



GREVY'S ZEBRA
TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

A YEAR OF PARADOX AND IMPACT

2020 was a year of paradox. The creep of the pandemic across the globe sent many of us into fear and isolation. And yet out of this darkness came light and hope.



The Grevy's Zebra Trust team rallied to support each other and ensure that we could continue our critical work, safely. We immediately developed a Covid-19 response strategy, to make sure that our team could operate safely and protect the communities we work with. Since we were unable to all meet in person, we started weekly Zoom meetings.

These meetings were not all about work; we created them as a safe space to share how each of us was doing, which from week to week was a sliding scale. We became vulnerable and in doing so, we allowed each other to open up and lean in. Never more were we like a family. Every team member contributed to building our personal and team resilience. This culture of trust and compassion that arose out of adversity continues on, and it will carry us through whatever challenges the new year and beyond brings us.

2020 was also a year of unprecedented impact. We co-hosted the third Great Grevy's Rally before the pandemic arrived in Kenya; we prioritized the continued employment of every member of our team, to ensure that livelihoods were protected, and that we could continue to monitor the status of Grevy's zebra across the landscape; our Nkirreten team pivoted to producing reusable protective face masks; and, the combination of holistic land and livestock management, our women's land restoration work and sustained rainfall, led to a significant increase in forage.

These successes were made possible by the overwhelming support that we received from our friends and partners, despite the challenges they themselves faced. We are deeply thankful for all you did in helping us to be resilient.

In gratitude

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Belinda".

Belinda Low Mackey
Co-Founder & Executive Director

TEAM REFLECTIONS

ON THE YEAR

Unprecedented

Challenging

Transitions

Surprising

A Milestone

Tricky

Variable

Worry

Anxiety

Resilience

Reflection

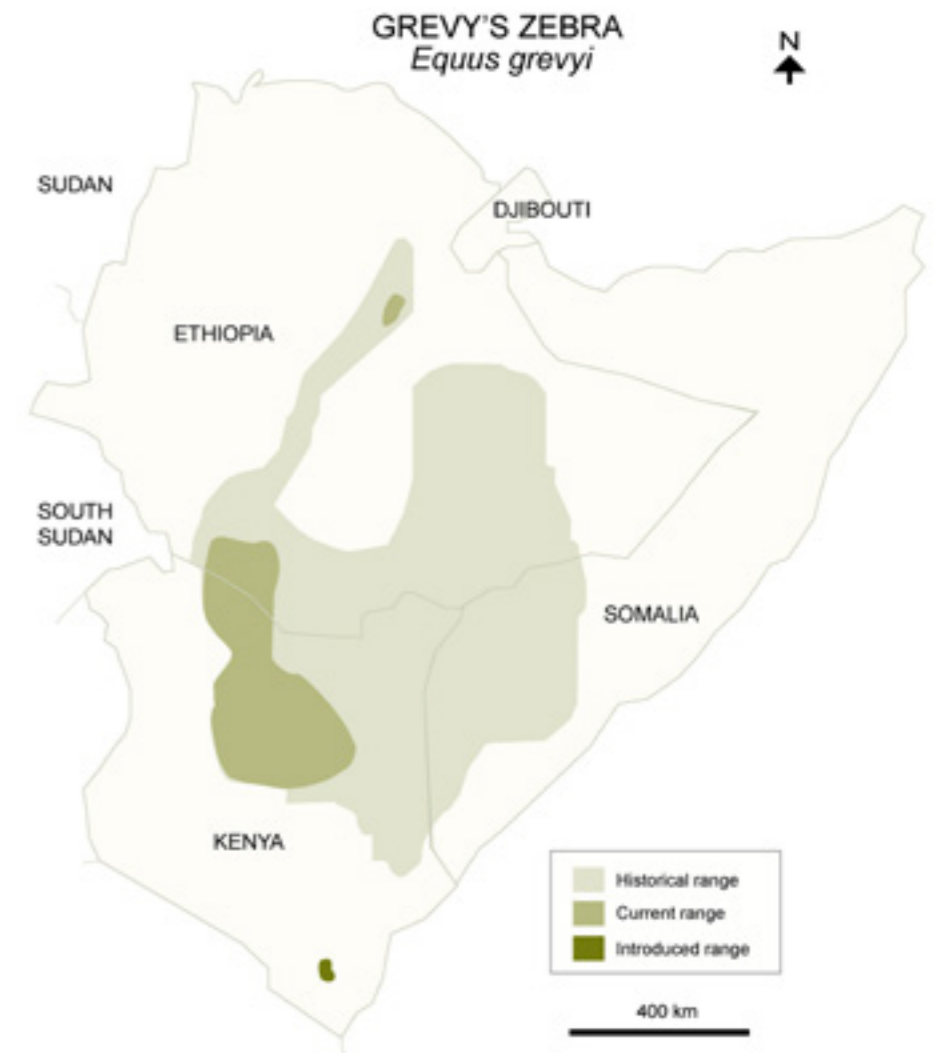
Togetherness

GREVY'S ZEBRA



©Mia Collis

The Grevy's zebra is one of Africa's most endangered large mammals.



Only 3,000 wild Grevy's zebra are left in the arid landscapes of Kenya and Ethiopia; over 90% of these are found only in northern Kenya. Once hunted for its magnificent skin, the Grevy's zebra is now threatened by habitat loss due to land degradation, limited access to water, poaching, and disease.

The Grevy's zebra is the largest zebra species in Africa. It is distinguished from the plains zebra by its large fuzzy ears, fine intricate stripes, gleaming white belly, soft brown muzzle, and a charcoal dorsal stripe bordered by a white space at the rump. Hence the Samburu name for Grevy's zebra "Loiborkurum" meaning "white-rumped".

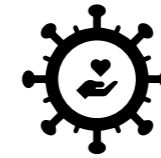


OUR APPROACH

The future of the Grevy's zebra is intrinsically linked with the resilience of pastoral communities in northern Kenya. Both are threatened by land degradation and fragmentation, restricted access to water, insecurity and disease. Our work seeks to better the future for both.

Recognising that the survival of Grevy's zebra depends on its ability to co-exist with people living in northern Kenya, the Grevy's Zebra Trust (GZT) puts communities at the centre of designing and driving conservation efforts. They have the institutions, knowledge, and traditional systems in place to address environmental challenges, and our role is to support resilience practices and help communities adapt to modern realities so that they can protect their resources for pastoralism and wildlife to thrive.

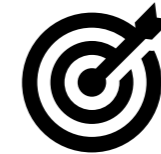
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020



COVID-19
strategy developed



Grevy's Zebra Trust
NEW WEBSITE



IMPACT MODELS
developed for
5 programs



Reusable sanitary pad
kits produced and
distributed



"GREAT GREVY'S RALLY"
photographic census
of Grevy's zebra



Protective **FACE MASKS** sewn and
distributed



550 CATTLE FOR 4 MONTHS IN HOLISTIC GRAZING PLAN
in Westgate Conservancy buffer zone



MILES WALKED ON FOOT PATROLS
by Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors and Warriors

HEALTHY RANGELANDS

THE RESILIENCE OF PASTORALISM

When the pandemic started, people were not sure of tomorrow as livelihood and production systems began to shut down. Businesses, markets and schools closed, and global travel was halted, leading to the collapse of the tourism sector. It was like the global clock had stopped. However, in northern Kenya, despite the closure of livestock markets, the pastoral system continued to run smoothly. COVID-19 was seen as an urban dwellers' disease and it was hard to convince pastoralist communities that life had changed in the rest of the world.

ADAPTING TO THE NEW NORMAL

Our rangelands work primarily relies on face to face meetings with large groups of community members. Thankfully, our work is mostly outdoors and so while COVID-19 limited the number of people we could meet, we were still able to safely hold small meetings with strict protocols of social distance, mask-wearing and hand sanitization in place.

At the village level, decisions are made on planned grazing and household livestock movement. To tap into this critical platform, we focused our efforts on the Village-Based Committees (VBCs) that we established in 2019. We were able to safely hold meetings with these small committees in 17 villages. The meetings paid off; coupled with the good rainy seasons of 2019 and early 2020, our VBC engagement strengthened community ownership for implementing best-practice rangeland management, with 11 villages implementing their grazing plans and protecting dry season reserves.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the year 2020 was a historical moment for the Samburu community. It marked the start of a new generation with communities carrying out circumcision ceremonies for young boys, which happens every 15 years. Families that are from one lineage travelled from afar to live in temporary circumcision settlements called lororas, which can interfere with existing grazing plans; however the VBCs and conservancy grazing committees guided the placement of these temporary settlements, which rely on good pasture and water availability. Extra care was taken to manage the grass around the lororas, to ensure that the livestock for the ceremonies was healthy.

HOLISTIC LAND AND LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE

Learning sites are areas set aside by the community for piloting best-practice rangeland management, and the results shared with community members for implementation at the village level. This involves bringing communal livestock together for bunched herding as they graze during the day, and placing livestock enclosures (bomas) where the livestock sleep on severely degraded areas to restore bare ground. These bomas were located in severely degraded areas which were earmarked for intensive treatment through livestock hoof impact (facilitating a more effective water cycle) and dung and urine deposits which fertilize the soil.

In Westgate this year, 550 cattle were herded for bunched grazing from March through June in an area of 1,200 hectares. Eleven bomas were established on bare ground, and a team of 15 herders managed the bunched herding of the cattle, spraying of the herd to protect against parasites and protection of the herd against predators. By the end of the grazing plan, there was still adequate plant cover for wildlife grazing and for protecting the soil against run-off and erosion.

These efforts have allowed the learning site pasture to have adequate time for recovery. The grass grew to maturity, which resulted in a more effective water cycle. Anecdotal evidence from elders show that a stream close to the learning site called Nereteti last had water in 1980, but during 2020 its springs were able to recharge.



"Now you find star grass letting the water flow slowly through it. The sandy soil is no longer being washed away. You can now dig a shallow well without getting the muddy water which used to be on top, but which is now covered by sand. Deep gullies have been healed because [...] the sandy soil is no longer being carried away."

~ Mzee Letaare –
Chairman, Kalama
Conservancy Grazing
Committee



RESTORATION SITES IN WESTGATE CONSERVANCY

Lolua cleared site in Naisunyai, Westgate was a critical grazing area for Grevy's zebra. The grazing block was taken over by the indigenous encroacher species *Acacia reficiens* and was cleared by the community with support from the Northern Rangelands Trust. Since then, GZT's rangelands team has worked closely with the community in Naisunyai to prioritize management of that site. The community efforts to control grazing gave the area good recovery time and pasture levels have increased, which has resulted in an increased number of wildlife grazers. Herds of 21 and 28 Grevy's zebra were sighted during the two visits made respectively. The Lolua site had also turned into a learning site for the villages living in the north of the conservancy, with two groups taken into the area for learning purposes. The site had turned to be a success story as a result of land restoration approaches used and subsequent management.

Remot village has continued to be a leading zone in Westgate conservancy in restoring their degraded land. The community has two restoration sites owned and initiated voluntarily by the community, after a training conducted by GZT in 2019. One site had no *Acacia reficiens* but had huge gullies and bare land. The restoration process led by women and chaired by Mama Grevy's, one of our Grassland Champions includes:

- Gully filling
- Digging of semi-circular bunds (shallow trenches)
- Reseeding
- Fencing of the site to show herders the boundaries and guide them to control livestock encroachment



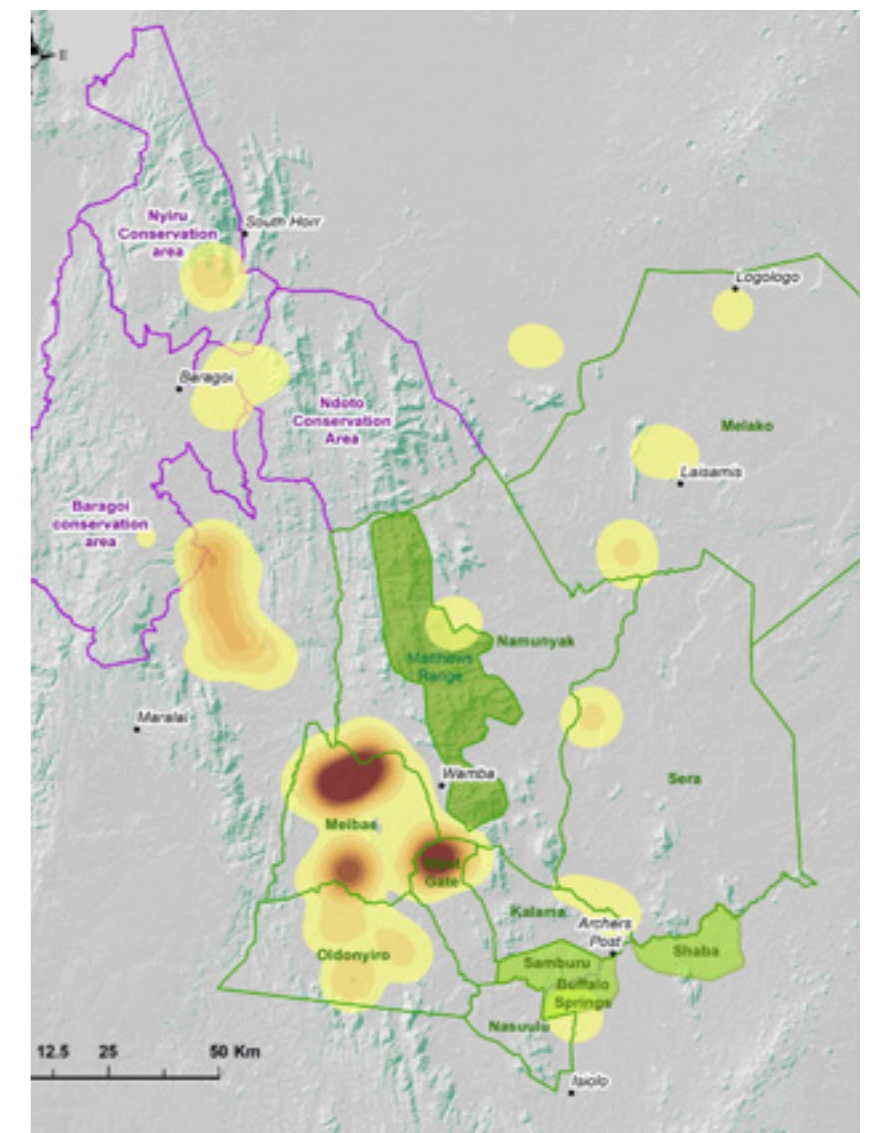
Lepalo the oldest mzee (elder) from the Lkimanikii age set. He has been in the forefront to help women fence the learning site and filling the gullies. He has really challenged the young members.



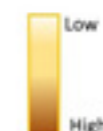
GREVY'S ZEBRA MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

OVERALL POPULATION HEALTH

Our field team met the challenges presented by Covid-19 through dedication, innovation and adaptability and were able to continue monitoring and protecting Grevy's zebra across Wamba, Laisamis and El Barta. We upgraded our data collection system to SMART Connect which allows the teams to remotely send their Grevy's zebra data to our research team. We focused on remote refresher trainings, utilizing the skills of the Regional Coordinators in the field to monitor the quality and quantity of data collection. Across Wamba and El Barta, Grevy's zebra populations were healthy with foals and juveniles making up 30% or more of the population.



Encounter Density



- Country Conservancies
- NRT Conservancies
- National Reserves

CONSERVATION OUTREACH

Using strict COVID-19 safety protocols, the Grevy's Zebra Scouts, Warriors and Ambassadors reached more than 8,800 people through 149 meetings. Of these meetings, 72 were with livestock herders. Engagement is a critical component of protecting the species as we learn about potential threats, their distribution and provide an opportunity to encourage positive behaviours towards Grevy's zebra.



©Andrew Peacock

GREAT GREVY'S RALLY



The Great Grevy's Rally (GGR) is a national census for Grevy's zebra in Kenya. The results from the 2016 and 2018 showed a healthy population of Grevy's zebra with the potential to grow. As we wait for the results of the 2020 data, the GGR partners are working towards building a Kenyan owned system to house and analyse all of the GGR data. This will be an important component of all future GGRs as the majority of the data is collected by citizen scientists from Kenya. Here, we interview Dr. David Kimiti, a participant in the GGR 2020 on Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

Why did you want to participate in the GGR?

The GGR is the perfect opportunity to carry out wildlife research in a very fun and engaging way and include my close friends that are not scientists in conservation.

How easy do you think it was for citizen scientists (without a science background) to learn the protocols for the census and carry it out?

It was pretty easy to get involved. My team and I attended the training set up by the organisers, we were given a toolkit that included a GPS enabled camera, and it was very easy to understand the methodology.

Where did you carry out the GGR 2020?

In Lewa Conservancy. I was working there at the time and it seemed like the perfect opportunity.

What was your most memorable experience from the census?

When we got our land cruiser stuck in the mud right next to a large herd of Grevy's zebra that watched us without any empathy as we waded knee deep in mud to get the car out!

Do you feel that you and your team mates took greater ownership of wildlife as a result of the GGR?

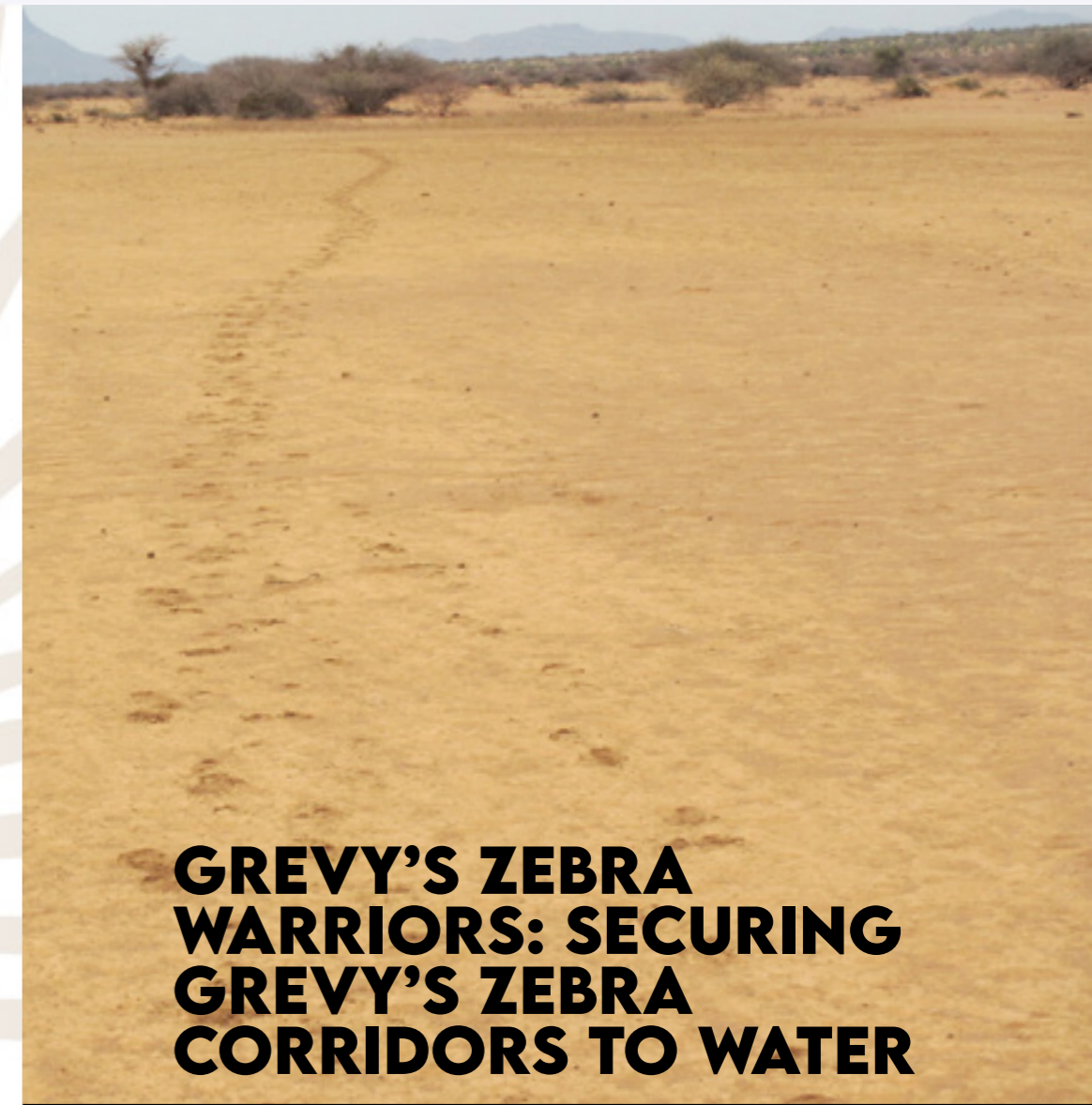
Yes. For some of my team mates who are not researchers, but work in the conservation sector, this was the first time they actually felt involved in wildlife conservation and understood more about the effort involved in species protection. Most people I spoke to felt they understood the species more- especially where they were difficult to find.

How would you like to see Grevy's zebra existing in this landscape in the future?

I would like to see their numbers increase and coexisting peacefully and in balance with people and livestock in the landscape.

GREVY'S ZEBRA SCOUTS: WOMEN BREAKING BOUNDARIES

The Grevy's Zebra Scouts play a critical role in monitoring and protecting Grevy's zebra in the Wamba region. The majority of Scouts are women, who have continued to defy cultural taboos and successfully navigate beyond the boundaries of expectations within Samburu culture. They participated in meetings organized by KWS to share information on Grevy's zebra and encourage their continued monitoring and protection within the national reserves. Towards the end of 2020, following the below-average rains, they carried out critical water point monitoring to assess water availability for Grevy's zebra, and where necessary, dig shallow wells to facilitate water access.



GREVY'S ZEBRA WARRIORS: SECURING GREVY'S ZEBRA CORRIDORS TO WATER

The distance travelled between water and grazing is one of the greatest threats to Grevy's zebra in the Laisamis region. The work of our Grevy's Zebra Warrior team is to monitor this population in remote areas and ensure it has access to critical resources.

During 2020, an elder from Nairibi placed his settlement on a critical dry season corridor used by Grevy's zebra to go for water. Joshua, our Laisamis Regional Coordinator had an in-depth talk with the elder on the challenges Grevy's zebra were facing - including how far they travelled to water, and how important it was to secure the corridors they use to reach water. The elder took the initiative to wait one night to find out if indeed Grevy's zebra were using the corridor. To his surprise, when he focused his night torch, he saw a number of Grevy's zebra streaming through the corridor.

The next day, he told Joshua "I normally hear commotions and foot trotting along the corridor and I have always thought it was people taking their cattle to water at night!" Now he believed that the Grevy's zebra were truly using the corridor and that he was blocking their access. As a result, he decided to relocate to another spot away from the corridor, and the corridor is now free!

GREVY'S ZEBRA AMBASSADORS

"If we can all combine efforts and borrow the commitment and passion that GZT has, and intensify the vehicle patrols at these wild places, many things will be back on track, especially the security issues for wildlife and people. If I will not do this, I need someone to tell me what else I should do to protect my livelihood: my livestock and wildlife. I grew up here in Elbarta and survived many times insecurity issues! I have been herding cows for long, patrolling on foot and now am herding and protecting both wildlife and livestock in this beautiful landscape. I am so glad and privileged to have a vehicle aiding us and providing food at the same time."

~ Pitalis Leakono, County Ranger

DEEPENING OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SAMBURU COUNTY CONSERVANCIES

In El Barta, Samburu North, there has been historical ethnic rivalry between the Samburu and Turkana communities, which has led to insecurity in the region over the past 25 years. In addition, the proliferation of illegal firearms over the same period has increased the threat of poaching and conflict. Our team of 18 Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors, employed from both ethnic groups, monitor and protect wildlife, as well as champion peace. There are also three community conservancies in the region, supported by Samburu County Government, providing a critical collaborative partnership for GZT.

When the pandemic began, we were very concerned for the safety of wildlife in El Barta, as the Samburu County Rangers had most of their vehicles grounded, hindering their operations. GZT therefore stationed one of its vehicles in El Barta and supported the County Rangers by helping to deliver rations to their camps and fetching water and firewood - critical resources needed for them to live at their posts and continue their work. During 2020, we spearheaded seven joint patrols with our vehicle, enabling the Ambassador and Ranger teams to access insecure areas and increase the opportunities for local community engagement.

This strategy significantly strengthened our conservation presence, resulting in increased wildlife sightings across the landscape, and improving the morale of our teams.

LOW-IMPACT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Our approach from the inception of our joint Infrastructure and Biodiversity Program with Ewaso Lions, has been to build bridges between conservation and infrastructure institutions. We have aimed to develop solutions for ecologically-sensitive infrastructure design as a community of practice and in good time to mainstream mitigation measures early on the design process.

We have started to see results, with the rerouting of a proposed crude oil pipeline around a core area for Grevy's zebra, and we received news from highway planners that our joint recommendations with partners for critical wildlife crossings are being considered for a proposed highway development through Grevy's zebra range.

Early this year, we held a conference with our partners, bringing together conservation organisations, infrastructure agencies and finance institutions to discuss how to design linear infrastructure for sustainable outcomes.

When infrastructure development processes slowed down due to the pandemic, we also took the opportunity to look at local government plans for infrastructure and we are currently developing a plan of action to engage more closely with local government.

We have had several inquiries this year from partners both in other landscapes in Kenya and internationally, on how we can share and build on our approach. We hope to inspire a better approach to infrastructure planning in this and other landscapes; one based on cross-sectoral relationships and collaborative decision-making.

147

Attendees at **skills strengthening events** with partners

121

Animal-road interactions reported through the collaborative citizen science project A2 Wildlife Watch

4

Involvement in national, regional and global forums for the promotion of best practice and improved policy in Kenya

80

Students trained on **basics of infrastructure mitigation**



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

COVID-19 RESPONSE

As soon as the first Covid-19 case was reported in Samburu, we prioritised keeping our teams and their families safe from the disease, whilst continuing to protect Grevy's zebra and the critical resources that they depend on.

We developed Covid-19 protocols that limited staff movement and contact between individuals whilst still allowing our field teams to continue our core work of monitoring and protecting Grevy's zebra. To support the nationwide efforts to fight the pandemic, GZT's Nkirreten team pivoted to producing zebra-patterned cloth face masks. In total, we provided more than 5,000 high quality face masks to our entire team, their families and the wider communities we work with, prioritising the most vulnerable members of the community during distribution.

To enhance our response, we partnered with Ewaso Lions and Save the Elephants to support the Communities Health Africa Trust (CHAT) to find context-specific solutions for pastoralists in northern Kenya to fight against the spread of the disease. We raised awareness with our team on how to prevent catching and spreading the disease, and supported our Grevy's Zebra Warriors, Ambassadors and Scouts to establish tippy-taps outside their *manyattas*, and raise awareness within their wider community. In addition to safeguarding individuals, we also endeavoured to highlight the connection between Grevy's zebra and the wider benefits their existence brings to the community.





SINTIWAN'S STORY

Since joining GZT, Sintiwan Lekilia has shown incomparable determination and passion to make the Nkirreten Project a success. As part of her ongoing efforts to mentor young girls from her village, she models her aspirations for them through her actions. Here, she talks about how she felt making protective cloth face masks for her community.

"My name is Sintiwan Lekilia from Sasaab village in Westgate Conservancy. I work at our Nkirreten workshop where we produce reusable sanitary pads for school girls. We were just about to do the first distribution of reusable pads to girls in 20 schools when the corona pandemic hit the world! We were all scared and stressed. We didn't know where to get masks as one way to protect ourselves. Our project changed temporarily from making pads and we started making face masks for our communities to prevent the spread of the disease. I was so anxious to learn how to make a face mask and I woke up earlier than usual and spent even more hours in the workshop making face masks for my community. When I arrived home from work I found my neighbour waiting for me to see if I came back with a few masks so she could have one. I was grateful to have carried a few which I shared with her and she said to me "Ashe kinchoo mask!" (Thank you for giving me a mask), and I thanked Grevy's Zebra Trust for empowering me and other women in my community."

ASHE OLENG!

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

OUR TEAM

Founders

Belinda Low Mackey
Martha Fischer
James Munyugi

Board

Tom Lalampaa
Dr. Francis Gakuya
Martha Fischer
Dr. Juliet King
Sara Spendrup Dyer
Peter Leshakwet
Dr. Guy Parker
Shaban Mwazondo
Kasmira Cockerill

Senior Leadership Team

Belinda Low Mackey, *Executive Director*
Peter Lalampaa, *Rangelands Manager*
Sheila Funnell, *Research Manager*
Lilian Seko, *Finance & HR Manager*
Julius Lekenit, *Governance & Partnerships Manager*

Regional Coordinators

Andrew Letura, *Wamba*
Joel Loong'onyo, *El Barta*
Joshua Labarakwe, *Laisamis*

Research Team

Sheila Funnell, *Research Manager*
Annsarah Wangui, *Research Officer*
Tony O'chieng, *Research Intern*
Dr. Justine Cordingley, *Technical Advisor*

Rangelands Team

Peter Lalampaa, *Rangelands Manager*
Andrew Lekisanyal, *Rangelands Officer*
Joseph Letoole, *Rangelands Officer*

Infrastructure & Biodiversity Program

Sarah Chiles, *Landscape Infrastructure Advisor*
Julius Lekenit, *Governance & Partnerships Manager*

Finance Team

Lilian Seko, *Finance & HR Manager*
Janet Minai, *Accounts Assistant*
Lisette Gelber, *Financial Consultant*

Grevy's Zebra Trust Camp Team

David Muriira, *Camp Manager*
Eric Lekiluai, *Cook*
Anitah Lengila, *Housekeeper*
Lparasian Lalampaa, *Day Guard*
Yamas Letoiye, *Night Guard*
Stephen Learamu, *Night Guard*

Nkirreten Team

Damaris Lekiluai, *Women's Empowerment Officer*
Sintiwan Lekilia
Namutie Lekarkaraule
Santarua Lekinaet
Masia Lelikoo

Radio Operators

Mary Lobuk
Boniface Leshaula

Grevy's Zebra Scouts

Ngeeti Lempate
Paton Lekalkuli
Naatimu Leletur
Irene Lekumoisa
Chereb Lechoriong
Rosemary Lentaam
Jumaani Leparleru
Noisurai Lentawo
Paatin Lebacha
Josephine Lekulal
Salacho Lenawalbene
Margaret Lekirisiae
Johana Lelepadaso
Saruni Lesanjir
Loriente Lenyangume
Loburini Lemagas
Ntapuli Lematacho
Miriam Lemoyong
Lteresian Loibotongu
Reitain Leisoro
Simon Lekaramagar
Silango Lengima
Ririan Lesachore
Ntimoris Leapore
Helena Leperesian
Christine Leriye
Jamarose Moru
John Abura
Kangware Lekwanja

Radio Base Guards

Stephen Loseny
Juma Lobuk

Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors

Mulamba Lentamelei
Patla Lolgemy
Alois Lempasie
Micho Nakadon
Loidangae Lewarani
Andrea Lenamarker
Loputhie Lojore
Loburuk Namulen
Lmantros Lenengetai
Petro Leshoe
Santiri Lelegwe
Lpakasin Lolwerukoi
Moses Lenaigerumoru
Leterian Leisogono
Ltpalira Lengee
Kawanga Lesaana
Ekai Loyee

Elbarta Conservation Council

Tekoi Lechoe
Moses Lengees
Ekunam Lotuntu
Esokon Engolan
Ltangasian Lekuntet
Lepois Letelepa
Caeser Lerengen
Toika Lenanyokie
Lekaato Lempoore
Loiboku Leaduma
Nkanyuran Lelengeju
Lejaman Lempasiag
Lesampure Lengiriai
Rajab Leremore
Erim Lelesit

Kirisia Lekaraato
Kalgesa Leswakeri
Ltirisi Lelengeju
Lekarangwa Thomas
Kawath Lopongoi
Eleto Eshoto
Elimlim Ekoe
Mbaliya Lentoimaga
Antonia Lesiamito
Mpilanoi Lesirite
Teresia Lopidongole
Rehema Lepatoye
Graziella Letipila
Juliata Lemacharia
Simami Lepakiyo
Muthee Muruan
Nakuye Lokia
Achuka Lorawakala

Grevy's Zebra Warriors

Ibaricho Harugurah
Loipido Learapo
Petro Loltome
Lmantheisan Lolmongoi
Lpilisan Loronyokwe
Lmeidimi Khalawkhale
Dominic Leparnat
Ltipanoi Lemarleni
Aliyan Ilkul
Lperia Lekureya

Camera Trap & Water Monitors

Jona Leyan
Naliapa Lesimatacho



GREVY'S ZEBRA
TRUST

www.grevyszebratrust.org



www.facebook.com/grevyszebratrust/



www.instagram.com/grevyszebratrust/



www.youtube.com/channel/grevyszebratrust/