



## CONSERVATION EXPOSURE TOUR FOR LAISAMIS COMMUNITIES

Belinda Mackey reports

Since GZT began working in the Laisamis region, communities have repeatedly requested us to expose them to other conservation models in northern Kenya. In December 2013, GZT facilitated an exposure tour for 24 community members, funded by the Disney Worldwide Conservation Program. Pre- and post-tour focus group discussions revealed that conservation awareness was low before the tour and that the experience significantly improved the participants' knowledge and awareness.



During the exposure tour there were two key learning points. The first was that the participants quickly realised the main difference between their areas and the conservancies they visited was habitat health. They felt that habitat restoration was the foundation that they must focus on initially not only to build up their wildlife populations but also to support their pastoralist livelihoods. Grazing management is therefore one of the tools they have requested technical support for.

The second learning moment was when we drove through Samburu National Reserve en route to Westgate Community Conservancy. We were extremely lucky to see an abundance of wildlife and in particular spent a lot of time among hundreds of elephants. One of the warriors

in the back of our car commented: "I never knew that we could get so close to elephants and that they would just treat our vehicle like it was another elephant!" We then visited Save the Elephants and were shown how elephants concentrate in areas where they feel safe.

Thus it became clear that if security (peace), grazing and water are in place then wildlife will thrive. And these are exactly the same things that will enable pastoralism to thrive. This reminded us of the holistic context that we work within – that the lives of the people and the survival of the wildlife are inextricably linked. Thus, for conservation to be successful, decision-making must be holistic and consider social, economic and ecological factors before actions are taken. ♦

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 km<sup>2</sup>.

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# CONSERVATION – A BRIDGE TO PEACE IN SAMBURU NORTH

Reflections, as conservationist and peace-builder, by Lynn Kimmel



It was an early February morning when Peter, David, and I set out on our long journey north from Nanyuki, over rough and bumpy terrain, to Baragoi, in the El Barta region of Samburu North, where the Grevy's Zebra Ambassador Program operates. We were on a field trip, to meet with local Samburu and Turkana communities. Our goal was to discuss conservation and its benefits, and to gain community support for the creation of the Grevy's Zebra Trust's new grassroots initiative, the El Barta Conservation Council.

While I had the feeling of exhilaration, I also felt some trepidation for this expedition. While the El Barta region is a critical habitat for approximately 100 Grevy's zebra, the area has been known for ethnic violence due to livestock raiding. Over the last several months, however, the communities had enjoyed a relative calm, and livestock raiding had mostly quieted. The local Grevy's field team, including Peter, our Field Director,

Rikapo, our Regional Coordinator, Julius, our Conservation Programs Officer, and two of our local Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors, Micho and Lojore, decided to take this window of opportunity to meet with the local Samburu and Turkana communities

Any fears I had quickly subsided, as the chiefs, elders, and community members warmly welcomed us. In a traditional group setting, we were able to discuss the ecological importance of the Grevy's zebra and other wildlife in the El Barta region, and connect effective stewardship of natural resources to the cultural and economic sustainability of their tribes. As a result of our conversations, each community elected

two representatives, an elder and a warrior, to the new El Barta Conservation Council, which will hold its first meeting in May. The elders recognized that the newly appointed representatives would be providing valuable information about conservation to their respective communities.

After each community meeting, I had the opportunity to speak with the elders in small groups and discuss the challenges and opportunities of the future. Across the board, I heard their desires for education, job creation, and cultural sustainability, including natural resource management. An opportunity for sustainable peace is finding common ground between the Samburu and Turkana. Grevy's Zebra Trust has taken a very important first step - enabling conservation to be a potential bridge to peace.

Amani! (Meaning peace in Kiswahili)

*Lynn Kimmel is working on her Master's in Conservation Biology and a Graduate Certificate in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation. We are grateful to the Saint Louis Zoo's Field Conservation Program for funding the El Barta Conservation Council. ♦*



# THE GREVY'S ZEBRA SCOUT PROGRAM EXPANDS TO KIPSING!

By Peter Lalampaa, Field Director



Kipsing was identified by GZT as a crucial area for Grevy's zebra through monitoring the movement of collared Grevy's zebra and following up with a baseline survey in November 2013. Thanks to support from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund we have been able to expand our Grevy's Zebra Scout Program to this important area.

A stakeholders' meeting was held in January 2014 to get input to our plans to expand to Kipsing. The stakeholders included African Wildlife Foundation, Northern Rangelands Trust, Mpus Kutuk Conservancy, Office of the President through the Chief's office, Samburu Trust, and Kenya Wildlife Service. All promised to give their full support to the Trust's operations in the area.

When GZT employs people from the community, the participation and engagement of the community during recruitment is paramount. A total of 109 people were involved in selecting two community members who will create community awareness, engage school children in conservation, collect data on Grevy's zebra sightings and implement local conservation strategies with their community. Mr Lobiku Lemagas from Longopito and Mr Loteku Lengulumen from Tuale were selected.

Mr. Lemagas has the nickname of "Loruwasin". This means one who takes care of and depends on black and white for his livelihood. The name was earned after Loruwasin found a female Grevy's zebra with birth

complications and he assisted it by removing the dead foetus and injecting the mother with an antibiotic just like he would treat his domestic donkey. The elders unanimously agreed that he should be employed for saving the Grevy's zebra's life.

As we usher in the new members to the scout team, the Trust believes in partnership and strong community awareness on conservation issues. We look forward to getting information on Grevy's zebra use of the range, which will be used for local conservation strategies. There is no looking back; forward we move to secure this amazing range in Tuale and Longopito area for the stripes and other species! ♦

## SAMBURU COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES NEW CONSERVANCIES

On 16 April 2014, the Samburu County Government officially launched five new conservancies. Three of these – Baragoi Conservancy, Ndoto Conservancy and Nyiro Conservancy – overlap with our Grevy's Zebra Ambassador Program. The launch theme was "Conservation for Peace and Prosperity", something that GZT strongly believes in and has been working towards through the establishment of the El Barta Conservation Council.

As a conservation stakeholder already working in the region, GZT will collaborate closely with the new conservancies and the Samburu County Government. A total of 65 community rangers were employed through the

conservancies so our Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors and the conservancy rangers will coordinate their patrols together.

This is a significant milestone for El Barta and will have a positive impact on Grevy's zebra conservation. With an increased community conservation presence on the ground, GZT will now be able to expand its education and research activities to the region.



## INTRODUCING NEW PARTNERS!

We are thrilled to announce new partnerships with the Caridad Giving Circle, Columbus Zoo, IFAW, AAZK Milwaukee Zoo, Minnesota Zoo, Oklahoma City Zoo, and Sacramento Zoo.

# 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](http://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, Serenoi Letoiye, Martha Fischer, Marty Varon (WCN)

# A GREVY'S ZEBRA MOTHER RESCUES HER FOAL IN VAIN

By Serenoi Raphael Letoiye, Head Guide, Elephant Watch Camp, Samburu

I usually take tourists on safari in Samburu National Reserve. On 8th of January 2014, we found ourselves in a mix of fascination and sadness.

Two lionesses attacked a small Grevy's zebra herd made up of a lactating female, her foal, and a territorial male. Immediately the herd was ambushed the foal's neck was caught between the jaws of one lioness. In realization of the trapped foal, the mother Grevy's zebra tried to rescue her foal by holding one of its front legs in her mouth and pulling the foal away from the lioness. The other lioness then came to aid in the tug of war by chasing away the mother Grevy's, and this led to the foal being left helpless!



After the foal died the lionesses began to eat it. After their hunger was satisfied they dragged the foal's carcass to a different site where there were tall grasses, where they stayed for several hours. We were amazed by the Grevy's zebra mother's powerful instinct to protect her foal, bravely putting her own life at risk to save her offspring! ♦

## PETER TOURS THE US!

In March, Peter Lalampaa, our Field Director, attended his second training course with the Emerging Wildlife Conservation



Leaders program in Jacksonville, Florida. He then attended the AZA Mid-Year meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was invited by Martha Fischer from the Saint Louis Zoo to speak at the Equid TAG meeting. This was a wonderful opportunity to update our many AZA partners on our Grevy's zebra conservation work and to express our gratitude for their amazing support!

Peter's next stop was Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona! The Zoo Teens are a group of inspiring young people who have raised money for the last 4 years to support the Grevy's Zebra Trust. Peter met the teens and talked to them about our work. He also gave a presentation to the Reid Park Zoo staff where he was presented with a check for \$1,100! We are extremely grateful to the Reid Park Zoo for their invaluable support and partnership.

Peter's final stop was San Francisco with the Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) team! We were thrilled that Peter was able to spend an evening with the incredible WCN volunteers at their Volunteer Education Night.

Thanks to WCN's legendary event organising and our generous hosts Richard Scheller and Sue McConnell, GZT had a very successful Spring Fundraiser. Linda Dupuis-Rosen donated another stunning Grevy's zebra painting which was admired by all. Peter enjoyed meeting old friends and making new ones, and we are extremely grateful to all those who supported GZT and hosted Peter during his stay. ♦