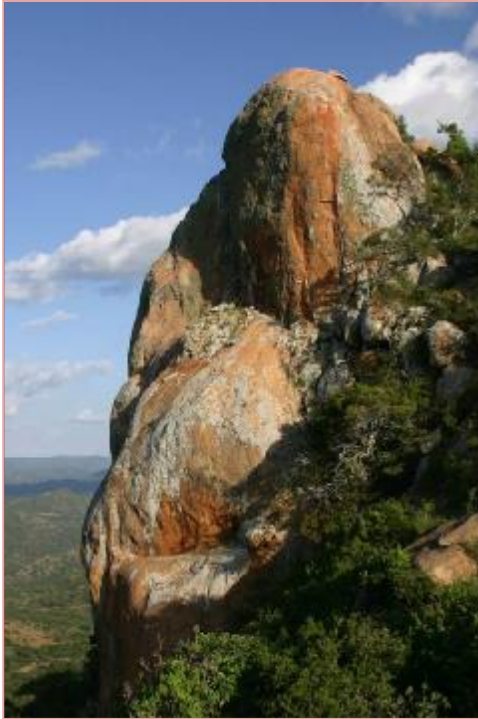


THE SANCTUARY AT OL LENTILLE

Conservation



In 2001 the community-owned Kijabe Group Ranch determined to set aside 2,000 hectares/5,000 acres (a full one third) of their grazing and settlement land for conservation tourism, and with the support of the African Wildlife Foundation, established The Kijabe Trust to promote and manage the project. They have been increasingly successful in excluding livestock in this area; and increasingly successful in attracting and securing growing numbers of important wildlife species.

In July 2005, the Ranch, entered into a 25 year partnership agreement with Regenesys Ltd. Regenesys is a Kenyan company set up to invest in community based conservation and tourism. Its executive directors are John and Gill Elias, a British couple who relocated to Kenya in 2004 to undertake such an enterprise. John is a former international company director, and Gill a lawyer turned teacher.

Recently, an agreement has been reached with the neighbouring Nkiloriti Group Ranch to add a further 600 hectares/1,500 acres to the conservation area. At the same time it has been named The Ol Lentille Conservancy. We are also working closely with our Samburu neighbours to help them to establish their own 10,000 acre conservation area.

Both Ranches have also recently set limits on the numbers of livestock to be carried on the remainder of their land. This is already having beneficial effects on grazing quality and sustainability, tree preservation and erosion.

Importantly, The Ol Lentille Conservancy is at the heart of the greater Naibunga Conservancy which joins together the conservation areas of seven other Group Ranches in a 17,000 hectare/43,000 acre tract of northern Laikipia.

Laikipia is, famously, home to more endangered species than anywhere else in East Africa, and due to the remarkable integrity of the ecosystem supports immense wildlife populations. The Ol Lentille Conservancy is home to the endangered African wild dog, greater kudu, leopard, both the striped and the spotted hyena, and klipspringer, as well as more common species.



Part of the mission of The Kijabe Trust (www.thekijabetrust.ol-lentille.com) is to secure the Conservancy for this and future generations. The Trust employs (currently 14) Conservancy Rangers to protect the flora and fauna of the area. Two additional Rangers are employed by the Laikipia Wild Dog Project, a collaboration of Mpala Wildlife Foundation (www.mpala.org) and the University of California at Davis.

The Ol Lentille Conservancy Rangers are skilled trackers and each is developing a depth of knowledge about an aspect of conservation and wildlife: specialising in trees, plants, or insects and so on. Our Chief Ranger is Sgt. Samal Kimorgo, a son of Kijabe, who is also a member of the Kenya Police Reserve.

