reduced growth, reduced reproductive capacity, and in many cases plant death. The introduction of cochineal to Ol Jogi was carefully managed, ensuring the insect did not affect other species or ecosystems outside of its target.

Fast forward ten years, and the results have been transformative. The cochineal has taken hold, spreading effectively throughout the affected areas. The dense thickets of *Opuntia stricta* that once blanketed the landscape have drastically thinned, allowing native vegetation to return. Before-and-after photos of sections within the conservancy illustrate the stark contrast: once dominated by spiny, impenetrable cactus, they are now open and hospitable to the diverse species that call Ol Jogi home.

The success of this biocontrol initiative underscores the importance of innovative and ecologically sound approaches to invasive species management. By harnessing the power of a natural enemy, the team at Ol Jogi has not only curbed the spread of *Opuntia stricta*, but also restored the ecological balance necessary for both wildlife and indigenous plant species to thrive.





Ol Jogi offers guests the unique experience of observing wildlife up close in its natural habitat, a concept that pushes the boundaries of the traditional safari experience. The viewing tunnel at Ol Jogi blends seamlessly into the surrounding landscape, offering an opportunity to witness nature while minimizing human impact on the environment. Designed to provide a discreet, low-impact way to observe animals, the tunnel runs beneath the ground and leads to a hidden viewing area next to a busy watering hole.

The journey through the tunnel begins near the Main House veranda. Guests descend a staircase that takes them below ground into a subtly lit passageway at the end of the tunnel is the viewing area - with windows at head height, guests can observe animals at a close and lower angle than from a vehicle on a game drive. Because the structure is concealed, animals remain largely unaware of any human presence, allowing for authentic, undisturbed interactions, and a glimpse into their lives. The conservancy is home to an abundance of wildlife: the iconic Big Five - elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion and leopard - as well as endangered species like the Grevy's zebra and African Wild Dog. It's the perfect spot for guests to learn about animal behaviours. For example, watching a herd of elephants interact can prompt discussions about their social structure, matriarchal leadership, and the challenges they face due to habitat loss and poaching.

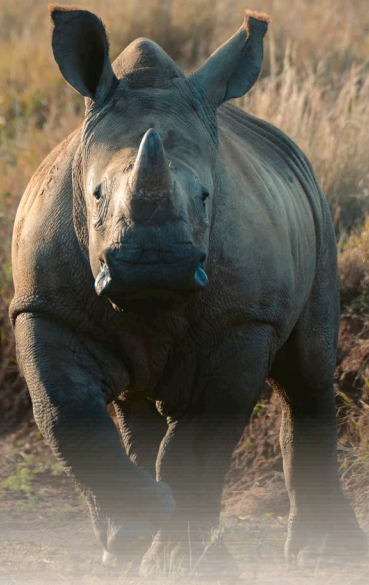
A WINDOW INTO THE WILD



With a backdrop of Mount Kenya, the watering hole viewed from the tunnel is one of Ol Jogi's most dynamic environments. Water sources in arid regions are critical gathering points, making them hotspots of wildlife activity. Throughout the day, a variety of animals visit the watering hole to drink, bathe, or rest. At night, with low impact flood lighting, the tunnel offers front row seats to view and listen to the nocturnal world – the absence of engine noise amplifying the connection to the environment. Often, we will get black rhino, hippo, and elephant visiting during the night, along with predators such as lion and hyena.

The underground wildlife viewing tunnel at Ol Jogi not only enhances the safari experience but also aligns with Ol Jogi's broader conservation mission: ensuring guests get to witness Africa's breathtaking wildlife in its most authentic form.





2024 has been a year of significant rainfall following a prolonged drought, with precipitation levels reaching record highs. This period has brought life back to Ol Jogi Conservancy, restoring its lush landscapes and supporting its diverse wildlife.

RHINO POPULATION UPDATES

Despite the challenges of drought, the resilience of our rhino population became evident in 2024. We celebrated the birth of 10 rhino calves, comprising three white rhinos and seven black rhinos. However, we also experienced the loss of three rhinos: one black rhino to lion predation, another black rhino due to disease (likely gastrointestinal toxicity), and a white rhino following a territorial fight. These losses underscore the delicate balance that we strive to understand and manage.

MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS

A notable intervention this year involved immobilizing an adult white rhino bull, whose aggressive behavior over the years resulted in injuries and fatalities to other rhinos – including the death of a white rhino this year. Under the guidance of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), we trimmed his horn to mitigate further injuries during conflicts. In order to monitor his movements and behavior post-release, a Long-Range Wide Area Network (LoRAWAN) ear-tag was affixed during the procedure.

In addition, we successfully translocated a sub-adult white rhino, “Garlinghouse,” from a 500-acre predator-proof enclosure to the wider white rhino population. Orphaned as a calf due to the aforementioned bull, Garlinghouse has matured to defend herself against predators. With her reintroduction, she has adapted seamlessly to her new environment and integrated into the white rhino population. Ongoing monitoring has been significantly aided by a LoRAWAN ear-tag that we incorporated during the intervention.

RESCUE CALF THRIVES

Our rescued black rhino calf, highlighted last year, has flourished. Now 22 months old and weighing over 370 kilograms, she ventures out daily with her dedicated handler. In 2024, she was officially named “Bella.” Bella’s journey from near-death to robust health symbolizes the commitment and expertise of our team.

STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

This year, KWS conducted a mid-term review of the “Recovery and Action Plan for the Black Rhino in Kenya (2022-2026),” allowing Ol Jogi to assess its contributions to the species’ recovery. It was rewarding to see our efforts continue to align with national goals to safeguard this critically endangered species.

Ol Jogi also participated in developing new rhino habitat assessment protocols, led by the Wildlife Research

and Training Institute (WRTI), KWS, and the African Rhino Specialist Group (IUCN SSC AfRSG), among others. This marks a significant milestone, as 2025 will see the first rhino habitat assessment at Ol Jogi in 18 years. This initiative will refine our understanding of the ecological carrying capacity (ECC) for rhinos and guide future conservation strategies.

REFLECTIONS AND PROGRESS

Despite the challenges, our rhino population has achieved a net growth of seven individuals, a testament to the resilience of these iconic animals and the dedication of the Ol Jogi team. While the road ahead remains complex, the partnerships and innovative strategies we’ve developed and embraced will further enhance the opportunity for recovery of this remarkable species.

As we reflect on the year’s progress, we celebrate not only the survival and growth of our rhino populations but also the collaborative spirit that drives these conservation efforts. Together with KWS, WRTI, and other partners, we remain committed to securing a future where rhinos thrive in the wild.

Thank you for supporting our journey in safeguarding these incredible creatures.





CONSERVATION EDUCATION AT WRC

The WRC prides itself in being a unique place for families, tour groups, and students who visit to learn about the environment and our role in it. Throughout the visit, guests can appreciate and connect with nature whilst developing a better understanding of the efforts that go into conserving wildlife and its habitat.

Using a variety of educational tools, the center breaks down complex components of conservation into smaller understandable chunks. For example, the Nexus Dicey game. Set in a snakes and ladders format, the game helps visitor's understand the repercussions of positive and negative actions on the environment. Another favorite is the web of life. Through strings attached to different people dubbed 'environmental components' – such as grass, trees, and animals – guests witness how all environmental components are connected, and how the downfall of one can create a trickle effect.

A visit to the facility, however, is never complete without a visit to the rescue center. Here, guests have an opportunity to see our residents and listen to their background from our experienced guides. Through the animals' individual histories, visitors can learn about different species and why facilities like us exist – in an effort to ensure the survival of wildlife and their natural environment. At the end of the tour, it is not uncommon to experience guests, specially students, wanting to become conservation warriors and veterinary doctors.

ANIMAL WELFARE COLLABORATIONS AT THE WRC

Ol Jogi Wildlife Rescue Center is committed to meeting the highest standards of animal welfare for our residents. To this end, we have joined forces with similar-minded organizations, including KWS Nairobi Orphanage, Mt. Kenya Orphanage, San Diego Zoo Alliance, and VIEW. Through these partnerships, we have organized exchange visits to learn from each other's experiences, widening our knowledge in animal care, neonatal care, and the management of different species in our facilities. Additionally, we have discussed emerging trends in animal welfare and kept each other informed on the latest technologies and practices.

Partnering with the San Diego Zoo Alliance has opened up opportunities for specialized training, setting foundations on how to balance individual animal needs while addressing their natural histories. Organizations like VIEW have improved our understanding of the One Health approach, giving timely advice, providing lectures on challenges in animal care, and assisting in reviewing protocols and procedures to align our practices with international standards.

These collaborations have elevated the skill set of the team and our educational outreach –setting Ol Jogi Wildlife Rescue Center on the road to becoming a model for animal welfare, inspiring other facilities to adopt similar practices, and enhancing the broader community's conservation efforts.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND SPORTS

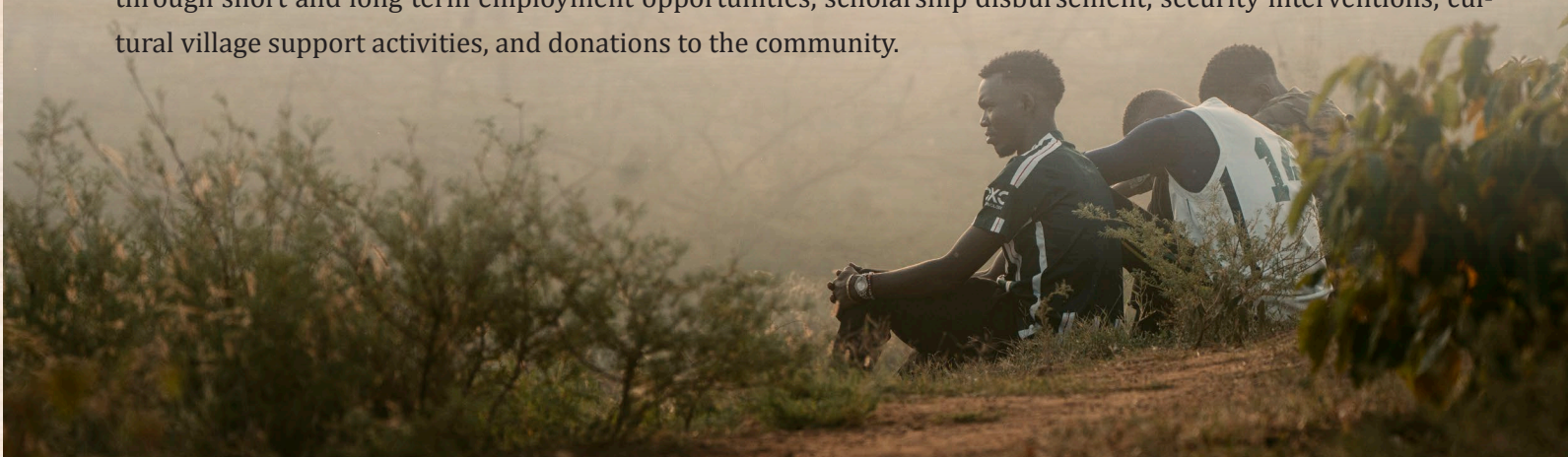
Sporting activities play a crucial role in promoting health, social skills, and cohesion among young people. With the aim of supporting youth from surrounding communities and in preparation for the Peace Promotion League, Ol Jogi was able to provide football jerseys, goalkeeper jerseys and gloves, socks, and a set of footballs to seven teams. These included:

- Mighty warriors- II Polei
- Young Buffaloes - Ole Munishoi
- Musul FC- Musul
- Lekiji FC &Starlets

Additionally, in collaboration with San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, Loisaba Community Trust, and Ol Jogi Conservancy, Ramat Kireki has received sponsorship to pursue a diploma in Wildlife Management. Growing up in Mukogodo West, a region that faces significant environmental challenges, fuelled his interest on environmental management, sparking a passion for conservation. A keen volunteer in the removal of Opuntia cactus and restoration of arid and semi-arid lands around Laikipia North, Ramat has expanded on his practical skills in land management, teamwork, and community engagement. With the aim of supporting Ramat's professional aspirations, Ol Jogi has facilitated his participation in the Wildlife Research and Training Institute.

LEADERS' ANNUAL MEETING AT OL JOGI

Ol Jogi has placed significant emphasis on improving relationships and supporting neighboring communities through mechanisms for participation in decision making, program design and implementation. As focal points for communication and engagement, the council comprises local administrators such as Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs, Chairpersons to Community lands, and Community links. Working with the governing council drawn from the 5 surrounding lands – Lekiji, Munishoi, II Polei, Morpusi, and Musul – has broadened the scope for effective engagement at the village level. Information is themed and inclusive, bringing on board different demographics through short and long term employment opportunities, scholarship disbursement, security interventions, cultural village support activities, and donations to the community.





Kenya's black rhino population plummeted from an estimated 20,000 individuals in 1970 to less than 400 in 1985, due to a rhino poaching pandemic that swept across the African continent. In response, the government of Kenya took drastic measures to prevent the species going locally extinct and habitat sanctuaries were formed. Ol Jogi was the second private sector rhino conservancy established in Kenya in 1980, in a desperate bid to recover the species. In the early 2000's, a new rhino poaching pandemic started, causing the illegal black-market price of rhino horn to sky-rocket – from an estimated \$2,000 per kg to more than \$65,000 per kg. Whilst the prices have subsequently come down, the pandemic persists - and rhinos continue to be killed at an alarming rate.

In Kenya, through the implementation of six, five-year National Rhino Strategies, and a coordinated partnership approach, we have been successful at mitigating the poaching threat. At the end of 2023, Kenya hit 1,000 black rhinos for the first time in 4 decades. Ironically, the biggest challenge today is not poaching, but the lack of available habitat with the security to responsibly care for these animals. Some 80% of Kenya's rhinos currently reside in parks and reserves, where their population has exceeded the ecological carrying capacity of the land. This is having negative consequences on their breeding performance and causing other mortalities linked to density dependence (many rhinos are dying due to fighting amongst themselves, for example).

Recognising this, Ol Jogi's Conservation Manager – who additionally chairs the Association of Private and Community Land Rhino Sanctuaries (APLRS) and is a member of the IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG) – started to develop the Kenya Rhino Range Expansion Project (KRRE) to secure more space for rhinos, with Ol Jogi being geographically central to this plan.

KRRE is a once-in-a-generation opportunity: a multi-sectoral initiative dedicated to the conservation of black rhinos and the expansion of their habitats across the country. The initiative seeks to reconnect black rhino's ancestral landscapes, fuel economic growth, and forever cement Kenya's legacy as a global conservation leader. The initiative aims to ensure a thriving, genetically viable population of black rhinos, focusing on restoring and improving biodiversity within the Central Kenya and Tsavo landscapes – positioning the black rhino as a flagship species. Additionally, it supports economic growth and creates job opportunities through conservation efforts. The initiative prioritizes partnering with local communities, recognizing their fundamental role in conservation management, leadership, and decision-making processes. Finally, it establishes sustainable financing to achieve long-term conservation goals.

Phase one of the KRRE objective focuses on two landscapes: Tsavo and Central Kenya.

TSAVO

The Tsavo ecosystem, covering approximately 22,000 km², is home to a diverse array of wildlife, including the black rhino. Ngulia Sanctuary currently hosts over 140 rhinos, though the sanctuary's ecological carrying capacity is 60. KRRE's priority is to uplift the capacity in the surrounding area, which spans 3,000 km² and is already part of Kenya's national protected area network. This will allow for the dispersal of the black rhino away from the crowded sanctuary. To achieve this, KRRE will work with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to build necessary infrastructure, technology, and ranger capacity – creating safe zones for rhino to thrive.

CENTRAL KENYA

Central Kenya is a conservation stronghold, with species found nowhere else on the planet and stunning landscapes like the Laikipia Plateau and Mount Kenya. This region is home to a significant portion of Kenya's black rhino population, currently concentrated in private and community conservancies, including Ol Pejeta, Borana, Lewa, and Ol Jogi – all of which have exceeded their rhino carrying capacity.

KRRE will reconnect rhino habitat and enhance conservation outcomes by upgrading existing protected areas' capacities. This will create a 3,000 km² contiguous sanctuary across protected areas, national parks, and community conservancies, and in the process, drive socioeconomic gains to ensure the region is well-placed to respond to climate change.

The KRRE is now registered as a non-profit company with a carefully selected governance structure. The project has the endorsement of the President of Kenya, respective ministries, and the KWS, amongst others. Operations are intended to commence in 2025 and we look forward to being a part of the next chapter of rhino conservation in Kenya.



THE ICONIC EASTERN BLACK RHINO

Back from the Brink of Extinction



Current rhino sanctuaries are too small to allow further growth to ensure a genetically viable population. By providing more suitable habitat, KRRE will ensure the long-term survival of this species



THE KIOTA KINDERGARTEN

At Kiota Kindergarten we believe that education is not just about academic learning; it is about nurturing every aspect of a child's development—physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and moral. Our approach recognizes the interconnectedness of these different areas, and by providing an enriching environment we help children build the foundation for a lifetime of learning and personal fulfillment. The early years are a critical period for children's development, and the experiences they have during these time shape their future. This is why at Kiota our curriculum embraces the idea that every child is unique and meets them where they are in their developmental journey.

PHYSICAL AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

Physical development is a cornerstone of early childhood education. Through purposeful activities, children are encouraged to move, explore, and engage with their environment. This encompasses the growth of a child's body as well as their motor skills. Our newly designed playground is filled with opportunities for children to enjoy climbing slopes, ramps, and steps, using equipment like tyres and spades – all of which help enhance their gross motor development. In addition, children engage in activities like sorting, transferring,

and beading, which help develop their fine motor skills and improve hand-eye coordination. Using tools like tongs, tweezers, and spoons further enhances their ability to grasp objects and manipulate materials, activities which lay the foundation for tasks such as writing. By providing a variety of physical challenges, Kiota ensures that children develop both their large and small motor skills in a balanced manner.

Intellectual development refers to a child's growing understanding of the world around them. Our curriculum emphasizes sensory exploration in developing these skills: through play and sensory engagement, children make connections between their experiences and the world, learning about shapes, colors, textures, and other fundamental concepts. This then leads to the introduction of more complex ideas, such as numbers, science, and history.

Kiota gradually integrates mathematical concepts into everyday activities such as puzzles and sorting activities. This way, children begin to understand how numbers and quantities relate to the physical world – using tangible materials, like counting beads, develops a concrete understanding of mathematical concepts, preparing them for abstract learning. We introduce children to basic science, geography, and history in

an engaging and age-appropriate way – through experiments, thematic lessons, and hands-on activities. These activities stimulate curiosity and provide a foundation for lifelong learning.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Language development is a key focus at Kiota, as we understand these skills are critical for academic success and personal expression. The first six years are considered the period for language acquisition, and we provide an environment that supports speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Children are encouraged to listen and speak through songs, stories, and conversation as teachers facilitate interactions that help build vocabulary and clear expression. Phonics play a foundational role in reading and writing, beginning with games like I-Spy where children learn the relationship between sounds and letters. They then practice using sandpaper letters, learning to trace the shapes with the corresponding sounds. As children progress, they begin blending sounds to form words, and are introduced to reading materials.

EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

At Kiota, we recognize that a child's emotional well-being plays a significant role in their ability to learn and interact with others. To support this, our teachers are trained to provide an environment where children feel safe, loved, and respected – where they can freely explore and express their emotions without fear of judgment. Children also develop a sense of independence and self-esteem as they engage in activities that allow them to make choices and take responsibility for their

actions. The freedom to choose activities builds children's confidence, as they learn to trust their own decisions.

We understand that children begin to develop social awareness around the age of three. Therefore, through indoor and outdoor free play sessions children practice sharing, cooperation, and communication skills. Our vertical grouping system, where children of different ages work together, provides additional opportunities for social learning. Older children assist younger ones, modeling positive behaviors and a nurturing environment. The younger children, in turn, learn by observing and engaging with their older peers.

MORAL AND LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

We believe that developing strong moral values is just as important as academic learning. The Moyo Centre is a dedicated space that allows children to engage in activities that develop essential life skills such as empathy, kindness, problem-solving, and teamwork. Teachers serve as role models, demonstrating respectful communication and empathy in their daily interactions with children.

In conclusion, Kiota Kindergarten is committed to fostering the holistic development of children through a carefully designed curriculum and a supportive environment. By addressing all aspects of development, Kiota ensures that children not only excel academically but also grow into well-rounded and compassionate individuals.

Together We Succeed!





A VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE AT OL JOGI

My name is Alex, and between 2023-2024 I volunteered at Ol Jogi Wildlife Conservancy for 9 months. So, if you want to know about the experience of a 22-year-old teaching in the Kenyan bush, this segment is for you.

After finishing my B.Sc. in mathematics, I was working for the United Nations in London- so when I suddenly decided to go to Ol Jogi it was quite the switch from cycling past Big Ben every morning. Upon arrival, I had two weeks to acclimatise to life at the conservancy: I learnt to get my groceries in the middle of the wild, negotiate prices as a ‘mzungu’, and live with the dangers of wild animals at night.

As school opened in early January, I was given the task to teach grades four, five, and six in mathematics, and grade six in music. My average weekday would look like this: wake up at 7:00, go to school at 8:00, have lunch with the students at 12:40, and finish lessons at 15:10. Sometimes I would stay back to speak with some students in the library, or simply enjoy the spectacle of students playing after school, finally going home at 16:00. I would usually be so exhausted from the day of teaching that I would lay and relax in my house for an hour. If I found the energy, I would go play football on the field with the Ol Jogi Buffalo team, go running (within the village of course - outside was too dangerous), or read at the edge of the village with a view over the Kenyan landscape.

Once I became accustomed to the rhythm of the school, I started to take on small projects. I am a big fan of reading and therefore was quite dissatisfied with the state of the library at the time. The books were in absolute chaos, so I made it my task to change this. I spent my free time developing a sorting system that took reading level and book type into account, and with the help of students, every book received a code that clearly determined its position in the library. Doing something that would last beyond my departure was important to me. When you go to the library, please look out for the labels on the shelves that say “Alex’ Recommendations”. I hope they’re still there.

Another project was Computer Science education, where I took over the lessons and wrote a school-own curriculum on the go. This included projects such as creating one’s timetable on google sheets or researching a country to present to classmates. One student did a presentation about Laos and at the end of the year, when I asked him “what country do you want to visit”, he still replied “Laos”. Students were very enthusiastic about national dishes; they would rub their bellies and make the universal slurping sound when one sees something delicious.

I noticed that the students were very free to show their purest emotions. It always moved me when students in my class started to tear up, with one incident

in particular. There was a student in my class who wanted to get a perfect score in my weekly mathematics challenges. When he only got 8 points, he began to cry. I took him to the library so he could calm down, and he asked me if we could do another weekly challenge because he wanted to show me he could do it. I didn’t grant him that wish, but what I said to him must have worked: a week later he achieved a 10/10 score.

In my very last Computer Science lesson I asked the students to write a farewell letter in a google document. I felt one student said it all with one sentence: “We will miss you because you love us”. Reading these words was huge for me for many reasons, I can summarise them like this: My time in Kenya was sometimes challenging – I was the only volunteer, which meant sometimes I experienced loneliness. One way I coped with this was spending time with students and sharing with them things that brought me comfort when I was younger. I organized the library, founded the Ol Jogi chess club, and went running with them. One day I wanted to go for a quick run, but when I saw 20 students running behind me, we continued for a whole 5km. They gave me a lot of strength, so when I read these words of Wilkister, “we will miss you because you love us”, I felt the weight of the challenges coming off my shoulders. For their sake it had been worth it.

Indeed, living far from my family and friends was not always easy and the feelings of loneliness led me to speak up about it to my immediate surroundings. I learned an important lesson then: that by speaking up and communicating about how I felt, it enabled others to support me. My last two months were very lively: I got to experience Bella first hand, went on game drives whenever possible, and was given the opportunity to invite my family and friends to stay with me at Ol Jogi.

I am still in contact with some of my students, eight in particular. During my year, I got to know these students very well and saw their huge potential. So, together with my family and friends, we founded a scholarship that supports them on their journeys. Some have since been to chess tournaments and taken home trophies, others have received exercise sheets to dive deeper into topics that interest them, and all have been able to buy the books they wanted to read.

And that’s all I can say about that.





Ol Jogi

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