

AUTOMOTIVE

Land Rover completes testing Defender for wildlife conservation

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Land Rover finishes testing its Defender for wildlife conservation. Image credit: Land Rover

By STAFF REPORTS

Jaguar Land Rover is working on conservation in Kenya with a specially designed Defender, which is completing its final tests.

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A new defender has been designed especially to support lion conservation in Kenya and has just finished testing from a nonprofit. The prototype features unique camouflage specific to the landscape as well as integrated raised air intake.

Defending the lions

The specially designed Defender took on a variety of real world tasks, as wildlife managers forded rivers, pulled heavily loaded trailers and negotiated challenging terrain.

Non-profit group Tusk Trust, which tested the vehicles, has been in partnership with Land Rover for 15 years.

A male lion was also sedated and fitted with a tracking collar from the Defender during the test.



Land Rover's Defender is designed specific to the wildlife landscape. Image credit: Land Rover

“We are now in the advanced stages of the new Defender’s testing and development phase,” said Nick Collins, engineering vehicle line director of Jaguar Land Rover, in a statement. “Working with our partners at Tusk in Kenya enabled us to gather valuable performance data.

“The Borana reserve features a wide range of challenging environments, making it a perfect place to test to the extreme the all-terrain attributes of the new Defender,” he said.

The British automaker first teased the upcoming release of its reimagined Defender model on the anniversary of an important event in the brand’s history.

On April 30, 1948, Land Rover debuted its first car at the Amsterdam Motor Show, and the date has become World Land Rover Day in celebration of the brand’s origins. As it marked the 71st anniversary, Land Rover revealed its plans for the Defender’s final tests, including a philanthropic partnership ([see story](#)).

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