



GREVY'S ZEBRA

TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT



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20  
24



# LETTERS FROM THE DIRECTORS



As I reflect on 17 incredible years leading Grevy's Zebra Trust, 2024 stands out as a year of profound transition and exceptional achievement.

## **Belinda Low Mackey**

CO-FOUNDER & OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When we founded GZT in 2007, I was in my early thirties with big dreams for Grevy's zebra conservation. Today, I'm humbled by what we've accomplished together, and deeply grateful to my co-founder Martha Fischer, our steadfast Board of Trustees, our amazing team doing the hard work on the ground, and our generous donors and partners whose unwavering support makes it all possible.

This year marked a pivotal moment with the Executive Director role transitioning to Peter Lalampaa, whose journey with GZT began in those early days. Our transition ceremony, blessed by the sacred Ntorosi prayer, symbolized not just a leadership change but the fulfillment of our founding vision: conservation led by those indigenous to the landscapes where Grevy's zebra live. Peter's National Geographic Buffet Award for Leadership in Conservation is testament to his exceptional capabilities, and he is strongly supported by an outstanding senior leadership team.

I'm also immensely proud of our team's achievements this year: the significant increase in foals and juveniles to 29% of the population, regeneration of over 31,000 hectares of rangelands, and the empowerment of over 7,000 women and girls through our Nkirreten Project. These are results that have come from years of hard work and investment.

While I step back from day-to-day leadership, GZT will always remain part of me. I continue as a strategic advisor, supporting the dedicated team that has become my family.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. Our shared commitment to Grevy's zebra, healthy rangelands, and thriving communities continues under Peter and the team's inspiring leadership.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Belinda".



**Peter Lalampaa**  
INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2024 has been a year of transformation, conservation, and hope. As we embarked on the journey of 2024, we worked closely with our partners and team to prepare for the leadership transition between Belinda and me. Initially, we thought we had an entire year to put together a transition plan, but time moved quickly. We had set the transition date to be mid-year and had to adhere to the plan.



**Dr David Kimiti**  
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND IMPACT

**2024 was a year characterised by change and growth.**

## We could not have asked for a better time to transition than in 2024.

The conditions were ideal, allowing us the privilege of organizing a unique, traditional celebration. This celebration was spiritually enriching, especially with the blessing of the Ntorosi women and elders from the Samburu community. We could not have asked for a better way to celebrate the transition. It was such an honour to be blessed by the community.

Due to the good rains at the end of 2023 and into 2024, we also had favourable conditions in the landscape. In northern Kenya, where most of our work takes place, rain is everything. It brings lush grass and abundant water, supporting both Grevy's zebra populations and the pastoral communities that rely on livestock.

This year was also remarkable because our field teams reported frequent sightings of Grevy's zebra with many foals. It was a foal boom—giving us renewed hope for the species' future. New life in these landscapes is a powerful symbol

of resilience and possibility. Foals were observed in nurseries while their mothers went to drink water, a behavior we had not witnessed for a long time. This indicates that as areas become bushier and more dense, Grevy's zebra feel safe enough to leave their young in open spaces to avoid predation.

All the key ingredients for Grevy's zebra population growth seem to be in place. Vegetation cover, which forms the foundation of the ecosystem's productivity, has shown great improvement. Our teams working on rangeland health through regenerative grazing and restoration were filled with hope and optimism. This marks a turning point for planned grazing with local communities, as everyone sees an opportunity to shape the future.

All these incredible stories are captured in our annual report. We could not have achieved such milestones of change and transformation without our partners, and we want to say Asante Sana, Ashe Oleng.

This year saw our team welcome new leadership and additions to our staff, as well as the launch of a new 5-year strategic plan. I like to compare this stage of GZT's existence to the different sections of a multi-stage rocket. We have simply transitioned to a phase of our journey that accelerates us further along the same upward trajectory. Our leadership change and our strategic plan are not slowing us down at all but instead provide us with the tools we need to push further and aim higher. The entire GZT team stands ready to support our new leadership to achieve our updated strategic plan objectives and goals.

After several drought years, relatively good rains for the second-year running was a further boost to the resilience of the landscape. It was a chance for us to take stock of what the long-term outlook of the landscape was with regards to both Grevy's zebra populations as well as the Rangelands we work so hard to steward and nurture. On both these fronts, we remain cautiously optimistic. Vegetation cover has bounced back, but with fewer long

lived perennial grasses. Foal and juvenile populations are up, but we don't yet know the full extent of population losses from the drought. We therefore have the continuing task of constantly identifying potential improvements and changes in our strategies as we seek to actualise our theory of change.

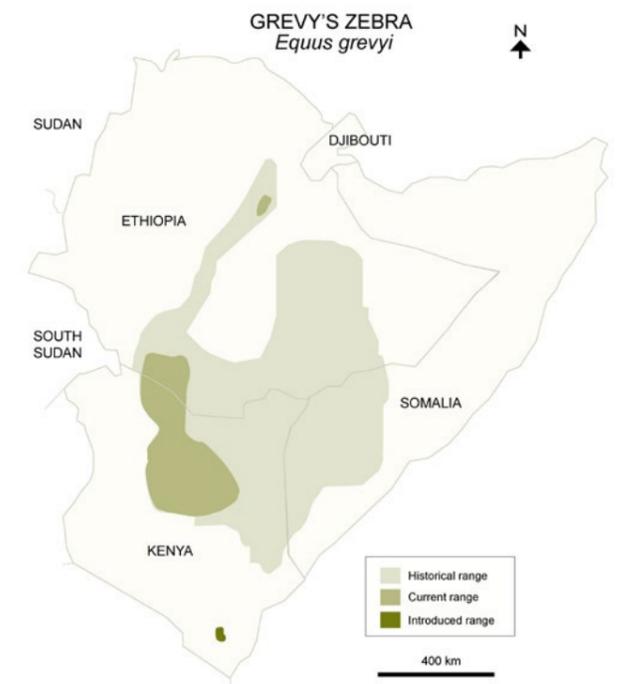
Looking forward to 2025, we remain vigilant to changes in climatic conditions and how they will affect both our rangeland health programs and the movements of the Grevy's zebra we work so hard to protect. We continue to work in lock step with the communities in these Rangelands to implement the needed programs together, determined to shepherd a future in which everyone thrives.

# GREVY'S ZEBRA

Grevy's zebra (*Equus grevyi*), the largest species in the equid family, fills a distinct ecological niche, existing between the water-dependent plains zebra and the arid-adapted wild ass. These striking animals inhabit arid and semi-arid grasslands and shrublands with access to permanent water. The Grevy's zebra is easily recognised by its large, fuzzy ears, finely detailed stripes, bright white belly, soft brown muzzle, and a charcoal dorsal stripe framed by a white patch near the rump. This distinct feature gives rise to its Samburu name, "Loiborkurum," which translates to "white-rumped."

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Despite their resilience, Grevy's zebra face significant threats that have led to their classification as endangered. Habitat degradation and competition for resources have contributed to a steady decline in their population, now estimated at approximately 3,000 individuals in the wild, located primarily in central and northern Kenya.



After enduring years of drought, 2024 was characterised by the landscape showing signs of continued recovery and the observation of healthy Grevy's zebra, including a notable rise in the number of foals.

# 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 the same landscape. Both communities and wildlife face shared threats and our work seeks to better the future for both.

Over 93% of our team is employed from the communities sharing space and resources with Grevy's zebra. They have a deep knowledge of the landscape, and it is through their leadership that we have developed locally led and locally relevant solutions.

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



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



**21,221**

Grevy's zebra sightings recorded



**29%**

Of Sightings were foals and juveniles, representing a healthy population



**Over 54,383**

Kilometers walked by monitoring teams



**31,370**

Hectares under regenerative grazing with 6,369 cattle



**KES 558,000**

(USD 4,290) earned by Grassland Champion women from grass seed sales



**Over 7,000**

Women and girls received dignity packs from our Nkirreten Project

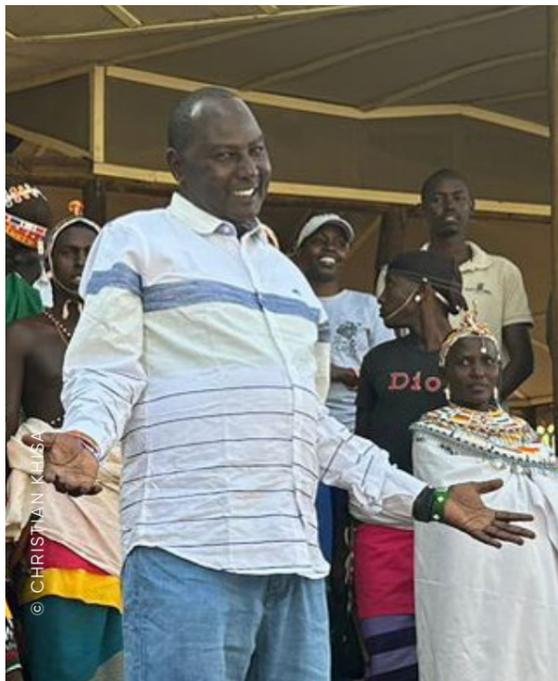




## Leadership Transition

2024 was a pivotal year for GZT, marked by a significant leadership transition as our Co-Founder Belinda Low Mackey, who established the organisation in 2007, entrusted the role of Executive Director to Peter Lalampaa. This milestone was commemorated with a traditional ceremony, highlighted by a sacred blessing from the Ntorosi women. The heartfelt event celebrated Belinda's legacy and inspired optimism for the future.

Under Peter's steadfast leadership and with Belinda continuing to provide advisory support, GZT is poised for sustained growth. This transition reflects the organisation's stability, resilience, and deep-rooted commitment to localised conservation. Together with our team, community members, and partners, we honored Belinda's remarkable contributions and warmly welcomed Peter into his new role. With a clear strategic vision and strong community collaboration, GZT looks forward to a new chapter of meaningful impact.



## Peter Leshakwet Joins the Team

We were thrilled to welcome Peter Leshakwet to the GZT team as our new Programs Director in early 2024. Leshakwet brings nearly two decades of relevant experience to the role, overseeing our conservation and community programs.

Reflecting on his deep connection to Grevy's zebra, Leshakwet shared a childhood story with the team that shaped his passion for their protection. As a young boy herding cattle, he found himself lost and surrounded by danger until a group of Grevy's zebra appeared and seemed to protect him through the night. This profound experience instilled a lifelong commitment to their survival, which he now brings to his work at GZT.

## Belinda Low Mackey Honored with Disney Conservation Fund Award

Our Co-Founder and outgoing Executive Director Belinda Low Mackey, was recognised by the Disney Conservation Fund for her exceptional leadership in protecting Grevy's zebra and her dedication to creating a healthier planet for people and wildlife. The award also highlights her role as an inspiring female conservation leader, whose vision and commitment continue to shape GZT's impactful work.



## Peter Lalampaa Receives National Geographic Society/Bufett Award

In another proud moment for GZT, our incoming Executive Director Peter Lalampaa was honored with the 2024 National Geographic Society/Bufett Award for Leadership in Conservation. This esteemed award recognises Peter's unwavering dedication to conservation and the significant impact of GZT's work. Presented during the National Geographic Society's annual Explorers Festival in Washington, D.C., the award offered Peter a platform to share GZT's mission and achievements with a global audience, further amplifying the reach and importance of our efforts.

# VALUING GREVY'S ZEBRA



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



## Nkirreten Project

Launched in 2018, this initiative provides women and girls with safe and reusable sanitary pads, with four pads making up a dignity pack, that feature a distinctive zebra-striped design, to reinforce the link between Grevy's zebra conservation and community well-being. These dignity packs have empowered women and schoolgirls by helping them manage menstruation with dignity and reducing their exposure to social challenges.



IN 2024, THE NKIRRETEEN PROJECT ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

- ▶ **Two additional women were employed** in November 2024 to produce the pads, reaching **a total of 12 women** participating in the project.
- ▶ **7,092 dignity packs were produced** by the Nkirreten women.
- ▶ **7,204 dignity packs were distributed** to school-going girls (32%) and community women (68%). The higher distribution figure compared to production is due to stock carried over from 2023.
- ▶ **Girls from 15 primary schools and 3 secondary schools** all located in our region of operation benefited from dignity packs.
- ▶ **15 community meetings were held** within different villages, focusing on women's reproductive health, Grevy's zebra conservation awareness, and the role of women in conservation.

“

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

– Nkilian, Westgate Conservancy women chairlady.

A gathering, called *Loip lo ntomok*, a traditional women's forum, takes place on a quarterly basis. In this setting, menstrual hygiene education and mentorship have expanded, empowering women to lead discussions on reproductive health. This initiative fosters a safe space for open dialogue while reinforcing the importance of menstrual hygiene. Our Gender and Youth Coordinator, Damaris Lekiluai, provides guidance to the discussion and also incorporates Grevy's zebra conservation awareness into the conversation. In the most recent loip, which took place in November 2024, 72 women participated.

“

Women need a free space to discuss women's private issues, especially around reproductive health. Loip provides such space, as women can also learn about the women project as they pick reusable pads.”

- Sintiwan Lekila, Nkirreten team member



In November, Topira Lagwanani and Doris Lolpuranai were selected to join the Nkirreten program, bringing our total number of women employed by the program to 12. Chosen by their community based on their level of need, the initiative continues to uplift women and transform lives. The village expressed gratitude for this opportunity, noting that past participants who entered the program in desperate situations have since emerged as influential leaders in their communities.

“

This recruitment is a big relief to me and has brought me hope. I'm so grateful to my community for valuing conservation and for Grevy's Zebra Trust for choosing to help women like me who would otherwise have suffered.”

- Topira Lagwanani, one of the women most recently employed by the Nkirreten project



## Scholarships

This year, the Grevy's Zebra Scholarship program continued to provide vital support for nine girls and three boys in secondary school, offering not only financial assistance but also personalised mentorship from Damaris, who guides them through their academic journeys.

The excellent end-of-year exam scores of the scholarship students provided significant reason for celebration as all qualified for university intake.

In partnership with Kenya Wildlife Trust, we supported four students from our previous Grevy's Zebra Scholarship cohort to attend the Wildlife and Research Training Institute (WRTI) for diploma courses, where two are pursuing environmental management and two are pursuing wildlife management. They will join us for an internship in 2025 as part of their training and are on track to graduate at the end of 2025.



In collaboration with Loisaba Conservancy, we also supported Isaac Lenanyie from Westgate Conservancy to join WRTI for a diploma course in wildlife management.

## Mercy Neepe's Historic Achievement

Mercy Neepe, a graduate of our scholarship program, achieved an extraordinary milestone this year by completing her final practical exam and officially becoming a commercial pilot—the first female pilot from northern Kenya.

Her unwavering determination and excellence have been evident throughout her journey, and her success is an inspiring testament to what is possible with dedication and support. We are immensely proud to have played a role in Mercy's path and celebrate this groundbreaking achievement with her.

“

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... I just want to show them the way, be a good role model, and enlighten them.”

- Mercy Neepe



# UNDERSTANDING GREVY'S ZEBRA



Action is informed by accurate information on Grevy's zebra populations.



One primary way we can understand the health of Grevy's zebra populations is through the regular monitoring conducted by our Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors, Warriors, and Scouts.

These teams use their deep knowledge of the landscape when undertaking their patrols and combine this expertise with the use of the Spatial Monitoring and Report Tool (SMART) app to record details of their Grevy's zebra sightings. In addition to data collection, they engage their communities on conservation topics, such as sharing resources with wildlife.



## Foal Boom

The most revealing indicator of population health is the ratio of foals and juveniles to adults.

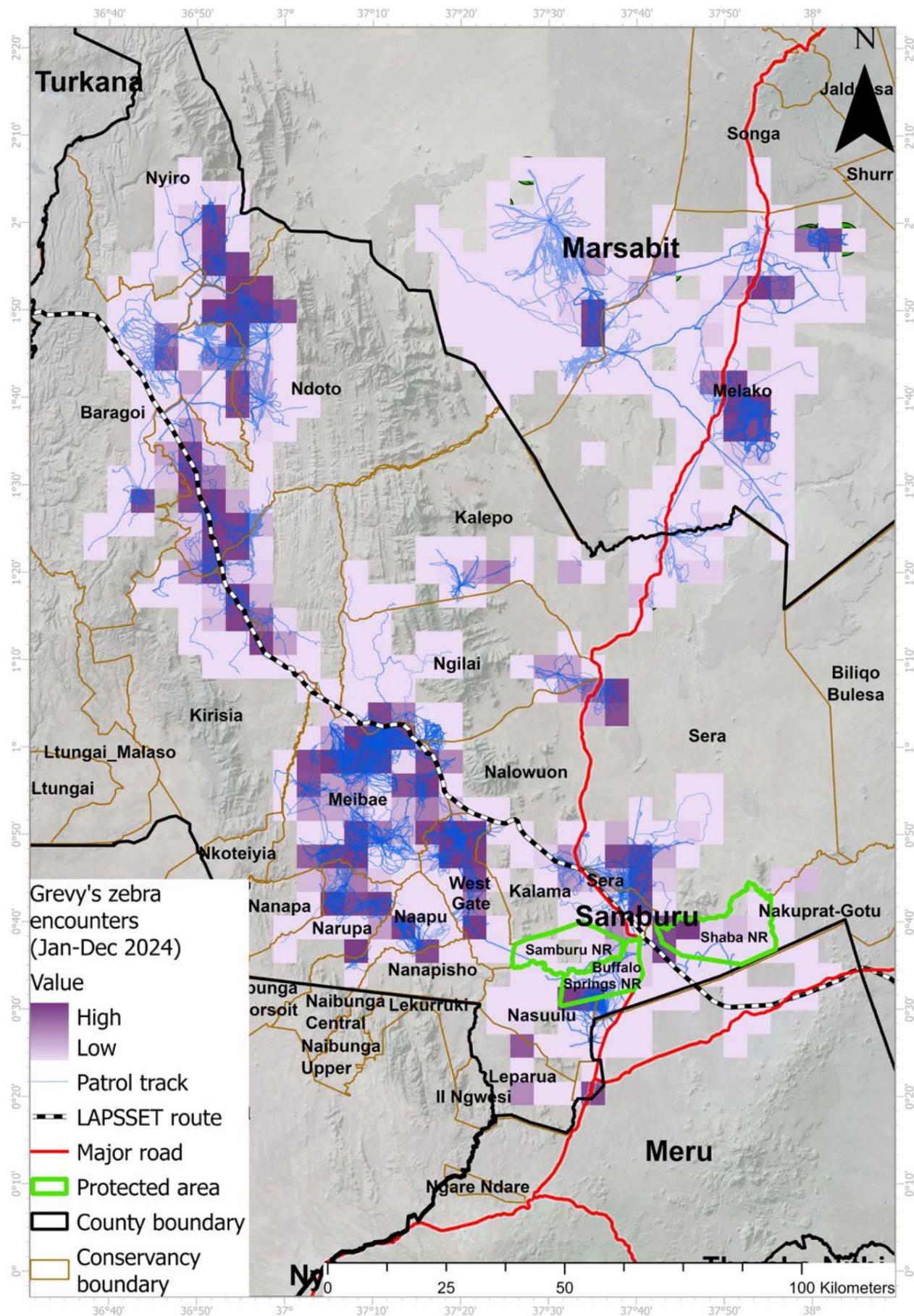
Our field teams have observed encouragingly high numbers of Grevy's zebra foals and juveniles, consisting of 29% of the population, an increase from 27% in 2023 and 25% in 2022, reflecting an encouraging trend since the drought. This optimal proportion marks a significant recovery following the slowed growth experienced during the prolonged drought and is a strong indicator of a healthy and thriving population.



“

About 15 Grevy's zebra had gathered around a newly formed waterhole, quenching their thirst from the fresh rainwater that had just fallen minutes before our arrival. The sight was both serene and exhilarating, a reminder of the harmony between nature and our efforts to raise awareness in these communities. These blessings from nature underscored the importance of our mission and left a lasting impression on all of us involved.”

— John Lekishe, Regional Coordinator for the Wamba region overseeing the Grevy's Zebra Scout Program



## Great Grevy's Rally

The Great Grevy's Rally (GGR) is a citizen science initiative that engages the public in surveying Grevy's zebra populations across their range in Kenya. GGR is a photographic census following a modified Spatially Explicit Capture-Recapture (SECR) format, where ID photos taken at one point in time are the first 'capture' of the animal, with a subsequent photograph of the same animal taken on the second day treated as the 'recapture' of the same individual, allowing simpler statistics for population estimates.

The census covered the core range of Grevy's zebra across the Counties of Samburu, Laikipia, Isiolo, Marsabit, and Meru. Census blocks were prioritized for coverage as the organizing committee\* received updated information on the prevailing Grevy's zebra distribution, and the accessibility of certain areas.

Over 120 teams were deployed over the two census days, with more than 600 participants. The majority were local landowners and rangers from both community and private conservancies as well as KWS officers within the target counties. Over 50 citizen scientists from Kenya as well as the US, the UK, and Europe also joined us, including a team from the Saint Louis Zoo.

Over the two census days, nearly 14,000 images were collected, capturing 1,938 Grevy's zebra sightings on Day 1 and 2,314 on Day 2. As in previous rallies, Laikipia County recorded the highest proportion of sightings (38.2%), followed by Samburu (27.7%). The final population estimate for Grevy's zebra requires in-depth processing and analysis and will be available in 2025.

\*GZT was the lead organiser supported by an organising committee of the following partners: Kenya Wildlife Service, Wildlife Research & Training Institute, Saint Louis Zoo, Marwell Wildlife, Laikipia Conservancies Association, Princeton University, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Borana Conservancy, Northern Rangelands Trust, Laikipia Forum, Wildlife Direct.



## Grevy's Zebra Movement in 2024

In partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI), and Marwell Wildlife, GZT collared 20 Grevy's zebras in northern Kenya in 2023.

This was done to track Grevy's zebra movements and assess the impact of linear transport infrastructure on their habitats, including the proposed Lamu-Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor.

### RESULTS FROM 2024 SHOWED THAT:

- ▶ **91% of GPS locations were in community and county conservancies**, with the main hotspots in Nasuulu, Meibae, Leparua, Westgate, Narupa, Naapu, Nakuprat Gotu, Il Ngwesi, Ndoto and Nyiro Conservancies.
- ▶ **9% were in protected areas** including Shaba, Buffalo Springs and Samburu National Reserves.



The collaring initiative has also provided valuable insights into connectivity across Samburu, Isiolo, and Laikipia counties. Encouragingly, ground tracking by our Ecological Monitoring Officer, Andrew Letura, confirmed the presence of foals among collared Grevy's zebra, highlighting reproductive success in these areas. These combined efforts showcase the critical role of collaboration in mitigating wildlife risks and safeguarding Grevy's zebra habitats across multiple counties.

## Grevy's Zebra Return to Elem

The Elem area of Laisamis was previously heavily degraded. Located outside the Melako Conservancy, the communities in Elem noticed the healthier conditions within the conservancy, where GZT had long been working, and asked for support in restoring their land. In response to the requests of the community, GZT extended its conservation efforts to the non-conservancy side and has seen significant success.

Through education, engagement, and the introduction of grazing plans, the once-degraded land outside the conservancy has undergone a remarkable transformation. Today, improved pastures and better water availability in this area have significantly reduced the need for communities to move livestock into the conservancy. This has also led to an inspiring development: Grevy's zebras have returned to the region after an absence of over seven years.

The community's enthusiastic embrace of conservation efforts has been a key driver of this success, with their commitment and cooperation often exceeding expectations. The presence of Grassland Champions and Warriors, combined with regular community engagement, has further strengthened awareness of conservation and grazing management practices.

The return of Grevy's zebra to this area stands as a testament to the power of collective action and shared stewardship.



# SUPPORTING GREVY'S ZEBRA SURVIVAL



Immediate threats to Grevy's zebra are mitigated.



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## Rescues and Interventions

This year, multiple rescues and interventions have showcased the dedication of both the community and our conservation partners. The North Kenya Vet Unit (a collaboration of KWS, Save the Elephants, GZT, and Ewaso Lions) played a critical role in addressing snares, injuries, and illnesses. Notable interventions included rescuing five foals, aiding three injured Grevy's zebra, and freeing one snared Grevy's zebra. Some foals were reunited with their mothers and, when reunification was not possible, they were taken to Reteti Sanctuary.



## Water Management

Due to plentiful rains, less water management was needed as surface water was widely available. Encouragingly, we have seen the Laisamis sand dam that GZT constructed in 2016 continue to recharge the river and provide clean water to people, livestock, and wildlife.



“

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 pictures to share with you because I want to appreciate the good work that was done by GZT in constructing this sand dam.”

- Mzee Galwesi,  
Elder from Laisamis,  
communicating with Peter  
Lalampaa at GZT

## Peace Building

The El Barta Conservation Council (ECC) consists of elders, women, and warriors engaged from 11 Turkana and Samburu communities to champion peace and conservation and support the Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors in the El Barta region.

By promoting dialogue, mutual understanding, and practical solutions, the ECC's work has helped to build trust between the different groups, reduce displacement and poaching of Grevy's zebra and other wildlife, and support grazing plans developed at the village level.

The ECC participated in a Conservation Conflict Transformation (CCT) training facilitated by Lynn Kimmel, a specialist in human-wildlife conflict resolution. For many participants, this session served as a refresher, and it was rewarding to see that they had been applying skills learned in previous training sessions. In addition, the workshop proved invaluable for enhancing the group's conflict transformation abilities. New members were especially enthusiastic about joining the team and emphasised the significance of representing their villages.



“

What I knew about the Samburu community was that they were just enemies. These past two days have felt like a new dawn for me. I couldn't speak on the first day; I was keenly following the conversation. The first time I heard about wildlife conservation was in April 2024, during the GZT community workshop at Kilepoi. The first Samburu person I interacted with was Joel [Loongo'nyo, GZT's El Barta Regional Coordinator]. I was chosen by the moran [warriors] during the April meeting to represent them as their leader. I grew up during ongoing conflicts, knowing wildlife only as food. Today, I've started to love and connect with these people. I wish these meetings could be held across our region to foster better relationships.”

- Nanyiapar Echuchuka a participant from the Kilepoi villages

At 26, Nanyiapar is the youngest member of the team, and his perspective highlights the growing impact of the council's work. In addition to the training, the group has engaged with local communities, including visits to Kilepoi and Kawuap Centers. These interactions fostered meaningful discussions among ECC members, rangers, National Police Reservists (NPR), and morans.



“

I was pleased to see the elders opening up, sharing stories, and expressing regret for their past actions against wildlife.”

- Joel Loongo'nyo, the El Barta Regional Coordinator

## Protecting Grevy's Zebra in Isiolo County

Our work in Isiolo County, which began in 2023, has steadily grown in the region. The focus of our efforts includes understanding the population dynamics and distribution patterns of Grevy's zebra and other wildlife, mapping available resources critical to their survival, and gaining insights into the challenges wildlife face in areas typically inaccessible due to insecurity.

Key to achieving these objectives has been collaboration with partner organizations through joint patrols, which allow us to monitor wildlife presence and gather valuable data while strengthening conservation efforts in this complex and often challenging landscape.

“

Joint patrols have proven to be extremely beneficial in our work as conservancy rangers, particularly in protecting the endangered Grevy's zebra and other species in our landscape. Before the establishment of GZT's Isiolo Program, we never had such collaborative partnerships for joint patrols, except during incidents of cattle rustling and raids. However, today, thanks to these joint patrols, we have a much better understanding of our landscape and specific areas where wildlife can be found. Additionally, we have built strong relationships with our partners in the region, which I am truly grateful for.”

- Mohamed, a young conservation ranger from Nasuulu with the rank of corporal in his troop



# REGENERATING RANGELANDS

Healthy rangelands support people, livestock, and wildlife.



**211 Community Meetings**

**36 Village Based Committees**

**7,462 Semi-Circular Bunds**  
Constructed By Grassland  
Champion Women

**28 Cattle Bomas**

**125 Bags of Grass Planted**



Regenerative grazing focuses on managing the movement and grazing behavior of livestock to regenerate grasslands rather than deplete them.

Our approach integrates time-honored pastoralist traditions with contemporary grazing planning methods. Nomadic communities of the past bunched their livestock for protection and allowed long recovery periods between grazing cycles. GZT works with villages to implement regenerative grazing that mimics these beneficial traditional patterns while providing structured guidance for today's more settled communities.

Making this vision a reality requires relentless dedication.

**Our rangeland teams in Wamba and Laisamis worked tirelessly, holding a total of 206 meetings—171 in Wamba and 35 in Laisamis—to engage communities, resolve challenges, and ensure successful grazing plans.**

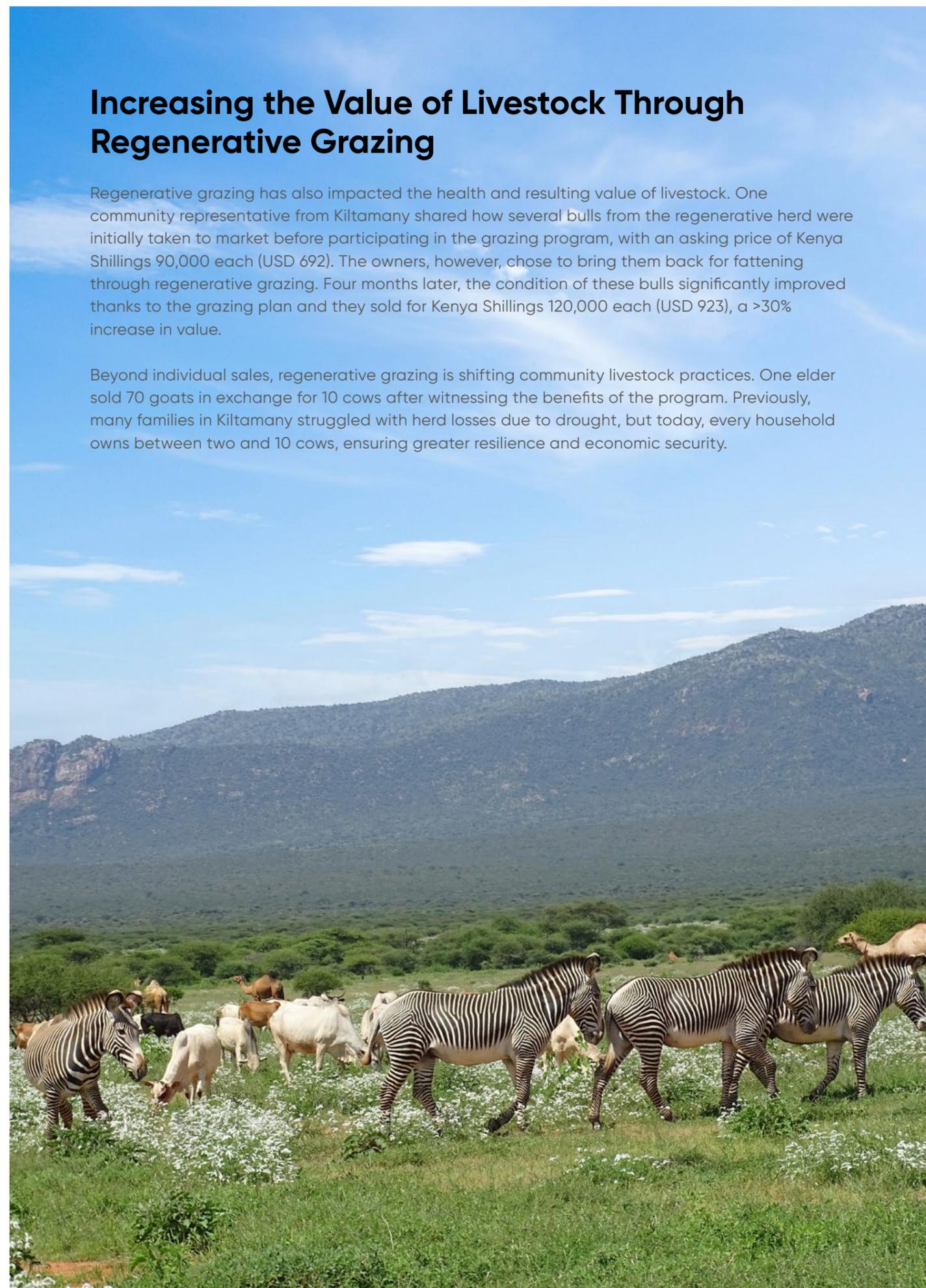
This deep commitment allowed the rangelands team to intensify their support and help seven villages implement regenerative grazing, developing wet and dry season grazing plans to increase the productivity of their land for sustaining wildlife and livestock. As a result, over 31,000 hectares were under regenerative grazing in 2024, supporting more than 6,300 cattle.

Our regenerative grazing efforts have not only revitalised rangelands for livestock but have also created healthier ecosystems for Grevy's zebra—the species at the heart of our mission. By strategically managing grazing blocks, we have improved pasture quality, leading to a noticeable increase in Grevy's zebra presence in these areas.

## Increasing the Value of Livestock Through Regenerative Grazing

Regenerative grazing has also impacted the health and resulting value of livestock. One community representative from Kiltamany shared how several bulls from the regenerative herd were initially taken to market before participating in the grazing program, with an asking price of Kenya Shillings 90,000 each (USD 692). The owners, however, chose to bring them back for fattening through regenerative grazing. Four months later, the condition of these bulls significantly improved thanks to the grazing plan and they sold for Kenya Shillings 120,000 each (USD 923), a >30% increase in value.

Beyond individual sales, regenerative grazing is shifting community livestock practices. One elder sold 70 goats in exchange for 10 cows after witnessing the benefits of the program. Previously, many families in Kiltamany struggled with herd losses due to drought, but today, every household owns between two and 10 cows, ensuring greater resilience and economic security.





## Rangeland Monitoring

Our vegetation monitoring continued to show the long-term nature of landscape recovery, especially after the destructive multi-year drought. Perennial grasses, our main target for rangeland health improvement, remained close to 2023 levels, with no statistically significant live vegetation cover changes across our long-term monitoring plots. We did observe an increase in herbaceous litter, which is likely due to the increased vegetation productivity in 2023 as a result of the heavy rains received that year. Herbaceous litter is critical to reducing the amount of exposed bare ground, which is susceptible to wind and water erosion, so this is an encouraging observation. Our wet season bare ground percentage in the long-term plots reduced from 17% to 8%, underscoring this change in cover.

Across our regenerative grazing sites, our treatment sites showed a statistically significant difference in total cover to their controls at  $\alpha=0.05$ , averaging 85% total cover to 77% respectively.

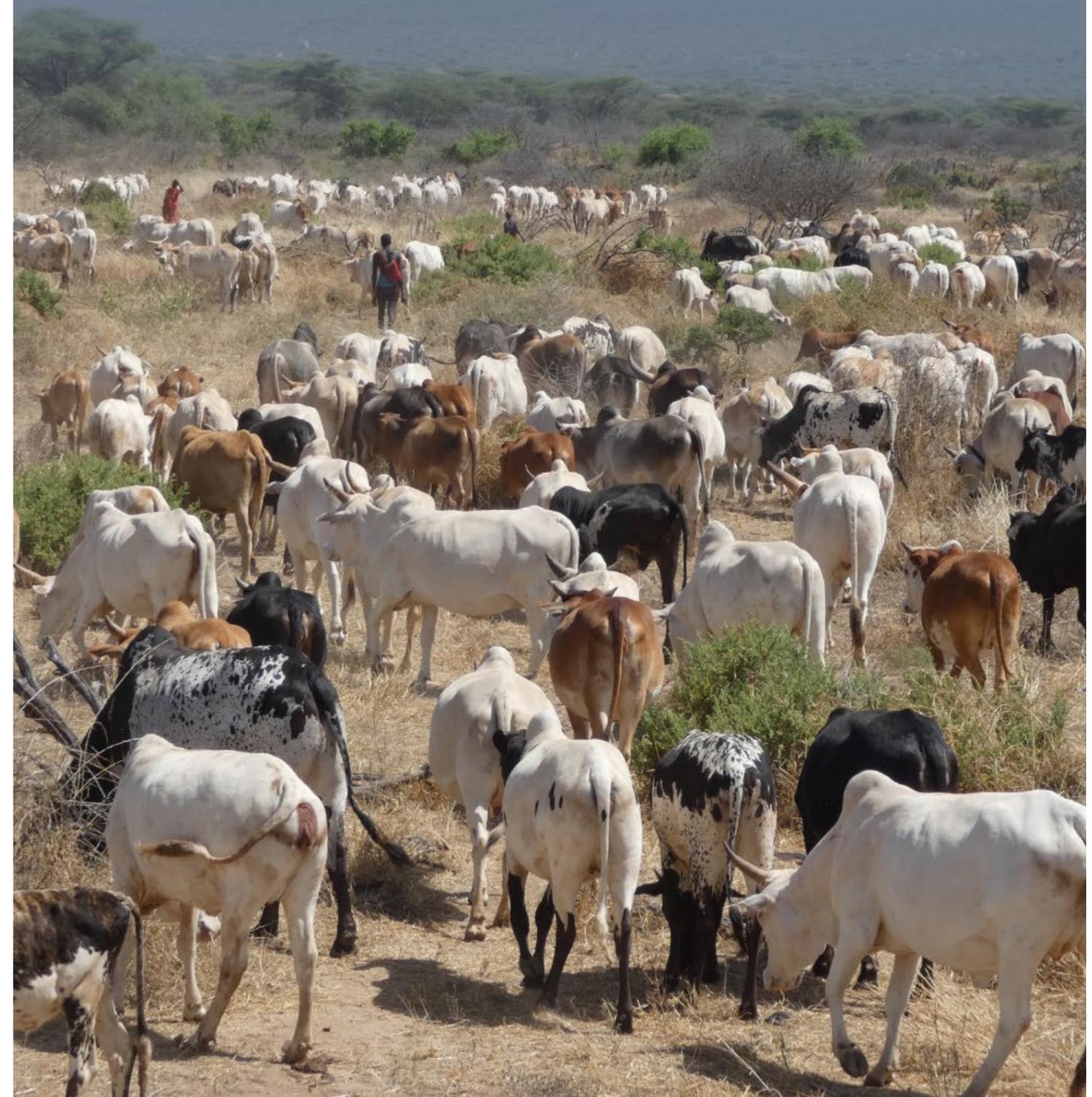
Perennial grasses were still relatively low, but higher in the treatment areas compared to our controls (10% to 4% respectively).

These findings underscore the challenge of ecological restoration on an open landscape. However, the statistically significant differences between treatment and control sites at this early stage gives us encouragement that with continued management and favourable climatic conditions, we can nurture these early successes into long-term gains.



## Building Community & Camaraderie

One indirect but significant benefit from the regenerative grazing has been the sense of camaraderie and unity fostered among the community members involved. By collectively grazing their cattle, competition between herders has diminished, replaced by a spirit of collaboration. This shared responsibility has not only strengthened bonds among the herders but has also alleviated some of their individual burdens, freeing up time for other activities. The system has created a ripple effect, cultivating a deeper sense of mutual respect and trust within the community while promoting sustainable land use practices that benefit both livestock and wildlife.



“

Personally, I visit my cows in the holistic herd each evening to check on them. The distance between the grazing block where the cows are and my home is less than two kilometers, while under normal circumstances, these same cows would be 300 kilometers away or even farther. But what strikes me most about this exercise, aside from the high forage levels and good cattle health, is the joy it brings to the herders. Every time I go, before the milking starts, the morans and lads play football, laugh, interact, sing, and the elders overseeing the project share stories with the youth. The whole atmosphere feels like a manyatta—full of relaxation, love, and peace.

Normally, when the cows move, the herders remain alert throughout the grazing period due to insecurity. They would come back tired from the fora, having carried water for domestic use and sometimes with no food at all. Sometimes I don't go back home; I spend the night there. I am just so thrilled. This is the third time we're doing this, and all we have to share are good lessons. I really want to appreciate our supporters for the training and other supplies.”

- Mzee Lturangen Letaare from Lerata village,  
one of the project-implementing villages in Kalama Community Conservancy

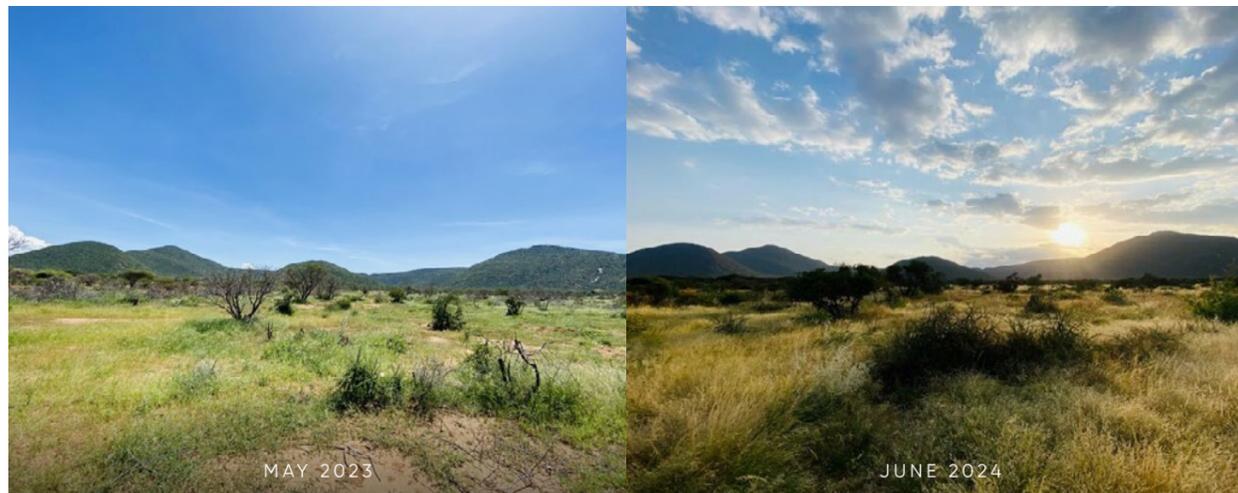
The alignment of community-led rangeland regeneration efforts with GZT's rangelands strategy underscores the transformative impact of collaborative conservation. Together, this work is not only reversing land degradation, but also securing a sustainable future for wildlife, livestock, and communities in northern Kenya.

## Restoring Grasslands

Our team of 12 Grassland Champion women in Wamba region and 10 Grassland Champion elders in Laisamis region continued to play a key role in grassland restoration efforts by constructing semi-circular bunds, planting and harvesting indigenous grass seeds, and leading community outreach.

These efforts have led to improved livestock grazing conditions and increased wildlife activity, with a particularly notable rise in the presence of Grevy's zebra in grazing blocks.

KILTAMANY LOKERE – COMPARISON PHOTOS



## The Story of Three Padlocks

Under the leadership of Mama Grevy, women in the community have transformed rangeland restoration into a variety of opportunities. One such opportunity is the harvesting and sale of grass seeds produced in their restoration sites. During 2024, the women harvested 1,840kg of grass seed making KES 558,000 (USD 4,290) from sales of grass seed.

In a remarkable testament to women's leadership in Remot village, the proceeds from these sales are safeguarded in a cash box secured with three padlocks, ensuring that three women must agree before it can be opened—an approach that fosters transparency and collective decision-making. The funds are used to address pressing community needs, such as purchasing food during droughts or paying school fees. This initiative has not only rejuvenated the landscape but also empowered women to play a pivotal role in creating a more sustainable and supportive future for their families and their community.





# CONNECTING LANDSCAPES

Community and Grevy's zebra needs are integrated into land use planning.

Connectivity is vital for effective conservation, ensuring that landscapes support the movement and survival of both Grevy's zebra and livestock.

Alongside our partners, we are working to enhance the permeability of transport infrastructure, allowing wildlife to traverse critical areas without barriers. By addressing the impacts of land subdivision, development, and fencing in key corridors and hotspots, we seek to safeguard essential pathways. The need for connectivity highlights the importance of strategic planning for water infrastructure and urban settlements, ensuring that development aligns with conservation priorities.

In collaboration with Ewaso Lions, we presented mitigation strategies for the A2 highway to the KWS Director General in January 2024. This effort has initiated a partnership between KWS and the Kenya Highways Authority (KeNHA) to address wildlife roadkill along the A2.



The Northern Kenya Road Watch group, a coalition of organizations monitoring the Isiolo-Moyale highway, documented 20 wildlife fatalities this year, underscoring the urgent need for action. Through ongoing engagement with KeNHA, we have mapped and planned the installation of wildlife warning signs at key hotspots to encourage driver caution and reduce roadkill incidents. In September 2024, representatives from GZT, Ewaso Lions, Samburu National Reserve, and KWS worked with KeNHA inspectors to identify optimal signage locations using GPS data.

## Laikipia Conservancies Association Stakeholders Workshop

As part of our commitment to landscape connectivity, we engaged stakeholders in Laikipia County to assess conservation challenges and opportunities. A key meeting in July 2024 gathered conservancies, research institutions, and community representatives to discuss Grevy's zebra movement, data collection, and barriers such as fencing and land use changes. Stakeholders agreed that GZT could add value to existing efforts, particularly by improving data management and fostering collaborative approaches to habitat restoration and management. The meeting identified critical conservation themes, including land fragmentation, invasive species, and disease. Moving forward, GZT will refine its strategy based on these insights, ensuring that conservation actions align with local needs and scientific evidence.

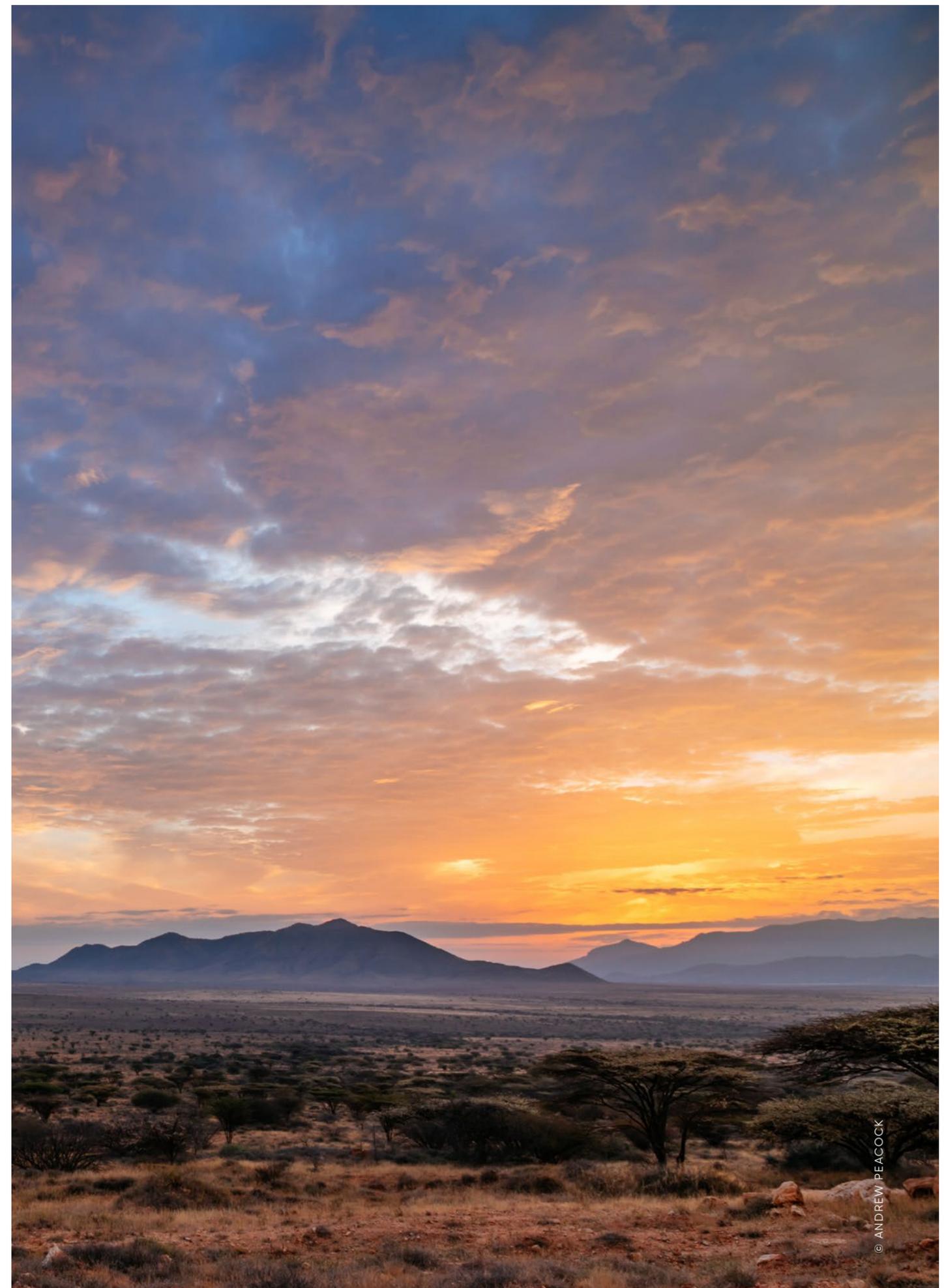


THE LAIKIPIA CONSERVANCIES ASSOCIATION STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP IN SESSION

## Initiation of Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF Project)

GZT has partnered with the Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF) to make the case for incorporating rangeland restoration into infrastructure development plans in northern Kenya. The goal is to establish restoration offsets that ensure a biodiversity net gain while supporting the recovery of the endangered Grevy's zebra and enhancing ecosystem services.

To support this effort, GZT's research, rangelands, and connected landscapes teams have compiled economic and spatial data on restoration. CSF's economists are now conducting an ecosystem service valuation of various restoration scenarios. The findings will feed into a cost-benefit analysis that compares the trade-offs and advantages of these scenarios, providing decision-makers with clear, data-driven insights.



# ASHE OLENG

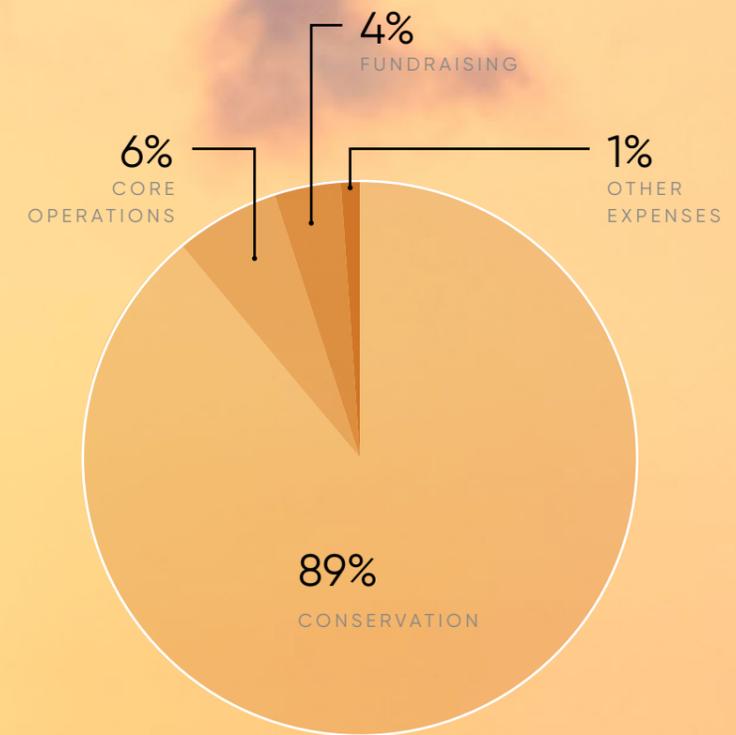
Thank you for standing with us.

Your support this year has helped drive real progress for Grevy's zebra and the communities of northern Kenya who live alongside them. Every contribution strengthens our team's efforts to protect wildlife, restore rangelands, and improve local livelihoods.

Together, we are building a more hopeful and resilient future. We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity.

*To see the full list of our incredible supporters and partners, please visit the Partners page on our website.*

## Our expenses in 2024





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