



YOUR RHIND: LIDRA





Species: Eastern black rhinoceros

Scientific Name: Diceros bicornis michaeli

Sex: Female

Conservation Status: Critically Endangered

Date of birth: 29th January 2025

Age: 9 months
Mother: Lola
Father: Unknown
Family: No siblings

WHY LIORA IS IMPORTANT TO US



Kenya is the last stronghold of the Critically Endangered black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*), and specifically its endemic eastern subspecies (*D. b. michaeli*), with approximately 85% of the world's remaining wild population. Poaching in the 1970s and 1980s devastated Kenya's black rhino numbers, reducing the population to fewer than 400 individuals by the end of that decade. Thanks to coordinated efforts, the national population has since rebounded to over 1,000 individuals.

Since our establishment in 2004, OI Pejeta has emerged as a leader in black rhino recovery, growing our population from 42 individuals to more than 180 by 2025. As Kenya's most prolific population, we play a vital role in the national and global recovery of this species. Against this backdrop, Liora's birth and survival hold immense significance.

Ol Pejeta is deeply grateful to The Rhinory and *Winos for Rhinos* for naming one of our Critically Endangered eastern black rhinos. Since every rhino must be individually identified, her name will help rangers closely monitor and protect her.

Liora's name is now permanently certified in the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) black rhino database and will be preserved in history forever. We look forward to sharing future updates on Liora and news from across the Conservancy.



WHO IS LIDRA?



Liora is nine months old! She is the first surviving offspring of Lola, an 18-and-a-half-year-old female brought to Ol Pejeta from Lewa Conservancy. Born on January 29, 2025, in the eastern part of the conservancy, she has already become a favorite among the rangers who describe her as gentle, friendly, and full of energy.

Lola's journey into motherhood has not been easy. Having lost her first few calves, she has found deep comfort and renewed purpose in this young female. The two share an unmistakable bond, and Liora rarely strays far from her mother's side, constantly learning from her. She is already showing signs of awareness and caution, carefully observing her surroundings while exploring the open plains and bushlands they call home.

Over the past six months, Lola and her calf have been sighted more than 90 times, averaging four sightings per week. This remarkable consistency is a testament to the dedication of OI Pejeta's rangers, who serve as the pair's first line of defense. Our monitoring protocols are rigorous: if a rhino is not seen within four days, rangers mobilize across the conservancy, sometimes even taking to the skies, to ensure every animal is accounted for.

With the recent rains rejuvenating the landscape, the eastern plains are now lush with vegetation, providing Liora with plenty to eat as she grows stronger by the day. Under her mother's steady guidance and the protection of Ol Pejeta's rangers, she is learning the vital lessons that will one day help her thrive as an independent black rhino on the conservancy.









RHIND CONSERVATION



Ol Pejeta's rhinos are protected by a dedicated team of 171 rangers and rhino monitors who work tirelessly across the Conservancy to ensure every rhino is safe and accounted for. Each rhino is seen at least once every four days, with detailed records kept on its health, body condition, behavior, and habitat use. Operating across vast and often challenging terrain, they risk their lives daily to protect the wildlife we all hold dear.

The team is divided into two specialist units: the Security Unit and the Rhino Patrol Unit (RPU). The armed Security Unit, supported by eight highly trained tracker dogs, serves as the first line of defense against poaching and also assists local communities in resolving human-wildlife conflict. The Rhino Patrol Unit focuses on wildlife monitoring and surveillance. These men and women patrol about 20km per day, living within rhino habitats, responding rapidly to threats, and providing constant, up-to-date information from the field.

Thanks to their tireless vigilance and teamwork, OI Pejeta is celebrating eight consecutive years without losing a single rhino to poaching—a remarkable milestone and a testament to their unwavering dedication!







An RPU monitor checking on a crash of southern white rhinos (left), a Security Unit ranger posing with Drum, a member of our K9 unit who is trained to track guns and ammunition (center), and an RPU monitor radioing his findings (right).



ZOZS HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR



The total population of rhinos on OI Pejeta is 233—180 black rhinos, 51 southern white rhinos, and 2 northern white rhinos.



There have been 19 rhinos born in 2025 so far, and we are on track for the best year in rhino births yet.



The population of black rhinos on OI Pejeta has increased by 770%, from just 20 in 1993 to 180 in 2025.



Constituting 17.5% of Kenya's total black rhino population, OI Pejeta is home to the largest population of black rhino in all of East Africa.



Ol Pejeta has become a vital source population for black rhino expansion in Kenya. In May, nine black rhinos were translocated from Ol Pejeta to Segera Conservancy, joining nine from Lewa and three from Lake Nakuru National Park to establish a new founding population of 21 black rhinos.





ASANTE SANA

The story doesn't end with Liora's birth. Protecting her requires constant effort, from keeping her safe from poachers to monitoring her health and maintaining the quality habitat she needs to grow and one day raise calves of her own. It costs over \$10,000 each year to protect a single black rhino on the conservancy.

Your generous donation will directly support the conservation and security work that keeps Liora safe. Your contribution helps sustain our 171 rangers, security staff, and canine unit, as well as essential efforts such as rhino monitoring, fence maintenance, and veterinary care.

Thanks to your support, our team can continue safeguarding Liora and her fellow rhinos, ensuring a secure and thriving future for these remarkable animals. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in this work.



From all of us at Ol Pejeta, thank you for your support! We look forward to delivering substantial conservation impact <u>together</u>.

OL PEJETALY CONSERVANCY

PROUDLY PRESENTS LIURA



Dear Rhinory and Winos for Rhinos,

We are honored to name this female black rhino living on Ol Pejeta, Liora. From all of us, a sincere thank you for your incredible support towards protecting wildlife.



Justin Heath, CEO, Ol Pejeta Conservancy