



WELCOME to the 11th edition of the Grevy's Zebra Trust's newsletter!

The Grevy's Zebra Trust (GZT) 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 work in Samburu, Marsabit and Isiolo Counties in Northern Kenya covering an area of over 10,000 km².

STRIPE-ID PROJECT

A collaboration of the Grevy's Zebra Technical Committee

The objective of GZT's stripe-identification surveys which Andrew Letura carries out in Samburu is to monitor populations of Grevy's zebra in Meibae, Kalama, and Westgate conservancies over time. These surveys provide information about births, deaths and movement of individual zebras. These parameters can then be used to understand how populations within these particular conservancies may grow or decline.

Since the beginning of systematic surveys in February of 2012, we have a preliminary count of 670 unique individuals, with 56% seen in Meibae Conservancy, 33% seen in Westgate and 11% in Kalama. It is important to note that we are still identifying new individuals and that we have not yet 'captured' a significant portion of all the individuals because we are still finding new adults. Additionally, we are capturing an encouraging number of young foals which indicates that the population is breeding successfully.



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This underscores the need to continue these survey efforts; as we accumulate a larger database of photos, our understanding of population dynamics will become much more robust. A long-term data set will enable us to estimate total population size, survival and track the success of females in raising foals.

We thank Michael Butler-Brown, Siva Sundaresan (Princeton University and Denver Zoo) and Lizbeth Mate (Marwell Wildlife) for their data processing and analysis contributions to this project. Funding from the Wildlife Conservation Network, Phoenix Zoo, Fresno Chaffee Zoo and SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund has enabled us to undertake this critical work. ♦



GREVY'S ZEBRA DRY SEASON WATER USE IN LAISAMIS

this resource undoubtedly makes it the most important water source in the Laisamis region.

Camera trap results showed that when Grevy's zebra drank at the Laisamis River, the average herd size was 30 animals. In addition, although we could not sex and age all the Grevy's zebra, of those we could, the majority were females and they were often accompanied by foals. This reflects the fact that lactating Grevy's zebra need to drink more frequently than other classes of Grevy's zebra and again highlights the critical importance of the Laisamis River to this population.

Grevy's zebra always drank at night between 7.45 pm and 5.45 am. As the dry season intensified, camels from neighbouring communities would also converge on the water. This extended the drinking time of livestock into the night when camels were recorded drinking between 2.30 and 5 am.

The Laisamis River is under threat from growing urban development, uncontrolled sand harvesting and increasing pressure from livestock especially during the dry season.

During this year's long dry season from July to October, we monitored water use in Laisamis where our Grevy's Zebra Warrior Program operates. We wanted to know more about how Grevy's zebra use water in this region as it is a very scarce resource. To undertake the project, Paulo Leroux, a volunteer with the Grevy's Zebra Trust, coordinated the work. We are very grateful to the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund for supporting this critical research.

Of the three water points monitored, the Laisamis River, which is seasonal, was the most important source of water for Grevy's zebra. The Laisamis River provides natural permanent water in the form of wells and seepage pools for the residents of Laisamis town and their livestock, as well as for migrating pastoralists. It is also a critical source of water for important wildlife species. The dependence of people and animals on

The social and environmental implications of this are extremely serious. We are working with Melako Community Conservancy, the Northern Rangelands Trust, and other stakeholders to explore options to rehabilitate this water in the long-term to ensure it remains a sustainable source of water for the people and wildlife of the region.

Ropi our driver was hands-on with the camera trapping project and acted as Paulo's field assistant. When asked about the experience he said:

"Camera-trapping is a new skill that I have learnt which I am really happy about. I realised that all wildlife species in Laisamis are drinking at night. The cameras pick up a lot of things that we wouldn't otherwise know. For example, we know the numbers of Grevy's zebra coming to a water point and we can confirm if they get the water. The cameras also captured livestock so when we see livestock occupying the water through the night we know that it's difficult for the Grevy's zebra to access it too. We were also able to monitor the health of the Grevy's and we could tell the composition of the group, for example, if there were foals or pregnant females. Overall I really enjoyed doing the project and Paulo also helped me to learn how to use a computer so I am very grateful." ♦

SILANGO'S RESCUE

by Andrew Letura

It was a normal working day for Patin Lebasha, a Grevy's Zebra Scout. As she was doing her patrols and recording data she came across a small living thing that appeared to be like a gazelle, but, since she was in doubt of what she was seeing, she decided to better her vision with a pair of binoculars that she always carries with her.

Oh!! She couldn't believe her eyes to confirm that the little gazelle she had in mind was actually a beautiful foal of a Grevy's zebra lying on a small sandy patch between the bushes.

The mother of the foal quickly crept into her mind and she scanned the area around her to find her, but there was sign of the mother. After that, she had no choice other than to use her bush skills of tracking Grevy's zebra spoor to try and find out the direction that the mum went. As she was doing that, she notified me on what was happening. I advised her to keep looking for the mum of the foal and I contacted Meibae Conservancy about the case and they further alerted their scout from the area Mr. Lenaiyasa



who joined Patin and together they watched the Grevy's zebra foal from a distance so as not to disturb it or the return of its mother.

At the same time I shared the information and updates with the rest of the team and informed the Kenya Wildlife Service vet, Dr. Matthew Mutinda.

Hours elapsed, and the dedicated scouts continued their vigil and sharing the state of the situation on the ground. As the sun slowly slipped below the horizon and there was no sign of the

foal's mother, the scouts got increasingly worried about what would happen as this area is notorious for hyena predation.

After some discussion it was agreed that Patin would take the foal home with her. This was at first thought unwise by Mr. Lenaiyasa as they were worried of the cultural omens attached if a zebra comes into one's home. This omen is attached to wildlife species that are taboo in Samburu culture to eat and also includes warthogs and certain bird species.

As darkness crept up though the scouts decided to go against the usual cultural norms and they gathered their strength around the theme "Kitamata kule eng'oituko!" meaning "We have drunk zebra milk!" Milk here means the benefit that they both gain from being employed by conservation organizations. The tiny foal trustingly followed his new guardians and together they arrived at Patin's nearby homestead where the rest of the village welcomed them.

On the morning of the following day, David (the GZT driver) and I arrived to pick the foal up after obtaining permission from the nearby KWS station. Our mission was to

RIKAPO GRADUATES!

Thanks to support from the Saint Louis Zoo, Rikapo Lentiyo our Laisamis Regional Coordinator, was able to attend the Southern African Wildlife College in Hoedspruit, South Africa. This one-year course was a Higher Certificate in Nature Conservation and Rikapo earned an Upper Second Class! He was the only student from Kenya and contributed an East African perspective which was appreciated by his course leaders. Rikapo has now returned home, energised, motivated and ready to resume his work with the Grevy's Zebra Trust. He will share everything he learnt with his colleagues and will contribute new and valuable insights into our conservation approach. Welcome home Rikapo!



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.
DONATE HERE through
the Wildlife Conservation
Network (www.wildnet.org)
2. Spread the word and raise
local and global awareness
about Grevy's zebra
3. Earn your stripes! Send us
your Grevy's zebra photos
for the national stripe-ID
database by capturing the
right-hand side of the zebra

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

Connect with us
on Facebook



Photo credits: Grevy's Zebra Trust, James Warwick
(www.jameswarwick.co.uk), and Sarah Watson



take it to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
where it would be cared for at their
orphanage.

The villagers had by this time
developed a strong bond with the foal
and the children stayed next to the
foal while the elders kept watch from a

distance. As we drove with the foal in
the Grevy's Zebra Trust Land cruiser,
the villagers urged us to name the
foal "Silango" after the name of their
village. We left them with their faces
full of hope for the little foal which
they had taken into their home and
cared for.

Soon afterwards, Silango found a
new home at Lewa orphanage where
he bonded with one of their rhino
orphans. Several days later Silango
suddenly developed colic which
he eventually succumbed to. Wild
Grevy's zebra are notoriously difficult
to hand-raise, especially one as young
as Silango who we estimated to be
less than a week old. Despite his short
life, he touched many people and will
live on in the hearts of the Silango
community. ♦

FUN AT LEWA!

Lilian Seko reports

Thanks to support from
WorldWomenWork, this year's
Grevy's Zebra Trust Bursary Student
Fun Days were held at Lewa Wildlife
Conservancy's Education Centre from
26-29 November. Five girls and 1 boy
are currently enrolled in the program.
One of the key aims of these Fun
Days was to ensure that not only is it
an enjoyable time for all the students
but also a rich learning experience in
wildlife conservation with a particular
focus on Grevy's zebra ecology and
conservation.

The diversity of topics covered
over the two days reflects the range
of issues faced by the students. The
Lewa Nurse facilitated an excellent
session on reproductive health. Since
the majority of the students were girls,
we also discussed how to overcome
the girl child challenges they face in
their different communities. We used
examples of some of the world's most
powerful women who have succeeded
in their communities, countries and
the world.

The group also discussed career
selection and was guided on which
subjects they would need to excel in



to achieve their dreams. Each student
was assigned a personal mentor from
the GZT team who will give them
support and guidance throughout
their education.

Importantly, we also focused on the
link between the bursary opportunity
and Grevy's zebra conservation. The
students agreed that the knowledge
they have received through the
Fun Days has equipped them to
disseminate wildlife conservation
awareness. They identified when they
are going to create awareness within
their school and community and
who they are going to involve in the
process. This will be followed up by
our field team to assess what impact
the students' awareness creation has
on their communities. ♦