

ZEITZ foundation 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**A YEAR OF RESTORATION
AND RENEWAL ACROSS
CONSERVATION, COMMUNITY,
CULTURE & COMMERCE**







From the Chair

Dear Supporters and Friends of the ZEITZ foundation,

This past year, 2025, will be remembered as one of the most transformational years in the history of the ZEITZ foundation. After nearly a decade of preparation, Segera Conservancy welcomed home a founding population of Eastern Black Rhinos, a milestone that reconnects this landscape to an iconic species and firmly positions Segera as a leader in Kenya's national rhino recovery strategy.

This was only possible because of the unwavering support of our partners, our teams on the ground, and a shared belief that protecting biodiversity can and must go hand in hand with uplifting local communities.

This achievement stands alongside significant progress across our broader 4C programs. We expanded our reforestation efforts, strengthened local livelihoods, improved school infrastructure and access to education, supported women-led enterprises, and deepened our cultural and commercial initiatives. We also invested in organizational capacity, welcoming new conservation and security experts to our team, and advancing our systems to meet the demands of a more complex wildlife landscape.

What remains constant throughout all these investments is our belief that people and nature can thrive together. This year demonstrated that such a vision is not only possible but is already taking shape.

Thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude and optimism,

Jochen Zeitz

ZEITZ foundation

A black and white photograph of a herd of elephants walking across a savanna. The elephants are in the lower half of the frame, moving from left to right. The background is a vast, open landscape with a sky filled with large, dramatic clouds. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

ABOUT THE ZEITZ FOUNDATION

Founded by Jochen Zeitz in 2008, the ZEITZ foundation is dedicated to inspiring and achieving the highest standards in sustainability through the balance of conservation, community, culture and commerce (the 4Cs) in Central Laikipia, Kenya.

Our mission is to create and support ecologically, culturally, and socially responsible projects that holistically balance the 4Cs to achieve long-lasting impact and sustainability.

Our vision is of an ecosphere - our planet and all of its life-sustaining regions - maintained in the healthiest state possible.

The ZEITZ foundation is located on Segera Conservancy's 50,000 acres of wild Kenyan savannah, with our work extending throughout the region and beyond, geared towards delivering tangible and sustainable benefits for land, wildlife, and local communities.

THE 4C PHILOSOPHY

Our work is guided by the 4C philosophy



CONSERVATION

Safeguarding biodiversity to support global needs

Thriving ecosystems and biodiversity are vital for people and the planet. Our conservation efforts aim to protect biodiversity and the ecosystem services supporting global needs.

In this dimension we address biodiversity, ecosystems, and sustainable management of energy, water, waste, land regeneration, and carbon reduction.

Creating a positive impact and uplifting communities

People matter; everyone deserves their basic needs met, and we must enhance community well-being.

In this dimension we aim to promote fair working conditions, improve community relations, develop social infrastructure, encourage best practice in governance, and promote sustainable community initiatives.



COMMUNITY

Sustainable source of income for the greater good

While commerce has driven civilization, uncontrolled growth has negative impacts. Sustainable commerce can contribute positively.

This dimension focuses on the sustainability of community and organizational operations, linking profit with natural and social assets to support local income and reinvestment in the '4C's.



CULTURE

Preserving cultural heritage and celebrating diversity

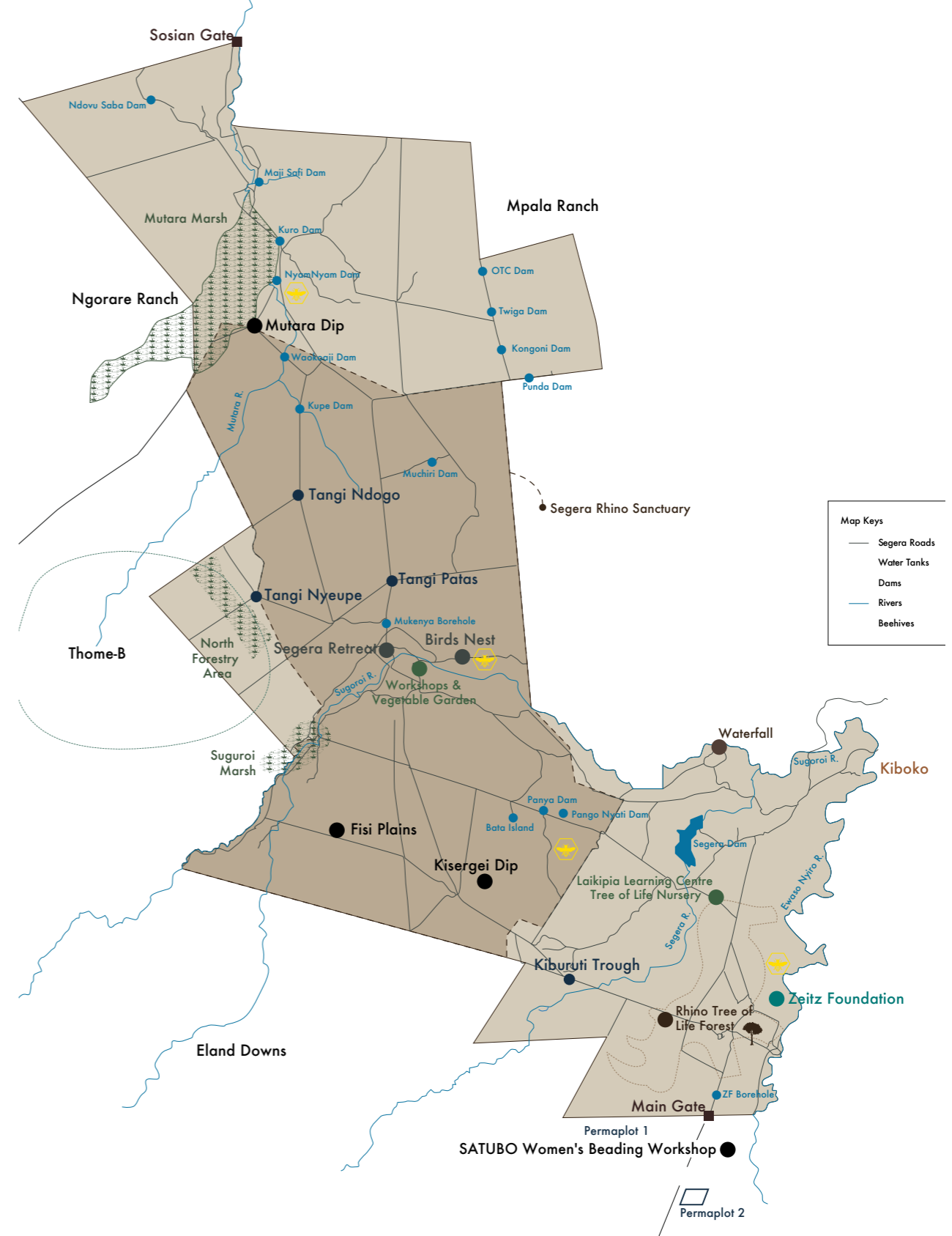
In a diverse world, celebrating commonality and respecting differences foster understanding and harmony.

In this dimension we seek to strengthen intercultural relationships and safeguard cultural heritage, focusing on protection, promotion, and cultural exchange.



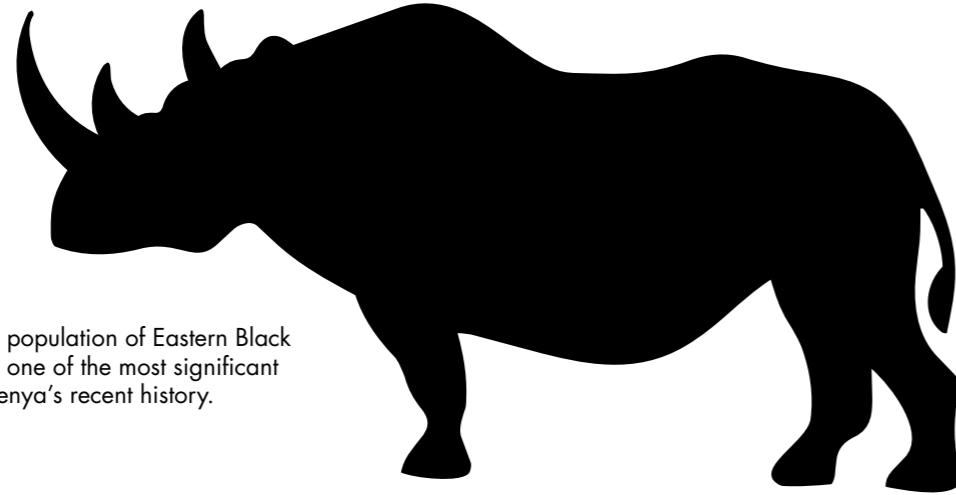
COMMERCE

MAP OF SEGERA CONSERVANCY AND PROJECT SITES



Highlights | 2025

Conservation



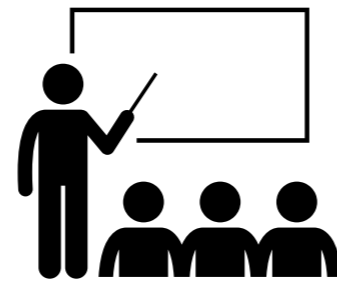
The translocation of a founding population of Eastern Black Rhinos to Segera Conservancy, one of the most significant conservation undertakings in Kenya's recent history.

Partnerships with local schools and conservation organizations to deliver hands-on education and community outreach programs that connect young people to their environment, strengthen wildlife stewardship, and build the next generation of conservation leaders around Segera.

Major upgrades in wildlife security systems, ranger training, K-9 operations, and monitoring technology.

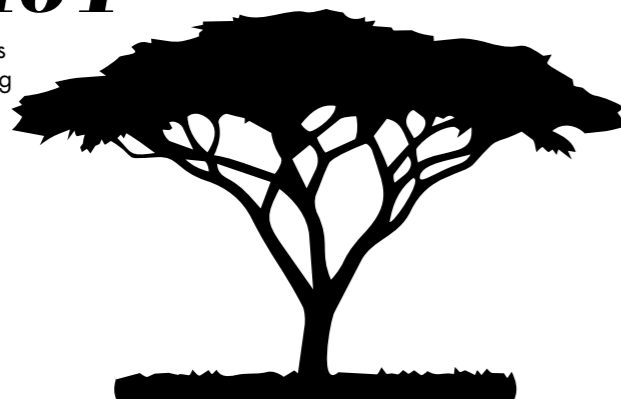


A strengthened organizational structure, with new technical experts supporting wildlife security, rhino monitoring, and operational excellence.



1,687,464

More than 303,350 trees planted in 2025, bringing the Tree of Life total to 1,687,464 million since the project's inception in 2020 – the largest reforestation project on private land in Kenya.



600,000

Completion of the close to 600,000m³ capacity Segera Dam, securing long-term water access for flora and fauna – the largest dam on private land in Kenya.

Community

Infrastructure development across multiple schools raising access, sanitation, and learning quality for over 2,400 students.

2,400



Twenty-two high school bursary students supported; eight graduating students completed their final year examinations in 2025.



100

One hundred community members trained in permaculture; 100 water tanks distributed to support domestic agriculture and household food production.

Expansion of SATUBO Kindergarten enrolment from 60 in 2024 to 91 in 2025.

91

Culture & Commerce

Expansion of women's beading enterprises through the Nyuat Segera Collective, securing new markets and improving compensation.



Continued preservation of traditional knowledge and sustainable handicrafts.

Support to SATUBO Women's Group with modern equipment and a growing market.

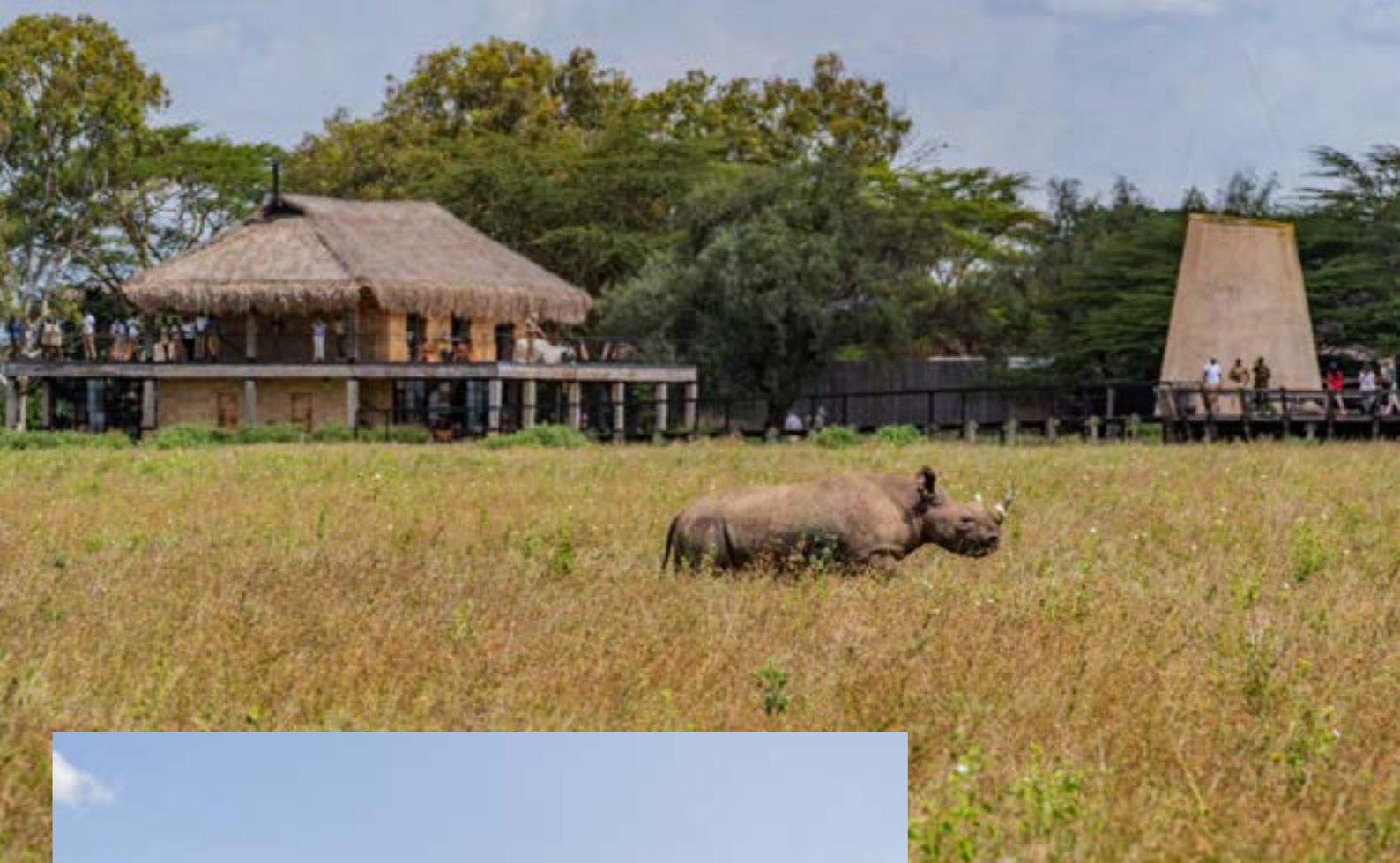
THE RETURN OF THE EASTERN BLACK RHINO: A NATIONAL CONSERVATION TRIUMPH, ROOTED IN PARTNERSHIP

The return of the Eastern Black Rhino to Segera stands as one of Kenya's most meaningful conservation milestones in recent decades. After years of meticulous preparation - fortifying fences, installing wildlife corridors, upgrading water systems, establishing monitoring infrastructure, and strengthening ranger capacity - the conservancy finally welcomed its founding population of rhinos between May and June of 2025.

This achievement was made possible through the steadfast leadership of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), whose veterinary teams, translocation specialists, security units, transport divisions, and senior scientists guided every step of the process. From the sedation and loading of the rhinos, to the delicate offloading, installation of GPS tracking devices and post-release monitoring, KWS ensured the highest levels of animal welfare and operational precision.

We give all our thanks to KWS, then to our partners Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Ol Pejeta Conservancy and Lake Nakuru National Park - each of whom contributed rhinos specifically selected for their genetic value, health, age structure, and social compatibility. Their collaboration ensured that Segera received a founding population capable of establishing a strong, diverse metapopulation for decades to come.

Once released into the sanctuary, the rhinos began the slow process of rediscovering their new home, once the habitat of their ancestors decades ago. Daily monitoring teams observed the early formation of territories, ranging patterns, and social relationships. Young bulls explored together in loose bachelor groups. Dominant males like Sekhar, Bob, and Majiwa began carving out distinct territories, occasionally challenged by energetic contenders, such as Titan, an aptly named male rhino. Female pairs, like Puppa and Feliz or Leila and Lucky, roamed together in ways that indicate growing social stability and mutual comfort. Several females are showing promising signs of pregnancies, raising excitement about the possibility of Segera's first rhino birth sometime in 2026.





Conservation



A particularly memorable newcomer is Kitui, the hand-raised orphan from Lewa Wildlife Conservancy who initially gravitated toward familiar human activity areas. Over time, and with gentle observation, he has begun ranging further afield, learning the behaviours expected of a wild rhino. When he begins mating with females on the conservancy, hopefully leading to offspring, we will know that he has really taken to his wild side. His story is what the heart of conservation is all about: beyond science and infrastructure, the process of rewilding requires patience, compassion, and a deep respect for natural rhythms.

These early months have already demonstrated what the Segera Rhino Sanctuary was designed for: a safe, expansive, ecologically rich habitat where rhinos (and countless other species) can thrive, interact freely, and reclaim their natural place in the Laikipia landscape.



STRENGTHENING WILDLIFE SECURITY: A MODERN, SKILLED AND COHESIVE KIFARU RANGER UNIT

The successful return of rhinos would not have been possible without an exceptional investment in wildlife security. Throughout 2025, the ZEITZ foundation continued to expand and professionalize ZF's Kifaru Ranger Unit (kifaru is the Kiswahili word for 'rhino'), creating one of the most capable wildlife protection teams in the region.

A major organizational milestone was the recruitment of a Head of Law Enforcement, who came to us with decades of KWS and Government security experience, and whose leadership now anchors the Wildlife Security Department. His extensive field experience has already helped strengthen our team's discipline, patrol planning, intelligence coordination, and community engagement.

The Foundation also welcomed a seasoned rhino conservation leader in 2024, who played an integral role in every stage of the translocation. From preparing habitat and advising on rhino selection, to overseeing post-release monitoring and building ranger skills, their expertise continues to underpin the sanctuary's success.

To enhance communication reliability, an experienced Radio Operator joined the team from another regional conservation body, bringing with him advanced knowledge of network management, call-sign protocols, and emergency reporting systems, all vital to the continued success of our rhino sanctuary's operation.

The Wildlife Monitoring Officer completed advanced drone operations training and certification,

and will conduct specialized surveillance flights, night-vision missions, and mapping assignments integrated with the EarthRanger platform in 2026, when the government endorsed drone arrives at Segera Rhino Sanctuary after 3 years of intense development.

In addition to these new appointments, the Kifaru Ranger capacity was strengthened through rigorous training programs delivered in partnership with national and international institutions. Rangers completed modules on:

- Advanced rhino monitoring and behaviour assessment
- Field intelligence and threat detection
- Leadership development and team coordination
- Tactical movement, patrol planning, and fieldcraft
- Forensic scene handling and reporting
- Emergency first response and patrol medic certification
- Canine handling and scent-tracking performance
- Drone-assisted surveillance and night operations
- Earthranger-supported data analysis
- Integration of LoRaWAN technology for real-time monitoring

Together, these investments have reshaped Segera's security landscape. The ranger force is now more cohesive, technologically empowered, highly trained, and better supported than at any other time in the conservancy's history.

LARGE SCALE LAND RESTORATION: THE “TREE OF LIFE” REFORESTATION INITIATIVE



The “Tree of Life” Reforestation Initiative continued to transform Segera’s landscape this year, restoring large areas in the conservancy, seriously degraded in the past by drought, livestock pressure, commercial agriculture and soil erosion, to now a more vital, ecologically diverse landscape. In 2025 alone, 303,358 indigenous trees were planted, bringing the total since the project’s inception to 1,687,464 seedlings across hundreds of acres, keeping us well on track to hit our goal of three million trees planted by 2030.

Women and young people from neighbouring communities again played a central role propagating seedlings, caring for nurseries, transporting trees to planting sites, and conducting follow-up maintenance. Permanent Sampling Plots have shown encouraging survival rates, and many of the earliest stands are now approaching the canopy-forming stage. Wildlife, including elephants, has already begun interacting with the restored areas, signaling the exciting emergence of functional habitats.

In the future, the reforestation program will significantly benefit from the newly completed Segera Dam (see below), which will ensure available water access during the unpredictable drought patterns and enable more reliable planting seasons for our team.

As the forests mature and spread, they will contribute to long-term carbon sequestration, improved water infiltration, soil regeneration, erosion protection, and increased biodiversity, strengthening the landscape for generations to come.



SUSTAINABLE WATER ACCESS FOR FLORA AND FAUNA: SEGERA WATER DAM

The completion of the Segera Dam in March 2025 marked a significant investment in climate resilience. With a capacity of approximately 600,000 cubic meters, the dam filled completely within a week of the rains and has already become a thriving wetland system supporting rhinos, elephants, dozens of bird species, and a growing diversity of aquatic life, including a new resident hippo.

It will also serve as a vital buffer for the “Tree of Life” Reforestation Initiative ensuring sustainable water access and availability for young seedlings and reducing reliance on boreholes. The dam’s creation and presence strengthen the stability of the wider ecosystem, sustaining wildlife during prolonged dry seasons and supporting restoration efforts at a scale previously impossible.





A NEW CHAPTER IN CONSERVATION EDUCATION



At the ZEITZ foundation, we believe the future of conservation can begin right in the classroom. This past year we were thrilled to be working with The Leo Project and Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) to pilot a hands-on conservation education initiative at two ZF-supported schools: Endana and Eleri Baptist Primary.

The goal was to create immersive learning experiences that connect students to their local ecosystems, build environmental literacy, and spark a sense of stewardship that lasts a lifetime.

In July, we joined the Community Conservation Day hosted by LWF at Ewaso Primary School for a celebration of creativity, awareness, and community. Students from various conservation clubs took the stage with skits, poems, and dances, each one woven with themes of sustainability and wildlife protection. Their passion and talent were a powerful reminder of what's possible when young people are empowered to be part of the solution.

Meanwhile, our team also continued engaging communities around Segera

through rhino sensitization sessions in eight local villages. These interactive workshops shared the urgent message of rhino conservation and the role each of us can play in protecting this critically endangered species.

"At the very beginning of the rhino introduction into Segera, we focused on educating students and raising awareness in the surrounding communities about the importance of rhino conservation," says Simon Nakito, Head Rhino Officer at Segera.

"Preserving and protecting wildlife areas allows current and future generations to have a healthy environment that is sustainable for both wildlife and people."

The participants left with a deeper connection to the land around them and the knowledge that they are part of something bigger.

This is conservation education in action. Grounded in community, rooted in culture, and designed to inspire the next generation of environmental leaders.



EXPANDING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

The ZEITZ foundation's work with Segera's neighbouring communities continued to grow in scope and impact throughout 2025, guided by the belief that conservation can only succeed when communities thrive alongside wildlife.

Education remained one of the Foundation's most consistent investments, with infrastructure upgrades, bursaries, and learning support benefiting over 2,000 children across six schools.

Schools such as Uaso Nyiro Primary, Endana Primary, and Naserian Annex Primary received major upgrades including new ablution blocks, additional classrooms, staff housing, libraries, and IT facilities. Improvements to kitchens and dining halls helped ensure students receive healthy, nutritious meals, while new furniture created more comfortable and efficient learning environments. These upgrades were supported by the Foundation and other partners.

The high school bursary program continued to support academically promising students from low-income households, covering tuition, uniforms, boarding supplies, and mentorship. In 2025, 22 bursary students worked and progressed through their studies, and eight completed their final examinations, opening their pathways to further education, vocational training, and future employment.

SATUBO Kindergarten also experienced notable growth, with enrolment rising to 91, almost a 52% increase from the 60 students in late 2024. Continued support with meals, uniforms, school furniture, and materials allowed for a nurturing early-learning environment for the youngest members of the community. The ZEITZ foundation has been able to provide over 30,000 meals over the past year, helping the young students stay healthy and nourished.

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STRENGTHENING HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY THROUGH PERMACULTURE

The Foundation's 13-acre demonstration and training center, known as the ZF Perma Plot, became a hub of learning, innovation, and sustainable food production. Throughout the year, local women and youth took part in hands-on training in regenerative agriculture, composting, soil regeneration, water harvesting, sustainable tree nursery management, and organic horticulture.

The Perma Plot supplied fresh vegetables daily to ranger stations, the tree nursery teams, SATUBO Kindergarten, and other staff camps, reducing food costs and promoting healthier diets. Many of the women applied their newly acquired skills at home, establishing their own kitchen gardens to support their families and generate extra income through their surplus sales.

To further strengthen these efforts, the Foundation is preparing to distribute 100 rainwater harvesting tanks to community members to expand household gardens and increase resilience to an increasingly unpredictable climate.



IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH ACCESS

Rural communities in Segera's surrounding areas continued to benefit from mobile healthcare outreach through the county health providers under the Beyond Zero initiative. Services included vital maternal and child health, immunizations, nutrition assessments, and treatment of common illnesses.

The ZEITZ foundation also began the process of securing resources to establish two semi-permanent container clinics, which will allow community members regular access to clinical services without having to travel long distances.

These will be built in two underserved communities neighbouring Segera Conservancy. In partnership with the local county government, medical professionals and medications will be assigned to each of the units. The Foundation is also exploring partnerships with health tech firms to offer virtual consults that would otherwise not be available in the area.



EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH CRAFT AND ENTERPRISE

Women-led beading collectives remained a vibrant and culturally significant cornerstone of the Foundation's livelihood programs. The SATUBO Beading Group continued creating traditional and contemporary pieces for local and international buyers, providing women with reliable income streams that support their families' education, food security, and healthcare.

A newer collective, Nyuat Segera, expanded quickly in both technical skills and market reach. Supported with training, these artisans produced an expansive range of products, from backgammon sets to beaded leather and high-quality beadwork for external markets, securing consistent orders and improved pricing throughout the year.

These initiatives work to preserve Kenya's indigenous cultural identity while also unlocking meaningful economic opportunities for women and mothers in remote regions.

CELEBRATING STORYTELLING, CREATIVITY AND GLOBAL EXPOSURE



Segera's and the ZEITZ foundation's work to uphold local culture and showcase conservation efforts also reached global audiences through storytelling and film. In 2025, Segera served as a filming location for the large-scale international Netflix production of A House of Dynamite. The film was a major hit, becoming #1 globally (including in Kenya) and topping the charts in most countries where Netflix operates across the world. This project platformed Laikipia's stunning landscapes, our very own Kifaru Rangers, and the local culture on a global stage, while also providing a unique opportunity for staff members to participate in the making of a blockbuster film.

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ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

The scale and complexity of this year's conservation and community programs required significant organizational strengthening. The Foundation made several strategic appointments to ensure operational excellence, effectiveness, and expansion.

A new Head of Law Enforcement was appointed and assumed command of wildlife security operations, bringing his mature leadership to patrol systems, ranger welfare, intelligence coordination, and emergency response.

A dedicated Rhino Expert joined the conservation division, guiding pre-translocation preparations, coordinating closely with KWS during the operation, and overseeing the early months of acclimatization and territory formation among the new rhino population.

The Foundation also recruited an experienced Radio Operator to stabilize and manage communication infrastructure, ensuring round-the-clock operational reliability.

Meanwhile, the Wildlife Monitoring Officer expanded his technical capacity through advanced drone operations training and certification, enabling high-resolution surveillance, mapping and data integration to support rhino protection and landscape monitoring.

These strategic appointments strengthen the Foundation's capacity to safeguard wildlife, manage a growing rhino population, support community programs, and maintain a high standard of operational governance.

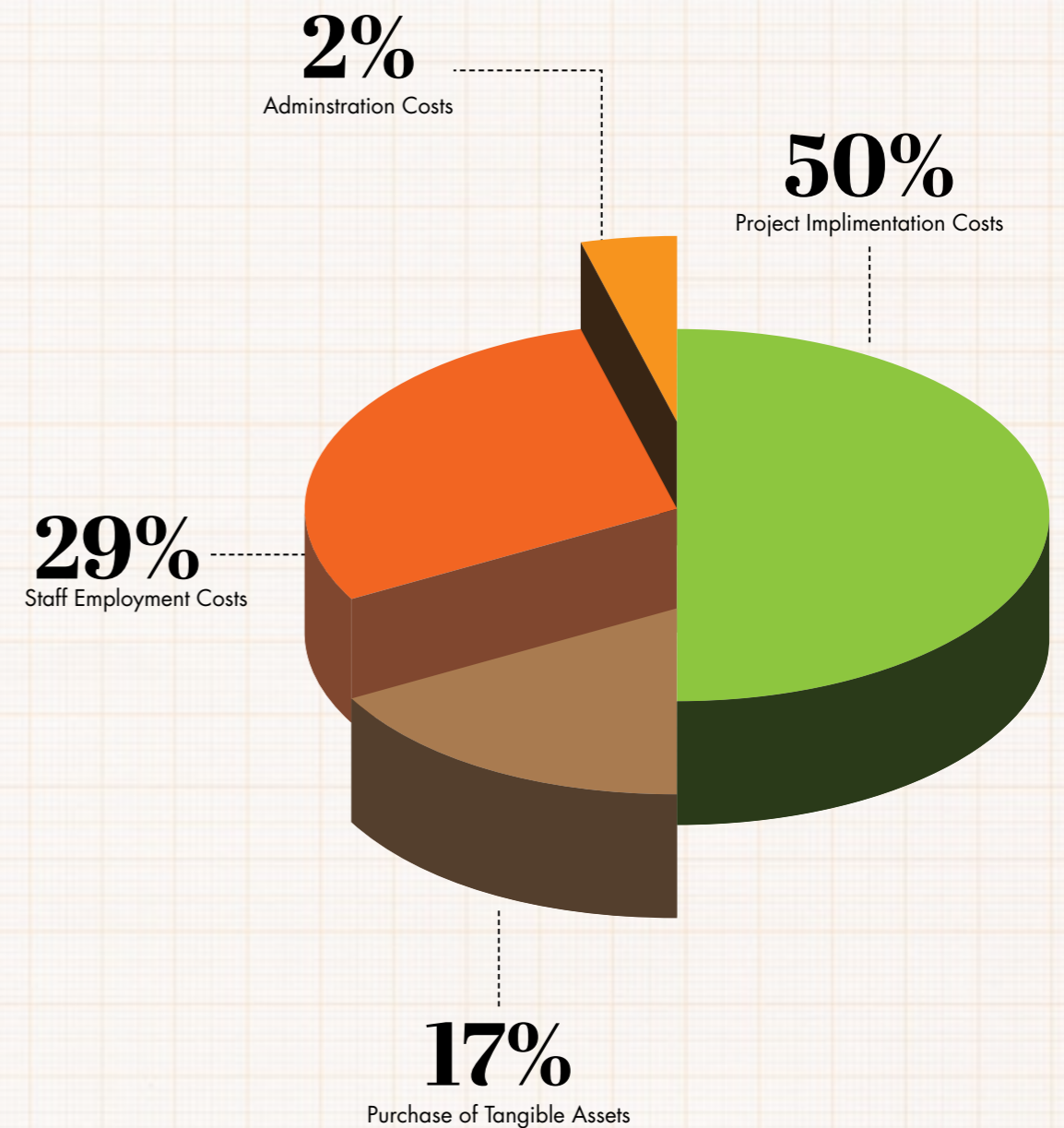




FINANCIALS

The ZEITZ foundation expresses its deepest gratitude to all partners, donors, government agencies, communities, and friends who supported our mission throughout 2025. Your belief in our work continues to make a lasting impact on restoring ecosystems, supporting families, strengthening local cultures, and protecting some of the world's most threatened species.

Together, we are rewriting the story of what is possible.



A herd of elephants is shown in a savanna landscape with acacia trees. The elephants are in the foreground and middle ground, with some partially obscured by a blurred foreground element. The background shows a line of trees under a clear sky.

LOOKING AHEAD

The achievements of 2025 set the stage for an ambitious future - a future marked by renewed ecological possibility, strengthened community partnerships, and expanded global engagement.

In 2026, Segera will welcome a founding population of Southern White Rhinos, following successful assessments by the KWS. This translocation will complement the genetic and social structure of the Eastern Black Rhino population and further solidify the Laikipia region as a global stronghold for rhino conservation. Preparations including habitat reviews, infrastructure upgrades, and training for specialized monitoring teams are already underway.

Fundraising for the construction of the Kifaru Learning Centre will continue, with construction set to begin when at least 70% of the estimated cost is secured. The Centre will be a world-class hub for environmental education, vocational skills training, cultural exchange, and scientific learning. Designed according to international sustainability standards, the Learning Centre will host students, researchers, wildlife experts, artists, local and international mentors, and community groups, becoming the heart of conservation learning across the region.

The "Tree of Life" initiative will focus on its target of planting 300,000 indigenous trees annually, supported by expanded community nurseries and new household water tanks. As

Kenya accelerates its campaign of planting 15 billion trees by 2032, community-based seedling production will play a central role in supplying high-quality native species for landscape restoration.

Across the conservancy, new technologies including advanced drone operations, expanded AI-enabled camera trap networks, and deeper EarthRanger integration will further enhance wildlife security and ecological monitoring. Investments in ranger welfare, training, and professional development will continue to anchor the conservancy's human backbone, ensuring every team member feels valued, supported, and prepared in their work.

Above all, 2026 will be a year of deepening collaboration with communities, government agencies, conservation partners, and supporters across the world. The ZEITZ foundation will continue to champion a model where conservation, community wellbeing, cultural heritage, and sustainable enterprise grow together, reinforcing a future where people and nature thrive in harmony.

Thank You

BOARD MEMBERS (KENYA)

Mr. Jochen Zeitz – Chairman
Mr. Sohan Aggarwal – Treasurer
Ms. Taran Gehlot – Secretary
Ms. Kate Garwood Zeitz
Mr. Ali Kaka
Ms. Wandia Gichuru
Ms. Soiya Gecaga
Mr. Andreas Feller

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

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Conservation

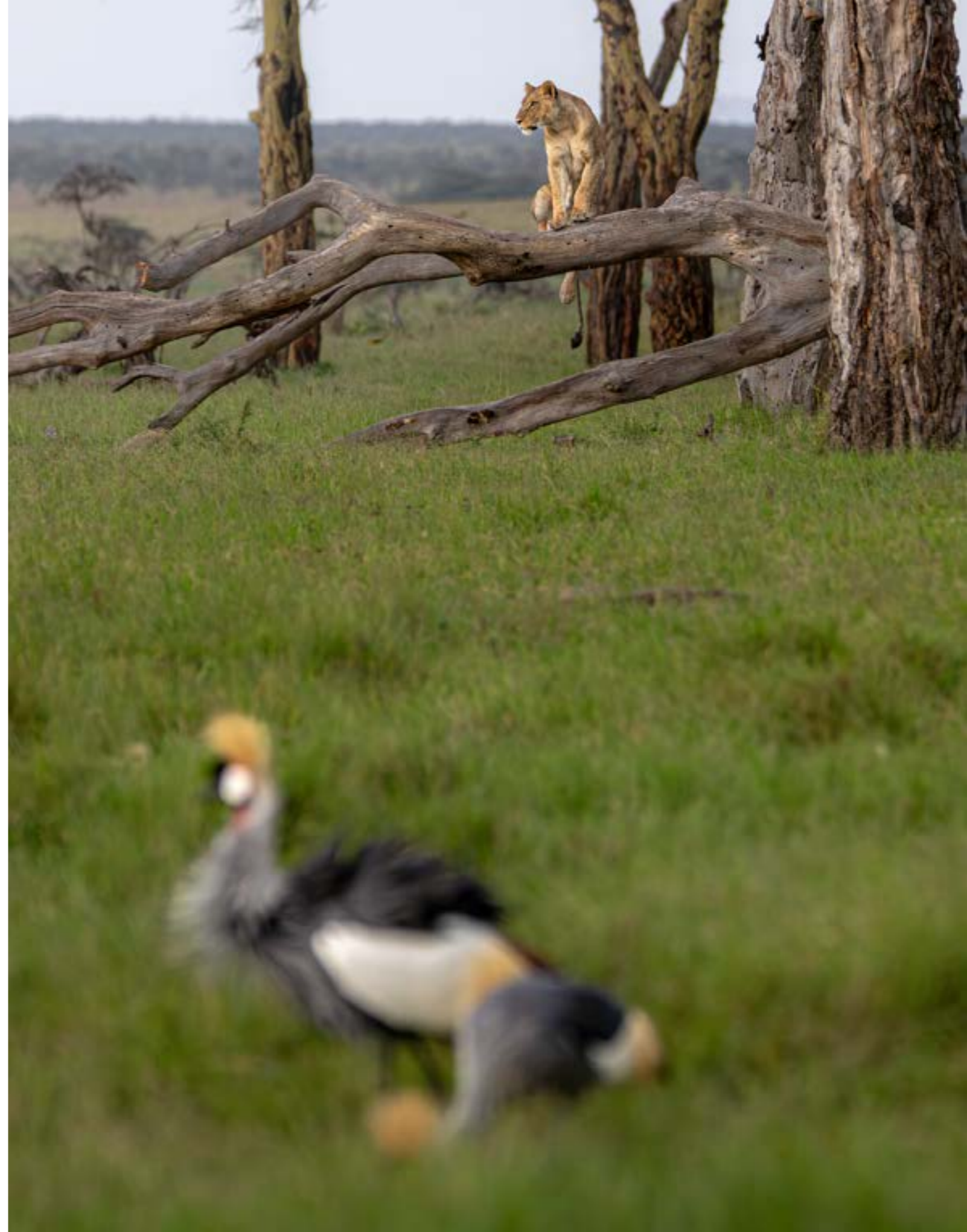
- 51 Degrees Limited
- Association of Private and Community Land Rhino Sanctuaries
- Canine Performance Consultants
- Centre for Ecosystem Restoration Kenya
- El Karama Wildlife Conservancy
- Kenya Choppers Limited
- Kenya Forestry College/ Kenya Forest Service
- Kenya Forestry Research Institute
- Kenya Rhino Range Expansion Programme
- Kenya Wildlife Research and Training Institute
- Kenya Wildlife Service
- KG Foundation
- KWS Law Enforcement Academy
- Laikipia Conservancies Association

- Lake Nakuru National Trust
- Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
- Loisaba Wildlife Conservancy
- Mpala Research Centre
- National Police Service
- Ol Jogi Wildlife Conservancy
- Ol Pejeta Conservancy
- Phantom Technologies
- Rural Focus Limited
- Save the Elephants
- Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
- Space for Giants
- Teal Drones Inc.
- The Long Run

Community, Culture and Commerce

- Beyond Zero Initiative/ Laikipia County Government – Health
- Chui Mamas
- Communities neighboring Segera Conservancy

- Grasp Design Limited
- Human Practice Foundation
- Laikipia County Government – Education, Infrastructure & Housing
- Laikipia Permaculture Centre Trust
- Laikipia Wildlife Forum
- Lara Hoad Architecture Design
- Segera Retreat
- Segera Ward Local Administration
- Soul Safaris Limited
- Tamalu Farm
- The Leo Project
- Urban Ranch Limited



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