

**WELCOME** to the 8th edition of the Grevy's Zebra Trust's bi-annual newsletter!

The Grevy's Zebra Trust is a Kenyan not-for-profit organisation, founded in 2007. Our mission is to conserve the endangered Grevy's zebra and its fragile habitat in partnership with communities.

We are based in Samburu and Marsabit, Northern Kenya. Our area of operation extends over 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

## STUDENTS GRADUATE!

The Grevy's Zebra Bursary (Scholarship) Program aims to build local capacity for marginalized areas and to foster positive attitudes towards Grevy's zebra where bursary opportunities can be directly linked back to protecting the species.

Three students graduated early this year with results that will enable them to further their studies and use their skills to benefit their communities and Kenya's development.

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## WILDLIFE WARRIORS

### A conservation collaboration between Grevy's Zebra Trust and Ewaso Lions Project

Samburu warriors (morans) are world famous for their striking appearance. Dressing in beautiful sarongs and adorning themselves with intricate beaded jewellery and brightly coloured feathers or faux flowers, these young men serve as messengers and protectors for the community. A young man entering the moran phase, must leave his mother's home and venture out into the world, living off the land and preparing his own food in the company of fellow warriors. Despite their important role as the community's eyes and ears on the ground, their autonomy as a separate group, means they are often excluded from decision-making; this is also true of decisions concerning conservation.

To address this gap, the Ewaso Lions Project started its Warrior



Watch program in 2010 with the aim of engaging these young men in wildlife monitoring and human-wildlife conflict mitigation, something that is especially critical where predators are concerned. Warrior Watch has been a huge success and Ewaso Lions currently has 15 warriors engaged in conservation in the Westgate and Mpus Kutuk Community Conservancies.

Further north in Marsabit the Grevy's Zebra Trust (GZT) is working in Laisamis, a remote and rugged region where one of the most important yet least protected populations of Grevy's zebra is found. Here, Grevy's zebra and other wildlife are threatened by diminishing resources and illegal hunting. The area is vast and reaching out to communities to engage them in conservation poses a significant challenge with limited infrastructure and logistical support.

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## WILDLIFE WARRIORS CONT.

How, then, could we make our work more effective? We looked to the warriors; they travel widely and are the group that is best placed to help us in addressing the threats.

By focusing on the youth as well as engaging the wider community, we aim to build a sustainable future for wildlife and its ecosystem in the Laisamis region. GZT now has ten Grevy's Zebra Warriors employed from five different locations.

GZT teamed up with Ewaso Lions to train these new warrior recruits in a joint training workshop in January 2012 held at the Westgate Community Conservancy headquarters. Also attending the workshop was Kenya Wildlife Service's Grevy's Zebra Liaison Officer, George Anyona, and Corporal Leaduma from the KWS Laisamis outpost.

Not only did the Grevy's Zebra Warriors learn about predators and how to mitigate conflict, but the Warrior Watch team also learnt about the behaviour and ecology of Grevy's zebra, the conservation issues facing the species, and what is being done to address their plight. The warriors were taught about other key species and emphasis was placed on the

importance of creating a healthy ecosystem to sustain all life.

To learn how to use their hand-held radios to communicate information on what they see during their patrols, Stephen Lenantoiye, Westgate's Head of Security taught the Grevy's Zebra Warriors how to charge, assemble and care for their new and valuable VHF radio equipment. They then partnered with the Ewaso Lions warriors who are very experienced in radio communication, and went off on joint patrols, reporting back to Peter and Rikapo who acted as the "base station".

Both teams were taken to the famous Naibelibeli plains in

**"Without wildlife you are the poorest person in the world; I will be proud of the fact that I am the one who started conservation and it's because of me this wildlife is here."**

**Lparichoi Hargura  
Grevy's Zebra Warrior**

Westgate Conservancy, a critical hotspot for Grevy's zebra. There, they were taught to age and sex Grevy's zebra and understand more about their ecology and

**Securing the support of the warriors will not only strengthen conservation efforts in the short-term but will also lead to positive conservation attitudes in the long-term when the warriors transition into their role as community leaders and decision-makers.**

behaviour.

Undeniably, the most important discussions took place when the two warrior teams were alone without any of the facilitators present and could talk on a one-to-one basis about their work and how to address the challenges they face.

The data collected by these warriors are an integral part of Ewaso Lions and GZT's efforts to monitor lions, Grevy's zebra and other wildlife in Samburu and Marsabit, and will be used to inform conservation management.

Through this partnership, Ewaso Lions and the Grevy's Zebra Trust exchanged information and brainstormed new ways to address emerging conservation issues, which served to strengthen their respective conservation goals, and unite their teams towards a common vision.





made David, Mary and their two children each a bracelet to express their gratitude.

Here is David's story:

When I was 15 years old, I met a couple who were making an ecological garden which was going to be used for demonstration of organic farming. I began to help them and learnt how to make the soil fertile; I dreamt of becoming an organic farmer one day, years later I truly became one!

Now my wife and I practice eco farming on two hectares of good agricultural land located on the escarpment of Kenya's Rift Valley. Our goal is become a role model centre for training in sustainable agriculture, and providing responsive and dynamic solutions to families and communities.

## IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

### Belinda Mackey tells a heartwarming story of Kenyan generosity

Prior to the rains of October 2011, the dry season was starting to take its toll on pastoral livelihoods. One particular Samburu family was in need of food as all their livestock had died in the 2009 drought and the food aid reaching the communities was not adequate.

My friend, David Kiraki, whom I met while training to become a Certified Educator in Holistic Management in 2007, asked how he could help. During the general elections of 2007/8, David and his family were evicted from their farm and lived in an Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP) camp for over a year. It has taken them time and a lot of hard work to get their farm back up and running.

After hearing about the situation in northern Kenya David contacted me to ask if he could support a family in need. He and his wife Mary harvested over 20 kg of potatoes from their farm which would last the family until the rains. Together with other donated food items including maize meal, rice, tea and sugar, the Samburu family was amply supplied. Upon learning about the support, the Samburu family

#### Why we supported the Samburu family:

- It's because we too received support from people we did not know after being evicted from our farm during the general elections
- To save life
- It's our culture to support someone who needs help, especially food

## THANKS HAYLEY AND NICKY!

Two spirited and dedicated young biologists studying in Australia - Hayley Troupe and Nicky Richardson - volunteered with us in January. They helped prepare the training manual for the Grevy's Zebra Warrior workshop, recorded workshop proceedings, analysed the Grevy's Zebra Ambassador data, and filed and tagged hundreds of camera trap photos. We are very grateful for their assistance - *asante!*



# CONFLICT SOLUTIONS

## Peter Lalampaa shares his experience on learning to mitigate human-wildlife conflict

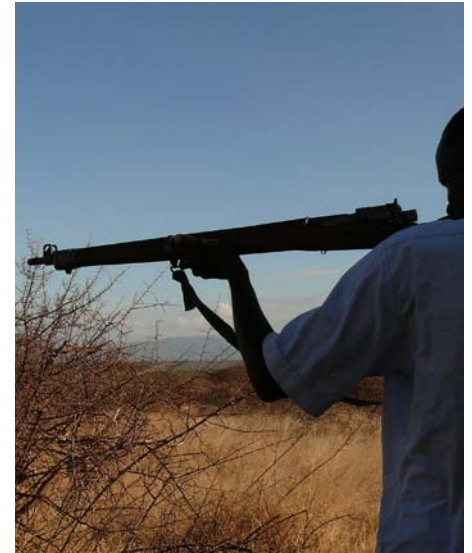
In March I attended a five-day workshop Analyzing and Transforming Conflict to Create Sustainable Solutions for People and Wildlife facilitated by the Human Wildlife Conflict Collaboration. The aim of the workshop was to equip us with best practice tools for addressing complex conservation conflicts and cultivating sustainable conservation solutions.

We the participants, initially all met at a shopping mall in Nanyuki town near Mt Kenya, where an outlet of Kenya's dominant supermarket chain "Nakumatt" is found. We all looked like a bunch of strangers but we were connected in a special way through the spirit of conservation and the need to address the global challenge of biodiversity loss. We had a good ride all the way to the Rift Valley Adventures camp in Ol Pejeta Conservancy where chatting and laughter were interjected by the outgoing individuals on the team. The conflict trainees were varied from specialists in carnivores to herbivores, and including the big giants such as elephants and the

rare and endangered species such as Grevy's zebra. The team was also a mix of individuals working in different parts of Africa and Asia.

At the start of the training there was a sense of confusion since in conflict there must be a dispute where two sides negotiate an amicable way of resolving the conflict. The question is: "how do you negotiate with an elephant that crop raids? Who do you bring on the table for negotiation?" That is when we all realized that the human-wildlife conflict is between humans about wildlife; one side being the conservationist while the opponents are the communities or resource owners protecting their livelihoods. Thus it's human to human conflict over wildlife.

The training was excellent with various sessions of group work combined with case study scenario analysis. The training had theory on conflicts, levels of conflict, principles of conflict resolution and then getting more in-depth to the tools of conflict resolution. The case study analysis brought the picture home on what conflict



is all about. We always view conflict superficially, looking at the dispute in place without examining the underlying factors and identifying the issues involved.

When it came to practical role-playing, conflict resolution through conciliation and mediation was a little bit tricky.

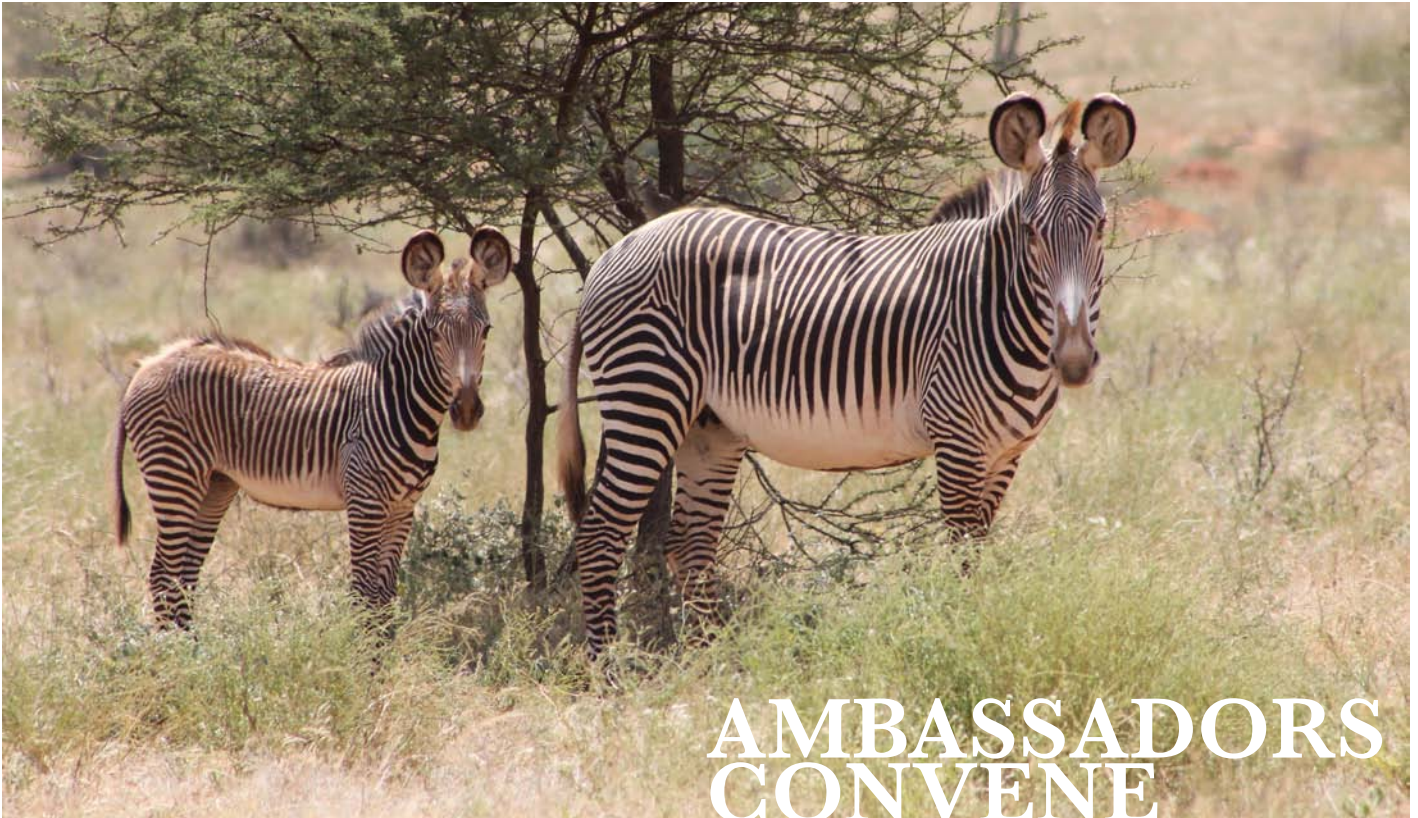
**That is when we all realized that human-wildlife conflict is between humans about wildlife; thus it's human to human conflict over wildlife.**

Playing a neutral third party while you ought to be a conservationist with desired goals and objectives posed a great challenge but vital learning lessons for all of us. "The wearer of the shoe knows where it pinches most" - what a reality to arrive at when you role-played a pastoralist whose cow has been predated!

I have already applied what I learnt to a very real conflict situation we had in Laisamis with very successful results. Overall, it was a great experience and one that every conservationist ought to go through!

For more information visit [www.humanwildlifeconflict.org](http://www.humanwildlifeconflict.org)





### News from the Grevy's Zebra Ambassador annual workshop

During the first half of the workshop we focused on the results of the Grevy's zebra monitoring by the Ambassadors. Each result is fully discussed by the group to ensure that interpretation of the results includes the local knowledge on the ground. Since 2009, there has been an overall increase in the number of sightings of foals and juveniles which suggests that the El Barta population is successfully recruiting.

The workshop then focused on discussing security in the area, following the influx of hundreds of migrating pastoralists in June 2011 which displaced Grevy's zebra and other wildlife to marginal grazing areas far from water and resulted in an increase in wildlife poaching.

It was agreed that the Ambassadors would report the presence of migrating herders early to give GZT time to mobilise peace and conservation meetings in partnership with the Administration and the Kenya Wildlife Service.

In order to give the Ambassadors greater confidence in dealing with anti-poaching and conflict resolution issues, GZT has successfully secured a place for eight of the Ambassadors to attend the Kenya Wildlife Service's distinguished game scouts training course at Manyani Training School later this year.

### STUDENTS PRACTICE FOR EXAMS

Grevy's Zebra Trust supported the production of mock examinations (practice tests) for 27 primary schools in Wamba and Laisamis. The number of students targeted was 850, of which 62% were boys and 38% girls. Mock exams assist both teachers and students to judge students' performance in advance of sitting for the main exam. Most schools in northern Kenya cannot afford to print mock exams before the main exams are taken, depriving students of the chance to fully prepare themselves and attain higher marks. The mock exam papers are printed with the Grevy's Zebra Trust logo at the top so that students relate the support to the species.



# HABITAT RECOVERY

**Joseph Letoole from Westgate Community Conservancy updates us on their pioneering grazing management**



The exposure tour, with the theme exploring the connection between our livestock and our land was conducted within the buffer zone for three days. The aim of the exposure tour is to involve all community members in seeing and experiencing the holistic grazing plan. The majority of the participants were livestock owners who contributed cattle to the grazing plan and therefore they needed to:

- assess the general changes in the landscape
- inspect the health of their cattle

- learn the herding techniques employed by the herders
- assess the old bomas (corral) sites of the 2010 grazing plan
- visit the 2010 Acacia reficiens clearing site
- inspect the gullies within the buffer zone

A total of 60 people (including women, warriors and elders) were drawn from across the whole group ranch. Each group visited the buffer zone for one day and all the groups were combined during the last day to exchange their views and ideas before putting

forward any recommendations.

At the end of the exposure, when all the groups were combined, the following are some of the cross cutting issues/common observations among the groups:

- Areas treated with bomas have a diversity of perennial grasses, some of which you can usually only find on top of hills and others near the Ewaso Nyiro river
- Improved health of cattle in the holistic herd
- New perennial grasses and plants that had disappeared
- More forage within the buffer zone than in other areas even after being utilized by a herd of 558 heads of cattle
- The need to expand the whole approach to improve land health across the wider group ranch

The community noted that there has been a general change in the landscape: from more bare ground to less; from dense bushes of *A. reficiens* to open grasslands; and from deep gullies to no gullies in some areas.

When the warriors inspected the cattle, most of them could not identify the medium size bulls due to fattening.



## PLANNING FOR PRODUCTIVITY

In January, Grevy's Zebra Trust facilitated the second holistic grazing plan for Westgate's buffer zone. Twenty community members including the Westgate Board, Grazing Committee and cattle herders undertook a field exercise to estimate forage availability. Back at the headquarters we sat down to work through the results of the data collected in the field. The resulting stocking rate was 558 cattle grazing from 1 February to 5 April in an area of 1,200 hectares.

The cattle recently exited the grazing plan and were noticeably healthier than cattle that had grazed outside the buffer zone. Plant cover is also significantly higher compared to outside.

# SCOUTS, AMBASSADORS, WARRIORS...

...What's the difference? GZT's multi-faceted programs are tailored to address specific threats in different regions. Here, we explain how our programs are unique to their area and why they are so important.



## Grevy's Zebra Scouts

The oldest of GZT's programs, the Grevy's Zebra Scout Program started in 2003. In fact, it was information collected by the scouts that helped secure support for three community conservancies in Samburu because the results showed these areas to be of critical importance for Grevy's zebra conservation.

The scouts work in areas where conservation awareness is already relatively high, thanks to the foundations laid by their own work and the subsequent establishment of community wildlife conservancies. The data they continue to collect is crucial to monitoring long-term trends in the Grevy's zebra population.

## Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors

The El Barta plains was historically a Grevy's zebra hotspot but the population was decimated by hunting for the skin trade before its ban in 1977. Today, Grevy's zebra are poached for subsistence meat. The Ambassadors are employed from local communities, including those that have traditionally hunted wildlife; engaging them directly in the program has significantly increased community



responsibility for protecting the species, and increased local vigilance and reporting of illegal activities.

Hunting still remains a threat from migrating pastoralists who are not aware of the conservation status of wildlife in El Barta. In addition, inter-ethnic tension arises when many groups converge to use the plains. The Ambassadors therefore not only address issues of illegal hunting but are also messengers of peace as ethnic instability remains a challenging obstacle to effective conservation.

## Grevy's Zebra Warriors

The warriors have been employed specifically to address Grevy's zebra conservation in Laisamis where both conservation awareness and wildlife numbers are low as a result of diminishing resources and hunting (both for subsistence meat

and for target practice to test new weapons).

An additional threat is the increasing distance Grevy's zebra travel between water and grazing. Having eyes and ears on the ground through the warrior teams will be critical to us knowing when interventions, such as water management or supplementing feed are warranted.

## Grevy's Zebra Scouts

- Area of Operation: Wamba
- No: 13 women, 7 men
- Ethnic Group: Samburu

## Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors

- Area of Operation: El Barta
- No: 14 men (Ambassadors); 1 woman, 1 man (Radio Operators)
- Ethnic Group: Samburu and Turkana

## Grevy's Zebra Warriors

- Area of Operation: Laisamis
- No: 10 men
- Ethnic Group: Samburu and Rendille

# ASANTE

*Asante* means thank you in Kiswahili.

We greatly appreciate the generous support of all our donors. Please [click here](#) for a full listing.

## HOW TO HELP

You can help us in making a difference to the future of Grevy's zebra in the following ways:

1. Financial support to our conservation, research and education programs
2. Spread the word and raise global awareness about Grevy's zebra
3. Volunteer with us - we are looking for passionate individuals to help with our conservation and education programs, and who are comfortable with basic camping conditions
4. Earn your stripes: send us your Grevy's zebra photos for the national identification database by capturing the right-hand side of the animal

If you are interested in any of the above opportunities please email us at [conservation@grevyszebratrust.org](mailto:conservation@grevyszebratrust.org).

Or [donate](#) directly through our website.

Photo credits: Lou Antonacci, Suzi Ezsterhas, Nelson Guda, David Kiraki, Peter Lalampaa, Joseph Letoole, Belinda Mackey, Francine Madden, Romain Mari, Hayley Troupe, James Warwick

## HEAVILY PREGNANT AND COUNTING!

**Andrew Letura, GZT's Research Assistant monitors expectant Grevy's zebra mothers**

Andrew's work involves monthly photographic surveys of the Meibae, Kalama and Westgate Community Conservancies. The data he collects include photos as well as individual age and sex data.

Since January he has been observing the growing number of pregnant females. About 60% of them have now given birth and the rest will follow shortly. The April/May rains are critical for producing enough forage and replenishing water sources so that Grevy's zebra mothers can nurse their foals during the long dry season. Andrew recently reported the migration of many Grevy's zebra from Westgate to Samburu National Reserve which recently experienced showers; we hope the rains continue!



### DATES TO NOTE

25-26 April - Review Workshop for the National Grevy's Zebra Conservation and Management Strategy, Nanyuki

8-10 June - Grevy's Zebra Fun Weekend for bursary students

13 October - Belinda Mackey and Peter Lalampaa speak at the Wildlife Conservation Network Expo, San Francisco

## CONGRATULATIONS DANIEL!

In November 2011, Grevy's Zebra Trust nominated Daniel Letoiye, Manager of Westgate Community Conservancy, for a scholarship from the Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) Scholarship Program to support his Masters in Conservation Biology in the UK. GZT is proud to announce that Daniel was selected for a Handsel Scholarship for Wildlife Conservation through WCN in March 2012! Daniel's MSc thesis will build on existing knowledge and institutional experience, to develop optimal spatio-temporal planning for the conservation of Grevy's zebra and community livelihoods, in Northern Kenya, taking into account, key anthropogenic activities.