

2011 FIRST QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

- We welcome Simon Lekembe to the team as El Barta Regional Coordinator
- Grevy's zebra feeding stations established in 4 conservancies
- Holistic Planned Grazing Workshop for 10 Community Conservancies
- Annual Grevy's Zebra Scout Workshop
- Completion of the El Barta radio base

RAPID RESPONSE TO SAVE GREVY'S ZEBRA FOALS

In January 2011, we were incredibly excited to see new Grevy's zebra foals being born into the world! But, we also watched with growing trepidation as the forage in many places disappeared—the result of the November 2010 rains failure.

Water becomes free at night when people and livestock are sleeping. New Grevy's zebra mothers make regular nocturnal journeys to water so they can produce milk to nurse their foals. In drought conditions, the journey from grazing to water may become so long that several things can happen:

- Very young foals may die from the high stress placed up on them during these large-scale movements;
- The mothers' and especially the foals' condition may also deteriorate making them vulnerable to disease and predation
- Foals may be left behind by their mothers in a nursery herd putting them on the menu for any passing predator

At the end of January we made the decision to pre-empt the disastrous consequences if the drought continued. We acquired grass hay and barley straw to supplement the feed of Grevy's zebra herds containing females and foals.

Habitat loss is an increasingly serious threat to the survival of Grevy's zebra, and especially foals.

Taking urgent and preventive action before forage drops below a critical threshold helps Grevy's zebra numbers increase and move away from extinction.



Photo credit: Stacey Iverson

In partnership with Meibae, Melako, West Gate and Kalama Community Conservancies, we now have a feeding program underway to maintain the health of the mothers and foals until the April rains.

The Grevy's zebra have responded, and our main feeding site in Meibae (see photo) is only 3km from water.

WE THANK THE DISNEY WORLDWIDE CONSERVATION FUND'S RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAM, MARANIA FARM, AND TROPIC AIR

The Trust is working on long-term habitat restoration with Community Conservancies to manage grazing and regenerate grasslands critical for sustaining Grevy's zebra and community livelihoods