



# Quarterly Report

JANUARY-MARCH 2024

The future of the endangered Grevy's zebra is intrinsically linked with the resilience of indigenous and local communities in northern Kenya, where solutions for Grevy's zebra must be solutions for people. In 2023, we finalised our new five-year strategy, which builds upon our successes and learnings since 2018. To move towards our ultimate goal of increasing Grevy's zebra numbers, we are focused on the following strategic goals:

- **Understanding Grevy's:** action is informed by accurate information on Grevy's zebra populations.
- **Supporting Grevy's survival:** immediate threats to Grevy's zebra are mitigated.
- **Valuing Grevy's:** ownership of Grevy's zebra conservation is embedded within indigenous and local communities.
- **Regenerating rangelands:** healthy rangelands support people, livestock, and wildlife.
- **Connecting landscapes:** community and Grevy's zebra needs are integrated into land use planning.

## At a Glance

- Great Grevy's Rally held on 27th and 28th January 2024
- 1,255 participants attended grazing planning meetings in Wamba region
- 177 cattle participated in Meibae Conservancy's first regenerative grazing plan
- 8,297 kms collectively walked during foot patrols by our Grevy's Zebra Scouts, Ambassadors and Warriors
- 8,033 Grevy's zebra sightings through 907 encounters
- Grevy's zebra mortalities down to two this quarter compared to 10 over the previous quarter
- Belinda Low Mackey recognised by Disney Conservation Fund

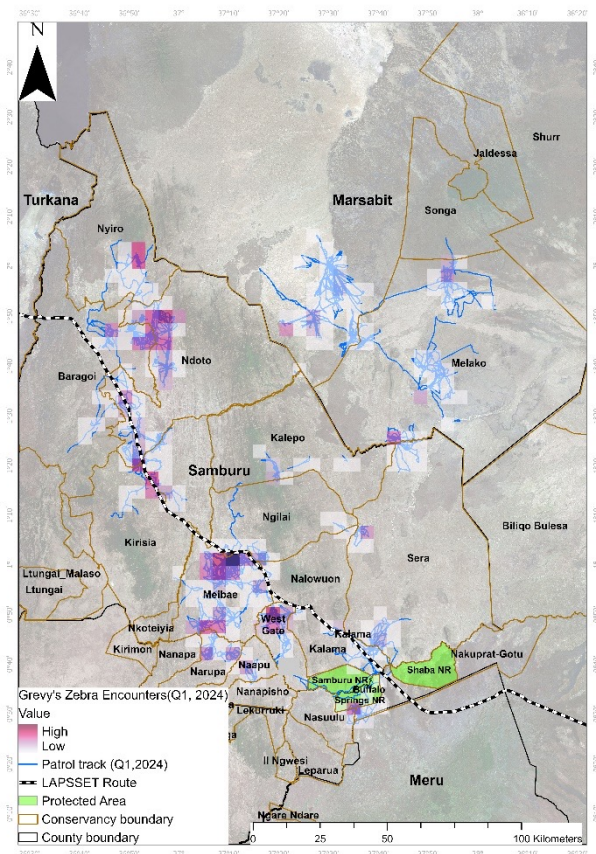
# Understanding Grevy's

Our Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors, Warriors, and Scouts continue to monitor Grevy's zebra and conduct community outreach. In the table below, results from El Barta and Wamba show a healthy proportion of Grevy's zebra foals and juveniles (ideal being 30%) in the population, indicating the potential for growth. Laisamis, which was hit hardest towards the end of East Africa's unprecedented drought, had a low percentage of foals and juveniles observed which is likely a reflection of the fact that females were not able to breed until they had recovered their condition. Based on observations of pregnant females (66% of adult female sightings), our Laisamis team is expecting foaling to start in June 2024, corresponding with the community camels which have a similar gestation period.

Metric	Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors	Grevy's Zebra Scouts	Grevy's Zebra Warriors
No. Team Members	16	26	10
No. Patrols	143	678	47
No. Kms Walked	1742	6000	550
No. Grevy's Zebra Sightings	1287	6517	229
No. Grevy's Zebra Encounters	165	714	28
Foal/Juv:Adult Ratio	28.70%	27.30%	12.70%
Sex Ratio (M:F)	1:3	1:1	1:1



After such a long drought, we are thrilled to see the arrival of new, healthy foals (full of energy for foal zoomies!), as reflected by our monitoring data. (c) Natalia Mroz/Saint Louis Zoo



Map showing density of Grevy's zebra encounters by our monitoring teams across our area of operation during Q1, 2024.

## Mortality and Injuries

There has been an encouraging decrease in mortality, with only two deaths this quarter compared to 10 in the first quarter of 2023, which coincided with the tail end of the drought. The first mortality was a result of birth complications in the Wamba region and the second was killed in a vehicle collision on the A2 highway at Laisamis.

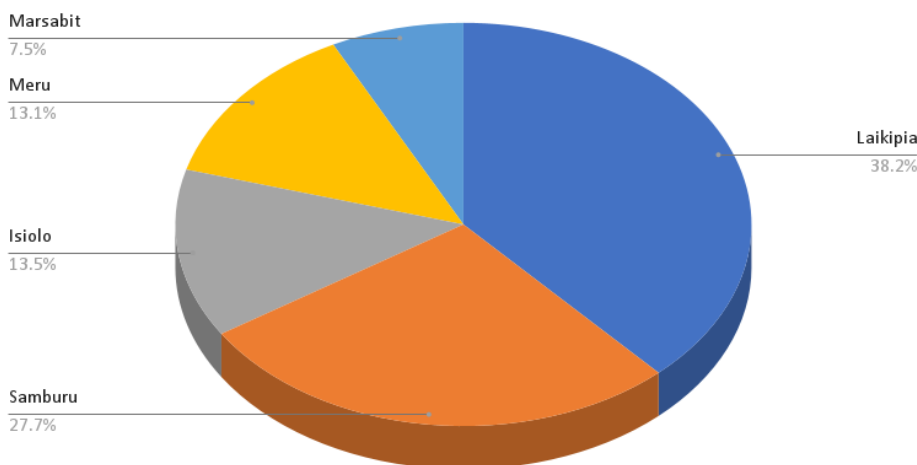
## Great Grevy's Rally

In January, we held the first Great Grevy's Rally (GGR) since 2020, with participants spreading out across northern Kenya to take photographs of Grevy's zebra. The data collected has given us several insights into Grevy's zebra density and distribution.

Close to 14,000 images were collected over the two census days, with teams recording 1,938 individual Grevy's zebra sightings on Day 1 and 2,314 sightings on Day 2. As with previous rallies, Laikipia County led the way with the highest proportion of Grevy's zebra sightings (38.2%), with Samburu also recording a significant proportion of individuals sighted (27.7%).



GGR citizen science team in Kalama Conservancy.



Proportion of Grevy's zebra seen by County during the GGR 2024

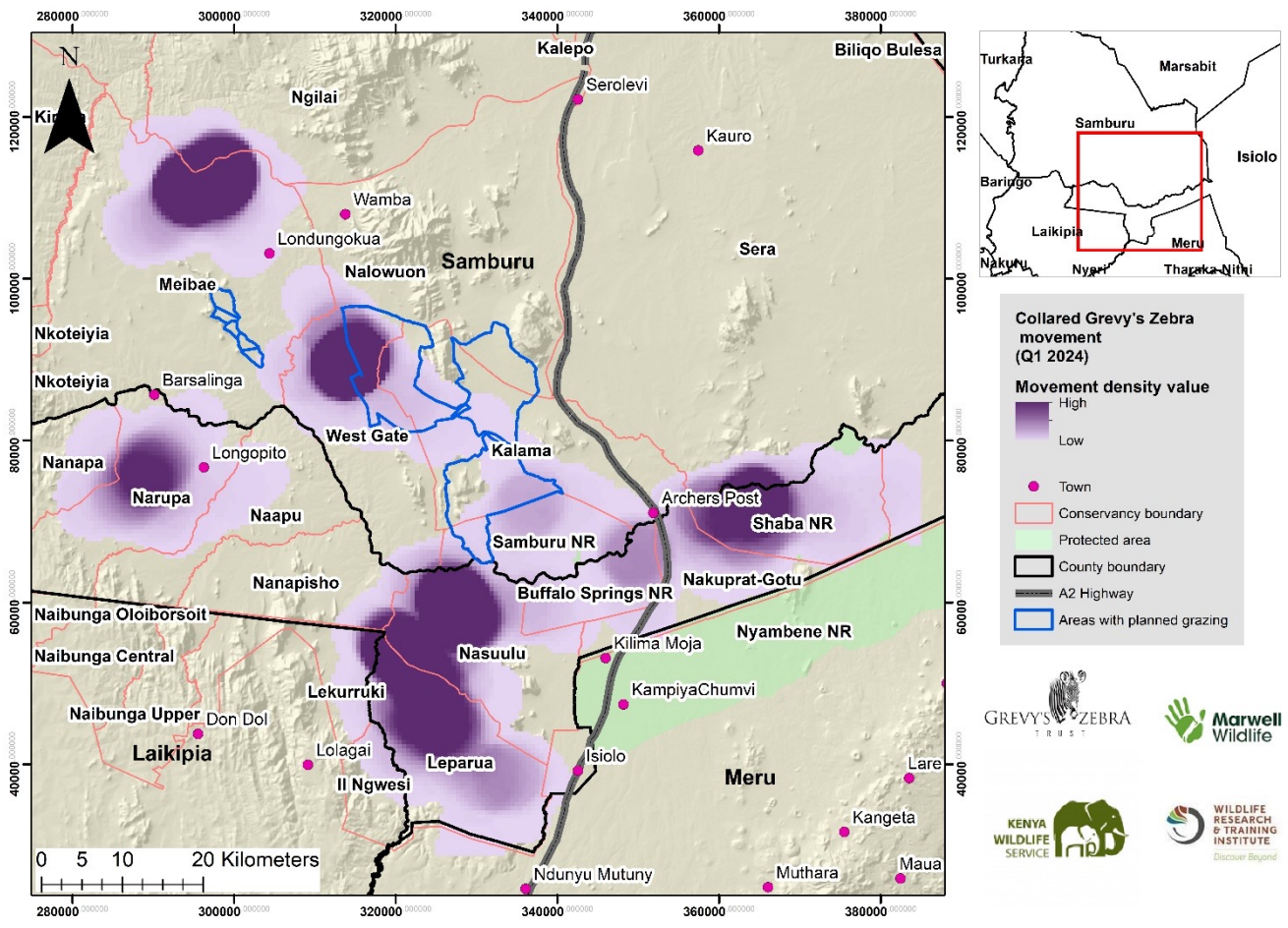
Grevy's zebra distribution did not appear to have changed significantly from the previous iterations of the rally. This is probably partly as a result of evenly distributed and adequate rainfall received in 2023.



# Collared Grevy's Zebra

In September 2023, in collaboration with KWS, Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) and Marwell Wildlife, we collared 20 Grevy's zebra in Northern Kenya. The aim of collaring was to better understand their movements. The information acquired helps us to strengthen the evidence required to minimize impact of major infrastructure projects on Grevy's zebra habitats and populations.

In the first quarter of 2024, the collared Grevy's zebra spent 76.4% of their time within community land, 21.2% within protected areas and 2.4% within County Conservancies. Shaba National Reserve, Leparua, Nasuulu and Narupa community conservancies were main hotspots within Isiolo County. Meibae and Westgate community conservancies were the main hotspots in Samburu County. The two El Barta collared Grevy's zebra mostly stayed in Ndoto Conservancy but also spent some time at Nyiro and Baragoi Conservation Area.



Distribution and movement of 17 collared Grevy's zebra during Q1 across Wamba and Isiolo Regions.

Movements show multiple crossings over the A2 highway, as Grevy's zebra access critical resources on both sides. The LAPSET Corridor will also follow the alignment of the A2. These critical crossing points are shared with multiple species, including those classified by IUCN as endangered, such as reticulated giraffe, cheetah and wild dog.



# Supporting Grevy's Zebra Survival

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## Water Management

Thanks to the excellent rains so far this year, we have only needed to manage the Laisamis River water pan and trough, as water was readily available from earth pans across the landscape.

## Two Grevy's Zebra Foal Rescues

Margaret Lekirsisae from Meibae Community Conservancy, Samburu has been a Grevy's Zebra Scout since 2009 and in January, in a single day, two Grevy's zebra foals were rescued in the area where she works.

The community had reported a distressed foal to her, who was still attempting to nurse from its dead mother which had died from postpartum complications. Margaret comforted the foal for several hours, making sure it was protected until it was taken to safety by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) veterinary team who took it to Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, funded by the Sarara Foundation.



Margaret comforts the foal as they wait for the rescue team.  
© Andrew Letura

Nkaroni receiving professional care at Reteti. © Andrew Letura

We have recently received an update that the rescued foal, named Nkaroni, is doing well and has a very sweet personality! This comes as a great relief to our entire team after witnessing his tragic start to life and is a testament to the dedication and compassion of those caring for the foal.

As rescue operations were underway for Nkaroni, two schoolboys informed the team that they had spotted another foal stuck in a gully. This foal was saved by KWS and our Ecological Monitoring Officer Andrew Letura, and reunited with his mother.





Conservation heroes Saining'o Lebilliar & Ldisiwa Lebilliar who found the foal while herding.



The foal unable to get out of the gully.



The foal being pulled out by KWS officers and community members.



KWS officer guides the foal towards the Grevy's zebra herd in the distance where his mother was waiting.



When we checked on him a few days later, the foal was with his mother and doing really well. © Natalia Mroz



## Veterinary Interventions

In February, it was reported that a Grevy's zebra was found in Maralal caught in a snare. Alongside our partners, we work to prevent these crisis situations from happening in the first place, but there are times when a short-term rescue is essential, and we are glad to say that this adult female Grevy's zebra was successfully freed. We are grateful to the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Northern Kenya Vet Unit, Marwell Wildlife, and the Naiborkeju community for their roles in ensuring this ended well.



Dr Sharon Mulindi of the KWS North Kenya Vet Unit removing the snare from the Grevy's zebra.

## Valuing Grevy's Zebra

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### Conservation Outreach

Our community teams frequently hold both informal and formal meetings with their communities. They cover a range of topics which include Grevy's zebra health and the status of critical resources they depend on, grazing plans, human-wildlife conflict, peace and security, water availability, and rangeland restoration.



## Nkirreten

The nine women from the community who are working for the Nkirreten project have produced a total of 1,655 dignity packs in Q1 to support women in their community with sanitary pads. Distribution of these packs took place at Attan and Resim primary schools, benefitting 350 girls in the Wamba region.



The Nkirreten women at their year start meeting, where they reflected on last year's achievements and challenges, and planned for the year ahead.

## Grevy's Zebra Scholarship Students

This quarter, we continued to support nine girls and three boys with Grevy's Zebra Scholarships for secondary school. In addition to the scholarship, they have received valuable mentorship from our Gender and Youth Coordinator, Damaris, since they joined high school.



Five of our scholarship recipients at camp in early March.



# Regenerating Rangelands

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After years of building inclusive community ownership through voluntary village-based committees and our successful implementation of regenerative grazing in settlement areas in July of last year, this quarter has seen many displays of our long-term investment coming to fruition.

## Restoration

We have seen the number of bunds rise from 1,000 in 2022 to 13,000 across nine sites currently. We have gone from not harvesting any grass seeds to harvesting 136.5 bags (50kg volume) of seeds this quarter of 2024. The Westgate buffer zone is now generating substantial income for women from the sale of their grass seeds harvested within the buffer zone.



Remot restoration site where semi-circular bunds and re-seeding have been implemented.

## Building Inclusive Community Ownership

This first quarter, GZT facilitated 30 meetings in the Wamba region (Westgate, Kalama, and Meibae conservancies), reaching a total of 1,255 people from all demographics (local leaders, elders, women, morans, and herders). These meetings were varied and included dry season follow-up and planning meetings, Holistic Land and Livestock Management (HLLM) training and inception meetings, restoration follow up, and more. In the Laisamis region, our team held a total of 10 meetings, reaching 164 people from different stakeholders within the community. These meetings covered dry season grazing planning and SMART refresher training for our Grassland Champions team.

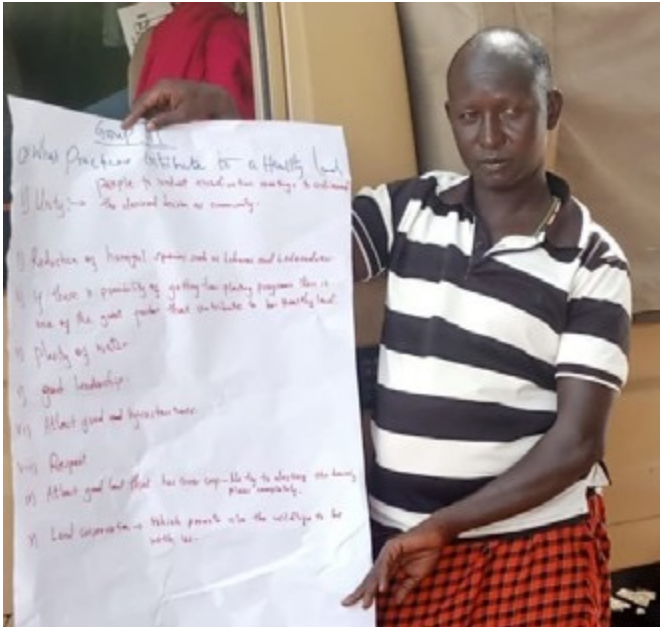


Community members from Mabati zone in Meibae Conservancy during HLLM training.



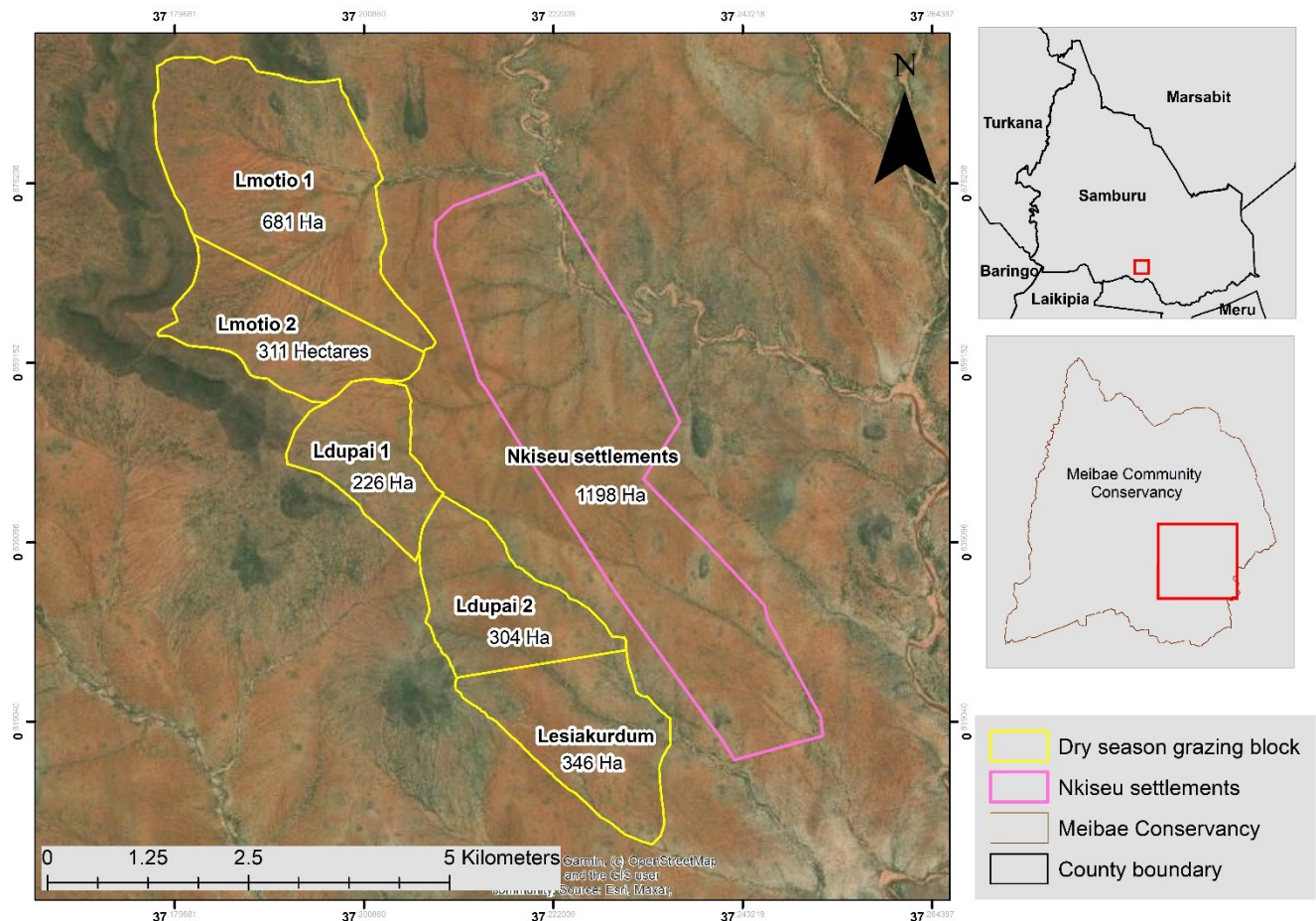
## Regenerative Grazing

In partnership with the community and Meibae Conservancy, we have helped to implement the first regenerative grazing plan in Nkiseu zone, with 1,868 hectares set aside for dry season grazing. We have had smooth cooperation with the conservancy management and zone elders, and 177 cattle are participating in the plan. We expect to see an increase in Grevy's zebra numbers, as has been the case in previous regenerative grazing sites in both Westgate and Kalama.



Mzee Lekolii reporting back during a workshop.

Mzee Lekolii is an elder from Meibae Conservancy who has consistently stood his ground to push for regenerative grazing. Every time an obstacle has come up, he has continued pushing. When we started the regenerative grazing in his region, his excitement was obvious. He told us, *"You guys go and rest. As long as it has reached here, we will make sure there's good coordination going forward."* He has encouraged others to come and learn from what is happening and we are now planning for a training that will include 150 people. He is investing in the future even though he will not enjoy the results in his own lifetime; he is investing on behalf of the next generation.



Dry season grazing blocks in Nkiseu zone, Meibae Community Conservancy.



# Connecting Landscapes

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## Northern Kenya Road Watch

In total, nine cases of wildlife-vehicle collisions were recorded during Q1.

- Cheetah - 2
- Grevy's zebra -1
- Striped hyena -1
- Spotted hyena -1
- Aardwolf -2
- Dove -1
- Jackal -1

Together with Ewaso Lions, a presentation was given to the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Director General on A2 mitigation in January, and a collaboration between KWS and Kenya Highways Authority (KeNHA) to address mitigation along the A2 is in process.

## Other Highlights

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### Peter Leshakwet joins us as Programs Director

We are excited to welcome Peter Leshakwet as our new Programs Director. He has worked in the conservation space in northern Kenya, where he is from, for many years. We are grateful to have Peter's experience, insight, and leadership benefiting our field teams.



Peter Leshakwet at a recent SMART refresher training for our Ambassadors.

### Award to Belinda Low Mackey from Disney Conservation Fund

Our Co-Founder and Executive Director, Belinda Low Mackey, was honoured with a [Disney Conservation Fund award](#) for her leadership in our work of protecting Grevy's zebra. The fund is designed to shine a light on female conservationists who are dedicated to creating a healthier planet for both people and wildlife.

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## Redempta Njeri attends Tusk Conservation Symposium in Rwanda

Our Impact and Learning Manager, Redempta Njeri, had an exciting opportunity to attend the Tusk Conservation Symposium in Rwanda in March. The theme was “Evolution in African Conservation” and they focused on collaboration, areas of synergy, and harnessing the collective expertise of the Tusk portfolio to catalyse growth. Redempta was inspired by how Rwanda incorporates different sectors, including conservation, into all development decisions. The participants also had the chance to go on field visits, where they saw an important wetland and national park.



Participants at the Tusk Conservation Symposium.

## GZT's Strengths Journey

To support individuals and the team to manage change, and strengthen GZT's culture and team cohesion, GZT has embarked on a tailored Strengths Journey with a Kenya-based organisation which facilitates coaching in Clifton Strengths Finder. The Strengths Journeys team facilitated a fantastic workshop at our camp where we explored our strengths, our culture and how we build trust.

## Daughters for Earth Visit

We were thrilled to host Daughters for Earth in Westgate Conservancy, where they got to meet our Grassland Champions and hear about their journey as women leading the way in land restoration.

## Belinda Low Mackey featured on the Innovation Station

Belinda Low Mackey featured as a guest on the Innovation Station podcast to discuss the importance of grasslands in the work we do. She shared how healthy grasslands and connected landscapes are vital to the survival of Grevy's zebra and the wellbeing of communities in northern Kenya (and other communities around the world). Thank you to the U.S. Department of State - Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues for hosting us for this important conversation. This podcast is available on [Apple](#) and [Spotify](#).





## Peter Lalampaa visits Namibia


As part of the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) course that The Nature Conservancy runs, Peter Lalampaa travelled to Namibia where he interacted with colleagues from Southern and West African countries, including Zambia, Namibia, Mozambique, and South Africa. It was a great learning experience, with insights into how the conservation model of consumptive utilization of wildlife in Southern and West Africa works, and how this translates to increased value for wildlife by communities that live with it. What became clear was that decision-making and responsibility for natural resource management should be devolved to small units of community governance, which is the village. This affirms our approach of managing our Regenerating Rangelands goal at the village level through a village-based committee. There are numerous valuable lessons we can learn from devolving ownership and responsibility of wildlife as a resource to the community, which is the basis for CBNRM.




Participants on the CBNRM course in Namibia.

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