



MINISTRY OF ROADS AND TRANSPORT
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR AVIATION AND AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT

INTERIM STATEMENT

07/08/2026

AIRCRAFT TYPE : CESSNA 208B
OPERATOR : SCENIC AIR SAFARIS LIMITED
TYPE OF FLIGHT : COMMERCIAL FLIGHT
DATE OF ACCIDENT : 07 AUGUST 2025

LOCATION OF ACCIDENT : LEWA DOWNS AIRSTRIP, MERU COUNTY

In accordance with paragraph 6.6 of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, if the final report cannot be made publicly available within twelve months, the State conducting the investigation shall make an interim statement publicly available on each anniversary of the occurrence, detailing the progress of the investigation and any safety issues raised.

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT

OPERATOR	:	Scenic Air Safaris Limited
AIRCRAFT TYPE	:	Cessna 208B
MANUFACTURER	:	Textron Aviation Inc.
YEAR OF MANUFACTURE	:	2022
AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION	:	5Y-SXA
AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBER	:	208B-5675
DATE OF REGISTRATION	:	30 May 2022
NUMBER AND TYPE OF ENGINE	:	One, Pratt and Whitney
DATE OF OCCURRENCE	:	07 August 2025
LAST POINT OF DEPARTURE	:	Wilson Airport, Nairobi County, Kenya
POINT OF INTENDED LANDING	:	Lewa Downs Airstrip, Meru County, Kenya
TIME OF OCCURRENCE	:	0751 (1051)
LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE	:	Lewa Downs Airstrip, Meru County, Kenya
TYPE OF FLIGHT	:	Commercial Flight
PHASE OF FLIGHT	:	Landing
NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BOARD	:	06
INJURIES	:	None
NATURE OF DAMAGE	:	Substantial
CLASS OF OCCURRENCE	:	Serious Incident
PILOT IN COMMAND	:	CPL holder
PIC FLYING EXPERIENCE	:	Approximately 5,444.8 hours

All times given in this report is Coordinated Universal time (UTC), with East African local time in parenthesis

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 07 August 2025 at about 0751 (1051), a runway incursion incident occurred at Lewa Downs Airstrip Meru County involving a Cessna 208B aircraft registration 5Y-SXA operated by Scenic Air Safaris Limited. On board was a pilot and 5 passengers. The aircraft took off from Wilson Airport (HKNW) heading for Lewa Downs Airstrip (HKLD). Upon landing at Lewa Downs Airstrip and during the initial ground roll of the aircraft two giraffes ran into the runway. According to the pilot, they tried slowing down the aircraft with reverse thrusters and application of maximum brake pressure,

but the collision was unavoidable. The aircraft hit one giraffe head on shearing off the propeller assembly in the process and the other giraffe hit the left-wing tip. The six occupants exited the aircraft unaided without having suffered injuries. The aircraft sustained substantial damage.

At the time of the accident, Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC) prevailed with varying winds.

STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Department (AAID) issued a preliminary report in accordance with Chapters 7.1 and 7.4 of Annex 13 to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Convention on International Civil Aviation and Regulation 17(1) of the Kenya Civil Aviation (Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation) Regulations, 2018.

The investigation into the occurrence has been concluded, with a comprehensive analysis of all relevant aspects undertaken. A draft Final Report has subsequently been developed and is currently undergoing the consultation and review process prior to its formal release.

Mr. Davis Chirchir, EGH

CABINET SECRETARY