



- Peter Lalampaa returns from the UK to do his MSc fieldwork, investigating water use by Grevy's zebra
- Holistic Planned Grazing workshop for the Naibelibeli plains – critical habitat for Grevy's zebra and livestock
- Aerial survey of the El Barta Grevy's zebra population
- Construction of a dedicated water trough for Grevy's zebra in Laisamis

PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEYS FOR STRIPE RECOGNITION

We embark upon a new Grevy's zebra monitoring project

Just like humans have unique fingerprints, we use the stripes of Grevy's zebra to identify individuals. The Grevy's Zebra Technical Committee has established a centralised Grevy's zebra photo-identification database. Committee members contribute photographs and associated life history information of Grevy's zebra sightings they have recorded in their area of operation.

From this shared data, we can improve our ability to estimate key population vital rates such as movement, reproduction and survival. From repeated observations of an individual we can determine the extent to which movement occurs across different population units and identify critical corridors or barriers.

In May 2011, the Grevy's Zebra Trust employed a new Samburu Research

HOLDING THE LINE

Helping Grevy's zebra survive the drought

Laisamis is home to one of Kenya's most important Grevy's zebra populations, numbering around 200 animals. The area has experienced two consecutive rains failures. Worsening drought conditions are expected to continue for the next four months.

The Trust together with Melako Community Conservancy is supplementing the feeding of the Laisamis animals until the next rains.

We are closely monitoring our efforts to ensure the intervention is successful.



Assistant, Lucas Lepuiyapui, dedicated to intensively monitoring the Wamba Grevy's zebra population that moves between Meibae, Kalama and West Gate Community Conservancies. Lucas is conducting monthly photographic surveys of all Grevy's zebra he encounters in these areas. Armed with digital camera, GPS and note pad, Lucas travels by motorbike, working closely with the community conservancies and our Grevy's Zebra Scouts to locate and record Grevy's zebra.

The two principal long-term goals of this project are to gather overall population vital rates on the Wamba population; and, to test how improved water management by the conservancies affects survival within this population.

If we can scientifically prove that Grevy's zebra populations respond favourably to these management interventions we can replicate this model on a larger scale across the range of Grevy's zebra and significantly improve the chances of their long-term survival.