

Media Documentation

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LEWA SAVANNA – OVERVIEW

Exhibit

Opening: 6 June 2020
Planning & Construction: 5 years
Total area: 5.6 hectares
Cost: CHF 56 m., funded with donations

The Lewa Savanna is located beneath Kaeng Krachan Elephant Park and is the zoo's most spacious exhibit. It is the third key project outlined in Zoo Zurich's master plan as presented in 1993, following Masoala Rainforest (2003) and Kaeng Krachan Elephant Park (2014). The most striking feature of the 5.6 hectares spanning exhibit are the generous open spaces for giraffes, rhinos and other animals as well as the large African baobab trees. The Lewa Savanna shall increase the visitors' interest in wildlife, raise awareness about the threats to wildlife and natural habitats, highlight the Zoo's partnership with Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya, and allow visitors to personally contribute to the protection of threatened species.

Animals

- Dahomey cattle (*Bos taurus f. dom.*)
- Meerkat (*Suricata suricatta*)
- Giant plated lizard (*Gerrhosaurus validus*)
- Grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*)
- Grevy's zebra (*Equus grevyi*)
- Helmeted guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*)
- Impala (*Aepyceros melampus*)
- Naked mole-rat (*Heterocephalus glaber*)
- Reticulated giraffe (*Giraffa reticulata*)
- Scimitar horned oryx (*Oryx dammah*)
- Pancake tortoise (*Malacochersus tornieri*)
- Crested porcupine (*Hystrix cristata*)
- South African ostrich (*Struthio camelus*)
- White rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*)
- Spotted hyaena (*Crocuta crocuta*)

Species in international breeding programmes: Southern White rhino, Grevy's zebra, Reticulated giraffe, Scimitar horned oryx, Pancake tortoise, Spotted hyaena.

Conservation

The Lewa Savanna is closely linked to the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya (lewa.org), one of eight wildlife conservation projects partnered with Zoo Zurich. Since 2013, Lewa has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In addition to participating in joint training and research projects, the Zoo supports the Conservancy's Anti-Poaching Unit, helping cover costs for rangers' wages and equipment. The Zoo also contributes to Lewa's work preventing human-wildlife conflict, establishing new rhino sanctuaries, and implementing community development projects. Additional local partners in northern Kenya include Mt. Kenya National Park and the Northern Rangelands Trust.

Exhibition

The Lewa Savanna aims to educate visitors about the biology of the animals living at the zoo, their natural habitats and the threats they face in the wild, as well as the role that safaris and ecotourism may play in wildlife conservation. The Lewa Giraffe House includes a cinema and true-to-scale sculptures of rhino species. In the Lewa Village, zoo visitors can learn more about anti-poaching ranger training and community development initiatives that are linked to conservation. Outdoors, visitors will find a small airstrip featuring a model Grzimek's Serengeti-Airplane as well as a Kenyan village scene.

Activities (to be offered in accordance with coronavirus safety timelines)

- Animal presentations: Zookeepers inform the visitors about the animals in the Lewa Savanna and the threats they face in the wild.
- Animal experiences: Visit the meerkats at designated times and under the supervision of zookeepers.
- Feeding: Feed the Reticulated giraffes and Crested porcupines at designated times and under the supervision of zookeepers.
- Info tables: At various locations, the zoo's volunteers are available to provide information to visitors.
- Night expeditions: Spend a night in Lewa Savanna, with guided events and an overnight camping stay.
- Adventure vouchers: Meet the zookeeper and the animals and take a look behind the scenes.
- Guided tours & events: Custom private and business events and guided tours.

① **Exhibit overview:** zoo.ch/anlagen-lewa

① **Media releases, media doc:** zoo.ch/medien-lewa