





Belinda Low Mackey

Relief. Joy. Rejuvenation. These are the three words that are at the forefront of my mind when I reflect on the past year. We watched tentatively as rain started to fall in March, and then it continued. The incredible amount of work that our teams put into saving Grevy's zebra and continuing to support villages with restoration and regenerative grazing, finally paid off. The health of the Grevy's zebra and the land began to return, and community ownership of our work together has never been stronger.

In that pause the rain offered us, the Board and the Senior Leadership Team embarked on solidifying our vision for the future. We engaged in a robust succession planning process for the key leadership roles within the Trust and finalized our new five-year strategic plan.

There are exciting changes ahead for Grevy's Zebra Trust, as we start to deepen and expand the scope of our impact.

We are deeply grateful for your support, which underpins all we do. You help us navigate the highs and lows of the challenging context in which we work, so that together we can save Grevy's zebra and secure indigenous livelihoods. Thank you for your wonderful generosity.





Peter Lalampaa

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

The year 2023 brought immense relief to both the conservation space and the pastoral community in Northern Kenya. Our team shifted focus to activities that were impossible during the drought.

One such activity that we intensified was landscape-level regenerative grazing. Kalama and Westgate conservancies concentrated on securing shared dry season grazing resources with the onset of the rains. A total of 3,700 cattle were grazed within an area of 21,500 hectares for more than four months, until the next rainy season. During this time, we had over 600 Grevy's zebras grazing in the same area.

Thanks to your support, we were able to build momentum for our conservation work, leading to community ownership of our conservation efforts.

We believe in community-led conservation initiatives and will strive to work with the community to achieve this goal.





Dr David Kimiti

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND IMPACT

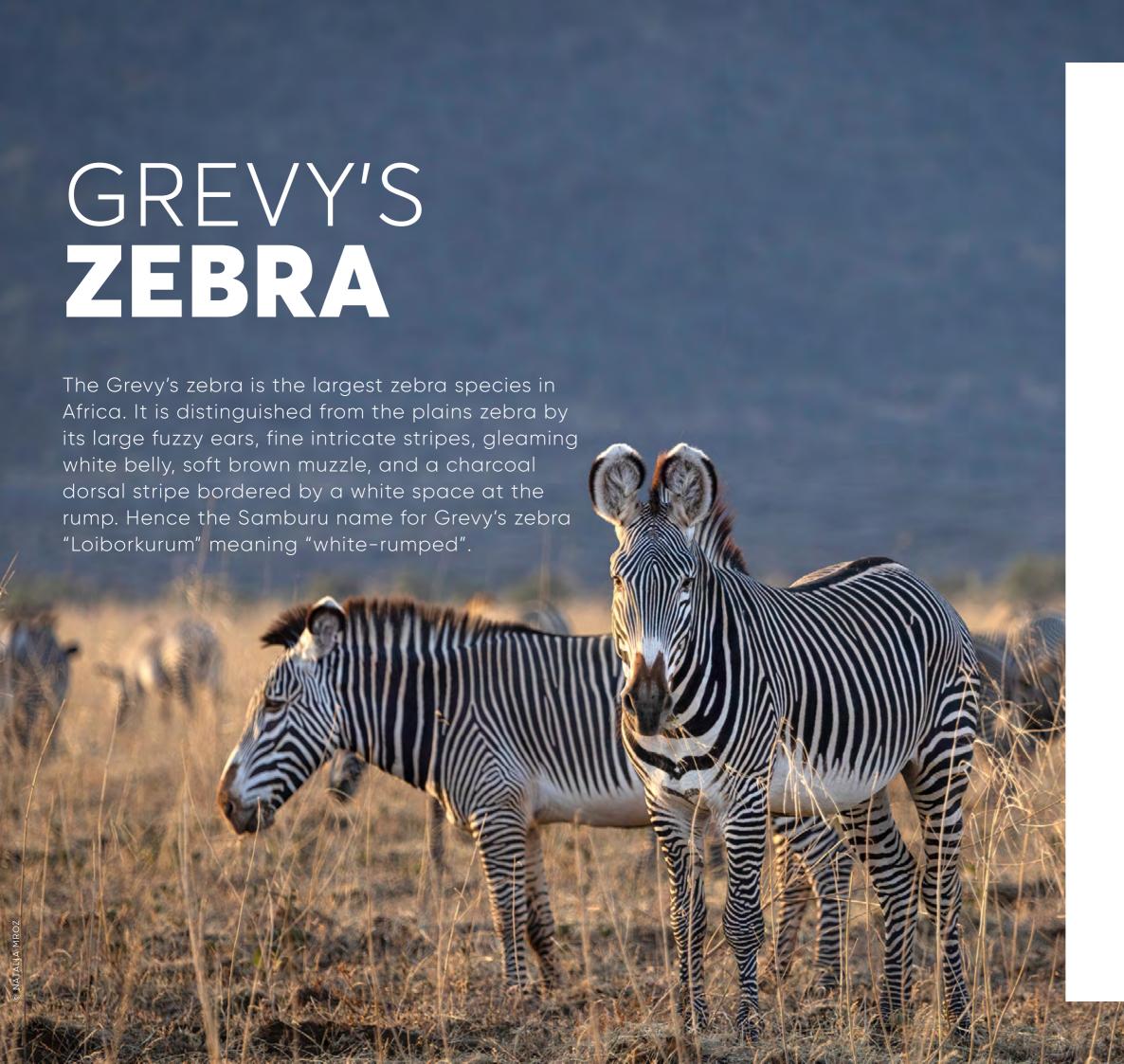
2023 was a year of renewal across several different dimensions. For our team, it was a chance for us to revisit activities, programs, and even collaborations that had been put on hold for nearly two years. One of these activities was collaring 20 Grevy's zebra to inform mega-infrastructure development mitigation across the north. This milestone achievement is poised to help us better understand how Grevy's zebra are using the landscape, and how that is affected by seasonality as well as ecological variations.

Our entire team worked tirelessly throughout 2023 to steady the ship, refocus on our strategic plans for the future, and to steward the growth of the organization into its next chapter.

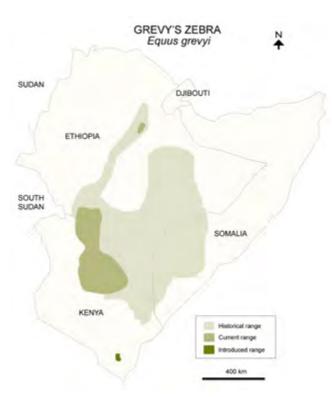
It is a credit to their resilience and their focus that we have been able to transition from a long-lasting crisis mode into focusing on our broader impact targets across the landscape.

Our renewed energy has allowed us to once again start contributing towards thought leadership in the community-led conservation space. We know that with the continued help of our supporters and partners, we will continue building a future where Grevy's zebra, pastoral communities, and the land they both depend on are thriving in Northern Kenya.

S& thintie



Only 3,000 of the world's remaining wild Grevy's zebras are left in the arid landscapes of Kenya and Ethiopia; over 90% of these are found in northern Kenya.



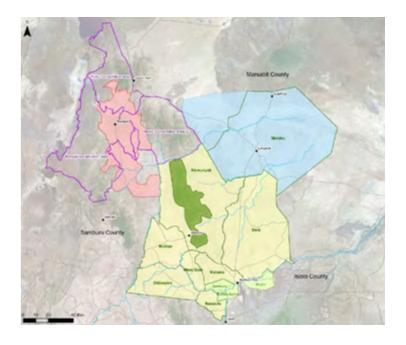
The primary threats to their survival include habitat degradation, reduction of water sources and restricted access to water, disease, poaching, and infrastructure development that results in an increasingly fragmented landscape.

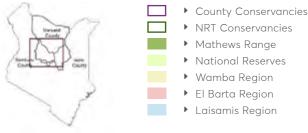
Grevy's zebra numbers have remained stable thanks to the collaborative conservation efforts of the last 15 years, however, optimal breeding conditions were negatively affected by East Africa's recent three-year drought, and our work to grow the population must continue and intensify.

OUR APPROACH

Grevy's Zebra Trust exists to conserve and grow the Grevy's zebra population in Kenya.







We take a landscape approach to species conservation because solutions for Grevy's zebra must also be solutions for people.

Communities are at the centre of designing and driving GZT's conservation efforts because we recognise that the survival of Grevy's depends on their ability to coexist with people living in in the same landscape. Both communities and wildlife face shared threats and our work seeks to better the future for both.

Over 93% of our 117-strong team is employed from the communities sharing space and resources with Grevy's zebra. They are the experts, and it is through their leadership that we have developed locally led and locally relevant solutions.

We recognize the critical role that the whole community has in conserving biodiversity, and our approach is intentionally inclusive of all demographics (elders, women and warriors/youth) so that everyone's voice is heard in the co-creation of a better future.





21,600

Hectares

Under regenerative grazing with 3,710 cattle

12,563

Semi-circular bunds



22,500

KM Walked

By Grevy's Zebra Ambassador and Warriors



4,820

Grevy's Zebra

Seen in 560 encounters by Ambassadors and Warriors



4,876Dignity Packs

Distributed to women and girls



Grevy's Zebra

Fitted with GPS collars



David Kimiti Honoured with the Marsh Award for Ecologists in Africa

In 2023, we celebrated our colleague and Director of Research and Impact, Dr. David Kimiti, being awarded the Marsh Award for Ecologists in Africa. This honour was provided by the Marsh Charitable Trust and administered by the British Ecological Society and celebrates the significant scientific achievements of African ecologists.

David was presented with his prize during a ceremony held at the British Ecological Society's Annual Meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland and brought together over 1,000 ecologists (in person and online) to discuss the latest advances in ecological research across the whole discipline. We are grateful for this recognition and for the way David has positively impacted our work and mission.







190 community meetings

25,600 hectares under regenerative grazing with 3,710 cattle

12,563 semi-circular bunds

36 voluntary village-based committees representing elders, women and warriors

27 cattle bomas

57 bags indigenous perennial grass seeds planted

10 people trained at the Africa Centre for Holistic Management in Zimbabwe



Regenerative grazing ensures that livestock are managed to regenerate rather than deplete grasslands.

Breakthrough milestone with regenerative grazing!

After years of building inclusive community ownership through voluntary village-based committees with representation from women, elders and warriors, our goal of scaling regenerative grazing to villages was finally realised in July 2023. The community approached us to ask for our support in implementing regenerative grazing within their village zones. This saw them bringing together 3,710 cattle to graze 21,600 hectares from July through October.

As part of the regenerative grazing plan, areas of bare ground were identified so that temporary bomas (thorn-fenced enclosures) could be constructed for the cattle to sleep in. This is an effective tool for regenerating bare land where the impact of cattle hooves breaks up the hard soil while their dung and urine naturally fertilize it. In addition, grass and tree seeds in dung provide a bank of seeds for regeneration. Each boma is used for one week before a new one is made. In total, 27 bomas were constructed across the grazing blocks, with impressive results, including the establishment of valuable perennial grasses.

We have spent many years working with communities to build the foundation for regenerative grazing. We have now seen a transition where they are asking for us to support them as they move forward with regenerative grazing practice. The demand is now coming from the community, demonstrating genuine ownership of this work.



We would not have reached this milestone without the investment that was made by Westgate and Kalama community conservancies, demonstrating their support for and commitment to recovering rangeland health within their conservancies.

Peaceful warriors

"Kiteperio mikiaata Namuka" meaning "we slept peacefully without putting on our shoes".

Feedback from the warriors who implemented the grazing plan showed that they were able to stay with their livestock near their villages without having to put on their shoes and travel far in search of pasture, thereby avoiding conflict with other ethnic groups over grazing. This is the fulfilment of the dream that Mama Grevy and other women had which initially sparked their determination to recover the health of their land: they want their sons to stay safe and staying safe means staying closer to home.



"What we are doing is a huge responsibility. When I see us address goals that are part of the bigger responsibility, this makes me happy. Sometimes we go to a village where people are not united. Seeing this change over time as we are working together is very fulfilling."

~ Lopsala Letoole, Rangelands Officer

Healthy Grevy's

Multiple, small herds of livestock, each with their own herder, moving through the land, can create a significant disturbance to wildlife. Another key benefit of regenerative grazing management is the reduced displacement of wildlife because livestock are managed in one large herd. This frees up undisturbed space for wildlife. Up to 600 Grevy's zebra were seen grazing within the grazing blocks during the four-month regenerative grazing plan.

Healthy cattle

"Tell Belinda my cows are healthier than the cows in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy!" A strong message on the increased health (and thereby value) of his cows from Lemuramba, an elder from Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy.

A recovering landscape

Perennial grasses that have a multi-year lifespan are a key stabilising force for the soil in northern Kenya's grasslands. Our goal is to increase the amount of perennial grass in the landscape which will improve the water cycle and ultimately the capture of carbon into the soil. Our monitoring showed that even though vegetation cover rebounded after the drought broke, most of it was annual grasses. This is a natural part of succession, and we can expect that as we continue intensifying and scaling regenerative grazing management and the complementary restoration efforts, the next stages will lead to an increase in perennial grasses.



Learning from Zimbabwe

To strengthen the foundations of our rangelands work, in May 2023, GZT arranged a learning trip to the Africa Centre for Holistic Management (ACHM) in Dimbangombe, Zimbabwe. The team included Samburu County government officials, community conservancy rangelands coordinators, community forest association leaders, and GZT's Regional Coordinators and Rangelands Officers.

The primary objective of this trip was to further enhance the understanding of Holistic Land and Livestock Management among these practitioners and equip them to consider and incorporate these concepts in the development of supportive rangelands policies, review of existing legislations, and their practical implementation.





The team was enrolled in the Community Facilitators Training Program during which they had firsthand experience of the tangible outcomes that can be achieved when adopting a holistic approach to land and livestock management as ACHM has been practising regenerative grazing since 1992 with incredible results.

As soon as the team touched down on Kenyan soil once again, a debrief workshop was held in Nairobi with GZT's directors to create an action plan within a collaborative framework. During the rest of 2023, some impressive action points were achieved by the team, including the dissemination of HLLM through Serian FM, Samburu's local radio station, by Kirisia Community Forest Association Chair Douglas Leboiyare. We look forward to continuing our work together with this fantastic team in the coming years.



Grassland Champions

Our women Grassland Champions team expanded from six to nine and they have continued to construct semi-circular bunds, which are a visually impactful restoration strategy, with most bunds trapping run-off and sediment and fostering the establishment of forbs and grasses. These not only restore degraded land, but also act as proof to local stakeholders that land restoration is possible. 2023 has been a turning point for the community to see the results of their work.

We are encouraged by the uptake of this approach to restoration by multiple stakeholders, which aids in scaling. However, we are also very aware that bunds can lead to further erosion if not positioned and constructed properly. We are careful to ensure that our Grassland Champions are well-trained to ensure that others can learn best practice from their sites.





Rangelands Highlights from El Barta

We supported the community around Barsaloi village to work on habitat restoration. They voluntarily constructed hundreds of semi-circular bunds, with women dominating the sites out of the 240 community members participating. It was fantastic to see the energy and passion that the community had for this work.

Cessation of charcoalproduction (led
by women)

Settlement alignment

to protect grazing blocks designated for recovery Controlled

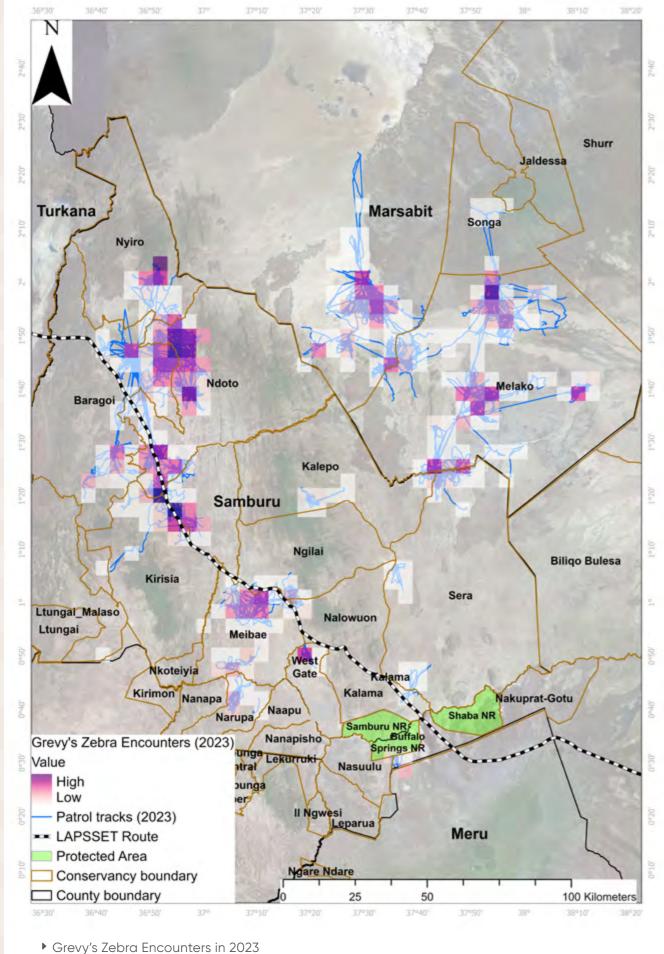
access of livestock

to salt licks

Communal grazing plan

implementation





Patrol Effort

- ▶ 3,298 patrols on foot undertaken by Grevy's Zebra Scouts, Ambassadors and Warriors.
- ▶ 22,500 km walked by Ambassadors and Scouts on patrol.

Grevy's Zebra Sightings by Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors and Warriors

- ▶ 560 encounters of Grevy's zebra during patrol.
- ▶ 4,820 Grevy's zebra sightings through 560 encounters. This was a 162% increase in the total number of Grevy's zebra seen in 2023 compared to 2022, due to the animals returning to community areas after the drought broke.
- ▶ 27% average proportion of foals and juveniles in the population (the optimal proportion is 30% which leads to population growth).
- ▶ This was an increase from 25% in 2022, reflecting the improved conditions for foal and juvenile survival.

Grevy's Zebra Mortality

▶ 25 Grevy's zebra deaths recorded, of which cause of death was attributed to: 24% natural causes, 24% disease, 24% human-caused and 28% were unknown.

Our Grevy's Zebra Scouts Transition to SMART!

the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) data collection. This transition enables automatic uploading of field data into a centralised dashboard, facilitating quick and efficient analysis by our

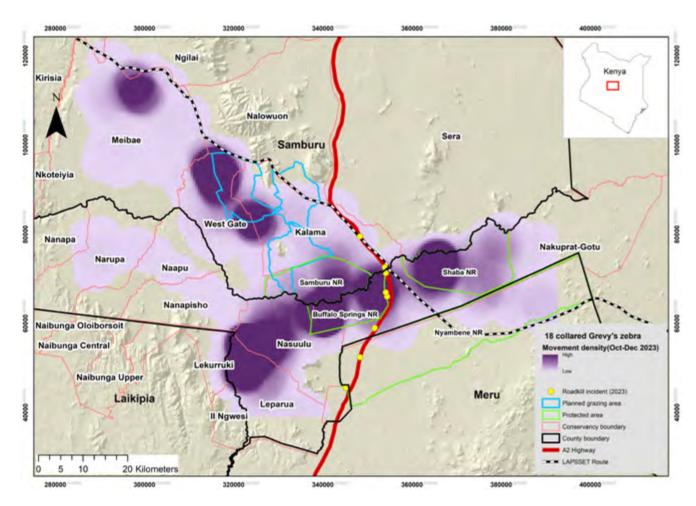


20 Grevy's Zebra Collared

Alongside our partners, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI), Marwell Wildlife, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and the Leiden Conservation Foundation, we conducted a collaring exercise in September 2023 to have more up-to-date information on the movement of wildlife through areas where large-scale linear infrastructure is planned for development in northern Kenya, thus bisecting critical Grevy's zebra habitat. The community conservancies supported this process and spent significant time and energy making sure the exercise was a success.

Getting close to a Grevy's zebra takes a lot of energy and resources, so we took the opportunity to learn as much as we could, collecting samples for the lab, morphometrics measurements, and stripe ID photos, as well as the first weight measurements taken from wild zebras. We were able to collar 20 Grevy's zebra in total. This data will be used to inform infrastructure agencies on which corridors and areas require a special focus for planning mitigation interventions such as overpasses.

Already, the collared zebras are providing us with important information including their intensive use of areas under regenerative grazing and restoration, which confirms the success of our interventions.



▶ Wamba Isiolo regions collared Grevys Zebra Movement map 2023

"Kenya is implementing the 3rd edition of the Recovery and Action Plan for Grevy's Zebra in Kenya (2017–2026). The action plan identified key activities to address the threats facing the species. Understanding temporal spatial movement of Grevy's zebra is critical in informing policy and management decisions. With increased demand for land for various competing uses leading to land use change, data from collared individuals is crucial to inform a balance between community livelihood, conservation and development.

Kenya Wildlife Service, which is the government agency responsible for conservation and management of wildlife wherever it occurs, works with stakeholders to undertake its mandate. We appreciate the support of communities and private conservancies where most of the Grevy's zebras occur, and to Grevy's Zebra Trust and Marwell Wildlife for supporting implementation of the action plan to ensure their populations continue to thrive in changing landscapes."

~ Linus Kariuki, Species Officer, KWS





Supplementary feeding

In Laisamis and El Barta Regions, the drought intensified in the early months of 2023 and our supplementary feeding efforts refocused out of the reserves and into these community areas. A total of 673 bales of hay were consumed by Grevy's zebra.

After the trauma caused by the drought demands towards the end, Lmangesian Shudukle our Grevy's Zebra Warrior said,

"When I look at the pictures from my camera of emaciated Grevy's and carcasses of the dead cattle at the water points, I close my eyes because I am kind of afraid looking at them – both the Grevy's and ourselves were not safe – but hard work and perseverance saved over 30 Grevy's zebra foals."

Water management

Although we had excellent rains across the landscape, we had to continue managing water access in Laisamis where water is scarce. Three boreholes were managed for the first four months of the year until the drought finally broke, and one water point was managed during the long dry season of May through October.



Protecting Grevy's zebra

By their presence across the landscape, all our teams, whether working on rangelands or monitoring Grevy's zebra, work with their communities to keep Grevy's zebra safe. In 2023, we began to intensify our activities in Isiolo County, which provides critical habitat for Grevy's zebra, and where poaching for both consumptive and commercial bushmeat is an emerging threat. This involves close partnership with other stakeholders on community meetings and patrolling core areas for Grevy's zebra and other wildlife.

"I am very happy with the impact we have experienced since Grevy's Zebra Trust started intensifying its activities on Grevy's zebra conservation in Isiolo. We have developed a strong presence in wildlife hotspot areas which helps in deterring potential poaching."

~ Joseph Ekusi Alonya, Deputy Warden, Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy.

"The partnership with Grevy's Zebra Trust has been an immense blessing to conservation as we are connecting with our partners through meetings and joint patrols. I am happy to say that we are progressively regaining momentum to fully guarantee wildlife security."

~ Mohamed Abdikanu, Senior Warden, Shaba National Reserve.

Veterinary interventions

In 2023, there were three veterinary interventions undertaken, one being a postmortem of a Grevy's zebra that was shot in Isiolo County. In addition, the Northern Kenya Vet Unit successfully removed a snare from a Grevy's zebra, also in Isiolo County.





Ownership of Grevy's zebra conservation is embedded within indigenous and local communities.

Peace Building

The El Barta landscape is challenging to operate in, as there continues to be historical ethnic rivalry between the Samburu and Turkana communities living in the area. Against this backdrop, GZT constituted the Elbarta Conservation Council (ECC), which represents 11 villages and is made up of women, elders and warriors. Both the Samburu and Turkana sit on the council and its role is to support peace in the region. In the past year, thanks to their networking skills, the council members have collectively averted six planned livestock raids (where warriors attack to steal livestock with often deadly results) and helped communities to recover their stolen livestock 13 times. Though this seems indirectly related to conservation, it is critical work that underpins the stability of the region and allows us to continue our vital work. Communities view Grevy's zebra as a symbol of peace.

"If not for the coordination between the ECC members across the region, things would be going the wrong way, particularly the results of livestock raids, like before where we lost many lives of young and innocent people, including women. We say thanks to GZT for creating this entity that has volunteered in stabilizing the situation. Additionally, ECC teams are well connected with the government and security teams to scale down insecurity."

~ Thomas Lekarangwa, ECC Marti Coordinator.

Conservation Outreach

Our conservation outreach covered a range of topics, including exchanging information on Grevy's zebra, grazing plans, rangelands restoration, peace and security, location of settlements, and water status, availability and access.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- 717 community meetings carried out by Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors and Warriors reaching 26,622 people, of which 36% were meetings with herders
- ▶ 74 meetings undertaken by the Regional Coordinators reaching 3,250 people (35% elders, 30% morans, 26% women, 5% children, 4% local leaders)

SCHOOL VISITS

- ▶ 26 school visits were made by our Regional Coordinators
- ▶ 4,797 students were reached (54% boys and 46% girls)

Nkirreten Project

Women and girls face many negative consequences if they are not able to access feminine hygiene products. During their cycle, they are unable to participate in the important activities of daily life, which means missing out on community meetings or staying home from school. In response to this reality, the Nkirreten project employs women to sew reusable sanitary pads, that are distributed as Dignity Packs to women and girls in the community.

The women who are hired to sew these dignity packs are chosen from the community based on who is identified as needy. They are trained in sewing and work in pairs at the tent located in their community.

In 2023, we expanded the project to Meibae Conservancy. Last year, the Nkirreten project women produced 6,770 dignity packs, 4,876 of which were distributed to women and girls.

Non-school going girls and women were reached during Menstrual Health Day celebrations, where our Women's Empowerment Officer, together with the Nkirreten women, raised conservation awareness and conducted a pads distribution in two villages.

"Because women volunteer in rangelands and wildlife protection, we truly appreciate that the Grevy's Zebra Trust recognizes women's challenges in menstrual health and hygiene. Provision of pads to women continues to empower and transform women to become women leaders in their communities."

~ Nkilian, Westgate Conservancy board member



Masia's Story

Prior to working with the Nkirreten project, Masia was in a community meeting when the woman sitting next to her turned to her in embarrassment to say that her monthly cycle had started and she needed something to wrap around her waist. Masia assisted her with a leso (sarong) and they left the meeting, feeling frustrated and ashamed. This experience stood out in Masia's mind, but she didn't know what she could do about it. She wondered why this prominent issue was never discussed in their community.

Some months later, the community chose Masia for the Nkirreten Project, because her husband is blind and not able to earn an income. She had no idea what the project entailed but she was grateful for the opportunity and came to the tent on her first day with a willingness to participate in whatever was required of her. When she saw the sewing machines and began to learn about her work making sanitary pads, she thought back to that meeting and the woman she was sitting next to. She thought about the fact that they had to miss the rest of that meeting because of the disruption of her monthly cycle. She thought, "Now, instead of helping her with a leso when it is too late, I can now share this sanitary pad with her, and she will have a better solution."

To this day, Masia is one of the hardest working women on the team. She says that her motivation is thinking about that woman she was sitting next to. She says,

"If I am one of the people chosen to solve this problem, I will continue to work hard so that every woman in my community has access to sanitary pads."



Grevy's Zebra Scholarship Program



GZT continued to provide support to our current cohort of 13 bursary students (10 girls and 3 boys). Along with providing tuition scholarships, we also provide mentorship and training, including hosting them in Westgate Conservancy for pre-school tuition at the beginning of the year. We used this time to provide motivation, guidance, and an academic warm up as they began their school year.

The total number of students supported by the Grevy's Zebra Scholarship Program to date is 36.

We are happy to report that the students in our scholarship program have done well in their tests, with one student, Ntala, standing out. She is very hard working and comes from a village with no doctor. Her goal is to become a doctor and come back to her home to improve the lives of her community through both healthcare and conservation. Her current grades are setting her on the track to reach her goals.





Mercy graduates with her private pilot's licence!

"I am here because of Grevy's, so I have to take care of Grevy's first."

One of our former scholarship students, Mercy Neepe, has wanted to be a pilot since she was a child. Seeing her immense potential and drive, GZT was able to connect her to funding to pursue this dream. She currently has her Private Pilot's License and is now in training to receive her Commercial Pilot's License. Only 20 years old, she is the first (and currently only) female pilot from her region of the country. Mercy is very clear that her pilot's licence is not just for her, but also for the benefit of her community and Grevy's zebras.

"Mercy even came back to mentor girls during one of her school breaks. She wore her pilot's uniform, and the girls were so motivated. Through Mercy, they know that everything is possible. We can't wait to be flown by Mercy one of these days."

~Damaris Lekiluai, Women's Empowerment Officer.



Northern Kenya Road Watch

After a consultative meeting with stakeholders and collaborators, a decision was made to expand the roadkill program away from just looking at the main A2 highway. As a result, the initiative was rebranded as the Northern Kenya Road Watch, complete with a new logo and a Survey 123 data collection model. A review process is now taking place by KWS. The recommendations will be sent to the Director General of KeNHA in the first quarter of next year.



African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology (ACLIE) 2023

With 27 million kilometres of linear infrastructure (roads, rail, powerlines, pipelines etc.) to be developed in Africa by 2050, there is a critical need to ensure that Africa's ecosystems are safeguarded from fragmentation and degradation.

ACLIE, co-hosted by Grevy's Zebra Trust, Ewaso Lions and the Endangered Wildlife Trust, aimed to highlight best practices on how the impacts of infrastructure should be avoided and reduced, and providing networking and learning opportunities for an emerging African community of practice.

ACLIE was a hybrid conference hosted in Kenya, attended by approximately 150 attendees, with 20 countries represented. Attendees deliberated on the theme of Imagining the Future for ecosystems and infrastructure in Africa through four lenses: Systems, Economics, Pamoja (Collaboration) and Innovation. Post-conference, we continue to work to ensure that the key resolutions of the conference are mainstreamed in best practice at pan-African, national and institutional levels.



Join us in ensuring a vibrant future for Grevy's zebra and the communities they share the land with. Your investment in our work goes directly towards supporting our passionate team committed to improving conservation and livelihood outcomes in northern Kenya. Together, we can make this vision a reality. We are profoundly grateful for your generosity – thank you!

For a full list of our amazing supporters and partners, please visit the partners page on our website.

"The Saint Louis Zoo is proud to be a long-time supporter of the Grevy's Zebra Trust. We have watched this program grow over the decades from a grass roots effort to become the foremost trusted protectorates of the endangered Grevy's zebra. GZT has done this through thoughtful community engagement, fostering trust and mutual respect between those who work for GZT and the community. This model clearly works, as the number of Grevy's zebra on the landscape is stable."

~ Lisa Kelley, Ph.D. Executive Director of the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute

In 2023, 92% of our funding was spent on conservation programs, 5% on administration and 2% on fundraising.

If you would like to see our financials in detail, please contact finance@grevyszebratrust.org.



Support Grevy's Zebra Trust

Online: grevyszebratrust.org/donate

Mpesa: Paybill 542542 Account number 09071

