



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

LOISABA CONSERVANCY NEW HOME TO 21 BLACK RHINOS

Laikipia, 13 February, 2024: -- The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and partners today celebrate the successful translocation of 21 eastern black rhinos to Loisaba Conservancy, establishing a new viable breeding population in a country that now has 17 sanctuaries where the species has recovered from the brink of extinction several decades ago.

Loisaba, located in Laikipia County, received the 21 rhinos from Nairobi National Park, Ol Pejeta and Lewa conservancies in an 18-day exercise executed by highly trained capture and veterinary experts drawn from KWS and its partners.

The translocation was implemented in adherence to the IUCN Translocation guidelines together with the Immobilisation and Translocation Protocol for Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) and White Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*) in Kenya of 2019.

In the 1970s Kenya had 20,000 black rhinos, but poachers decimated them for their horns, which were sold as decorative dagger handles in Arabia and medicines in the Far East. By the time the KWS was established in 1989, numbers had declined to just below 400 in the mid 1980's. Since then, Kenya has been home for the eastern black rhinoceros and has made remarkable progress, currently with estimated 1,004 individuals by the end of 2023.

In terms of black rhino numbers, Kenya now ranks third after South Africa and Namibia. Kenya is a stronghold of the eastern sub species, hosting approximately 80% of the entire population. Meanwhile southern white rhinos continue to thrive in Kenya, having increased from the 50 individuals imported from South Africa in the eighties and nineties to reach the current population of 971 individuals.

Kenya is playing a critical role in efforts to save the Northern White Rhino from extinction, as it is host to the only remaining two females of the species left in the world. Kenya is partnering with the global community on this, through the BioRescue project which is a consortium of local and international experts. Thirty embryos have so far been developed awaiting implantation into southern white rhino surrogate females.

Rhinos have been absent from Loisaba for the last 50 years. This reintroduction of these 21 animals is a great milestone in Kenya's rhino recovery action plan. Safeguarding this keystone species depends on creating more space and collaborating with communities and likeminded partners to help numbers recover.

Today's celebration of the successful translocation exercise brings together top Kenyan government officials, led by Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua, Principal Secretaries in the ministry, Laikipia community members and wildlife enthusiasts from across the world.

Note for editors: please contact us for video and photographic capture materials

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Jackline Walumbe: +254 722 121761; jw@lanterncomitas.com

Paul Jinaro: +254 722 860119; pjinaro@kws.go.ke

[Home - Loisaba Conservancy](#)



WELCOME HOME

