



Quarterly Report

APRIL – JUNE 2024

Our mission is to conserve and grow the Grevy's zebra population in northern Kenya. To ensure this growth, maintaining the ecological integrity and health of rangelands is critical. This landscape supports both pastoral communities and Grevy's zebra, so the fate of the Grevy's zebra is also tied to the well-being of local human societies. As we continue moving forward with our mission, we recently launched our strategic plan, which envisions a growing Grevy's zebra population coexisting with thriving, peaceful communities across healthy, connected rangelands. The goals outlined in the strategic plan are:

- **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.



(From left to right) Belinda Low Mackey, His Excellency Honourable Lati, Governor of Samburu County, and GZT Co-Founder Martha Fischer holding up the newly launched strategic plan.



A performance by some of the GZT staff as part of the strategic launch celebration.

Leadership Transition

Seventeen years ago, Belinda Low Mackey founded the Grevy's Zebra Trust, laying the groundwork for GZT's sustainable impact in northern Kenya. From the very beginning, Peter Lalampaa has played an influential role within the organisation and that influence has only grown.

In May 2024, the Grevy's Zebra Trust team celebrated a significant leadership transition from Belinda Low Mackey, who will remain as an advisor, to Peter Lalampaa as our new Executive Director. This transition signifies the stability and strength of the organisation and underscores our commitment to localising conservation efforts. The GZT team and many of our partners came together to thank and honour Belinda and to officially commission Peter into his new leadership role.



The transition ceremony of Belinda Low Mackey handing over leadership to Peter Lalampaa.

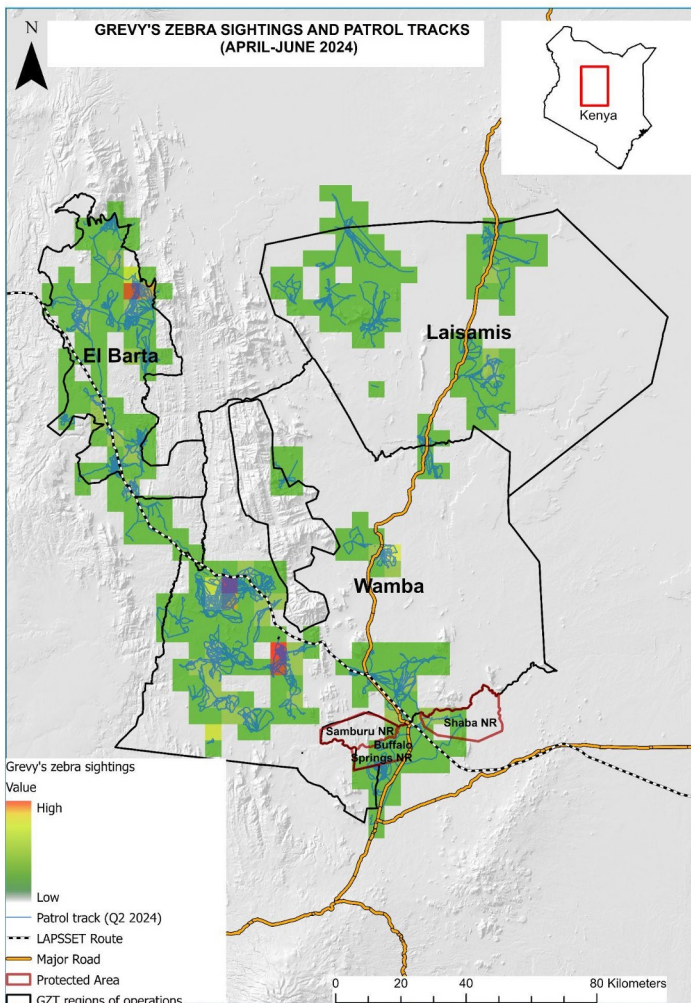
At a Glance

- Leadership transition from Belinda Low Mackey to Peter Lalampaa as the new GZT Executive Director.
- Strategic Plan (2023-2027) launched.
- 58 meetings held to support regenerative grazing and restoration of rangelands.
- 156 bags of grass seeds planted at 16 restoration sites.
- 177 head of cattle participated in Meibae Conservancy's first regenerative grazing plan.
- 1,034 new semi-circular bunds constructed.
- 4,113 km walked during foot patrols by our El Barta Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors team.
- 1,247 km walked during foot patrols by our Wamba Grevy's Zebra Scouts team.
- Peter Lalampaa awarded the National Geographic Society/Bufet Award for Leadership in Conservation.

Understanding Grevy's

Patrols: The Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors conducted 390 patrols, including 340 on foot and 50 in vehicles. During these patrols, they had 128 encounters with Grevy's zebra and recorded 957 individual Grevy's zebra sightings (which may include multiple observations of the same individuals). The Grevy's Zebra Scouts conducted 464 foot patrols, covering 5,812 kilometres, recording 4,175 Grevy's zebra sightings within 440 encounters. The Grevy's Zebra Warriors carried out 90 foot patrols and two vehicle patrols, with 61 Grevy's zebra sightings recorded in their 18 encounters. The percentage of juveniles remains at a healthy place, averaging 30.03% across all three teams' sightings.

Metric	Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors	Grevy's Zebra Scouts	Grevy's Zebra Warriors
No. of team members	16	26	10
No. of patrols	390	464	90
No. kms walked	4113	5812	1247
No. Grevy's zebra sightings	957	4175	61
No. Grevy's zebra encounters	128	440	18
Foal/juvenile adult ratio	32.5%	26.5%	31.1%
Sex ratio (M:F)	1:3	1:1	1:1



The Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors, together with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and conservancy rangers, carried out a joint patrol in the El Barta region. The patrol covered 364 kilometres targeting Grevy's zebra hotspots where 89 Grevy's zebras were sighted. In May, we also conducted Grevy's zebra surveys at Buffalo Springs National Reserve (BSNR), Nasuulu, Meibae and Westgate Community Conservancies. While no Grevy's zebra were seen in BSNR, 41 were sighted at Nasuulu, 84 in Westgate and 119 in Meibae Conservancy.

Grevy's Zebra Scouts, Ambassadors and Warriors Grevy's zebra sightings and patrol tracks (Q2, 2024).



Grevys Zebra Ambassadors and Nyiro Conservation area rangers during a joint patrol at Kawuap area, Baragoi.



Collared Grevy's zebra with her foal at Nasuulu Community Conservancy.



A herd of Grevy's zebra at Meibae Community Conservancy.



Photo taken by Grevy's Zebra Warriors on one of their patrols at Sengererua.

Enhancing Data Collection and Management: After 15 years of paper-based data collection, we have now fully transitioned the Grevy's Zebra Scouts to the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) for data collection. All GZT's community teams are now using SMART.

This transition enables automatic uploading of field data into a centralised dashboard, facilitating quick and efficient analysis by our research and impact team. In addition, all Grevy's Zebra Scouts were supplied with a solar system, which includes a battery, solar panel and two bulbs. This enables them to power their phones for data collection as well as light their houses.



John Lekishe, Wamba Regional Coordinator, training Nosurai Lentawuo, Grevy's Zebra Scout, on how to use the solar system.

SMART Refresher Training: The research officers conducted a refresher training with the Grevy's Zebra Scouts, Ambassadors and Warriors in their respective areas of work. The training helps us to review our data, provide feedback and identify gaps for improvement.



Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors team during SMART refresher training, June 2024

Supporting Grevy's Zebra Survival

Vet Interventions: On 15th June, a case of a sick Grevy's zebra was reported at Noontoto area in Wamba region. The lactating female had an old wound that was infected. We are grateful to the KWS vet, Dr Matthew Mutinda, who treated the wound. The Grevy's zebra's foal, who was a few metres away waiting for the mother to be treated, continued to enjoy the company of her mom.



Dr. Matthew Mutinda and John Kwakan (GZT Driver) while treating sick Grevy' at Nontoto area, Wamba region.

Three Grevy's zebra foal rescues: A foal was rescued by the community at Oldonyiro area on 3rd June. The foal was reunited with the mother with the help of the community after a long search. We are grateful to our team, KWS Oldonyiro and community members who tirelessly searched for the mother to reunite her with her foal. Two other foals were rescued by community members in the Oldonyiro area on 5th and 27th June respectively. The foals were taken to Reteti sanctuary after an unsuccessful search for their mothers.

This year we have rescued five foals. Foal separation from their mothers has been attributed firstly to land degradation in the area where foals fall in deep gullies. We have also seen an increase of Grevy's zebra in this area due to good rains and effective grazing management by Narupa Community Conservancy in Lowangiro, Itii area. With this in mind, there are low awareness levels by the community on the behaviour of Grevy's zebra, including the fact that mothers often leave their foals behind for a short period as they go for water. Instead of intervening immediately, it is better to wait and see if the mother returns. Following these incidents, our team has held a stakeholder workshop on Grevy's zebra behaviour, and we are also conducting community meetings to create awareness within the community on the same.



A rescued foal at Oldonyiro that was later reunited with its mother.



A foal rescued from a gully at Oldonyiro area and later taken to Reteti sanctuary.

We responded to three wildfire cases that were reported at Buffalo Spring National Reserve, Attan and Nasuulu grazing areas. The fires started from charcoal making activities. Through collaborative efforts from different stakeholders (Isiolo County rangers, Manyatta zebra warriors, Ngaremara youths, Ashil lodge staff, Ewaso Lions, Attan warriors, Nasuulu rangers and Ariemet community), the fires were successfully put out. Charcoal making is a challenge to land degradation and together with our partners, we continue to engage communities on wildfire prevention measures.



Pascal Kirion Esekon (GZT Program Officer working in Isiolo) assisting with the wildfire management.

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 there were large amounts of water on the earth pans in the plains.

GZT constructed a sand dam along Laisamis river. Sand dams store rainwater within sand layers beneath the riverbed and provide clean water. Our Laisamis team also held a meeting with the community to discuss the water usage at the Tirgamo borehole. This was undertaken to facilitate Grevy's zebra access to water and the safety of solar panels and pumping equipment.



Laisamis Sand Dam, April 2024

“Laisamis stream has come back to its previous state, and we are so happy because it reminds us how the river used to be during our childhood. We should bring elders from Namarei to come and see this beauty. I have taken these pictures to share with you because I want to appreciate the good work that was done by GZT by constructing this sand dam.” Mzee Galwesi, Elder from Laisamis, communicating with Peter Lalampaa

El Barta Conservation Council (ECC): The El Barta Conservation Council supports peace building within 11 villages in the El Barta region. This region has had multiple conflicts in the past, increasing the risk of poaching. Thanks to peace building efforts, poaching has significantly reduced in the area. In June, 10 new members of ECC were selected in a participatory process of 106 people in Soit Naibuor, Soit Ngiro, and Loruko villages. ECC members work in partnership with the area chiefs to create awareness on Grevy's zebra conservation through peace initiatives.

Mortality and Injuries: We recorded three Grevy's zebra mortalities between April and June. This includes two rescued foals, which died from sickness at Reteti sanctuary, and an adult that died from predation.

Valuing Grevy's Zebra

GZT works to ensure that ownership of Grevy's zebra conservation is embedded within indigenous and local communities. One aspect of successfully fostering this is conducting regular meetings and workshops with community members to discuss topics, spread awareness, and reach consensus on different issues. Some of the topics discussed include grazing plans, human-wildlife conflict, rangeland restoration, and peace and security.

In May, at a Silapani community workshop, Mzee Khoyan gave a story of how he speared a zebra when he was a teenager. He said, "I thought I was a hero because spearing a zebra on the white stripe was a sign of luck. If I only knew zebras were unique to us and that they depend on us for survival, I would want to go back and bring that one to life."

Nkirreten: Ten fully trained women continue to make reusable dignity packs (sanitary pads) for schoolgirls and community women. The women are based in five production units, namely Sasaab, Kiltamany, Nkutuk, Naisunyai and Lkalkaloi villages. They produced 1,601 dignity packs in the second quarter of 2024 and distributed 1,790 dignity packs, benefiting 600 schoolgirls and 35 community women. This project has been a key pillar in amplifying the value of Grevy's zebra and empowering women to conserve Grevy's zebra and their habitat.



Teresa Lekalwei at Kiltamany tent, Westgate Conservancy.



Lwani Lebulkash and Rasia Lekuyie at Lkalkaloi production unite in Meibae Conservancy.

Grevy's Zebra Scholarship Students: We continued to support nine girls and three boys with Grevy's Zebra Scholarships for secondary school. In addition to the scholarship, they also receive valuable mentorship from our Gender and Youth Coordinator, Damaris Lekiluai. In April, Damaris had an interactive afternoon with our female Form 4 scholarship recipients where they connected on a personal level and discussed topics like academic progress and holiday plans.

Mercy Neepe: One of GZT's former scholarship students, Mercy Neepe, graduated with her pilot's licence in 2023, making her the first (and currently only) female pilot from her region. Mercy is now furthering her training and is currently in the process of becoming a commercial pilot.

"I'm so glad to have met the team during the strategic plan launch. They are a very dedicated team, and you all are my role models. I admire everything you are doing; may God bless you. My family and community are all very proud of me. Many schools in my area now use my name as a good example to encourage students. Every time I talk to my siblings, they share what their teachers told them about me, and this keeps me moving. I just want to show them the way, be a good role model and enlighten them in one way or another." Mercy Neepe



Mercy Neepe (left) in her pilot's uniform with Belinda Low Mackey and Joel Loongo'nyo (El Barta Regional Coordinator) at the transition celebration.

Regenerating Rangelands

We have spent years fostering inclusive community ownership through voluntary village-based committees. Following the successful implementation of regenerative grazing in settlement areas last July, we are now observing many indications of our long-term investment yielding positive results.

Meetings: GZT supported a total of 48 meetings in the Wamba region (Westgate, Kalama, and Meibae Conservancies), reaching a total of 2,872 people from all demographics (local leaders, elders, women, morans, herders and conservancy board members). These meetings were varied and mainly focused on wet season grazing planning, quarterly grazing committee meetings, training and learning sites management. The grazing planning committee meetings held at Kalama, Meibae and Westgate Conservancies led to the development of harmonised quarterly work plans. The team has been engaging the new board members and grazing committee members from Westgate and Kalama Conservancies. Community and conservancy board members from Meibae Conservancy were also taken out to the Nkiseu zone for joint zonal exposure tours and ecoliteracy training. The exchange visit was to learn from the Nkiseu zone, which had successfully implemented cattle bunching for healthy rangelands. A total of 195 community members (including 155 elders and 44 women) were reached, including core group, water users, learning site and quarterly Grassland Champions meetings.



A few snapshots from the exchange visit to Nkiseu zone.

During this exchange visit exercise, Mzee Lengojine, a former chief, said, "If there is any touching exercise that directly influences the life of a pastoralist, it is the one we have witnessed today. Therefore, we have a task to initiate it in all our villages so that cattle deaths are reduced due to lack of pasture." Mzee Lekumoisa also said, "I have lived in this conservancy for over 60 years now, and no one could have ever convinced me that Nkiseu had a grazing area that could sustain over 200 cows for two months or more. Until today, when I witnessed it with my own eyes."



Lpusi Laampasion & Laantare community members on an exposure tour to witness the Nkiseu community bunching program.

Regenerative Grazing: In partnership with Kalama, Meibae, Naluwon and Westgate Conservancies, 18 dry season grazing blocks and six wet season grazing blocks have been identified and mapped since 2023. The dry season blocks are 23,421 hectares while the wet season blocks are 7,950 hectares. The partnership also supports peace building between different communities.

Meibae and Narupa Conservancies held a joint meeting to discuss ways to resolve encroachment issues. We are glad that the conservancies are taking ownership of the grazing plan implementation. Morans from different zones were also engaged to assist the elders and village-based committees in the implementation of grazing plans.

Restoration Management: A total of 1,034 new semi-circular bunds have been constructed across Wamba and Laisamis regions. We planted 156 bags (50kg volume) in 12 learning sites in the Wamba region and five in Laisamis. This was following the harvesting of 136.5 bags (50kg volume) of seeds in Q1 of 2024. Our 12 Grassland Champions were trained on best rangelands management practices and visited Reteti sanctuary for team building.



Restoration site at Lkalkaloi, Meibae Conservancy

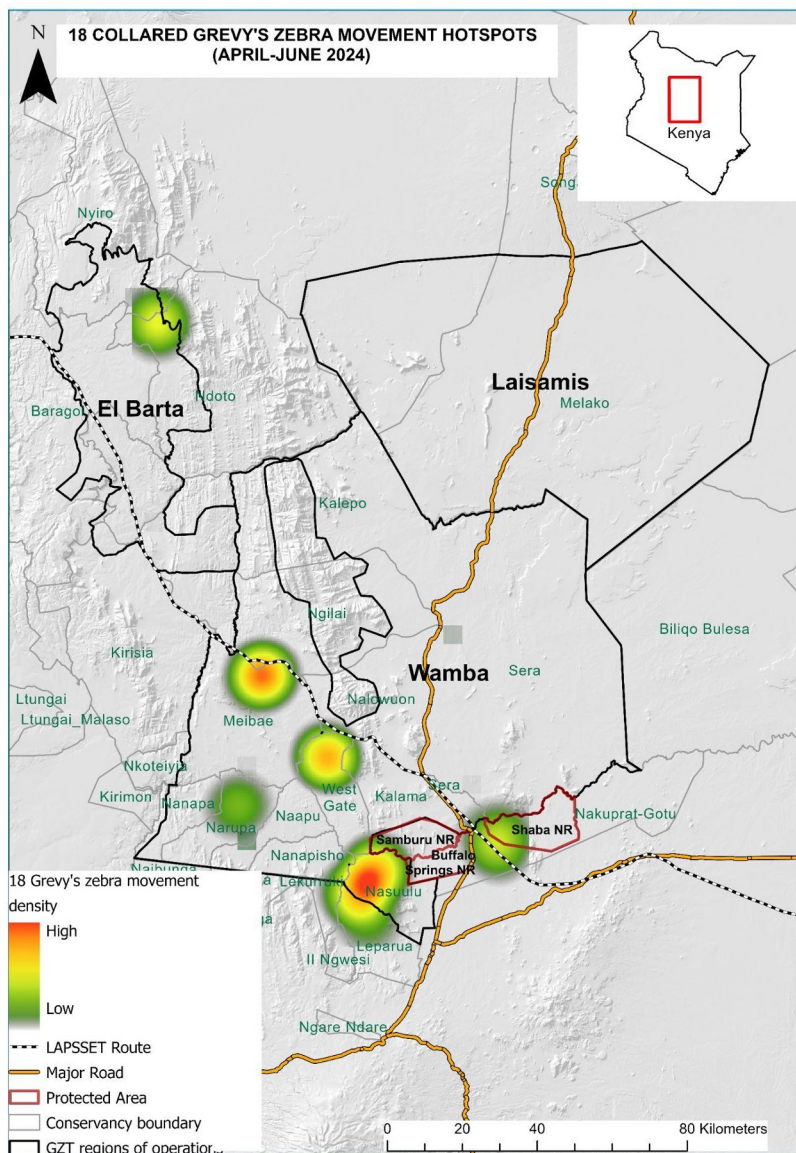
“The good work of our Grassland Champions. It’s impressive and is winning the hearts of every community member.”

- Dominic Lenet Leparmarai, Rangeland Assistant Officer



Connecting Landscapes

Northern Kenya Road Watch: We continued to monitor road kills on the Isiolo-Moyale highway through the collaborative group, Northern Kenya Road Watch. Twelve wild animals, namely two reticulated giraffes, one leopard, one genet, one puff adder, two striped hyenas, one cape hare, one white tailed mongoose, one monitor lizard, one eagle and one jackal were hit and killed on the road. The group has engaged the Kenya National Highway Authority and we have agreed to add signage along the hotspots to warn drivers of the possibility of wildlife and encourage them to be vigilant and drive carefully.



Collared Grevy's zebra movement map (April-June 2024)

Collaring data: In September 2023, GZT, in partnership with KWS, Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) and Marwell Wildlife, collared Grevy's zebra in northern Kenya. The aim of collaring was to better understand their movements across the landscape. The information acquired helps us to strengthen the evidence to minimise impact of major infrastructure projects on the connectivity of Grevy's zebra habitats. This quarter, 84.5% of the GPS locations recorded by 18 collars were in community conservancies (Meibae, Nasuulu, Kalama, Westgate, Narupa, Leparua, Ngilai, Nakuprat Gotu), 4% in protected areas (Samburu, Shaba and Buffalo Springs National Reserves) and 11.5% in county conservancies (Nyiro, Baragoi and Ndoto). Two collared Grevy's zebra crossed the Isiolo-Moyale highway. We continue to monitor the key crossing points on the road to inform mitigation measures.

Other Highlights

Peter Lalampaa honoured with the National Geographic Society/Buffet Award for Leadership in Conservation

Peter Lalampaa was honoured with the 2024 National Geographic Society/Buffett Award for Leadership in Conservation, highlighting the importance of the work that is being done by him and our incredible team. The award was presented at the society's annual Explorers Festival in Washington, D.C., where Peter had the opportunity to address the audience, share more about the work of GZT, and receive the award in person.

"It was a powerful and special moment for me to stand in front of the global audience and accept this award with a humbling reminder that our success is courtesy of an effective team which has dedicated their time, energy and resources to conserve and grow the number of Grevy's zebra in Northern Kenya. Thank you to National Geographic for giving us the chance to amplify our voice to the world." Peter Lalampaa



Peter Lalampaa accepting his award in Washington, D.C.

Peter Lalampaa and David Kimiti speak at WCN Spring Expo 2024

Peter Lalampaa and David Kimiti had the opportunity to share about Grevy's Zebra Trust at the Wildlife Conservation Network's (WCN's) Spring Expo, which is an event celebrating wildlife and the people who dedicate their lives to protecting endangered animals. They participated alongside other conservationists from across the globe.

GZT Team members participate in the Karatina University Symposium

Redempta Njeri, Andrew Letura, and Damaris Lekiluai had a great day at Karatina University interacting with students and sharing about Grevy's zebra and the Nkirreten project. The symposium was organised by Save the Elephants and Karatina University and our team members participated alongside Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Mpala Research Centre, East Africa Wildlife Society, Space for Giants, Amboseli Trust for Elephants, Born Free Foundation, and Ewaso Lions.

The symposium helped to empower the students to understand a possible career and other opportunities in conservation.




Damaris Lekiluai and Redempta Njeri with students from Karatina University.


Ten Year Service Awards given to team members





Celebrating long-serving team members on a beautiful Samburu night.

When the team was together at camp for the launch of the strategic plan and the transition ceremony, we also took the opportunity to recognise 10 of our team members who have served with GZT for at least 10 years. As our team has grown significantly over the past five years, it was a chance for us to learn more about each other and celebrate their impressive work.

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